

THE FREE FLIGHTER



JOURNAL OF THE NSW FREE FLIGHT SOCIETY INC.

MARCH 2026



Our Roy on top of the Podium at the 2026 North American Cup

Meeting opened:

7:41pm – Dundas Sports Club – President Michael Towell

Present:

Michael Towell, Natalie Beckett, Roy Summersby, Terry Bond, Ray Harvey, John Pennells, Shannon Tolmie, Bruce Hao, Steve Hughes, Gary Pope, Peter Scott, Phil Warren

Apologies:

Ed and Angie Mahoney, Warren Leadbeatter, Gary Goodwin, Andrew Linwood

Guests:

Lyn Towell, Reg Towell, Kate, Gail Scott

Minutes of previous meeting:

Moved by Ed Mahoney, Terry Bond sec. Carried

Business Arising:

- ❖ MAAA free flight Nationals. Logo done. Flyer to be completed soon and sent out. Contract control line to join the nationals. Submit for MAAA funds.
- ❖ Warren did a great newsletter.
- ❖ End of year presentation went well, thank you for everyone attended.
- ❖ Christmas parties went well.

Correspondence out:

Friday notices, Newsletter, ANSW, WW Radio Club Area Approval

Correspondence In:

AEFA, ANSW, Responds from Friday email, Vic Fly paper, WW radio club area approval, Rego Box Trailer

Treasurers Report:

1st Nov to 31st Dec presented by Roy Summersby

National account transferred. But not closed.

Motion moved and accepted for Nats account (account number 062 336 1040 9062) be closed.

Moved by Terry Bond, Gary Pope Sec, Carried

Copies available upon request

General Business:

- ❖ Area Approval WW (big thanks to Warren Leadbeatter for putting everything together)
 - Seeking approval to send the attached docs to Rhyll for approval. This is basically a new set of By Laws & Operating Procedures for AB Field West Wyalong as well as a Emergency Response Procedure, Risk Assessment and stakeholder engagement letter to be sent to Bland Shire Council and Leppington Pastoral Co (Billabong Station) I move that we accept these documents with any amendments for submission for Area Approval for operations up to 2000ft as per our current area approval. Roy sec. Everyone voted for.

- As a result of reviewing Emergency procedures I thought it would be a good time to review firefighting abilities at AB Field. ie Do we have enough fire extinguishers of the right type? e.g a dry chemical extinguisher in the area where batteries are charged. etc Also how do we handle a grass fire? a) Run? b) Try to fight it? With what? c) If you can't fight it, Call 000
- Check fire extinguishers. Next time down there.
- Back packs with water tanks. For WW. NB and MT will look into this.
- ❖ E36 Postal. AEFA asked about this, for NSWFFS to run this. All agreed too much for us to run and they can run the event. If run, NSWFFS will put in scores.
- ❖ Club assistance scheme for RC concrete. Ask for \$7,000 from MAAA. Move by Steve Hughes, sec Shannon Tolmie, Approved.
- ❖ Scale Judging. Judging guide to go in next newsletter.
- ❖ MAAA VP. Anyone willing to join or be nominated, by 20th Feb. Terry put Roy name forward to be nominated. Discussion showed resounding support. Roy to think about it.
- ❖ Joining MAAA direct and members at conference were not happy. So nothing happened. Might be raised again at next MAAA conference.
- ❖ NSWFFS shirts. People want to order be ordered soon. Gary Pope (L)

Meeting closed: 8.36pm

2026 Committee:

Position	Name	Phone Number
President	Michael Towell	0433 175 295
Vice President	Gary Goodwin	0414 292 050
Secretary & Newsletter Editor	Warren Leadbeatter	0408 801 539
Treasurer	Roy Summersby	0413 588 720
Registrar & Public Officer	Warren Leadbeatter	0408 801 539
Safety Officer	Michael Towell	0433 175 295
Chief Flying Instructor	Mike Ward	0416 081 536
Scale Coordinator	Phil Warren	0405 579 904
Contest Organiser Richmond	Peter Scott	0434 276 265
Librarian	John Pennells	02 4363 1834

Terry's Jokes Section:

<p>it's been months since I bought the book "how to scam people online" it still hasn't arrived yet.</p>	<p>Fuel prices are so high that I went to the car dealership and test drove 3 cars to run my errands. Follow me for more money saving tips 🍌</p>	
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PRESIDENTS REPORT – MARCH 2026

Well, the start of the year has been pretty busy. Our first couple of events were blown out and rained out. Then, not enough entries for the Scramble State Champs. Both the P30 and Scramble S/C will be slotted into the program later in the year.

