



## NEWSLETTER – February, 2020

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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 February 26<sup>th</sup> 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
3. Field Maintenance
4. Burrumbeet Airstrip
5. Fun-fly organisation progress
6. Burrumbeet working bee 15<sup>th</sup> Feb rescheduled
7. Fire precautions adherence

### 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.

#### 8. General Business

##### a) Trawalla Estate Update

- Mowing around the Trawalla shed and along the roadside was completed as per the Estate Manager's request.

##### b) Strategic Plan

- Extra start-up table still to be made

##### c) Field Maintenance

- Autumn time we will need to smooth out the edges of the matting and sow some seed.
- Wheels replaced on broken trolley (thanks Roger).
- Will need a mow again to knock down dried weeds

##### d) Burrumbeet Airstrip - February 15<sup>th</sup> working-bee.

#### 9. Other Business

- February Float Fly - Saturday 1st February starting 9.00am. BYO waders and/or recovery boat.
- Organization of the March 8<sup>th</sup> Fly-in. Send out flyers to usual suspects. Nick K. to prepare flyer.
- VFSAA (Victorian Flying Scale Aircraft Association) has sent a request for an event at Trawalla in April. Discussed and approval given, Roger will liaise to establish a date.
- Field entry/flying in fire danger times. Sign needs to be made and erected stating - No entry on total fire ban days. Extreme caution should be practiced on yellow risk days, do you really need to fly? Reminder to all members to place an extinguisher in the pits area at all times flying is taking place. Dry powder extinguisher on fence clip and full knapsack in a trolley at the pits is the suggested minimum precaution.
- October Fun-Fly date needs to be added to the VMAA Calendar of Events.



### Dynamic Soaring & Omaka Aviation in NZ

What I did on my Holidays. NZ DS Fest and Omaka Aviation Heritage Centre. By Nick Katsikaros.

This January I went to Christchurch, New Zealand to fly RC model gliders as often and as fast as I could. Happily I managed to fly seven days out of nine and upped my PB to a modest 186 mph (299kph). But the highlight of the trip was watching Alex Hewson flying 510mph (821kph); the third fastest pilot recorded and the first pilot over 500mph outside of California. Astan Singh also flew to 402mph putting him at number 19 on the “Big Dog” list. (<http://rcspeeds.com/pilotlist?t=bd>)



The “Big Dogs” – Astan and Alex with Soundwave 2.6 (402mph) and Transonic (510mph)



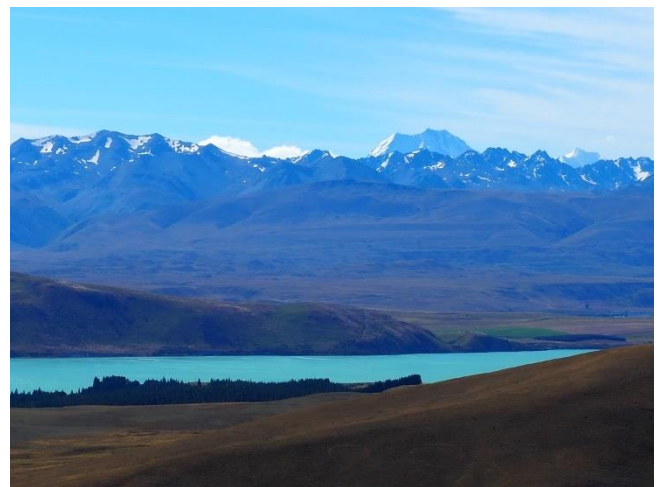
Cass flying site, front side launch spot.

This event is an informal get together of Dynamic Soaring enthusiasts known as the NZ DS Fest, which has been going on for a few years and is set during Christchurch’s windy season in the nearby hills and ridges that offer the opportunity to exploit nearly every wind direction using a style of gliding known as Dynamic Soaring. The local expert is Alex Hewson, a competitive pilot in various glider disciplines, including being DLG World Champion, as well as active in 3D aerobatics. Alex was incredibly generous with his time, expertise, BBQ skills and set the standard with his flying skills. This year there were well over a dozen pilots from Christchurch, Auckland, USA, but mostly from

