



Mt Wallace State Field - Home of MWMAA

Edition 40 Web Site: www.mwmaa.org

President's Report March 2020

HI All Club Members

I was pleasantly surprised by the attendance of the public at our Try n Fly day on Sunday, 01 March 2020. It seems the article in the local paper and FaceBook worked to our advantage by getting the word out. It was also very pleasing to see the many juniors and adults that came to give modelling a go and the club providing the opportunity to have a go. It appears that we will possibly gain some keen new members (junior and senior) to join our great club.

The day would not have been such a success if not for the club members that took the time to bring their trainers and other models. Thanks guys. A Big thanks to David Nichols, VMAA Education Officer, who attended and provided many flights over the course of the day. Once again, thanks to all the club members for a great effort. Well done MWMAA.

This coming weekend, 14/15 March 20, we have a glider towing and gliders in general. To make this a success, we need to have a canteen. Who will put up their hands up to organise the catering for both days? Food and drinks will need to be purchased and cooking to be organised. Please contact Norm Ripp or Mark Peterson to provide support.

The Committee is working hard to finalise our toilet facilities with a report/update provided at our meeting on Wednesday night club meeting. There are a number of items to be discussed so be there to hear what's going on and understand the challenges we need address.

Safety. The club rules are there for the safety of yourself, other club members and visitors. It seems some members are not keen on following our local rules for one reason or another. These rules exist a consistency and safety for all. Please follow these rules and if you see a problem or an issue, do not hesitate to bring it up with a Committee member so it can be acted upon.

Remember, we are all safety officer while we are at the field. Enjoy your flying a be safe. That's it for now and don't forget to come to the next club meeting to be part of the discussion.

Regards
Ken Mollison
President

Next meeting will be held at the RSL Hall *on Wednesday 11 March 2020, starting at 8:00 pm. at the RSL Hall, Main Street, Bacchus Marsh.* This will be our first for the year so please come along and be part of the conversation and discuss Club business and any up and coming events.

Remember to slip, slop, slap over summer
Please sign in/Out and bring out the Extinguishers



Editors Round up, March 2020

It has been great to get out to the field over the past few weeks. With the weather being the way it has been, it seemed all the good flying days were far and few. No doubt since November 2019, it has been devastating with natural events. Fires, followed by major rain and now the virus has taken a toll in many different ways. It is certainly a time to reflect on what we have and how things are finely balanced.

There is no magic bullet to fix certain things but at the same time, we need to be resilient and maintain a positive approach to all things. I know at times there seems no way out, but we also need to remember we are a club that has camaraderie, friendship and many different people from various backgrounds. To have a chat or to have someone to listen to you is part of the club as well. We all share a common interest in model aviation, but we also have different concerns that at times a simple discussion can make a difference.

We are now in March and at the end of the month, daylight saving comes to an end. We now have the Ballan tractor pull display day and try and fly day behind us. Both have been a success in their own right and once again, that could only happen because of you, the club member. I know the committee appreciates the support and ongoing work club members provide. It would be great if more club members could assist as it makes it that much easier in having events run well and complete work at working bees.

The year is moving quickly and the committee is moving forward in completing a few tasks that will benefit all of us. Once again, it does take time and funding, but we are in a good position to achieve certain things over the next few months. We also need to realise the AGM is fast approaching with only 3 months to go. For the club to be successful and to ensure as the host club of Mount Wallace continues, we need a committee that works well together and provide leadership to achieve the objectives laid out. Together we are strong and together we will achieve great things. Having discussions, presenting ideas and the willingness to succeed will keep us in good stead. If you have the above, then why not give the committee position a go and be part of the leadership group.

I would like to thank Michael Whelan for his support and efforts with photos and videos he provides. Michael is always keen to promote the field and club. His work with the flyers has been excellent and well-received. We will soon have a new sign at the front gate of Mount Wallace, which will add a little bit more to the overall scheme of things.

