

FEB 2017

MODEL AERONAUTICAL ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA  
QUARTERLY MAGAZINE



# WINGS PAN

MEMBER NEWS • TRAVEL • EVENTS • OUT AND ABOUT • SAFETY MATTERS

## GROWING CLUB MEMBERSHIPS TO SEE OUR SPORT SOAR IN 2017

MAAA'S FOCUS FOR 2017 IS IN HELPING CLUBS GROW AND PROSPER

**THREE BROTHERS, THREE  
GENERATIONS OF LOVE FOR FLIGHT**

ONE MAN AND HIS 3 SONS FLY HIS  
FATHER'S HURRICANE

**REMEMBERING  
GARY SUNDERLAND**

A LASTING LEGACY FOR ONE OF FREE FLIGHT'S FINEST

**A MILESTONE FOR AUSTRALIAN  
FREE FLIGHT COMMUNITY**

THE NSW FREE FLIGHT SOCIETY OWNING AND RUNNING  
THE FIRST AND ONLY FREE FLIGHT FIELD IN THE COUNTRY

**SAFETY FIRST**

KNOW YOUR FIRST AID BASICS FOR  
MEMBER'S SAFETY



# ON THE COVER



03

▶ **PRESIDENT'S REPORT** Growing and nurturing our clubs in 2017, giving members a better flying experience

05

▶ **MEMBERS NEWS** New field for Bacchus Marsh, Tribute to Gary Sunderland, SA club taking novice pilots under their wing, Big milestone for free flight community in Australia

06

▶ **SAFETY MATTERS** First Aid basics for member's safety

08

▶ **THREE BROTHERS** Younger generation taking to the skies in honour of their grandfather

10

▶ **GROWING CLUB MEMBERSHIP** How you can help your clubs grow and prosper in 2017

14

▶ **TRAVEL STORY** Tahn Stowe soars around the world in free flight, taking a bird's-eye view

21

▶ **MANAGEMENT MATTERS** Training and skill development to keep our skies safe and member's injury free

22

▶ **OUT & ABOUT** Charity for Royal Flying Doctor Service a soaring success



The MAAA are always keen to hear about your successes or story ideas for Wingspan. Please send your ideas to me at [editor@maa.asn.au](mailto:editor@maa.asn.au).

# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President: Neil Tank



The MAAA's focus for 2017 is to grow our sport through new memberships as well as nurturing and supporting our long-serving, dedicated members. We want to give our members the best possible flying experience and continue to create a strong sense of community and camaraderie around the sport. With this goal in mind, we are currently embarking on a membership drive titled "Towards 11,000". Membership

has remained steady for the past few years, new members joining have equalled those who do not renew. If nothing else, there are two issues that we want to concentrate on; both these issues are linked to membership.

## 1. Members must be able to continue flying at fields which present safe and friendly flying facilities.

Members today and in the past have worked hard to provide model flying environments that are safe, enjoyable and provide facilities for all disciplines of aeromodelling. Members young and old generally intermingle and share their advice and experience- age is no barrier. I remember many years ago seeing my (then) young son sitting at the club and discussing the past aeromodelling and wartime aviation experience with one of our eighty-year-old members- the age between the two meant nothing. There is an enormous amount of knowledge within our clubs, members may not agree on all occasions but all are in it for the challenges and thrills the hobby/sport presents. Through association with the MAAA, members are provided with many exciting opportunities including the opportunity to compete intrastate, interstate and overseas. Many of us nowadays prefer social flying to competition, however no matter what is preferred, the clubs provide the opportunities so that you can soar.

Australian flying fields are equal and in many cases better than those enjoyed by our modelling counterparts overseas. All this has been achieved through the hard work of past and present members.

## MAAA EXECUTIVE

### President:

Mr Neil Tank

[president@maaa.asn.au](mailto:president@maaa.asn.au)

### Vice President:

Mr Carl Bizon

[vicepresident@maaa.asn.au](mailto:vicepresident@maaa.asn.au)

### Secretary:

Mr Kevin Dodd

[secretary@maaa.asn.au](mailto:secretary@maaa.asn.au)

### Treasurer:

Mr Brian Dowie

[treasurer@maaa.asn.au](mailto:treasurer@maaa.asn.au)

Enquiries about Wingspan, including advertising, feedback and story ideas can be emailed to [editor@maaa.asn.au](mailto:editor@maaa.asn.au)

▶ REMEMBER, IF YOUR CLUB IS INVITING MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO AN EVENT, FEEL FREE TO ADVERTISE IT ON THE MAAA WEBSITE!

Go to: <http://www.maaa.asn.au> to add your event.

Growth in club memberships through retaining current members as well as attracting new ones, allows your club to share your passion for your sport with more people, letting them experience the thrill of flight as well as getting access to funds for improvements to your club facilities.

There are concerns that our aeromodelling environment is under threat from a number of areas. Currently a Senate enquiry is examining the activities of remotely piloted aircraft, including model aircraft. Model aircraft in Europe was under threat of being banned altogether. We may be lucky and be allowed to continue as we are, though increasingly local councils and shires are banning model aircraft from public parks and reserves. The provision of safe, controlled model aircraft areas provided by MAAA affiliated clubs may help in preventing draconian restrictions being placed upon all aeromodellers. Increased membership equates to a greater ability to influence the outcome of such enquiries.

