



Volume 17 Issue 4
July-August 2026

HOLDFAST BUZZ

Holdfast Model Aero Club Inc

modelflight RC

In this issue

From the President
AGM reports
On the field
Flying a tail dragger
Float flyers
Suitable models
Kite flying
Committee meetings



Pelican audience at Milang

The local pelicans keeping their distance are either checking out or ignoring the float planes turning up in their territory.

Flying off water is different way of enjoying RC modelling. Read the article regarding float flying at Lake Bonney in the Riverland.

Have you renewed your membership?

We are now well into the new financial year and you must be a current member in order to continue flying at Holdfast. If you have forgotten to renew your membership, now is the time. If you have already paid, thank you and happy flying.

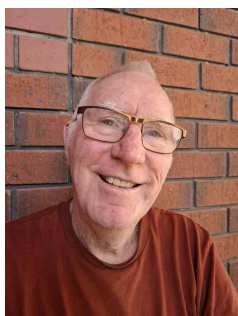
A number of members have included a donation in addition to their fees. Thank you, the club appreciates your support.

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.

From the President



Club President
Andy Hollitt

I'm very pleased to report that we have sufficient funds to run HMAc for another year. Thanks for renewing your membership and if you haven't done that yet, please do so.

Membership fees do not cover our running costs. We need to increase the number of members and I've made it easier to join HMAc for guys who can already fly.

Please help out with our Bunnings BBQ fund raiser.

We had a good turnout for our AGM, thanks for coming along, but it's hard to get members to "put their hand up". We can't depend on the same core people managing the club's operations, so please consider putting your hand up to help in whatever capacity you can.

Recently a battery departed a model. This usually doesn't end well. A battery will effectively increase weight with manoeuvres, so make sure it's firmly strapped in.

Kite flying is now an approved activity at HMAc, so pack a kite in case it's too windy to fly RC. If you're a member who can no longer fly RC, kites may be a fun thing for you.

The field looks terrific. Ian is keeping the runway cut low and we don't need to water! There's now a spreader in the pilot shed. If there's a bumpy area, you can toss dirt on it and use the spreader to flatten it out.

The white posts with red tip are turn markers. They will line you up with the centre of the runway, however you can land wherever you like!

The short white line is a STOL (Short Take Off & Landing) line. Your mains must touch down on or after the line & bring the plane to a stop in the shortest distance. Take off from the line in the shortest distance. Check Youtube 'Valdez STOL'.

Jason Grosser has joined HMAc and is flying some magnificent aircraft, practising for Sportsman aerobatic competition. If you're bored with punching holes in the sky, try the Sportsman Schedule. It's in this edition of Buzz.

Only pilots are covered by MAAA Insurance, so only pilots are permitted on the flight line please. Visitors can be invited into the pit area, but must be supervised and preferably seated.

We now have a wide view of the field and a close view of the windsock on the HAMC Web Page. Thanks Steve. Next step is to move the weather station to the pilot shed.

We have additional 'Butt Rests' for those of us with bad backs to lean against. I also like to rest against them when I'm training with a student. Thanks Ian Briggs for digging the holes in the rain and putting the dirt back in.

It can get very busy at HMAc. I've dumped the chairs that were in the pilot shed and fitted a couple of benches. Ian Briggs has added power boards with rain protection.

We have a couple of benches for visitors to sit on and I'd like to erect shade cloth over that area, so I'm preparing a grant application.

HMAc, the friendly Club, Andy Hollitt 0499 916 733

HMAC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2 AUGUST 2025 to 1 AUGUST 2026

It's been a busy year. After being elected as President, I stepped back and looked at our Club. What a fantastic facility, our large field is very scenic with the Mt Lofty ranges in the background and we're just 25 minutes from the CBD. A similar area by the Desal Plant just sold for \$45 million.

I'd like to acknowledge all the work that's been done by previous members. Once it was just a paddock, fill was bought in for the southern end, and for the roadway, fences were erected, there's the pilot shed, power, safety fences, a watering system, windsocks, signage, a very nice club house, the old kitchen with a store room, the old tractor shed (now a tool shed), the new tractor shed with a ride on mower, a tractor, line trimmers & tools. There's toilets, a septic system and we have money in the bank.

