



HOLDFAST BUZZ

HMAC proudly sponsored by **modelflight RC**

Buy & Sell Day a Buzz

Once again we were lucky with the weather which looked a bit threatening when people started to roll up at around 8.00 AM. Undeterred however, Club volunteers proceeded to place out a few tables and to guide sellers to their display spots. An estimated number of about 100 people drifted in and out of the event eagerly seeking bargains and there were plenty. Model Flight's Mike O'Reilly and Greg Leigh had a good selection of kits and assembled planes to sell. On another stand, I noticed a number of classic balsa kits from years gone by, still in their original packaging. There were electronic bargains and miscellaneous items galore. Of course the smell of sausages and onions created a good deal of interest and that is how we made a bit of money. But the big earner for HMAC was the excellent Raffle for a \$500 voucher from our sponsors Model Flight. A number of \$20 vouchers were also on offer and the sales were good. The grand prize will be drawn on December 6th.

Horst Dahms gave an impressive display of zippy flying with his delta electric speedster despite the wind which was picking up. We were treated to some fine musical entertainment by Steve Turner and his friend Tina. They are really good. A class act and let's hope we see them again. The show was all over by about 12 noon and we packed up for the day. Thanks go to all the HMAC people who helped on the day.

By Kingsley Neumann



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We're trialling altering the flight line by filling in the gaps between the bollards, reducing its length (determined in the days of 36MHz) and shifting it further away from Majors Rd. With the bollards next to each other they can be locked in place to prevent them blowing over. The picture was taken after a recent storm. Some of the bollards from the flight line were blown past the shed!

Models should generally be placed at the end of the flight line, arm, do a control check, taxi on to the field, line up and take off. Or they can be carried on to the field for a take-off or a hand launch. Bigger models can taxi from the pits on to the field.

We're interested in your feedback,

Andy Hollitt - CFI



Above: Blown away
Left: Solid bollards

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 buzz@holdfastmac.asn.au for inclusion in a future edition of BUZZ.



Terry Gold

...A good way to connect as a new member is to ask someone when they joined and what was the club like when they were a new member...

From the President

This morning I woke up to a Willie Wagtail insisting that it was time for me to get up even though the sun wasn't yet up itself.

My first thought was "It's Saturday!" and how lucky we are that at midnight tonight our short lockdown will end. Some of my family overseas have been in lockdown for over two-hundred days so I am very grateful to be here and to see how well South Australians are managing. I'm sure this morning will bring discussions with the committee about getting the field back open for everyone to enjoy, even if it does mean some extra care around the social distancing. Our priority is keeping everyone safe while balancing our need to fly.

My second thought this morning was of a new plane I'm building and how I'm going to join the wings today. This is only my second balsa build, not counting one or two control line planes I built as a teenager, so I am going a bit slow at this point. Although I started with a laser cut short kit, there is still plenty of room for mistakes and I already know that a misaligned wing will be difficult if not impossible to fix. That's probably why I'm writing my Buzz column instead of mixing epoxy right now!

This month's Buzz will be the last one put together by Chris Flynn and we thank him for his great service to the club. His work obligations are ramping up and he deserves a break, and maybe this will mean we will see him at the field flying a bit more too.

Speaking of new members, a good way for new members to get acquainted with the club is to go back through the past issues of Buzz. You can find them on the website under [News & Information/Newsletters](#) and it is fun to see how the club has evolved even just in the last six years that are covered by the Buzz archive. Remember though, the club started in 1956 so that just scratches the surface. A good way to connect as a new member is to ask someone when they joined and what was the club like when they were a new member. Every one of the members was a new member at some point, so you are in good company here.

In this issue you will see a bit about our Buy Sell day and the Bunning's Sausage Sizzle we did this month. Thank you to all of the members who came out to support the club.

As of this morning it is still unclear if we can have any sort of end of year event. COVID is keeping us from doing the traditional Christmas party, and it may keep us from doing the picnic we thought could take its place. Stay tuned for news about that but at least it looks like we are going to be able to get in some good flying, so I hope to see you at the field!

Terry Gold

Thank you

2020 has been a difficult year for all with natural disasters and a global pandemic. We wish to thank all our members for their cooperation, flexibility and understanding in the procedure changes and field closures throughout the year. Please remember to stay safe, stay informed and follow club directions to keep everyone safe and healthy. Above all, please keep having fun!

