



defined by experience rather than words. The still camera can capture moments of drama and beauty from the sky, although it is an extremely difficult task to convey all that needs to be said through a single image.

Through the medium of motion pictures, "One Six Right" lifts the viewer to the clouds. Through clear, crisp perspectives the beauty of flight is enhanced in all three dimensions and the sense of speed becomes tangible. The sky is now within reach.

**Clear Prop!**

The pretext for the film is actually to be found at ground level, in an 8000 foot strip of asphalt named "One Six Right". This runway is the gateway to the world's busiest General Aviation airport which boasts over 380,000 aircraft movements per annum, or more than 1,000 per day. And the traffic is as varied as antique biplanes to intercontinental 737s and rescue helicopters.

It was to this backdrop that film-maker and aviation enthusiast Brian Terwilliger learnt to fly and witnessed the diversity surrounding him. He had a clear vision of how he could bring the aviation he knew to the viewer. It was not the world of airline travel, but of still mornings aloft, the beauty of the earth below and the freedom of the sky. However, the path to production was far from straightforward as supporters in the early stages were few in numbers.

In fact, Van Nuys Airport originally opposed the plan, perhaps fearing a damaging expose to add further pressure on yet another airport. However, a determined Terwilliger maintained his faith in the project and began clandestinely filming with a bare budget and lenses sneakily peering beyond hangar doors. In time there was enough footage to produce a trailer for the potential film and this was shown to the authorities at Van Nuys with impressive results. From opponents to allies, the operators of Van Nuys Airport availed virtually unlimited access to Terwilliger and his film crew, opening up all manner of opportunities and vantage points. The film that was to become "One Six Right" was now ready to roll.

**More than meets the eye.**

The air-to-air footage must be seen to be appreciated. To amazingly scenic backdrops, pioneering biplanes dawdle through the serene early morning air and a canary yellow Piper Cub wanders along a bush track. The sun glints off the Mustang's highly polished finish as it rolls past the clouds and beyond the camera ship at

speed while a Pitts dances vertically upon its smoke trail as only a Pitts can. There are so many aerial sequences that defy words, but there is so much more.

The film also takes in the history of the airport, from its fledgling days through the war years to the present. A blend of past and present images, footage and people allow the viewer to immediately relate to the airport as a living, breathing entity. It brilliantly tells this story without the use of a narrator, allowing a series of interviews with people across the eras to tell their stories. Intertwined are interesting tales typified by the 'discovery' of a Van Nuys aerospace factory worker whose modelling career was launched at the airport, but went on to be known as Marilyn Monroe. There are touching moments such as the elderly retired United Airlines Captain who still retains the same helmet and goggles in which he learnt to fly at Van Nuys before World War Two. These personal stories provide a unique insight and relate the story of the airfield in a human sense that is nothing less than captivating.

Beneath the beauty, there is also a story of relevance to our industry today. Like all airports around the world, Van Nuys has been subjected to the urban sprawl and the growing discontent of its new neighbours. The continuing plight of airfields across the nation is highlighted as airfields continue to be closed at the rate of one per week in the United States. Sucked into the vacuum of property development, these community assets are lost forever once they are gone.

"One Six Right" seeks to remind us all of what airports bring to the community in terms of commerce, access and infrastructure. It counters the anti-airport sentiment by highlighting the 'positives' generated by general aviation and those who fly to protect people and property. It is a very worthwhile lesson for all of us involved in this wonderful undertaking. These issues are handled tremendously through the film and stand as testimony that beyond the romance of flying there is definitely a heart.

**Romance is Back.**

"One Six Right" Is a film that can stir emotions in the most resilient aviator's soul. Whether it is through a particular image or the words of an ageing aviator as he recalls seeing Lindbergh pass by, this film can get to you through its sheer honesty. There is no pretentiousness in any aspect of this film; it does not need to boast. Underpinned by a musical score that is equally emotive, the viewer is lifted amongst the clouds and each for their own personal reasons. If Brian Terwilliger's goal was to avail the skies to one and all, then he has succeeded brilliantly.

It is a privilege to take to the skies and sometimes we need reminding of the majesty of the sky we venture into. Despite those grand fliers who have gone before, there are those around us today who do not necessarily share our love of this pursuit. "One Six Right" brings together this myriad of perspectives in a film of true beauty and serves to share the true romance of flying.

**What is it about flight that captures the imagination? To each individual it may be something different and to define it and concisely frame it with words can be extremely difficult. Thankfully, Brian Terwilliger went a long way to capturing flight's romance when he created the film, "One Six Right".**  
**By Owen Zupp**

In the world of security check points and sterile terminals, the general sentiments associated with flying are those of impatience and frustration. The magic of flight seems to have been lost on the general populous as it has become merely a mundane means to an end. Bleriot, Lindbergh, Hinkler, Kingsford Smith and Earhart are now relegated to the history books, only occasionally surfacing through the modern media. But for so many, the wonder of flight still exists. However, this wonder is difficult to share with others. The sensations and emotions elude the vocabulary of most of us and are best



"Owen Zupp (left) with the creator of 'One Six Right', Brian Terwilliger on a recent visit to Australia."