**2. That our children and grandchildren are given the opportunity to enjoy aeromodelling in the same manner that we have.**

Many clubs are suffering from aging membership. When I first joined the MAAA 32 years ago the average age of members was in the low forties, the average age of members are now in the high sixties and growing each year. The number of young aeromodellers joining today is far less than they were 32 years ago. There are many reasons for this, however if the aging trends continue, aeromodelling clubs as we know them will fade away. The responsibility to ensure this does not happen rests with all of us. We must ensure that our grandchildren and their children are given the same opportunity to enjoy what we all have over our lifetime. We can only do this by opening our clubs up to new members, being proactive in our recruiting initiatives and continue to provide friendly, harmonious and safe flying environments. John Miles (who features in this edition of Wingspan) and his three young sons have been warmly welcomed into the NSW Free

Flight Society with open arms. Members have encouraged the younger generation to have a go and have shared their skills and knowledge with the young brothers. The boys may even be teaching long-serving members a thing or two. It's a great example of sharing this collective knowledge, inspiring our future pilots and ensuring our sport lives on now and into the future.

To ensure our clubs and our sport doesn't fade away, we should also encourage younger members to take up leadership roles and the same applies to State Associations. Younger members of State Associations equal younger members on the MAAA Council. They are our future.

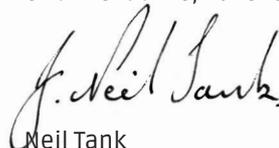
It's also important for clubs to embrace new technology and disciplines, just like our control line and free flight forefathers had to embrace radio.

At the May Council Conference, Council Members will devote time to examine ways membership can be increased. Ordinary Members will be asked to present at least three initiatives for Council consideration.

MAAA cannot do it alone, however State Associations must help drive the initiatives and with help from the States and MAAA, clubs must actively implement recruiting strategies. We all have an important role to play to ensure that aeromodelling remains an exciting pastime well into the future.

Let us all embrace the "Towards 11,000" membership drive and encourage new members to come to our clubs and live the reality. Equally important is to provide an environment where we retain current members. The future is in our hands, if we all introduce one new member the task is easy.

Until next time, have fun, safe flight



Neil Tank  
President

# FEET FIRMLY PLANTED ON NEW FIELD

## NEW FIELD PLANNED FOR BACCHUS MARSH MODEL AIRCRAFT ASSOCIATION

Bacchus Marsh Model Aircraft Association have spread their wings and landed at a new Club facility an hour outside Melbourne. The new State Field located at 26A Brisbane Ranges Road, Mount Wallace, will provide members with first-class facilities that can cater for all modelling disciplines.

The Club, which was established over 30 years ago has moved around to various locations in Bacchus Marsh. Due to having their previous club sites on leased land, members felt there was no certainty that they would be able to continue to fly if they were ever asked to vacate.

Club President Michael Whelan said with the Club coming from a relatively small field, a new first-

class state field that features 80 acres of available flying space, would not only provide the best facilities to cater for multi-discipline modellers but would also allow them to welcome new members.

"The plan is to have a main 30x200m runway north/south with a smaller cross strip. The runway will be built so water runoff can be achieved with a mixture of grass and matting. This will provide an all-weather surface," he said.

"There will be facilities for control line and helicopters at the field will not be restricted. A club house, car parks, sprinkler system and amenities will all be established.

"BMAAA is very grateful to the MAAA and VMAA for their support and commitment to the new field. I also want to thank the Club Members that supported the venture and assisted to achieving the end state. It's been a long process, but the future is looking bright for our Club, Association Members and most of all, the sport."

Currently in the planning phase, the new site is scheduled to be developed in 2017, with the goal to transform it into a premium State Field over the next few years.

**modelflight** RC

# WAIT...

6-CHANNELS 4 MODEL TYPES  
250-MODEL MEMORY TELEMETRY

GENUINE SPEKTRUM TECHNOLOGY  
AIRWARE™ SOFTWARE  
WIRELESS TRAINER LINK

JUST \$299.99?

# YEP.



AR610 RECEIVER  
INCLUDED

# SAFETY MATTERS

## KNOW YOUR FIRST AID BASICS FOR MEMBER'S SAFETY

Taking to the skies and watching your aircraft soar, provides the greatest thrill and fun for any modeller. Whether you are young or old, just finding your wings or a professional pilot, you can safely enjoy the adrenalin rush of a seriously fun flight, while forming great friendships.

In order to keep our airways safe and minimise any serious injuries to our pilots, there is some basic first aid advice our members can follow, so that you can continue to enjoy the fun, thrills and camaraderie, knowing that everyone within your club are in safe hands.

### Don't fly alone

Aside from having fun on the field, personal safety as well as the safety of others, should always be at the forefront of any modeller's mind. The MAAA encourages its 10,000+ members to get out and enjoy the sport of modelling, while surrounding yourself with like-minded friends.

When flying a model aircraft, it is important that you never fly alone and always have a second set of eyes, not only on the skies, but to be there if an accident were to happen.

Even if you are an experienced pilot, accidents can occur at any time. Flying with a friend (a fellow club member) not only ensures your safety in an event of an accident but there is always someone there to call emergency personnel or provide first aid.

If for some reason you are on the field flying alone, it is advised that you have a process in place, so that someone knows where you are at all times. Our fields can be isolated from the public and if you are flying alone and had an accident, it could take hours for someone to find you and alert authorities. We advise that clubs also have an emergency procedure in place to mitigate any risk to club members in an event of an accident or serious injury.

### When an accident happens

The MAAA is the only national body in Australia that is recognised by CASA for model aviation as a recreational aviation administrative organisation. Our task and mission is in helping to make model aeroplane flying safer for everyone to enjoy. But with any sport, accidents can happen and it is important to follow the right safety procedures to ensure all club members are safe and that the person injured is treated with the right level of care.

Even experienced pilots face problems when flying. There have been cases where a pilot's transmitter has slipped from their hand while pre-flying his electric powered model. This has resulted in the model starting up, moving forward and cutting off the modeller's fingers.

Another example of an on field accident, has been when a model has been flying normally, hit turbulence and struck another modeller on the ground, causing serious injury and lacerations.