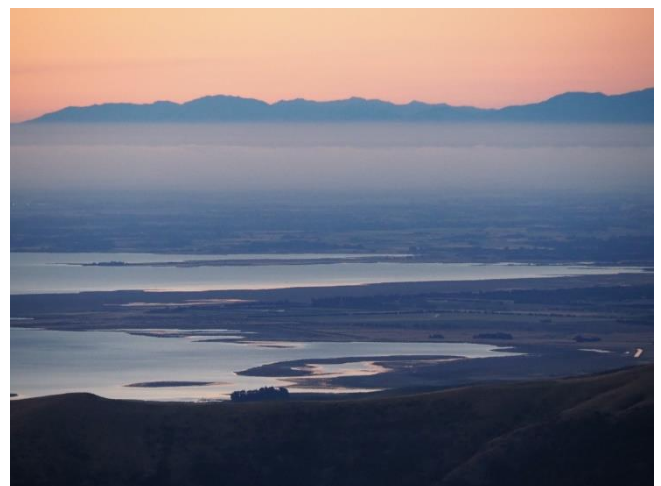
Australia (WA, Qld, NT, Vic). There is no formal competition; it’s a chance to make new friends, catch up with old ones, exchange war stories, show off your latest toy or design and put your piloting and building skills to the test.



The ridge at Tekapo. Wind from the right. Circuit to the left.



The view across Lake Tekapo to Mt Cook.



Sunset over Akaroa.

What is Dynamic Soaring? DS is a gliding technique where the plane gains energy by diving downwind over the top of a ridge into the still air behind it, then turning and shooting back up over the lip into the wind, and repeating as quickly and as often as possible. This gives elliptical laps tilting down behind the ridge, mostly flown knife-edge, increasing in speed each lap. Twice a lap the plane flies through a wind shear layer between fast and slow moving air (known to hang gliders as the “death zone”) gaining energy and putting

the plane under immense stress. This is a real challenge to both plane and pilot but under just the right conditions, with the right plane, this is a very efficient way to fly and is used by Albatrosses to fly across oceans and by RC pilots to fly at ridiculous speeds. ([www.rcspeeds.com](http://www.rcspeeds.com) for more info.)



*The 3 Amigos – Asto, Josh and Roger – furball over Kennedy.*

I flew at six different sites, all with spectacular scenery that took my breath away and landing zones that made my toes curl. Cass is a beautiful lookout overlooking the port near Christchurch. Wainui, Dilmah, Kennedy’s, and Cameron’s track overlook the spectacular Akaroa Harbour on one side and the ocean on the other. The big speed day was at Tekapo, a 3h drive from Christchurch, up a steep rocky 4wd track to a ridge overlooking beautiful Lake Tekapo with a view of snow-capped Mt Cook.

Nearly all of the gliders were beautifully built, moulded, composite works of art; carbon fibre, Kevlar and fibreglass. Many, if not most, were home built, including some of the fastest. This was my first DS Fest and I must say it’s strange to see half a dozen 4wds all packed to the roof with composite planes about to be tossed off a cliff, or rows of composite planes lined up along the side of a rocky track or scattered amongst the rocks like some strange form of multi-coloured weed.



*Carbon grows on the side of the road at Wainui.*

The number and quality of gliders being flown at silly speeds in close proximity to the ground, then “landed” in bushes and between rocks was amazing. Not surprisingly, there was some carnage. That there wasn’t more is testament to the skills of the pilots. Personally, I totalled one plane on

maiden and made minor repairs to almost every plane I flew. I was lucky I didn’t lose a plane on my first flight in NZ when I launched with the wrong model memory selected.

There was great camaraderie amongst the pilots, with new and old faces all encouraged and welcomed. With the sun not setting until 9PM most flying days went late; BBQ tea was sometimes organised or we’d stop at a pub on the way back to recap the day’s events.



*Nick landing at Cass.*

There were too many extraordinary flights to recount here but Alex’s two flights at Tekapo with his Transonic were a standout. In these flights he consistently lapped at over 400mph for many minutes at a time, putting together perfect lap after perfect lap until the wind picked up to 70knots and he lapped at over 500mph. The next fastest speed was 402mph by Astan Singh with his own designed and built Soundwave 2.6, which was enough to make him the 19<sup>th</sup> fastest pilot recorded. That day five pilots flew over 300mph and at least another four over 200mph. I got a new PB of 186mph and was more than happy.

Other highlights of the trip on different days were the frequent “furballs” with anything up to 6 or 7 smaller planes flying in the same circuit, two 3m F3F Pitbulls flying in the same tight circuit at nearly 200mph, and flying at Wainui with the mist coming over the ridge. There are videos posted on YouTube (try searching for “NZ DS Fest 2020”) which give you a good feel for the flying and the atmosphere. I’ve linked a few of my favourites, including of Alex and Asto’s flights.

