



P&DARCS

Pakenham and District Aircraft Radio Control Society



P&DARCS NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2021



Frank McPherson's nice Westland Lysander climbing away, on it's maiden flight, September 2019
A Phoenix model from Modelflight S.A, 1900mm wingspan, Motor Himark 5020-510, battery 6S 5000,
propeller 14 x 7 glow, flying weight 4.5kg, note the slight up elevator

Photo: Andrew Mysliborski

**Next Club Meeting & AGM Darcsfield Co-operative Limited
Saturday 2nd October, 1pm, via Zoom**

BURLEY FIELD

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EDITOR'S BIT

THE EASTERN BADLANDS ?

You may have heard this name mentioned at our Flying Field, and wondered what it means

This is the area to the East of our Flying Field right next to Wenn Road, looking from the Club, it just looks like a gentle embankment covered in grass, a bit of blackberry growth, and some trees in the background

That's because of the distance from us, and that most of the **BAD** part of it is hidden from our view

Past the first embankment lies two drains with raised banks on either side, between the drains are hollows, ridges, and bogs, the whole area is covered in a heavy blackberry entanglement, growing in and around self seeded trees, most of it to a depth of 2M or more. We have been told that the area is also supports a large population of snakes, Contractors for CSL regularly collect snakes for venom supply, during the Summer Months

SO, if you lose a model in that lot, you will have a job to retrieve it, as others have discovered, the photo below should give you the flavor of it



Andrew Mysliborski retrieving a model deep in the Eastern Badlands, he hacked his way in there with a machete !
A hazardous area.

Frank McPherson **Editor**. Special Graphics : **Alan Foley**

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A BIT OF HUMOR

RESTRICTIONS GETTING YOU DOWN A BIT ?, IT'S GOTTA' GET BETTER

WE WILL GET TO DO SOME FLYING SOOOOOON

NEVER EVER GIVE UP



SO, busy yourself getting your models ready for cutting some holes in the air !

We are Planning our BIG Event;

Monty Tyrrell Memorial Scale Rally
Sunday March 27th 2022



All Scale Aircraft welcome, ARF, Kit built does not matter, just come.

Start Building NOW!

Come and have a great days flying.

- Flying starts at 9-00am.
- Excellent Trophies & Prizes
- No documentation required – just fly and have fun.
- Bring lots of aircraft, any size any type, just scale.
- MAAA cards and Model Permits must be sighted.
- Catering may be available – we will keep you informed
- Tell your friends to come and see some great aircraft.

Come for a great days flying at a great field.

\$5 per car entry/registration fee for pilots and spectators.

Notice of Annual General Meeting Darcfields Co-operative Limited

The Annual General Meeting of the Darcfields Co-operative limited will be held following the P&DARCS October club meeting either At Burley Field or by On-line Zoom Meeting subject to Covid restrictions at **on Saturday 2nd October 2021**.

Note: *If by Zoom Eligible Voting members will receive a link by email.*

Ordinary business of the meeting will be:

1. To confirm the minutes of the last AGM
2. To receive from the Board, Auditor or any officer of the Society reports upon the transactions of the Co-operative during the financial year including balance sheet, trading account, profit and loss account, statement of cash flows, and the state of affairs at the end of the financial year.
3. To elect and confirm the remuneration (if any) of the Directors. Mr D Walsh, Mr A Smallridge and Mr I Chiselett are retiring as directors. Mr D Walsh, Mr A Smallridge and Mr I Chiselett offer themselves for re-election.

Nominations for election as Director to fill these vacancies are to be submitted to the Secretary in writing on the form available at www.pdarcs.com.au/nomination. Forms to be submitted at least 21 days prior to the meeting. (*Rule 41 (3)*) No nominations will be accepted from the floor at the meeting.

4. To appoint an Auditor
5. To transact any special business of which notice has been given to members in accordance with the rules.

