

Out of the Blue

Waikerie Gliding Club Newsletter

SEPTEMBER 2006

IN THIS CLUB NEWS IS A RUNDOWN ON WHAT HAS BEEN HAPPENING AROUND THE CLUB OVER THE WINTER PERIOD

Waikerie Operations

From wgcchat@lists.riverland.net.au

Another busy weekend at Waikerie.

On Friday evening, 6th July, the first meeting of the new Committee took place.

On Saturday 7th, another **Working Bee** was held. A considerable number of jobs were able to be completed. Jobs completed included:

- Checking and repairing all the sprinkler hoses and repositioned these for the coming season back on the airfield - please don't drive over any of these hoses.
- Repaired and repainted the eastern doors to the Members Kitchen.
- Installed a number of security lights around the outside of the Clubrooms and installed some new fluro's in the Clubrooms.
- Installed a new window frame in the Office.
- Installed a new door to the Office.
- Repaired the car park fluro - lights it up like day now.
- Replaced the batteries in all of the smoke alarms.
- Tidied the wood storage area and the Garden Shed.
- Repaired the roof of the carport off the main hangar.

- Got the Club accounts up-to-date.
 - Repaired some more holes in the Igloo Hanger floor.
 - Tidied some more of the Igloo hangar.
- To all those who assisted, a big thank you for your efforts.

Outstanding member

The opportunity was taken to celebrate 40 years in gliding by Bill Mudge - well done Bill and may there be lots more years.

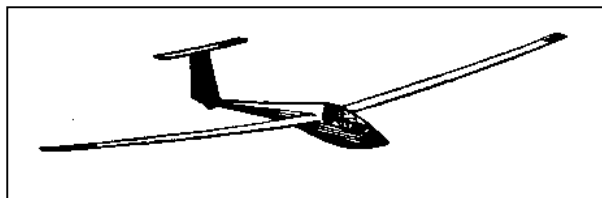
After a meal on Saturday evening, a presentation and discussion was held, around the topic of AEROTOW RETRIEVES - FROM THE TOW PILOTS PERSPECTIVE. Prepared notes for this discussion will be included in the Club documents section of the Website. This turned out to be a lively session with considerable discussion.

On Sunday, with a north-westerly breeze steadily increasing in strength, flying ops got underway. Peter Paine in the Discus had 137 minutes, with climbs to around 5000 Ft. New members David and Peter Schenke both flew. David was a very active member in the past and returns to gliding after a long absence. David had a few flights before re-soloing - well done David. Son Peter had a couple of flights with Cath Conway. Graham Francis had 25 minutes in KYS. Others to fly included David and Ray Lawley and Dion Baker and a friend of his in the Twin Astir and Bernie Kanopka. The opportunity was taken to complete the towing endorsement for Sarah Allen.

John Hudson

DIARY DATES

Annual General Meeting	Next AGM May 19 th 2007
Next Committee Meeting	8 th September 2006
Member's Flying Days	9 th & 10 th September 2006
Fly'in Oct Long Weekend	30 th Sept, 1 & 2 Oct 2006



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Waikerie Gliding Club AGM – 2005-2006

The Club's Annual General Meeting was held on Saturday 20th May.

After the fog lifted to reveal reasonable gliding conditions, several members flew prior to the meeting, including Peter Robinson in his Nimbus 2 (who took-off at 1110 Hrs and flew until 1350 Hrs, when he landed to sit in on the AGM, Pete Paine in the LS7, Ray Lawley in the Astir, Phil Hollick and Dave Lawley (Ray's father) in the Twin Astir - capturing some great video footage, Bill Mudge in the Discus and Bernie Konopka in the Astir.

Several "long-term" members were invited back to the Club for the day, and it was great to see ten members from near and far, many accompanied by their wives, come along and use the opportunity to renew acquaintances and see what was happening around the Club.

