



# VALLEY FLIER



NEWSLETTER OF THE LATROBE VALLEY MODEL AERO CLUB  
 ( INCORPORATED IN VICTORIA. REGISTRATION NUMBER (A0001822M)  
 39 KURT ST, MORWELL. 3840  
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## February 2026

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Club Email address is [latrobevalleymodelaeroclub@gmail.com](mailto:latrobevalleymodelaeroclub@gmail.com)

Have you checked out our WEBSITE at [www.lvmac.org.au](http://www.lvmac.org.au)

VMAA Website is at [www.vmaa.com.au](http://www.vmaa.com.au)

MAAA website is at [www.maaa.asn.au](http://www.maaa.asn.au)

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

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



Dave Lewis spent Christmas up near Bega painting this large 3m wingspan Ultimate Biplane, for a mate. 310cc Moki engine. The model will probably be seen at the next Bairnsdale Event.

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

SUNDAY	JANUARY 25	General Flying at all sites ( <b>Floatplane Day</b> )
MONDAY	JANUARY 26	<b>Australia Day</b>
SUNDAY	FEBRUARY 1	General Flying at all sites – (Combat Classic event 1 backup day)
WEDNESDAY	FEBRUARY 4	Monthly Meeting at the Moe RSL meeting room – 7.30pm start
SUNDAY	FEBRUARY 8	Club Flyday at LAKE NARRACAN
SUNDAY	FEBRUARY 15	<b>Col Cliff Memorial Trophy at Lake Narracan – 11.00am start.-</b>
SUNDAY	FEBRUARY 22	General flying at all sites & Col Cliff Memorial Trophy backup day.
SUNDAY	MARCH 1	Come & Try to fly day
WEDNESDAY	MARCH 4	Monthly Meeting at the Moe RSL meeting room – 7.30pm start
SAT/SUN	MAR 7/8	<b>EVENT at the STATE FIELD at BAIRNSDALE</b>
SAT/SUN/MON	MAR 7/8/9	Labour Day Long Weekend..... Various Events see VMAA Calendar.
SUNDAY	MARCH 8	Club Flyday at LAKE NARRACAN
SUNDAY	MARCH 15	<b>COMBAT CUP at Lake Narracan at 11.00am</b> (event 2 of the Combat Classic)
SUNDAY	MARCH 22	General flying at all sites (backup come & Try to fly day)
SUNDAY	MARCH 29	General flying at all sites (Combat Cup backup day)

\*\*\*\*\*



**President's Report** - Well the weather is finally starting to feel like it's on the improve with more of us finally getting some flying in when possible. It's been good catching up with members on the good days before the heat sinks in and great to see so many flying when possible. The hot days are definitely upon us with total fire bans now becoming common and the thing to be aware of.

Just a reminder to check for total fire bans in the morning before flying and keep an eye on the conditions even when not total fire ban days as things can change very quick this time of the year.

Regards, Jamie McLaughlin

### Vale - Chris Davenport

Thanks to all those who came to Chris's Funeral and to those that may have watched the live stream. It was a sad day.

Some members went and had a look at what Chris had in his Garage, Workshop, House & Van. There will be several models for sale once we have sorted it out. There will also be a pile of stuff for a skip bin. There are many broken models in his Garage but some bits & pieces may come up for sale. I took 25 puffed up and damaged Lipo batteries, discharged them and disposed of them. There are lots more batteries in his collection. We will let you know what becomes available and when.

**We are coming into the busiest part of the year on the Club Program .....**

**The Combat Classic Event 1 will be on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> February if the weather is suitable**

**The Col Cliff Memorial Trophy is programmed for Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> February so it's time to start practicing those 7 events.**

**Our Club Come and Try Day is set down for Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> March and the Combat Cup is on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> March, weather permitting.**

***Always make sure you have a phone with you so that you can make or receive a call if you need to go into the paddocks and always wear appropriate footwear.***

**There was no meeting in January so there are no minutes.**

\*\*\*\*\*

## **Club at Lake Narracan (Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2026)**

Our first good flying day in 2026 was a very overcast morning and we didn't see the Sun at all. A light 5kmh to 10kmh wind made very nice conditions for flying

**Jamie McLaughlin** flew his Edge 540 and his Helicopter.

**Sam Flack** had her Conscendo and the Excel 200 trainer

**Dave Lewis** flew his Red Bull Edge 540, a new 35cc powered Mustang and the EFX racer. He did put a drone up to look for a downed model at one stage.

