



# P&DARCS

Pakenham and District Aircraft Radio Control Society



## P&DARCS NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2020



Mark Bishop's new Auto Gyro, built as *Isolation Occupation*, this is Mark's second Auto Gyro, and he is looking forward to the first flight after lockdown is finished  
Mark has been an aeromodeller for more than 55 years, he learnt to fly with the Hearn Brothers at Laverton Air Force Base many years ago

**Next Club Meeting November 7th, Via Zoom**

## BURLEY FIELD

Wenn Road Cardinia

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## EDITOR'S BIT

### NO FLYING TIME ? GETTING A BIT RUSTY ?

I guess a lot of us are having this problem, the effects of lockdown, and no " stick time "

My answer to it is practicing on a simulator

A few years ago I bought a " Great Planes, Real Flight G4 " simulator package

It was the *ants pants* at the time, I guess there are better performing simulators available today, but this one does what I need

I mainly use the Ryan SP. I like using the Ryan as it performs similar to the Tiger 60s I was flying a while ago, as an aerobatic trainer, it follows all my mistakes very well

Practicing on the Sim' prior to going to the Flying Field, improved my hand- eye coordination, and improved my confidence as well

The P.C is running old Win' XP, and I fitted a high speed graphics card, it works a treat



Sim' set-up in the workshop, with the Ryan ST ready to go

**Frank McPherson** Editor

## WHAT'S ON At P&DARCS 2019

Look in the Club Calendar on page 16

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## A BIT OF HUMOUR



If you don't get it you can always ask !



# NOTICES

## Committee Meeting Summary

The Club's new committee met for the first time on Thursday night October 22 via Zoom. Some of the items considered are noted below;

- The changes to the restrictions were discussed and noted that we would continue to monitor the changes to ensure the club conforms.
- The Web Master advised that he has arranged the purchase of a new computer to replace the old one. He noted that the new one will be slightly more expensive than the original estimate due to him purchasing a better quality machine due to the requirements of 24/7 service.
- It was reported that the cattle yard works has been completed. There was concern expressed at the heap of gravel in the yard but the farmer is happy with what has been done.
- Following up on the concern a member had re the possible of radio interference caused by the metal pilot barriers the committee has asked the well known radio technician, and club member, Peter Cossins, to carry out an investigation. New committee member Steve Malcman will liaise and assist him.
- The Field Manager raised the matter of safety on the "mowermen" and operators of the club's tractors/machinery. It was agreed, the club strongly advises that members operating the club's tractors/mowers wear safety footwear. It was also agreed that members operating the club's machinery must wear covered substantial footwear. It was also agreed that the club provide hearing ear plugs and high visibility vests for those operating the club's machinery. The Field Manager will be conducting training courses in the near future.
- Cleaning out of some of the main drains around the club will be done by a contractor in the very near future. These works have been scheduled for some time but COVID restrictions have prevented the works from being done.
- The committee agreed that due to the COVID restrictions on the field use this will be considered in formulating the club fees for the 2021/22 year.
- The toilet floors are to be sealed, the same as the new shed floor, to improve the look and cleanliness of them. The handicapped toilet would be used whilst this work is being done. It was also agreed to organise the reseal the handicap toilet/shower after the toilets due to its shabby appearance.
- As advised earlier, the Club was successful in obtaining a grant from the MAAA to have some drainage pit junction pits, with lids, constructed to remove a safety hazard. Once the COVID restrictions are eased we will be able to obtain quotes for the works and have it completed as soon as possible.

The next committee meeting is to be held on Thursday night November 20.

**Ivan Chiselett** Secretary

# NOTICES

## Safe Operation of Club Equipment

As soon as the field is opened further and we can get back into more normal operating procedures Field Manager Craig will be running new training sessions for his Mowing Team. He is currently in the process of putting together the new mowing team.

All members who use our machinery will be encouraged to use appropriate personal protection equipment including Hearing Protection, Eye Protection, High Visibility Vest and Steel Caped Protective Footwear. To assist members to comply, High Visibility Vests and ear plugs will be provided. Due to the current health issues it is not practical to supply the other items. Members who don't comply, do so at their own risk.

Shorts and light weight shoes will not be acceptable attire for the operation of our machinery or equipment.