Those attending included Michael and Meridith Arnold, Rom and Bev Barratt, Richard Gatenbeck, Bob and Sue Martin, Martin Simmons, Bill and Barbara Tapp, John and Helen Thompson, Max and Carol Pennyfield, Moss Potter and Denby Thompson.

A good rollup of members turned out to attend the AGM at 1400 Hrs, an important event in the Club's annual calendar.

The election of Office bearers for the Club resulted in the following:

**John Hudson, re-elected President,
Peter Robinson, elected Vice-President,
Craig Vinall, elected Treasurer.**

Committee members elected/re-elected were

**Allen Hudson.
Peter Page.
Peter Paine.
Stuart Skevington.
Greg Jackson.**

Prior to the meeting (and unfortunate for WGC), Graham Francis advised he would not be available for re-election to the Committee. Graham is a long-term member of WGC and in recent years, a major driver of Club business, projects and events. Graham will be sadly missed as a stalwart of the Committee. When next you see Graham, give him a pat on the back for a great effort.

At the conclusion of the AGM, flying operations recommenced, with Peter Robinson flying for another 74 minutes and Bill Mudge flew several Air Experience flights. As the daylight began to fade, the gliders were hangared and the bar opened, allowing members old and new to talk gliding.

Around 40 people sat down to a 3 course dinner, ably prepared by Marie and Jean, before Martin Simmons made an impressive 2 hour presentation on the learning's of glider design and construction over the years. Martins presentation, titled "How We Learnt about Sailplanes from Our Masters" - or (considering the assembled audience) "You Must Remember This", captured the attention of us all. A great presentation well supported by visual drawings / graphics etc. Certainly a great way to wind-up another great day at Waikerie, and learn the how and why changes have been made to gliders over the years – Well done Martin.

In 2007, the Waikerie Gliding Club will celebrate its 70th year. An even larger celebration is being planned to coincide with the AGM on 19th May, 2007.

NB: Subsequent to the AGM, Graham Francis has graciously agreed to continue to assist with the Club's Secretarial activities until we can identify and appoint another member to take on this role. Thanks Graham.

**John Hudson.
President**

Members Accounts

Many members operate their Club *Flying Account* mostly "in the red".

This practice results in additional effort for the Treasurer, a volunteer role, to chase those who owe the club money. When taking membership of the Club, individuals agreed that their accounts would always be maintained in credit.

What about doing the right thing for the Club and assist the Treasurer - and keep your account "in the **black**" ?.

New Members

We welcome two new members - David and Peter Schenke, who recently joined WGC, or in David's case, rejoined after a long absence.

David flew at Waikerie some years ago and previously held Committee positions including Club Secretary and President. David also flew the Tug and is keen to renew his tow rating and get back to the front end of the rope.

It's great to see David return to the Club and for Peter to join – two "local" members.

Working Bee

More info o the Working Bee was held on Saturday July 8th. A personal thanks to the following members Due to the amount of work completed on Saturday, the Working Bee "job list" will be reviewed/updated, deleting job completed and adding new work.

The small group of members – Bill Mudge, Greg Jackson, Bernie Konopka, David Lawley, Ray Lawley, Mark Morgan, Ron Brock, Craig Vinall, Pete Paine, Peter Robinson, Allen Hudson, John Hudson, David Schenke (a new member) – completed a large number of jobs around the Clubs facilities, including,

- Mark Morgan and Ron Brock checking and repairing all the sprinkler hoses and repositioning the sprinklers back onto airfield for the coming season - **please don't drive over any of these hoses – at any time.**
- Greg Jackson repaired and repainted the eastern doors to the Members Kitchen.
- Peter Robinson and Ray Lawley installed a number of new security lights around the outside of the Clubrooms and installed some new fluoro's in the Clubrooms.
- Allen Hudson made and installed a new window frame in the Office.
- John Hudson installed a new door to the Office.
- David Schenke and David Lawley repaired the car park fluoro – lights it up like day now.
- Graham Francis replaced the batteries in all of the smoke alarms.
- Cathy, Michael and Pete Conway tidied the wood storage area and the Garden Shed.
- Bill Mudge repaired the roof of the carport near the main hangar.
- Craig Vinall got the Club accounts up-to-date.
- Pete Paine repaired some more holes in the Igloo Hanger floor and tidied some more of the Igloo hangar.

