



Occasional Newsletter of Walgett Aero Club Incorporated

## History Book

What a trial to get the best quality, best price copies – but history took quite a while to get here, so we should make an effort to make it last?

The *History of Walgett Aero Club* is 36 pages of ‘can’t put down’ reading (ok, a picture is worth ...)

Quotes ranged from \$70 for a spiral bound soft version to \$170 for the hard cover. Self-publishing (ie iMac through Apple) gets a high quality hard cover with dust jacket and aviation quotations on every page, extra. That’ll be \$120 for the first print run, please.

**Order Your Copy Today, or tomorrow, before we run out**  
(Don’t worry, if you haven’t got yours yet, we’ll order as requested)



A good landing – 80 year-old non-pilot (and a woman, no less) walks after taking control.



## We should all Learn from the Past

Previously respected and experienced pilot the Reverend Les Nixon’s apparent ‘brain snap’ in interfering with an aircraft in flight last August should prompt us to consider our passenger’s demeanor and piloting skills.

Having said that, the front seat passenger should not be backward in quizzing the pilot on the basics of aircraft handling (just not during take-offs or landings, please.)

### Breaking News

#### Statue Stolen



#### Bill finishes Spitfire

##### Article in Winter Edition #20

Bill Buchanan has finished his 90% scale prototype.

#### How to Build your own aircraft

##### Next Edition #24

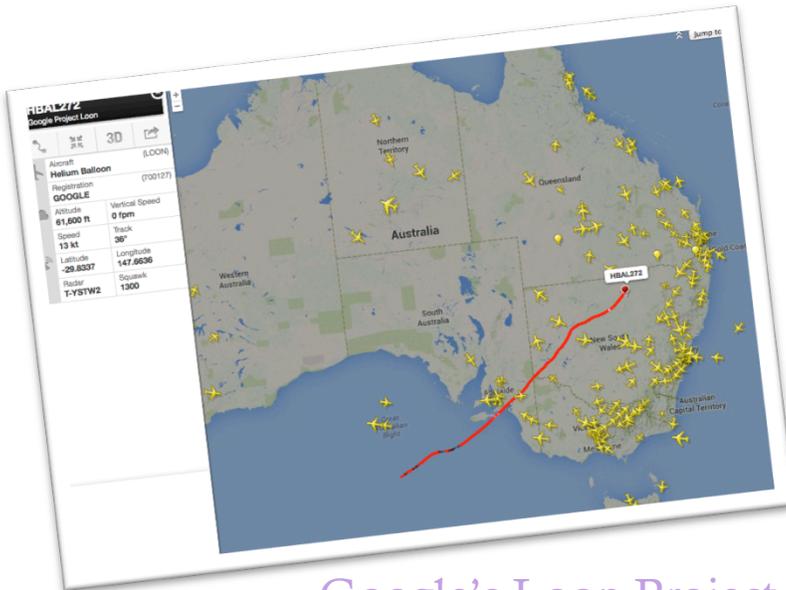
Further interviews and a handy tip to build your own.

# Flight Radar 24

It's amazing what you come across when you're looking for something else. Check your local area and see what's happening around you!

## The Flight Radar 24 Pro App & Website

The Flight Radar and Flight Radar Pro is a smart phone app and website <http://www.flightradar24.com> that allows access to the real time position and details of flights all over the world. But you've all downloaded at least a free copy yourselves anyway so I won't say any more.