**Wayne Lewis** flew the Boomerang V3, the Teksumo and the Twin SPAD

**Graham McMahon** had his Little Stik 100, and a petrol powered Yak 54 which he got from Fred.

**Craig McMahon** had the Club's new DJI Drone and was setting it up. He flew his F 16 and he also had a Dauntless that crashed on takeoff.

**Fred Barabasz** had a new 35cc powered Extra300 which needed rebalancing after its first flight. It was tail heavy to start and flew well once balanced correctly. He also flew a Super Ez Trainer.

**Dave Thiedeman** had a trailer full and flew the Boomerang V3 and the Wot 4. Unfortunately the takeoff on a new Mustang by Wayne didn't go well with an undercarriage leg pulling out.

**Stephen Loft** flew his Combat SPAD on wheels, the Fly Baby and the Wots Wot Biplane

**Eric Spratt** flew his Boomerang V3 and managed to crash a small Stik model

**Rex Mitchell** flew his Pitts Special and couldn't get the RexStik to work on his Transmitter (wrong Tx)

**Ivan Walker** flew his Ultra Stick and a Surfer wings on a home made Fuselage which flew ok.

**Mick Dye** had a high wing powered model with a twin opposing engine and a large petrol powered Wot 4.

After several landing attempts the Wot 4 engine ran out of fuel and died and the Model landed safely, a long way out in the paddock Unfortunately he forgot something and had to go home to get it. Was it the Transmitter?

**Ollie Wilson** had his Ultra Stik, Easy Trainer glider, his Turbo timber and a Combat SPAD and flew well on this day.

**Club Flyday at Lake Narracan (Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2026) - it was a day of Total Fireban for the whole of Victoria.** It would have been a reasonably good morning for flying. "Bugger". I could see no action on the Camera so obviously everyone was doing the right thing on this day.

**Combat Classic Event 1** was programmed for Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> January but unfortunately a bad weather front was passing over and we had several very windy days with wind between 40kmh & 60kmh on this day so the event was postponed to the backup day Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2026.

## **Australia Day Weekend**

**Saturday** - The weekend got off to a bad start with another **day of Total Fireban** for the whole of Victoria however, the visitors from Melbourne Clubs did some fishing off the Jetty and caught some Redfin & Carp. It would have been a reasonable day for flying as the wind was light in the morning !

**Sunday** was ok to fly with no restrictions but it was too windy for floatplanes with a 20kmh to 30kmh wind by 9.30am and 28kmh to 39kmh by 11.00am.

**Craig McMahon** flew his new Hobbyking Rare Bear Reno Racer 680mm span and managed to crash out in the paddock when the canopy came off, but the damage was pretty minor and it will fly again.

**Fred Barabasz** flew the Super EZ which was tossed around in the wind.

**Graham McMahon** flew his foamy Cub, a Fred Stik 100 and a Combat SPAD. There was some interesting flying there !

**Stephen Loft** flew his SPAD on wheels and the Delta

**Rex Mitchell** flew his Little Toni pylon racer and his RexStik

**Wayne Lewis** flew the Boomerang V3 and the Teksumo. It was too windy for the T28 Trojan or the Skipper.

**Jamie Sjamsudin** came out with his RaRa but didn't fly in the windy conditions.

**Monday**, "Australia Day" started out with wind gusting 25kmh to 37kmh at 8.30am so there was no one flying on this day. I am not sure if our Melbourne visitors even got to fly over the weekend.

**Club Fees 2025-2026 – Half Year fees apply from 1 January 2026 for new members and past members that were not a 2024-2025 member.**

	MAAA fee	VMAA fee	Club fee	
<b>SENIOR MEMBER</b>	\$40.00 +	\$27.00 +	\$43.00 =	\$110.00
<b>JUNIOR MEMBER (under 18yrs 1/07/25)</b>	\$7.50 +	\$7.50 +	\$1.00 =	\$16.00
<b>PENSIONER MEMBER (Full Government Pension or HCC )</b>	\$40.00 +	\$27.00 +	\$25.00 =	\$92.00
<b>LIFE MEMBER</b>	\$40.00 +	\$27.00 +	\$0.00 =	\$67.00
<b>ASSOCIATE MEMBER FEES (see note below)</b>	Appropriate Club Fee as above =			Club fee
<b>NEW JUNIOR MEMBER for first year</b>	Club fee only =			1.00
<b>Joining fee for all new members</b>				\$25.00
<b>Lake Narracan Gate Key</b>				\$20.00

