



Volume 16 Issue 5
September-October 2025

HOLDFAST BUZZ

Holdfast Model Aero Club Inc

modelflight RC

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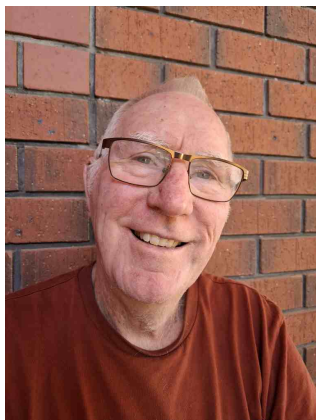


Club member Lachie Gray with his scratchbuilt aerobatic biplane based on the Wolf Pitts Pro. Standing alongside Lachie is his support crew grandpa Kevin. It's great to see one of our younger members not only flying but getting involved with the intricacies of building a model.

Got a story or photo to share? Send it
to the editor at
buzz@holdfastmac.asn.au



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



Club President
Andy Hollitt

From the President

MAGPIES The HMAC magpies have calmed down and we're friends once again. Please don't feed them or they associate humans with food and you get no peace if you're eating something.

RUNWAY The dashed centre line for a 12 m wide X 120 m long runway is now marked and in use - see photos below. Apart from that, the field remains unchanged. This suits everyone. Advanced flyers can enjoy the challenge of landing on the centre line, or you can land on the field wherever you like. Note that you must not land or take off directly towards the flight line as there are people there. You must not taxi in the pits area for the same reason. There are taxi ways at either end of the flight line.



NEAT & TIDY Our landlord is the Department for Environment & Water (DEW) and they inspect HMAC on a regular basis, so we need to keep the place neat and tidy. I've been tidying up, taking rubbish to the tip and getting rid of the old flight line bollards. The hatch covers were identified as a tripping hazard and are now bright yellow. The container was only approved on a temporary basis and will be cleared and sold off soon.

INFORMED I want members to know what's happening in their club and in future, John will publish what happened in the committee meeting in Buzz. You'll see reports from various areas, general business and the task list.

SHOW & TELL The first Friday evening from 7:30 pm is a social gathering with an occasional guest speaker. At the September meeting David Mifsud, president of MASA told us how they support clubs and encourage flying activities. Come along and chat to fellow club members.

BUSINESS CARDS are available on the benches in the Pilot Shed. Pop one in your wallet as they are handy to give to someone who may be interested in HMAC. There's room at the top for your name and at the bottom for your number. These cards are on the counter at Modelflight.

FLYERS are also located in the Pilot Shed and should be handed to interested visitors.

EVENING FUN FLYS We're planning some 5 pm Fun Flys in the warmer weather. Do some flying, cook your snags on the club BBQ, chat and fly into the evening. I'm giving you warning so you can set up a night flyer, lots of fun.

LOADING ZONE If there's just a couple of guys you can leave your cars there, but if others start to roll up you must move your cars to the parking area to make room for loading & unloading.

FILLING cracks in the field can be done by anyone at any time. There's a shovel, a bucket and a wheelbarrow in the sandpit. The combination for the wheelbarrow lock is the same as the gate. Beware; the sandpit is home to a family of centipedes.



If you see any visitors come to the public viewing area, please spend a few minutes talking to them. If they are interested in having a trial flight, refer them to our website where they can make a booking, provided they are 14 years of age and over.

BUY & SELL DAY

Sat Nov 1st, 2025, 09:00am



The open-air format continues at our Club field this year. Admission is free but you must provide your own setup (e.g. table, chairs, shade etc.) if you bring items for sale. No commission taken. Sell direct.

The field will be open from 8:30 am to set up. MAAA members with Bronze Wings or higher are welcome to fly at the field (no turbines). If last year's event is anything to go by, there will be some great bargains to be had!

A sausage sizzle will be available.



