



VALLEY FLIER



NEWSLETTER OF THE LATROBE VALLEY MODEL AERO CLUB
(INCORPORATED IN VICTORIA.)

REGISTRATION No A0001822M

ABN No 40445727221

39 KURT ST, MORWELL. 3840

April 2026

PRESIDENT	SECRETARY & EDITOR	TREASURER
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Club Email address is latrobevalleymodelaeroclub@gmail.com

Have you checked out our WEBSITE at www.lvmac.org.au

VMAA Website is at www.vmaa.com.au

MAAA website is at www.maaa.asn.au

Facebook -<https://www.facebook.com/flylvmac>

General Flying at Lake Narracan on Thursday, Saturday & Sunday mornings when the weather allows.



Above - Fred's Focke-wulf 190

Please make sure that before flying, the Main Container is open for access to the Fire Extinguishers, Defibrillator and First aid Kit.

SUNDAY	MARCH 29	General flying at all sites -
WEDNESDAY	APRIL 1	Monthly Meeting at the Moe RSL meeting room – 7.30pm start
FRI-MON	APRIL 3 – 6	EASTER...Various Events see your VMAA calendar
SUNDAY	APRIL 5	Club Flyday at LAKE NARRACAN (Daylight Savings Ends- clocks back 1hr)
SUNDAY	APRIL 12	General flying at all sites (Combat Classic Event 1 at 11.00am)
SAT/SUN	APRIL 18 & 19	AIRSHOW at WEST SALE
SUNDAY	APRIL 19	General flying at all sites – Combat Classic Backup ????
SATURDAY	APRIL 25	ANZAC Day
SUNDAY	APRIL 26	WarBirds & Military Day at Lake Narracan & General flying
SUNDAY	MAY 3	General flying at all sites – Combat Cup Backup Day at 11.00am
WEDNESDAY	MAY 6	Monthly Meeting at the Moe RSL meeting room – 7.30pm start
SUNDAY	MAY 10	Mothers Day & Club Flyday at Lake Narracan
SUNDAY	MAY 17	Bairnsdale Club Mid May Muster
SUNDAY	MAY 24	General flying at all sites

Presidents Report



Wow! Another month has passed, and as we're already heading into April! It is incredible how quickly the year is moving. While I don't have a lot to report this month. I hope you have all been enjoying the improved weather we've had on weekends and during the week.

Having access to the new camera system has been a great way to check current conditions. Even when I haven't been able to make it to the field myself, I can see you are all doing an excellent job keeping it in the top-tier condition we are all proud of.

Craig and I have also been watching our Facebook page grow recently. We are seeing more interaction from both the public and members of other Clubs, which is great to see. It shows that we are establishing ourselves as a Club people want to be part of.

While speaking with Tony Wilson (VMAA President) and Carl Bizon (MAAA President) at the VJAA event in Wangaratta over the weekend, it was encouraging to hear that Model Aero Clubs are growing nationally, with membership numbers already up from last year. To everyone promoting the hobby we love, keep up the good work!

Regards, Jamie McLaughlin

Come & Try Day –

LVMAC held its first Come & Try Day on the 1st March 2026, drawing a great mix of visitors keen to explore the world of RC model aviation. While the wind throughout the morning was far from ideal, it certainly didn't dampen enthusiasm - everyone still enjoyed the chance to see models up close, learn the basics, and get a feel for the hobby.

Club members were on hand to answer questions, demonstrate aircraft, and guide newcomers through safe handling and setup. Despite the challenging conditions, several visitors expressed interest in returning for training sessions and future events - with a couple already coming back multiple times since the event !

Dave was using his own Trainer and Wayne was using the new" Club Apprentice" which Craig had organised, and they were both using Spektrum NX transmitters with the cordless Buddy Box system. It all worked out well

A big thank-you to all volunteers who helped run the event. Your support and encouragement made the event welcoming and enjoyable for everyone who attended.

Craig (LVMAC Secretary)

PS. It was suggested at the last meeting that we should have 2 Come & Try days each year and that they should be in May/June and November/December so that anyone wishing to Join up can take advantage of the full year or half year fees. We will probably do another Come & Try Day in November !