I felt that we had everything that we needed.

But it was a bit of a mess, so I've spent 12 months tidying it up. I emptied the container and sold it off, I cut up wardrobes. I've made a dozen trips to the dump with the back of my Ford Territory full of rubbish. I sold old bollards and an old Greenfield ride on mower, organised electrical testing and got a licence to sell food at our BBQ. I cleared the ditches by the road and I keep weeds under control with Glyphosate. I marked out runways and extended the pits safety fence. We sorted out our web page problems by installing an industrial router. We have improved the web cams and are relocating the weather station to the pilot shed. I got approval to fly kites. I instigated committee meeting reports for our Buzz magazine, so that members know what's going on, I got approval for a cool sign near our gate and I've been fighting the Department of Transport for a turn left lane.

What we do:

- We maintain the flying field.
- We provide a service to our members; a place to fly safely, social events, amenities.
- We maintain our existing facilities.
- We are prudent when spending members' fees.
- We provide training, as we need members to join the Club and to progress.

I'd like to thank Kingsley our Secretary and Stewart our Treasurer, the committee members, the Sunday morning Instructors, Dave Whitten for maintaining our fleet, John Jefferson for instructing & Buzz Editor, Ian Briggs, Greg Peake & Pete Robertson for mowing, Ian Briggs for helping to get things done, Bryan Christie for watering and building maintenance, Dave Graham for mowing, Steve Davies for IT & donating his models to the Club, Allan Ayles & Graham Paterson for tractor maintenance, Modelflight for sponsorship.

Future projects are shifting the weather station to the pilot shed, shade cloth over the visitor area and a cool sign with a picture of an aircraft near our front gate. I'm looking for grants.

A challenge in the future will be declining membership and increasing costs.

Holdfast Model Aero Club is not a business. It's a club. It only works if members volunteer their time and we get enough income to pay the bills. Please volunteer your time at fund raisers, displays or working bees, thank you.

Andy Hollitt

AGM Committee Election Results

The committee elected for 2026/27 is as follows:

President:	Andy Hollitt
Vice President:	Kingsley Neumann
Secretary:	John Jefferson
Public Officer:	Kingsley Neumann
Treasurer:	Stewart Jackson
Auditor:	John Modistach
Committee members:	Ian Briggs, Glen Williams, Jason Grosser

CFI 2025/26 Report

The big news is that with falling numbers, I decided to target guys who could already fly (park flyers). If they could demonstrate that they could fly safely, we would run through a one page set of rules with them, sign them up and grant them Solo status. This enables them to join HMAc and fly sub 2 kg models. We encourage them to get Bronze Wings.

We now have a Boomerang 25e and a 1 kg Trojan in the training fleet. The Boomerang is better for training in windy conditions.

The last half of 2025 was very windy. In 8 months only 10 mornings were flyable.

Training does not happen on the first Sunday of the month due to pylon racing.

Achievements

Neil Oxley persevered and got Bronze Wings. Good to see him flying here a lot.

Mike Nelson persevered with Kirk's instructing and got Bronze Wings.

Tristan Harbor joined HMAc, immediately got Gold Wings, crashed and sold up. Amazing pilot.

Dave Graham got Gold Wings after lots of crashes and practice. He is now a Club Instructor.

Drew Robertson was awarded Bronze Wings.

Junior Lewis Woolley was awarded Bronze Wings and flies here occasionally.

Lachlan Wallis, a park flyer was promptly awarded Bronze Wings.

Ian Briggs was awarded Silver Wings after trashing lots of aircraft. You got there mate!

Steve Cox was awarded Gold Wings with the Funtana X that I had used to get my Gold Wings.

Ben Brownbridge, (a park flyer) demonstrated he could fly safely and was awarded Solo.

Jason Grosser got Gold Wings in between practising for Sportsman Aerobatics Competition.

