



# GO-ROUND

## ALDINGA AERO CLUB MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

February, 2021.

Editor: John Chambers

### The Club's Flyaway for Lunch at . . . . ?

On Sunday 7th February, seven aircraft carrying a total of 20 souls flew off for a pub lunch. Most of the participants believed they had landed at Jamestown Airport - YJST. Sure, they did enjoy lunch at the Jamestown Hotel but the airport was in fact locally known as the Sir Hubert Wilkins Memorial Airport commemorating the Australian polar explorer, pilot, scientist, writer and photographer who was born at nearby Mount Bryan East in 1888.

Born George Hubert Wilkins, he enjoyed an extraordinarily varied life. He became, first, an electrical engineer, then a photographer. These skills led him into Artic & Antarctic exploration, and he became the companion of Vilhjalmur Steffanson and Sir Ernest Shackleton on several expeditions between 1913 and Shackleton's death at the beginning of 1922.

Enlisting in the Australian Flying Corps in 1916, as soon as he found out there was a war on, George Wilkins became Australia's official war-cinematographer on the Western Front. Subsequently, as a pioneer aviator, he was a participant in the first England-Australia air race of 1919, pioneered aviation in the Antarctic, and was knighted in 1928 for the first flight across the North Polar ice-cap.

He was a pioneer anthropologist in the Gulf of Carpentaria in 1923, a pioneer submarine explorer of polar regions in the 1930's and, eventually, consultant on Artic survival to the American government and military.

Enough of that - back to our fly-away lunch! The weather god was not on our side. Phil John and Tim Baron had to turn back to Aldinga in their syndicate's Sportstar due to the poor visibility. President David also turned back in his Jabi due, I believe to an overheating engine. The seven aircraft that "made it" were all different - one of each. C182, C182 taildragger (from Callington), C172, Mooney, Pipistrel, Baron and a Jabiru (from Hunt field).

Photos below show YJST "right on the nose", the brown, dry landscape on the flight home and YPAD on the starboard side when ATC vectored Neil Davis's C182 from his plan track.



### Club Executive



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## Outback Air Race 2021 Fully Subscribed After Two Weeks.

The organisers of the 2021 Outback Air Race have announced the 3,800 kilometre time trial across Australia is fully subscribed after just two weeks of registrations being open. The prestigious triennial event will start on 30th August and the 42 teams and 100 competitors will fly from Darwin to Cooina, Adels Grove, Karumba, Undara, Shute Harbour, Gladstone, Roma and Goondiwindi before finishing in Coffs Harbour on 12th September.



The event raises funds for the Royal Flying Doctor Service and has garnered more than \$3.1 million in donations since its foundation in 1996. It is technically a time trial, with participants rated electronically on the team's nominated times from A-B. There's also a 'nearest to the pin' at set locations for challengers to find and overfly accurately. Each leg of the race has a winner who temporarily gets to keep an actual mannequin's leg that they can fill with money to aid donations.

The total distance of 3,800 kilometres and the numerous stops involves just two night's en-route accommodation.

A documentary is being produced of the 2021 race that will pitch to various networks, including Netflix.

## Qantas Hanging In There Through the Pandemic.

Since October, 2020, Qantas has utilized its C787 fleet to fly 52 repatriation flights bringing around 170 passengers back home.

VH-ZND flew 6, VH-ZNK 11, VH-ZNC 8, VH-ZNA 3, VH-ZNE 3, VH-ZNF 3, VH-ZNI 5, VH-ZNB 1, VH-ZNH 5 and VH-ZNJ 7.

Meanwhile, Qantas chief executive, Alan Joyce reports he is confident that the airline's A380 fleet will still be profitable when the COVID crisis ends. This is despite the fact that Air France has retired its fleet and Airbus has begun suspending production. The last of Qantas's 12 A380's has been flown to storage in the Mojave Desert.



## First "Dream Chaser" Mission Delayed.

Citing delays related to the COVID pandemic, Sierra Nevada Corporation (SNC) has pushed back the time frame for the first mission using its "Dream Chaser" space-plane. Formerly scheduled for late 2021, the company now expects the Dream Chaser to make its initial flight to the International Space Station in 2022. The cargo mission will be the first of a minimum of six conducted under a contract with NASA.

Although it was originally designed as a crewed vehicle, the first Dream Chaser mission will be conducted using the uncrewed cargo version. When paired with SNC's disposable "Shooting Star" transfer vehicle, the Dream Chaser cargo system can carry up to 5,500 kg to low-Earth orbit. Dream Chaser is a reusable lifting-body spacecraft with features including autonomous launch, flight and landing capabilities, folding wings, 1.5G atmosphere entry and commercial runway landing compatibility. SNC also intends to provide disposal services using the Shooting Star, which is designed to burn up in the Earth's atmosphere.



Question : What is a turban?

Answer : Something an Arab or a Sheik wears on his head. Once he reaches puberty, he removes his nappy and wraps it around his head.

