

Wings Over Illawarra Air Show 5 - 6 May

This has become one of the, if not THE, best air show in Australia. And the 2018 presentation exceeded all expectations. Even the weather co-operated on both days.



Great cars...

Saturday saw me at the gates about 7:30am with my son in the Chev. We only just made it as a wheel bearing gave out and we had to be trucked home. On this day there were only three Morris Minors on display. I spent the greater part of the first day inspecting the ground displays with occasional looks at the air displays. There were plenty of static displays to keep me busy until we were able to leave at around 5:00pm.

Sunday was a repeat of the previous day - except that I took the Morris along with eight others from near and far all parked together. It took

less time to clean the Morris than it did to clean the Chev so I was 'coffeed' and was ready to appreciate the flying when it started at 10:30am. The highlights included the F/A-18's (very loud), the RAAF Roulettes (very disciplined) and the Matt Hall aerobatics (very skilled). Read Les Whale's article for more details on the aircraft.

The weather on both days was close to perfect with almost no cloud and only a gentle breeze. It is a feature of aerodromes, however, that even a gentle breeze can cause dust to settle everywhere, including on the cars. The only solution would be to have the cars parked in the next paddock and THAT wouldn't be acceptable to me.

As I have said previously I am an 'aeronut' and have attended all the Illawarra air shows and will continue to do so in the future. If you are the sort of person who only attends one air show per year, then this should be it!

Ray Davies

...ooo0ooo...

... and perfect weather for an air show!

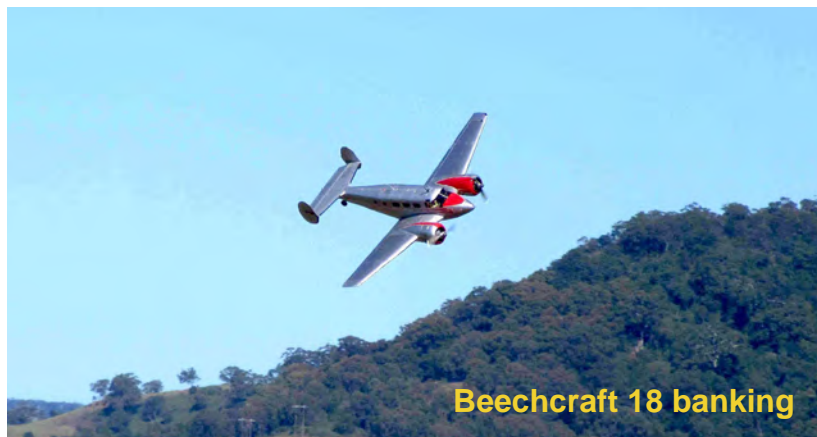


Wings Over Illawarra 6 May

There were 7 Club Morries present on Sunday 6 May, four from Wollongong Region: Ray Davies, Chris Gall, Darren Williams and John Borg; and three from Sydney Region: Bob Gilliland, Les Whale and Scott Barraclough. We also had Ray Davies' son with us, with his immaculate customised Chev Bel Air.

It was a beautiful sunny day, with very little wind which increased slightly during the day, but it did not prevent any part of the flying program from proceeding. The airshow included the usual static aircraft displays in and around the HARS hangars, and a fantastic display of flying yet again.

The RAAF Roulettes gave a brilliant display of formation flying, a RAAF C-130J Hercules came and did many low level passes, dramatic aerobatics were performed by Paul Bennet in his Wolf Pitts Pro, and Matt Hall in his MXS-R, straight from a win in the Red Bull Air Race World Championship in Cannes, France. Great aerobatics were put on by Paul Andronicou in his Extra 330SC who was debuting at WOI this year, and the Sky Aces in their Pitts Special biplanes and, of course, the 5 Russian Roulettes in YAK-52s and Nanchang CJ-6s. An absolute feast of amazing flying.



An RAAF P-8A Poseidon made its first handling display at any airshow at WOI. This aircraft is based on the Boeing 737-800 fuselage and it is replacing the Orion as Australia's ocean patrol aircraft. Another great WOI debut was made by Australia's only flying WWII Hawker Hurricane fighter, which took to the air with a Spitfire MkVIII and a CA-18 Mk21 Mustang (aka P51D) for some formation and individual flying. These aircraft are all powered by the Rolls Royce Merlin engine (in the Mustang's case, the Packard-built version), and they sounded great as they flew by. Unfortunately, the Focke-Wulf FW-190 fighter, while on display, did not join them in the air.

Numerous other notable aircraft took to the air throughout the flying program, including a CA-27 Sabre jet fighter and a Jet Provost T5A trainer. The day was rounded out by an ear-splitting display by two RAAF F/A-18 Hornets, culminating in the 'Wall of Fire'.

As well as the aircraft displays, there were hot air balloon rides, helicopter joy flights and a huge number of carnival rides for the kids, free to all entrants. We were able to leave about 4:30pm and directed to a quick entry onto the Highway to head north. It was a long but extremely enjoyable day. There seems to be less classic vehicles on display at WOI each year - a pity. How about more MMCC Members next year?

Les Whale

Hawker Hurricane at WOI



**Wings Over Illawarra -
a page for the
aircraft enthusiasts**
Photos: Les Whale



Hercules



Sabre



Hornet



Roulettes



Mustang