Being aware of Craigs preferences he will most likely give priority to members joining his mowing team that fully comply with p.p.e. requirements.

It has been usual procedure that working crew use p.p.e. and now there is a policy and it's just the beginning. There has been some resistance within the committee and from general members for mandatory compliance. There is a need for more promotion and education in this area. For those of us that work in trades, compliance of safety requirements is now accepted as part of our normal operation. The tentacles of Work Safe stretch wide and far. As soon as there is an accident, whether it's an industrial or domestic site or a farm, they are one of the first on site and yes, we do come under their control. As with our general flying rules we will continue to promote and inform members about general safety requirements.

As the year progresses additional guidelines will be established and promulgated for the operation of our heavy equipment. This will include but is not exclusive to: -

Operating distance from other people

Closing of strips while mowing or carrying out other maintenance work.

Operation within the guidelines of C.A.S.A. rules and regulations.

Speed of operation and reversing procedures.

Maintaining Safety has always been foremost in our endeavours to ensure the wellbeing of our members in the operation of their aircraft and the volunteer crew that work so hard to maintain our facility.

**Peter Harris**

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

So----- here we go again! A freshly elected Committee with a couple of new faces bringing younger blood ,fresher and new ideas, and a raft of experience from our more senior Committee men returning for another term.

I am very pleased with the Committee that you, the Club members have elected and I will endeavor to lead them successfully through the Club year.

There is currently some discussion around regarding radio interference possibilities with our new pilot barriers. While I am not au fait with the technicalities in this area, I can assure the membership that the Committee will explore every avenue to ensure the safety of our members, and the safe operation of their radio equipment. Other Committee members will keep you informed of progress as the investigation moves along.

Craig and his crew are doing a great job preparing the field for our return – whenever that may be, - they are carrying on from the solid grounding keeping system that Norm has established over the years, and I am sure he will be consulted from time to time.

OK----so we have a new Club Committee, chosen by you the members, lets see if you can let them, and some times even help them to complete another successful Club year.

Lets face it,--the members of your Committee devote a huge proportion of their time to the operation of our Club and it behoves the members to acknowledge and appreciate the man hours that go on behind the scene.

You are probably all 'chomping at the bit to bring out the new creations that the lock down time has enabled you to build, and as soon as the Premier allows us, that's just what we shall do. Enjoy your build time, stay safe and be patient, it will all happen eventually.

**Bill Reynolds** President

## SECRETARY'S REPORT

**Minutes of the P&DARCS 2020 AGM Held  
October 3<sup>rd</sup> 2020.**

**Meeting held via Zoom and phone hook-up.**

**Date** October 3<sup>rd</sup> 2020

**Started;** 1:30pm

**Attendance;** 74 Members plus VMAA President

**Meeting Chaired** by; President Bill Reynolds

**Apologies;** Nil

**Minutes of 2018/19 AGM;**

Bill Reynolds proposed the minutes of the 12019 AGM be accepted, seconded by Alan Coleman.

**CARRIED**

**President's Report;**

President thanked the committee for their assistance in running the club over the past year. He noted that the COVID-19 situation presented real challenges. He was however disappointed of some dissatisfaction at how the club handled the restrictions to the field. He noted that while there was some criticism no one bothered to check with the committee as to why decisions were made. He noted that the committee sought advice from our Local MP as to the interpretations of rules and went with her recommendations.

Bill Reynolds proposed that his report be accepted, seconded by Frank McPherson.

**CARRIED**

**Secretary's Report;**

The Secretary started by distancing himself and others mentioned in an "election team" SMS that was sent to some club members.

He directed members to his report which was circulated with the agenda and is set out below.

Well what a year. Things were going quite nicely in 2019 with the field in great condition and lots of flying. Then the Virus. Things really went south.

With the Government imposing very loosely worded restrictions to our sort of activity it made it hard for the committee to make decisions that would not contradict Gov guidelines and keep the club running. There came times when there was too much flexibility in interpretation the regulations and so I made contact with our Local Member of Parliament and asked for her assistance in interpretation the regulations and giving us advice to ensure that the club did not violate the regulations and thus have our members fined for attending the field when they should not have. It turned out that she is very interested in aviation and asked if she could visit us and maybe have some instruction. Naturally I made it very clear that she was most welcome to visit and flying a model.

