

**

1 VALLEY FLIER

**

NEWSLETTER OF THE LATROBE VALLEY MODEL AERO CLUB
(INCORPORATED IN VICTORIA. REGISTRATION NUMBER (A0001822M)
39 KURT ST, MORWELL. 3840
Mob 0422 627 169

January 2026

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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- Craig McMahon has a new F16 EDF. It fly's very nicely but needs short grass for take off.

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

SUNDAY	DECEMBER 28	General flying at all sites.
THURSDAY	JANUARY 1	New Years Day
SUNDAY	JANUARY 4	Club Flyday at LAKE NARRACAN
WEDNESDAY	JANUARY 7	No monthly meeting
SUNDAY	JANUARY 11	General Flying at all sites
SUNDAY	JANUARY 18	General Flying at all sites - Combat Classic event 1 at 11.00am
SUNDAY	JANUARY 25	General Flying at all sites (Floatplane Day)
MONDAY	JANUARY 26	Australia Day
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	Col Cliff Memorial Trophy at Lake Narracan – 11.00am start.-
SUNDAY	FEBRUARY 22	General flying at all sites & Col Cliff Memorial Trophy backup day.



President's Report



Hello all. Well I guess that's another year almost done, with the below average weather conditions we are still experiencing at the field there isn't anything to report from me except I wish you all a merry Christmas and a happy new year. I Hope to see you all in the new year.

Regards, Jamie McLaughlin

Vale - Chris Davenport

Denis, Anthony, Christopher, Davenport, better known to most people as Chris joined the LVMAC early in 2006 and was a pretty quick to learn to fly, attaining his Bronze and Silver Wings. At this time Chris was working as a handyman, which was good for the Club. He was able to get a discount on some of the building materials that we needed and was one of those guys that didn't need to be asked to do something. If he saw something needed to be done, he just got in and did it. When he joined the Club we only had 1 container at Lake Narracan and when we got the 2nd container Chris built the roof between the 2 containers and all the seating under that sheltered area. He built shelves in the 2nd Container and was also keen to do more than his share of the mowing at the Lake Narracan flying field. He took on the Club President's position in June 2011

When Hobbyking started up Chris started doing HobbyKing orders for Club Members and by combining the orders the postage was sometimes Zero \$, so all participants had the benefit of cheaper Models and bits & pieces.

He told jokes, greeted new and prospective members, taught some members to fly, told more jokes and wasn't afraid to make decisions.

Chris was made a "Life Member" in June 2017 for his ongoing contributions to the Club as President and all round worker and member. Chris was the Club President for 10 years and in my opinion did a great job in that role and we worked well together, running a very efficient Club. He organized and took part in the VMAA Trophy on several occasions and either participated in, or ran many of the Club Events. Combat , CCMT, Float fly's, Social's etc. He also checked the monthly Club Newsletters for mistakes before it was sent out to members.

In October 2017 whilst at the VMAA Trophy at the State Field at Darraweit Guim, Chris had a medical episode and spent about 6 weeks in the Northern Hospital in Melbourne. He resigned the presidency for 2017-2018 because of his health but was back in the seat as President again from 2018-2019 until 2021-2022 when his health saw him pass the job on to Bill Reid.

Chris will be sadly missed by many. He always told me that he would have a headstone which will say... "He Joked, He Smoke & He Croaked"

Rest In Peace Chris and may you be forever flying with the Angel's.

Wayne

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.

**Minutes for December 2025 General Meeting held at the MOE
RSL at 7pm Wednesday 3rd December 2025**

1 Meeting opened at: 7:03pm

Present: Craig McMahon, Wayne Lewis, Ivan Walker, Bill Reid, Brian Adams, Godwin Bugeja, Stephen Loft, Graham McMahon, Mick Dye, Fred Barabasz, Jamie McLaughlin, Ian Partleton, Ollie Wilson

2 Apologies: Chris Davenport

3 Visitors: Anthony Wilson

4 New member applications: None

5 Confirm the minutes of the previous meeting held on 5th November 2025.

Moved: Secretary

Seconded: Brian Adams

6 Business arising from the previous minutes:

7.1 **Fred** put forward a motion that we apply for the grant for a new Deep Cycle Lithium battery for the charging station. This was carried by majority of members present. **Craig** will apply before the closing date.

UPDATE 13NOV25 - Due to recent changes in La Trobe City Council's grant application process, all applicants (including incorporated bodies) require an ABN. There is an auspice option, however we will possibly need to reach out to the VMAA to try and get them to sponsor us. This will not be possible before the grant cut-off time of 4pm Friday 14NOV25. We will reassess before the next round of quick grants in January.

During the General meeting, a motion was moved and carried to enquire about an ABN for the Club.
ACTION: Craig.

Fred also put forward a motion that the Club purchase a DJI Mini 5 Pro to assist in locating downed aircraft. This was carried by the majority of members present. Craig will purchase using Club funds. Training of members in the use of the drone is suggested before they fly it.

UPDATE (prior to General Meeting): The Secretary was approached by some members expressing their concern that a DJI Mini 5 Pro may be too much for what the Club requires, both in flying weight (borderline 250g) and expense. It is suggested this matter be resolved during the December General Meeting.

During the General meeting, a motion was moved to purchase a DJI Mini 4 Pro Fly More Combo with the DJI refresh (replacement) using Club funds. Craig suggested that we wait until Boxing Day sales as we may be able to get it slightly cheaper. **ACTION: Craig and Wayne.**

7.2 Craig & Jamie suggested that we reach out to other local Clubs (BADMAC, SADAC and BRAG) and invite them to come and have a fly with us. The intention is to build up productive relationships with other Clubs in the local area. Craig will follow up when the weather improves. **ACTION: Craig.**

8 Correspondence In & Out and Business arising from Correspondence:

8.1 In: VMAA Secretary requesting the Club to provide banking details for Club brochure reimbursement.
UPDATE: Reimbursement was received 01DEC25.

