

December 2024

Issue No. 158

Note from the President

The end of the year is upon us and we are looking forward to some further significant progress in 2025, starting with our display upgrade project. Funding for the first stage has been received and our display designer, Kim Wingate, is now helping us with planning the overall exercise. There will be some layout changes in the display areas and she is working on upgrading the Schneider display before moving on to the various airport historical displays.

Due to the sad loss of our editor, the publication of the Flyer may be intermittent for a while as we explore options for the future. As usual, any photos or ideas or articles are most welcome.

We have decided to have a lunchtime barbecue at my home on Saturday 15 February. It will be bring a plate, but punch and sausages etc, provided by us. Bring your partners and friends. More details later but keep the date free. And a suitable morning tea will be provided at our last meeting for the year on Tuesday 17 December, 9.30am as usual. If you can't make it, Merry Christmas!!

THE BROWN ARCHIVE:

AVRO ANSON Mk.1 ex MH120:

In March 2024 whilst staying with my niece and her husband in Blenheim I made a number of visits to Omaka airfield.

One day I was fortunate enough to be able to photograph Bill Read's Avro Anson taxiing across the airfield.



On a later day I was lucky enough to meet up with Bill and to exchange a few words.

MH120 was built in 1943 as an Anson Mk.1 by A. V. Roe & Co Ltd [Avro] at Yeadon near Leeds in Yorkshire and was one of the Anson's taken on strength with the RAAF in 1944. In 1953 it was released into the civilian market where it passed through a series of owners before being acquired by Bill Read who with a small, dedicated team spent the next ten years returning it from its heavily modified post WW II fit out as a passenger transport aircraft, complete with nine seats, plywood walls and portholes, back to the full military configuration of its glory days.

On 18th July 2012 it flew from Nelson Airport for its first post restoration flight.

The aircraft is painted to represent Anson K1683 which flew with the RAF's 206 Squadron. Operating from Bircham Newton in Norfolk, K1683 holds the dubious record of being the first RAF combat loss of WW II, when on the night of 5th September 1939 it was shot down by return fire from a Heinkel HE115 that it had engaged. The crew of the German floatplane did spot survivors in the water and alighted in a bid to rescue them. Of the four aboard the Anson, however, only Pilot Officer L. H. Edwards survived. He was the first RAF officer to be taken as a prisoner of war.

The RNZAF operated 23 Ansons as navigation trainers during WW II and up until 1952, alongside the more numerous Airspeed Oxfords. Two other Ansons Mk.12's were imported and used as VIP aircraft for the British High Commissioner to NZ. Fortunately a preserved Anson is in the Air Force Museum of NZ at Wigram.



Sadly for NZ aircraft preservation the particular aircraft photographed here was sold offshore this year.

Acknowledgements for some text: "Marlborough Lines Classic Fighters", "Key Aero", and "Wikipedia."

Tuesday Morning Talk – Jim Taylor – 10 December 2024

Over the years Jim has traditionally spent a considerable number of the winter months in the Solomon Islands, particularly in the area of the New Georgia Islands on the island of Munda in particular, where he has built up a close connection with many of the villagers. He has always returned from these trips with many stories and artifacts relating to the war in the Pacific.

Jim's talk this time related mainly to the period during the Second World War when the Allied forces battled their way, island by island, up the archipelago, re-occupying islands that had been invaded by Japanese forces.

It was particularly interesting finding out about the logistics involved in thwarting the Japanese supply lines and extending the front as the Allied troops fought their way up the Solomons, island by island.

A large-scale map together with pictures taken by and obtained by Jim greatly helped in understanding the logistics of the exercise.

Thanks, Jim, for your thorough research and sharing some of your findings with us. Each time you return from a trip to the Solomons you add to our knowledge of the history in this fascinating part of the world.

Planespotting

As usual, we present a selection of photos from around Kapiti, taken by Stu Brown.

At right: Embraer EMB-500

ZK-PHN

Pouakai Investments Ltd



*Left: Piper PA-18 Super Cub ZK-BQY
Private owner*

*Right Piper PA32R-300
ZK-EIB, airborne PPQ
Private owner*



*Left: Piper PA-42 Cheyenne
ZK-FIS
Airways Corporation of NZ*



*Left: Cessna C185E
ZK-CYA
Private owner*

Visitors from the Past

ROYAL AIRFORCE AVRO YORK LV633 "ASCALON"



The Avro York was conceived in 1941 as a 4-engined long range transport, based on the renowned Avro Lancaster bomber. The first prototype flew in July 1942. Speed 298mph, range 2,700 miles.

LV633 was the third of four prototypes and had by far the most colourful career, being luxuriously fitted out including larger windows and a conference room, as a personal transport for Winston Churchill during WW2. It carried Churchill and other British cabinet ministers to places such as Moscow, Yalta, and Teheran. It also took King George VI on a tour of Africa in 1943.

RAF Transport Command operated over 200 Yorks, mainly as freighters. During the Berlin Airlift, Yorks flew over 58,000 sorties.



Photos from the Con Pellow Collection, circa 1945, taken when Ascalon visited Paraparaumu

Upcoming Programme

Tuesday 17 December 9:30 am	Christmas morning tea
Tuesday 24 December	No Meeting
Tuesday 31 December	No Meeting
Tuesday 7 January 2025	No Meeting
Tuesday 14 January 9:30 am	Forum or Video
Tuesday 21 January 9.:30 am	Forum or Video
Tuesday 28 January 9:30 am	Forum or Video
Tuesday 4 February 9:30 am	Forum or Video

MUSEUM HOURS:

SUNDAYS 1pm to 4pm

PRIVATE AND GROUP VISITS BY ARRANGEMENT

PHONE: 021 037 1937

ADDRESS: 227 KAPITI ROAD, PARAPARAUMU

POSTAL: C/- P O BOX 248, PARAPARAUMU 5254

WEBSITE: www.kapitiaviationmuseum.nz

EMAIL: kapitiaviation@gmail.com

FACEBOOK: Search **Kapiti Aviation Museum** on FB