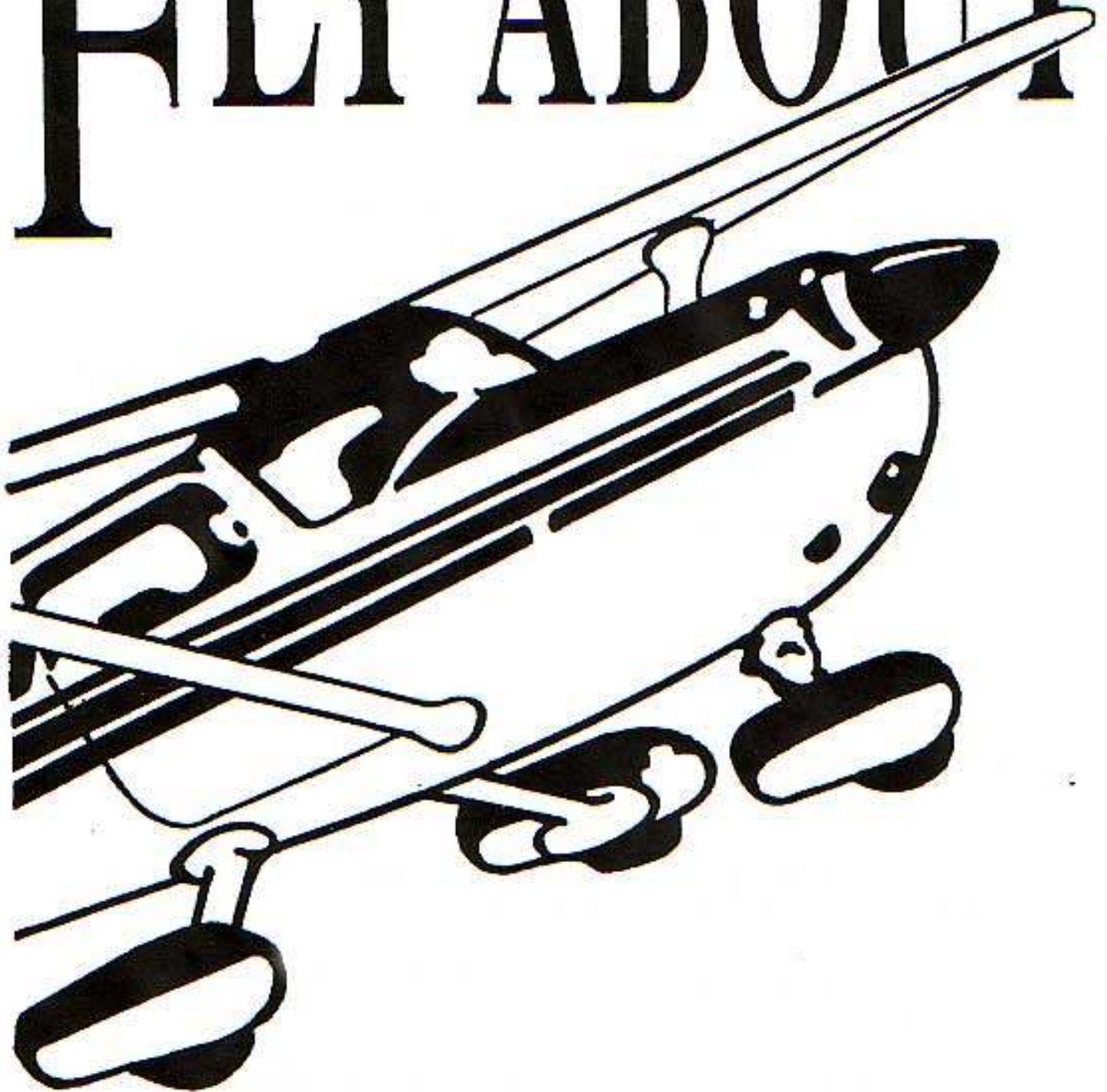


# FLY ABOUT



OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE NORTHAM AERO CLUB (INC)  
POST OFFICE BOX 247 NORTHAM WA 6401

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**PO BOX 247 NORTHAM WA 6401**

