

BUSH PILOTS AIRWAYS LTD.

CIRCULAR LETTER TO ALL.

Dear *Bill*,

It is now the 23rd February, raining cats and dogs in Cairns, Townsville and further north, but very little where we really want it. From Mt. Surprise south there has not been the normal rain and therefore, the rivers running to the Gulf have not been in flood to any great extent.

This affects our Company considerably as we rely on the flood rains to give us the extra utilisation of our planes during the wet season to make up for the poor utilisation during the dry.

Len Chambers has joined Herb Kehl at Normanton for the duration of the wet season. Herb's turnover got as high as £630 in one week which is very good Herb. With Len over there assisting you we will no doubt see some very good figures provided we get the flood rain everyone is waiting for.

Henry Landsberg has been very active promoting new business for Townsville. The latest being a new Station Service incorporating eighteen stations north of the rail line. This service commenced yesterday in the Cessna 182 VH-BFG, but as the load requirements are greater than BFG can handle Henry will have to do some doubling back which will make the service unprofitable until the new Cessna 185 arrives about the first week in April.

Cessna 185. This aircraft is one of the few aircraft which can lift more than its empty weight in payload.. ..

Gross weight	3200 lbs.
Empty weight	1560 lbs.
Gross payload	1640 lbs.

The only aircraft that I know of that could match this was the De Havilland twin engined Dragon which is now obsolete.

The Cessna 185 can carry 470 lbs more payload, 10 knots faster than the Cessna 182 for an additional cost of 3/7 per hour.

The only objection I have about the Cessna 185 is the conventional undercarriage. Our Pilots will have to learn to land them again after being spoiled with 'tries'.

The new Cessna 185 will go to Townsville after one weeks assessment trials on the Peninsula and after all our Pilots have been endorsed.

Mr. Jim Woodhouse, Director of Bush Pilots Airways Ltd, will accompany me on the delivery flight from Brisbane.

John Whiting has had his holidays in Sydney and is now back in Longreach doing good work with the Flying Surgeon Service. Graham Tanner, our Operations Manager, held the post in Longreach during John's absence. The Flying Suregon Cessna 310 will be in Cairns for inspection on 12th and 13th of March when John and Graham will do their First Class Instrument Test.

We usually organise a fishing trip to coincide with the crews visit.

Ron Entsch, our Secretary, is back after a four months holiday in hospital. Welcome back Ron. We missed your smiling face very much and we are all glad to see you back.

You will be pleased to learn we have drawn our first blood following Arthur Gallard's "Beyond the Beaten Track" promotional tour.

Two Americans, Mr. and Mrs. Hine, will be travelling from Dunk Island to Thursday Island and back to Cairns in early March. This is a little earlier than we really hoped to get results, which gives hopes of big things to come from this source.

You will be pleased to learn that Ken Hutchinson is back after a well deserved holiday. This was Ken's first real holiday since he started with the Company way back when Adam was a boy. Welcome back Ken! Glad to see you looking so fit and 10 years younger.

Welcome Wes Drew and Alex. Dockrill. Wes. is busy getting the engine overhaul shop ready and Alex is keeping the aircraft and workshops looking like new with 'spit' and 'polish'. The engine overhaul shop should be ready for work in about six weeks from now.

Anybody interested in learning to swear should listen in on Kev. Cassels, Joe Marner, Bob Lyle and Arthur Moss when they are changing a Cessna 310 motor in VH-ATB with a Cessna 185 motor (which are supposed to be the same).

Bob Burnett, our Cessna Sales Manager, has chalked up five sales since he started late last year. Three new Cessnas and two second-hand Cessnas. Good work Bob. I promise not to be jealous because you are making more money than me.

Bill Forwell after five days in the Peninsula on Mail Service 871 - "The rain was so heavy I was considering 'up periscope' ". Incidentally the rain was so heavy it took all the new paint off the aircraft.

Well this bulletin would not be complete without saying something about our girls, Barbara, Edna, Joan and Louie. They are a credit to our Company and (don't be shy ladies) loved by all of us. Also a special credit to our two apprentices, Robert Black and Bill McGuinness. Both these lads are doing exceptionally well and we have plans for both of them.