Free Admission

**Sausage Sizzle &
Refreshments
available**

Come & Fly Too

**Must be MAAA member with
at least Bronze Wings**

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Cnr Lonsdale Rd & Majors Rd
O'Halloran Hill SA 5158
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Vale John Lomas



On 26 August, around 40 family and friends of deceased former club member John Lomas had a memorial service at our clubroom celebrating John's life, including stories of his modelling exploits in the UK and Australia. This was followed by a scattering of John's ashes along the field's southern fenceline.

John's son Ian, also a former HMAAC member, arranged for a model Spitfire flypast to honour his late father, who had a keen interest in the aircraft. Club members Graham Paterson and Dave Whitten brought their Spitfire models and flew the display.



John with son Ian



Memorial service under way



John's ashes



Ian with his sisters ready to spread the ashes



Graham Paterson starting his Spitfire model in readiness for the flypast

Photos: Kingsley Neumann



Holdfast Model Aero Club Christmas function 2025

Please put December 7th in your diary

The HMAc Christmas function will be held at Club Marion on Sunday, December 7 from 12:00 noon. A separate room has been booked, similar to previous years at the venue. This year, instead of finger food, the committee decided on a \$48 per person package deal which includes a choice between two main meals and a dessert. (Other options are much dearer)

The main meals offered are a choice between:

- roast turkey breast (GF) with roast potatoes, vegetables, turkey gravy & cranberry sauce; or
- Black Angus sirloin steak (GF) grilled to medium with potato & spring onion rosti, bordelaise sauce and broccolini.

The dessert offered is traditional Christmas pudding served with custard, vanilla ice cream & hazelnut praline.

Ciabatta bread roll and butter are an additional charge of \$2.50 per person, which we need to let Club Marion know when we book the meal options.

Regrettably, HMAc is unable to subsidise meal costs but has paid Club Marion their \$200 room booking fee. We will require participating members to pay up front for this function with no refund available. Separate advice will be emailed to members shortly.



HMAc BBQ FUNDRAISER

BUNNINGS



The club will be holding its next fundraising BBQ at Marion Bunnings on Saturday, 29 November 2025. This is a key event aimed at generating additional income to support the club's operations; which in turn helps keep the annual membership fee reasonable.

Success depends on having sufficient volunteers to spread the workload on the day. So, if you have some time to spare, either all day or half-day, please get in touch with Kirk Winters (0422 797 203) who will brief you on what needs to be done.

Come and help out; show your support; the club will benefit from your input.



Mosquito – The RAF's Legendary Wooden Wonder and Its Most Extraordinary Mission

By Rowland White Penguin Random House 2023 ISBN 9781787634541

Review by Robin Shaw

I added this book to my collection because I did not have a book dedicated to the de Havilland Mosquito, one of the most remarkable aircraft of WW2 and one that was flown by many Australians.

When I started reading it, I realised that the book tells two stories. The first is the development and flying operations of the Mosquito. The second is the story of the Danish Resistance and the clandestine operations of the British Special Operations Executive (SOE) that organized and armed the Resistance. The two stories run in parallel and intertwine in some places.

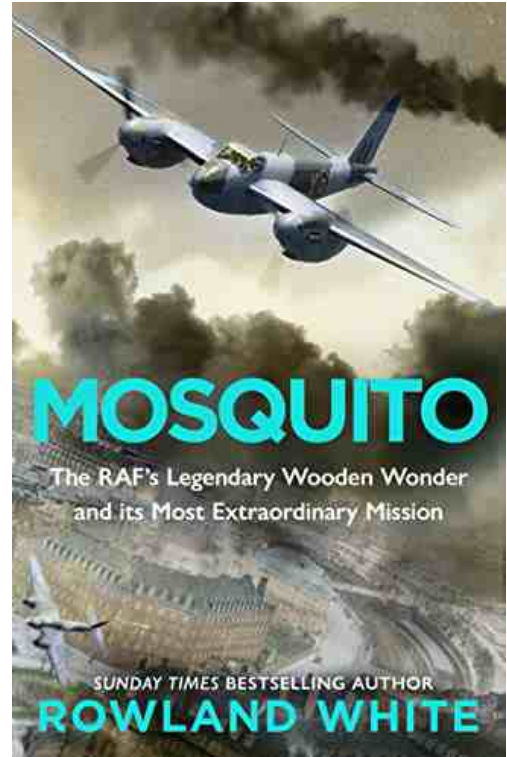
While the many different missions performed by the Mosquito are described, the main focus is on one mission type – very high precision (and exceptionally dangerous) low level bombing raids aimed at Gestapo prisons that held high-value Resistance prisoners. These were carried out mainly by 140 Wing of 2 Group RAF, which consisted of 3 squadrons - 21 RAF, 464 RAAF and 487 RNZAF. The commander of 2 Group was the intrepid AVM Basil Embry RAF.

