



## Propwash

## December 2023

*From the President*



Greetings Members

We end the year on a sad note through the passing of Rob Woodhead (Woody). Our editor Ron will elaborate on this in this edition. Rob's models were certainly impressive as Rob himself was and he will be sorely missed. The club's hearts and condolences go out to Marj, Jim and family.

The year started with the pouring of the North/South Runway (90m), finishing off start up apron, Stand off of taxi way and a helicopter pad. This was officially opened on May 21 with Eric Bevan cutting the ceremonial ribbon.

In fact we even had a visit from the MAAA President Tim Nolan just after the pour and he was very impressed with our club's facilities that they claim as theirs.

Well done to ALL members who over the years have contributed in some way to make this possible.

Another year, another fun fly. There were no RSVP's so it was going to be an unknown which forced the decision not to hold the Saturday night dinner. Though numbers were not quite as the previous year there were still plenty of pilots. Weather wasn't absolutely fantastic but flying was still able to be done and the weather improved as the weekend went on.

Financially the event was probably the best the club has ever achieved. This was largely due to 200 \$5.00 tickets being sold for the raffle. A huge thank you to Hobbytech for the wonderful prizes donated for this.

The beef and gravy rolls on the Sunday sold out also. Those that did attend passed on what a great event it was. Once again thank you to all those involved in setting up and helping out.



An EDF day was held last month at the field with a reasonable showing considering the weather. I was unable to be there but saw some photos of a good line up of planes. No doubt our editor was all over this event like a bee to honey so therefore I will leave it for him to elaborate in this edition also.

If you haven't seen it yet please take a look at the new fire unit trailer stored in the machinery shed. This in the end was completely paid for by grants from the Bendigo bank, hence all the stickers plastered over it.

As we bring an end to the year and the start of the festive season please take care out there. To all I hope you and your families have a joyful Xmas and a Happy New Year. Hope to see many of you out at the field and doing what we all want to do, enjoying our hobby/sport of flying.

Merry Xmas Everyone

Bill

*Can you guess who has just returned from America?*



*From the Editor*

It was a sad day for the club on Monday 6th November with the announcement of the passing of a well respected member of the SWARMS Club, Robin Woodhead.

Rob joined the club in 2005 and almost immediately commenced work on some large projects that most thought were unachievable. The Spruce Goose, B29 Bomber, Southern Cross and the B36 peace maker aircraft. Each one flew and delighted those present during the flying displays, however, due to his declining health the B36 was not completed by Rob but it is still progressing and could be seen in the sky's in the not too distant future.

With the Spruce Goose and the Southern Cross now on display in the RAAF Heritage Museum in Perth his legend will live on. RIP Rob

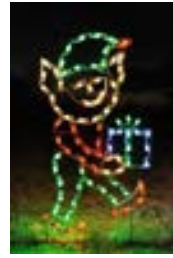
The EDF day was a bit disappointing due mainly to the blustery winds that persisted during the morning and well into the afternoon which prevented little or no activity in the sky, however, those that did attend enjoyed the comradery amongst fellow pilot whilst waiting for the condition to improve but it was all to no avail.

We have reached the end on another year with a lot achieved in and around the club and two major flying events conducted, the September Funfly and the EDF day, unfortunately we can not control the weather but we can provide an environment for fellow pilots to come together and discuss the sport that we are all passionate about.

We have had a variety of new models constructed that have successful had their maiden flight during the past 12 months, with every new model there are new challenges and that is what is so challenging about the sport it is the unexpected that keeps us on our toes.

We are seeing more electric model in the sky these days and that could be for a variety of reasons, price of fuel, cleaner model when finished flying, better charging facilities at the field and Oh, more environmentally friendly.

*Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all SWARMS members and families I hope you have a safe and joyous festive season.*



*This is referred to as a touch and go in the RC model world, great photography.*



It you have been good this year you can “almost” guarantee that there will be a “BIG” box under the tree from Santa (you can only hope that it is not the empty box that the kids took their present out of prior to you getting out of bed on Christmas morning.)

*It would appear that the reindeer's have gone on strike like some airline pilots and this is Santa's new mode of transport for 2023 Christmas delivery..*





The date for the EDF flying day had arrived 12th November and all was in readiness for a good days flying but no one told the wind.