As a regular modeller, it is important to have a clear understanding of your club's rules and know the location of the emergency equipment (first aid, fire blanket, extinguisher).

When an accident/injury occurs you can follow these simple safety procedures:

- Check for danger to you and your bystanders and then the injured person
- Check whether the person is conscious and whether they are responding to you
- Send for help (call 000)
- Check whether the injured person is breathing and whether their airways are clear
- Assess how you can help with the injury (whether that be applying pressure to the wound)
- Monitor the person's breathing until help arrives
- If the adult is not breathing and is unconscious, then an experienced person in CPR can attempt to resuscitate until the ambulance personnel arrives.



Keep hydrated and wear a hat and sunscreen whilst out on the field!



## Stay hydrated in the warmer weather

When flying under the scorching summer sun, simple precautions need to be taken to avoid dehydration, sun damage and illness.

It can be all too easy to get so caught up in the thrill of flight with your mates, that you forget to keep hydrated throughout the day. Maintaining your water intake while on the field is a must, preventing any heat stroke or feeling faint. As important as the water consumption is, so too is wearing a hat and continually applying sunscreen. Keeping your skin protected from the sizzle of the sun will eliminate any risks of getting burnt or feeling ill.

## Reporting incidents

Creating a 75-year legacy as Australia's largest flying organisation, the MAAA is always committed to providing the best and safest flying experience for our members.

We can effectively manage accidents and incidents for our members and clubs, to ensure that the airways are always safe and our pilots are injury free.

When an accident or incident occurs, the MAAA takes those affected under their wing, ensuring that our members get back to safe, fun flying sooner. This is achieved through managing any insurance claims on their behalf as well as assistance or corrective action when required. If an accident or incident occurs, we speak directly with clubs and members to ensure that they are safe, they feel supported and that a resolution is reached quickly.

Unlike any other association, the MAAA conduct thorough

investigations in order to ascertain what accidents or incidents are trending. We then seek to put corrective action in place, reducing the potential risks for all the MAAA community while protecting the reputation and future of the sport loved by many.

The MAAA has built an online Incident and Accident Management tool for clubs. Read our 7 simple steps for managing an incident and accident [here](#)

Read our FAQ's [here](#) to help you better ascertain what type of incidents and accidents are dealt with by the MAAA, who needs to complete an accident/incident or investigation report and what happens with third party insurance claims. You can also now complete an Incident Report and Investigation Report online [here](#)

**Take care of each other and safe flying!**



# NOT JUST CHILD'S PLAY AS THREE BROTHERS LEARN TO FLY

ONE MAN AND HIS THREE SONS CARRY ON A FAMILY LEGACY OF FLYING

**Dreaming knows no age, but for a child, an active imagination can see you soaring above the clouds, chasing the wings of a bird, all while you are sitting in your living room, looking out to the blue sky above.**

But for three brothers from the Blue Mountains in NSW, Chilton 13, Ashton 12 and Jenson 10, their imagination to take to the skies has become a reality thanks to the guidance, support and passion from their father John Miles.

As an avid pilot and model enthusiast himself, John said his sons' love of building and flying control line and free flight models stems from their grandfather William (also known as Billy), who lived and breathed model aircraft. According to John, his father had once built from scratch a Hawker Hurricane model, that was a replica of

a war plane Billy had seen crash near his home, during the Battle of Britain during the Second World War in 1940.

"Dad always had a real passion for building aircraft. I remember growing up in a house that was full of his model planes," said John.

"My dad and I would build and fly models together, which is now something I have passed down to my own boys."

Busy with raising children of his own and the demands of everyday life, John said it wasn't until his father passed away in 2012 - leaving behind his precious tools and model planes, that John's own passion for modelling suddenly reignited.

Joining both the Sydney Society of Model Engineers in January 2013 and

the NSW Free Flight Society last year, the Miles brothers and their dad have carried on Billy's legacy through his love of flying.

"After Dad passed, me and the boys continued to restore his Hawker Hurricane to engine running standard and on the second anniversary of his passing, we ran it with a new engine for the first time in over forty years. This was a very special moment for the boys and myself," said John.

The boys are now taking to the airways with their own free flight models that they build under the the guidance of their dad. Each model they build has a little part of their grandfather's collection built into them, using his balsa wood, piano wire, a pilot he made or using plans he had collected or designed himself.



Despite the usual sibling rivalry and competition when it comes to their hobby of flying, as soon as the boys step onto the flying field, they band together, ensuring all their models take to the skies safely.

“It’s really important for the future of the sport, to encourage the younger generation to fly, especially when it comes to traditional modelling,” said John.

“Not only is it a great bonding experience for my family to all fly together, but for my boys to be able to create something with their hands, firing up their imagination and watching their models fly, is a great source of knowledge and achievement for them. They are learning to build an aircraft as well as learning aerodynamics,” said John about the educational aspect of the sport.

But the most powerful aspect of this hobby passed on through the generations is the freedom to fly. Billy knew it and John recognises it too. John said, “I can see why they love it so much. It’s easy to love the pure thrill that comes with free flight flying, where you can watch your model fly like a bird.”

John said he is overwhelmed by how welcoming both the SSME and NSW FFS have been in welcoming his boys into their clubs; sharing their stories, teaching them skills they have learned over lifetimes of flying, broadening his boys knowledge of flying more than he could do alone.

With a bright future ahead of them, John hopes that more young people take up the sport of modelling.

His dream is for high schools to

incorporate model building and flying into their curriculum as part of a science elective on aeronautical engineering or construction perhaps, where students put down the Ipads and learn to create something from scratch with their own hands; turning their imagination into a reality.



