



P&DARCS

Pakenham and District Aircraft Radio Control Society



P&DARCS NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2020



Daryl Cope's Paramotor model doing a low (slow) pass on the Eastern Flying Strip July 2015

No Club Meeting For August

BURLEY FIELD

Wenn Road Cardinia

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EDITOR'S BIT

More Lockdown Occupation

Late last year I destroyed my Nite Flyer, it ran out of battery power, I tried landing it in the East paddock, it banged into a round hay bale, re-kitting it in about ½ a second, I was not amused, and jumped on the remains, made me feel better

So I am now occupied in converting a new Boomerang 60 into my next Twiflyer

Got the Iron Man / parachute release mechanism fitted and, the rest of the internal "gubbins"

I always liked the sound of Paul Somerville's model with a 4 stroke motor, burbling around

So the nite flyer is sporting an O.S FL70 4 stroke motor, a departure from my usual electric powered models, back into fuel / glow plugs / electric starter, and stuff, all good

Don't know when the test flight will happen ??



The Nite' Flyer (Boomerang 60) powered by an O.S 70 four stroke, with Iron Man and parachute mounted underneath, yet to fit the LED strip lighting

Frank McPherson Editor

WHAT'S ON At P&DARCS 2019

Look in the Club Calendar on page 10

IN THIS ISSUE:

Notices	3
Committee Reports	6
From Our Flying Field	8
Club Calendar for 2020	10
Sponsor's advertising	11

NOTICES

WORKS TO BE COMPLETED ON DRAINS & CREEKS

We have certainly had our challenges this over the past year with the break in, the field being flooded and the issues that have confronted us with the corona virus pandemic.

Fortunately, our insurance covered most of the costs involved in recovering from the damage resulting from the robbery. The preventative measures that had been implemented foiled what could have been a much greater catastrophe.

This year the flood waters covered the whole property and the surrounding area with the water level just lapping into the new machinery shed. Both Cardinia Creek and Gum Scrub Creek broke their banks and the whole area between Cardinia Creek and Wenn Road were totally flooded to the north of Ballarto Road.

This affected all our neighbors to the west and north of our property. Even now the flood waters have not completely drained. Members who have visited the field will be aware that our runways are still sodden and the outlying paddocks are even in a worse condition.

Once the water level dropped a clean-up brigade headed by Paul did a massive job cleaning up the clubhouse and surrounding areas, the toilet block and two sheds.



Retained water in surrounding paddocks at Burley Field, 2 Months after the flood, our Flying Field is in the top right of the picture

The prolonged period of saturated ground has also had an adverse effect on our tenant and the replacement of the cattle yards. This is the first time that it has taken so long for the property to recover from a flood. And the cause is many fold: -

- The flood occurred just before winter set in, with considerable rain continuing during the pursuing months.
- The overgrowth of trees bracken and reeds in the creeks and drains slowing up the flow of water. The drain along Wenn Road hasn't been cleared for decades and the maintenance of the creeks by Melbourne Water has been very sparse if not negligent.
- Many of the flood gates were either ceased closed or leaking. This played a significant role in flooding the properties to the west of us and preventing them from draining. The property owner to the north west of us informed Melbourne Water of the condition of the Flood Gates after the great flood of 2011 and nothing was done to rectify the problem
- The property development that has occurred over the past decade, in Officer and Pakenham in the catchment areas has overloaded the capacity of the creeks that drain the water into Westernport.

- In some of these areas the drains have been diverted to Gum Scrub Creek. (That's the creek that runs along the west boundary of our property.)

Due to the increase of water from the catchment area and the blocked drains, the water levels in the drains have remained very high which has significantly impacted on the efficiency of our field drainage system



Gum Scrub Creek clogged with weeds – Looking North from Ballarto Road Bridge

Peter Harris, chairman of the Darcsfield Cooperative and Field Manager Norm Morrish held meetings with our neighbors and prepared an urgent work request to Koo Wee Rup and Longwarry Maintenance Coordinator, Melbourne Water. This request was submitted on behalf of and signed by many of our immediate neighbors who have been affected by the flood. Copies of the problems and work request were also sent to the Shire of Cardinia and our local member. We have also had numerous meetings and conversations with the Acting Program Leader, Westernport/Peninsula from Melbourne Water.

