

## STAFF

**C.E.O:** Roger Merridew  
**INSTRUCTORS:** Brad Lacy CFI.  
 John McGregor Dep CFI  
 David Prewett  
 Craig Lehmann  
 Scott Naehar  
 Daniel Graham-Arho  
 Jarrod Smith  
 Andrew Pickard  
 Alison McIlwraith

**AIRCRAFT:** David Colgan  
**GROUNDS:** Peter Archer  
**EDITOR:** Neroli Merridew



## CONGRATULATIONS

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Nathan Berry	David Smith
Jose Gacelos	Colin Triffle
Steven Goverdik	
PPL	Paul Kildea
James Bourke	Tim Radisich
David Doyle	
PIFR	Jonathan Merridew



Guest speaker Heather Innes chatting with local state Member for Evelyn, Christine Fyffe MLA, at the 2002 "Wings" Dinner



Keen Bonanza pilot Darrell Lewis refuelling popular A-36 VH-RNM prior to a training flight



Dinner MC Shane Stone with staff member Peter Archer



Heather Innes presenting the PPL and "Wings" to Paul Kildea

**SEMINAR: "ELECTRICAL SYSTEMS IN LFS AIRCRAFT"**  
 Wed 6th November at 7 for 7.30pm  
 Panel of expert speakers  
**FREE - ALL WELCOME**

## TOURS

**KING ISLAND DAY TOUR - \$275**  
 Sundays Oct 20, Nov 10 & 24, Dec 1

**FLINDERS ISLAND DAY TOUR - \$295**  
 Saturdays November 23 & 30

**THREE HUMMOCK IS - 3 days \$430**  
 Wednesday 30 October - Friday 1 November

**"ARKAROOLA" (SA) - \$750**  
 October 25-27

Not to be missed - Doug Sprigg's unique award-winning "Arkaroola" resort in the Flinders Ranges. Tour includes 2 nights BB and a Sun. tour in Broken Hill



## LETTER FROM THE CHIEF FLYING INSTRUCTOR

It is a requirement at Lilydale for all pilots flying our aircraft that they do a **Ninety Day (or 3monthly) Check**. This is firmly computer controlled - the pilots who protest re this are invariably those who need it most! The check flight time varies but it should be regarded as an opportunity to update skills. We recommend that it includes a Moorabbin entry.

- The "**Midweek Incentive Discount Scheme**" applies only to the school aircraft. Unfortunately it is not always possible to ensure that everyone gets the aircraft they want - so it really is "first in first served".
- **Taxi-ing** generally is still too fast and will only incur damage to the aircraft - and your pride if there is an accident!
- Please ensure that you check with the operations desk prior to using the airfield. For conservation purposes we are constantly monitoring, and from time to time repositioning, the grass runways and taxiways .
- PPLs - Is your **BFR current?** Update before it expires and check that you are current regarding proposed CASA changes to licensing and regulations.
- I urge you all to attend LFS functions - not to be missed is another of our excellent FREE seminars on Wed 6 November. The topic, "**Electrical Systems in LFS Aircraft**", will be presented by a panel of experts.

Happy Landings!

Brad Lacy

# OUT & ABOUT

**June Seminar.** Scott's old school friend **Matt Harper**, Flying Officer 76 Sqn Williamtown, visited us to describe his busy life - eg. wake up 6.10, morning brief from 8.00, suit up 9.30, take-off 10.20, land 11.30, debrief 12.15 etc. He also described his flying gear (zoom bag, speed jeans, 1.5 kilo "bone dome", Secmar etc.) and most interesting, the handling of his Hawk 127. The numerous questions showed the level of interest in his talk. Since his visit we hear that he has already completed training on FA18s. Best wishes and come again Matt!

Jarrold Smith

LFS instructors, all charter pilots, get to interesting destinations – as we go to print John McGregor is in East Timor with the third Lilydale aircraft to visit E.T. since mid 2001. David Prewett recently set off for Three Hummock Island in our Navajo but finally reached the island by Cessna. Because the main airstrip was flooded he flew to Smithton where his passengers transferred to a Cessna for the final leg to the short strip. David reports that THI is the best place he knows for a relaxing weekend.