This month's meeting will NOT be this Friday the 20th as advertised. We found out that we were double booked in the boardroom. So, the next meeting has been delayed one week and is now Friday the 27th March.

With the meeting delayed, a few of us will be at West Wyalong for a working bee this weekend. As the AB Field will be getting some use over the next coming months, if anyone would like to join us please let me know.

Our Area Approval was up for renewal for West Wyalong. We went along with the MAAA's new system which has been successful in many ways. This new streamlined process has made it a lot simpler and easier to process the Area Approvals. Our thanks go to our secretary Warren Leadbeatter for his hard work on the admin side for the AA.

With the Scale Trans-Tasman fast approaching, in this issue there is a guide to flight judging. It offers a great perspective on what to look for and what the judges are looking at. Now is the time to start that new scale model in time for July, I know of a few that have started the build process already.

Our next event at Richmond will be the E36 State Champs and Combined Vintage on April 12. There are quite a few VERY competitive E36's at Richmond now. This should prove to be a great event and a warm up for the AFFS Champs for some.

We still have a large number of engines, and some models for sale. This has been added to by Basil Healey, thank you Basil for your kind generosity.

Don't forget, the new date for this month's meeting is March 27. See you there.

Michael Towell
President NSWFFS

GENERAL NEWS & INFORMATION

Next Meeting 27th March 2026

This will be a general meeting to be held at the Dundas Sports Club starting at 7.30pm. As normal some of us will have a meal there before the meeting, please feel free to join us.

MAAA News

The CASA Area Approval for West Wyalong has been renewed using the new MAAA approval process.

AFFS Champs 2026

Please get your entries in by 1st April. The AFFS AGM will be held at Narrandera RSL Club on Tues 28th at 7pm. and important Free Flight SIG matters will be discussed and voted on. See full AFFS program and details in this newsletter.

CDs needed for the WW Events. 3 days. The AFFS will pay you \$50 per day! Contact Natalie or Vin.



Vale John Lamont

It is with great sadness that we share the news of the passing of John Lamont over the Australia Day long weekend. John was a long-time and highly respected aeromodeller in both RC and control line flying winning his first Nationals CL Stunt tittle as a junior in 1949. His contributions to the sport were significant and far-reaching. In 2002, he represented Australia at the FAI World Championships in Canada.

Through his publication, Australian Model News, John provided valuable insights into the modelling community here in Australia—reaching readers both locally and internationally. John was a regular competitor at numerous local events and scale competitions, and he also dedicated his time in leadership roles, serving as President of the Victorian Scale Flying Aircraft Association, now known as the Australian Scale Aerospots (ASA). John was present at the 2018 Nationals at Adrian Bryant Field at West Wyalong. On behalf of the NSWFFS, we extend our heartfelt condolences to John's family and friends. We thank him for his passion, his service, and his lasting contributions to the sport we all love.

Thank you, John. You will be greatly missed, Rest in Peace.



Johnny Lamont winner of the 1950 Nats Jnr Stunt

Engines, Engines, more Engines and Models.

As at 8 th March 2026.

Legend NIB New in Box, NNIB near new in box. VGC very good condition.

GC good condition. W/M with muffler. C/L control line. All prices are negotiable.

Email Roy at roydi132@optusnet.com.au or message 0413588720 for more details.

Bank details NSWFFS BSB 062 293 A/C 00901281 Add \$15.50 for express post in Aust, International at cost. Can except Pay Pal through Roy Summersby.

Models

Name Wingspan Engine	Price
SE5a 1250 mm OS 52 Surpass	\$ 350
Precedent 2400mm SC91 F/S	\$ 300
Spacer 1850mm OS 40 H	\$ 90
Three tow line gliders of Gliders of different sizes (can be made Electric)Two servos in each \$70 each	

Engines still available as at 9th January 2026.

Legend: NIB = New in Box, NNIB = near new in box, VGC = very good condition, GC = good condition, W/M = with muffler, C/L = control line.

All prices are negotiable.

Email Roy at roydi132@optusnet.com.au or message 0413 588 720 for more details.

Bank details: **NSWFFS BSB: 062 293 A/C: 00901281**
Add \$15.50 Express Post in Aust, International at cost.
Can accept Pay Pal through Roy Summersby.

