



Scone Aero Club Hosts Regional Flying Competition

Scone Aero Club hosted 24 pilots over the Anzac weekend for an inter-club regional flying competition. The visitors flew in from Coonanbarabran, Gunnedah, Tamworth, Taree, Port Macquarie and Cessnock flying clubs in a varied range of light aircraft. The group of eighteen colourful aircraft parked in front of the Scone Aero Club building was a spectacular sight.



Three flying competition events were held on the Saturday. The first consisted of a five-leg navigation exercise in which pilots had to locate various landmarks from the air. They then competed in a flour bomb target drop event, attempting to hit a small target on the airfield with a flour bomb while flying at 80 knots and at a height of 200 feet. A spot landing event concluded the competition, with participants being scored on how close their landing touch-down point was to a marked spot on the

runway. Throughout the competition pilots were also assessed on the quality of their radio calls and their general airmanship.

Scone Aero Club President, Neville Partridge, announced the competition placegetters and presented gift packs of wines, donated by Two Rivers winery at Denman, to the winner, James Goodwin from Walcha, and to Matt Baker from Scone and Phil Bradley from Currububula who were placed second and third respectively. Later in the day the visitors were treated to a display of flying skill by Scone club member Val Quinnell in his 300hp Glassair 3 aircraft.



Sunday morning brought grey skies and light rain from the south-west and the Fly-In participants wisely decided to just enjoy watching the rain while tucking into a hearty breakfast of bacon and egg rolls and coffee at Scone Aero Club. A visit to the nearby Pays Air Service Warbirds Museum to view the extensive collection of restored wartime aircraft put together by the late Colin Pay was then greatly enjoyed by all. Pays Air Services'

Principal and Chief Pilot, Ross Pay, then put on a very impressive flying display in the rain, ably showing off the capabilities of his Cessna Birddog aircraft before flying off for a scheduled low pass over the Scone Anzac Parade at 11am.



Graeme Reichel taking care of BBQ duty – Gary Morgan, Tim Morgan from Taree who bought over their Sierra & Super Diamond Aircraft for display & Jim Biss (SAC) taking in the events

The Fly-In ended after a barbecue lunch and by mid-afternoon, as the sky began to clear, the visitors had all climbed into their aircraft and headed off into the sky for their respective home airstrips. “It was really great to see pilots from seven flying clubs all coming together for a weekend of flying and socialising” Scone President Neville Partridge commented after the event. “We’re really keen to see this interclub relationship develop further in the future.”



Dave Bailey made the trip over from Gunnedah in his great little Lightwing

Geoff Pinfold
Event Co-ordinator