During the restrictions we were fortunate that Daniel was able to come up with an on-line booking system for the field which greatly assisted in conforming to the regulations. He was also responsible for organising the on-line club meeting that we needed to set a budget for the 2020/21 year and also organised the on-line Zoom committee meeting which were fantastic and enabled us to keep things going. The club will really miss his expertise in the IT department. I thank him very much for all the work he has done in making the Secretary's job much easier.

It is also sad to see Rob Till retiring from Registrar. Rob has been a great servant of the club over many years and has also been a great help to me. His knowledge and counsel will be missed.

Unfortunately we had to cancel the Monty Tyrrel and the Scratch Built Scale Rally for 2020 but virus willing we will have them in 2021.

Let's all look forward to good time once the restrictions are lifted. I for one am looking forward to getting a model on the runway. I would like to thank Greg and Reeve for assisting the Club in running the AGM in these trying circumstances.

**Ivan Chiselett** **P&DARCS Secretary**

Frank McPherson moved that the Secretary's report be accepted. Seconded by Paul Sommerville **CARRIED**

## SECRETARY'S REPORT, continued

### **Treasurer's Report;**

Treasurer circulated and tabled a detailed financial report to the members and provided a comprehensive explanation of the figures presented. A preliminary Audit Report on the Annual accounts have been prepared by Michael Smith and will be completed after lifting of the Covid-19 meeting restrictions.

### **Motion**

The Treasurers report be accepted: Moved, P Harris seconded Craig Fitzsimons **CARRIED**

### **Election;**

President Bill Reynolds announced that the Returning Officer for the election is the VMAA President, Reeve Marsh. He noted that he will step down and invite Greg Lepp to Chair the rest of the meeting.

The Secretary will advise the nominations received up to 5pm on Friday October 2<sup>nd</sup>.

The Chairman asked Web Master, Daniel Jenkins, to explain the voting process.

Due to this being an on-line meeting, voting will be via e-mail to the Returning Officer who will be VMAA President Reeve Marsh. Reeve was also on-line for the meeting. It was noted that under the Club's Constitution, only those attending the AGM, ie on-line, and are Full Members of the Club, ie those holding a full share holding, are entitled to vote. It was noted that Reeve will be supplied a list of members who are entitled to vote based on the Zoom attendee records and current membership list.

Members will be asked to send their vote, via e-mail, to Reeve after the meeting. Reeve must receive the vote by no later than 8pm on Monday October 5. He will then tally the votes and then advise both Greg Lepp and the Secretary of the results. The Secretary will then advise the members of the results of the elections.

### **Voting;**

As several candidates have been nominated for multiple positions a numbered voting system will be used. Members were informed that they need to number the candidates in your preferred order for those positions with multiple candidates, 1 being the most preferred.

It was noted that nominations for positions can be received on the day of the election.

Greg then advised that the Secretary had received the following nominations as at 5pm on Friday October 2<sup>nd</sup>. The nominations that had been received by the Secretary up to 5pm on Friday October 2<sup>nd</sup> were displayed on the screen. These are listed on the next page

## SECRETARY'S REPORT, continued

### P&DARCS Committee Nominations 2020/21

	Nominee	Proposed	Seconded
<b>President</b>	Bill Reynolds	Alan Coleman	Don White
	Peter Harrison	Chris Caulcutt	Mark Smith
<b>Vice President</b>	Don White	Bill Reynolds	K Withington
	Peter Harrison	Chris Caulcutt	Mark Smith
<b>Secretary</b>	Ivan Chiselett	Peter Harris	Rob Till
<b>Treasurer</b>	Peter Harris	Ivan Chiselett	Rob Till
<b>Registrar</b>	Rob Till	Peter Harris	Ivan Chiselett
<b>Web Manager</b>	Daniel Jenkins	Rob Till	Don Klien
	Adam Barker	Paul Sommerville	Craig Fitzsimons
<b>Social Secretary</b>	Don White	Kieth Withington	Bill Reynolds
<b>Field Manager</b>	Craig Fitzsimons	Peter Harris	Paul Sommerville
<b>Editor</b>	Frank McPherson	Ivan Chiselett	Peter Harris
<b>Club Captain</b>	Peter Harris	Ivan Chiselett	Bill Reynolds
<b>Facilities Manager</b>	Norm Morrish	Peter Harris	Ivan Chiselett
	Paul Sommerville	Peter Harrison	Mike Smith
<b>Safety Officer</b>	Brian Evans	Paul Sommerville	Craig Fitzsimons
	Glen Cosser	Glen Burgdorf	Norm Morrish
<b>Ordinary Member</b>	Steve Malcman	Ivan Chiselett	Alan Foley
	Adam Barker	Craig Fitzsimons	Paul Sommerville
	Peter Harrison	Chris Caulcutt	Mark Smith

