



Ballarat Radio Model Flying Club Inc.

Web site: www.brmfc.org.au

Inc. No. A0062781D

NEWSLETTER – December, 2017



Committee 2017/2018

<i>President:</i>	Fred Eggleston	(0418 596 113)
<i>Vice President:</i>	Graeme Allen	(0418 534 983)
<i>Treasurer:</i>	Nick Katsikaros	(0438 559 985)
<i>Secretary:</i>	Nigel Newby	(0408 420 794)
<i>Ordinary member 1:</i>	Peter Evans	(0438 643 949)
<i>Ordinary member 2:</i>	Murri Anstis	(0413 353 739)

Officers

<i>Returning Officer:</i>	(The Secretary)
<i>Public Officer:</i>	(The Secretary)
<i>Publicity Officer:</i>	Graeme Allen (0418 534 983)
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Note the meeting location.

The next general meeting is to be held at the **Eastwood Street Leisure Centre in the Canteen**, on Wednesday January 24th commencing at **7.30PM** (Turn left after entry to the Complex, and the Canteen is on the left again). Don't forget to bring a plate for supper.

Agenda Items for the next meeting

1. Trawalla Estate Update
2. Strategic Plan Development and discussion
3. Field Maintenance
4. Burrumbeet Airstrip
5. Display Day 2018
6. VFSAA scale day

Merry Christmas

As the year draws to a close it's not only a time for Christmas Festivities but also a time to reflect on the year that has passed.

Our club membership has slipped a little this year but BRMFC remains strong comprising a group of active and enthusiastic flyers. We will be developing our strategic plan in the New Year. This will help us define our future and strengthen our growth.

This year has seen some changes in office bearers with Jeff Dowsley vacating the Secretarial post for Nigel Newby and myself being 'encouraged' to take on the Presidency. Thank you Jeff for your years of tireless work.

Nick continues as Treasurer and Graeme will take on the Vice President's role.

We were all saddened by the loss of our long time member and great friend Graham Waterhouse who died at the end of October. Graham will be sadly missed. He was a skilled modeller, wonderful mentor especially to those new to the sport, and a great source of wisdom.

Earlier this month we held a "fly for Gra" day. Ballarat Aero Modellers were invited to join us on this Memorial Day. As a tribute [and as requested by June] Roger flew Graham's trainer. I am sure everyone enjoyed the day. A fitting tribute to our departed friend.

On everyone's behalf I extend our heartfelt condolences to June and family.

Improvements at the field this year have included paving of the Alfresco Area [site foreman Murri], the acquisition of a canary yellow Marquee complete with club logo, installation of a solar powered battery charging system courtesy of Paul Ruddle and painting of Graeme Allen's new kitchen by Peter Weston.

We were successful applicants to the MAAA club assistance scheme and acquired funding for an Automated External Defibrillator for treatment of sudden cardiac arrest. The device is kept in the club house.

Thanks to all those who have contributed to the smooth running of the club both in ongoing maintenance [mowing, fixing, plumbing, carpentry], or in administration [secretarial, money matters, editing, organising] Great work everyone.

Our attentions are now directed toward making next year's Display Day on February 25 a success.

Have a great Christmas with family and friends and good luck for next year and remember don't get your Santa Beard caught in your prop!

Fred Eggleston

President BRMFC

December 2017



Points of interest from the last meeting

Extract of newsworthy items from the minutes of the last meeting. Note: Some events/activities may have concluded or been modified as circumstances change.

7. Reports

a) Committee of Management: Minutes read. Outcomes discussed: -

- It was deemed questionable if we need to purchase any graphics design software as Nick has access to appropriate programmes and has already developed an excellent flyer.
- Display Day signs have been taken to the printer but are not ready as yet.
- Graeme will post ads on Prime7 closer to the Display Day.
- Roger has started the Courier advertising in the community diary section.
- Graeme has made a contact that may be able to fly a quad-copter at the Display Day. Nick will print and take flyers to the Hamilton fun fly. Graeme mentioned there might be a Geelong pilot who would attend and fly helicopter demonstrations.

b) Other - nil

8. General Business

a) Trawalla Estate Update - nil

b) Strategic Plan (SP) Development and discussion.

- The SP is such a large subject there needs to be a dedicated meeting to discuss, this should preferably be a committee meeting which has been allocated a reasonable amount of time, up to 4 hours.

c) Field Maintenance – all going well at Trawalla.