## **COMMITTEE CONTACTS**

|   |  |                              |
|---|--|------------------------------|
| <b>PRESIDENT</b>  | <b>Simon Cooper</b><br><a href="mailto:simon.sj.cooper@centrelink.gov.au">simon.sj.cooper@centrelink.gov.au</a>  | 0429 202 597                 |
| <b>IPP</b>  | <b>Claude Meunier</b><br><a href="mailto:claudemeunier@bigpond.com">claudemeunier@bigpond.com</a>  | 08 9622 5574<br>0417 816 168 |
| <b>VICE PRESIDENT</b>   | <b>Errol Croft</b><br>dowref@bigpond.net.au  | 0428 880 149                 |
| <b>SECRETARY</b>  | <b>Les Ballantyne</b><br><a href="mailto:les@aquasport.com.au">les@aquasport.com.au</a>  | 08 9622 5303                 |
| <b>TREASURER</b>  |  |                              |
| <b>CLUB CAPTAIN</b>   | <b>Errol Croft</b><br>dowref@bigpond.net.au  | 0428 880 149                 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AIRCRAFT BOOKINGS</li> <li>• AIRFIELD OFFICER</li> <li>• BAR MANAGER</li> <li>• HOUSE &amp; GROUNDS</li> </ul> | <b>Matt Bignell</b><br>big.matty@hotmail.com   | 0428 962 001<br>08 9622 3001 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AIRCRAFT</li> <li>• FLIGHT TRAINING</li> <li>• AIRSIDE &amp; SAFETY</li> </ul>                                 | <b>Denis Beresford</b>   | 08 96225 222<br>0408 747 182 |
| <b>FLYING INSTRUCTORS</b>   | <b>Phil Butherway</b><br><b>Kevin Lathbury</b>   | 0427 967 363<br>0434 000 217 |
| <b>SOCIAL</b>   | <b>Nigel Posselt</b><br>oracleblue@iinet.net.au  | 0429 206 806<br>08 9621 2953 |
| <b>BALLOONING LIASON</b>  | <b>Ryan Bristow-Stagg</b><br>bristow82@bigpond.com   | 0404 081 786                 |
| <b>FLY ABOUT EDITOR</b>   | <b>Debra Donovan</b><br>nac.editor@yahoo.com   | 0429 207 502                 |
| <b>WEBSITE</b><br><b>E-MAIL</b><br><b>CLUB ROOM</b>   | <a href="http://www.northamaeroclub.com">www.northamaeroclub.com</a><br><a href="mailto:northamaeroclub@westnet.com.au">northamaeroclub@westnet.com.au</a> | 08 9622 3248                 |

## From the President

### June 2010

Once again, I begin my report with a note of thanks. A Busy Bee was held on the 12<sup>th</sup> June and it was great to see a good turn out by members willing to help. Thanks to all involved, the Club Rooms and surrounds looked schmicko in preparation for the Dawn Raid. Basil the rat provided some laughs when it was discovered he had been keeping one of the fluoros going. Upon removal of his charred remains, the light no longer worked!

The Dawn Raid proved to be an awesome day, with a large contingent of pilots (from Royal Aero Club, NAC and Curtin Flying Club) lining up for the challenge. Thanks to some last minute number crunching by Ray Howell, Northam managed to retain the President's Trophy. It was looking a bit touch-and-go there for a bit, but thankfully one of Royal's competitors realised he was flying for them and not for us! Thanks to everyone involved in organising and running the event, in particular Les Ballantyne and Errol Croft. And thanks also to the RACWA members and their executive for being such good sports. Mention must also be made of the instructors who helped out on the day with the judging; Phil Butherway, Kevin Lathbury and Harold Bankien.

Trevor Jones was kind enough to bring the Tiger Moth up (braving the cool conditions and the tiger country over the scarp). I decided to bite the bullet and go for a spin with him. It was a beautiful day for a fly, and it certainly is a different perspective to have the wind in your hair as you sail along at 80 miles an hour. My joy flight was topped off with some wicked aerobatics, (loops, rolls, stall turns etc.), before TJ finished off with a three-pointer back at the field.