[See Calendar next page re our Oct. LAS tour to THI]

Brad Rule reports that the **Temora Aviation Museum** ("Home of Warbirds Downunder") is terrific and easily visited on a day trip. Temora, just north of Wagga, was an important RAAF training base in WW2 and houses one of the finest collections of flying historic aircraft in Oz. For dates and details of the monthly flying days see [www.aviationmuseum.com.au](http://www.aviationmuseum.com.au)

**Bonanza Society Pilot Proficiency Programme.** This year's programme was held in July at Coffs Harbour with visiting US Bonanza legends John Eckalbar and Thomas T. Turner the main speakers. Both have written extensively about Beechcraft. Lilydale was represented by Jock Folan and Rob Kerr whilst Brad Lacy and I flew in ever popular VH-RNM. We will be implementing the new information we learnt at this most informative and enjoyable weekend.

Scott Naeher

As guest speaker at the July "Wings" Dinner Heather Innes gave a fascinating account of her unique flying career. She was Tasmania's only "Police Pilot" and later operated a charter business based at Smithton. Her 180 HP constant speed Cessna 172 proved ideal for flying in and out of the many and precarious strips on nearby Bass Strait islands. Heather described one of her most rewarding contracts – a "slow and low" flight for DNRE photography of sooty albatross rookeries south of Three Hummock Island, (a popular LAS destination), the Australian gannet rookeries on Pyramid Rock and the young seals near Reed Rocks. Heather's graphic account of fire spotting included useful advice re where not to fly! Being coastal based, D.I. Innes was often called in less than ideal weather for search and rescue missions. Heather's final advice for our enthusiastic young pilots: "Go for it – do it – be careful and if you make a mistake, discuss it with your instructor."

Chris M

## DEEP THOUGHTS FROM THE RHS - FROM VOICES OF EXPERIENCE

If your partner (?a new PPL) says excitedly "Let's fly places" it is unfair not to give it a go – you may surprise yourself and enjoy it! **Here are some ground rules:**

1. The first flight(s) should be short and pleasant – ie. good weather, minimum bumps and preferably not with a full complement of passengers. No place looks great if there is turbulence – this can be handled by a) postponing the trip b) flying in the early mornings - especially in summer c) the pilot learning from experience the best altitude to use for min. turbulence d) upgrading to a larger more stable aircraft
2. It is more interesting if you can **participate in the planning** – allow for unexpected stop-overs, be clear about available luggage weight and investigate proposed destinations eg. a Birdsville Races weekend may not be for you! Where are toilet stops? - avoid tea/coffee pre departure and just sip during flight. (Lilydale-Archerfield non-stop in a Bonanza is 4.75 hours). Before take-off establish whether the pilot would like assistance during the flight.
3. Plan to be as **comfortable** as possible - AVOID DEHYDRATION. Experience helps eg. if you wear a headset then wrap-around sunglasses are best and earrings are out. Loose clothes are vital – as are sunglasses and easily accessible water, sunscreen, food and hat. You may depart Lilydale on a grey day but just north it could be hot and glary. Check re air vents and on a long flight practice foot exercises.
4. In flight **refreshments** are important. Most airport terminals will not sell food at the time you want! Ensure any food is light, finger easy, have ample tissues, a cover for clothing and a rubbish bag/ sick bag handy. Barley sugar etc maintains sugar levels. Serving hot thermos drinks may be dangerous.

5. It is an advantage to be interested in **maps and geography**. If you find this boring take up knitting or sleep (? blow-up neck collar) - reading is not for everybody. If you do map read then permanent waterways and lakes are more useful than roads, train tracks and power lines. Following coastlines is easy. Sometimes, eg. Karratha WA –Yulara NT, there is not much to navigate by! Between Mildura and Bendigo the towns are nicely distinguished by grain silos being north or south of the train line. If you start looking at any maps other than WAC charts then you should make an appointment for a first flying lesson.
6. You are in a privileged position re **aerial photography** – spectacular shots include sunsets (especially above clouds), snowfields, bright yellow canola paddocks and Yarra Valley vineyards in autumn colours.

