

Issue 583  
April 2024

Victorian Association of Radio Model Soaring



1405 Stud Road, ROWVILLE 3178



# Aspectivity

*Deadline for the next Aspectivity is Friday 3 May or earlier please, one week prior to the general meeting held on the second Friday of the month, i.e. Friday 10 May at 7:30pm in the club rooms.*

## President's Prattle 7

by Ken Madill



March has provided some very pleasant flying weather. The price we have paid, however, is severe drying out and cracking of the runway. Graham Sullivan will be rectifying this over the next few weeks with additional topsoil.

We had an issue where a member was wondering why he had not received his wings. If you are an instructor, you can only lodge tests for wings after members join a MAAA approved club. Only lodge forms, listing VARMS as the club, for paid up members of VARMS. You are obliged to forward the wings form to Les Mariner, the State Flying Instructor, within a few days of the test being completed. We also request you send a copy of the form to the VARMS Registrar so we can keep the club records up to date. If you cannot commit to do this, please do not test club members for their wings.

By the same token, if you have passed a wings test you will receive a phone call and a letter from Les Mariner with a form confirming your new wings status. Les is very prompt in updating MAAA records and providing wings certificates. If you have not heard from Les within a week of completing the test please go back to the instructor and confirm that Les has been advised.

We had an incident where a member had difficulty with control of his model on launch and also lost control on landing, resulting in a crash close to the pits. Subsequent analysis revealed that the two instances were related; a faulty solder joint causing problems at high throttle settings. My experience from sixty years of tinkering with mechanical things, running factories and flying RC

planes and helicopters is that, in most instances, they will try and tell you something is wrong before the failure/crash. The hard part is being smart enough to notice and interpret the issue before it causes a problem. My advice is that if you notice anything out of the ordinary, before or during a flight, land immediately and thoroughly check your plane and transmitter.

We have purchased a printer that will allow us to print our own membership cards. This should help us keep up to date by promptly issuing new cards to new members and those whose membership status changes. We are looking at also printing cards for another club, which should help offset the cost of the printer. We estimate that we will recover the cost in approximately two years and keep our membership cards up to date.

New artificial grass has been installed and has resulted in many positive comments. Some members have raised concerns about marks from the legs of chairs. I have spoken to the company that installed it and they advised me that these marks will not damage the surface and they will disappear over time. We will, however, look at getting some chairs with legs that distribute the load over a larger area.

Over the next few months, we intend to change the front gate padlock from a key to a combination lock. Less than twelve months ago we purchased new keys at a cost of \$1,000. These are almost all used up. Rather than purchase a new batch of keys the committee has decided it will be better to use a combination lock. We can send SMS messages to all members advising the combination and any change to it.

P&DARCS are having their Monty Tyrrell Scale Rally on the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> April. We have changed our next Aerotow to the 13<sup>th</sup> April to avoid a clash. I would recommend if you have scale models or an interest in scale modelling that you go. It is a very relaxed two days with lots of opportunities to fly and many prizes.

Happy flying!

**MONTY TYRRELL**  
*Scale Rally*  
20-21 April 2024  
Proudly supported and run by Australian Scale AeroSport

**Prizes for:**

- Best Civilian/Military Aircraft
- The Monty Tyrrell Award
- Best Turbine Aircraft
- Best Junior Pilot
- Best Scale Built Aircraft
- Best Static Model

\*to be eligible, pilots need to complete two flights

Non Powered camping sites available  
No certification flights permitted at the event  
Permits required for models in accordance with MOP's

\*Jet Demonstration flight  
\*IMAC Freestyle display  
\*Scale Competition flight

**\$20 pre-entry**  
**\$25 on the day**

P&DARCS & ASA Members receive \$5 discount on entry

\*All pre-entries receive a free raffle ticket

**SATURDAY NIGHT DINNER**

**Contact:**  
**Alex Butler**  
(ASA President)  
Email: [vicyscaleinfo@gmail.com](mailto:vicyscaleinfo@gmail.com)  
Phone: 0433 580 286

Registration payment:  
VFSAA  
BSB: 033-090  
Acc: 933533

**\$30 pp for dinner on the Saturday night at the field – RSVP by 12 April 2024 for catering purposes**

Logos: ASA, MASA, SCALE Aeroproducts, DESERT DA AIRCRAFT, H3 RC, modelflight RC, AUSTALIA MODEL, BALSA & CENTRAL

# March General Meeting minutes

[Ed. Correction: Last month's Aspectivity showed the General Meeting minutes date as 9 February 2023. This should have read 9 February 2024.]