**Committee Meeting** – the refurbishment of the lights has now been completed. The new carpet is now down and the windows have been re-tinted in preparation for the Annual Dinner, Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> June. Anyone who dares to spill red wine on our new carpet will be tied to the flag-pole and flogged! The Shire has been contacted regarding the cracks in the runway (thanks to Graeme King for alerting us to this). I have also asked them to have a look at resealing the taxiway closest to the Club Rooms.

I want to take this opportunity to thank the Committee for their efforts over the last year. It has certainly been a challenging one given the tragic loss of our Life Member and Treasurer, Joy Flegeltaub. The AGM will be held in July, with more information included later in this Fly About. I encourage all members wanting to contribute to the success of our Club, to consider nominating for a position. Our Club has enjoyed a great deal of success over the years, but it is only through the continued volunteer efforts of members that this can be sustained.



**Trevor Jones making sure I won't fall out at the top of a loop**

Thanks,

Simon Cooper  
Northam Aero Club

## Club Captains Report

June 13th was the long awaited Dawn Raid where the NAC country flying take on the Royals City club from Jandakot. This year the weather was perfect as we had ordered it for the Royals, Ha Ha!! I believe 15 aircraft turned up for the barbie breakfast which was then followed by the comp. Seven Royals pilots plus 6 of ours took part. The comp was another instrument-less competition with orbit on downwind. The end result was so close that the Royals were presented with the Presidents Trophy only to find that they had not won because of the haste in adding up the results. Our last pilot being Ashley Smith won it for us, although the Royals held the trophy for about 10 seconds until Simon Cooper reclaimed it. So sorry about that Royals!

Thanks must go out to the judges and the helpers for the morning, and a special mention to the Balloonists who tethered their balloons in front of the club rooms as many photo's were taken. It was great to see Barry Bristow-Stagg helping with the cooking and in fact there were four generations of Bristow-Stagg's there on Sunday, well done guys. The winner of the monthly comp was once again Ashley Smith, 2<sup>nd</sup> Simon & 3<sup>rd</sup> myself. Well done to all organisers and to the Royals for making the day so enjoyable.

Please try to come to next months comp on 11/07/10 as we hope to hold a post comp seminar on the use of the new radios in PGL. If you don't want to fly then come down for the barbie and the seminar.

Cheers,  
**Errol**

## **AND THE WINNER IS . . . ?**

With a liberal dash of poetic licence, Tony Rees throws the switch to vaudeville in this report on the antics at the annual blood sport contest known as the Dawn Raid

Northam Aero Club staged its first Comedy Festival on Sunday, June 13, in conjunction with the annual contest for the President's Trophy.

A dozen or so aircraft, mostly from our mortal enemies RACWA, flew in for the traditional Dawn Raid, arriving before most of their NAC hosts, who had varying conceptions of "dawn". It was peerless weather, though bloody cold, and our balloon colleagues had tethered two of their colourful behemoths to provide a spectacular backdrop. Northam Air Services LAME Ian Bristow-Stagg entertained onlookers with his radio-controlled balloon, which gave everyone something to talk about before the comedy began.

Act One commenced when our esteemed President, Simon Cooper, strolled in, nonchalant as ever, and confided that the Royals wouldn't be taking the trophy back to Jandakot.

"Too right," said Club Captain Errol Croft, "those bastards couldn't win a flying comp if you pinned wings on their backs."

"Noble sentiments, Crofty," said the Pres, " but that's not what I mean."

Blank looks all round.

Then Simon 'fessed up: "We've lost the bloody thing."

The consensus was that we'd worry about it later, after we'd won the comp and retained the trophy, which we would say we'd sent away for cleaning or something. Everyone then forgot about it and tucked into sausages, bacon, baked beans, eggs and toast, all coated with about five millimetres of pure carbon. Ah, there's nothing like a country breakfast! Well done Les, Barry and all.

Briefing was at 9 am. With due pomp and solemnity RACWA Club Captain Mick Harcourt or Crofty (I can't remember) announced that contestants would fly a circuit with the ASI and altimeter blanked off in such a way that only the judge in the right-hand seat could see the height and speed indications. There was also a requirement for an orbit on the downwind leg. If the judge bailed out, the competitor was to assume that he was flying too slowly. If he went a strange shade of grey, the altimeter was about to go negative.