The field was buffeted by strong wind gusts from early in the morning and we all thought it would abate but it was all to no avail.

There were a few who took on the conditions, however, only the brave flew and that was only a couple of flights during the morning.

*Troy checked to make sure the windsock was working adequately on the day.*



*Ian was the first pilot to brave the conditions ably assisted by Shane.*



*I believe this is how the sport started, then along came the radio.*



*Ian had lost his hat in a wind gust and Shane proved he had no problems keeping the hair out of his eyes.*



*I was able to get a shot of the jet in action as it passed the wind sock only because it had slowed down heading into such a strong head wind.*



*Some enjoyed morning tea, coffee and lamingtons whilst waiting for the wind to drop.*





*The spectators were on edge awaiting the outcome of Ian's first flight, with some eyes focused up I would say the plane is still flying at this stage.*



*There was a good variety of models available on the day and they certainly made a good static display.*



*Would have been nice to see these jets in action in the sky but the owner / pilots treasured their planes and they had decided to pack them up for the trip home in the same condition they arrived in.*



*As indicated previously there were some pilots who braved the condition to get some airtime and this plane was one of those that went up.*



*What goes up must come down, and it did, like this.*



*A sight no pilot wants to see at the field. Wait ! I didn't know Coles traded at the SWARMS field.*





*Despite the windy weather the Beef Gravy rolls turned up and were enjoyed by all who were in attendance, the quality was suburb yet again. Some braved the windy conditions and dined outside.*



*Others enjoyed the comfort inside the clubrooms.*



*It was good to see that after lunch the models had not broken their formation having been sitting in the gusty conditions for some time now.*



Ian Humphryson was enjoying some time in the sky with his new, second hand Pitts Special, on the first day out he experienced a few engine problems but when they were sorted out the plane performed very well



I believe the plane is around 20 years old but has not had a lot of air time Ian indicated he had 7 successful flight over the weekend and packed it away for the trip home feeling a happy chappie with his outing and very pleased with the planes performance in the sky.





December the 1st was the evening scheduled for the club Christmas function at the Boyanup Tavern and the meal and company was both enjoyable for those who attended the evening. *Some Happy dinners*



*The girls thought it was going to be a good girls night out.*



*But the boys turned up to change that theory for them.*



*I recently discovered that I am terrified of elevators.*

*However, I'm going to start taking steps to avoid them.*

*The Wilson's were there, and Amanda.*



*The McGuigan's travelled all the way from Eaton to attend the evening.*



*Kevin was the only one who wore some identification that he was a proud member of the SWARMS club on the evening.*



*A truck loaded with Vicks VapoRub overturned on the highway.*

*Police reported there is no congestion in the area.*



*Could be pretty sure that the conversation here between Jess and Ann was not about model planes.*



*The knights of the long table*

*Ian is deep in thought here and Ronnice is still hungry.*



*Just a quick check here to ensure that Kevin had not dropped off to sleep after his meal.*



*Gee, I made the social page again out and about with my daughter Amanda.*



*R.I.P. Rob  
The Goose  
flew as well  
on land as it  
did off the  
water and  
many enjoyed  
it's time in the  
sky.*





Troy got a bargain with this plane, it was old, it was neglected, it was unloved and only after removing the large quantity of dust from it could you really see what he had purchased.

It was evident that the plane had been in close proximity of some welding or grinding activities as the covering had small burn hole across most areas, he did not want to do a recover so came up with this ingenious idea of pitting a star sticker on the worst of the burns and it gave it a very good effect.



However, there were not enough stars in the universe to cover all the damaged sections so the focus was on the biggest holes.

Come the time for its maiden flight the normal checks were conducted and it was deemed ready for action so the motor was tuned and we progressed out onto the main runway for take off. Throttle increased and it leapt into life and lifted off in a very short distance and then the fun started. It was pretty lively and the trims were well out of centre but after a short time all settled down and it was performing well.

Then it happened, motor stopped the input from the radio was not being reflected by the planes moves it dropped the right wing and spiralled towards the earth a female voice on the radio kept saying telemetry lost and it was only a matter of time before it made contact with the ground resulting in this.



***Air Crash Investigation findings.***

No fault of the pilot (Never is)

No fault of equipment, radio, receiver.

Maybe a fault of the builder ??