The rules provide that any member having a resolution to submit to a general meeting "*shall give written notice thereof to the Society not less than twenty-one days prior to the date of the meeting*". Any such notice must be sent to:

The Secretary
Darcfields Co-operative Limited
17 Goulburn Drive
Rowville VIC 3178

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

September 2021

Firstly, let's start this off with some good news regarding our club member Craig Fitzsimons. Craig is now at home and on the mend. His visit to hospital a few weeks ago yielded a few problems arising from blood tests which have now stabilised along with some heart rate irregularities. He will be visiting his own specialist over the next week or so to gain some more answers. He has also recommenced operations with his dog grooming business which is excellent news as well. Craig has written to the committee and would like to express his gratitude to everyone in the P&DARCS for their kind wishes and messages. Best of luck to Craig and we will keep everyone informed.

Lockdowns and restrictions, where do we go from here?

The Victorian government roadmap will provide us with the guidance that we need to ensure that the P&DARCS will be on track to re-open when the time is right and be able to function within those guidelines. However, I fully expect that it will be some time before we will be at a point where the club facility will be fully open. But if we are able to operate under restricted numbers then we will endeavour to put in place the methods needed to do so. A remote sign in booking system to limit numbers present at the field is possible, but if it was to proceed the system would need to be adopted by everyone and used as it is intended. Following further advice from the state government and our committee meetings, we will keep you updated via the NOTAP. Not a great situation I know, but we will do whatever we can to get the field open again.

Essential Field Maintenance

As usual, there has been the necessary field maintenance going on in the background with Norm taking the reigns again while Craig is unwell. Many thanks to Mike Smith, Daniel Jenkins, and Ian Jaques for putting in their valuable time once again for the benefit of the club during these very trying circumstances. We have also been working with the DARCS co-op to facilitate the insurance works from the windstorm some months ago. Along with the results of some flood mitigation, you can read a more detailed report from our Facilities Manager further into the newsletter.

Coffee With The Club

For those who joined in, we had a very successful coffee and chat session on Sunday afternoon via Zoom. It was a very informal catch up with the chance for everyone to just talk about what they have been up to in general or in the workshop. It is planned that this format will become a semi-regular feature of the club landscape.

Business Development

As our club continues to grow and attract new members, we must be vigilant of the future and how we shape the club. It is not enough to simply rest on our laurels and say yes, our club has lots of members today and we are doing well. To facilitate and foster sustained growth, we are beginning discussions at committee level to develop a 3- or 5-year plan to suit our needs beyond 2025. A small subcommittee will be chaired by the vice president, Mr Neil Addicott to begin this process. Neil has vast exposure in the business of aero modelling which makes him a very suitable person for this role. Part of this business plan will hopefully include formal partnerships with local, established Pakenham businesses. With that, I'm happy to hear suggestions from members as to how they believe the club should progress. For most of you who know me now, you would guess that I am passionate about aeromodelling and the benefits it brings us all. Along with the best efforts of members of the club and others outside the club, we will strive to ensure the P&DARCS remains a first-class venue for not only fostering growth for our sport in this state but also serving as a valuable community resource into the future.

Apart from one or two late night objections, the new NOTAP format for quick communications to members has been a great success. I thank the numerous members who have messaged me or taken the time to write and express their support. It's very pleasing to receive positive feedback. I think we have a fantastic group of people within our club and the P&DARCS committee is committed to providing the best possible structure for everyone.

Thanks to all once again, and I hope we can all catch up at the field very soon.

Keith Quigg President
AUS 22897

SECRETARY'S REPORT

As there was no General Meeting in September hence the minutes to approved at this General Meeting are the AGM minutes which was held on August 7th 2021. These were printed in the September Newsletter.

Notice was given in the September Newsletter of a vote on a motion to approve the purchase of a new lawn mower at a cost of \$6639-20. This vote will be conducted at the October meeting.

Scratch & Kit Built Scale Rally – Cancelled

Unfortunately, due to the Covid restriction and the expectation that the restrictions will still be such in November that it would be impracticable to run the rally. Therefore we have had to cancel the event again. Hopefully we will be able to have it in 2022.

2022 Monty Tyrrell Scale Rally – Sunday March 27th 2022

We have set the date for the 2022 Monty Tyrrell Scale Rally as we are confident that the restrictions will be reduced to an extent that would enable us to hold a successful rally.

For those of you that did not attend the 2021 Monty, you missed an absolute great day. Lots of fantastic aircraft to see, what a great day. Why not get ready for the 2022 Monty and be part of it by getting out a scale model. It can be any size and any type of build, ARF, scratch does not matter just has to be a scale model. Let's make it a great day for the club. Tell all your friends about it. We have a Display permit so invite guests to enjoy a great day at our field.