#### **President;**

Greg asked if there were any nominations for President from the floor. There were none. Greg then invited each candidate to have a 2 minutes speak in support of the nomination. He then advised that the voting for this position would be done by e-mail.

#### **Vice President;**

Greg asked if there were any nominations for Vice President from the floor. There was one additional nomination that of Paul Sommerville, nominated by Mike Smith and seconded by Keith Randall.

Greg then invited each candidate to have a 2 minutes speak in support of the nomination. He then advised that the voting for this position would be done by e-mail.

#### **Secretary;**

Greg asked if there were any nominations for Secretary from the floor. There was none. He then declared Ivan Chiselett elected as Secretary.

#### **Treasurer;**

Greg asked if there were any nominations for Treasurer from the floor. There was none. He then declared Peter Harris elected as Treasurer.



## **SECRETARY'S REPORT, continued**

### **Registrar;**

Greg asked if there were any nominations for Registrar from the floor. There was none. He then declared Rob Till elected as Registrar.

### **Web Master;**

Greg asked if there were any nominations for Web Master from the floor. There was none.

Greg then invited each candidate to have a 2 minutes speak in support of the nomination. He then advised that the voting for this position would be done by e-mail.

### **Social Secretary;**

Greg asked if there were any nominations for Social Secretary from the floor. There was none. He then declared Don White elected as Social Secretary.

### **Field Manager;**

Greg asked if there were any nominations for Field Manager from the floor. There was none. He then declared Craig Fitzsimons elected as Field Manager.

### **Editor;**

Greg asked if there were any nominations for Editor from the floor. There was none. He then declared Frank McPherson elected as Editor.

### **Club Captain;**

Greg asked if there were any nominations for Club Captain from the floor. There was none. He then declared Peter Harris elected as Club Captain.

### **Facilities Manager;**

Greg asked if there were any nominations for Facilities manager from the floor. There was none. Greg then invited each candidate to have a 2 minutes speak in support of the nomination. He then advised that the voting for this position would be done by e-mail.

### **Safety Office;**

Greg asked if there were any nominations for Safety Officer from the floor. There was one, Evan Bellamy proposed by Chris Caulcutt seconded by Adam Barker.

Greg then invited each candidate to have a 2 minutes speak in support of the nomination. He then advised that the voting for this position would be done by e-mail.

### **Ordinary Member;**

Greg asked if there were any nominations for Ordinary member from the floor. There was one, Evan Bellamy proposed by Chris Eeles seconded by Paul Sommerville.

Greg then invited each candidate to have a 2 minutes speak in support of the nomination. He then advised that the voting for this position would be done by e-mail.

Greg then advised that concluded the election and asked Peter Harris to explain the voting.

Peter advised that the voting would be by e-mail, with the e-mails sent to the VMAA President Reeve Marsh, the Returning Officer, who will then count the votes and advise the Club Secretary of the result. Voting will close at 8pm Monday October 5 2020.

He further advised that a template to assist with voting process will be placed on the Club web site shortly after the meeting concludes. It was noted that all votes must include your name to identify the vote as the club Constitution only allows those attending the AGM to vote. The Returning Officer, Reeve Marsh, will be given a list of attendees to check that only legitimate votes are counted.

A question from the floor asked if Reeve could acknowledge that he has received the votes. Reeve replied that he would send a note advising that he had received the vote.

Greg then handed the Chair back to Bill Reynolds as interim President until the results of the election were known.

