

# Issue 571

## March 2023

Victorian Association of Radio Model Soaring



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*Deadline for the next Aspectivity is the 7<sup>th</sup> April, one week and a bit prior to the general meeting which will be held on the Sunday following the second Friday of the month until further notice, i.e. Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> April at 2:00pm in the new Rowville club rooms.*

## General Meeting

The next General Meeting is 2:00pm on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> March in the new Rowville club rooms to miss Labor Day w/e. Park at No. 2 Oval car park and walk across to the new club rooms. Do NOT attempt to drive in through the new slip lane off Stud Road. This access is not yet open.

## President's Rant

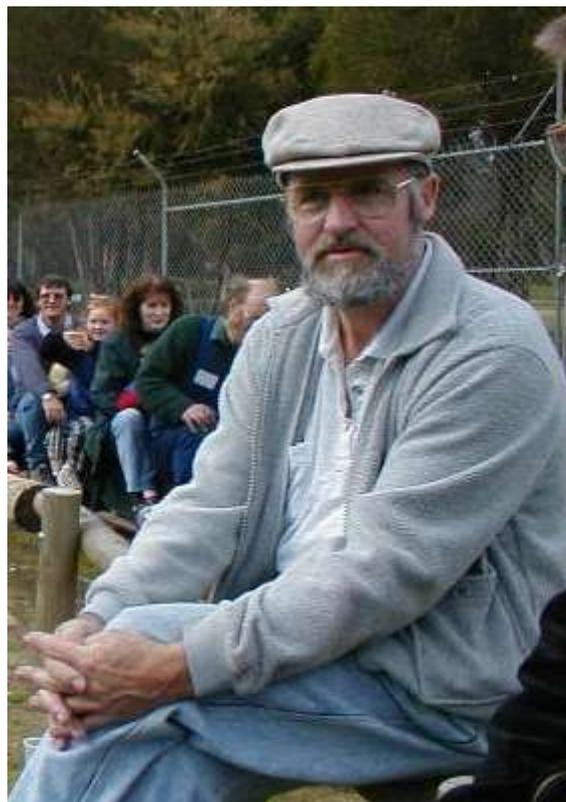
by Ron Hickman

To all members

Well, as expected, we are experiencing further delays. The 9<sup>th</sup> Feb optimistic date for the completion of the entrance has come and gone and the formal official opening has been postponed yet again, this time without a proposed date. Would you believe the old "third time lucky" trick didn't work this time.

The pile of dirt to the south of the clubrooms has been removed and the area between the pits and the runway has now been "levelled and sown". Council have agreed to allow us to reconnect the temporary water supply for a period of 12 months which hopefully will aid with the establishment of a properly established grassed area in front of the pits.

Now having accessed the clubrooms, it is probably appropriate to revisit some of the criteria that VARMS sought in the design and construction of the complex. From the initial concept, VARMS insisted that the clubrooms should be suitable for the hanging of models from the ceiling. That may, I believe, be the reason for the height of the building and the lack of a



plaster ceiling internally. The other thing that occurred during the construction phase was to request a change in the floor specs in the clubrooms from carpet tiles to plain concrete as it was determined that carpet was not compatible with the intended and historic use of the VARMS clubrooms.



The "workshop" size for Rowville was worked out using the area taken up by the containers at Wantirna. This area was almost fully taken up with the storage of the tractor and the mower plus much other stuff that we found it impossible to part with. The hasty packing up caused by Covid necessitated a fairly aggressive assessment of what to keep. However, at the time of writing, we still have a considerable amount of equipment (including the tractor) in offsite storage. The availability of workshop/storage space at Rowville is further complicated by the acquisition of the MESH laser cutter that will need a reasonable amount of organised space to function properly.

We therefore may not have enough space in the workshop to relocate all of the assembly, testing and construction activities that traditionally took place in the clubrooms at Wantirna. At a minimum, I would suggest that sanding, painting, doping and other messy operations be done outside the clubrooms in an attempt to keep the cleaning regime in the new facilities to a manageable level. Dusting the ceiling will be an interesting logistical exercise! Maybe a drone fitted with feathers?