All things come to an end and I eventually left the DS Fest and started the rest of my holiday visiting friends and touring around the north end of the island with my wife. I cannot think of a more spectacular place to go sightseeing and bushwalking and couldn’t recommend it enough.

### *Omaka Aviation Heritage Centre*

The aviation theme didn’t quite stop, with a visit to the Omaka Aviation Heritage Centre and a couple of beach flights with my DLG, sharing airtime with the gulls and oyster catchers.

Omaka Aviation Heritage Centre has two impressive collections from WW1 and WW2. There are 16 main

exhibits from WW1 and 17 from WW2. One of which is the "Stalingrad Experience," a sobering audio visual sequence including a graphic country by country casualty count. Most of the planes are still operational. Amongst the WW1 planes, and exhibits there are also a number of flying scale models. For anyone interested in aircraft a visit to the museum is a must.



This hangs over the Omaka ticket sales counter.



Spad A2, model. How's this for a scale subject? (Where's the prop? Oh there it is!) Behind the gunner. Ed.



Battle of Britain exhibit. A Hurricane hanging over a Spitfire.



WW1 exhibit.

Links to the Dynamic Soaring YouTube clips:

Alex goes 510 at Tekapo. (8mins)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XDR7AqfGL-k&t=189s>.

Highlights: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tO1BxdeKTfs>

Asto goes 402 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1pGPPiXYRXk>

Josh's close call <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cXt0B2HwwQ>

Thanks Nick for such an in depth report. Ed.



Goin's on at the Field

Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> March was a great day weatherwise and brought quite a number of members to the field. That being the case I brought out a few snags left over from Bunnings for a BBQ lunch. Glenn did the honours and cooked them for us.



Graeme had his Hangar 9 Shoestring out for an airing. The ASP91 carby needed a bit of fine tuning on the low end and transition. With all those helpers what could possibly go wrong!!!



Looks like Graeme is copping an earful from Wayne. AKA Gyro Wayne!!!



Max also had the DH88 out again after fixing the engine nacelles mounting problem encountered on the previous outing a month ago. There seems to be some other issues that prevented a test flight on the day.



Graeme taxiing out the Shoestring for take-off.



The Shoestring on final approach.



About a foot to go before touch down. And yes it was a good landing.



There must have been cattle in the paddock for a few days a month or so ago and of course they leave there calling card. Now that it had dried out we took the opportunity to clean up. Glenn decided to bag some up and take it home for the garden. Not sure how Max enjoyed it in his car or maybe it travelled in the model trailer.



### Tips & Tricks

A few more interesting YouTube clips arrived on my phone over the last month which I thought may be of interest.

Watch "The Matchbox Car Story" on YouTube <https://youtu.be/sQWHfzHgWao>

Watch "11 meter Wingspan 100% 1:1 ELFE P2 GIGANTIC RC SCALE SAILPLANE HOME BUILD MODEL GLIDER" on YouTube <https://youtu.be/5vu31fgmDAI>

Watch "DJI DRONES GROUNDED DUE TO THE FEAR OF CHINESE SPYING ! DEFENSE UPDATES" on YouTube <https://youtu.be/MetYhkEGpz4>

Watch "Pilot lands 394-ton A380 sideways as Storm Dennis rages" on YouTube <https://youtu.be/H2bVUT68188>

Watch "Plane Engine Hits The Ground" on YouTube <https://youtu.be/9qqXecSQReY>



### Events

#### Float Fly Lake Burrumbeet – 1<sup>st</sup> February

We held our second float fly event on the Lake Burrumbeet southern foreshore about 200m west of the boat club on Saturday morning 1<sup>st</sup> February.



This is the spot that was chosen this time. There were campers occupying the spot we had last year.

Unfortunately the weather wasn't as kind to us as it was last year which kept most models out of the water. Only a couple of stalwarts braved the choppy conditions caused by the fairly brisk on shore breeze and the occasional rain shower.

Max brought along his "rubber ducky" rescue boat but I don't think it was actually needed this time because the breeze was on shore.



Max's "rubber ducky" rescue boat



Some of the BAMI members (l to r) Ted Arnup, Clive Philips & Kevin Howard talking to Murri.