It is generally well known that the RAF initially rejected the proposal that became the Mosquito, and that de Havilland proceeded to a prototype on its own initiative. I was surprised to learn that the cause of the RAF's change of heart was the keen interest shown by Gen. 'Hap' Arnold, commander of the US Army Air Force. Being a descendant of successful streamlined wooden types such as the DH88 Comet racer and the elegant DH91 Albatross airliner, the Mosquito prototype proved to be all it promised and more, with few if any teething problems. It wasn't long before everyone wanted Mosquitoes.

I must make special mention of the author's lovely turn of phrase when he described the Mosquito as follows: 'The beautifully streamlined Mosquito, its radiators cleverly buried in the wing roots, was simply the smallest amount of airframe you could shrink-wrap around a crew of two, a couple of thousand pounds of bombs and a pair of Merlins'(p.112).

Particular mention is also made of the unarmed Mosquitoes flown by BOAC between Stockholm in neutral Sweden and England. These performed important roles, transporting large loads of vital ball bearings from the Swedish SKF factory and moving people including SOE personnel, in and out of Scandinavia. On one occasion, they extracted the Danish physicist Neils Bohr, who went on to play a key role in the development of the first atomic weapons under the Manhattan Project.

People were seated in the bomb bays of the Mosquitoes (right), provided with oxygen and were no doubt extremely cold. *Picture source – Wikipedia.*



As mentioned, the main thread of the book is the low-level, pinpoint attacks on Gestapo bases in an attempt to free as many Resistance fighters as possible, and destroy the Gestapo files along with Gestapo personnel. The first raid was on Amiens Prison in France. The first precision raid in Denmark was on a factory in Copenhagen that was producing components for U-Boats (by 109 and 139 Squadrons led by the Australian WCDR Hughie Edwards). The Gestapo-related raids were on the university at Aarhus and the Shellhus in central Copenhagen, both used as prisons and torture centres.

The careful planning of these raids is emphasised, especially navigation, which sought to avoid known flak zones and fighter bases while bringing the aircraft precisely to the target via pre-selected landmarks at very low altitude. The skill of 140 Group's senior navigator Ted Sismore is highlighted. He became the most decorated RAF navigator of the war.

Space is also dedicated to the RAF Mustang squadrons based at Bentwaters that escorted the 140 Wing Mosquitoes on these remarkable raids. 135 (Polish) Squadron RAF provided many of these escorts.

For those whose interests lie solely in aviation matters, the parts of the book describing the Danish Resistance might lack appeal. For those like me with a wider interest in these things, the book weaves an interesting and at times gripping story of brave groups of people on both sides of the North Sea and the remarkable aircraft that made possible the raids that brought their destinies together. Try as hard as I might, I can't think of any other WW2 aircraft that could have successfully carried out these amazing feats than the 'Wooden Wonder' and its skilled crews.