- The John Deere mower requires maintenance and various parts replaced (e.g. new fuel/oil tank \$240 + tax). Approximately \$300 in total – moved by Jeff D. that the parts be purchased, passed unanimously.

d) Burrumbeet Airstrip – Grass has been mowed and bailed and can now have the strip re-established.

e) Display Day 2018

- Pilot invitation list to be sent to local clubs.
- Flyer (will be finalized by Nick) to be submitted to VMAA ASAP.
- Pilot prize giveaways will be distributed during the day.
- Another Committee meeting to be organized for mid-December to finalize the preparations.

9. Other Business

- VFSAA scale day – Committee had agreed to the 2 dates requested for 2018. The last scheduled event in November was cancelled (detailed reasons are unknown at this time). The BRMFC requires a reasonable notice period if the event is to be cancelled, as there are disruptions to our members and supplies may have been purchased for the event's catering.
- Arrangements for Graham Waterhouse. An inaugural "Fly for Graham" day is to be held in December, where one of his models will be flown in memory of this much loved and well-respected modeller. The members of BAM will be invited, as many were his friends and colleagues over the years. There is a frequency key of Graham's currently in the board, placed there by Graham himself. This will now be permanently affixed in place.
- A BRMFC ex-member rang Fred to lodge some criticisms of the club.
- The joke section on the newsletter apparently was a cause for much of the concern. After discussion at the meeting it was decided this will be omitted from future newsletters, and the decision will be reviewed in 6 months. However due recognition was given to the high quality of Roger's editorship of our Newsletter.
- A suggestion was made to having the general meetings on a Sunday at the Trawalla field. Following discussion this was not approved.
- A lower junior fee structure was suggested and thought of as a good idea. However no decision was made nor value suggested. Will be a consideration for the Strategic Plan.
- Roger presented reviewed plans of our Trawalla field. The view was to extend the area to give longer runways (by approximately 30 metres E/W and 10 metres N/S). This can also be added to the Strategic Plan. It was mentioned we might perhaps need to pay for such an extension following discussions with the owners.

10. Meeting closed at 9.25pm – Next meeting 24th January 2018.



VMAA News

Info gathered from the Minutes of the VMAA Executive Committee Meeting held on 9th November 2017 that may be of interest to members.

State Field Reports:-

Darraweit Guim – Northern Flying Group

Working bee on runway last weekend to keep runways in good condition.

New push mower purchased to cater for small jobs. NFG are looking at more Capital expenditure on field.

SIG bookings for IMAC and Scale next year with F1 racing in March.

Echuca – EMMAC

It is with much pleasure that I am able to report that EMMAC has just completed our Upgrade Project. We now have a new clubhouse fitted out with full kitchen, a new concrete pit area with a steel cover, new matting runway layout giving us a 170m east/west runway and 90m north south runway. We also have a new mower which the MAAA helped fund.

Costing came in at (in round figures) \$38500 including a \$6500 mower. Funding for the project worked out at VMAA \$22000, MAAA \$5500 and EMMAC \$11000. It should also be noted that this is basically the materials cost. All the construction labour was supplied by the club which I estimated would be conservatively valued at \$15k if you used contractors.

The EMMAC is extremely happy with the outcome and would like to express our thanks to the VMAA/MAAA for their support. It is much appreciated.

It recognition the Club is planning an official opening and we are thinking that we would like to combine this with our Annual Fun fly and make it a special weekend. The date we are planning is 28/29 April 2018. We would of course like to have as many VMAA executive attend so I was wondering if you check if this date would be suitable. There does not appear to be any clashes in the calendar at the moment (The VMAA trophy is in the 22/23 April)

After some discussion it was thought that a May 2018 date may be more suitable for this occasion. Dates will be looked at and advised after consultation with the club.

(This might be an event for our members to consider. Ed.)

Mt Wallace – Bacchus Marsh Club

Funfly for Royal Flying Doctors set for October 29th

New Bore pump will be installed late October.

Earth works will commence early November to grade Runway and carpark areas.

Several new members have joined, further report at the December Meeting.

Looking at some grants from local shire. Some SIG events have been booked for next year.

VMAA purpose and next steps

Ongoing discussion re future direction of the VMAA.

With all committee in agreement with the new statement of Purpose. Discussion went on for some time re methods of attracting new members with many good ideas to be investigated.