Another huge BBQ lunch was once again cooked up by John – thank you John

Members Weeks

During the past season, **Members Weeks** were arranged to enable members to fly more during the better parts of the soaring season. These were very enjoyable periods – with some great flying, great weather and great social interaction.

Plans are now being developed for **Members Weeks** to be held during the next Soaring season. The following dates have been tentatively chosen,

2006 December 18 – 22

2007 January 8 – 12
January 22 – 26
April 2 – 6

During these periods, meals will be available at the Club. Give it some thought and let John Hudson know your interest so that the dates can be confirmed.

Parachutes

The WGC Social Committee has funded the purchase of 4 new National 425 back-pack parachutes. These are all black in colour and come fitted with quick-connect fasteners. Each chute is supplied with a protective bag, which the parachute should be stored in at all times when not in use.

An Instruction Manual has been provided – a copy is in the Briefing Room. It is strongly recommended that pilots study this manual in order that the chute is appropriately fitted, adjusted and cared for. These particular chutes have Velcro fastener in the harness adjustment which is not obvious. This needs to be adjusted to obtain the correct fit.

The chutes are an expensive item of Club property – and a vital item of safety equipment - it is therefore important that the chutes be well looked after. Members are reminded that in the event of inadvertently "popping" a chute or getting it wet, the member is liable for the repack costs.

Our thanks are extended to Allen Hudson and his workmates, who arranged the transport of the chutes from the supplier in USA via Egypt to Australia.

Lambswool inserts are being made to go inside these parachutes.

Tug Operations

Glider pilots can significantly reduce tug costs and wear-and-tear by monitoring tug operations and making their own preparations to fly based on the activities of the tug.

To achieve these improvements in aerotow efficiency and flow, pilots need to be in their gliders, with checks complete (ie ready for take-off) when the tug returns from the previous tow. This not only allows the flow of aerotows to progress (where possible) uninterrupted, it reduces the number of stops / starts of the tug engine.

Fulltime Operations

It is planned to conduct a period of fulltime operations at Waikerie from (and including) 26 December 2006 to 14 January 2007. During this time, our Japanese syndicate owner members will have the opportunity to return to Waikerie and fly their gliders.

For most of this time, there will be other events also taking place, such as the Members Weeks and Coaching Week.

WGC members are encouraged to participate in any / all of these events.

Meals will be available at the Club each evening and flight crews will be available each day.

Committee Meeting Feedback

The first meeting of the Committee elected for the 2006-2007 period met on Friday 7 July 2006. The following information will be of interest to members,

Club Car

The Club car has deteriorated to the extent that further maintenance is considered inappropriate. At the expiry of the current registration, the car will be disposed of.

Tractor

The Club tractor should not be used to tow gliders around the airfield. This vehicle is vital for the maintenance of the airfield – its use is to be limited to irrigation and slashing activities and moving the Pie-cart.

Broadband Internet Access. It was agreed to proceed with a proposal to install a Node-Phone at the Club, together with Broadband Internet and Wireless access.

Node phone and wireless broad band access is fully operational around the club house and down to the pie cart, absolutely fabulous.

Car Sharing

We have all no doubt been affected by the progressive increase in fuel costs. It would be sad to see this cost increase adversely impact our flying activities.

To this end, car sharing is viable method of perhaps reducing the costs we have perhaps become accustomed too. It may require a minor modification to the times we travel and the way we go – and we may individually be able to save – and spend the saved dollars flying.

