



HOLDFAST BUZZ

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Christmas BBQ Dec 3rd - Save the Date!

Join us on Sunday December 3rd for the Christmas BBQ and Presentation of Awards.

Full details on page 3



**Bargains Galore
at Annual Auction**

Approximately 120 visitors to the HMAC Annual Auction in November were treated to an array of pre-loved model aircraft and accessories, most of which were acquired for ridiculously low prices.

The HMAC newsletter is your vehicle for sharing information, experiences, building projects, etc. with your fellow members. If you have photos of your latest model, a construction in progress or handy tip you'd like to share, please send it to Geoff at buzz@holdfastmac.asn.au for inclusion in a future edition of BUZZ.

From the President



Kingsley Neumann

"...The interest in Combat has dropped off a bit but we will probably continue some demonstration flights and also introduce some Fun Competitions for everyone..."

It is hard to believe but here we are in November already and looking right down the barrel at the end of 2017. At long last, the weather has turned warmer and some nice flying days have arrived.

The recent Working Bee was reasonably well attended by about a dozen people. We managed to spread some gravel in places, fixed some more bird spikes under the verandah, painted the chairs, cleaned up the messy pavers, scrubbed the club room floor, investigated possible water leaks (and eventually fixed them) and had a general tidy-up around the place. Max Thomas and others have replaced the leaky cistern in the outside toilet. A big thank-you goes to all the hard workers.

The Annual Auction went off well once again. We saw the introduction of roving reporter Greg Peake. The roving mike was not great but we will address that before the next event. We more than covered our costs and many sales were made. Our thanks go to Model Flight once again for supplying us with some valuable door prizes for lucky ticket holders

The last General Meeting of the year will be held on Friday 1st of December. This is an important meeting because some amendments will be proposed for the Club By-Laws and the committee will be seeking approval for a specific project. A circular to all Members will be sent out so that everyone is aware of these items.

On Sunday 3rd of December, we will have our Christmas BBQ lunch and trophy presentations. This is an opportunity to bring your wife or partner along and meet some of the other members. Details are advertised elsewhere in this edition of Buzz.

The Club will once again be hosting a visit by a group of students and teachers from the Blackwood High School Autistic Intervention Group on Tuesday, December 5th. They will be invited to try their hand at RC flying and will enjoy some demonstration flying by Ashley West, Horst Dahms, and Dave Whitten. I anticipate that General Flying will not be drastically affected between the hours of 12-2 pm.

In 2018 we will continue with the regular Pylon racing and Club Competitions. The interest in Combat has dropped off a bit but we will probably continue some demonstration flights and also introduce some Fun Competitions for everyone. The suggestion is for simple tasks such as Spot Landings and Timed Circuits. This will enable any competent flyer to have a try with their ordinary sports models. If anyone has any suggestions and would like to get involved, please let me know. Events are always held on the first Sunday of the month and commence in February.

By the time this is published the Golden Era Air Races will have been completed at Constellation Club. HMAAC provides a crew on Pylon three for the entire three days and we wish them all a successful series for this, the 20th Anniversary event.

So, there are a number of exciting events before we eventually reach the end of the year. We will cease instruction for two weeks over the festive season (no rostered Instructors on December 24th and 31st)

On behalf of the Committee, allow me to wish you and your families our best wishes for a Happy Christmas and New Year.

Kingsley Neumann
President



December General Meeting - Friday Dec 1st, 7:30 pm

Please make every effort to attend the December General Meeting as changes to the Club By-Laws will be put forward for discussion and vote. There will also be an update on progress with the Building Project and members' input is encouraged



Christmas BBQ
+
Trophy Presentation

HMAC Clubroom
Sunday December 3rd
12:00 pm onwards
(lunch served at approx 12:30)

Lunch & soft drinks provided
BYO alcohol

Partners Welcome

To assist with catering, please RSVP to
secretary@holdfastmac.asn.au
by November 30th



We Have LIFT Off! - by John Jefferson

The introduction in early 2016 of HMAc's LIFT (Low cost Integrated Flight Training) program has resulted in many persons taking advantage of the offer of free flying sessions before making a decision to join the club and continue learning to fly radio controlled models. A key aspect of the program is that the newcomer does not have to purchase a model or associated equipment until after they have achieved solo standard. By then the student would have an appreciation of what model, transmitter etc. would suit their needs.