**Date:** 8 March 2024  
**Time:** 8:00pm  
**Venue:** VARMS Clubroom, Rowville  
**Apologies:** Colin Kahn, Graham Sullivan, Nigel Murray, Ian Slack  
**Visitors:** Andrew Milne

## Meeting

1. **Opening:** Meeting was opened by President at 7:55pm with 23 members present.
2. **New Members:** Peter Lem
3. **Previous minutes:** The previous minutes were accepted as published in Aspectivity.  
**Moved:** Mick Barlow                      **Seconded:** Keith Schneider                      **Passed**
4. **Business arising from the minutes:**
  - a. Evan Green appointed as Club Registrar and working with Committee to automate the process of registering new members where possible. Evan also retains the Webmaster position.
  - b. Shade cloth, cost and viability, being explored by KM.
  - c. Field maintenance: ongoing review by GS and committee.
  - d. Recommendation of using "Good Sam" at the club and having a special guest on safety specifically in using the defibrillator and bandages for snake bites. "Good Sam" to be organised at a future date.
  - e. Noted that a sign should be put up indicating location of Snake bite bandage. Also to promulgate in next Aspectivity.
  - f. Fun fly – flown and enjoyed by all. Calls for a more regular fixture at least once every three months, possibly more. Peter Cossins offered to assist in organising events.
  - g. Third windsock on the north end of the runway added on 10<sup>th</sup> February.
  - h. DSMC - Scale Modellers met in our clubhouse on 7<sup>th</sup> March and will be meeting in Club House every second Friday unless conflicting with VARMS monthly meeting. Everyone is welcome to visit and enjoy.
  - i. Synthetic grass to be installed Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> May, unless there is an issue with weather. Signed off by Council. Thanks to both Ken Madill and Ron Hickman for their work on ensuring the smooth transition through Council. Council advised VARMS to install a border around the grass for safety. Deposit has been paid.
  - j. Visit by VARMS to the Rowville Men's Shed both enlightening and enjoyed by all who attended. Considering possible reciprocal invitation, perhaps on an Aerotow day.
  - k. KCC re water filters and drinking water. Despite meeting potability standard we still need to retain the sign on the wall. Recommended that we do a once-a-year test through an accredited organisation as a duty of care to members.



- l. Council put in a few test bore-holes to allow them to determine what works would be required and the cost to complete the overflow carpark at the north of the clubhouse.
  - m. Replacement Membership Cards: Colin Kahn sourced some laser engravable plastic and Andrew Allen did the engraving as an example of what is possible. Very smelly!! Would also possibly require some form of mail-merge into image file otherwise very labour intensive. Committee to explore further.
5. **Correspondence:** The following items of correspondence were received and sent.
- a. **Received:**
    - i. Australian Men's Shed newsletter.
    - ii. Australian Men's Shed Nuts and Bolts newsletter.
    - iii. Multiple email scams sent to main committee members – possible hack replicating a member's email address.
    - iv. KCC – A Note from Leisure.
    - v. KCC – Agreement to go ahead with artificial turf.
    - vi. Quotes re artificial grass.
    - vii. Request to host RCGA F5J practice event 3<sup>rd</sup> March.
    - viii. [BRAG Club raffle](#) (Baw Baw club).
    - ix. Other emails – political party and junk.
  - b. **Sent:**
    - i. KM – requesting updates for the artificial grass quote.
    - ii. KCC – re Artificial Turf details.
    - iii. BRAG Club – Happy to promote to club members. Possible one-off support from VARMS as well. President to explore constitutional restraint on making ex gratia payment as goodwill gesture. Possible good location to fly float planes.
6. **Treasurer's Report:** The treasurer's report was presented. Treasurer noted timing issue re liquidating funds to cover artificial grass and requested members obtain authorisation from committee members before incurring expenditure on behalf of the Club.
- Moved:** Bruce Clapperton                      **Seconded:** Mick Barlow                      **Passed**
7. **Reports:** The following reports were presented.
- a. Aerotow – Next Scheduled for Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> March. Explore inviting other clubs, possibly around the end of May.
  - b. Training – Sunday training continuing successfully. An extra Spektrum DX6 Tx has been purchased allowing up to four trainer aircraft to be used simultaneously.
  - c. Glider – F5J event on 3<sup>rd</sup> March was successful. E-Res on 14<sup>th</sup> April. Looking for volunteer(s) to help with CD duties.
8. **General Business:** The following items were discussed.
- a. New signs installed – Loading zone / Disabled / Trailer Parking.
  - b. Defibrillator has been registered with Ambulance Victoria. In the event of a "000" call the operator will be notified that we have a Defibrillator and they will be able to provide instructions if it is appropriate to use it.
  - c. Spares in Workshop – PVT is compiling and sorting existing spare parts to assist members with emergency repairs whilst at the club. Hopefully a Master List can be generated for easy searching. President requested members to contribute any excess inventory that they may have.
  - d. Dimi Arachi has CAD expertise and is willing to help prepare DXF files for laser cutting.
9. **Next Meeting:** The next General Meeting will be 8:00pm Fri 12 April 2024 at the Rowville clubhouse.
10. **Closure:** There being no further business, the President closed the meeting at 8:40pm.