The fob entry and alarm system is now up and running and Andrew Allen has started issuing the building entry fobs to members. Regrettably, this can only be done at the clubrooms so members will need to keep an eye open for when Andrew schedules fob issuing sessions. We are retaining the VARMS key system for use on the Stud Rd entry gate so don't chuck out your old VARMS key if you want to get your car past the front gate.





On to another matter that surfaced during the packing up at Wantirna. The question of who owned the display models was eventually resolved, however as a result of the difficulties encountered, the committee has decided to adopt a policy that all display models in the future must be donated to the club, to be displayed, stored and/or disposed of at the discretion of the club. It is envisaged that the donation would be made as some form of gift deed with the donor possibly having first right of refusal should the club elect to dispose of the item. A copy of the gift deed should be retained within the fuselage of the model whilst on display as per the

Aerosonde. However, it should be noted that the display of historical artifacts is not mentioned in the "Statement of Purposes and Rules" in the Club constitution.

The location of our new field, being right on Stud Road and adjacent to the sporting ovals is resulting in our activities being exposed to a significantly higher level of public scrutiny than we have been used to. Apart from the obvious benefits in exposure to recruit new members, we may need to be a bit careful in observing visitor activity in the area including cross country, to ensure the runway area is kept safe when members are flying, i.e. possibly keeping the gates to the pits/field area closed when not in use.



There is little we can do about members of the public continuing to use the No2 oval for the flying of park flyers other than, if approached, to explain the benefits of flying with insurance. Our licensed area is listed with CASA via the MAAA as a "registered model flying field" and MAAA insurance is required to use our field. I doubt we will see the return of the guy with a large unregistered drone, flying FPV without a spotter, who, after having our situation explained to him, jumped back over the boundary fence and proceeded to buzz the clubrooms and field at high speed!!!



Now that we are settling in, it is probably time to start to look to the future as the function of the club changes from a Covid/relocation phase into hopefully more normal operations in a new location. The significant disruption over the last few years means the club now needs to re-establish itself, with younger members needing to step forward to participate in the club's reformation. The committee have tried their best to keep VARMS core activities

going over the last few years, even if in a rather disjointed way. However, moving into the new premises now poses fresh challenges in the performance of such mundane activities as cleaning the dunnys and keeping the kitchen clean and functional not to mention keeping the clubrooms tidy and floors swept. There will also be an increasing administrative workload with all of the separate licences and permissions that we have had to negotiate for Rowville over the last few years coming up for renegotiation every five years. The current licence for Rowville signed just last week has retreated to only 59 pages with the defunct DELWP now DEECA (Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action) requiring the removal of and amendment to some clauses in the contract. (Wantirna was 18 pages!!)



Elections will be coming up at the AGM in July and it is my belief that the club needs to reform itself around a new, preferably younger committee with organisational skills that can move the club

forward into what will be a challenging future. For my future involvement, “she who must be obeyed” has put her foot down and, being a wimp [Ed. a *Weakly Interacting Massive Particle*??], I have allowed myself to be instructed not to seek another term as president.

Very nearly all there!!

Ron Hickman  
President



Photos of the first General Meeting to take place in the new club rooms by Prof. Greg Egan.

## Captain Blonkhead is back

Drinks \$1.00 per can

Icecreams \$1.00 each

Honesty system, when the money runs out the service finishes

## Articles for Aspectivity

New articles for Aspectivity are needed now. Maybe Covid kept us confined to base and lack of a home flying field has hampered operations. However, if you want to read interesting articles in Aspectivity then somebody has to write them. Send your thoughts (and pictures too) to [editor@varms.org.au](mailto:editor@varms.org.au).



OR



## FFF @ RRR

The regular Wednesday FFF (Feed, Fix, Fly) nights are now being held at RRR (Rowville Recreation Reserve) near the VARMS shipping container from 7:30 to 8:30pm each week.

Photos taken over Rowville on 6<sup>th</sup> February by Tim Stewart.