Diesels

1. Sold
2. AM 1.5 V/G no spray bar \$40
3. AM 1.5 VG V/G \$50
4. Sparey. no history as new offer
5. Sparey. built by G. Potter as new offer
6. Sold
7. Sold
8. Mills 1.3 G no tank \$100
9. Sold
10. Mills .75 G \$100
11. Mills 1.3 in original box VG 1947 \$135
12. Redfin Mini Bee NIB \$170
13. Sold

14. Russian Elfin 1.5 Ivor numbered 202 NN in box \$80
15. Sold
16. Sold
17. Russian Elfin 1.5 Ivor numbered \$80
18. Deezel Repo 2.0 (CS) ? \$80
19. Sold
20. Sold
21. Sold
22. DC Merlin .76 G \$60
23. DC Merlin .76 G \$60
24. ED Racer R/C \$70
25. Silver Sallow 2.5 G \$70
26. Sold
27. Sold
28. Sold
29. Sold
30. Sold
31. Sold
32. Sold
33. Sold
34. Taipan 1.5 early Mk2 poor external \$50
35. Taipan 1.5 BR Rare Series 70 VG \$200
36. Sold
37. Sold
38. Sold
39. Sold
40. Sold
41. Taipan Tyro 1.9 G but rough Ex \$60
42. Taipan Tyro 1.9 G \$80
43. Sold
44. Sold
45. Sold
46. Sold
47. Sold
48. Sold
49. Sold
50. ED Bee G, Comp no tank \$50

2 Stroke Engines Glow

1. Super Tiger 45 GC N/M Boxed \$60
2. Super Tiger 2300 L/New in Box \$200
3. Sold
4. Fox 45 RC W/M NIB \$ 80
5. Testers 40 N/N Boxed \$50
6. Enya 35 C/L G. W/M Boxed \$50
7. Enya SS 40 GC W/M Boxed \$50
8. Enya SS40 GC W/M Boxed \$50
9. Sold
10. Sold
11. Enya 49X GC \$50
12. Enya 29 RC VG W/M \$70
13. Enya SS30 RC VG W/M \$70

14. Frog 500 With Tank VG \$75
15. Sabre 29 G \$80
16. OS 40FP Diesel/ Glow W/M & bits Box \$120
17. OS 46 LA Blue W/M GC Boxed \$ 80
18. OS AX GC W/M \$120
19. OS 55 AX GC No Muffler \$70
20. OS MAX 45 VGC No Muffler\$70
21. OS 19 parts C/L \$20
22. OS 40 H Ex G. Potter with tank \$70
23. OS 40 FP RC VG \$70
24. OS 40LA GC Blue \$50
25. OS 25 GC RC \$50
26. ASP 40 GC W/M \$ 50
27. ASP 108 GC W/M \$100
28. Thunder Tiger Pro 46 GC W/M Boxed \$100
29. Thunder Tiger Pro 46 GC No muffler \$50
30. Sold
31. Mc Coy Testers 35 \$50
32. Sold
33. Sold
34. Cox NIB 049 Medalion W/M \$ 100
35. Cox Baby Bee \$25
36. Sold

4 Stroke Engines

1. OS 120 Surpass Pumped VGC \$300
2. OS 70 Surpass VG W/M \$250
3. OS 91 Surpass GC W/M Broken Throttle Arm Boxed \$ 200
4. OS 120 Surpass VGC \$200
5. OS FS 40 GC W/M \$ 150
6. OS FS 40 GC W/M \$ 150
7. OS FS 40GC W/M Boxed \$150
8. OS FS 20 VGC W/M Boxed \$350
9. OS 120 Surpass NIB \$390
10. OS 60 Four Stroke open rocker \$150
11. Sold
12. Enya 60 -4c VGC \$200
13. Enya 53-4C GC \$150
14. Enya 90-4C GC W/M \$200
15. Enya 60 -4c VGC \$200
16. Enya 53-4C GC W/M \$150
17. Saito 62a VGC early type W/M & Box \$ 150
18. Saito 65 VGC No Muffler \$100
19. Saito FA65 GC No Muffler Boxed \$150
20. Saito FA 30 Open Rocker VGC. L/New W/M Boxed \$400
21. Saito 120 GC \$350
22. Saito 120 VGC W/M \$400
23. Saito 50VGC W/M \$150
24. ASP 52 VG W/M Boxed \$120
25. ASP 91 VGC W/M No Needle \$150

26. Magnum 120 VGC W/M \$300
27. RCV 58 As New W/M in Box \$300
28. OS 60 Open Rocker VG (Texaco) \$ 250
29. Enya 41 4-C (Texaco) \$90
30. OS FS 61 GC (Texaco) \$150
31. OS FS 61 W/M GC \$150
32. OS FS 48 W/M GC Boxed \$120
33. Saito FA30 O/R VGC Boxed \$350



The Old Farts Flying Club

written by Steve Hughes' partner Kate

A completely trustworthy organisation allegedly ... NSWFFS..