The situation at the conclusion of the AGM with respect to the election of Office Bearers is set out on the next page

## SECRETARY'S REPORT, continued

	Nominee	Proposed	Seconded
<b>President</b>	Bill Reynolds	Alan Coleman	Don White
	Peter Harrison	Chris Caulcutt	Mark Smith
<b>Vice President</b>	Don White	Bill Reynolds	K Withington
	Peter Harrison	Chris Caulcutt	Mark Smith
	Paul Sommerville	Mike Smith	Keith Randall
<b>Secretary</b>	Ivan Chiselett	ELECTED	
<b>Treasurer</b>	Peter Harris	ELECTED	
<b>Registrar</b>	Rob Till	ELECTED	
<b>Web Manager</b>	Daniel Jenkins	Rob Till	Don Klien
	Adam Barker	Paul Sommerville	Craig Fitzsimons
<b>Social Secretary</b>	Don White	ELECTED	
<b>Field Manager</b>	Craig Fitzsimons	ELECTED	
<b>Editor</b>	Frank McPherson	ELECTED	
<b>Club Captain</b>	Peter Harris	ELECTED	
<b>Facilities Manager</b>	Norm Morrish	Peter Harris	Ivan Chiselett
	Paul Sommerville	Peter Harrison	Mike Smith
<b>Safety Officer</b>	Brian Evans	Paul Sommerville	Craig Fitzsimons
	Glen Cosser	Glen Burgdorf	Norm Morrish
	Evan Bellamy	Chris Caulcutt	Adam Barker
<b>Ordinary Member</b>	Steve Malcman	Ivan Chiselett	Alan Foley
	Adam Barker	Craig Fitzsimons	Paul Sommerville
	Peter Harrison	Chris Caulcutt	Mark Smith
	Peter Harrison	Chris Caulcutt	Mark Smith

The Treasurer, Peter Harris, advised that the Covid-19 restrictions hindered the transition to new office bearers re banking and advised that he was proposing a motion to ensure the club could continue to meet our financial obligations.

## SECRETARY'S REPORT, continued

**Motion;** Peter Harris proposed the motion to facilitate the Club to have access to funds to continue operation. That any two jointly of the President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer of Pakenham and District Aircraft Radio Control Society be authorised to operate and be a signatories of the accounts and term deposits of the Society.

On completion of the electronic elections the names of the office bearers will be recorded in the Committee Minutes following the AGM.

Until the completion of the documentation for the change of authority as required by the bank, the Authorised officers of P&DARCS for the Year 2019/2020 are granted authority to continue to operate the accounts of the society. This may be a considerable period due to the Covid-19 restrictions.

Seconded by Rob Till **CARRIED**

Meeting concluded at; 2:41pm

### Results of Elections

The Returning Officer, Reeve Marsh, VMAA President, advised the Secretary of the results of the election. A copy of his e-mail is below;

As I was instructed at the P&DARCS 2020 AGM, I have recorded all election voting submitted to me by P&DARCS members up until the deadline of 8:00pm today.

I have ensured that only votes from full members who attended the meeting were counted in the final tallies. I have responded by email directly to all members who lodged votes to confirm receipt.

The results of the elections conducted as part of the P&DARCS 2020 AGM according to the final tallies are as follows:

- President: Bill Reynolds
- Vice President: Don White
- Web Manager: Daniel Jenkins
- Facilities Manager: Norm Morrish
- Safety Officer: Glenn Cossor
- Ordinary Member: Steve Malcman

I am happy to address any questions or concerns raised regarding process if necessary, while maintaining the confidentiality of the ballots themselves.