7. **Rowville Relocation** The following items were discussed.

a. **Building**

- (1) The KCC have allocated 4 keys to the building. General access to the building for members will be via the electronic security system being installed. Once complete A. Allen will be issuing cards to members so that they can access the building.

b. **Exit off Stud Road**

- (1) The Department of Transport (DOT) have approved the plan to lay bitumen on the Stud Road exit. Once this is done, the club will have access to the building from dawn until dusk.
- (2) Due to the slope of the land at the Stud Road exit, the club may leave the main gate unlocked at all times so cars don't have to park on the slope to unlock it and lock the second "water gate" using the VARMS padlock instead.
- (3) Once the streetlight has been installed at the Stud Road exit, we will have access to the site after dark.

c. **Flying Operations** The following items were discussed.

- (1) There have been some issues with trucks driving on the runway leaving tracks. The club is trying to get this reduced as much as possible and will need to rectify the runway once the traffic has stopped.
- (2) Flying at the field requires acknowledgement and understanding of the new boundaries and conditions under which we can fly. Of particular importance is:
  - (i) **Height Restrictions** In some situations, pilots must monitor the Melbourne CTAF and Moorabbin Tower radio transmissions using a suitable radio. The club has one at the field that scans the appropriate frequencies automatically.
    - (a) Up to 400 feet AGL – No restrictions.
    - (b) 400 to 1000 feet AGL – Pilots are required to monitor the radio.
    - (c) 1000 – 2000 feet AGL – Pilots must monitor the radio, and each aircraft must have its own spotter working with the pilot.
  - (ii) **Field Boundaries** The boundaries are marked on the map on display in the club room. Generally, if pilots keep their aircraft to the right of the poplar trees at the northern end of the runway and east of the western edge of the runway, they will stay within the field boundaries.

8. **General Business**

- a. **Flying Training** At this stage there is no timeline for restarting the public flying training sessions.
- b. **Field Boundaries** The photograph of the field and boundaries is posted on the window in the clubroom; though it will be improved on and enlarged in future. All pilots are to understand the boundaries and ensure that they keep their models within those boundaries.

9. **Next Meeting** The next general meeting will be at 2:00pm on Sunday, 12 Mar 2023 at the new club house.

**Closure** There being no further business to discuss, the president closed the meeting at 2:55 pm.

## Upcoming Events

### Open Day Rowville Men's Shed

Rowville Men's Shed invites you to our open day on Saturday March 25 from 10am till 1pm.  
Feel free to ask your family, friends and colleagues.

Knox Repair Café will be running general repairs, plus bike and car maintenance (10 till noon)

- Sausage sizzle
- Shed tours
- Tools for sale at bargain prices

Rowville Men's Shed, Police Rd Rowville. (100m east of Stud Rd)  
All welcome, No RSVP required

March 11 to 19 2023	<a href="#">SSL 50th Anniversary International Festival of Gliding</a> F5J Open International Scale Aerotow and GPS Triangle Racing	Celebrate Southern Soaring League's 50th Anniversary with one of the biggest model glider events ever held in Australia!	Milang, SA
March 11-14 March 15-19			
March 26	Ballarat Radio Model Flying Club [BRMFC]	<a href="#">Trawalla Fly in</a>	Ballarat, VIC
April 7 – 10	<a href="#">National Electric Flight Rally [NEFR]</a>	The NEFR is a jamboree of electric flying activity including a range of regular and some fun events	NSW State Field Cootamundra
April 15, 16	Echuca-Moama Model Aero Club [EMMAC]	<a href="#">Annual Fun Fly</a> Contact Fred West, <a href="mailto:fwest@bigpond.net.au">fwest@bigpond.net.au</a> 0418 362 100	VMAA Flying Fd Watson Rd, Kanyappela

Echuca Moama  
Model Aero Club



## ANNUAL FUN FLY



Saturday and Sunday  
15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> April 2023

AT THE VMAA FLYING FIELD  
WATSON ROAD KANTAPPELA  
Onsite camping with hot showers and fire pit