## General Meeting

The next general meeting will be 7:30pm on Friday 12 April at the VARMS clubrooms.

## WANTED - Articles for Aspectivity

New articles for Aspectivity needed now. Looking for some "Hints & Tips" items if you can do it. Send your images and imaginings to [editor@varms.org.au](mailto:editor@varms.org.au). Thanks to prior contributors.



OR



## F-F-F @ R-R-R

R-R-Regular F-F-F (Feed, Fix, Fly) nights are held at R-R-R (Rowville Recreation Reserve) 5:00 to about 9:00pm on W-W-Wednesday each w-w-week. Come and j-j-join in the F-F-FUN.

Australian Eastern Daylight Saving Time switches back to Australian Eastern Time on Saturday night. Don't forget to change your clocks!

## Captain Blonkhead wants you

Drinks \$1.00 per can

Ice creams \$2.00 each

We use the honesty system ... do YOU?

**R-E-S-P-E-C-T**

Fridge empty? Top it up from the box below or tell a committee member.



*The debate about unmanned aircraft just keeps droning on.*

## Club Merchandise

I have VARMS embroidered caps in stock for \$20 each, embroidered VARMS logos \$10. If you would like one, email me at [lewmar@iprimus.com.au](mailto:lewmar@iprimus.com.au)

see me at the club or call me on 9887 1060.

**Lew Rodman**



## Upcoming Events

VARMS Meetings are held at 7:30pm on the second Friday of the month (except January) at Rowville (8:00pm in Daylight Saving time). Committee meetings are 7:30pm on the Monday two weeks before.

C'ttee Mtg	General Mtg	C'ttee Mtg	General Mtg	C'ttee Mtg	General Mtg
29 Jan	9 Feb	26 Feb	8 Mar	25 Mar	12 Apr
29 Apr	10 May	3 Jun	14 Jun	1 Jul	12 Jul
29 Jul	9 Aug	2 Sept	13 Sept	30 Sept	11 Oct
28 Oct	8 Nov	2 Dec	13 Dec		