*At the Old Farts Flying Club,
Where legends go to stall, every plane is held together with zip-ties, tape and gall.*

*The engines cough like pensioners,
the wings complain and creak,
the pilots shrug and mutter,
"she'll hold another week."*

*Control lines loop like spaghetti,
no-one knows which goes where,
"Just pull the thing that wiggles!"
Reg shouts into the air.*

They search MT's shed for spares for an hour or three, "found a bolt!" yells someone proudly... no... it's a walnut I'm sorry.

*Takeoffs are a mystery,
landings even more so, many touch down in the turf farm, many are still "in limbo."*

*Crashed models dot the paddock
like confetti on the ground, yet the boys declare each wreckage
"a soft landing and mostly sound."*

But each Friday dawn they're back at it with a grin that never fades, old farts flying broken planes chasing ace-pilot grades.

*So here's to the fearless flyers,
a brave, chaotic mob, where every crash is just a test and duct tape does the job.*

IMPORTANT NEWS

At the last AFFS General Meeting, a motion was moved "That AFFS implement a requirement that the MAAA card must be shown as proof of insurance etc. prior to any competitor flying in any of our events."

This will be in force for the AFFS 2026 so please make sure you bring your MAAA Card.

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Free Flight Scale Guide for Flying Judging

The following sets out to explain more clearly, the points in the FAI Judging Guide that may be found as an appendix in the F4 Rules for Free Flight Scale. The existing Judging Guide is an excellent summary of the aspects that judges should be aware of in judging the flying part of free flight scale in contests at any level but nevertheless it can be daunting for judges to be confronted with this when accepting the task of judging. It is my hope that presenting these points with the support of visual pictographs will provide a much easier and quicker understanding of them. This is particularly relevant in an age where it is becoming harder to find experienced judges for free flight scale events.

Hopefully scale flyers will also find that the pictographs make it easier to understand how their models are being judged and thus aspects of model trimming and set up that can be improved, resulting in better performance in contests.

I have had mixed feelings about publishing this visual explanation of the Guide for some time.

The drawings were produced in April last year and I have held back on publishing them because of having some diffidence that they may make free flight scale appear too complicated to pursue, for some. When you look at them, they actually provide easy access to the information and should be helpful rather than the reverse.

The article applies to the following classes:

F4A Free Flight Scale
F4D Free Flight Rubber Scale
F4E Free Flight Scale CO2/Electric

To find the FAI document on the Free Flight & Control Line Scale SIG page on the Model Flying New Zealand website follow the following steps.

On the MFNZ website

<https://www.mfnz.org>

Go to members and pilots then

Special Interest Groups

Select FF+CL SIG

Scroll low down that page to

The Rules

Click on Section 4: Aeromodelling

When it opens select CIAM F4 Scale volume - Edition 2025

Download it and go to page 114

6.4 ANNEX E

F4A, F4D AND F4E FLIGHT JUDGING GUIDE

Models should at all times fly in the same manner as the prototype.

Judges should use their own personal judgement to decide on an appropriate flight style for the prototype submitted and mark the flight accordingly.

NOTE: Competitors may submit a description of the prototype's flight characteristics (originated by a competent authority), which should be used to judge the flight.



ScaleNews

September 2025
Issue 14

Official Newsletter for Free Flight and Control Line Scale flying in New Zealand
produced by the Free Flight & Control Line Scale SIG

2.1 Take-off

The model should slowly accelerate from rest, leaving the ground after an appropriate ground run. The take-off run should be straight, and the transition to flight should be smooth.

Deduct marks from a full score if any of these errors occur:

- the ground run is too short



- assisted,



- too long



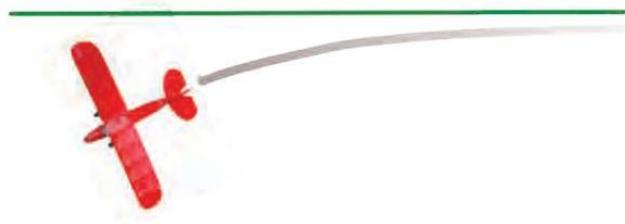
- the nose or tail wheel does not leave the ground before the main wheels,



- the wing drops or



- the run is curved.



NOTE: a swing may occur as the tailwheel leaves the ground; this is normal and should not be penalised unless it is excessive.)

2.2 Initial Climb

The model should smoothly rotate to a climbing attitude, and commence a gentle straight or curved climb.