HMAc'S LIFT equipment, generously donated by our sponsor, Modelflight, comprises three e-Flite *Apprentice* trainer aircraft which have gyro stabilisation, three selectable flight modes (beginner, intermediate and experienced) and a "panic" switch when activated has the ability to return the aircraft to level flight. The beginner and intermediate modes limit the amount of control input by the student. Modelflight also donated two master and three slave transmitters, which were programmed by club vice president and "Buzz" editor, Geoff Haynes.

From an instructor's perspective, the LIFT program has proven beneficial. Having three identical models with a similar master/slave radio setup makes it easy to swap from one to another knowing that each model/radio setup will be the same. From a student's perspective this system enables them to fly reasonably well from their earliest flights, even undertaking take-offs and landings much earlier than would be expected under the traditional training method. In turn this enables the student to gain confidence and ability early in the training syllabus. As the student progresses the flight mode would be changed from beginner to intermediate to experienced. It is important to note that whilst the slave transmitter is set to beginner or intermediate mode, the master transmitter is typically set to experienced mode so that the instructor has full control input at all times.

Again from an instructor's point of view, the student's new-found confidence has to be tempered by the fact that their early flying success is owed in a large part to the stability and flight mode system built into the *Apprentice* trainer model. That is, the on-board electronics are managing the flight regime, making things easier for the student. I find it useful to explain to the student how the system works and to point out that the model is very light and cannot be compared to a model of balsa and ply construction that was traditionally used for training; invariably powered by a methanol fuelled glow-engine (the good old days!). Nowadays there is a plethora of foam constructed, electric powered models.

As an aside, flying an *Apprentice* in beginner or intermediate mode is an interesting experience. The limitation on the control responses makes it difficult or impossible to do manoeuvres such as rolls and loops, regardless of how much stick input you apply. This is not natural for an experienced flyer; nevertheless it helps the student in the early stage of training. The stability is such that you could almost imagine the model flying on autopilot!

The club is pro-active in attracting new students, and the LIFT program has done very well in this respect. This is clearly evident on a Sunday morning when flying training is underway; often there are four or five current students in attendance as well as those wanting a trial flight. This augers well for the continued future of the club. Some of us that have seen many summers go by realise that the existing membership needs new blood; otherwise it will be a dwindling membership and a club with limited prospects. We can't let that happen.

So how do we ensure the club continues to be viable? From the club's perspective we keep the LIFT program operational which has proven it attracts new members. However, we also have to encourage members to hone their skills and gain bronze/silver and gold wings with a view to becoming an instructor. Without sufficient instructors, the LIFT program and its inherent recruitment potential will fail, which is something we cannot contemplate. There are many well experienced club members who have the ability to become an instructor, so give some thought to putting yourself forward for an instructor's course. You'll find it immensely rewarding and the club's reputation and continuity will be assured.



Welcome to New Members

We extend a warm welcome to **Rodney Tikel**, **Mark Angove** and **George Yiambouranis** who have joined the club in recent weeks. It's also great to have **Paul Heaft** back as an Associate member! We hope you continue to participate in this enjoyable, sometimes challenging, sport.

"... Without sufficient instructors, the LIFT program and its inherent recruitment potential will fail, which is something we cannot contemplate. ..."

Spektrum Radio Programming Classes Get Thumbs Up



Feedback received from participants in the recent suite of Spektrum Radio Programming Workshops indicates that they were highly informative and well worth attending.

Two Introductory classes and one Advanced class have been run, covering basic model setup through to advanced mixing, flight modes and AS3X receiver programming.

The Club's large screen TV proved most useful, being used to display both the presentation material and full screen live views of the transmitter's display panel. There was plenty of hands-on time, with attendees completing practical exercises and confirming their results on a live model.