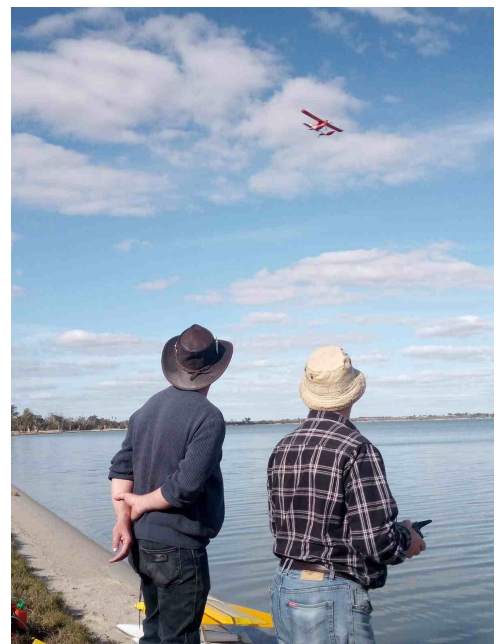
Mosquito includes some dramatic air-to-air photos of the Aarhus and Shellhus raids taken by the crew of a Film Production Unit Mosquito that accompanied the raids. All in all, I found it an interesting and educative read.

The float flyers were at it again at Barmera's Lake Bonney



*Pete Robertson, Bryan Christie and
Graham Paterson
Calm conditions, great flying weather*

Photos: Pete Robertson



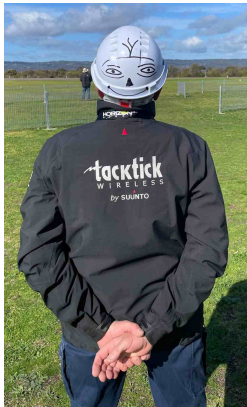
Bryan and Graham

It's magpie breeding season again

It happens every year, the maggies are very protective of their young and unfortunately we are relatively close to their nests. Some of us come up with defence mechanisms to deter those maggies from attacking the back of our heads when we're on the flight line.



Be warned! This is the resident magpie that does not like us intruding in its territory.

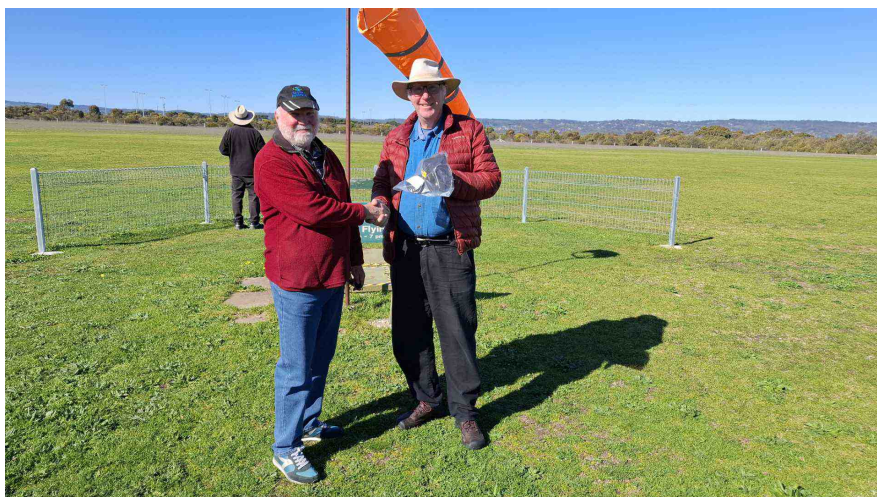


Ilan Briggs shows his preferred head protective gear.



Ilan "hard hat" and Jeffo "got my eyes on you" on the flight line with their "anti-maggie" gear.

Special thank you to Dave Whitten



Club "Mr Fixit" Dave Whitten receiving a 50 Years Modelflight cap from Club President Andy Hollitt. Dave is our go-to person when we have problems with our club transmitters and Apprentice training aircraft. He maintains our radios and training fleet so we can confidently use them when instructing students. Thank you Dave, we appreciate your expertise.

Around the field



Andy Hollitt with his Mustang before a sortie



Andy's battle damaged Mustang after the sortie



Neil Towns with his Beech 18, a beautiful classic



Andy and Ashley West discussing the merits of a flying wing

*Not double trouble but double Riot.
Ian Briggs with his Riot and its twin on
the arming table.*





Flying training

Newcomers to radio control modelling are catered for by setting aside Sunday mornings (except the first Sunday of the month) from 10:00 am when qualified instructors teach all aspects required for the safe operation of model aircraft.