The climb should be smooth and appropriate to the prototype

Deduct marks from a full score if the climb is:

• too steep,



• too shallow,



• too highly banked,



• wing drop or



• wing rock occurs or



• nose attitude is too high or too low.



(Note that a high bank steep spiral climb is normal for a Pitts but that a Bleriot should hardly leave ground effect.)

2.3 Transition to descent

The model's flight path should smoothly change between cruise and descent.

The change may be abrupt, after an engine failure, or prolonged as the power slowly reduces.

The direction of flight may or may not change.

Deduct marks from a full score if

- the model stalls as the engine fails,



- wing drop or wing rock occurs or



- an excessive pitch change is apparent.



2.4 Descent and Landing Approach

The descent should be smooth, continuous and stable. It may be straight or curved.

The angle of descent should be consistent with that of the prototype either engine on or engine off.

Deduct marks from a full score if

- the model stalls,



- drops or rocks the wings,



- shows too steep a glide or
- does not change to a landing attitude.



NOTE: the glide angle may change significantly with engine on or engine off.

2.5 Realism in Flight

The model should mirror the flight characteristics of the prototype in speed, flight attitude, stability and balance.

The model may fly in a straight line or turn in either or both directions.

Turns should not display inappropriate amount of bank.

The flight should be smooth and continuous, especially in the transitions between, take-off, climb, cruise, descent and landing approach.

Due allowance must be made for the prevailing wind conditions.

Deduct marks from a full score if

- the model flies too slowly or too fast,



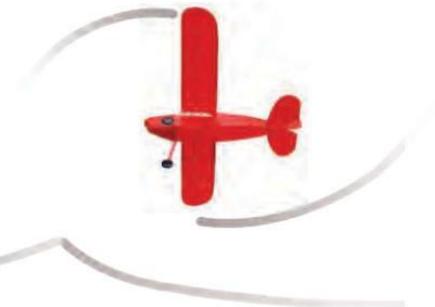
- the nose attitude is too high or too low,



- the model stalls, or shows a stalling flight path,



- has persistent wing drop or wing rock,



- flies an out of balance turn or



- pitches harshly on engine failure.



(A stall or wing drop may occur if the model hits turbulence or its own slipstream. If the recovery to stable flight is smooth, this should not be penalised.)

A grossly out of balance turn, left turn with right bank for instance, or a flat turn should be penalised.

2.6 Quality of Landing (indoor only)

After adopting the landing attitude, the model should descend slowly to the floor, and touch down without bouncing.

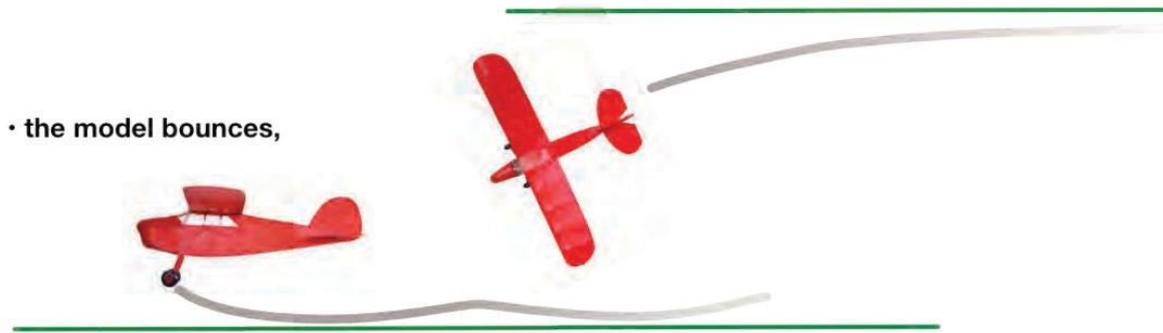
The ground run should be smooth and straight, with the model coming slowly to rest.

Touch down may be on main wheels only, or on tail down three points.

Deduct marks from a full landing score if:

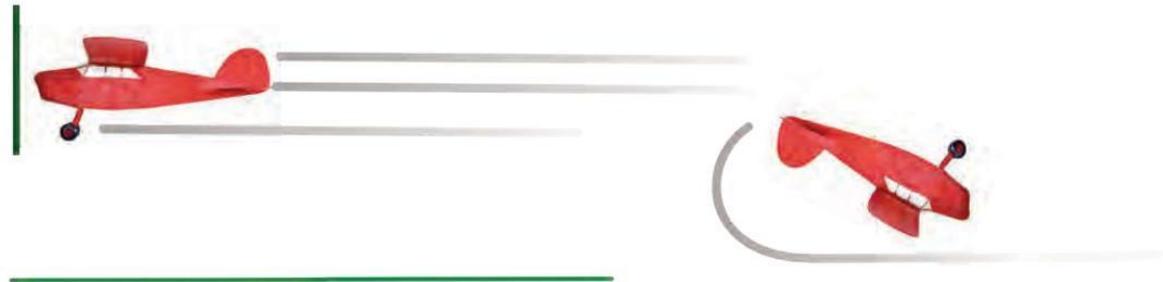
• the ground run is curved,

• the model bounces,



• the model does not stop,

• it ground loops



• touches down too hard.