I'd like to thank our dedicated band of instructors who are willing to spend their time teaching others to fly and Modelflight, who sponsor our training program. Andy Hollitt

HMAc BBQ FUNDRAISER

The club will be holding its next fundraising BBQ at Marion Bunnings on Monday, 5 October 2026 (holiday weekend). 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 our treasurer Stewart Jackson 0417 828 873 who will brief you on what needs to be done.

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



On the Field



Ian Williams laying smoke with his Piper Cub. Ian built the smoke generator himself - great job! White smoke against a blue sky background; perfect contrast.



Air Tractor



Trojan - a model favourite



Ian Briggs and his *Green Machine* "On the field". Ian seems to split his time equally between flying and mowing.



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.

Flying a Tail Dragger (for new pilots)

OK, so you've gone solo on a high wing trainer and now want to get an aerobatic aircraft or maybe a warbird. It's more than likely your next plane will be a tail dragger instead of having a tricycle undercarriage like your trainer.

A tail dragger is managed differently on the ground during take-off and landing. Taxying generally requires full up elevator. The take-off roll requires up elevator to start with, and as speed increases the elevator stick is returned to neutral (if you don't the take-off will be premature with unfortunate results). The rest of the take-off is then same as your trainer.

Now, the interesting part – landing. There are two ways to land a tail dragger:

- (1) a full stall/three pointer; or
- (2) a wheeler (main wheels first) landing.



The first way is where you:

- make a stable approach to just above the runway;
- close the power;
- hold off by gently adding more up elevator as the aircraft slows down and settles down on all three wheels (it effectively runs out of airspeed and stalls).

The second is where you:

- fly the aircraft to the landing area at a slow (but not too slow) speed;
- level off just above the runway;
- ease the main wheels onto the surface;
- gently apply a small amount of down elevator to hold the aircraft on the ground (the aim is to raise the tail slightly and kill the wing's lift, not to mow the grass or plough the field with the prop);
- close the power and hold the tail up using down elevator until the aircraft slows and the tail settles on the runway; then
- apply full up elevator to keep the tail down on the ground.

Don't forget to keep the aircraft rolling straight by using rudder. Also, be wary of the wind direction as tail draggers do not like cross winds while on the ground. Phew! That required intense concentration.

You may find that your landing attempt results in kangaroo hopping as you try to get the aircraft onto the ground. If you are flying faster than a three point attitude but slower than a wheeler, the aircraft will more than likely land with its tail low. Given that the centre of gravity (and main mass) is usually behind the main wheels, the downward momentum at touchdown will cause the tail to drop, but because the airspeed is above stalling speed (the wing's angle of attack is positive and it is still generating lift), the aircraft will climb back into the air. If you lower the nose to counteract the climb, chances are that you'll repeat the kangaroo hopping cycle. Wow, another bouncy landing. You'll find that it's better to abort the landing and go around for another attempt.

Keep practising and you'll definitely get better at it. Your flying skills will be enhanced and you'll find it easier to transition to those bigger and better aerobats and warbirds that are on your wish list.

John Jefferson

Float flyers at Lake Bonney

Those intrepid float flyers Bryan Christie, Graham Paterson and Pete Robertson were at it again at the end of June, having one of their regular weekends at Lake Bonney adjacent to Barmera in the Riverland.

On behalf of the trio, Pete encourages anyone to come and try float flying on Lake Bonney. It's approximately a three hour drive. Accommodation and camping is available. A recovery boat is on hand to rescue your model if it refuses to come back to you. The boat is supplied by the event organiser Concorde Model Flying Club. MAAA insurance is provided by your current HMAC membership.

This is a good family friendly event for all to enjoy. The next event is scheduled for the weekend 12-13 September 2026. Get some floats for your model, come and have a go or just check out the action.



Bryan,
Graham
& Pete



The
recovery
boat



Graham's OS120
Turbo Beaver
Pete's 3S
Twin Otter



Turbo
Beaver
recovery



Bryan's
OS55
Hustler



Pete's
OS55
Pegasus

On the Field



Look dad...I can do this. Young Ethan, son of Daniel Dienes and partner Sunny, is eager to show mum and dad what he can do with a model.

Ian Briggs with another of his 3D printed creations. This time it's a Twin Otter.



