



NEWSLETTER – December, 2014



Committee 2014/2015

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Note the meeting location.

The next general meeting is to be held at the **Field Air Offices at Ballarat Airport** on **Wednesday January 28th 2015** commencing at **7.30PM**. Please come along to the meetings and support your club and be part of the decision making process. **Don't forget to bring a plate for supper.**

Agenda Items for the next meeting

1. Trawalla Establishment Progress
2. Merger with GPMFC
3. BRMFC Safety Rules Review
4. Field Maintenance
5. Christmas Function

Merry Christmas

Dear All

As this is the last newsletter for the year, it gives me the opportunity to speak about the festive season.

However, before doing that, it is with great sadness that I inform those of you who may not be aware of the passing of one of our long time club members, Len Astbury.

My understanding is that Len passed away in hospital on the 12th December after a short illness.

For those of us who knew Len reasonably well, you will know that he will be sadly missed not only as a valued member of the club, but also for his unquestionable knowledge about flying in general.

It would be an understatement to say that if you ever had a problem with a model doing something out of the ordinary, then you could always count on Len if you asked him for some advice on how you might fix it.

I'm sure there will be many accolades for Len from a lot of our club members who knew him well and I am equally

sure that they will reinforce that he will be very sadly missed.

On a brighter note, we are at that time of the year again whereby we are all hoping that the large guy in the red suit will remember where we live and deliver something nice for us to unwrap.

As for me, I'm hoping it's a big cardboard box with something in it that will eventually fly but as my wife keeps telling me; there are too many skeletons in the shed now without adding to the collection, oh well, maybe next year, let's hope you get what you want.

On behalf of the committee, I would like to wish all our members and their families the very best for a Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year.

For those among us who are lucky enough to be going on a trip over the festive season, please take care out there and make sure you come back safe and sound.

I look forward to seeing you all next year and making our new field a great success.

Take care and stay safe.

Regards,

Graeme Allen – President.



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.

6. Reports

I) Management Committee Report.

Noted that the Safety Rules have been revised and distributed to members. Pilots are requested to adhere to the rules at all times.

Two handheld VHF and a UHF radios are to be purchased to facilitate communications with Dynamic Flight Park operations. M Werner will investigate solar panel trickle chargers for the batteries.

II) Ararat Glider Tow Event

M Werner advised that the event was poorly attended.

7. General Business

I) Field Maintenance.

- (1) Dress the runways and pit area;
- (1) Need to erect shade cloth for shelter;
- (2) M Anstis has been spraying thistles and weeds; and
- (3) The steering on the mower has been repaired.

II)

8 Other Business

a. Xmas Function

7:00 PM at the Brewery Tap Hotel on the 12th December.

b. Burrumbeet Race Track Demonstration New Year's Day

K Giddens suggested that if it is not possible to obtain a permit for a flying demonstration, then a static display should be mounted.

N Katsikaros suggested contacting the VMAA to see if a special dispensation can be obtained.

Secretary to seek VMAA approval.

c. Ararat Club letter of Appreciation (sent to R Carrigg from David Lovell)

A letter of thanks for the support offered by BRMFC for A&DAC.

d. Speed Record set 812Km/H

A slope soarer has set a new speed record.

9 Agenda Items for next meeting

As per November Agenda.

Meeting location

The next meeting will again be held at *Field Air, Ballarat Airport, 28th January 2015.*

Meeting Closed 8:20PM



Sad News about Len

It was with great sadness that we learnt on Wednesday 16th December, long time member Len Astbury had passed away on the Friday before (12th December) after a short illness. He was cremated privately on Tuesday 16th. Len was born on 10th February 1941 which made him 73 – much too young to be taken from us.



Len filling the tank of one of his LA Specials. He didn't need fuel pumps and all that stuff. His models were light mostly small four strokes running props that he carved out of wood himself. All worked extremely well and performed amazingly. Photo was taken on 15th December 2013.

Many of us knew Len had not been well of late and I remember asking members at the field the Sunday before last (14th) if anyone had seen him not knowing at that time, he had already passed away.