# GROWING OUR MEMBERSHIP FOR OUR SPORT TO SOAR HIGHER IN 2017

MAAA'S FOCUS FOR 2017 IS TO HELP CLUBS GROW AND PROSPER

MAAA Clubs are about fun flying, camaraderie and community. As the backbone of support for local clubs, the MAAA's focus for 2017 is in helping clubs to grow as well as giving your members the best experience, ensuring they get more from their membership and continue to fly with your club for longer. There are many benefits to attracting new members, one being that it can help you fund more club facilities. The MAAA are always looking at ways to support our clubs and this year we'll be launching a "Have a Go Flying Day" program in March.

With MAAA's 75 year heritage, there is a large 'collective knowledge' across our clubs on how to attract, welcome and nurture members young and old, as well as creating a strong sense of community and camaraderie around our sport. So in 2017, we will be looking for and sharing success stories from our clubs on what works best for them. If you've got a great

club story or even a great member story email us at [editor@maaa.asn.au](mailto:editor@maaa.asn.au)

In the 2016 Annual Member Survey members and club executives shared their experience and suggestions on how to attract new members and encourage them to stay longer. We have taken on that feedback and have shared some of your great ideas in this article.

## Extend a warm and friendly welcome

Members unanimously said the best experience a new member could get is a warm and friendly welcome. Here are some of the suggestions members made:

- Give your new members a warm, friendly welcome
- Make sure all members get a consistent experience

- Give them an induction around the club
- Assign them with a flying buddy
- Understand their interest in model flying
- Look at ways you can help them develop their skills
- Give them some tips to get them off the ground safely
- Run a social event for all members and their families.

Making a good first impression is key. Think back to when you first started with your club. What was important to you? What did your club do well? What could have been improved? What do you see other clubs do well? How can you bring these learnings into your club?

By making sure all new members are greeted by a trained club official, allows them to learn the ropes, ask questions and find their feet a lot quicker- as it can be daunting at first turning your passion into a

successful hobby. When welcoming new members, many of our clubs have found that showcasing their friendly club environment through a BBQ or sausage sizzle event, has always been a hit. This is a great opportunity to meet everyone face-to-face as well as encouraging family to come along and get involved. Finally, a comprehensive welcome pack to new members should provide all the information and contact details required to take to the skies safely.

This pack can include the following, but feel free to personalise it to suit your club:

- A personal welcome from the Club President or Secretary
- Important contact details with an introduction to your executive members and flight instructors
- Some information on the club, its history, flight schedule and handbook
- Tips on flying for beginners from members of your club
- A social events calendar
- Simple information, like where to find the tea, coffee and facilities or a checklist of what to bring (water bottle, hat and sunscreen)
- Information on how people can become involved and help out
- Insider tips on local weather conditions and the best times to fly
- Club website address where more details can be found.
- Some tips on creating a welcome pack are available via the MAAA website [here](#)

## Plant the seed and watch it grow

When it comes to our sport loved by so many, growth in club memberships allows members to share your passion

for your sport with more people and let them experience the thrill of flight that has captivated so many Australians. It also enables your club to access more funds to make improvements to your facilities and to gain more recognition from your mates and your local community. Here are some simple tips that may assist in the process.

- Host a "Have a Go Fly Day" (the MAAA are in the process of developing a marketing pack) to help you. Please [email](#), to let us know if you are interested in receiving a pack. This event allows your current members to show off their skills and passion for flying.
- Use Facebook to promote your club and make it easier for your club members to engage online.
- Promote ways that people can try the sport of aeromodelling at your club
- Offer free flying lessons to interested parties or organise a members night where everyone can bring along a friend
- Share a story with our flying community on how your club has successfully attracted new members.
- Run interclub events

## Hosting a successful public event

The MAAA encourages clubs to hold public events, welcoming the local community and allowing them to 'have a go'. We want to see our fantastic sport grow- it really is a sport that can be enjoyed by the whole family. In order to share the excitement of aeromodelling in a fun and safe environment, here are some tips to ensure your event flies smoothly.

- Decide on a date and time for your event- you need to think about who you want to attract, families, fathers and sons or daughters? Does your event date clash with any other local or major events that could affect the turn out?
- Create a timetable of key activities for your event
- Consider why you are running the event- Is it being run as a social get-together for your club and their family or is it a membership drive?
- When organising and hosting an event for your club you may need to consider public liability and insurance (contact the MAAA if you have any queries)
- Event permits- contact your local council
- Community awareness- have you told the neighbours ahead of time?
- Traffic management and car parking- do you have enough parking to cater for visitors?
- First Aid- how many qualified personnel do you need? Is anyone at the club qualified?
- Risk Management- assess any potential risks at events.
- Sample application forms for display permits and flight line Director Statements are provided in the MOP Procedures and Forms section of the MAAA website
- You will require a CASA Display permit if your club is not within an approved area. If you are within a CASA approved area, you will need to advise your State Association. If you are a small club, your state or the MAAA may be able to help you fund the permit fee. Ask your state first. If they are unable to help contact the MAAA.

# MORE TIPS...

- The Holdfast Model Aero Club in SA offer free flying lessons every Sunday to novice pilots as part of their Low Cost Integrated Flight Training (LIFT) program. It provides a great opportunity for friends to get together, share their collective knowledge and have a lot of fun along the way.
- Get your members recognised by sending in your stories to [editor@maaa.asn.au](mailto:editor@maaa.asn.au). We would love to hear about outstanding members and what they are doing to support and grow the sport of modelling. We'll either publish these stories in Wingspan or on the MAAA Facebook page.
- We want members to feel proud of their clubs. If you have had some great success with keeping your members happy and engaged, we would love to hear from you. Send an [email](mailto:editor@maaa.asn.au) or message us on Facebook [web.facebook.com/MAAAaeromodelling/](https://www.facebook.com/MAAAaeromodelling/)
- There are pilots out there who for health, physical or financial stresses cannot continue their joy of flying. Clubs may be able to extend a helping hand by offering volunteer or social memberships to keep these pilots in the loop. They may no longer be able to fly, but they have a terrific amount of knowledge and expertise that can benefit your members, whether supporting and educating novice pilots or helping with current members skill development. It's also a great opportunity for these pilots to continue to play an active role in their community.