Working with Children

Due to a legislation change in August all clubs are urged to check into the new laws. In short you will now need a working with children certificate if you are involved with teaching or interacting with children in your clubs. The new laws are available on the Vic Gov website.

Nhill Fun fly Fundraiser

The meeting was addressed by a member regarding a scale fun fly at Nhill as a fund raiser. The uncontrolled airfield would be used. Local council is on board and all local surrounding properties are on board with the local heritage society being very keen to have the event go ahead. He was advised of the MAAA polices regarding displays and was assured help by the VMAA in putting this event together with the help of the Horsham club. Secretary to continue VMAA involvement.

Knox festival

The Knox council ran a festival which was attended by the VARMS club. Festival was well attended by the public and the VARMS club was well received. Spoke about the future funding of some possible educational courses.



New Models seen at field

On Sunday 10th December (the "Fly for Gra" day) Jeff had his Sopwith Camel at the field for another test flight after repairs & modifications to overcome the tail heaviness. The engine has been moved forward somewhat combined with additional ballast in the nose.

Graeme was the test pilot, but unfortunately the model could not get off without nosing over, so it looks like the undercarriage needs moving forward as well. No doubt Jeff will sort that out in due course.





Graeme taxiing out Jeff's Sopwith Camel. Seemed to taxi okay but as soon as the power was applied and started to roll faster it nosed over.



Goin's on at the Field

The crop was slashed or cut down for baling early December. On the Sunday of our Fly for Graham day (10th December) contractors were baling up the hay. They didn't harvest the wheat this time like last year so it is all compressed into the hay bales which are quite massive and obviously extremely heavy. They were scattered all around the paddock, probably one bale every 100m or so. Last Sunday 17th December they were all stacked in seven piles around the paddock 6 high by 20 bales long.



Contractors baling the hay slashed a week or so before on Sunday 10th December.



Fortunately they are well away from the runways and don't pose any danger. If you were to hit one you'd be well out of control anyway.

Toro Mower



Unfortunately the Briggs & Stratton engine in the Toro mower suffered a catastrophic failure a week or so ago – probably a broken conrod. Max has made some enquiries and it seems we can purchase a Chinese equivalent for around \$600. The replacement engine purchase was ratified by the committee at the meeting held on the 13th December. We are currently investigating further, to ensure the proposed replacement will physically fit the Toro without too much difficulty.

John Deere Mower



The John Deere mower was in need of some replacement parts to ensure its reliability. The fuel tank was leaking up near the filler neck – this was an issue if the tank was full not only wasting fuel but it caused a hazardous fumes build up in the storage container if the mower was put away with a full or near full tank.

Graeme Allen ordered the replacement parts identified by Peter Evans from Cervus Equipment, which consisted of the composite fuel/transmission oil tank, zero turn control filters, two seat suspension rubbers and transmission oil. These were picked up on the Thursday and we fitted them on Sunday 3rd December. By all reports the JD is going okay and it will need to until the Toro is going again.



Tips & Tricks

If anyone has something of interest please let me know.



Events

Hamilton Fun Fly – 25th/26th November

Once again the Ballarat club headed down to the Hamilton fun fly in force to support the local club. Obviously we must enjoy the event immensely to keep coming back year after year.

Several headed down on Friday while others came on the Saturday morning or in Nick's case late Saturday afternoon in readiness for Sunday flying.

Peter & Lyn Weston took their caravan and camped at the field as did Ricky Gerada, Murri Anstis and Paul Ruddle who had their tents. The rest of us stayed at the Lake Hamilton Motel.

Those of us that made it down on Friday were treated to a glorious afternoon of flying with hardly a breath of wind.

Saturday was much the same warm & sunny with blue skies although toward late in the afternoon you could see storms brewing on the horizon. There was plenty of flying on Saturday to take advantage of the good conditions as Sunday was a little unknown weatherwise.

Around 4:30PM Saturday those that were staying in town headed back in. Did we ever strike some rain and flash flooding on the road in to Hamilton. It was bucketing down and the lights were flashing on the rail crossing approaching town. After waiting a while we had to cross because they were obviously affected by the rain and malfunctioning.

After a few pre dinner drinks at the motel we walked to the Grand Central Hotel for tea which takes about 20 minutes and serves as good exercise.