(Landings in a nose down attitude, or on the nose wheel, should be penalised.)

CONTEST REPORTS & PHOTOS

Fabulous February – Lost Hills California USA

Our Aussie F1 flyers Albert, Bruce, Roy & Vin travelled to Lost Hills for this popular annual event. In the Kiwi Cup of New Zealand F1B, Vin finished a respectable 8th place out of 36 flyers while in the North American Cup of Canada, Roy finished 1st place out of 21 flyers. See Roy winning on the front cover, with Yury Shvedenkov (CAN) 2nd and Yuan Gao (CHI) 3rd. And notice Albert has taken up F1B! See full report on the 2026 Fab Feb in FFDU Vol.58 No.1



Unorthodox Day 22nd Feb 2026

Pics by Angela Mahoney



Unorthodox Day 22nd Feb 2026 continued



Hunter Valley Championships 7th & 8th March

Report by Michael Towell

This years HVC as always was the first weekend in March. With mostly C/L flying, they do have some R/C electric gliders and Free Flight HLG, TLG and CLG on the Sunday morning. Weather was hot and sticky for the Friday afternoon set up and Saturday.

I went up for some Slow Combat and the TLG and CLG events. Slow Combat for me this year saw a couple of minor setbacks, a couple of good bouts, no broken models and managed to secure 4th place.

Sunday morning dawned, a lot cooler and a little breezy and turbulent. A lot of us struggled in the trying conditions. I had a new CLG (plan in this issue) which proved to handle the conditions pretty well, and on its first outing had a win. Natalie had a new Sting 15 which with a few minor tweaks improved on each flight to finish with a max and secure 2nd place. Len Surtees was in 3rd.

In TLG again I had a new model, this was a Sweepette 30 and a Vee Max 30. I needed both models to finish my 6 flights as the turbulence was unkind, but to finish on top. Lindsay Muffett started his TLG flights with a max, and in a tree. If Lindsay had time to retrieve out of the tree, I'd say the results would've been a lot different. Len Surtees in 3rd with the trying conditions.

Len Surtees was on top with HLG, the low scores overall indicate the very difficult and trying conditions that we had for the HVC. Unfortunately, I didn't get any pics, as longish retrieves and also timing for others in the small 2hr window that we have to squeeze 3 in events.

Results:

Catapult Launch Glider

Name	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
Michael Towell	44	36	52	60	37	-	156
Natalie Beckett	16	15	21	37	33	60	130
Len Surtees	29	14	29	42	36	32	110
Charlie Loomis	34	17	17	28	16	34	96
Lindsay Muffett	27	29	17	18	24	31	87
Owen Gilbert	25	24	15	11	38	6	87

Tip Launch Glider

Name	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
Michael Towell	9	41	27	17	26	29	117
Lindsay Muffett	60	2	2	7	11	7	78
Len Surtees	9	15	27	20	23	22	72
Charlie Loomis	9	11	19	7	14	11	44

Hand Launch Glider

Name	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
Len Surtees	32	36	20				88
Charlie Loomis	12	11	11	x	4	4	34
Lindsay Muffett	2	8	14	8	7	4	

Flying Sunday 15th March 2026

Report by Natalie Beckett Pics by Angela Mahoney

What a fantastic morning of flying. The weather was superb and it was great to see such a strong turnout of flyers.

The sun was shining with not a cloud in the sky, and the wind was basically zero early on, although a slight drift developed later in the morning.

Unfortunately, there was no State Champs Scramble this time, as only one flyer was entered. However, we were able to run the Combined Percentage Club Competition.

Eight flyers competed and it was wonderful to see such a variety of models in the air. We had P30, E36, F1G, vintage power and open power models all flying.

Terry and Roy took advantage of the calm early conditions, getting three quick flights in and both recording maximums. Terry flew his P30 while Roy flew his vintage power model.

Ray, Natalie and Michael were next to fly. Ray's E36 looked like it was on rails early in the morning, but unfortunately his first two flights didn't quite go to plan. After making some adjustments he managed to max his final flight.

