

# Out of the Blue

Waikerie Gliding Club Newsletter

February 2007

## Waikerie Operations

### Members Week and State Comps

See the attached "Flyers" for a Members Week and State Comp at the end of February, 2007.

### Calendar – 2007

A "Calendar" of dates relevant to Club activities is included at the end of this news letter. Members are encouraged to note these dates and get involved with as many Club activities as possible.

The Calendar also highlights Committee Meeting Dates – so members can visit and be involved with the management of our Club.

On Committee meetings weekends the Saturday evening after flying we will have a further series of "Discussion Topics" covering subjects of great interest to all.

### Members Kitchen

Some additional crockery, cutlery and cooking utensils would be useful in the Members Kitchen. (*we are particularly short of a large pot or two*)

If you have any items that are suitable, members are invited to drop them off in the Members Kitchen.

**John Hudson**

## Summer Fulltime Operations – 2006-2007.

The Club run a period of fulltime operations from 26 December 2006 to and including Sunday January 14 2007. During this time, a number of Japanese members visited Waikerie and the GFA/SAGA Coaching Week was held.

Between Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> December and Friday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2007, *Maurie Bradney Week* was held.

The weather through this time was mixed – with some good conditions, some wind, rain and dust and one unpleasant period with very high humidity.

A violent storm passed north of the airfield on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> January, and although there was little impact at the airfield, significant damage was sustained in Renmark when the storm reached there.

The WGC members visiting from Japan included Mr Kanno, Mr Honma, Mr Nakamura, Mr Nakayama, Mr Tsuzuki, Mr Okai, Mr Terakawa, Mr Yamada, Mr Hasagawa and Mr Takayoshi.

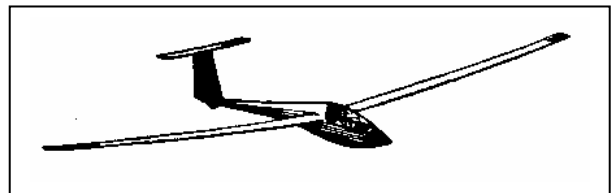
Our thanks to this group who replaced the electric kettle in the Members Kitchen.

Several local WGC members also attended for most of the time, including David and Ray Lawley, Craig Vinall, Gavin Wrigley, Phill Hollick, Cathy Conway and John Hudson. Other members used to opportunity to fly at various times, including Greg Jackson, Peter Paine and Peter Robinson.

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## DIARY DATES

<b>Annual General Meeting</b>	Next AGM May 19 <sup>th</sup> 2007
<b>Next Committee Meeting</b>	9 <sup>th</sup> February 2007
<b>Member's Flying Days</b>	28 <sup>th</sup> & 29 <sup>th</sup> January 2007
<b>Full Time Operations</b>	26 <sup>th</sup> Dec 06 to 13 <sup>th</sup> Jan 08



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(Summer Fulltime Operations continued)

Cathy and David Conway took ownership of the Nimbus 4DM ZBY on Monday 8 January, and had the opportunity to get some time in the machine, with David undertaking a flight of around 960 Km. We will hopefully get to hear more about the Nimbus 4DM from Cathy and David.

Club member Jim Hackett took delivery of his new AS H26E and after some flying in Club aircraft, converted to the new machine.

Other visitors who flew at Waikerie, mainly during Coaching Week included James Cooper (RTO/Sports WA), Bernard Eckey (BGC), Gorgio Galetto (Italy), Peter Reid (Tocumwal), Brian Rau, Paul Mason, Sid Nankivell and Frank Johann (all from ASC) and several pilots from Balaklava, University and Barossa Clubs.

On the biggest day, 26 gliders were launched to attempt various tasks.

Pilots were encouraged to set some personal goals prior to Coaching Week commencing, and in almost every instance, pilots not only achieved these goals but well exceeded them.

Throughout Coaching Week, a combined aerotow and winch operation was conducted, using the Waikerie Tug and the Balaklava Gliding Club winch. This was a most successful mix of launching methods, which progressed without any significant problems.

Our thanks go to the flight crews who covered the period of fulltime operations.