Agenda for the October 2021 General Meeting

Chair for this meeting: President, Keith Quigg

Members Present

Apologies:

Visitors;

Minutes of previous Meeting:

Motion; the minutes of 2021 Annual General Meeting as printed in the September Newsletter be accepted. Moved by

Seconded by

Business Arising from Previous Minutes;

Reports

President:

Secretary:

Treasurer:

Registrar:

Field Manager:

Facilities Manager:

Safety Officer:

Editor;

Webmaster:

Social Secretary:

Club Captain:

Chief Flying Instructor;

General Business

1. Vote to Purchase new Mower.

As recommended by the Field manager, The motion "The Committee proceed with the purchase of the 54" Husqvarna for \$6639-20 from Red Shed" was published in the September Newsletter.

This motion is now to be considered and voted on.

Meeting closed at

September 2021 Committee Meeting Summary

The Club's committee met for the ninth time in 2021 on Thursday night September 23rd via Zoom. Some of the items considered are noted below;

- Due to the COVID restrictions currently in place several projects have been delayed.
- The changes to the COVID restrictions to be continue to be monitored to ensure the club conforms.
- No new member applications were received.
- Two new members were voted to be admitted as Probationary Members.
- A sample of a possible Pilot Barrier Fence is still in place and investigations are continuing on the best way to install it.
- The Committee agreed to the terms of the VMAA Loan and have submitted the forms.
- Maintenance issues are accumulating and it is proposed to have a working bee to catch up on these once the Covid retractions allow.
- We are still liaising with the insurance company to get the shed doors repaired. It is expected this will be resolved this week.
- The Web Manager has prepared a Club off line storage system which the Committee adopted and is currently transferring to the system.
- Neil Addicott has been appointed Chairman of the Future Planning Sub-Committee and has been tasked with forming a subcommittee.
- The Zoom get together organized by Daniel was deemed a great success and he is going to organize more.
- The President is looking to form partnerships with local companies.
- The 2021 Scratch Build Scale Rally has been cancelled due to Covid.
- The 2022 Monty Tyrrell Scale Rally has been set down for Sunday March 27 2022.
- Norm Morrish has repaired the instant water heater in the kitchen.
- Peter Harris to organize a deep clean of the Club rooms.
- Melisa Law is preparing a Club Covid Plan in anticipation of the Government requirements as we come out of lockdown.
- Norm Morrish has installed a new hand basin in the men's toilet.
- The vote to purchase the new mower to be put to the members at the October meeting.
- Committee agreed to send letter of censure a member about abusive email's to Committee

Ivan Chiselett Secretary

REGISTRAR'S REPORT _ OCTOBER 2021

New Member Applications This Month

There were no member applications this month.

Membership Renewals

We had one membership renewal this month.

I realize Australia Post have been experiencing some delays as I had a couple of members not receive their membership cards on time. Please try to be patient as the mail should eventually turn up.

For any members that have recently re their membership, I will send your card/s out once Peter (club treasurer) has processed your payment. **Please remember** to post back your membership form to the club **even** if you pay by EFT **and** include your name on EFT payments so that we can actually trace who sent us the money.

Membership statistics

	Paid 21-22	Unpaid	Last Year
Associate	16	4	19
Full	108	3	100
Honorary	0	0	2
Junior	6	2	6
Life	3	0	3
Non-flying Full	0	0	0
Pensioner	16	4	22
Probationary	8	0	18
Prospective	5	0	0
Student	0	0	0
Spouse	1	0	1
TOTAL	163	13	171

Steve Malcman Registrar

registrar@pdarcs.com.au

Mobile 0410 464 186

FACILITIES MANAGERS REPORT

Hello members, again I hope you and your family are staying Covid safe and handling the never ending lockdowns. A lot has happened to our facilities in the past month as listed :-

1) Field Mowing on behalf of Craig. All areas have been cut as essential mowing to enable spraying of the broadleaf and cape weed. It was essential to do this because the flat weeds would have taken over the runways during spring, destroying all of Craig's mowing teams hard work. We will continue to mow each week to allow new grass to grow where the flat weeds have died. A huge thank you to Ian Jaques and Mike Smith for all their work and especially Mike for bringing his own zero turn mower down to mow the pits until the new ride on mower is purchased. Thanks also to Daniel for the spraying.