Cheers!

Bob Norman

MANAGING DIRECTOR.

Bill Mac GUINNESS

BUSH PILOTS AIRWAYS LTD.

CIRCULAR TO ALL

Well here I am again!

First on the news is my wife Betty who is in hospital recovering from an operation. For the benefit of all I tell you this -- she found a very small lump on her left breast and had it removed, necessitating three days in hospital, the lump turned out to be a malignant cancer and she has had the breast removed and the adjacent glands as well. We are now waiting on the findings of the pathologist to give a verdict on the glands. Has the cancer got that far? If it has, it means a trip to Brisbane for deep ray treatment and a long spell of convalescence. If not, just a spell of convalescence with physiotherapy to get the left arm working again.

"Moral of the Story" - Don't wait, get anything unusual seen to immediately.

While I am on this subject, Betty is bright and happy and I am sure that all the get well messages and flowers she has received have had a lot to do with this. Many thanks!

BOB BURNETT has done it again...

This time he has sold a Cessna 182 to Keith Mott. Congratulations Bob. - A fine finale before going on holidays to get married. - Congratulations twice.

THE NEW CESSNA 185 has arrived and has not completed her assessment trials. We have uncovered a few minor faults and are correcting them and now we await the result of further trials before sending it to Townsville.

Anyone wanting Arthur Callard's autograph has to get into the queue. Since the showing of the Rothman Travelogue at the Tropical Theatre we have been expecting an influx of Hollywood Producers trying to sign him up. The local character who once labelled Arthur "Anthony Armstrong" Callard now refers to him as "Clarke Gable" Callard.

It is a terrific film and a colossal advertisement for Bush Pilots Airways.

MAIL RUNS.

We have been told that our recent tender price for the Station Mail Contracts is totally unacceptable and that fresh tenders are being called from other operators and by road transport. This has sparked off a barrage of protests not only from our Company, but from numerous station people who see in this the difficulties of years gone by, when mail deliveries were non-existent for three to five months of the year and even then a poor show due to the types who took the services on, being fond of the bottle, quick to brand someone else's calves and ever ready to find an excuse why they shouldn't call this week.

The result may mean a subsidy to Bush Pilots for the mail services, but in the meantime I have been told that D.C.A. Melbourne will be sending up an investigator to check our costs and...

GRAHAM AND CAROL TANNER have moved into their new home on Bellvue Crescent at last. I think we are all anxious to have a look at it, so I guess Graham and Carol will just have to have a house warming party. I nominate Joe Marner and Bob Lyle to sing "Bless this House" as a duet.

NORMANTON FIGURES are lousy. It is so long since we have had a normal season at Normanton I'm wondering if we can justify referring to them as normal any more.

Flooded rivers for 3 months of the year was normal and above average if they atayed up for 5 months, but the rivers just don't flood anymore.

FLYING SURGEON.

There is no word on the Flying Surgeon Contract yet. This has become the ulcer department. It has been hanging over our heads on and off for twelve months now. If we lose this contract we will have a spare 310 for sale. Naturally we bought this aircraft in the hope that we can hold the contract. If it goes against us they can take as long as they like. At least the aircraft is earning at present.

ENGINE OVERHAUL

We are very close to starting our engine overhaul shop. The difficulties have been many. Not the least has been an apparent reluctance on the part of the big firms to help. Quite obviously they have no intention of helping us to get it going. However, in spite of the delay tactics we will be in business in this field shortly and we hope to get considerable quantities of engines from New Guinea.

The delays I refer to are the tools and necessary spare parts.

BARBARA is back from holidays in New Zealand looking like a million... Transistor radios sticking out of each pocket and loaded with photos. We intend to have a photo session shortly for those who want to enjoy Barbara's holiday with her.

EDNA and better half are on their way to Hayman Island on Friday 13th for a well deserved break. Phew!!! what a date to start a holiday.

That's all this time.

Bob Norman

MANAGING DIRECTOR.

Supplied by Bill McGuinness ex-apprentice engineer