If you missed out on attending one of these classes and would still like to participate, drop Geoff Haynes a line at vicepresident@holdfastmac.asn.au. If there is sufficient interest we will schedule further workshops, possible on a Saturday or Sunday to suit those who work during the week.



Safety Reminder Are You Remembering to use Safe-Tags?



If you aren't using Safe Tags to identify the disarmed state of your electric models, you should be! It is a Club requirement. For details of the Safe Tag System and how to use it, visit our website at www.holdfastmac.asn.au/technical-articles/safetag-system/. Safe Tags are simple to make - we'll even supply you with the green ribbon. Stay Safe!



Reminder About FPV Flying Rules

CASA/MAAA rules stipulate that an observer MUST stand alongside an FPV pilot at all times, and flying is not permitted in "No Fly" zones or locations in close proximity to the general public for either Line of Sight or FPV control of the model aircraft. If the Club becomes aware of any non-compliance with the rules by a member, appropriate disciplinary action will be taken.

CASA has produced an app called "Can I fly There?" to assist Remotely Piloted Aircraft owners maintain compliance with the regulations related to airspace. More information can be found on the CASA website at <https://www.casa.gov.au/droneapp>



Looking to Buy or Sell R/C Gear?



Why not use our free Buy & Sell service on our Web Site. Send details & photos to Geoff Haynes – buzz@holdfastmac.asn.au

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Newcomers to R/C modelling are catered for by setting aside every Sunday morning from 10 am when qualified instructors will teach all aspects required for the safe operation of the model. During the training period no other models are allowed to fly, ensuring the least possible distractions to the student.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- Fri Dec 1 - General Meeting
- Sun Dec 3 - Xmas BBQ
- Wed Dec 6 - MASA Meeting
- Wed Jan 17 - Committee Meeting
- Fri Feb 2 - General Meeting
- Sun Feb 4 - Pylon & Combat
- Wed Feb 7 - MASA Meeting

Pylon & Combat Competition Results

October 1

Open class pylon

Tom Jacobsen (Noarlunga) 101
Pete Robertson (HMAC) 99
Graham Paterson (HMAC) 79
Finn Kanck (Noarlunga) 76

Standard class pylon

No races flown

Electric class pylon

Greg Leigh (Noarlunga) 115
Bob McEwin (HMAC) 22
Ian Cole (HMAC) 20

WW I combat

No missions flown

WW II combat

Barry Grivec (HMAC) 1
John Jefferson (HMAC) 1

November 5

Open class pylon

Tom Jacobsen (Noarlunga) 89
Graham Paterson (HMAC) 88
Pete Smyth (HMAC) 67
Finn Kanck (Noarlunga) 59

Standard class pylon

No races flown

Electric class pylon

Pete Smyth (HMAC) 87
Vin Pike (HMAC) 25

WW I combat

No missions flown

WW II combat

No missions flown

Training Sessions over Christmas

Please note that there will be no training sessions conducted on Sunday December 24th or Sunday December 31st, as our instructors deserve time off to enjoy the Christmas festivities.

Instructor Roster (December - January)

Date	Instructor	Instructor	Assistant
NOV 26	Kingsley Neumann		Ted Carter
DEC 3	Christmas BBQ & Trophy Presentation		
DEC 10	Max Thomas	John Jefferson	Geoff Haynes
DEC 17	Kingsley Neumann		Ted Carter
DEC 24	Christmas Eve		
DEC 31	New Years Eve		
JAN 7	John Jefferson		Geoff Haynes
JAN 14	Kingsley Neumann	Max Thomas	Ted Carter
JAN 21	John Jefferson		Geoff Haynes
JAN 28	Kingsley Neumann	Max Thomas	Ted Carter

The following instructors are often available and are invited to assist when they can:
Shawn Jones, Alan Ayles, Ian Cole, Ian Williams, Graham Paterson

The Club is fortunate to have a dedicated band of Instructors and Assistants who offer their services to learners almost every Sunday. We would like to have more people on the Roster to ease the workload. If you can help please speak up and we can arrange the necessary Instructor Course. Gold Wings standard is a prerequisite for all Instructors.