Len was a member of several radio controlled model aircraft clubs, and one of the best pilots in the Ballarat region. Len was an active member of the club and as well as providing advice, assistance and test pilot services, he selflessly contributed to the maintenance of the Club facilities. Len designed many models, from small ultra-lights through to 10' wingspan large models. Len's LA Special is legendary, and copied by many modellers.

Len's modelling career started back when he was at school with free flight then he progressed to radio control single channel and galloping ghost systems before progressing to multi-channel proportional control. Len was an old style modeller preferring to stick with the tried and proven balsa, tissue & dope construction methods. He built light weight models that flew well and his models lasted for decades. I don't recall ever seeing Len bend a plane and he used old radio equipment too – none of that computerized stuff. It shows how his attention to detail and thinking things through paid off. His aviation exploits were not entirely restricted to Aeromodelling, in his youth he also obtained a general aviation licence and flew Cessnas and Tiger Moths – even back then he flew aerobatics.

Len recently was amazing participants at the Haddon Indoor Flying nights, where his ultra-light models flew with precision and grace.

Len will be sadly missed by all who knew him.

In a small tribute to Len I have included some recent photos taken at the Yendon field mixed with a couple of early photos from Murri Anstis' collection which date back to the early 1970's and possibly before that.

Kevin Howard, Secretary, Ballarat Aeromodellers Inc. on hearing of Len's passing from our secretary replied with these kind words. I am sure he will not mind me including with our tribute to Len. Thank you for advising the members of the Ballarat Aeromodellers Inc about the passing of your member and our associate member Len. There is nothing you could say about Len other than, that he was truly one of nature's gentlemen. I have known Len for over fifty five years and I will miss our long phone discussions and visits to his home. Rest in Peace Len.



Above and below. Len with his 10 foot span LA Special which he managed to shoehorn into the little Ford Laser. Photo was taken on 17th February 2013.



Len said his big LA Special that he brought out to the field occasionally was an old model that had been recovered in more recent times. It is quite likely the same model in this old black & white photo. There is no date or location. I guess it is either the Napoleons or Haddon fields going back to the late 1960's or early 1970's.



The 10 foot LA Special on a high speed pass over the field.



Len scoffed at ARF's however he did succumb to investing in one or two – always with extensive modifications. He fabricated this frame which was clamped in a work bench stand to support the Swift ARF while starting. Saved having to bend down all the time. Enabled the nose to be elevated to ensure the engine tuning was just right.

The twin engine model featured in the following photos is also one of Len's own designs and an awesome performer. Len flew it extremely well showing off its amazing attributes. It's a fairly large model with a couple of medium size four strokes – not sure what size but not large. Len flew it around doing low level aerobatics and touch & goes, even on one engine. Yes we have seen it do a touch & go on one engine which is quite remarkable; most twins are lucky to survive if an engine quits. The photos were all taken on the 3rd February 2013.



Len had a support for his various models to save bending down to start the engines. Our secretary Jeff is steadying the twin.



Taxiing out to take-off.



After take-off and gently climbing out.



Probably pulling out of a loop or some other manoeuvre.



A low level pass over the strip.



About to touch down...



And landing.

Rest in peace Len, your mates are thinking about you and your memory and legacy will live on.



An early photo of Len. The slide was dated OCT 72, that being the case he would be around 30. Most likely taken at the Ballarat Aero Modellers Haddon field.



VMAA News

Following the MAAA Midyear Presidents meeting held in Melbourne on 1st November, one item was passed for immediate implementation.

When an MAAA Inspector issues a Permit to Fly (MOP Form 038) following a successful certification, there is now no requirement to send the bottom section of the form to a State Secretary for filing. The owner/operator of the model certified will retain the complete form as proof of certification. The bottom section of the form need not be completed as a duplicate. MOP Form 038 Permit to Fly, will be amended along with MOP015 and any other relevant MOPs.



The move to Trawalla

Something to be aware of. The field at Trawalla is in a different CFA fire zone to Ballarat and hence that of our old Spredaeagle Road field at Yendon. Trawalla is in the **South West** region while Ballarat is in the **Central** region. The boundary between the two regions is actually only a few kilometres west of Ballarat.