Date	Description	Location	Contact	Host
6 Apr	Thermal Challenge	Rowville	1:00 – 4:30PM Just turn up	<a href="#">VARMS</a>
6, 7 Apr	Showcase Scale	Wangaratta	<a href="#">Roly Gaumann</a> 0411 550 481	<a href="#">Wangaratta Aero Modellers</a>
6, 7 Apr	<a href="#">Festival of Flight 1</a>	Darraweit Guim	<a href="#">Link to Pilot Registration</a>	<a href="#">Northern flying Group</a>
13 Apr	Aerotow	Rowville	12 noon	<a href="#">VARMS</a>
13, 14 Apr	<a href="#">Annual Funfly</a>	Echuca	Fred West, Secretary 0418 362100	<a href="#">EMMAC</a>
19 – 21 Apr	F5B Aust Team selection	West Wyalong, NSW	Brett, 0410 502 613	<a href="#">LSF</a>
20, 21 Apr	Monty Tyrrell Scale Rally	Pakenham	Alex Butler 0433 580 286 <a href="mailto:vicscaleinfo@gmail.com">vicscaleinfo@gmail.com</a>	<a href="#">P&amp;DARCS</a>
20, 21 Apr	Blue Rock Float Fly	Baw Baw		<a href="#">BRAG</a>
25 Apr	Annual Warbirds	Byaduk Nth, VIC	Enzo Diana <a href="mailto:enzd@bigpond.com">enzd@bigpond.com</a>	HMAC
27, 28 April	50 <sup>th</sup> Military Scale Event	Wagga, NSW	<a href="#">Article in RegionRiverina</a>	<a href="#">Wagga Model Aero Club</a>
18, 19 May	Autumn Scale Rally	Albury-Wodonga		<a href="#">TMAC</a>

When asked by a passenger how high he would get, the pilot replied, "I don't do drugs".

# VARMS

## Thermal Challenge

**When:** Saturday 6th April

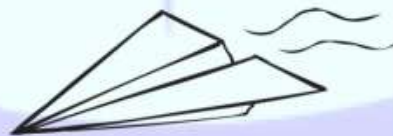
**Time:** 1:00pm to 4:30pm

**Where:** Rowville Field

- ❖ Open to all Electric Thermal Gliders – Beginner to Experienced
- ❖ Come and have a go flying your glider to a time
- ❖ Land on the big target!
- ❖ Only allowed a 20 second motor run
- ❖ Personal Challenge
- ❖ Learn some SKILLS!

### ➤ All afternoon event!

- Learn the secret techniques
- Make rivals and buddies alike
- Meet the kangaroos!
- Rejuvenate and Refresh!



Also see more RC events listed on the [VMAA website](#) and in the [VMAA News](#).

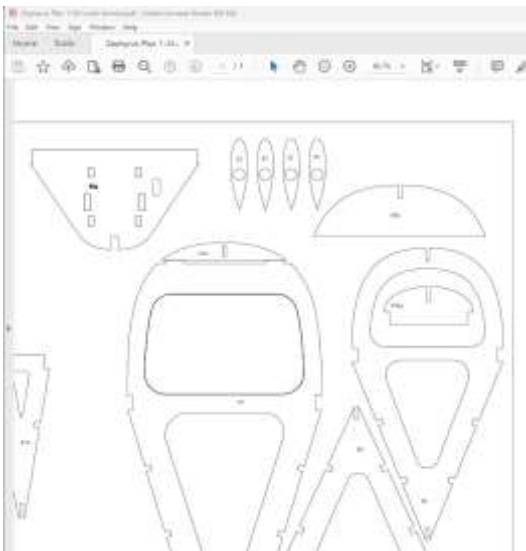
# Training

VARMS training sessions are free to VARMS members and to the public and are run at the Rowville flying field from 10am to around noon every second Sunday. You will learn to fly an electric-launch, two-channel (rudder/elevator) glider. Training can take you from newbie to your bronze wings and going solo.

VARMS encourages members to continue training through to Silver and Gold Wings and eventually to become qualified as instructors.

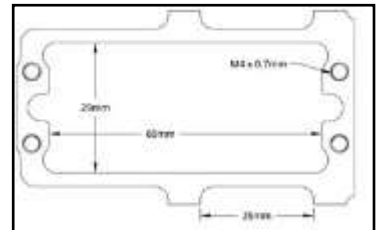
<b>L</b>	7 <sup>th</sup> Apr	21 <sup>st</sup> Apr	5 <sup>th</sup> May	19 <sup>th</sup> May	2 <sup>nd</sup> June
	16 <sup>th</sup> June	30 <sup>th</sup> June	14 <sup>th</sup> July	28 <sup>th</sup> July	11 <sup>th</sup> August

# Laser Cutter CAD Software Update



by Andrew Allen

Since last month's update on the VARMS laser cutter, two members, Dimi Arachi and Neil Osborne, have offered their time and CAD skills to assist others in creating CAD files suitable for laser cutting.