## All in the family

The MAAA want to help our clubs so that members enjoy their sport and the camaraderie of their community more. We want members to get more out of their membership as well as stay with your club longer. There is an enormous amount of knowledge within our clubs about what you can do to give your members the best experience.

## Ways to help your members get more out of their membership

- Family, social events are a great way to welcome member's families to our flying community so they not only understand the sport but will feel more inclined to come down to the club and get involved when possible.
- There is an enormous amount of knowledge in the MAAA community, so why not utilise that expertise and bounce ideas off other clubs to see what works for them. If you've got a great story, share it with us, and we'll publish it.
- Weekend workshops and flight training are a great way for members to improve their skills.

## Next Steps to take:

- Stay updated on breaking news, tips and tricks and events by liking the [MAAA Facebook page](https://www.facebook.com/MAAAaeromodelling/)
- Make sure your club is listed on the MAAA website. To submit your club's details, go to [www.maaa.asn.au/how-to-add-a-club-listing](http://www.maaa.asn.au/how-to-add-a-club-listing) and simply fill out the form. To update an active listing, simply click the 'Update to an existing listing' field.
- Request a marketing pack (available late March) Email our [editor@maaa.asn.au](mailto:editor@maaa.asn.au) to run a "Have a Go Fly Day" at your local field
- Email our [editor@maaa.asn.au](mailto:editor@maaa.asn.au) to share club success or member stories so we can share these with your community

**And watch out for our Member Update launching the Have a Go Flying Day in March.**

# EVENT SUCCESS



The Roaring Forties Aero Modellers Club held their own fundraising event for the Royal Flying Doctor Service as part of the Australian Model Flying Day in 2016. Through opening up their field to not only members, but to family and friends, allowed them to showcase their facilities, highlight their sport and put their club on the map to the local community.



# WorldHobbies.com



Bringing the Best Brands to Your Door

# SOARING AROUND THE WORLD IN FREE FLIGHT

A FIRST-HAND GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE OF LIVING A LIFE OF FLYING



Taking his aeromodelling wings around the world has allowed Australian free flight pilot Tahn Stowe to experience different cultures, meet diverse and fascinating people and see incredible sights from a bird's-eye view.

Having spent many years flying in free flight competitions around the globe from Argentina, the Ukraine, Italy and the Czech Republic, Tahn said it was always in his blood to be involved in aeromodelling—having been born the only son of a fanatical aeromodeller (Ivor F Stowe) who ran the Doonside Model Aero Club from a hut in their suburban backyard.

From those humble beginnings as a seven-year-old flying model planes with his father, Tahn says aeromodelling continues to excite him, stating that it

is one of the most engaging hobby /sports that involves conception, planning, design, engineering, tactile skills, practice and in the case of free flight competitions, physical endurance.

"The sensation of setting free a heavier than air craft to soar in an invisible thermal and to compete with similar modellers from around the country or the world is both humbling and inspiring," said Tahn.

"Travelling around Australia or internationally to various competitions has broadened my understanding of the world and the way people live, as well as forging life-long friendships."



Tahn Stowe has competed in free flight competitions around the globe from Argentina to the Czech Republic.



Tahn said he has greatly appreciated the MAAA's sponsorship of World Championship teams both as a competitor and a team manager. However his most memorable, unsponsored trip, involved a three month model flying holiday, touring Europe in a campervan with his model planes.

Starting out in France, flying at one of the biggest competitions, Poitou and at Moncontour, Tahn then competed at Capponori in Italy before venturing to Greda Sunjska in Croatia and finishing up in Bulgaria.

Having flown with so many different people from around the world, Tahn said the international fraternity that is aeromodelling, encompassed extraordinary people from all walks of life. But with the amazing friendships forged, travelling has also shown him the different flying experiences modellers are faced with compared to Australia.

"Croatia has seen more than its share of conflicts over the centuries, however I was not prepared for one of the consequences of the most recent conflict. We were flying on a fairly small "common" which was used as grazing land for

the town's cows and a small area not more than 50 metres x 40 metres had been mown as a designated launch area, with a flight line marked by traffic cones about three metres apart.

"Upwind of this area was a river and down wind was a forest. I was wondering why no one was adopting the usual tactic of towing up and then heading down wind to wait for models to come overhead in lift and so 'piggy back' into the same thermal. I was told by the locals that the model could end up in the forest and that I would need a local to retrieve it as they knew where the unexploded land mines were."

So where in the world will 2017 take Tahn and his free flight planes? With his eyes set on the skies in California this month (February), Tahn will be competing in the 'Fab-Feb' three World Cup Free Flight Competitions that are held back to back.

We wish him the best of luck!

Gary Sunderland will be remembered as the little fella that loved to fly WW1 models



# A LASTING LEGACY FOR ONE OF FREE FLIGHT'S FINEST MODELLERS

## GARY SUNDERLAND'S GREAT ADVENTURE

**Fascinated with flight and the dynamics of how things flew was what first attracted the avid aviation enthusiast Gary Sunderland to the sport of aeromodelling.**

Finding his wings from a young age, Gary had a long standing career in the aviation industry as an aeronautical engineer with the Commonwealth Aircraft Factory, before taking up roles as safety inspector and air accident investigator with CASA. To add to his impressive resume, he was a full size

glider pilot and also took on the role as Editor and Technical Editor of Gliding Australia and was a WW1 aviation historian and light aircraft pilot.