<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>

(read in conjunction with the MAAA Bronze, Silver & gold Wings Sheet as there are maneuvers that we do not do, included in this pdf )



Above – Fred’s “Gilmore”, with a 7 cylinder Radial Engine

**Club Drone** - As per the minutes of the December Meeting, the Club has purchased a new DJI Mini 4 pro Drone to be used in locating crashed models out in the paddock. A few members will be trained to fly the drone so please put your hand up if you would like to help. Craig has sent out an email about it. Craig is currently making up some rules for its use which will be discussed at the next meeting

Don’t forget that if you crash out in the paddocks, try to get a line on where it is with something in the background as the Drone may not be available on the day you crash, it may be too windy for the drone to be used or there may not be a Drone Pilot available.

***Remember it’s the time of year when those wriggly things may be hiding in the grass. A Tiger Snake has been seen in the area of the toilets so be careful. & wear appropriate footwear***

# LATROBE VALLEY MODEL AERO CLUB

## 2026 COL CLIFF MEMORIAL TROPHY EVENT

NAME.....MODEL.....ENGINE.....

### 1 round of each event to be flown and 1 event may be flown twice

- NOTE : 1 MAXIMUM SCORE in any event is 200 points. (except for a fly off)
- 2 only 1 round will be flown if weather conditions permit. 1 event of your choice may be flown twice.
  - 3 Scores of all 7 events are counted. 1 event may be flown twice.
  - 4 if there is a tied score the pilots concerned will go into a flyoff consisting of 1 event, drawn on the day, with no maximum score.
  - 5 Timing starts when the wheels leave the ground.
  - 6 Low Idle to be checked before any event requiring low idle.
  - 7 Tuned Pipes are not permitted to be used.
  - 8 Engine Throttle Cut must work.
  - 9 Model needs to be a .40 to .46 nitro or electric equivalent powered "High Wing Trainer" with no flaps, elevons etc.

	ROUND 1		ROUND 2		BEST SCORE
MAXIMUM LOOPS under power . in 60 seconds. 12.5 points per loop. Max = 16	number	score	number	score	
CLIMB & LOOPS on idle. 20 sec engine run. 25 points per loop. Max = 8	number	score	number	score	
ONE MINUTE FLIGHT. 200 minus 10 points per sec variation.	time	score	time	score	
SPOT LANDING Max climb 20 sec - engine to be stopped. 200 points minus 20 points per metre out.	variation	score	variation	score	
SPINS. 20 sec engine run. 7 points per spin. max = 29	number	score	number	score	
TOUCH & GOES. In 2 minutes. 20 points per circuit touch & go. max = 10	number	score	number	score	
CLIMB & GLIDE. 20 sec engine run. engine to be stopped. 0.5 points per second from take-off. Max = 6min 30sec	time	score	time	score	
If there is a Tied Score proceed into a flyOff, 1 event drawn from a hat					<b>BEST TOTAL SCORE</b>



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**A new range of indoor Aircraft  
 In store now !**

**Present your Club Card for your  
 10% discount.**

**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.)

How to Discharge a Lipo battery.

Get yourself a 24v globe and a Male connector off an old ESC. Solder the connector to the globe as in the pic. Connect the battery that you want to discharge and leave it out in the open overnight. Next day check the voltage which should be less than 1v. Drive a nail through all cells and dispose of in the bin or at a battery recycle bin.



The Globe can get very hot so make sure it's not touching anything

**Remember to always keep an eye on your Charging Lipo's  
 And dispose of those damaged ones appropriately.**

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

**The Combat Classic Event 1 was postponed because of the weather in January 15<sup>th</sup>. It is now on this coming Sunday 1st February at 11.00am if the weather allows.**



Above – Dave Lewis has a second 35cc Mustang and has done a different paint scheme

## **Agenda for February 2026 General Meeting to be held at the MOE RSL at 7:30pm Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> February 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:

6 Confirm the minutes of the previous meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2025.

**Moved:** Secretary

**Seconded:**

7 Business arising from the previous minutes:

- 7.1 Traralgon Bunnings Christmas event was held on 4<sup>th</sup> December 2025. The evening went well with about ½ dozen new Club fliers being handed out. Thanks to Wayne, Craig, Ivan and Ollie for volunteering. Special thanks to Ollie's Uber driver (his dad), Anthony.
- 7.2 President's request for Warragul site. Can Warragul members find alternative ways to fund the running of their site? Both the President and Secretary received enquiries from some Warragul members seeking clarification of the intent of this request, and members were reassured that no immediate changes or decisions have been made at this time.
- 7.3 Warragul gave a \$100 donation to the Farmer as thanks for using the site.