Glenn took care of cooking the BBQ lunch interspersed with a few showers for good measure.



Max flying one of his hand launched electric gliders. At least he was flying over the water if not off it.



The water was a bit too choppy for Max to get enough speed for lift off. But he had a go!!!



Alan managed a few flights with his model negotiating the choppy water.

Anyway we made the most of it and had an early BBQ lunch to top off the morning.

Hopefully next time the weather will be much more suitable.

**Sausage Sizzle Bunnings– Friday 7<sup>th</sup> February**



We held another quite successful fundraiser at the Bunnings Ballarat Creswick Road store on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> February. Conditions were ideal with a top temperature of around 28° C and a light northerly breeze.

The only problem with a north wind is the heat and spatter from the BBQ blows over those working in the

gazebo and on a warm day it does get rather tiring. But overall the conditions were near perfect.



In the morning/midday shift we had Peter Weston, Murri Anstis and cook extraordinaire Graeme Allen.



Dianne Allen helped us out during the afternoon shift which was very much appreciated. Ted Burke on onions & bread detail, while Glenn White was on the BBQ.

Being a Friday the trade was about half that of the Saturday event we ran on 18<sup>th</sup> January. That was also during the school holidays which makes a significant difference.

Whilst these events are a fair bit of work for a few they are well worth it financially and the proceeds will help towards funding the new ride-on mower.

**Indoor Flying at Haddon Hall – 2020**

The indoor flying hasn't gotten off to a good start this year with the Haddon Hall floor renovation taking longer than expected.

The next event is scheduled for Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March; hopefully the hall will be ready by then.



### Coming Events

BRMFC Fly-In – March 8<sup>th</sup>

Warrnambool Fun Fly – March 21<sup>st</sup>/22<sup>nd</sup>

### Warrnambool Model Aircraft Club Fun-Fly Weekend Sat/Sun 21st and 22nd March 2020

A short "Club House Opening Ceremony" will be held at 1.00pm on the Sat.

We have smooth grass runways 200ft long suitable for all types of models, large or small.

All modellers and model types most welcome.

Free camping is available at the field with hot showers.

Food and drinks will be available at the field.

\$5 entry for pilots which gives you a ticket in the club raffle.



If you would like to arrive on the Friday that is no problem but please let us know so we can have the field open for you.  
Contact Sec: Rod Mitchell 0423 964 781  
Pres: Hary Knights 0429 848 461



### Event Calendar

- February 1<sup>st</sup> (Sat) Float day – South bank of Lake Burrumbeet at the Ski Club, 9:30AM
- Feb 5<sup>th</sup> (Wed) Indoor Flying at Haddon Hall 7 - 9:30PM – BAMI. The first one for the year.
- February 7<sup>th</sup> (Fri) Sausage Sizzle – Bunnings Ballarat
- Feb 19<sup>th</sup> (Wed) Indoor Flying at Haddon Hall 7 - 9:30PM – BAMI
- Feb 22<sup>nd</sup>/23<sup>rd</sup> 2020 Leura Fun Fly – Camperdown
- Mar 4<sup>th</sup> (Wed) Indoor Flying at Haddon Hall 7 - 9:30PM – BAMI
- March 8<sup>th</sup> Fly-In – Trawalla, BRMFC
- Mar 18<sup>th</sup> (Wed) Indoor Flying at Haddon Hall 7 - 9:30PM – BAMI
- March 21<sup>st</sup>/22<sup>nd</sup> Warrnambool Annual Fun Fly – WMAC  
New Clubhouse opening Saturday 1PM.
- March 22<sup>nd</sup> Monty Tyrell Scale Rally – P&DARCS
- April 1<sup>st</sup> (Wed) Indoor Flying at Haddon Hall 7 - 9:30PM – BAMI
- April 5<sup>th</sup> BRMFC/BAMI interclub day at BAMI field (TBC)
- April 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> Echuca Moama Annual Fun Fly - EMMAC
- April 10<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> Easter long weekend
- April 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> VFSAA Scale comp at Trawalla – the better day to be picked a few days beforehand.
- April 15<sup>th</sup> (Wed) Indoor Flying at Haddon Hall 7 - 9:30PM – BAMI
- April 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> VMAA Trophy – P&DARCS
- April 23<sup>rd</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> VJAA Wangaratta International Jet Event
- May 1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> Twin Cities 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Scale Rally – Albury

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

That's all for now. Happy landings.  
Roger.