[Ed: Thanks to Jenny, Lye, Claire, Uschi and Lorraine for the above. The LFS FREE Cockpit Companion's Course (Weds 16, 23 Oct) is highly recommended for all RHS passengers and non-pilots who want to learn more about flying]



Instructor David Prewett with enthusiastic GFPT student Eric Moody from Mt Evelyn

# Profiles

## PAUL POOLE & AMANDA WILKINSON

*This adventurous Lilydale couple operate an exciting aviation business in outback Queensland – what is described in tourist brochures as “Gulf Savannah”. We welcome them back to Lilydale several times each year and recently took the opportunity to learn about their northern lifestyle.*



### PAUL, WHAT IS YOUR FLYING BACKGROUND?

I learnt to fly at Lilydale in 1971 and after obtaining my PPL bought my first aircraft, a V-tail Bonanza (VH-MUD) which I was very fond of. I enjoyed many hours in it, and from 1986 did several tours up north including the Gulf area of Queensland which really attracted me. In 1991 I took the plunge and settled in Burketown.

### WHAT IS YOUR BUSINESS?

Amanda and I established “Savannah Aviation” and started off in a small way with mainly tourist flights. The whole area around the Gulf including Karumba is absolute mecca for serious fishing, with popular resorts on Sweers and Mornington Islands. My business developed as tourism increased, plus the need for mining and government contract flying. Many destinations are remote communities. I now service a huge area sweeping from Darwin and Arnhem Land across the north of Queensland east and north to Weipa, Cape York and Mackay. I employ 6 pilots who tend to stay 12-18 months and obviously gain terrific experience. My first pilot was ex- Lilydale instructor Steve Heath. I am currently using two Chieftains, two Navajos, two Barons (one of which was recently serviced at Lilydale by Mills-Rolfe), a Bonanza and a Cessna 210. Most of my maintenance work is done at Mt Isa. For a couple of years Amanda and I also operated the well-known watering hole “Escott Station” where we enjoyed meeting many visiting pilots.

### WHAT IS FLYING LIKE UP THERE?

Overall weather is good but the 6 week wet season is all instrument flying. A tropical cyclone can last two weeks. The main difficulty for new pilots is night flying – there is no orientation and it can be very dangerous. The worst scenario is an overcast night with no moon when aerodrome lights seem to be just hanging in space. Our meteorological phenomenon known as the “Morning Glory” is awesome.

### AMANDA, HOW IS LIFE UP THERE?

I’ve now been up there eleven years and love the environment and all the space. Burketown on the Albert River has a population of 150 and yes - social life centres around the famous Pub built in the 1860s. We relax by flying off to our own special places eg. Leichardt Falls or Lawn Hill Gorge, or boating on the numerous rivers nearby, all of which have terrific fishing, as well as crocs. I enjoy visiting our families in Melbourne and we usually fly down in favourite Bonanza VH-KAG. We usually take our two dogs and sometimes our pet galah in a cage. If we leave home at 5.30 with a stopover at Thargominda we can have a cuppa at Lilydale at 2.30. The alternative way to travel is to fly to Mt Isa, Brisbane, Tullamarine and then drive for over an hour to reach Kalorama.

[Ed: Paul and Amanda are very happy to give info to pilots planning a visit to north Queensland – their address is [savair@ozemail.com.au](mailto:savair@ozemail.com.au)]



## LILYDALE FLYING SCHOOL and LILYDALE AIR SERVICES

### SEPTEMBER

- 6-8 Birdsville Races – THE OUTBACK EXPERIENCE  
– 3 seats left - Details from David
- 14 Sat “Snowfields Bonanza Fly-Around” (\$60)  
– see Daniel/John
- 21-22 Temora Aviation Museum Monthly Flying Day – home of “Warbirds Down Under” Great excursion for PPLs - details Jarrod
- 28 Sat visit to Pt Cook Aviation Museum - see Jarrod

GLIDING operations resume late Sept – phone 0439 950 580

### OCTOBER

- 4-6 “Arkaroola” - Flinders Ranges (SA) No 1 tour (full)
- 4-7 Narromine Outback AirShow & Expo - details  
– four days of flying fun - camping available.  
See desk for details
- 12 Sat 12.30 AWPAL lunch at Lilydale
- 16 Wed – FREE Cockpit Companion’s Course  
- first night (with Pam McAllister)
- 19 Competition Day for ALL pilots including lunch away  
- see Scott/Andrew

### OCTOBER

- 20 King Island Tour No 1. (\$275)
- 23 Wed - Cockpit Companion’s Course  
- second night (Pam McAllister)
- 25-27 “Arkaroola” Tour No 2 - 2 nights away \$750  
includes visit to Broken Hill - but not including meals  
or other tours. PPL pilots welcome to join tour
- 30 Wed - Fri Three Hummock Island (\$430)