*Regards,*

Reeve Marsh  
President, Victorian Model Aeronautical Association

Therefore the Committee of P&DARCS for 2020/21 year is as shown on the next page;

## SECRETARY'S REPORT, continued

	<b>Nominee</b>	
<b>President</b>	Bill Reynolds	ELECTED
<b>Vice President</b>	Don White	ELECTED
<b>Secretary</b>	Ivan Chiselett	ELECTED
<b>Treasurer</b>	Peter Harris	ELECTED
<b>Registrar</b>	Rob Till	ELECTED
<b>Web Manager</b>	Daniel Jenkins	
<b>Social Secretary</b>	Don White	ELECTED
<b>Field Manager</b>	Craig Fitzsimons	ELECTED
<b>Editor</b>	Frank McPherson	ELECTED
<b>Club Captain</b>	Peter Harris	ELECTED
<b>Facilities Manager</b>	Norm Morrish	ELECTED
<b>Safety Officer</b>	Glen Cosser	ELECTED
<b>Ordinary Member</b>	Steve Malcman	ELECTED

**Ivan Chiselett** Secretary



# REGISTRAR

## Registrars Report – July 2020

### New Member Applications

No member applications this month

### Membership Renewals

All quiet now for the next few months. We may expect a few new members once the Covid restrictions are lifted and the summer flying weather arrives.

Just remember to let me know of any changes to your address or other contact details.

### Membership Status

	Paid 2020-21	Unpaid	New 20-21
Associate	16	3	1
Full	97	6	6
Honorary	0	0	0
Junior	5	1	0
Life	3	0	0
Non-flying full	0	0	0
Pensioner	21	1	0
Probationary	9	4	0
Prospective	1	0	3
Student	0	0	1
Spouse	1	0	0
<b>Total Paid</b>	<b>153</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>11</b>

### Club Fees

Some members have approached the committee asking about reduced fees or credit for the loss of access to the flying field during the Covid-19 shutdown.

Membership fees were set in May and were at a level sufficient to enable the club to cover all budgeted costs for the 2020-2021 year. Many of these costs, such as insurance and electricity, are incurred irrespective of the actual use of the field. At the time of membership renewals no-one was anticipating the extended period of lock-down initiated by the State Government in response to the Covid-19 epidemic.

It is not practical to reduce or refund fees during the current year as we do not know when the government restrictions will be lifted and flying may resume. It would be very difficult to prepare a new budget mid-year under such circumstances.

When the fees are being set for next year we will know how much flying time was lost and the committee will explore the opportunity for credit for those who paid fees for the current year and were unable to fly. Club fees are approved by the members at a General Meeting and no doubt they too will expect such an adjustment.

**Rob Till** Registrar

## FIELD MANAGERS REPORT

What a past month we have had, our AGM and still this ongoing COVID-19. I am honoured in filling the official role of Field Manager, Norm has done an awesome job in the past so many years and I thank him for that.

I will be changing a few things around bringing new ideas on board such as restructuring the mowing roster, re instating the irrigation system and our club being more OHS responsible.

Our field is moving along nicely, the runways have been mowed and rolled many times, Pits area has been mowed and the grass picked up on a recent work day. The Control line circle has also been mowed but requires further rolling.

We recently had over 20 mm of rain, pits and runways were a bit soggy to work on but are drying out nicely now. Our drains will be cleaned out soon, hopefully within the next few months.

I've done spraying around the buildings and drains, the runways will be tackled next.

Apart from that I've been sorting out the Machinery shed into order. Ian Jacques and myself are down there each week now maintaining the field and I thank Ian for helping me each work day.

Hopefully we can all get back to flying and enjoying our wonderful club again.

**Craig Fitzsimons** Field Manager



Our Kubota tractor with the roller attached, on the main East – West flying strip, Club complex in the background

## WEBMASTERS REPORT

### Club PC Replacement

The PC that controls the weather station and the webcams has died. The Hard Disk controller has failed.

This computer is now over 10 years old, so the club has got excellent value out of it, but it's time to replace it rather than repair it. Due to COVID, this is a little easier said than done. I want to specify good quality equipment so we can get a long life out of it, but availability is an issue thanks to COVID.

I'm in the process now of defining the specs and getting quote & availability.

I have placed notice on the club website & will update that periodically with progress.

Before the computer crashed, there was also an issue with one of the webcams. This will need to be investigated once the new PC is installed.

**Daniel Jenkins** Webmaster

## FACILITIES MANAGERS REPORT

### October Flood Protection Report

**Hi members, firstly a very sincere thank you to all the members who voted for me as the Facilities Manager and to all the mower men who supported me so well during the past 12 years.**

This report is to keep you up to date with what Peter Harris and I have achieved on behalf of our Co Op Society. This report was meant to be in last month's newsletter with the photos that were published. Lower Gum Scrub creek runs along our western boundary and the Wenn Rd bridge crosses over it.