Natalie easily maxed her first flight, but a poor launch caused her to drop her second. Unfortunately she wasn't able to take her third flight due to an electrical short in her model.

Michael's model was absolutely on rails and he comfortably maxed all three of his flights.

Sally and Gary G flew a little later in the morning. Sally flew her open power Dixielander. She dropped her first two flights but came back strongly to max her final flight. Gary flew his F1G and maxed his first flight, but as the wind began to pick up slightly he dropped his last flight.

Barry had brought along his P30 and was initially doing some trimming flights. He was encouraged to enter the competition and did very well, maxing his first two flights and only dropping his final flight by five seconds.

With Michael, Terry and Roy all recording maximum scores, a fly-off was required. Unfortunately Terry had to leave as it was getting late, leaving Roy and Michael to contest the fly-off.

Both models found good air, but Michael's model DT'd at three minutes for reasons unknown. His time was recorded at 289 seconds, while Roy stayed up longer with 344 seconds.

Roy therefore took out the competition on combined percentage. Congratulations Roy!

Results

1st Roy Summersby	Vintage power	100% + 344 secs
2nd Micheal Towell	E36	100% + 289 secs
3rd Terry Bond	P30	100% + 0 secs
4th Barry Galbraith	P30	89%
5th Gary Goodwin	F1G	94%
6th Sally Linwood	Open Power	74%
7th Natalie Beckett	E36	64%
8th Ray Harvey	E36	48%

Sunday 15th March Pics by Angela Mahoney



Sunday 15th March Pics by Angela Mahoney



78th NZ NATS REPORT by Len Surtees

Here is a short results of the events I competed in at recent NZ Nats held first week in January 2026 and some pics.

The outdoor FF was held on a dairy farm with many electric fences to deal with, most were turned off in the downwind areas which was a blessing as it takes a good jolt to resist the cows.

In CLG I could have won as I only needed a 53 second flight on my last launch but due to circumstances I had lost interest and did not wait for a thermal, just launched into nothing air and did 31 seconds, that meant a short retrieval which was ok by me.

I was however determined to win TLG and with my last launch maxed and won using my new Sting MK2 36" glider.

Indoor HLG and CLG are my main events and against a determined group of 8 competitors flying large foam flapped gliders and others flying all balsa gliders.

I won both CLG and HLG with an all balsa glider designed by Stan Buddenbohm.

I also visited the RC Discus HLG event and was impressed by their high level piloting skills.

The following pics show some of the indoor scale and peanut models and me with winning indoor HLG trophy.

I enjoyed the New Zealanders company and would like to return next year.

Len Surtees stingmk2gliders.com



YELLA JACKET CLG

A few weeks out from the Hunter Valley Champs I was getting ready some new TLG's and CLG's. But, with a few phone calls back and forth with Len Surtees and the promise that he had a new light weight Sting 15, I knew I had to do something different to try and get the edge on him.

Now, I've had success with Lens Sting 15 so, I knew I needed something really good to go up against it. What I needed was light weight, more wing area, and clean enough to get more height. Plus the obligatory my namesake wingtips! They have proved their worth on several designs in the last 20+ years.

