



# JUNE 2007 NEWSLETTER

## Welcome to this latest edition of the APS Newsletter.

Following on from those outlined in our last edition, the APS has been involved in some interesting activities.

In December last year we had a weekend fly-in to Aldinga on the Fleurieu Peninsula in South Australia. Had about 6 aircraft with a notable attendee being our intrepid aiman Bill O'Brien who flew all the way from Mackay in his Cherokee 180, VH-TNI. Organise a fly-in or flyaway and Bill seems to choose flying over work. Other aircraft came from Wollongong, Bairnsdale, Wangaratta and Melbourne. New member, David Seaton from Adelaide made the 40 km trip by car.

Hot weather was the order of the day for the tours and wine tasting, and departure was made interesting with low cloud early in the morning and strong winds later in the day.

Flying home on the Sunday, we saw the first columns of smoke from the mountains north of Dargo and talked over the airways with Mick Gribble from Benambra who was one of the first water bombing aircraft to the site. Little did anyone realise that those wisps of smoke would later become the disastrous bush fire of December and January.

Our wonderful host and hostess at Aldinga were Peter and Jennie Easterbrook who produce a great red wine. We decanted fuel so that Megan could load up the aircraft. Ray and Carol Petersen, along with Phil Olsen from Wollongong couldn't drag themselves away, so stayed another day.

APS had a presence with a display at the Avalon Airshow under exceptionally trying climatic conditions. These ranged from high winds and high temperature on Friday, cold with rain and cloud on Saturday, and finally 'reasonable' on Sunday. Just like normal Melbourne weather!

Duncan Morris organised our first PPP Stage 2 at Forbes. This was a great success despite a couple of late withdrawals due to illness in the family (our horses) and aircraft in the middle of its 100 hourly.

*Continues page 2*

## Annual General Meeting

Our next AGM will be held at **Orange NSW on the 20th and 21st of October 2007**, and Phil Burke has agreed to assist with the local arrangements. In line with our constitution, formal notice will be forwarded to members in due course

During the last committee meeting held at Rottnest Island during the WA Coastal Adventure, it was suggested that we should encourage 'new blood' for the committee. Organisations like APS benefit greatly from the active participation of members, so nominations for new committee members would be most welcome.

So if you are interested in knowing more about what is entailed please contact any of the current committee – who can also arrange Nomination Forms for you if required.



*The 'Piper Princesses' on the WA Flyaway*



## APS at Avalon

Members who attended the Australian International Airshow at Avalon in March, will recall how Victoria lived up to its reputation for changeable weather. For those who 'missed out' Friday was a stinker, with a maximum

of 39 degrees and a 45 kt northwesterly, followed by rain overnight.



Saturday dawned with a cold southwesterly and continued with squalls throughout the day, only reaching 17 degrees. It won't be a surprise to members Graham Bell and Michael Coulter that

it got as low as seven degrees overnight Saturday, as they camped on-site and happened to mention that it was a 'bit cool', especially when the power failed and no hot showers.

Sunday was the pick of the days, and as usual Avalon put on a great show. Those who attended seemed to enjoy the mix of Recreational, GA and 'heavy metal' aircraft, including the military types turning kerosene into noise!

For the Australian Piper Society, our small static display provided a meeting point and a place for members and interested visitors to seek some shelter from the elements, to have a seat and a cuppa. We had reasonably good numbers through the display, resulting in a couple of new members and some who indicated they intend to forward the application form.

Thank you to members Adrian Basile, Graham Bell, Michael Coulter, Tom Courtney, Paul Harris, David Law, Duncan Morris and Faye Warren who 'manned' the display (sorry Faye, but 'personned' just doesn't seem to work!).



Thanks also to the following Piper owners who generously displayed their aircraft in the area adjacent to our display, providing a great mix of types from the 'tribe' to complement our Piper presence.

Phillip Reiss	VH-HPR	PA-30 Twin Comanche
Murray Feddersen	VH-DIG	PA 34 Seneca
David Howse	VH-FXH	PA 18/125 L4H ex military
Allan Chin	VH-AKD	PA11 a Cub built in 1949
John McCosker	VH-DIT	L4H observation aircraft

Phillip, a member of the International Comanche Society, is now an APS member as well, having joined at the show. We hope to see him at one of our events soon.

Chris Johnson

From page 1

The annual Ray Peterson organised Flyaway down the west coast of WA involved 18 aircraft and 39 people. Another outstanding success. There are a couple of articles on the website and Irene Lawson is co-ordinating and producing a journal of the adventure, including articles from a number of the participants with a selection of photographs. These will be placed on the web site and will replace the 'test' articles and photos as soon as they are available.

The AGM will be at Orange this year. Hopefully it is accessible to the majority of members. The AGM runs from Friday evening to Sunday afternoon. However the fun activities are suspended for about 1/2 hour on Sunday morning when the actual meeting is held. Come along and meet and enjoy the company of fellow Piper owners and flyers.

Don't know what it is like up north, but cold and wet (which is great) and cloudy in East Gippsland with freezing levels at 3000-4000' make a warm fire seem an attractive alternative to flying.