Spark and Ellie - a couple of HMAC guard dogs concentrating on doing their duty, keeping a close eye on proceedings, especially member Jason Grosser who feeds them.

Wondering what type of model would suit once you've gained your wings? Andy Hollitt has provided a list of models that are great to fly as well as building your experience level.

MODELS UNDER 2 KG FOR SOLO & BRONZE WINGS

SKYLARK S. 1m, 3S 1300, 700gm RTF. Great value. Flies well.



HOBBYZONE AEROScout/ESKY EAGLES. 1.1m, 3S 2200 800gm RTF.



SKYSURFER/BIXLER 2/FMS 1280 EASY TRAINER. A tough 1.5m foamie pusher. 3S 2200. Good value. They fly great. 800gm RTF.



E-FLITE NIGHT RADIAN. 2m span motor glider, 3S 1300, 960gm RTF.



EFLITE T-28 TROJAN. 1.1m. 1kg RTF. 3S 2200. Comes with SAFE receiver.



FMS SUPER EZ V4. Foamy 1.2m tail dragger. 3S 2200. 1kg RTF.



E-FLITE APPRENTICE STS 15e. 1.5m, 1.4kg RTF. SAFE Rx, 3S 3000.



FMS KINGFISHER. 1.4m, 1.4kg RTF. 3S 2200. Comes with floats.



ARROWS BIGFOOT. 1.3m with flaps. 3S 2200. 1.4kg RTF.



PRIME RC RIOT. 1.1m, 1.5kg. 3S 2200 or 4S 2200. Great model, great price.



TURBO TIMBER. 1.5m. 1.7kg RTF. 3S 2200. Lovely model. SAFE receiver.



MODELS WEIGHING OVER 2KG RTF (You need Silver Wings)

BOOMERANG 25E Airframe 1.4m, 2.2kg.



40 SIZE BOOMERANG Airframe. 1.55m, 4S or 5S. 2.9kg RTF.



KYOSHO CALMATO Airframe, 1.6Mm 2.5kg, 4S or 5S.



60 SIZE BOOMERANG Airframe. A big plane 1.8m, 4kg RTF. Good value.



SEAGULL CLASSIC UGLY STICK Airframe, 1.8m, 3.5kg. 6S 5000, great.



Pylon racing results

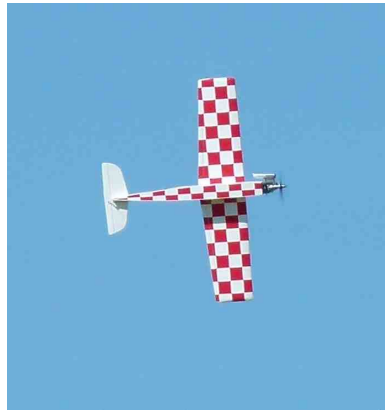
7 June

Open class

Pete Robertson (HMAC) 91
Bryan Christie (HMAC) 85
Graham Paterson (HMAC) 82

Electric class

Greg Leigh (Noarlunga) 82
Craig Spratt (Connie) 78



5 July

Open class

Pete Robertson (HMAC) 101
Tom Jacobsen (Noarlunga) 93
Bryan Christie (HMAC) 28
Graham Paterson 1

Electric class

Craig Spratt (Connie) 85
Trevor Pearce (Connie) 73

General safety at the field

Members are reminded that the club's By-laws do not allow visitors or persons not authorised to fly model aircraft, including social members, to enter the sheltered or pits area (flight operations areas) unless invited by a club member. Once in the flight operations areas, such persons must stay under the sheltered areas and not enter or approach the flight line while models are being flown.

This By-law reflects the Civil Aviation Safety Regulations that models must not be flown closer than 30 metres to people not involved in the operation of model aircraft. Any such breach could result in the club losing its accreditation and subsequently shut down.

New signs have been installed along the safety fence to warn people of potential danger.



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.

Nothing on offer this issue.

Don't forget, the buy and sell marketplace is available to club members.



