



NOTAP

#12 December 2023

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Firstly, on behalf of your P&DARCS committee, I would like to wish our members a very happy, and restful Christmas and New Year. Make the most of the break to enjoy some time with family and friends, and most of all, keep yourself safe and well. If you are lucky enough to be heading to the field for some well-earned flying, here's hoping for another run of fine weather.

AUSTRALIA DAY 2024

A small subcommittee is currently working through final details for our 2024 Australia Day function. We will have a full update and online registrations open for this event early in January.

AREA APPROVALS

I expect that despite our best efforts, it is unlikely that the club will obtain an ongoing area approval from beyond January 11th, 2024. Several clubs across Victoria (and Australia) have been placed in similar situations. Whilst our application for renewal has been lodged with CASA (via the VMAA), it will not be reviewed until at least January 4th 2024. Like many other federal bodies, CASA has very limited staff available to enable them to realistically achieve their outcomes, and this has resulted in a massive backlog of club approvals across all states.

What this will most likely mean for us as aeromodellers is that come January 12th, we will be restricted to a maximum height of 400 feet above ground level for our flying activities. This will not be negotiable and there is currently no legislation to allow us to continue our current approval (which has been in place for 5 years with no incidents or breaches).

Once the application is progressing with CASA, I will be able to release another update.

FULL SIZE HELICOPTER OPERATIONS

As we are all aware, each month there are low-level, full-size helicopter operations in our area. This work is conducted by Professional Helicopter Services to provide an inspection of the ground water pipeline that runs from the Desalination Plant. Our arrangement with PHS is that they notify us in advance about their movements. These notices will appear on our webpage and, where possible, members will be notified by NOTAP.

All club members are reminded of their obligations whilst operating model aircraft during these full-size movements.

MEMBER INDUCTIONS

Another reminder that several club members have not yet completed their field inductions. Trevor has been in contact with those members, so please ensure you have responded and arranged a time for it. It is a requirement to have these inductions completed in a timely manner to enable you to continue flying at P&DARCS.

Keith Quigg | AUS 22897
P&DARCS President 2023/2024