The representative from Melbourne Water has been very helpful and it appears that we are making some headway.

- Many of the flood gates have been either serviced or repaired. Others have been scheduled for major repair once they can get heavy equipment onto the properties to replace broken or leaking pipes.

A summary of scheduled works for the next couple months are below. Following this the intention is to inspect the drain and plan follow up works accordingly.

- The intention is to establish regular maintenance over the length of Lower Gum Scrub.
- Lower Gum Scrub upstream of Ballarto Road – Grass cutting – complete where possible – wet conditions making access to some areas challenging –inspection to determine next steps
- Lower Gum Scrub downstream of Ballarto Road – Vegetation and blockage removal – planned for August – Ideally these works would occur once dried however given the significant issues these works have been brought forward.
- Cardinia Creek Instream vegetation management – planned for August.
- Toomuc Creek – currently planning drone inspection to identify choke points.

Development Plan

- Melbourne Water is currently investigating the future drainage and flood effects from urban development on downstream properties from the upstream developing Precinct Structure Plan areas. These ongoing studies will involve the investigation of the catchment and will include the analysis of a number of likely contributing issues. The results of the studies will inform the long-term drainage and flood management requirements of the Koo Wee Rup Flood Protection district. However, this work will not necessarily plan for the reduction of existing flooding that exists in the Koo Wee Rup Flood Protection district, but will specifically address the objective that urban development should not worsen the pre-development flood conditions in the district.

Conclusion

Hopefully, once the current proposed work schedule by Melbourne Water is completed, clearing out the growth in the drainage system and repair to the flood gates, this will have a positive effect in reducing the probability of flooding and will improve the operation of the drainage system that we have installed on Burley Field.

PETER HARRIS Peter Harris, Chairman Darcsfield Cooperative

Gas Pipe line – Crib Point to Pakenham

Some members will have noticed an advertisement in the press re the construction of a high pressure gas pipeline from Crib Point to Pakenham.

The Club has made contact with the Authority in charge of the project and has been registered as an “interested party” and will receive updates. We have also obtained a detailed map of the route of the pipeline which shows that it crosses Ballarto Road where the drains cross near the intersection of Wenn Rd.

The Secretary has been in contact with the Project and was advised that the pipe will be “drilled” under Ballarto Road and the Drains and thus will not impact on Wenn Road and Ballarto Road. During construction there will be speed restrictions on Ballarto Road but no closure, so entry to our facility will not be impacted.

The Committee will advise of any developments that impact the Club when they occur.

Ivan Chiselett Secretary

FIELD MANAGERS REPORT

Our field is very slowly drying out, the main and east runways were usable until we got shut down again. The western strip is still unflyable as a lot of water is still pooling on it. All the runways are still very soft and we are unable to get any mowers on them up to now.

See also Peter Harris's report on drainage in **NOTICES**

During the last month we did get our machines all serviced though, front deck mower and the two tractors. Some of our machines were way over due for servicing, this was done by Patons who are Kubota and other tractor specialists. A job well done.

Our flying field is surrounded by a lot of Swale/Spoon drains, these are all blocked and way over grown with weeds and grass which is stopping our runways and pits area from drying out. I've organised two quotes for this to get done soon. It will take two days to complete the job using excavators.

Apart from that, I've been continually sorting out our machinery shed and doing more spraying around our buildings and hard stand areas.

Keep safe,

Craig Fitzsimons Field Manager



One of our main drains looking East towards Wenn Road, well and truly choked with vegetation

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

It can be extremely difficult finding exciting things to write about when virtually nothing is happening, at least in the area of flying and social activity, for such an extended time.

