



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

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

PRESIDENTS REPORT 2016 - 2017

Once again, we have had a busy year especially in the on-going maintenance and upkeep of our facilities. Many thanks to everyone who has contributed their time, effort and/or money. As has been the trend we survive by holding events such as Nationals, Orange Week, State Comps and various operations and airworthiness courses. The volunteers who put a lot of effort into these ensure we remain profitable. We don't make much money out of our own flying activities.

AIRFIELD, CLUBHOUSE & GROUNDS

A wet January and a heavy downpour prior to Easter has led to a good coverage of grasses on the field. The January rain brought up our annual cover of caltrop, but a timely spray controlled these. Our trial spray on the gazanias last June was hugely successful so we intend to expand the program this year. The council have kept the slashing going as necessary and you will notice how well the airfield looks. The pads survive with regular irrigation but I have reduced the number of sprinklers to avoid watering the gazanias in certain areas. The clubhouse lawns are looking better with the pop-ups and the new ride-on mower makes life easier. A new welcoming sign has been attached to the briefing room outside wall and an identical one is ready to be sited at the entrance to Sir Donald Anderson Drive.

You may notice that the interior of the clubhouse has had a makeover and we intend to display more photos of past and present members. The Pelican painting was rescued from the hut and moved to the clubhouse wall. We have also, thanks to Nigel, replaced the evaporative air-conditioners with reverse cycle split systems. A plasma TV was donated by Craig Vinall and Red Cross assisted in the purchase of a coffee machine in the bar in recognition of services rendered by John Vinall. The main kitchen has a new commercial grade gas stove and tiling has been done around the benches. Upgrading of wiring in the igloo and clubhouse was done along with replacement of the internet cable to the office. I wish to give special thanks to Ron Brock, who, after the tractor broke down 2 days prior to the start of the Nationals, worked day and night to have it working with 2 hours to spare!

MEMBERS KITCHEN / WORKING BEES

The member's kitchen is finally finished and looks fabulous. A total of 1150 volunteer hours went into the raising of the foundations and the refurbishment. This did not include planning or travel time etc. Once again, a HUGE thank-you to all who were involved. There are too many to name here but there were certainly some who drove this project and without it would not have been done. We gained a new electricity meter, a new roof, a new lino floor, a new reverse cycle air-conditioner and two new range-hoods as well as upgraded plumbing and pavers all around. The pump was also relocated. The laundry and the storeroom are yet to be finished. By doing this ourselves we ended up with a surplus of funds from the insurance payout. This was used in part to finance the clubhouse air-conditioners.

EVENTS / COMPETITIONS

Waikerie Gliding Club was once again well represented at State and National levels this season with pilots attending the Club and Sports Class Nationals in November followed immediately by our annual Orange Week regatta. We hosted a successful coaching week between Xmas and New Year and were represented with mixed success at Horsham week in February. The World Championships were held in Benalla in

January and thanks go to our tuggies, Peter Siddall and Richard Geytenbeek who flew our tug there. Congratulations to Sid Nankivell who is the new State Champion representing Waikerie at the Gawler State Comps in March this year.

An Airworthiness course will be hosted by us next week, from 19th – 26th May.

We have successfully applied to run the Multi Class Nationals in January 2018, and will of course run our Orange Week regatta in November this year. The SA coaching week will be held here again prior to the Nationals. We have indicated our intention to bid for the Junior Nationals (“Joey-Glide”) in January 2019.

OPERATIONS / SAFETY

After many years’ service as CFI, Mark Morgan has stepped down and Grant Hudson has taken up this important role. We still lack enough instructors to fill the roster and no ab-initio trainees were trained again this season. Craig Vinall and Peter Paine have agreed to undertake L1 instructor training and Patrick Dunn has re-joined the club with his L1 rating. John Hudson has been Tug Master for many years but he wishes to have a break, so we are seeking someone to take over this role. We have a good selection of tug pilots and with past employee Lloyd Baum keen to be involved again in towing we have a local member willing to tow on any day. Not many days were organised for independent operations and I urge members to take up this opportunity. No significant safety issues occurred this year.

ROCK AND ROLL FESTIVAL

After last year’s success, the Rock N Roll festival was held again this year (although not in this financial year). It was a slightly smaller event but we will gain about \$1400 of income. Thanks to all who assisted in moving the aircraft out of the hangar. Thanks also to Hiro Yamada for making his hangar available. We offered AEF’s on the Saturday but had no takers. The R n R committee have purchased and sited a container near the hangar to store all their equipment which has made for a much quicker set up and dismantling after the event. Special mention to David Jones who spent 4 ½ days on the roof of the hangar sealing leaks.

MEMBERS / COMMITTEE

During the year, we welcomed new members Luke Pavy and Bjorn Rechinger (full flying), Jak Hoopmann (student flying) and associate members Damien O’Reilly, Robert Bruce and Lloyd Baum. Please make these people welcome and introduce yourself if you have not yet met them. Several of our members reverted from flying to associate for various reasons. After many years of tireless service in looking after bookings, clubhouse cleaning and rubbish removal etc., etc., Ann Woolf has earned a rest. Thanks Ann for your support and commitment to our club. You will have noted our upgraded website – thanks to Peter Siddall and Art Hohmann who have spent the last 2 years working on this. Let us or them know of any additions/changes or discrepancies.

Our committee has worked tirelessly again this year and I thank them again for their efforts. We try to meet on flying weekends and held one meeting in Adelaide with a teleconference.

THE FUTURE

I am encouraged by the input of everyone in so many ways, but a lot of effort goes into non-flying activities. Our glider reserve replacement fund is now getting to the stage where we can seriously think of purchasing a high-performance tow-seater. With assistance from the GFA loans fund, we should be able to get a reasonable good modern glider.

Let’s look forward to another safe and increased flying year ahead.