As most of you are aware the creeks, both Lower Gum Scrub, Cardinia and the creeks east of Wenn rd, known as the badlands, have been neglected by Melbourne Water for many years. The thick vegetation in all creeks, south of Ballarto Rd creates a restricted flow where they are basically stagnant at the Ballarto Rd bridges. This neglected condition of the creeks resulted in the May 3rd flooding, affecting both us and our adjacent farmers. It was only 75mm over 4 days and this should not have created the flood. Normally it took 100mm in 1 day to flood us. The water level in both creeks then remained high for 10 days not allowing our flooded runways to drain away. Normally our floods recede in 3 days.

The good news is we now have a very good contact at Melbourne Water, Tom, a Maintenance Coordinator for the Koo Wee Rup area. He is very understanding and good to deal with. Peter Harris, myself and 4 farmers first met with Tom on 10th May to discuss the flooding and the poor conditions of the creeks. **Tom explained that to clean the creeks south of Ballarto Rd required an environmental study and report. This would take a few years if the full width is to be cleared but only 2 months if half the width is cleared. We all agreed on clearing the half width as an initial stage.** Tom immediately rang a consultant to start the study. Pete as president of our Co Op had written a works request letter to Melbourne Water and had the 4 farmers co sign it at the meeting.

While waiting for the report they cleared Gum Scrub Creek beside our property and for 200 meters north of Fowler Rd Bridge. This resulted in a lot of cut reeds flowing downstream, a lot being caught by two illegal fences across Gum Scrub Creek, one at Fowler Rd Bridge and the second fence was half way along our property. They acted like dam walls, but both are now removed by Melb Water.

On 24th August, prior to any cleaning south of Ballarto Rd, Gum Scrub creek was at full capacity at Fowler Rd Bridge, flooding our western paddock and the farmers again, but not our runways. This was from only 35mm over 2 days. **This prompted us to talk to Victorian Planning Authority who are responsible for future developments in the Officer area. They advised we talk with Melbourne Water Strategic Planning department which we did and then followed it up with a letter from the Co Op with 5 farmers names attached raising our concerns about the recent flooding and what affect future developments will have on us.** We will meet the Planning Department on site, along with Tom and the farmers after lockdown and they said they would like to meet regularly with us as their planning progresses. That is really good news.

Melbourne water have now cleared Gum Scrub and Cardinia Creeks from Ballarto Rd towards the bay. They have gone well past Manks Rd which is approximately 3 km further south. Not all of the tea trees were removed on the western bank but we are having discussions with Tom to remove them at the moment and we have sent him photos of the water levels of Gum Scrub Creek at Fowler Rd bridge stating that the water flow in the creek is still not acceptable for such small rainfalls and will not protect us from future flooding. We sent him photos after 27.4mm fell on Sept 26th and after 40mm fell on 8th and 9th October. Melbourne Water inspected the creeks on 9th October and are now deciding on what actions to do next to improve the flow of Lower Gum Scrub Creek. They have done their drone flights over the badlands and they are now deciding how to clean up these creeks also. We are waiting their reports but we will still continue to monitor and document Gum Scrub Creek water flow after each heavy rain. **We and the farmers will never ease up until the creeks are flowing quickly and the capacity is increased to cope with future developments.**

**Norm Morrish** Facilities Manager



# From Our Flying Field



Fantastic 1972 Northerner flown at Classic weekend Jan 2016



Fantastic to fly. This model has done thousands of flights still with Multicon Retracts. ( photo and text, Norm Morrish )







# P&DARCS CALENDAR FOR 2020

## November

07 (Sat) 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm [Club Meeting](#)

19 (Thu) 7:30 pm - 10:00 pm [Committee Meeting](#)

## December

12 (Sat) 1:00 pm - 1:30 pm [P&DARCS Christmas Zoom Drinks](#)

### NOTE :

**All events and works for 2020 have been cancelled in line with current Covid restrictions**



**Next Club Meeting November 7th, Via Zoom**

**P&DARCS Newsletter**  
Pakenham & District Aircraft Radio Control Society

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