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

Welcome to new members Ben Brownridge, Jason Grosser, Brad Sugar, Robert van Roosmalen and David Chaplin. We trust you will enjoy the facilities at our field.

Flying achievements



Associate member Jason Grosser achieved his Gold Wings on 15 July. Instructors were Andy Hollitt and Ian Williams. Well done Jason.

Congratulations to Robert van Roosmalen who passed his Bronze Wings test on 26 July. Instructors were Bryan Christie and Ian Williams.

The Sportsman Aerobic Schedule

Are you interested in trying some low key competition aerobic manoeuvres?

These links takes you to instructional videos:

Learning to fly Sportsman

(20) Talking F3A Australia - YouTube

Sportsman		
For those new to F3A		
1	Take Off (Into Wind)	
2	Trim Pass (Downwind)	
3	Double Immelmann 1/2 rolls	3
Free Turn		
4	Slow Roll	3
Free Turn		
5	2 Inside loops	3
6	Immelmann Turn	2
7	Triangle Inverted across Bottom (from top)	3
8	Half Square Loop (1/2 roll down)	2
9	Stall Turn 1/4 Roll Up and Down	3
Free Turn		
10	Two Horizontal Rolls	3
	Free Turn	
11	Top Hat 1/2 rolls up and down	4
Free Turn		
12	Cuban 8 with 1/2 rolls	3
Free Turn to top		
13	Two Turn Spin	3
14	Land	
July 2025 www.F3A.com.au Total K		

Upcoming events

Pylon racing: 6 September; 4 October
General meeting: 7 August; 4 September

Kite flying

Kite flying is approved at HMAc and is great fun if it's too windy to fly radio controlled aircraft. Here are pictures of some of my kites. I also have two line stunt kites and a Kite Board trainer kite.



I'm no expert, but I thought I'd pass on what I'd learned. There's a number of shops selling kites nearby, just put 'kite shop' in Google maps. eBay has a massive collection (the Butterfly came from eBay and flies really well, flapping its wings), but not all eBay kites fly well and some went in the rubbish bin, along with 'Used Models'.

The handles that come with kites do work, but they're very slow to wind in and uncomfortable to use. The round one is ball raced and works very well, BUT a large kite has a tremendous amount of power and will quickly spool off line as it climbs. How to stop it climbing? I might wear a leather glove in future.



With a large kite I found it best to walk towards it while winding in the line, back off, repeat.

I found that launching a kite in front of the pilot shed on a westerly doesn't go well, duh.

I wrapped the line around one of the pilot line fence posts, so I could take a photo. It unwrapped itself and took off, so I had to race after it as the handle dragged along the ground. Embarrassing for the CFI to have a fly away!

We're limited to 400' AGL so you should check the length of your line. 400' is the distance from the outhouse to the southern end of the pilot safety fence. It's a long way.

A fun activity at HMAc which nicely complements flying RC models.

Andy Hollitt

HMAC Committee meeting updates

Your committee meets regularly 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.

Summary of Committee Meeting 16 June 2026

Financial Report

Monthly reports were presented by the treasurer. This report closed the HMAC financial year on 31 May 2026. Highlights were:

- Total membership: 98 (compared to 103 in 2025)
- Total money in our bank accounts: \$41,022.25
- Profit & Loss income for the month \$102.79; expenditure \$3178.46

Total Profit & Loss for year ending 31 May 2026:

- Income: \$32,118.63
- Expenses: \$24,073.76

Net Position: positive \$8,044.87. This is due mainly to the sale of our large storage container and successful sale of donated aeromodelling items from various sources. In addition, a substantial number of cash donations were received from members. Expenditure on water was less than normal due to careful monitoring.

Bunnings BBQ fundraiser planning in progress. Booking is in place for Monday October 5 at Marion. Helpers will be required to assist on the day.

Flying Operations

Weather has restricted flying. Several potential new members via Come & Try bookings.

David Graham has obtained Gold Wings and is keen to get his Instructor rating.

Field & Grounds Report

Grass on the field looks very good. Watering is suspended due to rain. Grass has been cleared from ditches and poisoning continues.