It is suggested members intending to "go flying" indicate their intentions in an e-mail on wgcchat@lists.riverland.net.au to allow sharing arrangements to be made - come with me this time, next time I'll go with you.

Club Glider Accident Liability

Club gliders can only be flown by Club members.

The subject of liability for Club aircraft damage was raised at the last Annual General Meeting. Following discussion, it was resolved that the individual member/s involved would be liable for the **Insurance Excess** – up to a maximum of \$1500.00.

This applies to pilots flying any Club or Cross hired aircraft. Club pilots may elect to use the in-house Insurance provision, which is available at a cost of \$200.00 per annum (\$100.00 for students).

Pilots must indicate the method they desire to adopt, particularly if they wish to adopt the In-house Insurance proposal. The failure to sign a Form will indicate the member accepts liability for the Excess payment.

The **Pilot Accident Liability** Form is available in the Club Documents section of the Website.

John Hudson

Members Kitchen

A section of the member's kitchen ceiling was damaged by water recently. The water came from a burst pipe that had frozen due to the very cold mornings experienced in July. We will drop another ceiling panel in next time we are up at Waikerie. Looking for a volunteer to paint it.

Club Break-in

A few nights before the Clubs 2006 AGM, one of society's misfits broke into the Clubrooms, forcing entry through a sliding window and then the bar shutters.

Our resident caretaker called the Police, who were promptly on the scene, but were unfortunately unable to apprehend the individual.

Some security upgrades have been made around the Clubs facilities. Members are reminded of the need to ensure all facilities are secure – including the locking and barring of all windows and doors – before they leave the premises.

Another Busy weekend at Waikerie

Ruth Wilson, from Canberra, arrived with her ground crew to prepare for a world record hot air balloon flight. With a planned take-off at 0100 Hrs Monday morning (31.7.06), a detailed weather briefing was prepared and a crew briefing held at 2300 Hrs Sunday night. Conditions certainly looked favorable for the flight, Unfortunately Ruth landed between Overland Corner and Berri. Hopefully we will see her back for another attempt at this record.

On Saturday 29th July Phil Hollick was put through his paces by Bill Mudge for his revalidation Instructor rating.

John has been putting Greg through a class 1 instructor rating and at the same time providing a towing endorsement for Catherine Conway.

Lots of member's flight reviews have been done over the last month – including instructor flight reviews required annually.

John Hudson has given the LS7 its annual inspection; assisted by a couple of club members wishing to gain some more experience in glider maintenance. Nigel fitted the new tail wheel and fairing, this modification will look after our airfield as tail skids tend to damage the fragile airfield surface.

Our regular band of flying members have been able to get some hours in their log books over the winter, with short cross countries possible on most days.

Peter Robinson, Craig and Greg managed a Blanchtown and return Sunday 20th August with slightly better conditions on the Saturday.

May or June 1967

Ann provided these notes on the clubs past activities.

Did you know.....

..... that Newsletter will be provided free of charge even though many have suggested that it is worth buying? (*still free*)

..... that many club members have now paid flying fees well in advance? (*Still club standard operating procedure to have money in your account prior to flying*)

..... that David Jones doesn't take an instructor up with him any longer? (*many of our new recruits are now flying solo 40 years later*).

..... that Phillip Mather and Robert Redman are old hands in the Grunau? (*Still lots of old hands around, better not name them*)

..... that somebody referred to one of our sailplanes as the "red terror"? (*which one??*) (*now they complain about that noisy tug*)

..... that the Ka6 is almost overcrowded? (*Ken Hartley and Bevan Jones join the ranks of contented Ka6 pilots*) (*apply this to the Discus or LS7*) **Ed.**

Summer Flying

Book your holidays if you have not already done so; Full time flying will commence on Boxing Day 26th December, Members week 1st week in January followed by SAGA coaching week from the 6th Jan 07. Now is the time to get your independent operator's revalidation and other documentation up to date.



Newsletter articles and words of wisdom can be sent to gjack@tpg.com.au