We held another working bee on Sunday 14th December to rearrange the containers so we can erect shade mesh over the area enclosed by the containers and the kitchen. The Pyrenees shire council required rooves over the containers and kitchen to remove the “container” appearance. The benefit for us is it will provide water run-off to fill the water tank which has been shifted behind the kitchen. Also the kitchen has had a leak for a while so the roof will solve that problem.

The other job done was spreading some top soil in the holes and depressions along the runways and taxi ways. Graeme brought out his tractor and loaded top soil onto two trailers from a pile that we were allowed to use located over towards the overpass. The soil was then manually spread and raked out to smooth over the surfaces as much as possible.



Shovelling out the top soil from the trailer. Graeme spread this lot along the taxi way using his Kubota tractor.



To shift the container brought from Spreadeagle Road which has the shed stored inside required the services of a local Beaufort contractor.



Once the containers were in their final place, Murri started work on the roofing with assistance from Doug.



It was nice to relax for a while under the portable shade and enjoy the BBQ lunch which consisted of the usual sausages plus hamburgers with egg.



This is the area enclosed by the three portables to be covered by shade cloth. It won't come any too soon with the hot weather now upon us.



The tank is now in place. Once the four lengths of spouting, one on the outside of each container and one on either end of the kitchen are fitted and piped into the tank we will have water back on tap. (And some rain!!!)



The main N/S runway with top soil filling holes & depressions mainly along the western side. Some soaking rain would be nice now to consolidate the fill.



Events

Hamilton Swap Meet – 29th/30th November

BRMFC has been going down to the Hamilton club's annual event for many years now. Why do we do it? Well I guess we enjoy it so much. It's great to catch up with other modellers and fortunately for us is not too much of a trip, being only a couple of hours drive.

Many went down for two nights (Friday/Saturday) while others opted for one night only coming down early Saturday morning. For the first time since Glenn and I went down together in 1998 Glenn came down for the Sunday only due to commitments at home.

The weather was much better this year than last. We had sunshine and warm weather both days although it started

to look like rain as we began to pack up on Sunday afternoon.



The Ararat club on the left and our club on the right setup alongside the N/S runway. On Saturday the wind was predominantly from the south while Sunday it was mostly northerly.

Soon after setting up the shade tents on Saturday morning we started flying. Graeme was one of the first to fly and took off with his new Stinson 108. It was coming around to complete the first circuit when it apparently nosedived into the strip. I didn't see it happen but certainly heard it impact with the hard ground. I haven't seen such a mess for a long time – there was little left forward of the tail section. It appears something went wrong with the elevators or the elevator control mechanism. It was very unfortunate and our commiserations went out to Graeme.

Wayne had a fright on Saturday morning with his Yak when it took off unbeknown to him with a fluttering elevator servo. Wayne managed to land safely with the left side elevator continuing to oscillate violently up and down. That put an end to flying the Yak so he had to concentrate on the Wyvern and P47. He had a few flights with both over the weekend but unfortunately damaged the undercarriage on both with landings that didn't seem heavy at the time. Must be the hard ground at Hamilton!!!



A bunch of the Modellers in town booked a table at the Grand Central Hotel for tea on Saturday. It was a good night out after a few pre-dinner drinks at the motel followed by the 20 minute walk into town. Of course you have to walk back again.



Nick was enjoying Saturday night at the Grand Central. Look at those sweets!!!



Max & Graeme having a chat, the Ararat club on the left, my old Super Stearman in the foreground with Nick's Pitts & Edge 540 and Max's big Super Cub under the shade. Max won Best Sports Model with the Super Cub.



John Hoy from Warrnambool won best biplane. It was probably this one, he said it was one of his old models brought out of retirement.



There was also this biplane which flew well and looked impressive in the air. I don't know who owned it and don't think it was John Hoy.



Wayne was flying his Westland Wyvern when this photo was taken on the Saturday.



Fairy Gannet flown by Dave Chiqwidden. Model is powered by a Zenoah 62cc engine and won Best Military Model, Best Scale Flying Display and Pilots Choice. It was there last year but at that stage had not been flown.