Above – Dave instructing Ken on a Trainer



Above - Wayne Instructing Simon on the Apprentice



Above – 8yo Levi simulator training with Jamie



Above – Wayne instructing Levi on the Apprentice



Above – Dave instructing a passing through Lad



Above – Craigs Simulator setup

Note -The **Club Drone** getting some use. It has one fully charged battery with it and I will change the battery weekly. Also with it is a drone mat, shade screen and some instructions. If you have to use the Drone, please let me know.

Several members have now had some instruction on how to fly the Drone.

Minutes of the March 2026 General Meeting held at the MOE RSL at 7:30pm Wednesday 4th March 2026

1 Meeting opened at: 1928

2 Present: *Craig McMahon, Fred Barabasz, Stephen Loft, Brian Adams, Wayne Lewis, Mick Dye, Jamie McLaughlin, Greg Mullins, Ian Heafield, Godwin Bugeja, Roy White, Ian Partleton, Dirk Kurpershoek, Ollie Wilson, James Morfitt.*

3 Apologies: *Ivan Walker, Rex Mitchell, Bill Reid.*

4 Visitors: *Graeme Morley*

5 New member applications: Nil

6 Confirm the minutes of the previous meeting held on 4th February 2026.

Moved: Secretary

Seconded: Brian Adams

7 Business arising from the previous minutes:

7.1 New drone rules for the Club.

7.2 Come & try day 2nd March 2026.

Volunteers are: Craig McMahon, Jamie McLaughlin, Wayne Lewis, Roy White, Dave Lewis.

7.3 Lake Narracan water tank upgrade. Wayne said that the current water tank could do with an upgrade, but he is looking into possible solutions.

ACTION: Wayne (COMPLETED)

7.4 Dry chemical powder fire extinguisher replacement. Even though the current dry chemical powder fire extinguishers at Narracan are many years old, Wayne discussed that it is probably time to replace them. All members present agreed to the purchase of 2 new dry chemical powder fire extinguishers for the Narracan site.

ACTION: Wayne (COMPLETED)

7.5 MAAA grants.

ACTION: Craig to get the Club an ABN and apply for an MAAA grant for a battery system as previously discussed (November 2025 minutes, Paragraph 8.2) **(IN PROGRESS)**

7.6 New Defibrillator pads.

The defibrillator battery was replaced in 2025, and now it needs new pads. All members present agreed to the purchase of new defibrillator pads. UPDATE: Not required as they were replaced in 2025.

ACTION: Wayne (COMPLETED)

7.7 Mower service due

All members present agreed to get the mower serviced.

ACTION: Wayne

7.8 Craig asked all members present if we wanted to do more Bunnings BBQs and events. All members present agreed that we should do more.

ACTION: Craig (COMPLETED)

7.9 Fred has a new camera that he would like to try and gave it to Craig to see if he can get it up and running.

ACTION: Craig (COMPLETED)

7.10 Craig asked members if they were aware of Hobby Kings 'Crash Cash' system. Terms and conditions are available on Hobby Kings website.

7.11 Some members expressed interest in getting access to post on the Facebook page.

ACTION: Jamie M. (COMPLETED)

7.12 It was proposed that the Sunday before Christmas be a memorial fly day to the late Chris Davenport.

7.13 It was asked if a Facebook post could be put up about wind conditions for those with access to the field camera. It was discussed that when the new camera is operational, it *should* allow more members to access it.

8 Correspondence Out & In and Business arising from Correspondence:

8.1 Out: Email to Bunnings Morwell to find some available dates for BBQs.

8.2 Out: VMAA Come & Try Grant application

8.3 Out: VMAA Trainer plane Sponsorship application

8.4 In: Response from Barb from Bunnings Morwell. Available dates were emailed to members on 09FEB26.

8.5 In: VMAA Come & Try Grant is currently on the agenda for the next VMAA meeting. Should it get accepted, the Club can claim up to \$250.

8.6 In: VMAA Trainer plane Sponsorship application has been accepted. A brand new RTF Apprentice is on its way. Cost to the Club is \$250. UPDATE: The Apprentice has been received and was put to good use during the Come & Try Day on 01MAR26.