2) Rats had invaded our clubhouse, converting it into their toilet. I regularly put out waxed block bates which they quickly ate. I asked Frank McPherson to do an essential visit to our site to investigate and fit weather shields to both doors to close off the gaps. He found a hole in the wall with evidence of them using it as their access. He sealed off the hole and we vacuumed out the clubhouse. This has stopped the rat problem. We will now organize a contractor to steam clean the carpet, then we will deep clean the clubhouse before use by members.

3) Instant Hot Water Unit above kitchen sink. The rats ate through the plastic water supply to the unit. Luckily we had turned the isolator off so we did not empty our drinking water tanks. New braided steel hoses and larger filter were fitted, plus a new red lever outlet tap. The old tap was faulty, causing boiling water to spit onto your hands as you made a cuppa. The overhauled unit is now safe to use for those attending the field to do essential maintenance. The rats had used our kettle as a toilet. Was disgusting so now in rubbish bin.

4) Fresh Drinking Water Supply which also does our toilets, washbasins and shower. We were concerned about the rats possibly eating through the larger plastic supply lines in the old shed, and if this happened during lockdown, it could easily empty our 2 large fresh water tanks, approximately 50,000 litres. Daniel suggested we connect the pumps electricity supply to our clubhouse timer, so that the pump cannot empty the tanks if we are not there. Fantastic idea, so Frank modified the supply whilst on site dealing with the rat problem. **MEMBERS please note you must turn the power on in the clubhouse if you intend to use the taps for a drink, or use the toilets.**

5) New Shed Door Replacement. The insurance company have received a quote to repair it with the same size doors. We are waiting revised prices to make the doors 3 metre high rather than the existing 4 metre, or alternatively 3 separate roller doors. It is a frustrating time trying to deal with contractors during these lockdowns.

6) We have avoided another flood. We were very happy to see we were not flooded when 60mm occurred early September. I am very happy that the work Peter Harris and I did last year, requesting Melbourne Water improve the water flow in the creeks has actually worked. As we reported last year, we worked with our local farmers to put pressure on Melbourne Water who responded by clearing half the width of Gum Scrub creek all the way to the bay. They found 3 illegal fences across the creek that acted as dam walls, so they removed them. During summer they also sprayed the reeds and it has certainly improved the flow.

Last year in May we had 75mm in 4 days resulting in a 300mm deep flood to our runways and paddocks. Normally this would recede in 4 days, but due to the poor condition of the creeks, remained for 3 weeks. Again in August 2020 we had 25mm in 2 days and the creek started to flood into our paddocks but did not reach our runways, see pic B. Melbourne Water had not completed their creek clearing at that time.

Early this month we had 55mm in 2 days and the creek water level was at least 600mm below the level to enter our field. See Pic A. Fantastic, so now we will continue to work with Melbourne Water to ensure this improved water flow continues.

See photos on the next page

Norm Morrish Facilities Manager



Fowler Road Bridge, 25mm rain, 2 days, 24th August 2020, Picture B
See adjacent land flooding



Fowler Road Bridge, 55mm rain in 2 days, 7th Sept, 2021, picture A
Nil adjacent land flooding, in spite of increased rainfall

LiPo Charging

By Keith Quigg

There is plenty of evidence online showing the results of LiPo battery charging that has gone very wrong. Our LiPo packs are probably one of the most important and common part of our flying inventory, yet even with their colossal evolution in technology, they can remain a source of danger.

Regular use of batteries means regular charging. That can mean multiple charging sessions at the flying field when we are out in the open. But at home, where we tend to do most of our maintenance, the risks associated with battery charging increase significantly.



The one golden rule when charging our LiPo packs is never leave them unattended. Secondly is never charge them in a confined space such as our workshops, planes or inside the house.