7.4 Fred requested that all members who have access to a whipper snipper please bring it out to the field when they next come out to do some much needed edging around the Club facilities.

**ACTION: Completed.**

7.5 It was suggested that the Club reach out to the LaTrobe Valley Express to see if they would be willing to write an article on the Club. **ACTION: Completed.**

8 Correspondence In & Out and Business arising from Correspondence:

8.1 In: Reply email from SADAC re: the general invite to the Club.

8.2 In:

8.3 Out: General invite was sent out to other Clubs in the region 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> January 2026.

8.4 Out: Request for Community featurette from the Latrobe Valley Express 19<sup>th</sup> January 2026

**Moved: Secretary**

**Seconded:**

9 Treasurer's report

Starting balance [01DEC25]	
Income	
Expenses	
Closing balance	
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%)	\$
<b>Investment total</b>	\$
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	00000000

Starting balance [01JAN26]	\$
Income	
Expenses	
Closing balance	
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%)	
<b>Investment total</b>	\$
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	\$00000000

**Moved: Treasurer**

**Seconded:**

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 Michael Dye and Godwin Bugeja attended and the Council were asked if there is a rough timeframe of the Moe/Newborough development, and how that will affect the Club.

12 Relocation update & Sub-committee report:

12.1 The proposed Hazelwood site is no longer available to the Club. **ACTION: Jamie to elaborate further.**

13 Flight proficiency: None

14 Safety:

15 GENERAL BUSINESS

15.1 New drone rules for the Club.

15.2 Come & try day 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2026.

Volunteers so far are: Craig McMahon, Jamie McLaughlin, Wayne Lewis, Roy White, Chris Eels.

- 15.3 Lake Narracan water tank upgrade. 9
- 15.4 Dry chemical powder fire extinguisher replacement.
- 15.5 MAAA grants.
- 15.6 New Defibrillator pads.
- 15.7 Mower service due

16 Bent wheel award nominations

- 1 Fred for his Gilmore.
- 2 Craig for his new Dauntless.
- 3 Rex & Paul for the refurbished Dauntless.
- 4 Ivan for several of his aircraft.
- 5 Glen for his Warhawk.
- 6 Graham for his Sputnik.
- 7 Wayne for his SPAD
- 8 Others

17 Bomb award nominations:

- 1. Mick for forgetting to bring essential equipment.
- 2. Rex for neglecting to bring the correct transmitter for his 'Rexstick'. Took him a while to work it out at home !

18 Show & tell:

19 Events - Upcoming program for LVMAC:

February 2026

- Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> General flying at all sites (Combat Classic event 1 backup day)
- Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> Monthly Meeting at the Moe RSL meeting room – 7.30pm start
- Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> Club Fly Day at LAKE NARRACAN
- Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> **Col Cliff Memorial Trophy at Lake Narracan – 11.00am start**
- Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> General flying at all sites (Col Cliff Memorial Trophy backup day)

March 2026

- Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> Come & Try Fly Day

Local upcoming VMAA events

March 2026

- Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> – Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> BADMAC Action Scale Rally

April 2026

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

20 Next meeting: General Meeting on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2026 at 7.30pm at the Moe RSL meeting room.

21 Meeting Closed at:



Above – Wayne took his eyes off the model for a second to look at his Grandkids and this happened.



above – Glen did a bouncy landing and the nose broke off this very nice Warhawk.



**Come and Try Day**  
LaTrobe Valley Model Aero Club

**FLY A MODEL PLANE!**

**FUN FOR AGES 8+**

**Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2026**  
10:00am – 12:00pm  
South Shore Road, Lake Narracan

**LIMITED SPACES AVAILABLE**

Above - Craig has made up and put this advertisement on Facebook  
Registration is online only



Above - Death of a Dauntless

### LV EXPRESS Article

Craig organized a reporter from the LV Express to come out to the field to do a write up about the Club and our need to move. She came out on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> January and spoke to several members and also took some pics.

We are not sure when it will hit the paper so keep your eyes peeled.

**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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