The next working bee we will see the start of construction for start-up bays (concrete pads). The area will enhance safety for all types of models. The start-up benches will continue to be used with the possibility of making a few more in the near future.

Well, that is if for another month or two and I hope you get out and enjoy the outdoors, catch up with friends, have a chat and of course, have a fly.

See you at the field....
Ed



MWMAA Display Day at the Ballan Tractor Pull 16 February 2020



Photos by: Michael Whelan

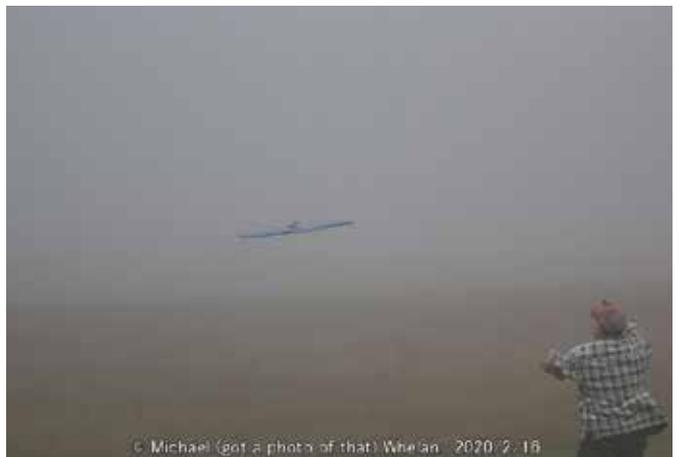
MWMAA once again attended the Ballan tractor pull to showcase our sport and show the general public what modelling is all about. The call was put out to Members to be part of the display and fly the various models we all enjoy. We had enough club members (a few more would have been better) to put on a good display once the weather changed.

We started the day earlier on Sunday morning to have some breakfast along the way, with enough time to set up and prepare our models. As we left Bacchus Marsh and climbed up the mountain, we could see fog was going to be our main problem as there was hardly any wind to be concerned about. By the time we reached the Ballan race course, it was thick with no indication of moving any time soon.

The weather remained like this for most of the morning and was that thick you could not see the other fence on the other side of the paddock (flying area). At about 10:30 am, it looked like it would clear, but as we started to bring out the aircraft, the fog rolled back in. I think Mother Nature has a sense of humour. As we waited for the fog clear, Les Spaltman, assisted by Syd Histed, flew his controlling model. You had to keep an eye on it as it would disappear for half a circle from a spectator's point of view, but no problems for Les. The photos will show how thick it was for most of the day.



© Michael (got a photo of that) Whelan 2020/2/16
What fence. The fog certainly made flying interesting. Less and Syd preparing a control line model for flight. Below. Syd helps Less to get on his way.



© Michael (got a photo of that) Whelan 2020/2/16



Working Bees

Working bees will be coordinated by the Committee and are normally held on Sunday after the Club Monthly Meeting starting at 9:30 am. Additional working bees maybe organised based on need. If this is changed or cancelled, you will be notified via email as soon as possible after the meeting.

**Thanks
Ed**



The fog remined until around 12:00 pm and eventually rolled away as a slight breeze started to make its presence felt. By then, most of the models were set up so a bit of fun could be had. Kevin Thomas took up his faithful electric foamy and flew very well as expected. This was followed by other club pilots with all providing a show to entertain the public.

The event overall for the show was well supported by the public with the car park full for most of the day many people walking around. From out point of view, the crowd seemed down from last year, but there were not as many displays. However, the organisers seemed to be please with the event and at the end of the day, that is what counts.



The weather is something as we all know cannot be controlled, but it did not rain, it was not hot, and we did do some flying to be part of the Ballan show. The photos capture the day and for those that did fly or supported the event, the Committee thanks you all and appreciate the attendance in supporting the club and event.

There is always next year and once again I am sure the club will provide a show and display for all to enjoy. Good job.
Ed.