## Google's Loon Project

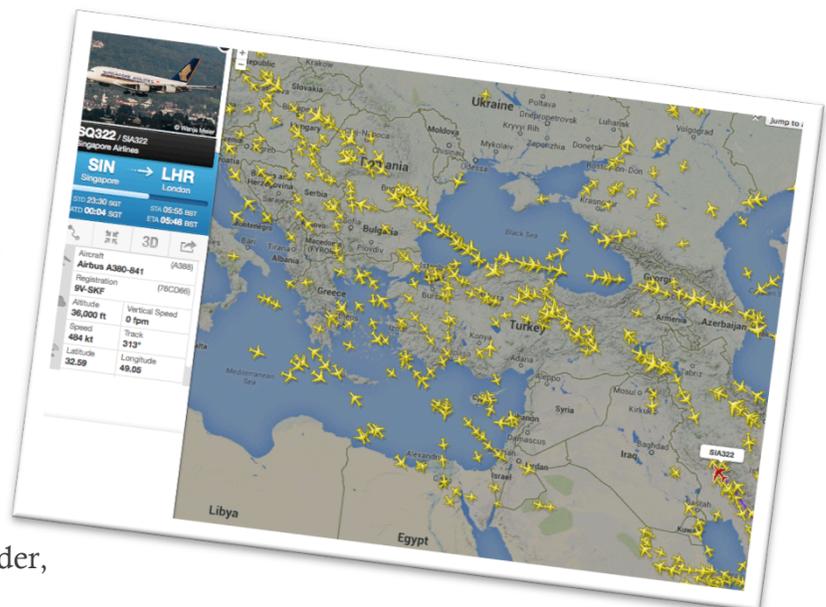
When checking a particular flight overflying Walgett, it was intriguing to see a number of balloon sites showing up, too many to be weather balloons. A quick 'click' showed up details of a balloon overflying near Walgett at 61,600 ft. Yes, I say again, 61,600 ft. The ceiling height for our C182S is 18,100 Ft, requiring oxygen and spare undies. You need 3+ C182's to get to balloon height (I think).

Google 'Project Loon' and see what you get.

"Many of us think of the Internet as a global community. But two-thirds of the world's population does not yet have Internet access. Project Loon is a network of balloons traveling on the edge of space, designed to connect people in rural and remote areas, help fill coverage gaps, and bring people back online after disasters."

## Flying to Europe - detours

And of course, if you are planning to fly to Heathrow on, say, Singapore Airlines, search their Flight Number like SQ322 and you'll see them skirting (like everyone else) around the war zones in the Middle-East, squeezing along a tight corridor on the Iranian side of the Iran/Iraq border, and over Turkey South of the Crimea.





## An Outsider's tribute to 'Smithy'

Bill Bryson is my current favourite author – he is a good writer and must like Australia and aviation. In his 2000 book 'Down Under' he pays tribute to Charles Kingsford Smith after visiting the small aviation museum in Alice Springs.

'I refer to the remains of a light aircraft known as the Kookaburra, which went down in the desert while searching for a lost pilot named Charles Kingsford Smith.

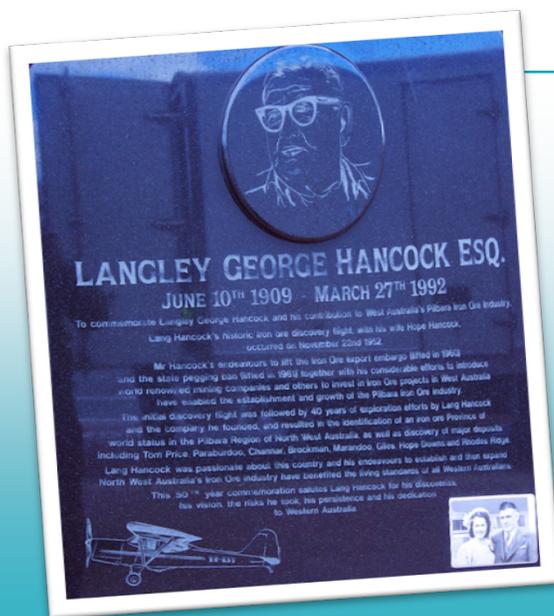
**'Kingsford Smith was not only the greatest Australian aviator of his age, but possibly the greatest aviator ever.** He held more records than anyone else and tackled infinitely more daring challenges. Just a year after Charles Lindberg made his historic solo flight across the

Atlantic, Kingsford Smith became the first to cross the Pacific – a far more ambitious enterprise, not simply because the scale was greater but because flying conditions were much, much tougher and far less well understood.