8.2 Out: December agenda contribution email.

Moved: Secretary

Seconded: Brian Adams

9 Treasurer's report

Bendigo Bank investment has been renewed for 7 Months @ 3.8%

Starting balance [date]	
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%)	
Investment total	
GRAND TOTAL	

Moved: Treasurer

Seconded: Jamie McLaughlin

10 Current Membership:

No change as of 29th October 2025, the Financial Membership was 29 Seniors, 10 Pensioners, 3 Life & 2 Junior. Total currently sits at 44.

11 Lake Narracan Advisory Committee:

The next meeting is scheduled for 17th December. Godwin, Mick and/or Jamie will attend should it proceed.

12 Relocation update & Sub-committee report:

- 12.1 No change on the Hazelwood site. Jamie has been in contact with John from Hazelwood and given him a very rudimentary plan of how we think the Club *COULD* look. This is now sitting with John for further internal Hazelwood discussion. No feedback is expected until well into the new year.
- 12.2 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: Craig.**

13 Flight proficiency: None

14 Safety: No incidents reported

15 GENERAL BUSINESS

- 15.1 Traralgon Bunnings night 4th December.
Volunteers were: Craig McMahon, Wayne Lewis, Ivan Walker, Ollie Wilson.
- 15.2 President's request for Warragul site. Can Warragul members find alternative ways to fund the running of their site? **ACTION: Graham will discuss with members.**
- 15.3 Warragul gave a \$100 donation to the Farmer as thanks for using the site.
- 15.4 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: All members.**

16 Bent wheel award nominations

- 1 Eric for his Stik with reversed ailerons
- 2 Graham McMahon for his Sportster 40 crash
- 3 Ivan for his Cub

WINNER: Graham McMahon for his Sportster 40. Congratulations and commiserations Graham!

17 Bomb award nominations:

- 1 Eric for reversed ailerons
- 2 Ivan for servo arm on back to front

WINNER: Ivan for back to front servo arm. Congratulations Ivan!

18 Show & tell:

- 18.1 Godwin told the group about lowering the fuel tank in his Wayfarer to further align the tank outlet with the throttle body inlet. Before this change there was a significant amount of height difference between the 2, and as a result, the engine would sometimes stop before flight. After the change Godwin has noticed a significant change in the running of the engine.
- 18.2 Craig gave all members present a copy of the new Club brochure.

19 Confirm upcoming program:

December 2025

General flying for the remainder of December.

- | | | |
|----------|------------------|----------------------|
| Thursday | 25 th | Christmas Day |
| Friday | 26 th | Boxing Day |

January 2026

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|--------|------------------|--|
| Sunday | 11 th | Club Fly Day at LAKE NARRACAN |
| Sunday | 18 th | General flying at all sites & <u>Combat Classic Event 1 at 11.00am</u> |
| Sunday | 25 th | General flying at all sites & <u>Floatplane Day @ Narracan.</u> |
| Monday | 26 th | Australia Day |

February 2026

- | | | |
|--------|-----------------|--|
| Sunday | 1 st | General flying at all sites (Combat Classic event 1 backup day) |
|--------|-----------------|--|

20 Next meeting: **No General Meeting in January 2026.** Next General Meeting on Wednesday 4th February 2026 at 7:30pm at the Moe RSL meeting room.

21 Meeting Closed at: 8:04pm

AUCTION – There was a disappointing number of members that showed up for the Auction and there were some real bargains. A T28 Trojan with a Spektrum receiver went for \$150, a Giles 202 with an OS50SX engine and servo's went for \$150 and a Hobbico Nexstar Trainer with an OS46FX engine & servo's went for \$150. All these models were in excellent condition and all would have been worth over \$500 each to buy new. Also a Spitfire at \$100 and a GeeBee Sportster at \$60 were a good buy. A Hots Kit went for \$20 and a flight box for \$20, a bunch of propellers for \$10 and several other odds and ends were bid on.

Thanks to those that attended and to those that brought along and donated the goodies and to those that purchased the goodies. The Club made \$586 with \$450 being from the 3 big models, so there were some nice donations also.

Thanks also to Godwin for being the Auctioneer. It's a tough job !

Club Flyday at Lake Narracan (Sunday 7th December 2025)

It wasn't a very good day for flying, weatherwise, with a 20 to 30Kph Westerly wind at 9.00am. We had organized a small Working Bee to do some whipper snipping in the areas that we can't mow. Wayne Lofty & Brian did some whipper snipping, Fred did some mowing and Mick sprayed some roundup. We did get a couple of drops of rain but at the end of the work

Below - The Windsack has taken a thrashing with the wind over the past few months. A new one has been fitted.



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

Remember it's the time of year when those wriggly things may be hiding in the grass. A Tiger Snake has recently been seen in the area of the toilets so be careful.

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



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 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 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.)

The Bunnings Christmas display didn't go as planned. Unfortunately, we did not have a powered site so could not use the simulators and there were not many teenagers in attendance so and we only had a few enquires from the older generation. The event is probably aimed at the 2yo to 8yo Kids. Our display was quite good with a Mustang, F-16, Bixler, Multiplex Glider, Dragon Fly, Colourful Stinger EDF, GeeBee, Combat SPAD, Timber and we also had the new "A frame board" with some Club Handouts attached. Thanks to Craig, Ivan, Ollie & Wayne for their participation.



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.

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 or it may be too windy for the drone to be used.



**Wishing you all a Happy New Year
from the Committee.**

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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