Despite retiring from the aviation industry in 1994, Gary wasn't keen to hang up his wings, moving to Bacchus Marsh (the home of Victorian gliding) to join the Bacchus Marsh Model Aircraft Association.

Fellow club member, Joe Finocchiaro said Gary had a real love affair with flying and was an accomplished glider

pilot, previously being part of the Australian WC gliding team as well as an awarded RC modeler- winning the 2016 Free Flight Nationals at the age of 82.

"Gary loved aviation and the many aspects of the industry and hobby/ sport. He liked to research, build and fly each model which included free flight and indoor," he said.

"The WW1 models were not easy to fly, but Gary's tenacity and determination would not deter him.



He had a keen aviation mind and was a proud individual with a motto, 'do it once, do it right.

"He even built his own glider called MOBA (My Own Bloody Aircraft)- he did have a great sense of humour."

Gary built two versions of his MOBA aircraft which are still flying today at the Bacchus Marsh Glider Club.

As an RC modeller, he was the first person on the field and the last to leave. Gary loved early flight and WW1 aircraft which he scratch built and flew himself. He would build countless scratch built models that he researched and drew plans for. All were done by hand and these plans were published around the world by various modelling magazines.

If that didn't keep him busy enough, Gary was a long term member of the Victorian Flying Scale Aircraft Association (VFSAA) and took part in many competitions, this included the World Scale Championships in France in 1996. Rain, hail or shine, Gary was at every competition the association ran.

Mr Fincocchiaro said Gary will be sincerely missed as a dedicated modeller and friend of the Bacchus Marsh flying community.

"Flying and aviation was in his veins and he would always make himself available for displays. He attended all sorts of competitions and would travel extensively to be part of the group and enjoy the moment," he said.

"He will be sadly missed by the BMMAA Club, VFSAA, gliding community and many people who were lucky to know him."

"Gary will be missed as the little fella that loved to fly WW1 models."

Gary passed away on 3 November 2016 doing what he loved- flying. Our thoughts are with Gary's family.

Thank you to Joe Fincocchiaro, Bacchus Marsh Model Aircraft Association Club Member and Noel Whitehead, Secretary of VFSAA for providing the information.

# TAKING TO THE SKIES CAN BE A BREEZE

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN CLUB TAKING NEW PILOTS UNDER THEIR WING THROUGH TRAINING PROGRAM



Holdfast Model Aero Club in South Australia is encouraging novice modellers to get off to a flying start, offering free flying lessons at the club every Sunday.

For many modellers, flying with the MAAA provides the opportunity for friends to get together, share their collective knowledge and have a lot of fun along the way.

The Club's Low Cost Integrated Flight Training (LIFT) program was first launched in February 2016 to allow beginners to get a handle on the sport, understanding how to control and fly a model aircraft, so that they can take to the skies in the safest possible way, without having to invest immediately in expensive RC equipment.

Holdfast Club President Kingsley Neumann said in 2015, committee members Ross Lloyd and Geoff Haynes came up with an idea to revolutionise a method of gaining new

club members through flight training. A comparison was drawn to a horse riding school- no one would expect a newcomer to turn up with a horse and float before having a good try out on a club pony first.

The training program uses the excellent stabilised and variable flight envelope "Apprentice" by e-Flite, with the DX5e Spektrum radio. The Club instructors all attended training classes to familiarise themselves with the Apprentice and DX6 Master radios. Trainees are always in safe hands with the use of a wireless, dual radio system during flight, allowing the instructor to immediately take control if a pilot gets into any difficulty.

Kingsley said that the major benefit of this training program was that novice pilots can learn the ropes from the experts, before investing in any equipment. Three visits may be authorized in accordance with the MAAA rules. Trainees can then decide

to join the Club and continue with the formal HMAA Training Syllabus using the Club equipment. A trainee does not need to purchase a model or a radio until reaching Solo Standard.

"We have been teaching our members to fly model aircraft for years but recently found a better and easier way for people to get started in aeromodelling with the well-developed LIFT program."

"Around 50% of those who have come and undergone the initial training also returned for the extra sessions. In the first 7 months of operation, 27 people registered for the program and 9 of them joined the club as full members.

"In the last 12 months alone, we have gone from 80 members to almost 100. You're never too old to learn, as most of our members are in the 50+ age bracket."



As a club member, you have the opportunity to share your interest with other like-minded hobbyists who will gladly share their knowledge and experience with you."

"You can progress at your own pace, choosing to remain a leisurely flyer or join in various levels of competition, ranging from pylon racing to aerial combat, pattern flying and aerobatics. And there's no need to be concerned if you aren't an expert after your first training lessons, as you will be covered under the Club's public liability insurance if anything were to happen."

Holdfast's training programs extend well beyond their flying fields, with modellers going into the local community to share their passion for flying with school students.

Holdfast Club has established an annual visit to students from Blackwood High School's Autism

Intervention Group. This has been an extremely rewarding endeavour, promoting friendship in the community between the club and the high school through the LIFT program.

"It's not just about teaching students to fly planes, it's more about creating an experience for them, building that friendship between us and the students," said Kingsley.

"At the end of the 2016 school year, students and teachers were able to interact and learn from skilled modellers as well as being treated to a fantastic flying display by Ashley West, Horst Dahms and David Whitten."

To spread your wings and learn to fly, the Club's LIFT program runs from 10am-12.30pm on Sundays (weather permitting).

To take part, you simply need to come to the field, fill out an application form (so you are covered by insurance) and you're ready to fly.

The program allows you to take part in three free training sessions and beyond that, you can still use club models and equipment but need to pay the membership fee.

Kingsley encourages anyone interested in the sport to come along and give it a go. You never know whether there's an ace pilot inside you ready to take to the skies.

[Click here](#) for details of our Low cost Integrated Flight Training (LIFT) program and membership information.