Moved: Secretary

Seconded: Godwin Bugeja

Starting balance (01FEB26)	
Income	
Expenses	
Closing balance (as of 24FEB26)	
Comm Bank TD (this investment was renewed on 10-7-25 for 1 year @ 3.50%)	
Bendigo Bank TD \$ (this investment was renewed on 26-9-24 for 1 year @ 4.40%)	
Investment total	
GRAND TOTAL	

Moved: Treasurer

Seconded: Greg Mullens

10 Current Membership:

Current financial Membership is 29 Seniors, 10 Pensioners, 2 Life & 2 Junior. Total members currently sit at 43.

11 Lake Narracan Advisory Committee:

11.1 Nothing to report

12 Relocation update & Sub-committee report:

12.1 The Sub-committee requests that all members of the Club consider the available options to move the Club.

UPDATE: Members present at the General Meeting were invited to indicate their preferred site by an optional show of hands. The results were **6 in favour of Toners Lane** and **8 in favour of Narracan North**.

13 Flight proficiency: None

14 Safety:

14.1 A question was raised regarding whether members involved in future Come & Try Days are required to hold a Working with Children Check. Wayne advised that it is suggested as part of the instructor course, but not mandatory. The matter will require further discussion prior to the next Come & Try Day.

15 GENERAL BUSINESS

15.1 Bunnings BBQs. When do members want to participate? ABN is not currently a requirement. Members present all suggested that we do some more bunnings BBQs, however it would be preferable to do it on a Saturday.

ACTION: Craig to contact Bunnings Morwell to get a date for a BBQ on a Saturday. **(COMPLETED)**

Barb from Bunnings Morwell has booked the Club in to do a BBQ on Saturday 14th June 2026.

Volunteers will need to be locked in closer to the date.

15.2 Volunteers needed for the Easter Event at Bunnings Morwell Thursday 26th March.

Volunteers so far are: Craig McMahon, Ian Partleton.

15.3 **Warragul site question update:** It was unanimously decided to leave the current arrangements for the Warragul site as they are.

15.4 Col Cliff presentations were handed out.

15.5 Craig asked if any members would like to order additional Club apparel (polo shirts, jackets, etc.).

Members interested are requested to email the Club Secretary.

15.6 The new field camera requires a new SIM card. The current SIM is \$25/month and a motion was carried to put that against the monthly Club expenditures.

16 Bent wheel award nominations

1 Brian Adams - Bronco

2 Graham McMahon – Ultra Stik

17 Bomb award nominations: None for this month.

18 Show & tell:

18.1 Godwin presented a Hawker Hurricane model acquired from Chris Davenport's estate, demonstrating the restoration work he had completed to return the model to near-new condition.

19 Events - Upcoming program for LVMAC:

March 2026

Sunday 15th General flying at all sites & Combat Classic Event 2 at 11.00am

Sunday 22nd General flying at all sites

Sunday 29th General flying at all sites (Combat Classic event 2 backup day)

April 2026

Wednesday	1 st	Monthly Meeting at the Moe RSL meeting room – 7.30pm start
Fri-Mon	3 rd – 6 th	Easter Weekend
Sunday	5 th	Club Fly Day at LAKE NARRACAN (Daylight Savings ends – clocks back 1hr)
Sunday	12 th	General flying at all sites
Sunday	19 th	General flying at all sites
Saturday	25 th	ANZAC Day
Sunday	26 th	General flying at all sites & War Birds Day at Lake Narracan

Upcoming local program for VMAA

April 2026

Friday 17 th – Sunday 19 th	P&DARCS Monty Tyrrell Scale Rally
Saturday 18 th – Sunday 19 th	BRAG Blue Rock Float Fly

12 Next meeting: General Meeting on Wednesday 1st April 2026 at 7.30pm at the Moe RSL meeting room.

13 Meeting Closed at 2109 hrs



Above – Mick’s Model bounced on landing and dropped a wing and the Model Cartwheeled
Don’t look so disappointed Mick. It happens to us all sooner or later !

Club Flyday at Lake Narracan (Sunday 8th March 2026)

It wasn’t a very nice morning with a light drizzle from 9.00am and only 6 members and 1 and visitor and some family arrived at the Lake. The Easterly wind was gusting 10kmh to 15kmh and by 10.00am it was gusting 20kmh to 32kmh. There was no flying after 10.00am with both wind and rain being the issue.