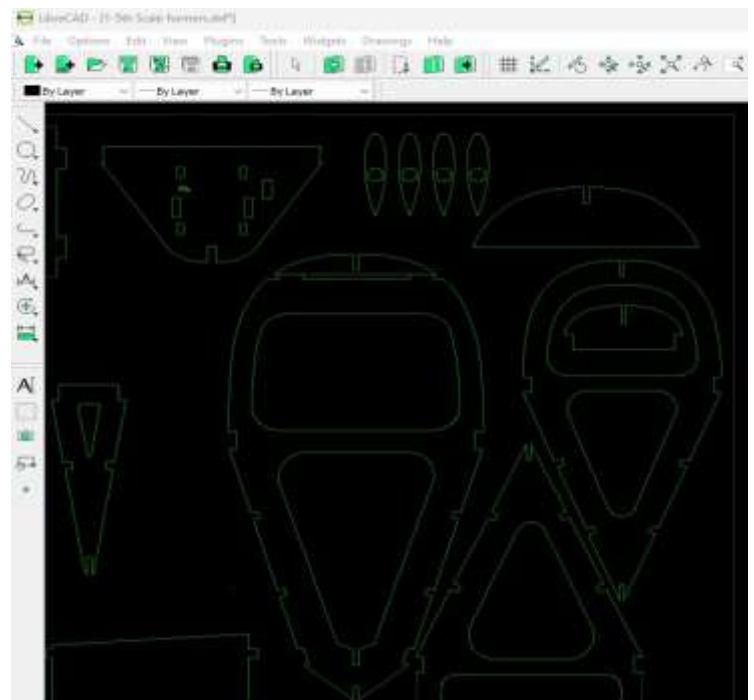
The intention is to make the laser cutting process accessible to all members regardless of computer and/or CAD skills.

If you would like to laser-cut a bulkhead or two, a servo tray, fuselage side, ribs, rudder or any other ply or balsa part for your aircraft, then get in touch with either Dimi or Neil to discuss your project.

As a minimum you will need a hand drawn sketch with dimensions, or a PDF plan.

Dimi Arachi – [dmrch8@gmail.com](mailto:dmrch8@gmail.com)

Neil Osborne – [neil@Inconsulting.com.au](mailto:neil@Inconsulting.com.au)





***If you step onto a plane and recognise a friend of yours named Jack, don't yell out "Hi Jack!"***

## **Beautiful TopModel Ventus 2cx w/FES Elite 6S Power System, Tesla Model Y & Jeti DS-24 All Powered by Florida Sun!!!**



Edmund Ansell submitted this item from the Esprit Tech newsletter of 3<sup>rd</sup> March showing a solar-powered car, plane and transmitter. Click on the picture to see the rest of the newsletter. There are more photos but unfortunately no further details of this story. For those seeking their electric flying thrills "off grid" there are certainly more hours of thumb-twiddling entertainment to be had from an EV battery than from an internal combustion powered car's 12V system.

## **My Vic Smeed models**

**by Ian Jemmeson**

Many of the older VARMS members will remember Geoff Pentland who was a prolific builder and flyer. I was fortunate to have known Geoff in Dandenong in the late '50s as we were in the same youth club and played in the same baseball team. Geoff played first base in the Angels A grade and I played first base in B Grade.

Geoff was a fantastic builder and at the time was competing mostly in the larger sizes of free flight models. I was fortunate indeed that he spent a lot of time teaching me how to build models well.

### **PAAgeboy**

At the time I had a number of free flight models that I flew with varying success, but after seeing a write-up in *Aeromodeller* of the PAAgeboy, I built the model under Geoff's guidance. Free flight, 4' 6" wingspan powered by a Mills 75 motor. [Ed. Said article may be found in *Aeromodeller* for July 1953 starting on page 416 which may be downloaded for free from the [RC Bookcase website](#) although some of the pages seem to be missing. Ian has furnished me with a pdf of the PAAgeboy article, as well as plans, that I would be happy to pass on to interested parties.]

