

ANNIVERSARY GUEST SPEAKER ADDRESS

GOOD EVENING ALL. IT HAS BEEN A GREAT PLEASURE FOR SONIA AND I TO SPEND SUCH A MEMORABLE DAY AMONG YOU, AND I AM DELIGHTED THAT I HAVE BEEN GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO SHARE SOME OF MY THOUGHTS WITH YOU AGAIN TONIGHT.

YOU ARE ALL FAMILIAR WITH THE PRESENT DAY HIGH TECH WONDERS THAT HELP YOU WITH YOUR SOARING EXPLOITS SO PERHAPS YOU MAY CARE TO KNOW A LITTLE OF WHAT IT WAS LIKE AT THE VERY BEGINNING OF YOUR CLUB.

I PROMISE NOT TO BORE YOU BUT THIS IS HOW IT ALL BEGAN. ONE DAY IN OAKEY I HEARD THAT DR MERVYN HALL, A PRE WAR GLIDER PILOT OF THE ORIGINAL TOOWOOMBA GLIDING CLUB, THAT HAD BEEN MOTHBALLED FOR THE COURSE OF THE WAR, WAS AGAIN FLYING HIS GLIDER AT THE AIRSTRIP, AND BEING A WARTIME PILOT WITH SEVERE FLYING WITHDRAWAL SYMPTOMS I JUST HAD TO INVESTIGATE. I ARRIVED AT THE AERODROME JUST IN TIME TO HELP HIS LITTLE GROUP PUSH HIS BEAUTIFUL LITTLE HIGHLY POLISHED BRIGHT RED GLIDER IN TO THE HANGAR. I WAS VERY IMPRESSED, BUT I CLEARLY REMEMBER OBSERVING THAT THE EFFORT DR HALL EXERTED IN THE HANGERING EXERCISE LEFT HIM QUITE BREATHLESS AND DISTRESSED.

SADLY, SOME LITTLE TIME LATER, HE WAS KILLED WHEN HE SPUN IN WITHIN THE CIRCUIT AND MY CURIOSITY ABOUT GLIDING HAD TO BE PUT ON HOLD. THE TOOWOOMBA GLIDING CLUB NEVR RECOVERED. ABOUT 12 MONTHS LATER WHEN I WAS IN OAKEY TO COLLECT THE GROCERY SHOPPING FOR OUR FARM HOME AT JONDARYAN I LEARNED THAT THE NORTH COAST GLIDING CLUB FROM NAMBOUR WAS OPERATING AT THE AERODROME. ONCE AGAIN, I JUST HAD TO