Mick, encouraged disgracefully by RACWA President Jack Gregor, boasted that they'd already arranged a place for the trophy at Jandakot and the Northam mob might as well go home now. No one from our side said anything; we were wondering how the Royals would take the melancholy news about the missing trophy. Again, the consensus was that we'd worry about it later, after we'd thrashed them, and invent some story about not bringing the shield out because we didn't want to embarrass the Royals by rubbing their noses in it.

So far, so good. I must point out at this stage that I was barred from taking part because of an incident a few years ago when some low-level manoeuvres effected by my good self in an attempt to lose height resulted in a near seizure on the part of Mick Harcourt, who was judging in the right-hand seat. We lost the trophy that year, and they've never let me forget it. One wag had the temerity to suggest that I volunteer to fly for the Royals! People can be so unkind . . .

Back to the battle. Pilots and aeroplanes buzzed around the Northam circuit in greater profusion than we've seen for some time – it was delightful to see so much life around the place and brilliant to drink in the camaraderie of the aviation fraternity.

Act Two: Meanwhile, in the circuit, some reputations were being made, others destroyed. Some pilots gained as much as 500 ft in their "level" orbit. Others hugged the ground, while a couple must have thought they were flying jets, they went so high and wide. I swear our venerable Poppy exceeded Vne on final under the direction of one of the club's more senior citizens and disappeared towards the end of 32. Someone suggested we contact him by radio and advise him to turn right at the Goomalling road and taxi in via the back gate.

Onlookers had their share of laughs as competitors struggled to find the correct speed and altitude. But more humour was on the way.



Act Three: the judges retired to consider their verdict . . . and declared the Royals victorious! There was pandemonium in the Briefing Room as Jack Gregor grabbed the trophy, which someone had found in a cupboard, and waved it aloft triumphantly. More pandemonium followed as the judges went into a huddle and consulted our resident accountant, Ray Howell, who had brought along his abacus for the occasion.

Confusion reined. Then Crofty wrestled the trophy from Jack and handed it to Simon, causing even greater confusion because nobody knew what was going on. Someone eventually announced that Northam had actually won because the judges had mistakenly allocated one of the pilot's scores to the wrong team. At least I think that's what happened. That wiped the smiles off RACWA's faces and allowed the trophy to be returned to its perpetual home beneath the bar. Or in some other dark corner.

"Told you they wouldn't take it home," said Simon, who rewarded himself by taking an aerobatic flight in the RACWA Tiger Moth piloted expertly by Trevor Jones.

"Too right," said Crofty, "if it had been left to those bastards to invent flying we'd still be riding bikes."

So that's it until next year's Comedy Festival. Well done the Royals, but no cigar! And congratulations to our championship team, led by Simon. Maybe they'll let me back in again next year . . . that, at least, will guarantee a few laughs.





# DAWN RAID-JUNE 13, 2010



Following further investigation from last month's article on the first flights in Western Australia, some photographs of those involved in the 1891 ballooning demonstrations in Western Australia have come to light.



MISS ESSIE AND MISS MILLIE VIOLA, BALLOONISTS.



*Professor Price's Balloon ready to ascend, 16 May 1899.*

[Above left] Miss Millie Viola was the first woman ever to fly in Western Australia on the 25th April 1891, and also the first woman to fly in Northam in the Avon Valley on the 27th August 1891. She was also the second person ever to do both of these after "Professor" James W Price. This photograph of her and her sister Essie was taken in 1895 on a return visit to Australia. [Above right] This photograph is of one of "Professor" James W Price's balloons, which was taken while on a tour of South Africa in 1899. [Below left] Park van Tassel was the man responsible for the touring American balloonists in Australia of the early 1890's, "Professor" Price and Miss Millie Viola worked with him before coming to WA. This photograph was taken in India, which he toured after Australia. [Below right] Jenny van Tassel one of the van Tassel balloonists of India, showing the full preforming costumes worn by the lady balloonists.