I flew it for quite a time until one day, I put too much fuel in the Mills 75 tiny bowl and the lifting tail de-thermaliser failed to operate. So, it flew away over a heavily treed area never to be seen by me again.

As I was then embarking on a busy working life in electrical engineering and later project management and I was involved heavily with competition blue water sailing, I did not do much model work except for a period when I belonged to the Bendigo flying club.

Having retired in 2008, I helped form the indoor flying group *Indoor Aviation* and have now been secretary for over ten years.



One day, over coffee, I showed the guys my old photo holding the PAAgeboy just after I had built it. They said to me: "Why not build it again?" I said: "Not full size, but maybe 50% for indoors".



One of the guys had a laser cutter and offered to cut me a kit. So, I built the plane at 60% for indoors and it survives today after six years. That is, without too much collision or wall damage and being the only balsa construction model, lumped in with a cloud of foam models going round.

I have included photos of the early and later model and the whole



story was included in the March issue of *Aeromodeller* at the request of the editor, as they have a number of PAAgeboys still flying. [Ed. See re-print of the *AeroModeller* item from March this year below.]

### **TomBoy**

Further to that, we were discussing, over coffee again, the merits of another Vic Smeed model, the TomBoy. Don Bladier, a VARMS member forty years ago and one of our free flight rubber power modellers, quietly said to me that he had a TomBoy hanging up in his workshop but that, amazingly, he had never flown it because the power system did not work. Would I like to have it? I accepted, and later-cut the nose off to discard the old brushed motor and gear box and add a new modern brushless motor and new radio gear.

The TomBoy design was an early Smeed design. It appeared in *AeroModeller* in November 1950.

I flew it on test and it behaved perfectly. A week later, I invited Don over to watch it fly and he was very pleased to see it in the air after forty-five years. How's that for a late maiden?

Don's TomBoy was beautifully built and needed very little repair or alteration. Don, now 74, did not wish to fly it himself but enjoyed the day.

I have included photos of the model and it still has Don's MAAA membership number on the side as you can see. He wanted to have me change it for my number, but I left it in place.

One day, when I can have someone run me through my power wings, I will be pleased to bring it to VARMS and fly it outside. Although I don't fly it much now to preserve it.

~~The airlines have become so cash-strapped, they charged me for my emotional baggage.~~

## News from the Committee

You may be interested to hear some of the topics discussed at last Monday's Committee meeting.

- Still working on a Welcome Pack for new members.
- The Knox City Council has granted permission for VARMS to go ahead with artificial turf.
- The committee is investigating the best way of providing shade cloth.
- The kitchen servery window now has a sensor attached and is connected in to the security system.
- Thanks to those members who filed incident reports. This makes the committee aware of what's going on at the club, enables proper investigation of the cause of incidents and allows suitable measures to be put in place for the safety of all.
- Evan Green is now handling the twin roles of Web-master and Registrar. He is also analysing workflow processes for new and renewing members with a view to streamlining the process.
- Four new member applications were approved this month.
- The committee is investigating ways to prevent the chairs and tables making permanent marks on the new artificial turf - any ideas welcome.
- The President will contact the footy club regarding use of the VARMS car park. Also, there will be a new sign erected to indicate that parking is reserved for VARMS members and visitors only.
- Committee approved the allocation of funds to purchase a membership badge-making machine.

**Nigel Murray, Editor**



~~Did you hear about the pilot who always had work? He was great at landing a job.~~

Ian Jemmeson's item in March 2024 AeroModeller appears below.





Ian Jemmeson with the PAAGEboy that he built in 1954 from the article by Vic Smeed in *AeroModeller* in July 1953.



Ian Jemmeson's 60% size PAAGEboy for Indoor Flying, still flying well five years after it was built. It has a small 2s Lipo battery and Spectrum Rx on 2.4G driving a small brushless motor.



Ian Jemmeson's PAAGEboy for Indoor flying, C of G being checked before covering the model.



Ian's Vic Smeed Tom Boy, gifted from clubmate Tom Bladier, who built it 45 years ago!



The 45 year old Tom Boy with the engine and 27MHz RC gear removed ready for a small brushless motor and 2S Lipo battery to be installed, along with modern FrSky RC gear.