# MILESTONE FOR AUSTRALIAN FREE FLIGHT COMMUNITY

THE NSW FREE FLIGHT SOCIETY

The skies were the limit, when it came to a dream that the NSW Free flight Society had of owning and running Australia's first and only free flight field.

Two years on and a once rundown farm in West Wyalong has been transformed into a functional, fit-for-purpose place for our passionate modellers to stretch their wings and soar.

Due to the persistence and passion of our team including, Tahn Stowe, Roy Summersby and Terry Bond to find a piece of land free flyers could call home, as well as the generosity of Adrian and Jo Bryant who originally saw the potential in this site and thankfully bought it- the NSW Free flight Society continues to grow its community of dedicated and loyal flyers who love coming together regularly.

This field is centrally located for most of the free flight members in eastern Australia. It provides sufficient space- stretching over 700 acres, and is a place where members can fly in

preparation for special contests and world championships. Previously there has never been a place that the free flight members could call home- this field does that.

Over the two years we have undertaken various improvements to the site including new shower and toilet blocks, a small club room adjacent to the radio field, along with a small shade area just behind the strip.

The once derelict farmhouse has been transformed with new ceilings in the dining room and lounge room, new vinyl laid over Masonite to most of the house, extra roof covering to the side veranda, new external doors and electrical work to both the house and camping area.

We have recently acquired artificial grass, as well as paper mill conveyer belt so that we can build a proper RC strip and control line circles.

The ultimate aim for our field is to have national and state championships held here. We are in the preparation

stages with works including, completing an all weather road to the RC field, preparing the RC field with a special take off and landing surface, purchase of a suitable mower and increasing the size of the caravan and camping area, to name a few.

There is still plenty of work to be done. We now have something which is unique in Australia. A free flight field that is solely owned by its members, supported by the local council and the friendship of the town. That's definitely a rewarding feeling.

The use of the field in preparation for the next world championship in Hungary this year will be a huge asset to the team. Plans are also being prepared for the 70th 'Reunion' Nationals to be held in May 2018. An information pack has been prepared and is available through the MAAA.

## From the MAAA

Thank you to the Executive of the NSWFFS for sharing this fantastic story.



# MANAGEMENT MATTERS: FLIGHT INSTRUCTOR TRAINING SYSTEM

TRAINING AND SKILL DEVELOPMENT MEANS MORE FUN AND GREATER ENJOYMENT

For 75 years the MAAA has been Australia's largest flying organisation and our goal is to give our members the best possible flying experience, whether they be a novice, enthusiast or a highly experienced pilot. Training and skill development means more fun and greater enjoyment, keeping the skies safe and injury free, so that more modellers can enjoy the adrenalin rush and camaraderie that this sport provides.

At the 2012 MAAA Council Conference, a standard system for training MAAA instructors was developed and demonstrated by NSW. With MAAA funding, demonstrations of the system then took place in South Australia, Victoria and Queensland. Each state association was invited to send current instructors, prospective instructors and state chief flying instructors- with invitations extended to include other state associations. In a joint agreement, the MAAA covered the cost of the airfares for those attending from interstate, as well as the host association providing accommodation and transport.

Having experienced the training system and its concept of 'Train the Trainer', the state associations were requested to either adopt the system as it stood or modify it to suit the individual requirements of each state-but retain the Train the Trainer concept.

MASA over time developed the system into a compact and useful tool for training instructors and by adopting electronics, have been able to produce a system that can be used with simulators.

MASA was also requested to assist with training of instructors in Hobart and Launceston in 2016, which proved to be very helpful, successful and beneficial to all who attended. MAAQ is currently looking at sending two of their instructors to South Australia in February for a refresher course in the MASA system.

Moving forward with our training and skill development, the MAAA has embarked on a project of producing the first of several animated

presentations for 'Wings' with the release of an online animated video for Bronze and Silver Wings for fixed wing models, coming in March 2017.

We want our pilots to get more out of this exciting and thrilling sport. The MAAA will continue to ensure members have access to world-class instructors, training and advice to become the best they can be at flying their chosen aircraft. From the MAAA's Wings program and one-on-one mentoring, to our comprehensive pilot and instructor training programs, you can learn to fly quickly and safely, in a controlled and supportive environment.



Mark Bell, RFDS Base Manager and Robert Needham, RFDS Executive Manager-Fundraising are presented with a \$5,000 cheque from Kevin Dodd, Secretary for MAAA

# CHARITY EVENT A SOARING SUCCESS

MAAA RECOGNISES ROYAL FLYING DOCTOR SERVICE ON ANNUAL AUSTRALIAN MODEL FLYING DAY 2016

Australian model flyers across the country have raised more than \$5000 for the Royal Flying Doctor Service, during the MAAA's annual Australian Model Flying Day, held nationwide in October 2016.

Individual clubs and their dedicated members dug deep, holding fundraising events and hosting BBQs for community members and guests. It was also a great opportunity for clubs to show the Australian public the fun and thrills that can be experienced in the sport of model flying.

The MAAA is proud to have hosted this successful, family-friendly, nationwide event, supporting clubs as well as providing vital funds to the Royal Flying Doctor Service-Australia's 24-hour emergency service that assists people in need.

MAAA president Neil Tank said he was thrilled with the outcome of the fundraising event, which highlighted the dedication of MAAA members and their clubs to support such a worthy cause.

"I am very proud that clubs across the country banded together to host a number of individual events on the Australian Model Flying Day in October," he said.

"It not only raised much-needed funds for the Royal Flying Doctor Service, but it also allowed the general public to visit our clubs, see our flying fields and experience the thrill of flight and camaraderie which makes our sport so unique."

CEO of the Royal Flying Doctor Service of Australia. Martin Laverty said the money donated from the MAAA will go directly to support ongoing RFDS services and operations across Australia.