Buildings Report

A downpipe at the clubroom ramp has been altered to redirect rainwater because the existing pipe gets blocked and overflows at the gutter.

Assistance is required to install an extractor fan in the canteen.

There is a possible white ant problem – continue monitoring.

MASA Report

AGM held 29 May. New MASA president Steven Burgess, new State CFI Jeremy Reynolds.

Some concern was expressed at unfriendliness toward new members in clubs. (HMAC encourages direct approach to visitors and new members).

General Business

HMAC annual general meeting is proposed for Saturday, 1 August at 12 Noon.

Emergency exit lights faulty (Fire Chief Services review). Investigate replacements.

Several experimental test sites will be set up on our field (away from any flying activity) to trial different top dressing amounts. The aim is to see how much dressing will reduce or prevent cracks.

Summary of Committee Meeting 21 July 2026

Financial and Membership Report

The treasurer presented the financial report showing total bank balances of \$47,700, with \$7,170 in the cheque account, \$10,000 in reserve, and \$30,000 in investment accounts.

The club received \$11,754 in membership income for June, dominated by senior and pensioner members, with \$575 in expenses.

It was recommended sending membership renewal reminders to existing members, noting that while there were 6 new members this year, only 26 members had renewed, and the club should postpone non-essential spending until August.

Flying Operations

The meeting covered flight training operations from June to July, with the CFI reporting on various training activities and two new members being invited to join the club.

The group discussed safety concerns regarding non-pilot presence in the flight line area. The consensus was to implement "pilots only" signage beyond the first fence to address safety concerns, with members acknowledging that hazards exist throughout the flight line area.

The committee also approved supporting Bryan Christie's initiative to become a qualified heavy model inspector, with John Modistach offering to help with the qualification process.

Field & Grounds Maintenance

It was noted that the sprinkler systems are being kept off during internet outages and that the field is in excellent condition with minimal cracks, though there are some divots from plane crashes.

The challenges of maintaining the field were discussed, noting that the ride-on mower is being used instead of the tractor due to wet ground conditions, and suggested exploring surplus equipment from Marion Council that could be better suited for field maintenance.

Christmas Party Planning Committee

The committee discussed plans for the end of year Christmas party. Venue rentals cost around \$300 but require minimum spends. It was agreed to book the Marion Sports Club, same as last year.



MODEL AERONAUTICAL
ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

Have you renewed your membership?

Are you legal?

We are now well into the new financial year and you must be a current member in order to continue flying at Holdfast. If you have forgotten to renew your membership, now is the time. If you have already paid, thank you and happy flying.

A number of members have included a donation in addition to their fees. Thank you, the club appreciates your support.



Holdfast Model Aero Club Inc
Corner Majors and Lonsdale Roads, O'Halloran Hill SA 5158
Web: www.holdfastmac.asn.au
Newsletter editor: buzz@holdfastmac.asn.au

Proudly sponsored by



E-Flite Habu SS 50mm EDF Jet, Version 2

The E-flite Habu SS 50mm brings jet performance within reach for more pilots, combining convenience, affordability, and thrilling speed in one package. Building on the success of the original, the upgraded Habu SS 50mm delivers improved performance, greater flexibility, and an even more refined flying experience.

Bind-N-Fly Basic

\$359.99



Top Model Butterfly 2.0m EP Sport Glider

The Butterfly's lightweight design, thin wing airfoil, and large wingspan delivers stable handling, excellent glide performance, and impressive efficiency. Designed for powerful electric climbs, the Butterfly excels in thermal flying, precision spot landings, 'honest' aerobatics, and slow, controlled approaches.

Almost-Ready-To-Fly

\$549.99

Hangar 9 1.4m J-3 Cub 10cc

For a brilliant giant-scale flying experience the Hangar 9 J-3 Cub 10cc is unsurpassed for classic performance and convenience. The lightweight, rigid, built-up wood construction makes it easy to transport and beautifully conveys the scale detail while airborne.

Almost-Ready-To-Fly

\$799.99



modelflight.com.au

4/250 Richmond Road, Marleston SA 5033
Phone: 08-8186-4250

**BEST
BRANDS
IN RC**