



## **The News Letter of the Hobart Model Aero Club Inc. May 2019**

**PO Box 1117 Rosny Park Tas 7018  
Editor Stuart Smith  
[stuartsmith@netspace.net.au](mailto:stuartsmith@netspace.net.au)**

---

### **President's Corner**

This month has seen some excellent weather and those regulars who have made the pilgrimage to KF have enjoyed some good flying days. Still a lot of wind around though for the month limiting the flyable days. A few new models have appeared during this period.

The 'Roaring Forties' club were to hold their 'Fun Fly Day' on April 27<sup>th</sup> to which a number of HMAC members were to attend including myself however due to most unfavourable conditions this has been cancelled to be reset for another day.

I would like to in this issue address the subject of membership, or lack of.

In the April edition of the Newsletter, Garth raised the issue of membership. This was no idle rhetoric on his part and a genuine concern that we are unable to attract new members. We have in the past twelve months had only one full member addition and that being Damian Blackwell. We do have 1 new member to sign and a possible 3 more.

Throughout Australia, organisations, clubs, volunteer groups etc. have been closing down, shutting their doors and like clubs amalgamating to maintain numbers and share facilities.

Our club is no different. In the past 5 years for reasons I will not dwell on, the membership of HMAC has gone from 86 to an estimated 40 to 45 this coming financial year. This is a significant reduction in anybody's language. In 2018, 9 past members did not resign. It is interesting to note that in October 1980 when the 'Tasmanian Radio Control Model Aircraft Association' was in the process of preparing Kelly Field as an airfield fit to fly on, the membership of the club was 46. From there over the next 34 years the numbers grew by 40 to 86. We have now managed today to have reduced this by the same amount in just 5 years. With reducing membership and steadily rising costs, this is becoming a financial strain on the club and will be addressed at the AGM on June 16<sup>th</sup>.

There have been all sorts of suggestions as to how we may increase our numbers however in my opinion there are few options. Modelling is a thing that you are born with and by around 8 or 10 years you have an interest in models and this consumes you for the rest of your life.

No amount of earbashing and waiving advertising at the public is going to raise our numbers greatly and thoughts of the 'Drone' fraternity becoming our saviours is not going to happen especially when they will be able to register for a mere \$25 and fly wherever they like.

To my mind, my thoughts and others are those aligned with Garth i.e.: that new members are more likely to come from modellers that have had a 'raincheck' for some years and if you happen know any such individuals, that they be encouraged to take up modelling again and invite them to KF to see the facilities that we now have to offer.

Another concern is the longevity of the club into the future. When you consider that 25 of our members are aged 75 years and over, the prospects of remaining viable for the next 10 years is challenging taking into account natural attrition and interest waning over those years. If the member numbers do not improve, those left are going to have a difficult time keeping the club going and the

Council will be concerned with the low member numbers on such a large property. Currently though I do not see why our CCC lease would not be renewed in April 2022.

There are many members that do not frequent KF and some that do not come at all, however those members remain loyal and financial and help to ensure the club remains operative through these difficult times and their continuing support is very much appreciated. There are members I have not even met yet after my 4 years in the club.. It would be to the interest of some to revisit the airfield to acquaint themselves with the much improved facilities and airstrips along with the robust social scene that has emerged in the last couple of years.

All that said, we have immediately a recognised problem with attracting new members to keep the club viable into the future and I am sure that all will help with ideas and input to at least maintain the status quo.

As many of you know, Chris Rowe and Ian Searle are going through difficult times with unexpected medical issues. On behalf of all club members we wish them well and our support is there should they need it.

Happy and safe flying,  
Barry Gerrard

## **Model sale**



**For Sale – E-Flite Sukhoi complete with AS3X receiver –just requires battery - hardly used in mint condition – save heaps \$200. (not for beginners).**



**Durafly T28 - Very good condition and complete with retracts. Just requires battery and receiver. \$150.**



**Phoenix 1600 glider – Complete with good quality motor and esc. Has had 3 flights only – a gift at \$120.**



**Tensho warm liner – vectored thrust aerobat (not for beginners). Capable of extreme manoeuvres – complete including Spektrum compatible receiver - \$100.**

**OS Electric motors Less than half price – OMA-3825-750 \$40**





**Skylark S** – Unfinished model but fitted with good quality servos and motor - only minor work to complete **\$100**

**OMA-3820-1200 \$35 OMA-3815-1000 \$35 (new in box).**



**E-flite Leader 480** – has been used a bit but condition reasonably good. Fitted with 10 sized motor and all accessories – just needs receiver and battery.

**\$150**



**Mini Contender** A bit of nostalgia as the Contender was a very popular model in the 70s & 80s. All new gear and only flown once - **\$125**

**Garth Wilmot** – Phone  
**62431790 or 0407303662.**