Prepared by Léon Wachowski

# **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**Notice is hereby given to the  
members that the**

**Annual General Meeting  
of the**

**NORTHAM AERO CLUB**

**will be held on**

**Friday 16th July 2010**

**at the NAC Club Rooms**

**at 7.00pm**

## **AGENDA ITEMS**

- **ELECTION OF OFFICE  
BEARERS**

**[Please bring a small  
plate of food for fellowship at  
the conclusion of the meeting]**



## **Nomination Form**

Nomination is hereby made for the position of:  
\*President \*Vice President \*Secretary \*Treasurer  
\*3 x Committee Persons (2 years)

Nominee: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Position: \_\_\_\_\_

Proposer: \_\_\_\_\_

Seconder: \_\_\_\_\_

**•To be in the hands of the Hon. Secretary by Friday 24/06/2010**  
[PO Box 247 Northam WA 6401]

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Position: \_\_\_\_\_

Proposer: \_\_\_\_\_

Seconder: \_\_\_\_\_

**•To be in the hands of the Hon. Secretary by Friday 24/06/2010**  
[PO Box 247 Northam WA 6401]

## Upcoming Events & Announcements

### **Ballooning Club Competition, Sunday 20th June**

#### **Followed by BBQ breakfast**

If you require any more information contact Ryan Bristow-Stagg

### **NAC Annual Awards Night, Saturday June 26<sup>th</sup>**

Bar open at 7 p.m. for pre-dinner drinks. Dinner starts at 7:30-three courses, cost \$40 per head-choice of two mains.

**R.S.V.P by 19th June to Simon Cooper  
President 0429 202 597 or email**

**[northamaeroclub@westnet.com.au](mailto:northamaeroclub@westnet.com.au)**

- **HANGAR FOR RENT:** The Northam Aero Club has a hangar for rent, it's on the front line, it is a powered building & has a part concrete floor. \$90 a week, \$4680 a year. It has a 12meter frontage by 9 meters. Contact Simon on the above number, or myself on 0428962001 Matt.
- Two green headsets belonging to Northam Aero Club are missing from the plane/briefing room. Could everyone please check their bags/cars to ensure they haven't picked these up by mistake.
- Thanks to Trevor Pipe, Dave Beech, John Collins and Matt Bignell for there valued help at the busy bee on Saturday June 12 th.

#### **FUEL DOCKETS:**

Would all pilots please make sure that all fuel dockets are filled in for both oil and fuel and store them in the maintenance release folder in PGL. This is important to allow for an accurate check to be made on fuel purchases.

Happy Flying, Denis

# Northam Aero Club

## HIRE RATES FOR C172 AIRCRAFT

As from the 1/12/2009

- ➔ Dual Hire ----- \$240 hour
- ➔ Private Hire ----- \$190 hour
- ➔ TIFs ----- \$100 each
  
- ➔ Instructor only
  - \*Pilot provides own aircraft ---- \$80 hour
  
- ➔ Landing Fees & Air Services Charges:
  - \*Where applicable -These are to be paid by the Pilot or Student Pilot
  
- ➔ Hire of Life Jackets ---- \$10 per jacket



# NORTHAMAERO CLUB PILOTS CHALLENGE 2009/10

Entries on the proforma in Flyabout to Denis Beresford.  
48 Burgoyne St Northam 6401.  
0408747182

## **RULES**

1. Only one challenge can be claimed per flight
2. Must be completed between Club Presentation dinners.  
Final claims to be in one week prior to dinner.
3. A proforma must be submitted to claim a challenge. Claims are based on an honor system but may be supported by a witness
4. Pilots may 'pick the brains' of experienced pilots during planning, but it is essentially a personal challenge.
5. Highest score wins, 'the judges decision is final'
6. A flight is defined as a take off to a landing, therefore a return leg may be considered to be another flight for challenge purposes.

- |   |        |
|---|--------|
| 1. Make a flight to Jandacott, with a full stop landing.                          | 10 pts |
| 2. Make a cross country flight, of two hours or more,.non stop                    | 15 pts |
| 3. Climb to a minimum of 8500 ft and maintain for at least 1 hour                 | 10 pts |
| 4. Make a legal flight into Class C controlled airspace.                          | 15 pts |
| 5. Gain any new endorsement or rating   | 20 pts |
| 6. Pass a right hand seat check flight with one of our instructors                | 15 pts |
| 7. Make an outlanding at a safe unlicensed airstrip at least 100 nm from Northam. | 10 pts |
| 8. Fly coastal Lancelin to Rockingham   | 15 pts |
| 9. Fly to Rottnest. Or do the return leg  | 15 pts |