Both wings were fine but both servo mounts were detached from the wings at the glue attachment point.

With both ailerons jammed it had no chance.

The glue had deteriorated and the balsa fatigued letting the mounts slid forward jamming both ailerons.

The plane is now at rest somewhere on the Busselton tip RIP. Lucky it was bin day on Monday.

^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^

***This is great photography (though be it a bit confusing) with a sequence of shutter movements linked together to give the effect of this 3D aerobic manoeuvre with smoke on.***

***No it is not an optical illusion.***



***Did you hear that Kmart are giving away dead batteries for the holidays. They are free of charge.***

***Why did frost the snowman ask for a divorcé ? His wife was a total flake.***

***Who never gets hungry at Christmas? The turkey, he is always stuffed.***

***What do you get if you eat Christmas decorations? Tinsillitis!***



On the 16th of October we conducted more ground trials on the B36 in an effort to iron out a few problems experienced on the last outing.

Again we were plagued with some electrical issues we were unable to sort out and the field, however, this only related to two of the six motors so were able to do some taxi work with the power we had.

It was very evident that with only four of the six motors working effectively it produced a lot more thrust on the ground than previous attempts, numbers one and six engine has electrical issues.

*Confucius say “ You got one motor you have one problem. You have six motors you have six problems”.*

The exercise enabled us to identify and rectify some small issues and with a bit more analysis in the workshop the B36 will soon be back on the strip for further trials to be conducted.

*It was great that we were able to get Rob Woodhead (Woody) the original builder of the plane to the field to share in the experience on the day. Although confined to his wheelchair for mobility now he did enjoy the day out and indicated he is waiting for the day that the wheels lift off the ground for a successful maiden flight in the future. Sadly he will not see that occur now having recently passed away. But the show will go on. RIP Rob.*





**Pilot Profile:**

**Name:** Troy Lucy

**Occupation:** Manager V&V Walsh

**Favourite Transmitter:** Radiomaster.

**Most Expensive crash:** 35cc Hawk Hurricane

**When did you start model flying and why ?:**

I started my first experience with model aeroplanes when I was about 7, this is a memory that I will never forget.

My Dad and I built a small Hawk Hurricane (control line) plane for my Birthday.

Every day after school I would race home to see and help with the progress of the build, up to the day it was finally ready to fly.

On the day of the flight my dad and I had a few attempts of getting it to fly and with a few rebuilds as well.

We never got it to fly successfully but it was the start of my love for anything plane related.

The little motor that was in the Small Hawk Hurricane is still in my shed and sometimes I put some nitro fuel in it and give it a run, I still remember cutting my fingers from the prop.

**What has been your most memorable flying moment ?:**

Gee, I think the day I went solo, and I had my own plane in the sky.

**What flying moment would you most like to forget ?:**

I was coming in for a landing and it was looking absolutely perfect all the way until it went straight into a tree, it was on the wrong side of the tree. (bugger)  
The photo of boomerang 40 in the tree has been seen by many members.....

**What inspires you most about the hobby ?:**

Being able to build a model that can fly and hopefully comes back down in one piece.

**How tidy is your workshop ?:**

It is not tidy at all and sometimes it looks like the graveyard in Arizona. The place where aeroplanes go to die.

**What is the best lesson life has taught you ?:**

If you can't fix it properly GET SOMEONE ELSE TO DO IT. (Ron)

**What is your biggest design failure and why?**

On the large Hawk Hurricane with the 35cc engine it had a major torque roll.

Something I couldn't see but it was bad enough to kill the model

**What is your all time favourite model and why ?:**

The Hawk Hurricane

I still haven't had one flying after many attempts and different models but maybe one day.

Everyone has a spitfire but there is something about a hurricane

**What keeps you awake at night ?:**

The light on the charging dock.

**Who has inspired you most in life ?:**

It is not one person, but I would have to say my Family.

**What type of planes inspire you ?:**

Hawk Hurricane

**What makes a successful R/C Builder / Pilot ?:**

The person that trims your plane.

**Where do you see electric flight progressing into the future ?:**

Well for the last 3 months, all I have been flying is electric.

It's fun, clean and you don't have to bring a lot of equipment to the field, but you also don't get the smell of a good nitro plane.

**What interests do you have outside R/C modeling ?:**

Fishing, Getting firewood, old cars and Woodturning.

