



Waikerie Gliding Club Inc.
PO Box 320 Waikerie SA 5330
Phone (08) 8541 2644

secretary@waikerieglidingclub.com.au
www.waikerieglidingclub.com.au

PRESIDENTS REPORT 2014 - 2015

Once again, we have had a hectic season with great input from many tireless club members. Thank you to all who have contributed in the many and varied ways to keep the club viable. Rather than repeat my thanks to each individual, I have mentioned most of them in my newsletters throughout the season.

WORKING BEES

The working bees last winter weren't as intensive as the previous year but as usual a great turnout by members saw a lot of necessary work completed and new projects started. We have scheduled two weekends this coming winter in June and August.

NATIONALS

The major event was the Multi Class Nationals held in January, preceded by a week long coaching week. The coaching week and the Nationals practice days and first competition day saw some classic Waikerie weather, and then the weather crashed with a tropical influence and some rainy days. In the end we managed 5 scoring days which was sufficient to declare a championship in all classes. Thanks again to all who assisted in both these events.

OTHER EVENTS

The facilities were very well used this season and apart from the Nationals and coaching week the following events were held or hosted;

Orange Week and State Comps - November 2014

National Aerobatics Championships – November 2014

SA Timing Association – December 2014

Engine Course – March 2015

Air Cadets Camp – April 2015

As well, we provided accommodation for the Waikerie Enduro, Rock 'n Roll Festival and a group of Norwegian students on a study tour.

AIRWORTHINESS

As noted in my newsletters, the LS7 returned to service and what a terrific job was done with the re-finish. The LS4 has remained out of service with further complications with the undercarriage. Hopefully by the time of the AGM it will be back in the air. Thanks to John Hudson, Nigel Baker, Mark Morgan, John Ridge and others who have helped with this frustrating and time consuming problem.

Our Pawnee went in for its regular 100 hourly and came back with a \$25,000 bill for remedial works!

OPERATIONS / SAFETY / SMS

In my frustration regarding lack of instructor input, I sent out a plea during the year, and to my delight there has been a response to assisting with the roster. We have also been fortunate to regain a former member, David Schenke who has had his tow rating re-instated and is back on the tug roster. David began flying in the early sixties and is a former club President. We also welcomed Ziggy Kusiak & Marta Najfeld as new members and Marta has indicated her willingness to both instruct and tow once they have re-settled in Adelaide. I have completed the Safety Management System (SMS) which will soon be available on the documents page of our website. Apart from the LS4 undercarriage problems, we have once again had an accident and incident free club operation.

AIRFIELD

Apart from the spread of the gazania weeds, the field is looking in reasonable condition and the pads made it through a relatively mild summer. With a bit of TLC, the sprinklers should last a few more seasons as we delayed the replacement program when we got the bill for the Pawnee. The caltrop 'took off' late again this summer but we got the worst of it with timely spaying and hand removing. The council spent a total of 6 weeks mowing the entire airfield before January which greatly assisted, especially with the Nationals looming.

CLUBHOUSE & GROUNDS

The saga of the huts and clubhouse kitchen continues with negotiations between the Council and the Insurers ongoing. At the time of writing we are discussing a proposal with them in order to resolve the necessary repairs. The Council still have not addressed our approach to renew the lease, but we have their firm assurance that the current lease (which 'expired' in 2013) remains in force until the time a new lease is signed. We will move on this once the hut and kitchen saga is resolved.

COMPETITIONS

As well as the Nationals and coaching week mentioned above, our hardy Horsham crew attended Horsham Week again in February, and you will have seen their great results in my March newsletter. We also held a very successful State Comps and Orange Week with our pilots all putting up good performances.

MILESTONES

During the year a few milestones were reached, most notably, Ron Brock knocking up his 60th year of continuous gliding in March this year. An amazing effort! Ron began training at 9 years of age and went solo at 11 – the youngest ever in Australia. It was because of him that the age was later updated to 15. He achieved his Gold C distance at the age of 15 in an Olympia sailplane. Well done Ron. On February 22nd I mentioned to Pete Siddall that my flight in the LS7 that day brought up my 3000th hour gliding. Upon checking his log book later that night, he discovered that it was his 7,000th tow!

Also, after many years of sterling service to the club, John & Jean Hudson have indicated that they will be winding down or ceasing their commitment in the kitchen. They deserve all our congratulations for the kudos, reputation and camaraderie that this service has brought to our club. Well done!

COMMITTEE

As well as Ziggy & Marta we also welcomed Brodie Kilkenney and Martin Rule as new members.

Look out for a refreshed website soon – thanks to Art Hohmann and Peter Siddall for taking on this mammoth task.

Our finances are in good order and we have decided to have independent audits done, even though they're not mandatory. We are also looking at a new financial software package.

We have struggled to have regular face to face committee meetings this year for various reasons, but we keep in close touch by phone and email. Once again, there is a lot to deal with especially other than flying and I thank my committee for their efforts in each of their portfolios again this year. Thanks to Patrick Dunn who has moved to Melbourne for job opportunities. His input as a committee member was refreshing.

Let's look forward to another safe and happy flying year ahead.

Bill Mudge
President, Waikerie Gliding Club Inc.

23/05/2015