

Straddie Aero Club Inc



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July 2014 Newsletter

Our July Fly-in Breakfast was held on Saturday 19th July.



Breakfast helpers from left: Pat, Doug, Joan and Billy.

It was a success, but only just, because of strong westerly winds and bumpy conditions that moderated just enough for eighteen planes to attend.



The forecast of “moderate/severe turbulence below 5000 feet” had only been revised downwards to “moderate” a few hours before and this would have kept many pilots at home, at least until the breakfast would have been over.



Still, we served thirty-nine breakfasts to members and visitors including retired Amity couple, Keith and Laurel Morrissey who regaled us with stories about the wind being so strong the day before at their house that the floorboards were starting to lift!



Visiting pilot, Andy and Breakfast helper Rod

November Breakfast Date Change.

Because of the G20 airspace restrictions, which would have involved everybody flying in to the breakfast being required to

lodge a flight plan and fly under the direct supervision of Air Traffic Control, the November Fly-in Breakfast will now be held on Saturday 22nd November, 2014, the fourth Saturday of the month.



A Little History on the Origins of our Breakfast...

In December 2005, our Club President, Pat Bowden sent the following questionnaire out to all members:

Straddie Aero Club Questionnaire

Yes No

- 1 Did you enjoy the format of this year's Christmas party?
- 2 Would you like the Club to hold 3 or 4 similar functions in 2006?
- 3 Would you like to be involved in planning some themed functions?
- 4 Would you like to help organize air comps and games on agreed weekends?
- 5 Would you join like-minded members on a Social Committee?
- 6 If you answered yes to Q 5, would you be available to meet in early February 2006?
- 7 Would you like to make any suggestions about how the Club can better meet your expectations?

Comments:

One of the few replies she received was:

“Having experienced early morning flying combined with a sumptuous breakfast at Straddie just under 300 times, I would like to suggest this as an easy to organise, regularly occurring function, say every 1, 2 or 3 months which members with very busy lives could attend easily on a fly-in, fly-out basis. As we know flying conditions are normally very comfortable and enjoyable in the early morning and the non-flying partners with little light aircraft flying experience will enjoy themselves all the more. I have had complaints from pilot's partners previously who have arrived from mid-morning onwards at fly-ins, that they found conditions uncomfortable and rough and worse still, did not enjoy themselves.”

From these inconspicuous origins, Pat started with a few highly successful Breakfast Fly-ins in 2006, followed by the first regularly timetabled breakfasts from January 2007, the decision having been made to hold these on every third Saturday of the month.

Many improvements and changes have been made over the years e.g. the purchase of a small bain-marie, the addition of more tables, shade-sails and

umbrellas and a name change to “Straddie Fly-in Breakfast” in mid-2012.

While we thank our current breakfast and barbecue workers, we also thank those past helpers including Michael Wallace, Barrie Sigley, the late Lance Billman, the late Roger Porter and Big Al and family to name but a few.



Text by Duncan Shiels, Photos taken by Dave Wilson & edited by Ken Cox.