... 'This was, bear in mind, in a frail, spruce framed, cloth covered 1920's Fokker so elemental in design that the seats weren't even bolted down.

... 'He became the first to fly the Atlantic from east to west (again much tougher because it was against the jet stream), first ... and first to cross the Pacific in the other direction'

[Check out also Peter Fitzsimmons book on 'Smithy' and uTube uploads (various).]



## Did You Know?

**There are numerous memorials to our aviators and aviation supporters all over the country.**

**In front of Sorrento Quay at Hillary's Boat Harbour, North of Perth, is a plaque to Lang Hancock commemorating the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his iron ore discovery flight in his Auster J/1 Adventurer on 22 Nov 1952.**

*'Every story published on Lang Hancock's life describes his favourite anecdote of flying his Auster low over hills near what later became the first big iron ore open cut mine at Mount Tom Price – he saw iron ore seams in the sides of the hills and later did his own geological survey and found massive reserves of iron ore.'* -Ed Coates

## Are You in the Hot Seat? – or is Your Passenger?

### “My passenger is trying to take over”

2014: An 82-year-old passenger (an experienced pilot) in a light plane tried to grab the aircraft's controls before the pilot was forced to make an emergency landing in a paddock in central western NSW.

The 23-year-old pilot had to restrain his passenger before landing the Beechcraft Duchess aircraft in a paddock off Titania Road in Oberon .

<https://au.news.yahoo.com/nsw/a/24821663/my-passenger-is-trying-to-take-over/>

<http://www.smh.com.au/nsw/midflight-incident-forces-pilot-to-make-emergency-landing-20140825-108acq.html#ixzz3Ddc1qzLp>



### 77-year-old passenger forced to take over after pilot collapsed & later died

2013: A pilot who fell ill at the controls of his plane - forcing his passenger to land the aircraft - has died.

Police said the man collapsed in the cockpit after taking off, leaving the "inexperienced" passenger to make an emergency landing.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eQFffo-P5u4>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GkIpg57B4HI>

### 80- year-old's Emergency Landing

2012: Audio tapes have been released which detail the emergency landing by 80-year-old Helen Collins, who was left to fly the plane after the pilot - her husband - died at the controls.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QxZKKDTRgyk>



### 56-year old with young family forced to take over after pilot dies.

TAMPA, Fla. - Doug White and his family had just enjoyed a smooth takeoff and were ascending through the clouds when the pilot guiding their twin-engine plane tilted his head back and made a guttural sound.

The retired jet pilot, Joe Cabuk, was unconscious. And though White had his pilot's license, he had never flown a plane as large as this. "I need help. I need a King Air pilot to talk to. We're in trouble," he radioed. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yOHbmSg4pzi>

## Walgett Aero Club's New Computer

One day in the Club's kitchen, Barry says to Chris, "My elbow hurts like hell. I guess I'd better see Dr. Cook."

"Listen, you don't have to spend that kind of money on David," Chris replies.

"Jenny's just bought a diagnostic computer for the office. Just give it a urine sample and the computer will tell you what's wrong and what to do about it. It takes ten seconds and costs only ten dollars. A lot cheaper than your doctor."

So, Barry deposits a urine sample in a small jar and takes it to the new computer.

He deposits ten dollars and the computer lights up and asks for the urine sample. He pours the sample into the slot and waits.

Ten seconds later, the computer ejects a printout:

"You have tennis elbow. Soak your arm in warm water and avoid heavy activity. It will improve in two weeks.

Thank you for flying with Walgett Aero Club."