Sunday came and was quite overcast with a very low cloud base. A few tried flying as did I with my Shoestring but after one circuit decide to land. Visibility was very poor so the weather only suited models that could be kept in close.

After a while the cloud base lifted but it stayed overcast for the rest of the day. Nevertheless there was plenty of flying and some models that weren't there on Saturday. Some of the Warrnambool members for example make it a one day affair.

Around 1:30PM Sunday Hamilton's Phil Niewand held the presentations and drew the raffles. Peter Weston got the award for Best Electric Flight and was the only BRMFC member to win anything. We were all unlucky in the ASP91FS engine draw and the three Christmas Hampers.



Just prior to the presentations Phil is showing us the raffle Christmas hampers.

Best Flying Display	Jamie McLaren, Aerobatic model
Best Scale Model	Paul O'Connell, Tiger Moth
Best Military Model	John Hoye, Stuka
Best BiPlane	Mark Radburn, SE5A
Electric Flight Award	Peter Weston, Ag Wagon
Best Sports Model	Marty Black
Fun Fly Award	Stuart Kent
Encouragement Award	Mike Savill
Pilot's Choice	Paul O'Connell, Tiger Moth

The rest of the article shows a small selection of photos taken to try and convey the atmosphere of the event.



Graeme & Ricky helping Murri start the engine in the Tiger Moth.



Hangar 9 Cessna flown by Dave Barling from the Bellarine Club. Powered by a 26cc petrol engine. Looks good and flies very well.



Murri's veteran Duncan Hutson kit Tiger Moth on take-off.



The old Tiger Moth looks good in the air. I find slow biplanes are much easier to photograph.



Peter Weston helped by wife Lyn making some last minute adjustments to the electric powered Super Skybolt. It had only just been repaired following an unfortunate accident at our field a couple of weeks ago.



The pits were a bit sparse this year – for one reason or another many of the regulars were unable to make it. Nonetheless it was a great weekend.



Not sure what this model is but it looked quite good. Engine appears to be an OS Alpha going by the blue rocker cover, probably a 155.



Tiger Moth flown by Paul O'Connell – won Pilot's Choice award.



This was the first outing with our new marquee emblazoned with club name & logo. It certainly stands out and that was the intention.



The BRMFC camp and models in the pits.



John Hoyer's Stuka won best military model. John from Warrnambool is a regular at the Hamilton event. It did one flight and experienced control difficulties soon after take-off. John managed to get it down okay. Investigation showed something amiss inside with the battery hook-up. Very luck indeed.



"Gyro" Wayne's Super Cub taking off. The gyro definitely keeps Wayne on track!!!



Peter Weston's Ag Wagon coming in to land. He picked up the best Electric Flight award with the Ag Wagon.



Hamilton member Phil Niewand bought this profile model of a Beaufighter twin from the swap tent on Saturday. He fitted a couple of spare engines and radio Saturday night and flew it Sunday. Actually it flew quite well. Looking on is Dave Barling who has the Hangar 9 Cessna featured earlier in the article.

Once again let's thank the Hamilton Club and their supporters for hosting this very popular event. No doubt we will be back again next year.

Fly for Graham Day – 10th December

With the sad passing of Graham Waterhouse his wife June suggested we hold a "Fly for Gra" day as a way for his fellow aero modellers to remember him and also if we could fly one of his models and hang his hat in the club house.

It was scheduled for the first good Sunday in December and to add to the day we combined it with a get together with the Ballarat Aero Modellers, something that had been foreshadowed for a while.

The first Sunday wasn't much good but the second had a good forecast mid-week so we decided to run with the 10th December. To our luck it turned out a perfect day, the boss up top must have been smiling on Graham.



Some of the models there on the day in the pits.

We had quite a good rollup of members from both clubs who came to remember Graham and do what he liked – talk & fly model aircraft.

Around 11AM Fred addressed the gathering to add some formality to the event and said some kind words to reminisce about Graham whose involvement in aeromodelling in Ballarat goes back many years. Following on from Fred I said a few more words and thanked Fred for his tribute to Graham. I think we would all agree that Graham, the quiet achiever brought wisdom to our great sport/hobby.



Around 11AM our president Fred Eggleston welcomed those present and said some kind words to remember Graham.