"The Flying Doctor relies heavily on the support of the communities in which it works – from those who volunteer, to the everyday Australians who donate to keep the Doctor flying", says Martin.

"We have a deep respect for these incredible people and thank them sincerely for their ongoing support."

## THANK YOU

A big thank you to the following clubs for taking part in the Australian Model Flying Day

- 131/2 Squadron
- Alice Springs Radio Control Modellers
- BADMAC
- Bendigo Radio Controlled Aircraft Club
- Belconnen Model Aero Club
- Bacchus Marsh Model Aircraft Association
- Bega District Model Clubs
- Constellation Model Flying Club
- Dubbo Model Aero Club
- Dardanup Aeromodellers Society
- Doncaster Aeromodellers' Club
- Eurobodalla MAC
- Grafton Model Aircraft Club
- Gympie Model Flyers
- Latrobe Valley Model Aero Club
- Lilydale and District Model Flying Association
- Kingaroy Aero Modellers Society Inc
- Launceston Model Aero Club Inc
- MASCOTNQ
- Moonta MAC
- Noarlunga Model Aero Sports
- Naracoorte Model Aero Club
- Roaring Forties Club
- Queanbeyan Model Aircraft Club
- Samford Valley Flyers
- South Hummocks Model Aero Club
- SEAT
- SWARMS
- Tingalpa Model Aero Club
- Townsville RACS
- Wangaratta Aero Modellers

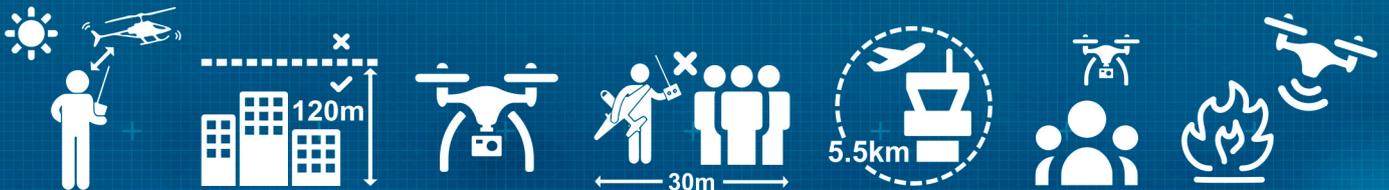


Australian Government

Civil Aviation Safety Authority



# KNOW THE RULES – FLY SAFE



[casa.gov.au/drone](https://casa.gov.au/drone)



# THE 2017 NORFOLK ISLAND FLY-IN

In the last week of October the skies above peaceful Norfolk Island will come alive with the sights and sounds of model aeroplanes when the Tingalpa Model Aero Club joins the local Norfolk Island Club to present the 2017 Norfolk Island Fly In.

Over the past four years the success of this annual event has become the highlight of the year for many flyers. One of the reasons it works so well is that Norfolk Island is a pretty unique model-aero flying destination. The Island is small yet has a huge variety of places to fly from, so depending on conditions on the day flyers simply hop in their cars to be 5 - 10 minutes away from a suitable flying location. From one side of the island to the other and one valley to another, Norfolk's micro-climates ensure there is nearly always a suitable place to launch from. Added to this is the sheer beauty of Norfolk Island providing one spectacular backdrop after another to planes darting across the sky.

Participating flyers in past years have brought over a range of planes and gliders for indoor, outdoor and night flying, all of which occur during the week. While some choose to

bring a variety of planes both big and small, others will put together kit planes once on the island. There's no problem for appropriately licensed flyers to bring planes with jet turbines using A1 aviation gas as this can be organised to be available for visiting flyers.

Travelling for the Fly-In of course offers a South Pacific Holiday in addition to the flying. Not only is this week of appeal to flyers, but also non-flying family and friends. There is so much to do on this little Island including historic and cultural tours and activities, swimming, shopping, reef snorkelling and National Parks. The golf course is within spectacular World Heritage listed Kingston, and the fishing is locally called 'catching'!

The local Norfolk Island Model Aero Club together with the Tingalpa Model Aero Club extend an invitation to all model aeroplane flyers across Australia and New Zealand to join them on Norfolk Island for the next Fly-In to be held from the 21st to 26th October 2017.

## SPECIAL OFFER...

The Norfolk Island Travel Centre has prepared travel packages for TMAC starting at \$1229pp twin share ex Brisbane and \$1279pp twin share ex Sydney including airfare, accommodation, 7 days car hire, welcome and farewell dinners. Free call 1800 1400 66 or email [jacqui@travelcentre.nf](mailto:jacqui@travelcentre.nf) for an Information Pack. [www.norfolkislandtravelcentre.com](http://www.norfolkislandtravelcentre.com)



## Join Tingalpa and Norfolk Island Aero Club members at the... **Norfolk Island Fly In 'Allen Danvers Challenge'**

Holiday on Norfolk Island as you fly your model planes around the island. Enjoy a variety of flying locations set among convict buildings, cliff-tops, coral reefs, green valleys and rainforest.

Holiday Packages incl. airfare  
7 nights accommodation  
7 days car hire  
welcome and farewell dinners  
Fly-In T Shirt and more



21 - 28 October ex Brisbane from \$1229pp twin share  
20 - 27 October ex Sydney from \$1279pp twin share



**Norfolk Island  
Travel Centre**  
*meet the locals...*

[www.norfolkislandtravelcentre.com](http://www.norfolkislandtravelcentre.com)

Email: [jacqui@travelcentre.nf](mailto:jacqui@travelcentre.nf)

Free Call: Australia 1800 1400 66

Free Call: New Zealand 0800 0088 10



[www.facebook.com/thetravelcentrenorfolkisland](https://www.facebook.com/thetravelcentrenorfolkisland)