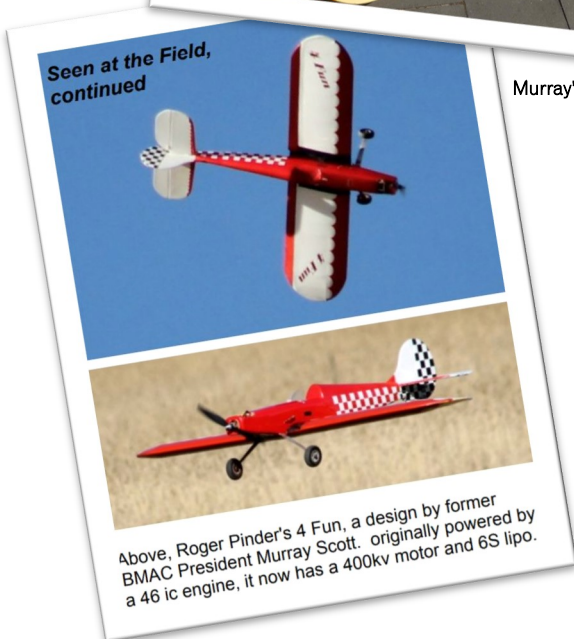


Vale Murray Scott 1940-2020

We had some sad news recently. Well known and much liked SA aeromodelling identity Murray Scott passed away at the age of 80 Years. Murray was a past member of HMAC and several other SA Clubs. He was HMAC President for one term. He was also State Flying Instructor for SA. He was a prolific designer, builder and flyer. His most famous design was a sturdy fun machine designed specifically for Four Stroke Glow Motors aptly named "Four Fun". A number of these were built at HMAC. Ian Faulkner still flies one occasionally.



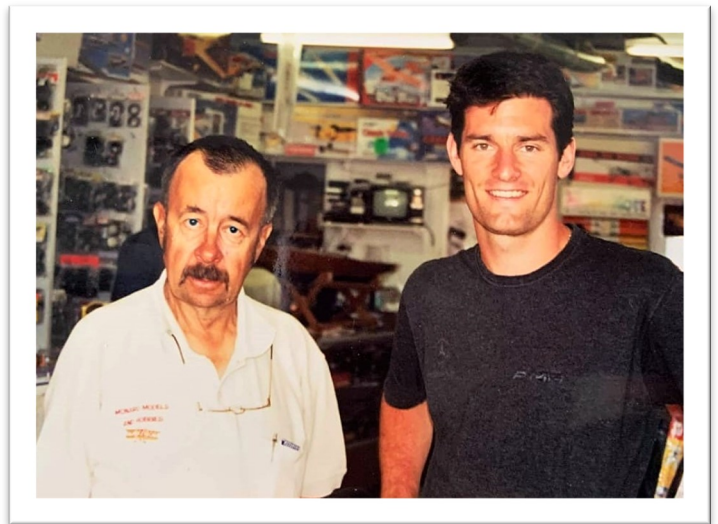
Murray's Four Fun



Above, Roger Pinder's 4 Fun, a design by former BMAC President Murray Scott. originally powered by a 46 ic engine, it now has a 400kv motor and 6S lipo.

In the early days he started with control line and then went into early RC. I first met Murray at the South Parklands where we flew glider competitions with the Southern Soaring League. Murray gained a high level of soaring achievements in the World Wide League of Silent Flight. Murray later went into aeromodelling commercial industry in the field of magazine publishing. He established the excellent RCM News. Murray was a familiar sight behind the counter at the stores of Mac's Hobbies on Portrush Road and also Model Flight. Murray's other great interests were Motor Racing and Photography.

Murray was an affable character always willing to have a chat and share his knowledge. Our sincere sympathy is extended to wife Bev, their children Alexis, Yolanda and their extended families.



Murray with former Formula One racing driver Mark Webber



Farewell Grantley Colebatch

It is with regret that we bid farewell to long term HMAC Member Grantley Colebatch. Grantley has been a Member for a very long time and was pivotal in the negotiations with the National Parks Department many years ago when we first obtained permission to fly at our current site. Grantley and his wife Lee have been residents of nearby Sheidow Park for many years and have watched the development of the Hallett Cove area since the early days of subdivision. Grantley is a dedicated aeromodeller and scratch builder who experimented with many ground-breaking techniques. He often worked with John Tonkes on glass fibre moulds. Grantley has been of great assistance to the Club in detailed proof reading of legal documents and his considered opinions have been of great value. We wish Grantley and Lee all the best for their new location at Strathalbyn.