Don Bladier, who built the Tom Boy 45 years ago.

## VIC SMEED PAAGEBOY IN AUSTRALIA

In January we received a very interesting letter, via email, from Ian Jemmeson in Australia. Ian's email contained a fascinating account of his Vic Smeed designed 'PAAGEboy', which Ian built in 1954.

Over to Ian to describe his history with the PAAGEboy.

"Over Christmas I read with interest a copy of your Sept 23 magazine.

They are not easy to locate in Melbourne usually, but I managed this one.

In the article on the BMFA Bowden Trophy I noted a reference to an old Vic Smeed model by Andy Green, the 'PAAGEboy'.

I built a PAAGEboy 4' 6" Wingspan FF with a Mills 75, when I was just starting out as a 16 year old in 1954.

One day, after months of flying, I put a bit too much fuel in it and the swing up tail dethermaller did not release, so it flew away never to be seen again by me.

Smeed designed it to compete in the Pay Load competitions generated by PanAm airways at the time.

The design had a small balsa pilot figure under the C of G that was progressively filled with lead shot. Or so I believe. I never tried it.

Many years later I am now 85 years old and after many working years I am still flying at two outdoor clubs, mostly gliders.

Currently building a Goldberg Gentle Lady from his kit.

However for the last 12 years I have been the Secretary of an Indoor club in Melbourne of 70 members approximately,

who fly in 4 Basketball venues. (See <http://www.indooraviation.com>).

The website will give you a lot of information about the group.

At one of our morning coffee Show and Tell sessions I showed the old photo of me holding the PAAGEboy, and one of the group said he still had the plan, why don't I rebuild it? He had a laser cutter and offered to cut the components. I said not a full size one, he suggested a 50% model. Well we settled on 60% which gave about 580 mm Wingspan which has been ideal for indoor.

I built it about 5 years ago and it is still flying well.

I had a bit of trouble balancing it, as the gas motor and fuel were heavier than the RC gear in the short nose. So the battery hangs like a bomb under the nose.

It has a small 2s Lipo battery and Spectrum Rx on 2.4G driving a small brushless motor.

It has been great to have the flying experience of it with RC as the old FF thing was limited. However I see you guys are still at it, well done!

For your information, I attach the old black and white photo and a modern coloured version of the indoor model.

For your information the original story I used, leading me to build the PAAGEboy was covered in the July 1953 *Aero Modeller*, 71 years ago.

Here are two build photos of the indoor PAAGEboy if you want to use them, while I was doing early balance checks.

Nicely under cambered wings and a lifting tail! This model is usually the only

balsa model going around indoors among a cloud of foam commercial and home built models. Luckily I have managed to avoid any damaging collisions.

Another crazy thing about a Smeed model that you can include if you wish! We often discuss Vic Smeed's Designs and one day the guys were discussing the Tom Boy.

A 95 year old friend of mine in the group who still flies rubber-powered models with film covering etc. sitting next to me said "I have a Tom Boy hanging up in the workshop! Would you like it?" I quizzed him about it and he said he built it 45 years ago and never flew it. It had old 27 MHz RC gear and a brushed motor with a locked up gear drive which was the problem.

So I took it on and cut the nose off, installed modern 2.4g FrSky gear and a brushless motor on a 2S Lipo battery.

The model was magnificently built and flew well on the very much delayed maiden flight. My wife recorded it and I sent him a movie.

The next week he came to my place and I took him to the field and flew it extensively for him!

Of course he was over the moon to see his old model fly so well. Very satisfying. It is still flown occasionally; although I limit the things I do with it to preserve it. The white numbers on the side are his original MAAA membership number."

Regards, and Happy New Year to all the flyers.

Ian Jemmeson, Melbourne Australia



# Aerotow



## by Anthony Peate

The next club aerotow is Saturday the 13th of April, weather permitting. *Note changed date.*

VARMS is keen to encourage members who haven't tried aerotowing to give it a go. This includes both new glider and new tug pilots.

Aerotow is a lot of fun and the tow phase of the flight is fairly simple as follows.

Before take-off, ensure controls operate correctly and the tow release works on an easily accessible transmitter switch.