To make the task of charging somewhat safer for me at home, I employ some very basic procedures when charging:

- Have the battery outside of confined areas. I have a metal, Stanley tool trolley from Bunnings (about \$240). It holds the charger and a few leads to match. I wheel it outside of the workshop into the open area. Batteries are charged on a tile or ceramic pot similar to the type we have at the club. Plenty of different styles around to suit various budgets.



- I have two fire extinguishers in close proximity. One located on the side of the house, the other inside my trailer. Both are within easy reach should they be required.
- Always check the condition of the battery prior to charging. Use a good quality cell checker which can determine the condition of each cell. If one or more cells are decidedly lower than others, it may pay to first activate a cell balancer on the pack before you start charging. Some battery checkers have this function built into them and most chargers (if not all) will employ balancing if you have the balance lead connected. A cell that is continuing showing lower readings is a sure sign that your battery is on the way out.
- Once charging is complete, check the condition of the battery, again taking note of the cell balance.
- Store your batteries carefully. I use a small, carbonate case (from Supa Cheap Autos) which provides a sturdy protective environment while transporting and when at home.

Some battery testers will indicate the percentage charge remaining and will also provide a standalone cell balancing function without starting the charge process.



- Always connect the balance lead prior to charging.
- Make certain you have selected the correct chemistry to match your pack along with the number of cells. Some chargers will select this automatically, but it always pays to double check.
- Charge at the minimum rate. 1C or even .5C is enough when you are in no rush.
- Closely monitor the initial charge parameters when the process starts to make certain it is balancing, and the charge rate is correct. Look for any abnormal cell readings.
- Make sure you have an audible warning set on the charger to let you know when the process is done.
- Choose a quality charger that will suit you needs both at home and at the field. That may include the need to run on AC and DC inputs.
- Avoid “banana leads” or bullet connectors when choosing a charger. If you disconnect these types of leads from your charger with the battery still connected, you run a very real risk of shorting the two ends together which will create a “welding flash”. A safer type of connection to your charger is the XT60 style of plug which do not allow the ends to come into contact.



When choosing a charger, make certain it will charge the type and size batteries you have along with a balance charge function. If you are charging multiple batteries, you will need a more powerful charger to do the job. An AC/DC multimode charger is ideal as it will allow you to charge your packs via a portable DC supply if needed. Look for an XT60 style of connection from the charger.



A simple and cheap protective storage system will go a long way to keeping your batteries safe.

Which ever way you go about, make certain you are careful at all times around LiPo packs, especially when charging, connecting, and disconnecting. Like all of our modelling equipment, look

From Our Flying Field

2018



Looks like a Cirrus



A tricked up flying machine motors at both ends



An Agwagon ?



Greg Lepp, Man and machine



Peter Harris, Cliff McIvor, Chris Caulcutt, and Steve Malcman, doing some hamming it up, April 2018

FREE TO A GOOD HOME, (FIBD)

Spare canopy from an edge 540 30cc size



Contact: Steve Malcman, 0410 464 186

P&DARCS CALENDAR FOR 2021

September

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

October

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

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

November

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

~~07 (Sun) [P&DARCS Scratch / Kit Built Scale Rally](#) CANCELLED~~

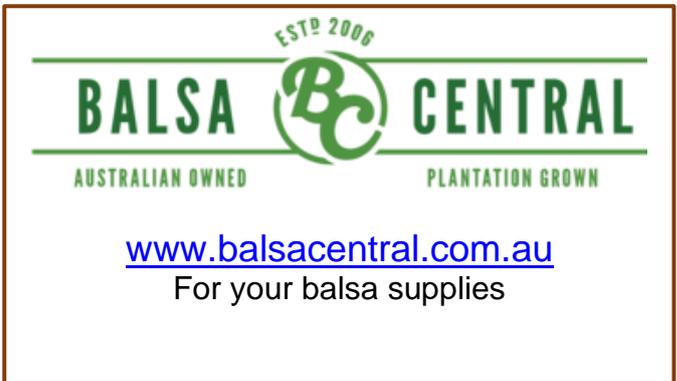
18 (Thu) 7:30 pm - 10:00 pm [Committee Meeting](#)

December

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

March 2022

27 (Sun) [Monty Tyrrell Scale Rally](#) Field Open: No



**Next Club Meeting & AGM Darcsfield Co-operative Limited
Saturday 2nd October, 1pm, via Zoom**