Recognising Our Volunteers

November was a big month for people volunteering to help keep the club running well. Have you ever wondered how the grass always seems to look like it was just mowed? Well it probably was just mowed because there is a dedicated crew who keep it looking that way. Karl Heberle and Greg Peake are most active on the mowers but others help too when they can. And the lack of weeds? That's Mike Mildren who straps a sprayer on his back and beats them back every week.

Thank you to all who came out for our Working Bee and cleaned and tidied up the place for the Buy Sell event. We had a good crowd of visitors at the Buy Sell event and it was nice for them to see our club looking good.

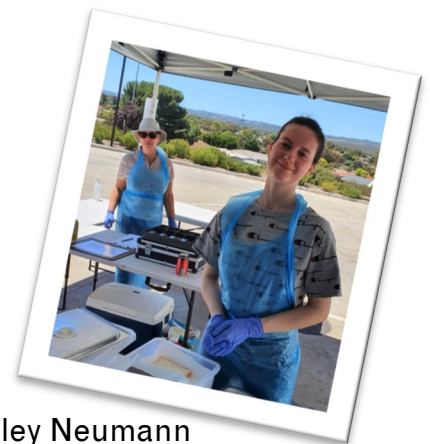
Most recently we did a Bunnings Sausage Sizzle at the Reynella store. Thank you to all involved who helped which is covered in the following article.

Fundraisers like this not only help to keep our dues lower, they help us promote the club in the community.

Hardly a day goes by where the Committee isn't discussing some aspect of the club and how to make it better, so thank you to all current and past committee members.

And last but not least, thanks to everyone who quietly cleans or picks up a bit to make the club run a little smoother. I'm sure I have missed naming someone who is or has worked hard to keep the club running well.

Thank you all



Bunnings Sausage Sizzle by Kingsley Neumann

The Club went ahead with another Bunnings BBQ on November 14th. We had been keen to do one again following the success last year at Marion. This year we were assigned to the newly opened store at Reynella. The weather was perfect. The store is in a relatively isolated spot and was certainly not as busy as Marion. The marquee was erected quite a distance from the main entrance. And of course we had to contend with Covid 19 rules for personal spacing and enhanced food safety conditions. We went ahead and stocked up to the maximum but unfortunately we just did not have many customers. The final figures are available from Treasurer Geoff. It was a shame to have to waste so much fresh food. At the end of the day some lucky individuals received their \$2.50 cooked sausage plus a bag of cold raw ones. We were not permitted to sell the excess.

We had a happy band of HMAc volunteers who tried their very best to make it work but it was quite disappointing. I have listed everyone's names below and in particular I would like to thank Geoff and Ian for their ground work and endless running about with the setting up and packing up. A report has been sent to Bunnings with recommendations for shifting the marquee closer to the entrance or main exit and to review their recommended quantities of sausages and bread for that location.

One unusual highlight in a quiet moment was the presentation of Silver Wings to Alan Langer by President Terry Gold. Alan actually qualified quite some time ago but had to wait for the wings to arrive. I would also like to mention Evelyn Christie, Bryan Christie's lovely daughter. Evelyn is working towards a Duke of Edinburgh Award by becoming involved with community affairs, among several other very active pursuits. She worked tirelessly with her Dad at Bunnings and also a week earlier at the Club Buy and Sell Working Bee. Well done everybody.

Team 1: Kingsley Neumann, Mike Hallsworth, Lizzie Hallsworth, Claudio Cerro, Graham Scannell, (Mike Maloney and Mike Mildren gave additional support).

Team 2: Terry Gold, Allan Langer, Marina Langer, Bryan Christie, Evelyn Christie.

Team 3: Andy Hollitt, Dave Whitten, Lyn Jarrad, Bob Fisher, John Ellison.