After the formalities were over everyone had a few flights and shortly after midday we got the BBQ going and cooked up the snags & hamburgers. Thanks Wayne & Glenn for doing the cooking. It was such a nice day the cooked food was taken out and put on the table under the new marquee where everyone helped themselves.



After cooking the snags & hamburgers we served lunch under the Marquee where everyone helped themselves.

A couple of weeks prior to the fly day Glenn and I went over to June's and picked up one of Graham's models from his workshop. There are models everywhere but the simplest was to pick the Swift trainer and transmitter. I made sure the batteries were okay and to be on the safe side changed the receiver battery which wasn't holding charge very well.

After the Swift was assembled I filled the tank and started the OS40FP by flicking the prop – it went straight away. Taxied out to the strip and took off – flew like a dream and would make a good trainer for a new member. I did several circuits to remember our old mate then brought it in to land.



June asked me to fly one of Graham's models on the day in his memory. We picked up the Swift a couple of weeks ago in readiness for the event. The flight went well and the old OS40 FP ran like a Swiss watch.

As the day progressed and the flying was winding down we had some cold beers to top off the day for those who like to partake in such things.



Glenn brought his Comper Mouse which he has just finished painting. Will be powered by an OS155 four stroke.



Glenn brought his Beagle Pup 150 along, a model that Graham framed up many years ago.



One of Graham's recently scratch built Ugly Sticks. This one belongs to Fred. A traditionally built & painted model.



Steve Gullock from BAMI starting the diesel engine in his old timer model assisted by our Ricky Gerada. Ahh the smell of ether.

Overall the day was a very fitting tribute to our old mate Graham. The suggestion was that we hold a similar day next year where the two clubs get together and remember all the members who have passed on.

Christmas Party – 15th December

This year, the club held the customary Christmas Party at the Queen’s Head Hotel in Humffray Street on Friday night 15th December. By my count of heads in the photos we had 15 roll up to the event. Unfortunately at this time of year it doesn’t matter what date you pick it will clash with someone’s festivities limiting the attendance.

Most arrived by around 6:30-6:45PM and after a few pre dinner drinks to loosen thing up tea was ordered shortly after 7PM.

To get into the Christmas spirit our president Fred Eggleston handed out a chocolate bar to everyone which was totally unexpected but much appreciated. The bar (no pun intended) has been raised a notch or two for future presidents!!!



Poor old Graeme had a stiffy neck and had difficulty turning his head. Something must have suddenly caught his eye while walking around the lake!!! Probably a swan.



Guy (standing) from the main bar social club selling us raffle tickets for a Christmas hamper.

To add to the atmosphere there was a “chook” raffle running in the main bar. One of the organizers came to our table to sell a few tickets. After a bit of jovial banter to & fro he managed to sell 3 tickets for \$5 to most of us. Needless to say none of us won a prize. There were 3 draws for 3 Christmas hampers, the 2nd & 3rd were of smaller size.



The meals appeared to be good sized servings.

Overall everyone enjoyed themselves, the meals were quite good although Glenn complained his steak was overdone – he likes it running around the plate.



Coming Events

The next main event on our calendar would be our display day to be held on Sunday February 25th 2018.

As a prelude to the display, we have a promo day at Bunnings on **Saturday February 10th** between 10AM & 2PM followed by a sausage sizzle the coming **Friday February 16th**.



Event Calendar

December 15th	BRMFC Xmas Function (Friday night)
Feb 10th 2018	Promo Day at Bunnings 10AM – 2PM
Feb 11 th 2018	Bipe & Bush Plane Fly In – Seymour
Feb 16th (Fri.)	Sausage Sizzle – Bunnings Ballarat
Feb 17 th /18 th	Grampians Aerotow Event Ararat Airport
Feb 25th 2018	Display Day – BRMFC Trawalla
Feb 25 th	Leura Fun Fly 2018 – CMAC
Mar 17 th /18 th	Warrnambool Annual Fun Fly – WMAC
Apr 8 th 2018	Monty Tyrell Scale Rally – P&DARCS
Apr 21 st /22 nd	2018 VMAA Trophy Weekend
Apr 22 nd	Annual Display Day Keilor – K&DMAS
Apr 23 rd – 30 th	70 th National Model Aircraft Championships West Wyalong NSW.
May 4 th /5 th	Autumn Scale Rally Albury – TCMCA

See the [VMAA Calendar](#) for all Victorian events.

That’s all for now. Good flying.
G.W & R.C.