



Waikerie Gliding Club Inc.
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PRESIDENTS REPORT 2013 -2014

What a busy season we've had. The input from each and every member of the club has been terrific and continues to take our Club in the right direction.

WORKING BEES

The year began with six days of working bees over three weekends in the winter. The turnout for these was fantastic and we achieved a great deal. By appointing team leaders for specific tasks was a good idea and meant that no-one was wandering around wanting to know what to do next.

NATIONALS

The major event was of course the 33rd Club & Sports Class Nationals held in January. This event was in planning from May 2013 and took up a lot of the organising committee's time as many were club committee members as well. The event was very successful with 8 days flown of a possible 10. The weather gave a large variation of tasks and speeds achieved. As you know, we're doing it all again in January 2015 with the Multi-class Nationals. Australia's submission for the 2017 Women's Worlds in 2017 was unsuccessful, but Waikerie is the preferred site and we may bid again for 2019.

ENGINE COURSE

A week long engine course was held in March which was organised and run by John Hudson & Nigel Baker. This was a very popular course with 20+ people attending. It has led to WGC being nominated as a 'centre of excellence' by GFA for the running of such events. Meals and accommodation were provided, with thanks again to John & Jean.

AIRWORTHINESS

The fleet has now all been upgraded with LX NAV systems and our gliders are kept in tip-top condition. The LS7 was scheduled to have the underside of the wings re-painted last winter, but on further inspection, we have decided to re-do the top surface also. Hopefully this will be completed in time for the coming season.

OPERATIONS / SAFETY / SMS

We continue to struggle for sufficient staff to man weekend flying, and apart from our Xmas/New Year period we have again only flown fortnightly on Saturdays. However, we have not had any accidents or incidents during the season. The GFA and CASA have pushed the implementation of a Safety Management System (SMS) for all clubs and have made the club presidents take 'ownership' of the process. I have modified the GFA template for this and you will start to see signs and posters about safety around the club. The completed SMS will be made available electronically to all members, but it is a 'living document' and will be reviewed and updated constantly.

AIRFIELD

After a very dry spring, we have been blessed with good autumn rains, so the pads are looking good at the moment. I took it upon myself to irrigate and mow the pads regularly which got us through the worst period. The approaches are still very rough and will need top dressing or grading. The grass could do with fertilizing too. The caltrop 'took off' late this summer and we got the worst of it with spaying and hand removing. The 'berry bushes' have sprung up and are best removed by hand.

The travelling sprinklers are almost obsolete and the committee has approved a replacement program over the next four years.

CLUBHOUSE & GROUNDS

The relocation and repairs to the hut was finally completed but unfortunately has sunk. This is the subject of another insurance claim, along with the member's kitchen which has also sunk. The Room 9/10 wall was also underpinned after it too sunk. We are at a loss as to what has caused all this. We have also sought quotes to install reverse-cycle air-conditioning in the clubhouse and dormitories. At present, this is beyond our finances.

COMPETITIONS

Apart from the Nationals mentioned above, some of our intrepid members attended Horsham Week in February, attaining their best results ever. Craig won his class with Sid 3rd and Peter & Greg were 2nd & 3rd in Standard Class. We also held a very successful Orange Week with our pilots all putting up good performances.

As you can see, we've had lots to deal with but I must thank my committee for all the hard work they have put in and also to the instructors and tuggies who willingly give their time in the field.

Let's look forward to a safe and happy flying year ahead.

Bill Mudge
President, Waikerie Gliding Club Inc.

24/05/2014