In a 'normal' club year we would now be approaching our AGM in the first week of August, but, as you were told previously, the Committee decided to delay the event in the hope that things (Covid wise) may have improved to the point where we could have a normal Club meeting. We can but live in hope, stay home, and try to stay safe.

For those about to ask –Yes, we have approval of the appropriate Government department to delay as far as the end of the year if necessary.

We still have major problems at the field with the main drainage channels, the creek to the West, and the main drain to the East, not taking our surface water away. Melbourne Water have appraised the problem and promised to clear both channels and maintain them in the future but that is a large project which will take considerable time, so I guess we must be patient. Our hard working field maintenance crew are investigating works to keep our 'on property' drainage system up to scratch and to keep us more than one step ahead of weather gods.

See also Peter Harris's report in **NOTICES**

Lets keep looking forward, hope that the coming weeks and months bring improvement in all things, particularly the Covid situation and think about all those new models we will see when things 'normalize' again.

Regards to all

Bill Reynolds President

REGISTRAR

Registrars Report – August 2020

New Member Applications

New Member Applications this Month

Mark Bishop, Kew – Probationary Member

Alex Butler, Heidelberg – Probationary Member

Joseph Scarpa, Carrum Downs – Probationary Member

Andrew Sill, Highett – Probationary Member

Any objections to this member application may be raised by sending in an official objection in writing to the Secretary. Note that only FULL members have the right to raise an objection.

Membership Renewals

The membership renewals have gone well and many members have taken advantage of the club and MAAA/VMAA discounts.

The discounts are now **ENDED** and anyone paying their subscriptions after **31 July** are required to pay the **FULL** amounts – it is no good paying the reduced amount hoping that we will process it anyway – **NO CHANCE !!!!**

Australia Post is experiencing mail delivery problems, as we are all aware, so membership cards are taking some time to arrive. This really is beyond our control

Any problems – contact me on registrar@pdarcs.com.au

MAAA Insurance Cover

A reminder that your insurance cover expires on 30 June 2020. **No insurance no flying!**

Membership Status

	Paid 2020-21	Unpaid	New 20-21
Associate	13	8	1
Full	77	29	6
Honorary	0	0	0
Junior	3	3	0
Life	3	3	0
Non-flying full	0	0	0
Pensioner	17	7	0
Probationary	2	3	0
Prospective	3	1	3
Student	0	0	0
Spouse	0	0	0
Total Paid	118	54	10

Rob Till Registrar

FROM OUR FLYING FIELD 2018



Interesting double ended model, looks like a couple of O.S LAs



A big old timer, trainer ?



Looks like one of Dave Chivers models, an Ag' crop sprayer



A busy Western pits area



The terrible twosome, Chivers and Timms



Preparation for combat during the 2018 VMAA Trophy contest



Joe Finachario, conducting a pilot briefing prior to VMAA Trophy musical landings



A nice Hawthorn Hobbies 3D model



Andrew Smallridge and his big Bipe

P&DARCS CALENDAR FOR 2020

August

01 (Sat) 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm [P&DARCS AGM](#) - POSTPONED

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

September

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

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

October

03 (Sat) 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm [Club Meeting & Coop AGM](#)

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

24 (Sat) [Spring Clean & Working Bee](#) Field Open: **No**

31 (Sat) - 01 (Sun) [Twi-Fly](#)

November

03 (Tue) [Melbourne Cup Aero Tow](#) Field Open: **Partial**

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

07 (Sat) 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm [Mini Working Bee for Rally](#) Field Open: **No**

08 (Sun) [P&DARCS Scratch / Kit Built Scale Rally](#) Field Open: **No**

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

December

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

06 (Sun) [VPA Pattern](#) Field Open: **No**

12 (Sat) [P&DARCS Christmas Dinner & Twi-Fly](#)



No Club Meeting For August

P&DARCS Newsletter

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If undelivered return to
P&DARCS.
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