Tom Courtney



## Seeking Expressions of Interest

During the Avalon airshow, member Paul Harris mentioned that he and Adrian Basile were shopping for (installed type) 406 MHz beacons and spoke with a number of exhibitors. They indicated that they were offered quantity discounts for their requirement of about five units.

But Paul had a good suggestion, that perhaps the Australian Piper Society could canvass expressions of interest from members for fixed and personal 406 MHz beacons, then contact manufacturers and distributors for a 'deal' for members.

Although it's not until February 2009 when Analogue 121.5 MHz distress beacons will no longer be detected, there is now quite a range of new 406 ELTs and PLBs available and prices are coming down.

And there are significant benefits to making the switch now, including faster and more accurate detection (see <http://beacons.amsa.gov.au>).

So if you are interested in seeing what sort of pricing we may obtain for a 'group' purchase please contact Chris Johnson **before 30th July**, preferably by email at [secretary@piper.org.au](mailto:secretary@piper.org.au) indicating the number of fixed ELT and/or portable PLB units you would consider purchasing if we could obtain suitable pricing.

## Variation on a theme?

This photograph shows an interesting variation to the often-taught landing technique of getting the main wheels to touch first. Using this new technique, the pilot gets a much closer view of the approaching runway and should be able to judge the moment of touchdown with much greater accuracy, leading to 'greaser' of a landing every time.

However, owner and APS member, Phil Burke of Orange says that is not what happened. His story is that during the summer bush fires he parked his aircraft in an open paddock while he assisted in attempting to contain the raging fires. At the time he left the aircraft, the fires were many miles away and posed no threat to JHW. As reported by eye witnesses, the enormous wind generated by the fires lifted his aircraft some 6 metres into the air and dumped it onto its back.

The insurance company accepted this version of events. And as mentioned in the last newsletter, Phil and Vicki were able to purchase a lovely new Archer 111 aircraft VH-BKM, which performed beautifully for them on the recent WA Coastal Adventure.



## Pilot Proficiency Program

The inaugural Stage 2 program was held at Forbes NSW on the 21st and 22nd April and feedback from the participants was very positive. Details of further Stage 2 programs will be advised by email or newsletter soon.

The next Stage 1 PPP is scheduled for 22nd and 23rd September at Deniliquin, so if you are interested in attending but have not yet registered, please Contact Duncan Morris at [duncan@duncanmorris.com.au](mailto:duncan@duncanmorris.com.au) or on 0408 528 915.



### 178 Seconds booklet

Enclosed with this newsletter, is a copy of **178 Seconds**, kindly donated by QBE Aviation Insurance.



This handy pocket size booklet by Sander Vandeth, provides a series of easy to use preflight planning checklists designed to stop any error clock from starting before a flight begins.

It is based on Sander's book, **A Pilot's Guide to Safe Flying** which many members may have received from QBE or Airservices Australia soon after it was released.

However if you don't have a copy we have a few extras available for members, again donated by QBE. Please contact Chris Johnson on 03 8794 9290 or [secretary@piper.org.au](mailto:secretary@piper.org.au) if you would like a copy of this excellent publication.

### APS Clothing Range

President Tom Courtney has been working on our range of clothing, and details including pictures, prices and an Order Form should be up on the website soon. In the meantime, if you would like more information please contact Tom at [courtney@datafast.net.au](mailto:courtney@datafast.net.au) or 03 5166 0412.

### Coming soon

Soon you will receive a compact booklet listing contact details of all APS members, shown in both alphabetical and state/postcode order.

It is designed to enable you to contact your fellow members when travelling around Australia, to assist with obtaining that important 'local knowledge' for social or operational needs – or just to catch up with like-minded aviators.

Addresses will not be shown, but location and contact phone number/s listed in the website membership database will be used for this booklet.

So please check your details on the website, and update if required by 15th July, so the booklet will be accurate at the time of printing.

### What fish is that?

Spotted on the whale shark cruise boat during the WA Coastal Adventure, was this poster depicting various local fish species, including the 'stunned mullet' in the foreground. Tough work these fly-aways!



### Piper Unveils The Revolutionary Piper Jet

If you find long flight legs like those on the recent WA Coastal Adventure a bit tiring, then the following information seen in the News section on the New Piper website ([www.newpiper.com](http://www.newpiper.com)) might be just what you are looking for.

'ORLANDO, Fla., NBAA, October 17, 2006 – Piper Aircraft, Inc. announced that it will expand into the jet market with the all-new PiperJet, a revolutionary new aircraft that will offer customers a class-setting combination of performance, style, utility, capability and pricing.

The PiperJet will be capable of reaching a cruising speed of 360 knots and a maximum operating altitude of 35,000 feet. The six passenger PiperJet – with an option for either a seventh seat or enclosable lavatory – offers a mission-capable profile and sensuous luxury that sets the standard in its class, with a range of 1,300 nautical miles and a full-fuel payload of 800 lbs.\*

Looks like it will be a contender in the new VLJ market, but with pricing starting at 'only' US\$2.199M it might be a while before we see one on an APS flyaway.