Wayne Lewis flew the Boomerang V3, the Teksumo and had the Challenger and some Combat model in the trailer. Wayne gave a possible new Junior member a flight on the Club Apprentice Trainer. The 10yo did really well. His Dad Simon was at our Come & Try day last week and was impressed with his sons ability.

Stephen Loft flew his SPAD on wheels and had his Zero in the car but it wasn’t flown on this day.

Rex Mitchell flew his Rexstik after rebinding to the transmitter that he had brought along. Rex also had the Pitts Special but didn’t get to fly it. Rex also test flew a 1m Cirrus for Jamie S and that went well.

Jamie Sjamsudin had his RA RA, a Spectra Glider and the Cirrus which Rex test flew but he didn’t get to fly himself because of the conditions.

William McLauchlan flew his small A10 Warthog, his Sparkie and his Draco and all went well.

Owen McLauchlan did not fly.

By 10.45am everyone had departed.



Jamie S bought this small fiberglass model for \$35 and Rex test flew it. It has a geared, brushed motor and makes a different sound.

Combat Cup Sunday 15th March 2026

It was a purrfect day for this event with a fine and sunny day with some cloud looking to the South and a light Westerly wind. There were 20 cars lined up and plenty of flying before the Combat Cup started at 11.00am. There were 7 fliers for the event and Godwin was the odd one out, flying a nitro Model. The rest of us were flying electric which is much more reliable. Godwin did manage to crash a Combat Model before the event even started with an engine failure but luckily he had backup models.

The event was won by Stephen Loft (Lofty) with Ian Partleton coming in 2nd and Wayne Lewis 3rd

Each pilot flew the 4 maneuvers first.

In the **1 minute flight** Craig got the best time of 62 seconds. Other times were 40.5, 57.5, 56.5, 47, 74 & 77 sec
For the **Loop Roll, Loop Roll, Loop Roll** Lofty got the quickest time of 11.5 seconds. Other times were 12.4, 14.8, 14.0, 17.4 & 18.5 secs.

In the **10 second inverted flight** Lofty was spot on with 10 seconds exactly. Other times were 8.2, 9.5, 10.07, 11.5, 13.0 & 14.0 secs.

The **Spot Landing** saw Lofty & Godwin both get the closest with 5 metres from the Spot. Other distances were 6.5, 6.5, 7.0, 10.0, 10.0 & 14.0 metres.

Once the Maneuvers were done, we got into the 4 rounds of Combat.

Round 1 saw Lofty get a cut on Dave and Ian P got a cut on Lofty. Craig didn't fly in rounds 1 & 2.

In **Round 2** there was some fast and furious action and Brian and Godwin had a midair collision and had to call on backup models to continue to round 3.

Round 3 saw Lofty claim Brian's streamer and there was lots of near misses

In **Round 4** Lofty cut Godwins streamer which was stuck to Lofty's wing and somehow that streamer ended up on Craigs wing so that was counted as a cut.

Final points & placings

	Maneuvers	Combat	Total
Lofty	715	900	1615
Ian	615	800	1415
Wayne	590	750	1340
Brian	540	710	1250
Godwin	510	680	1190
Dave	425	700	1175
Craig	600	550	1150 (Craig missed 2 Combat rounds)

A great day was had by all !

Thanks to Bill & Eric for doing the Scoring & timekeeping and to Fred for doing the Sausage Sizzle lunch which went down well.



Above – Winners are grinner – Ian 2nd , Lofty 1st & Wayne 3rd

Combat Classic Event - The Combat Part of the Combat Cup was Round 2 of the Combat Classic Event. Due to the weather and other extenuating factors, Event 1 of the Combat Classic has not yet been run but Event 2 results are

	Event 1	Event 2	Event 3	Event 4
Stephen Loft		900		
Ian Partleton		800		
Wayne Lewis		750		
Brian Adams		710		
Dave Lewis		700		
Godwin Bugeja		680		
Craig McMahon		550	(Craig missed 2 Combat rounds)	

Round 1 of the Combat Classic will be on Sunday 12th April 2026 at 11.00am if the weather permits. (or 12 Midday if the grass is too wet at 11am)