Above: Evelyn Christie & Marina Langer hard at work

Right: Alan Langer receives his Silver Wings from Terry Gold





John Jefferson

... There are many computer controlled chargers available which can accommodate the main battery chemistries we use, have the capability to detect the status of the battery and charge it to its peak...

Warning!

LiPo (or Lithium Polymer) batteries can be very volatile and dangerous so should be charged and stored as per the manufacturer's recommendations

Remember as we head into Summer that LiPo batteries should not be stored in 'the shed' where they can be exposed to high temperatures.

Hey Charger!

Apologies to Chrysler Motors but I'm referring to battery charging, not the classic Chrysler Valiant Charger from 1971-1978 which some of us can recall, and its catchy TV advertising slogan "Hey Charger!".



Our investment in model aircraft can be quite significant, whether it's time spent scratch building, assembling an almost ready to fly (ARF) model, the amount of balsa and other material used, equipment such as internal combustion (IC) engines and electric motors, servos, batteries, and usually some dollars (often lots!). So how do you protect your investment? One of the key factors is battery management.

Old hands will generally have a good understanding of battery management, so for those of you new to model flying, this article is intended to give you some insight into this black art.

Sunday morning trainees undergo their instruction using the club's electric powered Apprentice training aircraft. Once trainees are awarded their wings the next step is to buy their own model, invariably one of the many electric powered foam models on the market. Some of these models will have their electrical equipment factory fitted, whilst others will need equipment to be purchased separately and fitted during the model's assembly process. The instructions that come with these kits need to be followed closely, particularly relating to proper charging of the flight battery. If a charger is supplied, often it will be a basic unit where you plug it into a wall socket or car accessory outlet for a specified length of time, after which you assume the battery is fully charged.

But is it? How do you tell? Get a battery checker – they're available from model shops or online and should be an essential item in your field box. Indeed, you should be checking the status of your flight batteries frequently during flying sessions.

Now, there are batteries and there are batteries; their chemistry varies significantly. If you have a glow engine model you probably used an on-board nickel cadmium (NiCd) pack in the past. Nowadays it's more likely you use a nickel metal hydride (NiMH) pack. There's also your starter battery, a 12 volt sealed lead acid (SLA) unit or lithium polymer (LiPo) unit; and your NiCd or NiMH glow driver unit. If you have an electric powered model it will almost certainly use a LiPo battery. Let's not forget your transmitter, which may have disposable AA alkaline batteries; or rechargeable NiCd, NiMH or LiPo batteries. Lately some model flyers have started using lithium iron phosphate (LiFe) batteries in preference to LiPos.

Unfortunately, failures can occur mid-flight with internal combustion powered models if the battery is not sound and cannot cope with the current drawn by multiple servos. The consequences of such power loss are potentially catastrophic; an unguided missile is a major risk to safety. With some electric powered models the risk is lessened as they have low voltage cut-off (LVC) circuitry built into the electronic speed controller (ESC). This senses low battery voltage and reduces power to the throttle and/or pulses the throttle to give you warning, while leaving enough capacity to operate the flight surfaces and safely land the plane.

The good news is you can minimise the risk of such an event by keeping these various rechargeable batteries in good condition. How? Get yourself a good quality charger...

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There are many computer controlled chargers available which can accommodate the main battery chemistries we use, have the capability to detect the status of the battery and charge it to its peak. In addition, they can balance each of the cells in a LiPo/LiFe battery. These units can also be programmed to cycle your batteries (discharge and charge), and discharge to a safe storage capacity if you don't intend using your batteries for a while, which is strongly recommended. However, be careful when discharging batteries as they should not be discharged completely, only to their safe minimum advised by the manufacturer.

Rechargeable batteries do have a finite life, so it's prudent to replace them when they no longer deliver the power expected or are damaged due to an arrival instead of a landing. This is an important maintenance requirement that will help prolong the life of the model.

Another factor to consider is the quality of your intended battery checker and charging unit. Check out the model shops, talk to the old hands at the field, check what Google has to say, but please do not grab the cheapest until you've done some research. Regrettably some units purchased online may not necessarily live up to their promise. Invest in your investment by buying quality equipment.

Charge safely and enjoy your flying!



Are You in the Draw?

There are still some tickets available for our Fund Raising Prize Draw.