Without their participation we could not operate. The flight crews during the included Phill Hollick, Greg Jackson, Cathy Conway, Peter Robinson, Bill Mudge, Peter Siddal and John Hudson.

In summary, the fulltime operations period was conducted successfully, without any significant incidents. There were a lot of Km flown in a fun environment with the feedback from many of the participants very positive.

There were also some learnings which we as a Club can build on to make next seasons fulltime ops period even better. Thanks to all those who helped.

**John Hudson**

## **Japanese pilots make Waikerie home By DEIRDRE GRAHAM**

Six Japanese glider pilots have swapped the crowded land of Japan for the open skies of Waikerie. The six are in the Riverland for two weeks and are enjoying the warm gliding weather and open land around the Waikerie Gliding Club. Kanno Chuken, who lives in the city of Yokohama, said the six were making the most of their time in the country.

"We're flying here because of the better weather conditions - it's winter in Japan at the moment," he said. "I think it's a good summer and a big area to fly in. I like (being able) to fly cross country and getting to high altitude. Here you can land in a paddock because of the wide country. There is not much open space in Japan, so it's difficult to do the landings." Mr Chuken has been spending gliding summers in Australia for the past eight years, preferring the silence of gliders to the noise of powered aircraft. The record length of a glider flight currently stands at 3000 kilometres, recorded in the South American Andes.

Waikerie Gliding Club instructor Peter Robinson said instructing the Japanese pilots was challenging. "It's a lot easier if they can speak English because then you can explain everything," he said. With non-English speaking pilots you need to give short and concise instructions, but it helps that they are not beginners. In Japan the furthest cross-country flights they would be able to do is 200 kilometres, if that, and only get to heights of say 5000 feet. It's obviously a lot cooler there as well, so they come from their winter where its 10 degrees during the day to 40 degrees here. Here (in Waikerie) you can fly up to 1000 kilometre flights and heights up to 15,000 feet, so that's why they come here. In Australia, we have some of the best soaring conditions in the world and Waikerie is probably in the top three in Australia." He said "reading the weather was an essential pilot skill. If you want to fly fast and long distances you have to be good at reading the weather. Like on Sunday, you had to be able to read whether the clouds were going to overdevelop and turn into rain." He said "while some theory was necessary to learn, most skills needed to go solo were practical-based. It's really like driving a car," Mr Robinson said. "It takes 12 to 15 hours of flying time to go solo and only a small amount of theory. Once you learn it's like riding a bike, you never forget."

This article was provided with recognition and thanks to Deirdre Graham from the Murray Pioneer: Here is a link if you would like to follow up on lots of local news and events [www.murraypioneer.com.au](http://www.murraypioneer.com.au)  
*Sports: Friday January 5<sup>th</sup> 2007*

***A big thanks to our Japanese members who took Deirdre for a flight in the Duo.***

## **Don Workman**

Waikerie Gliding Club tug pilot died on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December 2006 in an aircraft accident when his Auster clipped powerlines whilst taking off from a strip at Nelson in Victoria

On Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2007 many friends, boaties, bikers and aviators attended Don Workman's funeral at Akuna Station right on the River Murray between Waikerie and Kingston. Don and his partner Nola managed the property and in the short time they lived in the area made many friends and did a lot to increase tourism, mainly centered around Akuna.

Throughout the service family and several of his close friends spoke at length about his love of the sea and how he found a wrecked Auster and completely stripped it down and re-built it to exacting standards.

An opportunity for everyone to privately farewell Don and experience the parting of a friend was made available when the coffin was placed on board the paddlesteamer Amphibious and it slowly drifted down stream. Don's remains were cremated at a private service and will be scattered at Akuna. A fly past of Austers and light aircraft including Nigels Dimona was a fitting tribute.

Everyone who knew Don will miss him.

## **WANTED YOUR NEWS ARTICLES**

### **Full time operations start**

Tuesday 26th December 06

From a Tow pilots perspective.

Good news, I arrived at Waikerie to tow and was informed by Mark that he needed an evaluation launch for the Duo Discus asap. Phil Hollick went along for the ride (another new glider for Phil to be converted to) and the clockwise rotating cumulus clouds were going ballistic at 10.00am Adelaide time.