Keep the glider wings roughly level using ailerons during the tow.

When the tow plane turns, keep the glider on the outside of the turn, like water skiing, so there is no slack in the line. The tow pilot will let you know when they are about to turn and which way. Talk to the tow pilot to ensure the tow angle is adjusted for the weight of your glider so the tow line doesn't get slack and the air speed is kept in the sweet spot. If the tow pilot asks you to release, do so immediately. Gliders have priority for landing.

The timings for the day are: 11:30am BBQ lunch; 11:50am Pilots' briefing; 12:00pm start aerotowing.

FIELD USAGE TIMETABLE		
Sat	Power 8am - 1pm*	Glider 1pm* - Dusk
Sun	Glider Dawn - Dusk	
Mon	Power 8am - 1pm	Glider 1pm - Dusk
Tue	Glider Dawn - 1pm	Power 1pm - 5pm^
Wed	Power 8am - 1pm	Glider 1pm - Dusk
Thu	Glider Dawn - 1pm	Power 1pm - 5pm^
Fri	Power 8am - 1pm	Glider 1pm - Dusk
Sat 1pm* unless aerotow 12pm Power 5pm^ AEST or 8pm AESDT		

## Dave's Toys 4 Big Boys

Providers of an extensive range of aeromodelling supplies including

Jeti

Vladimir's Models

Hyperion Australia

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

**(03) 9887 0558**

**0415 412 096**

# VARMS Office bearers

President/Safety Officer	Ken Madill	0411 793 122	<a href="mailto:president@varms.org.au">president@varms.org.au</a>
Vice President	Graham Sullivan		<a href="mailto:vp@varms.org.au">vp@varms.org.au</a>
Secretary	Colin Kahn		<a href="mailto:secretary@varms.org.au">secretary@varms.org.au</a>
Treasurer	David Milne	0417 835 766	<a href="mailto:treasurer@varms.org.au">treasurer@varms.org.au</a>
Aspectivity Editor	Nigel Murray	0407 820 533	<a href="mailto:editor@varms.org.au">editor@varms.org.au</a>
Aerotow Group Rep	Anthony Peate		<a href="mailto:aerotow@varms.org.au">aerotow@varms.org.au</a>
Glider Group Rep	Alan Mayhew	0412 994 213	<a href="mailto:glider@varms.org.au">glider@varms.org.au</a>
Heli Group Rep	Geoff Moore	9802 2044	<a href="mailto:heli@varms.org.au">heli@varms.org.au</a>
Power Group Rep	Jack Bhalla		<a href="mailto:power@varms.org.au">power@varms.org.au</a>
Ordinary Member	Bruce Clapperton		<a href="mailto:ordinary@varms.org.au">ordinary@varms.org.au</a>
Ordinary Member	Rodney Savage		<a href="mailto:ordinary@varms.org.au">ordinary@varms.org.au</a>
Registrar	Evan Green		<a href="mailto:registrar@varms.org.au">registrar@varms.org.au</a>
Site Liaison	Max Haysom	9801 3899	<a href="mailto:site_liaison@varms.org.au">site_liaison@varms.org.au</a>
Site Security Officer	Andrew Allen		<a href="mailto:security@varms.org.au">security@varms.org.au</a>
Webmaster	Evan Green		<a href="mailto:web_master@varms.org.au">web_master@varms.org.au</a>

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.

Affiliated with Federation Aeronautique Internationale (FAI),  
The World Air Sports Federation, Organisation No. A0001504U,  
Model Aeronautical Association of Australia (MAAA), and  
Victorian Model Aeronautical Association (VMAA)



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 and the club has just established a new base on Police Paddocks at 1405 Stud Road Rowville, an outer eastern suburb of Melbourne, Australia with the assistance of Knox City Council.

VARMS organises competitions in slope and thermal soaring and members operate 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 2:00pm on the second Sunday of each month (except January) at the club rooms in Rowville. Visitors are welcome. Formalities, and sometimes a special presentation, are usually followed by lively discussion on matters of interest to aero-modellers followed by a cup of your favourite brew.



If undelivered return to:  
VARMS Inc.  
P.O. Box 4096  
KNOX City Centre VIC 3152