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## **CLUB PILOTS CHALLENGE CLAIM FORM**

|                                    |  |        |  |
|------------------------------------|--|--------|--|
| NAME                               |  | ARN    |  |
| CHALLENGE                          |  |        |  |
| DATE COMPLETED                     |  |        |  |
| REMARKS                            |  |        |  |
|                                    |  |        |  |
| I CERTIFY THIS CLAIM TO BE CORRECT |  |        |  |
|                                    |  | SIGNED |  |
| WITNESS (OPTIONAL)                 |  |        |  |
|                                    |  | SIGNED |  |
|                                    |  |        |  |



# Errol's Club Calendar 2010

|    | May                          | June                               | July                         | August                      |
|----|------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1  | Bar - LESLIE                 |                                    |                              | Bar-SIMON                   |
| 2  | NAC COMP 9am<br>Bar - LESLIE |                                    |                              |                             |
| 3  |                              |                                    | Bar-LESLIE                   |                             |
| 4  |                              |                                    | Bar-LESLIE                   |                             |
| 5  |                              | Bar-SIMON                          |                              |                             |
| 6  |                              | Bar-SIMON                          |                              |                             |
| 7  |                              |                                    |                              | Bar - NIGEL                 |
| 8  | Bar - MATT                   |                                    |                              | NAC COMP 9am<br>Bar - NIGEL |
| 9  | Bar - MATT                   |                                    |                              | NAC Meeting 7pm             |
| 10 | NAC Meeting 7pm              |                                    | Bar - CLAUDE                 |                             |
| 11 |                              |                                    | NAC COMP 9am<br>Bar - CLAUDE |                             |
| 12 |                              | Bar-ERROL                          | NAC Meeting 7pm              |                             |
| 13 |                              | NAC COMP/Dawn<br>Raid<br>Bar-ERROL |                              |                             |
| 14 |                              | NAC Meeting 7pm                    |                              | Bar-ERROL                   |
| 15 | Bar - CLAUDE                 |                                    |                              | Bar-ERROL                   |
| 16 | Bar - CLAUDE                 |                                    |                              |                             |
| 17 |                              |                                    | Bar - MATT                   |                             |
| 18 |                              |                                    | Bar - MATT                   |                             |
| 19 |                              | Bar-RYAN                           |                              |                             |
| 20 |                              | Bar-RYAN                           |                              |                             |
| 21 |                              |                                    |                              | Bar-RYAN                    |
| 22 | Bar - TBA                    |                                    |                              | Bar-RYAN                    |
| 23 | Bar - TBA                    |                                    |                              |                             |
| 24 |                              |                                    | Bar-TBA                      |                             |
| 25 |                              |                                    | Bar-TBA                      |                             |
| 26 |                              | Bar-STEVE<br>Annual Dinner         |                              |                             |
| 27 |                              | Bar-STEVE                          |                              |                             |
| 28 |                              |                                    |                              | Bar-STEVE                   |
| 29 | Bar - NIGEL                  |                                    |                              | Bar-STEVE                   |
| 30 | Bar - NIGEL                  |                                    |                              |                             |
| 31 |                              |                                    | Bar-SIMON                    |                             |

## **NEXT CLUB COMPETITION**

11th July at 9am

## **NEXT CLUB MEETING**

12th July at 7pm

## **BAR ROSTER**

Opening hours

Saturday 5pm – 7pm

Sunday 5pm – 7pm

| July      |   |        |
|-----------|---|--------|
| 3rd-4th   | - | Les    |
| 10th-11th | - | Claude |
| 17th-18th | - | Matt   |
| 24th-25th | - | TBA    |
| 31st-1st  |   | Simon  |

*Well! Sometimes one just has to do it!!!*

**Please make arrangements to swap  
with someone if you are not available  
on your rostered day(s)**

FOR MORE INFORMATION  
THE AERO CLUB CONTACTS ARE;

08 9622 3248  
0429 202 597

PO BOX 247  
NORTHAM WA 6401

**OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE NORTHAM AERO CLUB (Inc.)  
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