<http://www.maaa.asn.au/images/pdfs/forms/Form-016-POWER-BRONZE-SILVER-WINGS.pdf>

<http://www.maaa.asn.au/images/pdfs/forms/Form-017-POWER-GOLD-WINGS.pdf>

[http://u.b5z.net/i/u/10194601/f/Flight Intruc/Part 5 5 -Description of Gold Wings Manoeuvres.pdf](http://u.b5z.net/i/u/10194601/f/Flight+Intruc/Part+5+5+-Description+of+Gold+Wings+Manoeuvres.pdf)
(read in conjunction with the MAAA Bronze, Silver & gold Wings Sheet as there are maneuvers that we do not do, included in this pdf)



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CURRENT FUEL SITUATION – 1-12-25

Roy and Goddy are still supplying fuel in Bulk at a discount and leaving a small quantity in the flying field container.

Current prices are:

2 Stroke \$48 / 4 litres (via Roy)

4 Stroke \$42 / 4 litres (via Goddy)

For 2 Stroke Fuel could club members please ensure that they immediately advise Roy (at field or text 0417 562014) when taking any fuel and pay prior too, or shortly after.

If you want to transfer the money here are Roy's

Bank details:

BSB 063530

Account No 10029601

Account Name: Roy White.

ALTERNATIVELY:

Pay ID 0417562014 (ie Roy's Mobile No.)

**No Flying on days of Total Fireban in the
West & South Gippsland Fire District**



Above - Graham's Extra 300 took a nose dive out in the paddock



Above – Rex has been busy and is almost ready to cover his DHC Beaver. It has a 71" wingspan and a Saito 82 engine

WangJets 2026

Over the weekend of 21st and 22nd March, Jamie and I attended the Victorian Jet Aerosport Association's (VJAA) annual WangJets event, held at the Wangaratta Airport making full use of the runway.

WangJets is an event dedicated exclusively to RC turbine jets, and this year marked a record turnout with more than 70 registered pilots - the biggest the VJAA has ever hosted.

The four-day event (Thursday - Sunday) attracts jet enthusiasts from across Australia, and this year saw participants travel from Queensland, South Australia, Victoria and New South Wales (at least from those I met). We were very fortunate to enjoy excellent flying conditions across all four days, with temperatures around 30°C and very light winds, most of which blew straight down the runway—ideal for jet operations.

Safety performance across the weekend was outstanding. Only a couple of minor incidents occurred, and both MAAA President Carl Bizon and VMMA President Tony Wilson commended all pilots for their strong focus on safe flying.

Jamie flew his converted Freewing Zeus powered by a Xicoy 60, while I flew my HSD Jets L-39 with a Swiwin 80. Both aircraft performed flawlessly - and most importantly, both of us came home with our jets in one piece! We are already planning next year's trip!

Craig (LVMAC Secretary)



Above – Jamie & his Freewing "Zeus".



Above Craigs L39 Turbine powered Jet, complete with a smoke system.

Club Warbirds or Military Day is on Sunday 26th April.
Please bring your Warbirds or Military models along on this day,
If you have any.



Above – Fred's new Cessna 310. An electric model with a 2 metre wingspan. It did look good !
Unfortunately, the model flew into a tree on the landing approach and the result was not pretty.

Daylight Savings ends on Sunday 5th April
Clocks go back 1 hour



Above – Ian Heafield's Boomerang flew into the trees at the Eastern end of the field.
This proves that Boomerangs don't always come back !



Above – Ivan had a mishap when he took off and an Aileron servo had stripped. The model landed in the pits, under his own table and broke the tail off his glider. A lucky escape !

Agenda for April 2026 General Meeting to be held at the MOE RSL at 7:30pm Wednesday 1st April 2026

1 Meeting opened at:

2 Present: *As per the attendance book.*

3 Apologies: *As per the attendance book.*

4 Visitors: *As per the attendance book.*

5 New member applications: Dale Marsh

6 Confirm the minutes of the previous meeting held on 4th March 2026.

Moved: Secretary

Seconded:

7 Business arising from the previous minutes:

7.1 Bunnings BBQs. When do members want to participate. ABN is not currently a requirement.

Members present all suggested that we do some more bunnings BBQs, however it would be preferable to do it on a Saturday.