During the training period no other models are allowed to fly, ensuring the least possible distractions to the student. Always check the HMac website for the latest weather update as we cancel instruction if it is too windy, wet or excessively hot.

New members

No new members this period

Flying achievements

None this period



Buy and Sell Marketplace



If there's any modelling equipment you want to buy or sell, please email a detailed description and photo to the editor (buzz@holdfastmac.asn.au) and it will be advertised in the next issue. Don't forget to include your name and phone number. Your advertisement won't carry over to any subsequent issue of BUZZ unless you make another request. Don't forget there is also a separate Buy and Sell section on our website.



E-flite Diamante sports model with:

- E-flite 30 motor with ESC
- JR servos
- Spektrum receiver
- 4s LiPo battery

No crash damage

\$340.00

Contact: Dave Whitten
0415 603 711

All you need to do is charge the battery, bind your transmitter to the model and you're ready to fly. It's a great sports/aerobatic model.

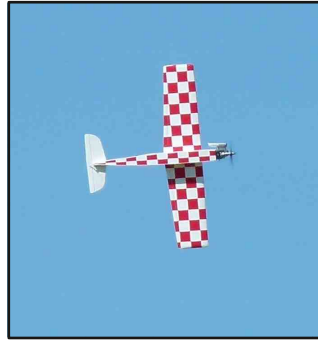
Upcoming events

Pylon racing:	2 November
MASA Trophy:	26 October grand final venue TBA
General meetings:	7 November
Buy & Sell Day:	1 November
Bunnings BBQ:	29 November
Christmas function:	7 December

Pylon racing results

7 September 2025

No racing due to adverse weather



5 October 2025

Open class

No races flown

Standard class

No races flown

Electric class

Trevor Pearce (Connie) 86
Craig Spratt (Connie) 70

MASA Trophy - Southern Chapter

HMAC was assigned to host the MASA Trophy Fun Fly on 13 July, however it had to be cancelled due to excess wind forecast. The event was re-scheduled for 20 September, but that also was too windy. The weather forecast for 28 September was suitable so Kirk Winters and John Jefferson undertook the three tasks set by MASA. The results were forwarded to MASA for compilation against the other southern chapter clubs - South Coast, Strathalbyn and Noarlunga. The two top scoring clubs will have their fly-off on 26 October. The winner will then fly against the northern chapter winner.

Undercarriage options

Has the undercarriage on your model seen better days? Here's a 3D printed replacement that Ian Briggs developed for his Riot.



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HMAC Committee meeting updates

Your committee meets every month to discuss and manage the club's ongoing activities to ensure we comply with our obligations to CASA, MAAA, MASA, Department for Environment and Water (our land owner) as well as field operations so that we all can continue to enjoy our model flying. A summary of the committee's deliberations is tabled below.

Committee Meeting 16 September 2025

Minutes Summary

Committee members present:

Andy Hollitt (President), Kirk Winters (Vice President), Kingsley Neumann (Secretary), Stewart Jackson (Treasurer), John Jefferson, Mike Nelson, Carlo Espartero.

Financial reports

Reports for month of August 2025 were presented by Treasurer Stewart Jackson. Total Members now 84. Club had 103 in August 2024. Income is approximately \$5000 less than expected due to reduced membership. Discussion revolved around methods to increase our income by increasing the number of members. Stewart stated that MASA and MAAA should assist our campaign. Other suggested tactics were limiting pensioner discounts, promoting in schools, promoting in Men's Sheds, promoting at Hobby Shops. Caution was expressed to ensure juniors to be at least 14 years old. Andy suggested committee volunteers to form a small group to investigate use of recently announced MASA and MAAA financial assistance for Club promotional activity. Bryan, Carlo and Andy offered to help.