Mark did an evaluation flight. David Lawley had a good flight in the LS4 and Mark did two check flights with our visitors, we then all had a break for lunch. This is very strange for us, but our Japanese friends needed a sandwich and a chance to enjoy some chat in the kitchen.

The duo Discus had two more launches staying up for 2 hours on the second flight getting to just over 5 thousand and honestly it has been many years since I have witnessed a more buoyant day.

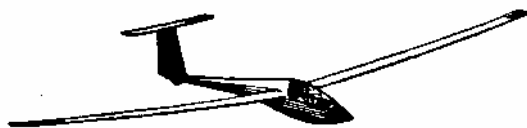
Wednesday 27th December 06

Some further briefings and check flights went on in the morning with Phil doing 5 1200 ft circuits with our visitors - kept me busy in the tug 3 to 4 minute tows. Phil Hollick in the LS7, David Lawley in the LS4 and Peter Paine in the Discus all took a launch at around 1500 but I had been watching this sea breeze frontal phenomenon approaching for several hours and thought that it would be spectacular or a fizzer. Turned out to be rough broken thermals to around 4000 - Peter managed a good effort Magee, Wunkar, Kingston (almost Kingston) and home.

It has been a bit hard for me to get in the air again after the sad news of losing one of our dear friends - Don Workman RIP - I am sure those Auster wings will take you to the heaven in the sky, where we will all meet up again one day.

Jet

Greg Jackson - Thursday, December 28, 2006 at 08:34:32 (CST)



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# **WAIKERIE MEMBERS WEEK**

**Saturday 24 February to Saturday 3 March 2007 inclusive.**

(Dates confirmed)

It is planned to hold a Waikerie Members Week of cross country flying for Club and Visiting pilots interested in *post solo development* and building or furthering their cross country skills.

If there is sufficient interest, another SAGA Coaching Weekend will be conducted on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> February.

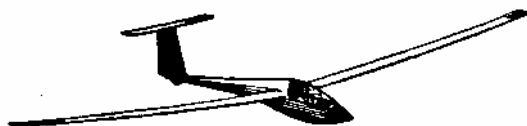
During this period, selected for the ideal gliding conditions expected at Waikerie during this part of the year, Daily Weather briefings will be provided. Following the briefing, tasks will be set for pilots to utilise the information obtained and assistance will be provided to help develop their individual task selection skills.

Cross-countries in a lead and follow format will be available options.

If there is sufficient interest, a SA State Competition will be incorporated during the period Monday 26<sup>th</sup> February to Friday 2 March.

All launching will be by aerotow.

If you are interested in attending this event, please let Craig Vinall or John Hudson know.



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# **WAIKERIE MEMBERS WEEK**

## **Incorporating the SA State Comps**

**Saturday 25 February to (and inc) Friday 3 March 2006 (inclusive).**

Waikerie Member's Week, incorporating the SA State Comps is planned for the above dates, as a *FUN* event, for pilots of all experience levels, interested in furthering their cross-country skills.

While "we won't be flying for sheep stations, Daily Prizes will be presented".

Some simple scoring rules are being developed for use for those who want to fly in the SA State Comps Category, all based on data loggers and set turnpoints – and these pilots can fly for sheep stations if they wish.

Evening meals will be catered.

Accommodation is available at the Club.

An informal Comps Dinner will be held on Friday evening, 3 March and trophies will be presented.

If you are interested in participating in any part of this fun event, complete the attached Entry Form and return it to:

**John Hudson**

39 Cumberland Ave  
Cumberland Park, SA  
5041

**E-mail:** [hudson@senet.com.au](mailto:hudson@senet.com.au)

**Phone** 08 82725929  
0419803093

Or **Craig Vinall**

E-mail [craig.vinall@bigpond.com](mailto:craig.vinall@bigpond.com)  
0416236662



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# **WAIKERIE WEEK ENTRY FORM**

## **Incorporating the SA State Comps**

**Saturday 25 February to (and inc) Friday 3 March 2006 (inclusive).**

**Pilot Name:** ..... **Home Club:**.....

**Badges held:**    C        Silver C    Gold C        Other:.....

**Last Check Flight (date)** ...../...../..... **Total Hours:** .....Hours

**Glider Type:** ..... **Rego: VH-**.....

**Data Logger: Type** .....

**Category:**        Basic CC Class    Fun Class        Ballasted State Comps Class  
(Circle 1)

**Insurance:**

**Accommodation Required at WGC:**        Yes / No

**Type:**    Dormitory        Twin Share        Double Room        Family Room

Evening meals will be available on-site.