Major Prize: \$500 Modelflight Gift Voucher
 Minor Prizes: 3 x \$20 Modelflight Gift Vouchers
 Ticket Cost: \$5 each or 5 for \$20

Tickets are available from Geoff Haynes and Ian Faulkner, or you can purchase them by direct deposit to the HMAAC bank account, making sure you identify yourself by reference in the transaction and sending a copy of the deposit receipt to Geoff at treasurer@holdfastmac.asn.au.

BSB: 735 212

Acct #: 556059

Name: Holdfast Model Aero Club

The Prize Draw will take place on Sun December 6th. You have to be in it to win it!





**Ultra Power UP6+ AC/DC
Dual Output 600W charger**
2x 300W
\$279.99



Ultra Power 60AC 60w AC Charger
with Deans Charge Lead
\$79.99



Spektrum NX6 DSM-X
Transmitter Only
\$449.99

The NX6 is an evolution in Spektrum air radios that for the first time builds the connectivity and telemetry advantages of Smart Technology into a 6-channel transmitter. It's perfect for any pilot who wants easy programming plus advanced features.

- High-resolution, backlit, 3.2" color display screen
- Wi-Fi connectivity for easy product registration, model downloads and firmware updates
- Smart Technology compatibility out-of-the-box
- 3.7V 2000 mAh 1S Lithium Ion transmitter batter (included)
- Integrated serial port for supporting 3rd party modules
- USB port for charging and data transfer, and for use with any simulator that supports USB game controllers (including the RealFlight® RC Flight Simulator)
- Folding antenna
- Dual diversity antenna



UPCOMING EVENTS*

Wed Dec 2 - MASA Meeting

Sun Dec 6 - Xmas Picnic

Wed Dec 16 - Committee Meeting

Wed Jan 6 - MASA Meeting

Wed Jan 20 - Committee Meeting

*Subject to change due to COVID restrictions

Welcome!

We have a new member! Welcome to HMAC **Garry Crispin**. Welcome to the club!

We hope you find being part of our club enjoyable and rewarding.

Achievement

Congratulations goes out to **John Ellison** on attaining Solo status. From all reports John is flying well solo and progressing well with his skills. Well done John!

HOLDFAST MODEL AERO CLUB

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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.

Competition Results

October 4th*

Open class pylon

Tom Jacobsen (Noarlunga) 25
Pete Robertson (HMAC) 24
Graham Paterson (HMAC) 17
Craig Spratt (Connie) 12

Standard class pylon

John Jefferson (HMAC) 18
Bryan Christie (HMAC) 14

Electric class pylon

Greg Leigh (Noarlunga) 22
Trevor Pearce (Connie) 21
Craig Spratt (Connie) 21

WW I combat

No missions flown

WW II combat

No missions flown

November 1st

Open class pylon

Tom Jacobsen (Noarlunga) 102
Pete Robertson (HMAC) 95
Graham Paterson (HMAC) 86
John Yianni (Connie) 86
Craig Spratt (Connie) 9

Standard class pylon

John Jefferson (HMAC) 59
Bryan Christie (HMAC) 57

Electric class pylon

Trevor Pearce (Connie) 91
Greg Leigh (Noarlunga) 88
Craig Spratt (Connie) 58

WW I combat

No missions flown

WW II combat

No missions flown

*inclement weather reduced to 1 heat

Instructor Roster (Dec-Jan)*

Date	Instructor	Instructor	Instructor	Assistant
DEC 6	XMAS Picnic	NO ROSTERED	INSTRUCTORS	
DEC 13	Andy Hollitt	Phil Norwood	Dave Whitten	Don Nairn
DEC 20	Andy Hollitt	Phil Norwood	Dave Whitten	Karl Heberle
DEC 27	Andy Hollitt	Phil Norwood		Don Nairn
JAN 03	Andy Hollitt	Phil Norwood		Karl Heberle
JAN 10	Andy Hollitt	Phil Norwood		Don Nairn
JAN 17	Andy Hollitt	Phil Norwood		Karl Heberle
JAN 24	Andy Hollitt	Phil Norwood	John Jefferson	Don Nairn
JAN 31	Andy Hollitt	Phil Norwood	John Jefferson	Karl Heberle

The following instructors are often available and are invited to assist when they can: Shawn Jones, Ian Williams, Ashley West and Dave Whitten, 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.

*Subject to change due to COVID restrictions