Flying operations

CFI report noted reduced number of learners. Inclement weather has recently limited training. MASA Trophy round update: It was planned to go ahead with a substitute date 20 Sept to catch-up HMAC's lost round due to weather. (This date was subsequently deferred again due to weather.)

Safety matters

A recent lack of control incident may have been caused by a loose servo in dual servo elevator set up. Be more careful with pre-flight inspection. Sunglare remains as primary cause. Annual Risk Assessment of Flyaway incidents required for MAAA/MASA when damage occurs. MAAA MOP022 (fire risk assessment) to be followed.

Field report

No irrigation used this winter. A new plan required for summer. There was discussion regarding the fitment of caps to close off unnecessary field sprinkler outlets (about 20). Entire field to be mown to control grasses. Caution required; continue to monitor effect on cracks.

Buildings report

Various items of work are planned for odd jobs.

MAAA report

Successful visit by David Mifsud to HMAC Social Meeting 5 September. New grants proposed by MASA up to \$3000 from the state reserves per club in addition to the MAAA grants which are now capped at \$7,700 every second year. Some clubs reported better membership renewals for 2025-26 than last year.

General business

- Public Trustee re Sonny Carrol Goods. Andy Hollitt action initiated by a direct interview. Now awaiting action from PT to remove goods. Our aim is to sell the storage container.
- Fire Plan has been completed and ready to submit.
- Electric Test and Tag. Allan Ayles cannot help. It was suggested a private contractor be engaged for \$125 annually. We should remove unnecessary electric items.
- Coke machine. Rob Nottle has been requested to take back the Coke machine which he owns and had on loan to the club. HMAc can assist.
- Christmas Party. Club Marion is booked for Sunday Dec 7th. It was agreed that the club should pay the \$200 room deposit for Club Marion. Advertise in BUZZ plus direct email.
- Buy and Sell Day Saturday Nov 1. Raffle sponsored by Modelflight to be confirmed. Ticket printing is required. HMAc to provide and man a table for donated goods.
- Club room gutter blocked. Also, the west storage shed gutter can be troublesome. Noted by Department for Environment & Water (our lessor). Potential water damage; to be addressed.
- Boot Scraper. One more scraper for the pilot shelter to be installed.
- Noarlunga Model Aero Sports Come and Try Day Sunday 28th September. • Suggestion to offer help to NMAS as a token of friendship.
- Bunnings BBQ Marion Saturday 29th November. Need to organise a new team.
- Pilot shelter shade cloth needs repainting. Bryan Christie offered to do the job using his paint.

At the AGM Andy Hollitt spoke of structuring the club into teams. Here's what Andy's come up with:

THE MANAGEMENT TEAM: Executive supported by the Committee. Takes money, pays the bills, deals with correspondence, runs the club. President: Andy Hollitt. Vice President: Kirk Winters. Secretary: Kingsley Neumann. Treasurer: Stewart Jackson.

Committee: John Jefferson, Mike Nelson, Bryan Christie, Carlo Espartero, Ian Briggs.

THE INSTRUCTOR TEAM: Trains & tests students to MAAA Bronze, Silver and Gold Wings standard. Trains instructors. Ensures safe operation at HMAc. Sunday instructors communicate via the HMAc Gmail account. Maintenance of the HMAc fleet.

The CFI manages the team, trains instructors, performs Wings tests, makes policy: Andy Hollitt.

Sunday morning Instructors: Arrange to Instruct on Sunday mornings and perform Wings tests: John Jefferson, Kingsley Neumann, Ian Williams, Kirk Winters, Johann Van Wijk, Bryan Christie, Terry Gold.

Other instructors: Dave Whitten, Kim Whitburn, Ashley West, Graham Paterson, Pete Robertson, Horst Dahms, Phil Norwood, Allan Ayles.

Aircraft Maintenance: Dave Whitten.

THE MOWER TEAM: Maintains the tractor & ride on mower. Safe Operating Procedures (SOPs). Trains drivers. Mows the field & around the buildings. Trims grass around the arming tables and fences.