The Fairy Gannet on a fly pass over the field. Note the finlets on the horizontal stabilizer which are similar to Wayne's Westland Wyvern. They are both British and from the same era.



Fairy Gannet coming in to land with flaps extended just moments from touch down. It settled very gently for what is no doubt a fairly heavy machine.



Glenn likes to entertain them down at Hamilton with the Me163 Komet. Unfortunately he is still having fuel supply problems which result in fairly short flights. Just as well it glides well. Glenn was awarded Best Scale Model under 1.8m.



The Komet gets aloft with the dolly dropping away. You can see the elevon control deflection in the photo. Lots of left being applied here. It's all happenings on take-off that's for sure. The trees in the background are on the northern boundary and are a long way from the flight line. The worst thing is when landing from the north your model tends to get camouflaged making it difficult to see under some light conditions.



Nick is readying the Pitts Special for another flight.



Relaxing under the shade tents. They are a must.



Mat put on several 3D flying demos and won Best Flying Display.

They handed out the awards around 1:30PM, drew the hamper raffle and the lucky pilot entrant prize.

The Hamilton Fun fly awards are as follows:

Encouragement Award	- Alex Chigwidden
Best Biplane	- John Hoy
Electric Flight Award	- Rick Pimplott
Best Scale Model over 1.8m	- Barry Angus
Best Scale Model under 1.8m	- Glenn White
Best Military Model	- Dave Chigwidden
Helicopter Flight Award	- Danny Jacobson
Best Flying Display	- Mat Werner
Best Sports Model	- Max Rowan
Fun fly Award	- Josh Keating
Best Scale Flying Display	- Dave Chigwidden
Pilots Choice	- Dave Chigwidden
Lucky Fun fly Entrant - ASP91 FS	- Adam Breuer

On perusing the awards list BRMFC members picked up three awards in total.

In winding up we must thank the Hamilton Club for hosting this weekend which we all enjoy immensely. In fact many of us booked into the Hamilton Lakeside Motel for next year when checking out on Sunday morning. It's scheduled for 28th/29th November 2015.

Our thanks also to the kitchen helpers and supporters of the event which without their contribution the event no doubt would not go ahead.

Xmas Breakup Party – Friday 12th December



We held the Christmas breakup party at the Brewery Tap Hotel on Friday 12th December. There was quite a good rollup with 22 members and partners enjoying the night out. As usual at this time of year it is hard to pick a night that does not clash with someone's work do or other engagement.

We kicked off just before 7PM with a few light refreshments then ordered. They asked us to break the group into two lots for catering purposes to make it easier on the kitchen staff. It seemed to work okay although serving was staggered somewhat but it didn't matter. At least everyone got the meal they ordered because names were taken. So often at hotels when you order in a large group all they take is the table number, then when the meals are brought out to the table they try to find out who ordered what.

The hotel has been run for the last several years by Murri Anstis' older sister Nola but she has decided to retire. It had just been sold and the new owners were working there as well during the transition period.

Max & Judy Rowan once again put together the Christmas hamper which was raffled as a door prize. Everyone was given a ticket when they arrived and the lucky winner drawn out of the box of tickets. Wayne won it last year so we had to stick his ticket to the bottom so it couldn't be drawn out – no we wouldn't do that Wayne!!!



Members and partners at the Brewery Tap hotel Christmas party held on Friday 12th December.



Murri hopping into the sweets.



Nola (Murri's sister & retiring publican) is drawing the lucky winner of the Christmas hamper. Guess who the winner was...



And the winner was Glenn. Max is handing over the hamper to Glenn who is all smiles. Glenn's a tinny arse – he won a give-away prize from the VFSAA at the state field the week before. Ah well, he didn't have the Pianola to play with this year so this is consolation.

Around 9:10PM Max asked Nola (the retiring publican) to draw the lucky winner out of the box of tickets. We were all holding our breath hoping our name would be read out

but it was Glenn's. Think I heard the word 'rigged' muttered – must have imagined it!!!

Anyway an enjoyable night was had by all. No doubt we will do it all again next year.



For Sale

Murri Anstis has the following modelling item to sell.

