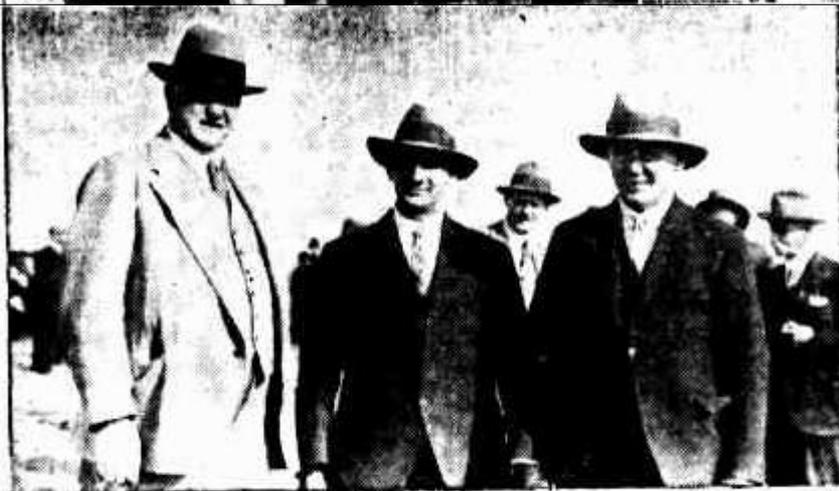


## NEW AIRPORT OFFICIALLY OPENED AT FLINDERS ISLAND



The new 'plane Loina (top left) was the centre of interest at the opening of the new Flinders Island airport on Saturday. Top right. The Warden (Mr. W. J. Martin), in the middle of the group on the verandah, introducing the Minister for Agriculture (Mr. R. Cosgrove, left), who performed the ceremony. Mr. H. C. Barnard, M.H.R., is on Mr. Martin's right. Bottom: Dr. J. Ramsay (left), president of the Tasmanian section of the Australian Aero Club, discussing with the Warden and Cr. H. Gavin a proposal to train pilots at Flinders Island.

## NEW HISTORY FOR FLINDERS

### FINE 'DROME

### Pat's River Site Opened

### ISLAND FUNCTION

Probably the biggest, and one of the most important events in the history of the little insular community of Flinders Island took place on Saturday, when the fine new aerodrome site at Pat's River was officially opened by the Minister for Agriculture (Mr. R. Cosgrove).

Flinders Island has reason to be proud of its new aerodrome, which,

Flinders Island has reason to be proud of its new aerodrome, which, with the exception of Western Junction, must be the best Tasmanian landing ground. It is situated only 2½ miles from Whitemark, the main town on the island, and the main Whitemark-Emita road passes on the eastern boundary of the 'drome. The bulk of the soil is of a sandy nature, and hence the 'drome should be a good all-weather field. The experience of the last few weeks seems to prove this.

During the last six weeks Flinders Island has had 11 inches of rain, which is excessive for the time of the year, since the yearly average is only in the vicinity of 28 points. Despite this rain, the aerodrome was firm and was used without trouble on Saturday by the four-engined Holyman air liner Loina, the pilot of which found no difficulty in taking off, even with full loads.

facility in taking off, even with full loads.

The 'drome is considerably larger than the old field on the southern side of the town, and the surface of the Pat's River field far surpasses that of the former landing ground.

The Flinders Island Municipal Council, which holds the title deeds of the new aerodrome, has done a creditable piece of work in providing the aerodrome, which is not only an important link in Bass Strait aerial communication, but by reason of its first-class condition, will make easier the task of airmen maintaining the island's communications with both the Tasmanian and Victorian mainlands.

The site of approximately 73 acres was bought from the Whitemark Sporting Club at a cost of about £3 per acre. The Flinders Island Council has spared no efforts to make the aerodrome a first-class one, and it is considered that the cost of the 'drome

aerodrome a first-class one, and it is considered that the cost of the 'drome in its present state was about £800. Help was first gained from the Federal Government, who made a straight-out grant to the council of £250. The Tasmanian Government was the next to come to the aid of the air-minded council, and they were granted a loan of £300 as unemployed relief work. This was spent in clearing and levelling the site. The latest assistance was the £600 loan granted by the Tasmanian Government during its last session. This has not been fully used at the present moment, although the £300 loan has been repaid.

It is interesting to note that the council spent £75 on grass seed for the 'drome, and also a considerable sum in manure, which was spread liberally. The result is that the new aerodrome is probably the most verdant patch on Flinders Island. The eleven inches of rain were responsible for rapid growth of the grass, which had to be mowed recently to keep it down to a reasonable height.

Incidentally the same 11 inches of rain would have made the old aerodrome unusable, not because the old site was susceptible to bogging, but because the rain washed out a culvert on the rough track which led to the old 'drome.

Drainage work has been carried out on the Pat's River field, and the system works efficiently. Last Sunday there was 1½ inches of rain, but the next morning Holymans Airways' Golden West landed on the field and took off again without any trouble.

A decided acquisition is a rest house that has been erected on the eastern boundary of the 'drome by the Holyman Company.

#### The Opening Ceremony

A large number of politicians and aviation authorities made the trip from Launceston to Flinders Island on Saturday to be present at the opening function. No less than five 'planes were there.

The first machine to leave Western Junction with a party bound for the opening ceremony was the Miss Launceston, which took off at 9.10 a.m. The machine was piloted by Mr. C. H. Scott. The passengers were the Deputy Mayor of Launceston (Ald. A. Hollingsworth, M.H.A.), Rev. J. L. Hurse, Cr. H. Gavin (of Flinders Island), Capt. F. G. Huxley, Messrs. A. E. Bell and G. J. Suter. The Miss Launceston arrived at Pat's River at 12.30.

About 11 o'clock the Fox Moth, Miss Currie, owned by Holymans Airways, arrived in charge of Mr. P. T. L. Taylor. The only passenger was Mr. J. Talbot, a member of the company's ground staff.

The air liner Loina, which carried the majority of the visitors, arrived shortly before 2 o'clock. Those aboard the machine were.—The Minister for Agriculture (Mr. R. Cosgrove), the president of the Tasmanian section of the Australian Aero Club (Dr. J. Ramsay), the secretary of the club (Mr. W. J. Manthel), the chairman of the southern section of the Aero Club (Mr. J. E. C. Knight), the manager of the Agricultural Bank (Mr. S. R.

Continued on Page Eight

**Continued on Page Eight**