ACTION: Craig to contact Bunnings Morwell to get a date for a BBQ on a Saturday. **(COMPLETED)**

Barb from Bunnings Morwell has booked the Club in to do a BBQ on **Saturday 14th June 2026**.
Volunteers will need to be locked in closer to the date.

7.2 Volunteers needed for the Easter Event on at Bunnings Morwell Thursday 26th March.

Volunteers so far are: Craig McMahon, Ian Partleton & Wayne Lewis.

7.3 **Warragul site question update:** It was unanimously decided to leave the current arrangements for the Warragul site as they are.

7.4 Craig asked if any members would like to order additional Club apparel (polo shirts, jackets, etc.). Members interested are requested to email the Club Secretary.

7.5 The new field camera requires a new SIM card. The current SIM is \$25/month and a motion was carried to put that against the monthly Club expenditures.

ACTION: Craig to change SIM account details. **(COMPLETED)**

8 Correspondence In & Out and Business arising from Correspondence:

8.1 The VMAA Sports Grant of \$250 was successful. The Secretary will need to provide the following to the VMAA:
- a report that can be uploaded to the VMAA website; and
- Copies of receipts (Trophies, Facebook marketing, etc.) totalling grant funding amount.

Moved: Secretary

Seconded:

9 Treasurer's report

Starting balance (01MAR26)	
Income	
Expenses	
Closing balance (as of 23MAR26)	
Comm Bank TD (this investment was renewed on 10-7-25 for 1 year @ 3.50%)	
Bendigo Bank TD \$ (this investment was renewed on 26-9-24 for 1 year @ 4.40%)	
Investment total	
GRAND TOTAL	

Moved: Treasurer

Seconded:

10 Current Membership: 14
Current financial Membership is 28 Seniors, 14 Pensioners, 3 Life & 2 Junior. Total members currently sit at 45.

11 Lake Narracan Advisory Committee:

12 Relocation update & Sub-committee report:

13 Flight proficiency:

13.1 Dale Marsh – Bronze Wings - Samantha Flack – Bronze Wings

14 Safety:

14.1 Importance of using throttle cut before walking away from the pit area.

15 GENERAL BUSINESS

15.1 The Club now has an ABN.

15.2 Clothing order. Still trying to find a supplier.

16 Bent wheel award nominations

- 1 Ivan Walker – Jackaroo & a model in the lake.
- 2 Graham McMahon – Sputnik again & Extra 300.
- 3 Fred Barabasz – Cessna 310 into a tree upon landing approach.
- 4 Ian Heafield – Boomerang into a tree.
- 5 Dale Marsh – Turbo Timber
- 6 Michael Dye – Cartwheeled on landing
- 7 Godwin Bugeja – Combat model losing its wing.
- 8 Others

17 Bomb award nominations: 1 someone forgot a wing spar

18 Show & tell:

19 Events

Upcoming program for LVMAC:

March 2026

Sunday 29th General flying at all sites

April 2026

Wednesday 1st Monthly Meeting at the Moe RSL meeting room – 7.30pm start
Fri-Mon 3rd – 6th Easter Weekend
Sunday 5th Club Fly Day at LAKE NARRACAN (Daylight Savings ends – clocks back 1hr)
Sunday 12th General flying at all sites
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Saturday 25th ANZAC Day
Sunday 26th General flying at all sites & War Birds & Military Day at Lake Narracan

Upcoming local program for VMAA

April 2026

Friday 17th – Sunday 19th P&DARCS Monty Tyrrell Scale Rally
Saturday 18th – Sunday 19th BRAG Blue Rock Float Fly

12 Next meeting: General Meeting on Wednesday 6th May 2026 at 7.30pm at the Moe RSL meeting room.

13 Meeting Closed at:

**Barb from Bunnings Morwell has booked the Club in to do a BBQ on
Saturday 14th June 2026.**

Volunteers will need to be locked in closer to the date.

(If you haven't already done a Bunnings Sausage Sizzle, please put your hand up)

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Pace

Many thanks to those who have contributed to the newsletter with Articles, Pictures and information this month. It would be good to get some new contributors. Thanks also to our regular contributors in particular for their monthly contributions.

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