ALL TYPES OF MODEL AIRCRAFT  
WELCOME

Come and join us and enjoy  
our great facilities

It is sure to be a great fun weekend

Refreshments available, as well as  
breakfast, lunch and a  
Roast Dinner on Saturday night

Entry fee \$10 per pilot

Contact: Fred West - 0418 362 100  
fwest@bigpond.net.au  
emmac.com.au



Ballarat Radio Model Flying Club

IS CALLING ALL PILOTS...  
**TRAWALLA FLY - IN**  
SUNDAY MARCH 26, 2023. 10AM - 3PM

- » FLY WITH US AT OUR GREAT FIELD
- » RELAXED FUN FLYING
- » BARBEQUE LUNCH
- » HOT AND COLD DRINKS
- » ALL AIRCRAFT WELCOME

All Pilots must be MAAA members

Email: [secretary@brmfc.org.au](mailto:secretary@brmfc.org.au)

FIELD LOCATION  
**CHURCH RD, TRAWALLA** (off the Western Freeway)  
(Google Maps "RC FLYING FIELD")

[BRMFC.ORG.AU](http://BRMFC.ORG.AU) or Google BRMFC

**Banjo Paterson Scale Rally**  
18th - 19th February 2023

- Field open from 7:30am daily. (Registration 8:00am)
- Pilot Safety Briefing 10am Sat.
- Judging by pilots 11:30am Sunday followed by presentations.
- BBQ Lunch daily with deluxe sitdown breakfast Sunday.
- Lots of general flying time.
- Camping available at the field - Sorry no showers.

Location - Borenore, NSW, Australia, New South Wales (12km West of Orange)  
All visiting pilots must be MAAA members.

Contacts:  
Norm Barnes - [norbar1@bigpond.net.au](mailto:norbar1@bigpond.net.au)  
Jim Scritchley - 0439 502 477  
Peter Johnsen - 0412 641 088  
Garry Hildebrandt - 0419 439 165

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## PERFORMANCE MODELS

OZeRES	- 2m RES electric glider kit . . . . .	\$325
E-Medina	- 2m RES electric glider ARF . . . . .	\$655
Medina	- 2m RES glider ARF . . . . .	\$655
Avanti	- 3m REAS electric glider kit, glass fuselage . .	\$640
Avanti	- 3m REAS electric glider kit, built up fuselage .	\$470
Vinco TR	- 4m F5J moulded glider . . . . .	\$3,220
Fury	- 1.5m electric moulded glider . . . . .	\$1,290
BAMF 2	- 1.5m moulded DLG . . . . .	\$1,290
ASW 12	- 6.3m Scale GPS racer . . . . .	POA

[www.performancemodels.com.au](http://www.performancemodels.com.au)

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VARMS Web Site – <http://www.varms.org.au> – for the most up to date information

If you change your address, please notify the Registrar and the VMAA, so we can maintain the correct addressing of this Newsletter. If you are interested in joining VARMS, or learning more about our activities, please contact the Secretary or any Committee member.

## Victorian Association of Radio Model Soaring Inc.

Organisation No. A0001504U

Affiliated with the Federation Aeronautique Internationale (FAI)  
The World Air Sports Federation



VARMS (Inc.) was formed in 1968 to bring together aero-modellers who were interested in building and flying radio-controlled gliders. Members fly at many places but, until mid-2021, had a home at Briggs field in Wantirna and are in the process of establishing a new base at Police Paddocks in Rowville, an outer eastern suburb of Melbourne, Australia.

VARMS organises competitions in Slope and Thermal Soaring, operating models from fun-fly to scale, open competition, aerotow, bungee, winch and electric gliders. Members also fly a range of power and rotary wing models.

General Meetings are held at 7:30pm on the second Friday of each month (except January) at the Aimee Seebeck Hall in Rowville and during daylight saving there may be limited flying before the meeting starts at 8.00pm. Visitors are welcome. Formalities, and sometimes a special presentation, are usually followed by lively discussions on matters of interest to aeromodellers and drawing of the raffle followed by a cup of your favourite brew.



If undelivered return to:  
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**KNOX City Centre VIC 3152**