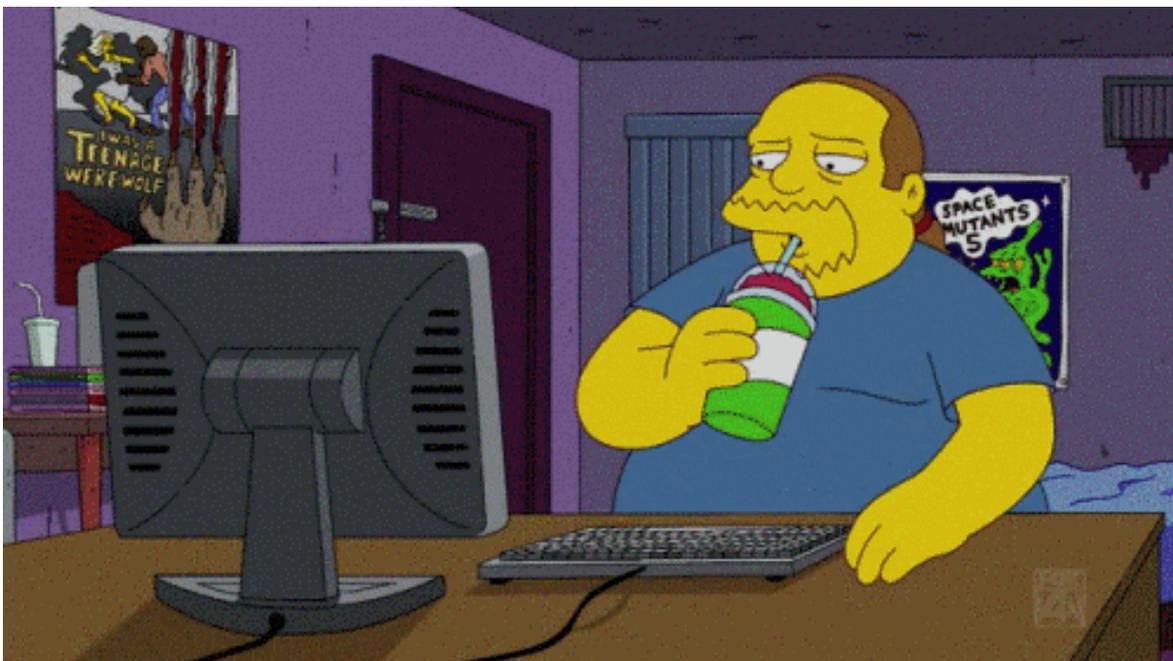
That evening, while thinking how amazing this new technology was, Barry began wondering if the computer could be fooled. He mixed some tap water, a stool sample from his dog, urine samples from his wife and daughter, and a sperm sample from himself for good measure.

Barry hurries back to the Clubhouse, eager to check the results. He deposits ten dollars, pours in his concoction, and awaits the results.

The computer prints the following: "

1. Your tap water is too hard. Get a water softener. (IGA has plenty)
2. Your dog has ringworm. Bathe him with anti-fungal shampoo. (Enid the Vet will help)
3. Your daughter has a cocaine habit. Get her into rehab.
4. Your wife is pregnant. Twins. They aren't yours. Get a lawyer.
5. If you don't stop playing with yourself, your elbow will never get better.

Thank you for flying with Walgett Aero Club."



Barry, getting ready for the urine test.

# Get in the Pilot's Seat

Roy gets a special mention in the *History of Walgett Aero Club* (not because his passengers jumped when he took hold of the stick). Of course he thinks the *History* is a brilliant piece of work, but you will too.

You could read a copy in the NSW State Library or Walgett's library, but it's not the same as having a high quality, hard back and eye catching 'coffee-table' edition to impress your friends, or start up a conversation with a potential new friend. Will that be one sugar or two?



## Happy reading, or flying, but not both together.

The recently late Robin Williams was quoted as saying, "See, the problem is that God gives men a brain and a penis, and only enough blood to run one at a time."

### Walgett Aero Club Incorporated

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### Club members and Friends

Distribution of this Newsletter is by email only. Please encourage your fellow members and friends of Walgett Aero Club to provide the Secretary of their email addresses if they wish to be updated on Club activities as soon as they are planned.