



2024

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Committee Members: Neil Addicott,
John van de Waterbeemd

From the President

Welcome fellow members, and I hope that everyone has had a great start to 2024.

As we have reported elsewhere, we have been forced to postpone our proposed Australia Day event for 2024. The weather has again been against us, with the flood event occurring last week. Some concerns remain, in particular the unpleasant odors that have been lingering since the water started to recede. We will be looking into that to understand the origins and to hopefully prevent it from re-occurring. Those that have already registered and paid for the event can either have their money refunded or simply wait for the update on the event.

The committee will be lodging a business case to the MAAA in an attempt reclaim some of the costs that the club will expend due to this latest flood. Members of the committee and co-op will also continue to lobby our case to Melbourne Water with a view to some form of mitigation for future heavy rain events.

We have also reported that our club has been successful in receiving an updated area approval for our field. CASA has issued many such approvals in the past few weeks and is working closely with the MAAA to ensure a smooth path ahead for process. It is likely that our new approval will again be re-issued soon to accommodate a few changes from CASA but will not impact on our flying area or height exemption. More details will be released once we have them.

General Working Bee Saturday January 20th (Peter Harris)

The working bee to re-instate our facilities will commence at 9am, run through until around 12 noon on Saturday. Runways are **CLOSED** while work is being carried out.

The flood waters have receded leaving a trail of mud and debris. Headed by Norm Morrish a small team of members have already been hard at work cleaning up the mess but there is still a great deal to be accomplished.

- The toilet block has been cleaned and sanitized.
- The machinery shed and equipment has been cleaned.
- The carpet tiles have been removed from the clubhouse to allow the floor to dry and expect them to be replaced on Friday.

Remaining General maintenance work in and around the clubhouse includes:

- Scrub the verandah.
- Clear out water damaged books in the library.
- Clean chairs, folding Tables and flood lines on walls or equipment.
- Clean up water-soaked soft drink boxes.
- Pressure washing under the Hay Shed.
- Cleaning mud off Old Machinery Shed floor.
- Cleaning equipment and signs caught in the flood water.
- Cleaning the spare chairs in the Shed



Useful links

Club home page and calendar

[P&DARCS Homepage](#)

[P&DARCS Calendar](#)

[P&DARCS Cub Rules and Safety](#)

- Dispose of redundant items still stored in the shed.
- Clean mud and debris in the utility room next to the invalid toilet.

Craig will be assessing the condition of the field to establish when it is suitable to use the maintenance machinery to cut the runways and to determine when the field will be reopened.

A strong pungent odor around the field is slowly dissipating and hopefully the showers on Wednesday further help reduce the stench. Could you please contact Peter Harris to book in to assist with catering and to enable last-minute updates to the project.

Peter Harris
0425 857 152
treasurer@pdarcs.com.au

From the Registrar (Trevor Carey)

Our membership continues to grow with another 2 applications received this month. One senior and a junior, please make them welcome when you see them. Welcome Curtis and Elliot.

Under our club rules, new and returning members of P&DARCS must first be presented to our entire membership. Full members have a right to object to a new or a returning membership application. Any objections must be made by a full member and in writing to the P&DARCS Secretary prior to the next Committee meeting.

The following applications have been received:

- Curtis Oliver – Probationary member.
- Wilhelm Hoewel-Kohlman – Junior Probationary member.

Please also note that several members still need to complete inductions; It is important to have completed this prior to the end of the probationary period.

If you need to complete induction and you're at the field, any committee member can go through induction with you and will advise me to mark you off as completed.

Thanks in advance

Scratch & Kit Built Rally November 2023 (Ivan Chiselett)

After missing the past 3 years due to Covid and flooding the Scratch & Kit Built Scale Rally was back. Unfortunately, the weather forecast noted a "Strong Warning on the Bays". This sort of forecast is enough to send most modellers for cover. To their credit they did not.

Craig and his boys had the field looking a picture. It was just fantastic, a super "well done" team. We are so lucky to have such a dedicated field team.



About 20 modellers turned up with about 32 models and projects. There was also a good number of non-flying spectators who enjoyed watching the flying and looking at the models. Even though the wind was a tad stiff it did not deter the flying. Even the WW1 era/biplanes took to the air. The skill of the pilot was really on display and some very good flying was seen. It was very pleasing to see so many projects displayed. They certainly generated discussion and that is what it is all about, getting modellers and balsa wood to be acquainted. Believe me guys it is great fun.

The number of participants was a little disappointing, particularly from P&DARCS members, maybe due to the 3-year break. There are more builders of scale models in the club than turned up. I think some may be a bit intimidated but that they should not be. The day is about just encouraging modellers to build their models and get extra enjoyment. The organisers are seriously looking at opening the day to any hand-built model so that those that build trainers and non-scale aircraft can come along and participate.

Due to the generosity of our sponsors, Dragon RC; HOLK RC; TTT Insurance; My Tool Store and Balsa Central, all modellers that registered received handouts of product. We thank the sponsors for the generosity. Please do business with our sponsors and thank them in your order for sponsoring P&DARCS.

Prize winners for the day were;

- President's Award: Stinson Voyager, Ian Farrar (Nepean Club).
- Best Jet: Panther, Andrew Smallridge (P&DARCS).
- Best Civilian: Travel Air 4000, Alex Butler (P&DARCS).
- Best Warbird: Fokker E111, Rolly Gaumann (Wangaratta Club).
- Best Project: Boeing B17, Wayne Gorsuch (Westen Port Club).

A big thank you to the Club Members that assisted in running the event. Without their assistance the show would not go on. Thanks guys, it is greatly appreciated.

Why don't you start a project for next year. Any model just hand build it.