Kevin Thomas have a go with his favourite electric model.



Joe Buttgeig preparing his aircraft, assisted by Joe Finocchairo



Syd (spotter) with Ken Mollison flying his big stick



Henry, Joe and Kevin having a quite moment. Enjoyed what the day brought.

Right. As the fog cleared models came out to play. Good job.



THE HISTORY OF THE BACCHUS MARSH MODEL AIRCRAFT ASSOCIATION

As the club moves forward and establish itself at our new field at Mount Wallace, it is important not to lose or forget the history of the club. I had always intended to try and capture this history as we have changed our name and moved location. Both being a big step for a model club.

It is always interesting to read and understand how the club came to being. Like any club, there are always a few founding members, doing the ground work to establish and build the club in the early days. I was also able to find the date when the club become incorporated with the VMAA on the MAAA Membership Registration system.

A big thank you to Mark Peterson in putting pen to paper to provide a time line on the birth of the Bacchus Marsh Club. Please have a read of the history as this will be placed on the website.

Ed

History by: Mark Peterson

During early 1992 several modellers had been flying from the top of Main Street at what is now called “top of the town” estate. In fact, Burbidge Drive was the pit area and runway. Initially, this was just a few flyers from different clubs on weekends and very random as there were several different sites that people flew from including Masons Lane Reserve and Darley Oval.

Word got around, and more flyers began to turn up at Burbidge Drive and as the flyers got to know each other, the discussion moved to the need to have a local club. An ad was placed in the local paper and a meeting took place at the Border Inn (now Flanagan’s). A handful of people did attend, but those willing to take the plunge and form a club was limited.

Those that did take the plunge were:

*Bruce Mclaughlin,
Peter Van Alkermade,
Karl Ansell,
Mark Peterson,*

As the numbers fell short of the minimum six needed to register a club with the VMAA, two partners joined to make the minimum numbers, and they were;

*Annmaree Peterson, and
Marise Ansell.*

So, the first committee for the club was:

*President – Bruce Mclaughlin;
Secretary - Peter Van Alkermade;
Treasurer - Annmaree Peterson; and
Safety Officer - Mark Peterson*

Annmaree was the Treasurer and went on to become a competent pilot regularly flying at Parwan and also slope soaring off Bald Hill. Marise and Karl ended up moving interstate not long after Parwan became active.

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The Bacchus Marsh Aeromodellers Club (BMAC) was reformed and affiliated after a 6-year gap. Club meetings were held at members' homes until the numbers grew where the Border Inn became the meeting site for many years. Initially, the reformed club continued to fly at the top of Main Street for the next 12 or so months.

It was during this time that Joe Buttigieg and Garry Thiele both members of Melton Club, unbeknown to each other went on the hunt for a local flying field location using their Shire contacts. Joe Buttigieg persistence with the council eventually proved successfully after several attempts in securing a suitable site.

The first option was the top of Bald Hill but given its proximity to Radio towers and remote location was rejected. The next proposal was the Parwan Sewerage farm, with trial flights conducted off the main entrance road. With the help of the then Bacchus Marsh Shire the North-West corner of the complex was offered. Bruce McLaughlin, with the help of Pauline Madden (Solicitor), set about arranging the lease agreement which was very favourable and thankfully very cheap.

With the arrival of a dedicated field, several Melton and Werribee club members became affiliate members and more local flyers also joined. The then-current members decided that the Club needed to be incorporated to protect members. After changing its name to Bacchus Marsh Model Aircraft Association (BMMAA) due to corporate affairs rules of the name similarity to Bacchus Marsh Aero Club, the club became incorporated in June 1994.

Affiliation to the VMAA/MAAA occurred on 01 July 1993 (27 years a continuous member) as the Bacchus Marsh Model Aircraft Association (BMMAA).