- OS95AX 2 stroke engine NEW IN BOX **\$150**

If interested please contact Murri Anstis on 0413 353 739 or murri@bigpond.com



Coming Events

WARRNAMBOOL MODEL AIRCRAFT CLUB

ANNUAL FUN FLY 28TH FEBRUARY
AND THE 1ST OF MARCH 2015.

WE HAVE FREE CAMPING. HOT
SHOWER. DISABLE TOILETS. BBQ
LUNCH AND DRINKS AVAILABLE.

MAAA & VMAA RULES APPLY.
CONTACTS

Geoff gbwatson7@bigpond.com
Phone 0355620648 0408337518

Ken ken-perrett@bigpond.com
Phone 0355662220 0428527139



Web Site warrnamboolmac.google.sites

THIS EVENT IS PROUDLY SPONSORED
BY THE VMAA

The Ararat & Districts Aeromodellers Club is hosting an aerobatics fun fly event on the 7-9 March 2015.

The advertising poster for the event follows and the full event details can be found at <http://www.sillmarketing.com.au/client/3DHS/2015/Fly Low in Ararat 2015.pdf>



PRESENTS

3DHS FLY LOW IN

ARARAT & DISTRICT AEROMODELLERS CLUB VIC
7 - 9 March 2015



ANY AEROBATIC PLANE
ALL BRANDS AND MODELS WELCOME

3D, FREESTYLE, SPORT AEROBATICS
ALL AEROBATICS STYLES AND STANDARDS WELCOME

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PILOT REGISTRATION FEES
\$25 FOR 3 DAYS
\$10 FOR 2 DAYS
\$15 FOR 1 DAY
SPECTATORS FREE

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Echuca Moama Model Aero Club

ANNUAL FUN FLY

Sunday April 12th 2015

AT THE VMAA FLYING FIELD ECHUCA

ALL TYPES OF MODEL AIRCRAFT WELCOME

A great day of fun and excitement is assured
Model flying for the fun of it !

Refreshments available on the day.

Contact – Fred West Secretary 0418 362100



Here's a thought. Let's make it a weekend away – go up on Saturday afternoon, have a night out, then out to the field on Sunday for the fun fly.



Event Calendar

- December 12th BRMFC Xmas Function – Brewery Tap Hotel. (Friday 7PM start)
- Feb 8th 2015 (Sun) VFSAA Sport Scale – NFG (State field)
- Feb 21st (Sat) VFSAA Training Day – NFG (State field)
- March 7th (Sat) VFSAA Sport Scale – GMAA (Geelong)
- March 7th – 9th Aerobatics fun fly – ADAC (Ararat)
- March 29th BRMFC Annual Open Day – Cancelled
- April 3rd Good Friday – Easter weekend
- April 9th-19th [MAAA 68th Nationals – Brisbane](#)
- April 12th Echuca Moama Annual Fun Fly – VMAA Flying Field Echuca.

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

Time for some Frivolity – the sealed section

Note: If easily offended please skip this item. It contains adult themes, but no crude language or nudity.

When four of Santa's elves got sick, the trainee elves did not produce toys as fast as the regular ones, and Santa began to feel the Pre-Christmas pressure.

Then Mrs. Claus told Santa her mother was coming to visit, which stressed Santa even more.

When he went to harness the reindeer, he found that three of them were about to give birth and two others had jumped the fence and were out, Heaven knows where.

Then when he began to load the sleigh, one of the floorboards cracked, the toy bag fell to the ground and all the toys were scattered.

Frustrated, Santa went in the house for a cup of apple cider and a shot of rum. When he went to the cupboard, he discovered the elves had drunk all the cider and hidden the liquor.

In his frustration, he accidentally dropped the cider jug, and it broke into hundreds of little glass pieces all over the kitchen floor. He went to get the broom and found the mice had eaten all the straw off the end of the broom.

Just then the doorbell rang, and an irritated Santa marched to the door, yanked it open, and there stood a little angel with a great big Christmas tree.

The angel said very cheerfully, 'Merry Christmas, Santa. Isn't this a lovely day? I have a beautiful tree for you. Where would you like me to stick it?'

And thus began the tradition of the little angel on top of the Christmas tree.

Not many people know this!