Maintenance: Mike Schneider, Allan Ayles, Mike Nelson, Greg Peake.

Tractor drivers: Karl Heberle, Mike Nelson, Pete Robertson.

Ride on mower driver: Greg Peake.

Other ride on mower drivers: Stewart Jackson, Dave Whitten, Kirk Winters, Brian Christie.

Self propelled hand mower: Dave Graham

Line trimmer/brush cutter: Ian Briggs, Andy Hollitt.

THE GROUNDS TEAM: Maintains the runway & the field. Maintains and operates the in ground watering system, including water distribution. Checks the water meter regularly to gauge water usage and leaks. Checks soil moisture content. Eliminates weeds. Protective equipment.

Watering system: Bryan Christie, Andy Hollitt, Kirk Winters, Stewart Jackson.

Runway, fences & field maintenance: EVERYONE! Please attend Working Bees. Filling cracks and depressions can be done at any time. A wheelbarrow, shovel & bucket are chained by the sandpit. The combination lock is the same as the gate.

Scotch thistles & herbicide: Andy Hollitt.

THE BUILDING MAINTENANCE TEAM: Maintains infrastructure (light work only).

Supervisor: Kirk Winters. Team: Kirk Winters, Mike Nelson, Bryan Christie.

THE HMAC REPRESENTATIVE: Attends MASA meetings on behalf of the Club.

Kingsley Neumann.

THE BUNNINGS BBQ TEAM: Liaise with Bunnings. Purchase bread, snags, onions, sauce, drinks. An important revenue raiser for HMAC and very entertaining. Organise & purchase: Kirk Winters & Stewart Jackson.

Volunteers: HMAC members.

THE WEB PAGE & WEBCAM TEAM: Maintains the HMAC Web Pages and the Webcam. Steve Davies & Carlo Espartero.

RECYCLING BINS: John Anthony.

BUZZ: The club magazine keeps members informed. Editor: John Jefferson.

Content: Andy Hollitt, Kirk Winters, everyone. Take pictures with your phones and send to John:

buzz@holdfastmac.asn.au

THE CHRISTMAS FUNCTION TEAM: Arranges the venue, food & drinks: Kirk Winters, Stewart Jackson, Kingsley Neumann.

CLUB EVENTS:

Fun flies: Kirk Winters.

Monday morning social group

First Friday night of the month Show&Tell

Car Boot Sale: The Committee.

WORKING BEE: All club members are asked to help for a few hours attending to special tasks, i.e. maintenance of the fence, cleaning, filling cracks in the field, etc.

CLEANING: The clubhouse, the pilot shed & the toilets must be kept clean. We're all adults, so don't expect mum to clean up after you. Please, clean up after yourself.

If you use the clubhouse, leave it clean. Don't leave mud on the floor: sweep & vacuum, wash the dishes, turn off the lights, turn off the air conditioner and set the alarm. Messy toilet bowl. If you make a mess, please use the toilet brush.

NEAT, TIDY & WELL MAINTAINED: That's how our landlords from DEW (the Department for Environment & Water) want to see it, so that's what we'll do. What a wonderful facility we have to fly our model aircraft. The club runs by people volunteering. No one gets paid. If you would like to volunteer to help out on any of the teams (we need more guys on the Grounds Team) or to make changes please contact me, Andy 0499 916 733 or ahollitt@gmx.com

SAAM open cockpit & engine run Sunday 26 October 2025



The South Australian Aviation Museum (SAAM) will be holding an engine run and open cockpit day on Sunday, 26th October 2025 between 10:00 am and 4:00 pm (last entry 3:00 pm).

Come and sit in the cockpit of some of the museum's historic aircraft, then see and hear the raw power of in-line and radial aero engines starting up.

Entrance Fees:

Adults \$17 (concession \$12)

Children (5-15 yrs) \$7.50

Family (2 adults & 3 children) \$43

Children under 5 free (accompanied by a family member)

Please note the museum's new entrance is now 16 Bedford Street, Port Adelaide. There's plenty of free parking available.





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