### NOVEMBER

- 2- 4 Cup Weekend – Fly-away to Khancoban  
– details at desk – see Craig
- 6 Wed FREE Seminar – “Electrical Systems in LFS  
Aircraft” – panel of speakers  
ESSENTIAL FOR ALL SERIOUS PILOTS!
- 9 Sat Final Womens Group Lunch Meeting
- 10 King Island Tour No 2. (\$275)
- 23 Sat CHRISTMAS PARTY –details at desk

NB. Lilydale Squadron of the Australian Air League meets each Monday - details Chris Daly 0418 103 378



## MEMORABLE "MULLOORINA" July 2002 By Janine Sherar

As our group of eager adventurers (see picture) assembled at Lilydale Airport our pilot John McGregor was busy preparing VH-OYM, the twin engine Navajo which would take us city folk to the great salt lakes in north-eastern S.A. Our track took us over Bendigo, Swan Hill, close to Lake Mungo and the Walls of China, various lakes and then impressive Lake Tandou, used for intensive cropping. It looked like a huge patchwork quilt divided up into several sections. Broken Hill then loomed up in the distance. After seeing nothing but desert for hundreds of kilometers there's suddenly a large town in the middle of nowhere. A quick re-fuelling stop allowed us to admire local artwork in the terminal building by Pro Hart, Howard Steer and Jack Absalom. On the return trip we spent several hours in this town of lovely gardens with the mining "slag heap" running right through the centre of town. B.H. is now a town definitely on my holiday list!

We crossed the huge and silvery Lake Frome and then the rugged Flinders Ranges. The sun hitting the red ranges in mid afternoon was beautiful, and later the Birdsville Track wound off as far as



Janine Sherar (lt) with other Lilydale tourists and pilot John McGregor (rt)

the eye could see north and south.

Finally the Frome River and "Mulloorina" came into view near the SE corner of Lake Eyre South. Two Mitchell families run this vast sheep (south of the Dingo fence) and cattle (north of the Dingo fence) station like a well oiled machine. Dinner that night consisted of a barbecue cooked under the starriest sky I think my eyes have ever seen.

Saturday sunrise was worth getting up for even if it was about minus 3 degrees! Whilst at "Mulloorina" I enjoyed probably the best shower ever (hot artesian water), a walk onto the salt pan (?like the moon - dry & crunchy), the famous waterhole and its amazing birdlife and a "birds eye view" flight - the salt pans change colour, some parts of the lake are pure white whilst others go from pale pink into sandstone and deep plum colours. We also looked down on the mysterious "Marree Man" - a 4km long picture of an aboriginal figure carved into a plateau by persons unknown to help promote tourism in the area.

### AWARD RECIPIENTS at the "WINGS" PRESENTATION DINNER

Presented by guest speaker Heather Innes:

**GFPT:** Peter BELL, Nathan BERRY, James BOURKE, Shane CONTARINO, Carl DEUNK, John Eggestone, Jose GACELOS, Steve GOVERDIK, Brian L'ANSON, Jim McALEECE, Richard MANSON, Lee SIDDLES, Paul STRODL, Colin TRIFFLE

**PPL:** James BOURKE, David DOYLE, Paul HANGAN, Paul KILDEA, Tim RADISICH, Jenny SEMMENS,

**CPL:** Peter GREGORY, Jason GREEN

**INSTRUCTOR:** Peter GREGORY, Andrew PICKARD

### SPECIAL AWARDS

**"LFS 2002 ENCOURAGEMENT AWARD"** sponsored by "SKY SUPPLY" to a young pilot showing outstanding promise. Presented by LFS M.D. Roger Merridew and Chris Johnson : Jose Gacelos

**"LILYDALE FRIENDS & FLYERS" AWARD** for outstanding achievement - presented by Christine Fyffe (MLA): David DOYLE and Steve GOVERDIK

**"BONANZA AWARD"** sponsored by the Australian Bonanza Society to a new Bonanza pilot showing ability and appreciation for this very special aircraft: LUKE FARRALL

### MILLS ROLFE AVIATION QUALITY AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE

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Fax: (03) 9587 4766 Mobile: 014 694 969

Postal address:

6 Nancy St, Cheltenham, Vic., 3192

*Editor: Thanks again to contributors especially Chris Mitton for the Dinner photos. Comments always appreciated. My email is: info@lilydaleairport.com.au*



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