**What makes you angry ?:**

Stupid people

**What makes you happy ?:**

Family and the RICHMOND FOOTBALL CLUB

**Finish this sentence: The hardest thing I have ever done was:**

Was to make the decision to buy property in Tasmania for the future.

**How would you like to be remembered ?:**

Troy lucy was a loving caring person who was a great family man and a well-liked member of swarms .

Even after he won the lotto it didn't change him a bit...





Putting a theory into practice, we have a bird problem in the pits with them sitting on the angle iron directly about the battery charge table doing the only thing they seem to do best.

Excreting, all over the table and charge point, by attaching this gutter guard plastic mesh to the angle iron hopefully it will prevent them from roosting in this place and eliminate the need to continue to clean the surface of the table.

JSA, SWP risk assessments were all conducted prior to the task being conducted.



Amelia Tonkin one of my student pilots who had not flown for a couple of weekends turned up for a lesson and was eager to get back into the sky.

Whilst doing a few circuits around the field she got a little carried away and decided to land, that is not really unusual even though she has not attempted to land the plane before (and still hasn't).

Her landing was some 4 metres from the ground in a tree at the southern end of the field obviously she was preserving the rubber on the plane wheels.

The normal process that is followed in the training program is once the pilot shows they are capable of responding to commands showing they are actually in control of the plane the next stage is attempt a take off.

The landing is a fare way into the program (for some) the old saying "You have to crawl before you can walk" so Amelia back to the crawling stage when next out flying.

The plane only sustained minor damage to the wing and we were back in the sky in no time, Peter Dustin had raised concern about the same tree previously.





*Trevor Wilson represented the club at the recent Bendigo Bank 20th Birthday party afternoon tea and was overjoyed to have been presented with a cheque for \$1,000 during the afternoon*



*Trevor thought he had actually won this car when he was photographed here in front of the 20 year sign and balloons only to be told it was a backdrop for photos only.*



*The mystery show bag that Trevor commenced to unpack piece by piece at the meeting with a full commentary of each item prior to producing the cheque to the meeting in the finish.*



We extend our sincere congratulations to the Bendigo Bank on their recent Birthday celebration they have been providing a service to the community for the past 20 years well done, the members were overwhelmed at our meeting on Sunday when Trevor Wilson presented to the \$1,000 cheque that he was presented with at the function, it's with the banks continued financial support to local community groups and clubs that make it easier for us to function in these hard times, we thank them very much on behalf of the SWARMS club.

Bendigo Bank also provide signage promoting the bank that is available in several types free of charge and the club has had discussions relating to these options with the Bank and indicating the club are very keen to erect anything that is available to assist with promoting the bank

With the banks financial support from the recent Pitch Night we were able to purchase the Fire Tanker Trailer unit that we lodged a grant application for and this \$1,000 additional funding will complete the purchase of this important essential unit.

The unit has been purchased and is now located at the field, in the event of a fire commencing it will be used as a first responder unit to control an outbreak until backup arrives if required

Each year the bank distributes funds via grants made available though their pitch Night presentation events where organisations and clubs are beneficiaries of their generosity, we are entirely grateful for their generosity to the local community and the SWARMS club in particular over the past three years.





*When trying to recruit new members into the club I will share with you 10 benefits that you could use to encourage prospective members to join a club.*

- 1. They will be able to fly at a designated flying field with all the necessary facilities.*
- 2. They will be covered by MAAA insurance should they experience mishap whilst flying.*
- 3. They will become affiliated members of a State body AWA and Australian body MAAA.*
- 4. Clubs have certified Instructors and a flying program for new members to learn to fly safely.*
- 5. They will meet new friend and share the comradery with like minded modellers.*
- 6. Be associated with organized events.*
- 7. Facilities and personnel to test fly planes and to check equipment.*
- 8. Availability of spare parts if and when planes crash on a flying day.*
- 9. Battery charging facilities.*
- 10. Swap meets and the availability of planes and equipment giveaways when things go wrong.*

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*A plane was moving down the tarmac before it stopped abruptly, turned around and returned to the gate.*

*After a two hour delay, it finally took off. "What was the problem?" a worried passenger asked the flight attendant.*

*"The pilot was bothered by a noise he heard in the engine," the flight attendant replied.*