The first location of the pits at the Parwan complex was in the northeast corner of the block allocated under the big She Oaktree; there were 2 "shield" trees with indigenous protection in the flight path with the result of many models being claimed during the early days. Eventually, Peter Van Alkermade and Mark Peterson measured out the lease and with the full boundaries now marked the decision was made to move the pits and runway to the location at Parwan when closed in April 2019. This move allowed for negotiation with Western Water who had taken ownership after all councils disbanded in the mid-'90s.

The result of this was an extended lease arrangement with options that lasted until 2011, thus giving the club surety around its tenure on the sewerage complex. The conveyor belt runway was sourced and trucked down to Bacchus Marsh from the Murray River region thanks to club members. The runway was prepared by Gillespie's before the conveyor belt was laid. The runways served the club successfully for many years. Further short-term leases saw the club maintain its residency until the move to Mt Wallace in April 2019.

The Mount Wallace location. The new home of the club.



The new field was purchase on 27 October 2016 by the MAAA

MWMAA Try & Fly Day 01 March 2020

Photos by: Michael Whelan and Ed.

After a failed attempt due to the local paper not placing the article in the paper, the Try and Fly day was moved to the 01 March 20. The original thinking was to have this day on 19 Jan 20 while the schools were still shut down for the Christmas period with mums and dads running out of things to do. As we know, great plans can go amiss and with the Ballan Tractor Pull and Display day the following month; it was decided to move the event.

As the event day approached, it was felt that we had missed the boat and attendance would not be what was expected. The weather once again was not the best it could have been, but it was flyable. The canteen was prepared with enough food and drink items to have a simple sausage in bread with a cold drink. A move that well received for those that attended on the day.



*It was not long before the field become busy with juniors an seniors arriving at the field. Thank you to the club members that made themselves available.
Great job.*

As we left Bacchus Marsh for the field, it was calm with a few clouds initially. As we arrived at the field, we set up shelters and prepared the various aircraft for the day. The VMAA Education Officer arrived shortly afterwards with two trainers ready to go. David was keen to get things moving, so he offloaded and prepared what he had. A couple of test flights later all was good and ready for action.

It was not long before other club members joined the group and set up their bit of turf with aircraft ready to go. We did not have to wait for long before the first junior, and his dad arrived looking to have a go with plenty of questions to follow. This was the start of a great day as not only did we have a good turn of club members, but we also had visitors from other clubs and past members that wanted to have a look.



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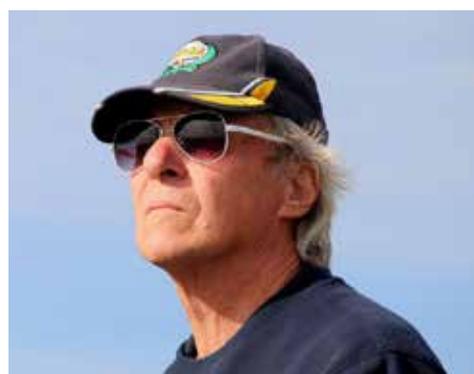
Over the day we had some 15 people come through the gate. Juniors, dads and families came out to see what Mount Wallace was all about and see how we enjoy model aircraft aviation. It was fantastic to see club members and visitors having a chat showcasing what we love to do.

So was the exercise/event worth doing, no doubt it was with possibility of 3 to 5 new members joining the club. That in itself is an outstanding result considering the day would not hold any value due to weather and the timing of the event. I believe many people were pleasantly surprised at how things went. As our President has already alluded to, it was the club members and instructors that made the day such a success.

The feedback for many people has been positive with suggestions we should run the event every six months. That is a possibility as we do have the instructors and trainers to do the task. However, a better option might be to hold this event once per year. Whichever it is MWMAA have represented modelling in a very positive way and have generated a lot of interest.

There will be further discussions on this event and the frequency the event should be held. For those Club members that have any comments or ways to improve the event, should share their ideas with the committee. Well done to all MWMAA club members, instructors and supporters. A fantastic event to improve our sport and membership.