## The Club's Microsoft Flight Simulator 2020 is **ALIVE!**

Using funding from our Fred Giltrap Memorial account and led by Steve McGuiness with technical assistance from Hami Mounem, our new simulator has been installed and is ready for action. The "official opening", including a briefing for members on its use, will take place at our March meeting on Sunday 7th. The sim briefing will start at 0900. At 1000 there will be a briefing for pilots participating in a Spot Landing Comp. We will then enjoy our usual BYO BBQ lunch from 1200, after which, from 2 pm, there will be a simple exercise available on the simulator for all to "give it a try".

## FORTY B737 PLANES EACH MONTH !

Ever wonder how Boeing produces over 40 B737 aircraft a month? A train arrives with the main body in the morning. They turn them out about one every 18 hours and every part is supplied by the lowest cost supplier.

This 3½ minute video is fascinating. A 'must watch' for all aviation maintenance personnel - <https://youtu.be/SE71NJI-naY>.

## Plan for Drones to Fly COVID Jabs in the Northern Territory.

A government-backed project will design and manufacture custom drones to fly medicines up to 250 kilometres in the North Territory. Charles Darwin University will manage the trial which will involve developing a test flight centre and recruiting pilots. It hopes the drones could eventually deliver cold-storage COVID vaccines to remote communities. The pilot program hopes to achieve regular drone flights of up to 100 kilometres by the end of 2021 and flights of up to 250 kilometres by 1 July 2023.

It is being funded by iMove Cooperative Research Centre, a non-profit collaboration between government and industry. iMove was formed in July 2017 and now has 44 industry, government and research partners on board.

iMove programs director, who conceived the project says, "There are about eight million people living in rural and remote parts of the Territory in places where getting life-saving medical supplies is not only a race against time but also a battle against the tyranny of distance, harsh landscapes and unpredictable elements. These communities face medical access and health supply issues. This doesn't have to be the case. We have the technology to put an end to this deprivation, especially in remote Northern Territory "First Nations" communities. Drones seem to be an obvious solution, a potential game-changer. In the not too distant future, if you see a drone flying overhead in the middle of nowhere, there's a fair chance that technology is on its way to help someone or even save their life."

Meanwhile, on the subject of drones, Google's drone delivery service "Wings" is set to expand to new locations in Australia after successful trials in Canberra and Logan Qld. Wing's orders soared 500% because of COVID as customers sought to obtain goods in a contactless way. They have conducted more than 100,000 drone delivery flights worldwide.

Wing first launched in Canberra in 2019 and currently allows for the delivery of packages that weigh up to 1.5 kg from a variety of retailers who sell household products.

## 10 Years Ago.

In the February 2011 Go-Round, an article reminded readers of previous articles about a remarkable American woman - Jessica Cox. She was born in 1983 in Arizona with no arms due to that terrible medication, thalidomide.

She learned to use her feet to do everything her arms would have been used for. She attained a Bachelor of Psychology, obtained an unrestricted driver's license in a modified car, could type at

*(Continued on page 4)*



(Continued from page 3)

25 words per minute using a standard keyboard, could even insert and remove her contact lenses, was a certificated scuba diver, earned a black belt in Taekwondo and, most amazingly, became the first ever “armless” person to obtain a private pilot’s license.

Seen here signing an autograph, she currently runs her own business as, not surprisingly, a motivational guest speaker.

Also in that issue of Go-Round were the following photos under the heading “Sometimes Things Go Wrong” They were labelled ‘Duck’, ‘Terrain Warning’ and ‘The Domino Effect’.



### Rolls-Royce Runs First Engine on World’s Largest Testbed.

Rolls-Royce has completed the first run using their \$123 million new testbed which has been under construction for almost three years. Named “Testbed 80” it has an internal area of 7,500 square metres, making it the largest indoor aerospace testbed in the world. It can collect data for more than 10,000 different engine parameters, along with being able to detect vibrations at a rate of up to 200,000 samples per second. It can accommodate engines capable of producing up to 155,000 pounds of thrust.



### Correction.

Last month’s Go-Round incorrectly named club member Tim Baron as “Club Captain”. Tim has agreed to assist with the planning and operational aspects of club comps and flyaways, but does not wish to wear an official title.

### Diary Dates.

**All Tuesdays in March** - Club members morning tea and chat from 0930 hours. Occasionally “paid for” by undertaking minor maintenance of the club premises!

**Sunday 7th March** - Member’s introduction to the operating functions of the new flight simulator from 0900 hours. At 1000 hours there will be a briefing for pilots participating in the Spot Landing comp. From 1200 hours the usual BYO BBQ and, at 1400 hours, the inaugural flight simulator competition will get under way. Be there or be square!

**Sunday 11th April** - note - **2nd Sunday due to Easter**. We will host our annual Charity Day, this year for “Heartkids”. Plenty of jobs for club members to assist with. Contact Vice President to volunteer your labour, aircraft or ‘whatever’.