*"It took us a while to find a new pilot."*



*A couple goes out to dinner to celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary.*

*On the way home, the wife notices a tear in her husband's eye and asks if he's getting sentimental because they're celebrating 50 wonderful years together.*

*"No, I was thinking about the time before we got married," he replied.*

*"Your father threatened me with a shotgun and said he'd have me thrown in jail for 50 years if I didn't marry you.*

*Tomorrow I would've been a free man!"*



#### DEFINITIONS Aeromodelling

**AEROMODELING** : The art of turning precision-cut and glued balsa wood and foam into toothpicks and confetti.

**AIRPLANE** - Heavier than air machine that flies like it's heavier than air.

**BALSA** - An extremely light substitute for gold.

**CRASH** - Method of seeing inside a model airplane.

**DINNER** - A meal that is always cold by the time you get back from flying.

**DUCTED-FAN**: A high-maintenance salad shooter.

**ELEVATOR** - Device to prevent level flight.

**ENGINE** - Device that doesn't start when you want it to, and cuts your fingers.

**FAIL SAFE** - Option on PCM radio's that allows a pilot to choose whether to crash near him, or a long way away.

**FLYING FIELD** - Take off area. Landings occur elsewhere.

**GIRLS** - Something to be interested in before you take up flying.

**GLIDE-TIME**: The time between the Engine falling out and the Airplane hitting the ground.

**HINGE** - Device to prevent control surface movement and cause flutter.

**INSTRUCTOR**: Old pilot who loves flying and teaching others to fly...usually can not tell you how many planes he has crashed.

**JOKER** - Person who invites you to "taxi back" after a dead stick landing.



***“Tell Me Again Why I Lost My Job?”***

These pictures show what really goes on at airport terminals that we don't know about, if these incident occurred on a highway the media would be all over it.

***Definitely a height clearance problem load proved to be too high whilst driving under the wing.***



***Could it be brake failure on the jet or was the vehicle driven towards a moving plane when driver fell asleep.***



***Who was at fault here this guy pulled his hair out.***



***With summer coming on here is a cheap way to make a convertible out of your vehicle.***



***Was this an accident or is it the plane mating season.***



***Nervous of flying? Don't be. As long as the 2 million parts in a plane work perfectly while travelling at close to the speed of sound as sharp metal blades rotate at supersonic speeds in temperatures of -65 degrees 7 miles above the Earth's surface, you'll be absolutely fine.***



*As the sun sets on another flying year we feel privileged to have survived another 12 months at the facilities that are available for members to enjoy what we like doing most, flying RC model aeroplanes*



*An elderly RC model pilot rushed to see his doctor, he was looking very worried and stressed out.*

*He pleaded: “Doctor, take a look at me. When I woke up this morning, I looked at myself in the mirror and saw my hair all wiry and frazzled up, my skin was all wrinkled and pasty, my eyes were bloodshot and bulging out, and I had this corpse-like look on my face. What’s wrong with me doctor?”*

*The doctor looked him over for a couple of minutes, then calmly replied:*

*“Well, I can tell you there definitely isn’t anything wrong with your eyesight.”*

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I hope that all the members enter the New Year on the 1st of January 2024 full of enthusiasm with the urge to continue to enjoy their flying experiences that we have had over the past 12 months.

Focusing on their new projects and meeting the challenged ahead of getting them in the sky and back in one piece will be a great way to start.

I am sure that we can all look forward to another successful year in the sky over the SWARMS field with the majority of major tasks completed it is now time to enjoy what we have created.

*Some people have little to do, the Tin Can Choir at their best performing during a lunch time session at the field..*



*Important facts to remember as you grow older:*

- *Death is the number one killer in the world.*
- *Life is sexually transmitted.*
- *Good health is merely the slowest possible rate at which one can die.*
- *Give a person a fish and you feed them for a day. Teach a person to use the internet and they won’t bother you for weeks, months, maybe years.*
- *Health nuts are going to feel stupid someday, lying in hospital, dying of nothing.*
- *All of us should take a lesson from the weather. It pays no attention to criticism.*
- *In the 60’s people took acid to make the world weird now the world is weird and people take Prozac to make it normal.*
- *Don’t worry too much about old age, it doesn’t last too long.*



*Catch you when we fly into the next edition in 2024. Happy Flying, regards Ron.*