## Waikerie Gliding Club Calendar 2007

### January 2007

- I            Fri 26 Flying Day
- I            Sat 27 Flying Day
- I            Sun 28 Flying Day

### February 2007

- Fri 9 Committee meeting
- I            Sat 10 Flying Day - Evening Discussion Topic
- T            Sun 11 Flying Day
- Sat 24 SAGA Coaching weekend
- Sun 25 SAGA Coaching weekend
- Mon 26 to Fri 2 Members Week incorporating S.A. State Comps

### March 2007

- I            Sat 3 Flying Day
- Sun 4 Flying Day
- Sat 17 Flying Day
- Sun 18 Flying Day
- Fri 30 Committee meeting
- TI          Sat 31 Flying Day - Evening Discussion Topic

### April 2007

- Sun 1 Flying Day
- Sat 17 Flying Day
- Sun 18 Flying Day
- TI          Sat 28 Flying Day
- Sun 29 Flying Day

Flying over the last 12 months has been regular on average every second week throughout the year and will continue for 2007 – members have the opportunity to arrange flying on the in-between weeks – simply round up an instructor and a tow pilot.

Members week last year just went so well we are doing it again - amazing weather fantastic comrade -ship and the Sunset café and wines out of this world.

At the time of writing (currently) this is the situation re basic crew. Duty pilot and launch crews are also required on the day.

I. In the first column means we have an instructor volunteer for that day.

T. In the first column means we have a volunteer Tow Pilot for that day.

TI. In first column means we have an instructor and a tow pilot for that day – We can fly.

## Waikerie Gliding Club Calendar 2007

### May 2007

Sat 12 Flying Day  
Sun 13 Flying Day  
TI Sat 19 Flying Day (Morning flying till start of AGM)  
Sun 20 Flying Day

### June 2007

Sat 2 Working Bee weekend  
Sun 3 Working Bee weekend  
Fri 15 Committee meeting (TBC)  
I Sat 16 Flying Day - Evening Discussion Topic  
T Sun 17 Flying Day  
Sat 30 Flying Day

### July 2007

Sun 1 Flying Day  
I Sat 14 Flying Day  
Sun 15 Flying Day  
Sat 28 Flying Day  
Sun 29 Flying Day

### August 2007

Fri 10 Committee meeting (TBC)  
I Sat 11 Flying Day - Evening Discussion Topic  
T Sun 12 Flying Day

**Annual General Meeting and Birthday celebrations**

**Lot of Job to do – Lists will be published on the chat and news Lots of help welcome**

**REMINDER TO ALL CREW TO ORGANISE YOUR ROSTER DAYS WITH PETE SIDDALL URGENTLY SO THAT WE CAN CONFIDENTLY MARK UP OUR DIARIES FOR THE YEAR**

## Waikerie Gliding Club Calendar 2007

### September 2007

- I Sat 8 Flying Day
- Sun 9 Flying Day
- Sat 22 Flying Day
- Sun 23 Flying Day

### October 2007

- Fri 5 Committee meeting (TBC)
- I Sat 6 Flying Day - Evening Discussion Topic
- T Sun 7 Flying Day
- Sat 20 Flying Day
- Sun 21 Flying Day

### November 2007

- I Sat 3 Flying Day
- Sun 4 Flying Day
- Fri 16 Committee meeting (TBC)
- Sat 17 Flying Day - Evening Discussion Topic
- T Sun 18 Flying Day

### December 2007

- I Sat 1 Flying Day
- Sun 2 Flying Day
- Fri 14 Committee meeting (TBC)
- I Sat 15 Flying Day - Evening Discussion Topic
- T Sun 16 Flying Day
- Wed 26 Full Time Operations

### January 2008

Check the web page regularly for any changes and updates to the calendar

Remember we can only fly if we have an instructor and a tow pilot

Maurie Bradney Wk