Ed



The VMAA Education Officer, David Nichols, was busy all day, taking up juniors and seniors to give each one a taste of model aviation.

Well done and thank you for the support.

Thank you to PVA and Garry Thiele for their efforts and taking up visitors.

The effort all round was fantastic.





Left. Early morning with the pit area becoming busy. The whole day saw people coming and going.

Below. Past member, Garry Green came along to the field chatting with Kevin Thomas. Great to see some old club members.



c. Michael (pic a photo of that) Whelan, 2020/3/1



MWMAA saw visitors from Melton, Geelong and Werraibee clubs. Good to see other coming along to the field.

Right. Chris Rayner from the Geelong club with his Xcalibur. Ken Mollison complete a test flight on the model. Colour scheme was difficult to see, but flew well for a first flight.



© Michael (pic a photo of that) Whelan, 2020/3/1

Aerotow Weekend



14-15th March. 2 day event
Bring your Gliders and Tug-planes for a weekend of aerotowing at the best thermalling site close to Melbourne, (just ask the 3 full-size gliding clubs nearby)

200 meter runway, 1800 ft height clearance, dam suitable for float planes, wide open spaces and on a good day the thermals are boomers.



Contact: Norm Ripp Mob# 0418 403 281 or Mark Peterson Mob# 0417 010 854 for further information.

All pilots **must** be MAAA registered, Heavy model permits need to be sighted and current.

Gates open at 8:00am, 26A Brisbane Ranges Rd, Mt Wallace Vic 3342. Do Not use Rowsley Valley Rd (GPS recommended route from Bacchus Marsh, it is not suitable for trailers or cars with fragile models)

\$5 per day entry donation, canteen will run for lunch on both days, if enough interest breakfast on Sunday

Please note: If planning to stay over that the current facilities are basic; bore water only, porta loos and basic electricity supply.

Mount Wallace State Field



26A Brisbane Ranges Road, Mount Wallace Update - 11 March 2020

The field is still looking at a sprinkler system to be installed. As you can appreciate, this task requires funding and time. Investigation on the best approach is being looked at and will continue.

Based on increasing events being held at Mount Wallace, the requirement for toilets and showers has moved up on the priority list and one that the Committee believes it can achieve over the next few weeks. The VMAA is being approached to discuss the final stage of development which is the toilets and showers.

If you have any questions, please contact the MWMAA Secretary or a Member of the Committee.



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MAAA Newsletter

The latest WingSpan newsletter is now available from the MAAA website. Go to www.maaa.asn.au and have a read of the latest news from around the nation

March 2020 newsletter is out.

The newsletter and MAAA web site contains plenty of information and articles from a number of different areas.



Ed's Tip Bits

If you are not sure of a safety issue, process or procedures, the MAAA MOPs provides valuable guidance and direction. It is up to every individual to become familiar with the MOPs. If you are not sure, don't make it up!!!! Go to the MOPs and find out.....
It may save embarrassment later....

MAAA MOPs that you should read.....

MOP001 - Accident Reporting

MOP055 - Alcohol, Drugs & Medical Conditions Policy

MOP018 - Night Flying

MOP027 - Award of Wings and Instructor Rating

Click on [here](#) to go to the MOP area of the MAAA Web Site

BMMAA Committee 2019/2020

President:	Ken Mollison	(0408 998 689)
Vice President:	Michael Whelan	(0400 503 395)
Treasurer:	Mark Peterson	(0417 010 854)
Secretary/Public Offr:	Syd Hiestad	(0438 391 897)
Contest Director:	Les Spaltman	(0418 405 549)
Safety Officer:	Ken Mollison	(0408 998 689)
Newsletter Editor/Web:	Joe Finocchiaro	(0418 878 168)
Committee Member:	Annemarie Peterson	
Committee Member:	Joe Finocchiaro	