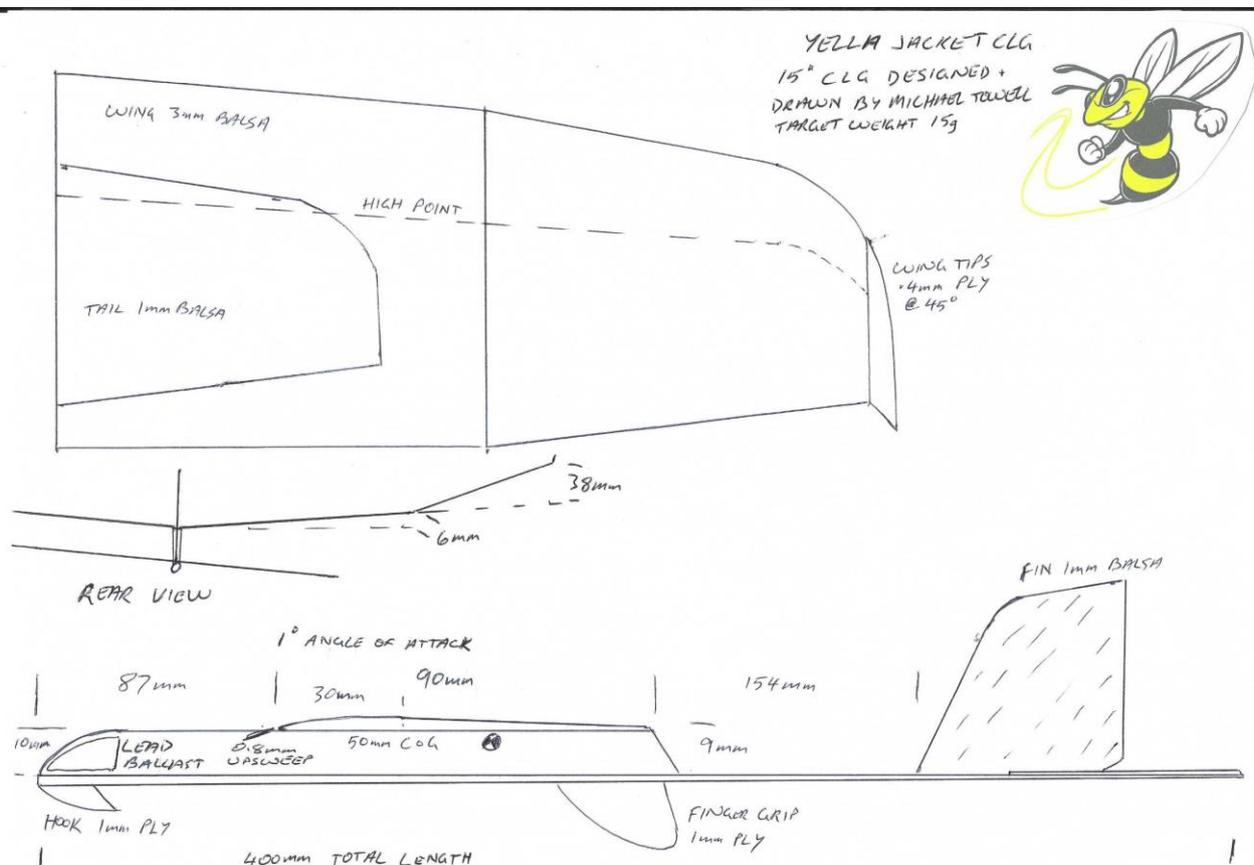
So, armed with some wood, a rule, knife and a sanding block I got to work. Slightly thinner wing at 3mm, high point at 30% with a slight(0.8mm) upsweep at the leading edge and a double taper merging into the ply wingtips. All combined to a clean, nice looking wing that looked the goods.

The rest of the model is pretty straight forward. I used a 3.5mm tapered boom from Len Surtees, don't forget the 1 degree Angle of Attack. Tail tilt is equal to the inner panel dihedral. Finish in your favourite technique, for me I used 3 coats of non tautening dope and micro balloons sanding between each coat.

Trimming was pretty straight forward, test glide until happy and then let her rip. With a few minor tweaks here and there I found my launch angle at about 60 degrees with slight right bank at full stretch. With a large sweeping climb transitioning into the glide super high. Trimming in dead calm at Richmond showed real promise, then at the HVC it handled the turbulent conditions really well, to come out victorious with some impressive flights.

Do yourself a favour and add a Yella Jacket CLG to your collection.

Michael Towell



48TH ANNUAL
AFFS
CHAMPIONSHIPS

**OPEN F1 INTERNATIONAL
WORLD CUP EVENTS**

NARRANDERA
NSW
AUSTRALIA

**AFFS CHAMPIONSHIP
WIDGIEWA CUP
SOUTHERN CROSS CUP**

APRIL 26TH TO MAY 3RD

2026

ALSO OPEN POWER, RUBBER - COMBINED
VINTAGE, %, F1GHJ - P30 - E36 - HLG & CLG
+1 HOUR POWER SCRAMBLE
TO BE HELD AT WEST WYALONG AFTER AFFS F1 EVENTS

3 X FAI WORLD CUP
EVENTS!





48th Australian Free Flight Society Championships and Widgiewa Cup Narrandera & West Wyalong 2026



Widgiewa Cup (World Cup Event) Venue: Narrandera

Sunday 26 th April	F1A/F1B/F1C	5 x 1 hour rounds	0800-1300
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AFFS Championships (World Cup Event) Venue: Narrandera

Monday 27 th April	F1A/F1B/F1C	5 x 1 hour rounds	0800-1300
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Tuesday 28 th April	Reserve Day	F/O day for AFFS & Widgiewa	0700-0900
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Evening AFFS AGM	Narrandera Club	1900	
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Southern Cross Cup (World Cup Event) (NSWFFS) Venue: Narrandera

Wednesday 29 th April	F1A/F1B/F1C	5 x 1 hour rounds	0800-1300
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Thursday 30 th April	F/O morning for Southern Cross Cup		0700-0800
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Moving Day to West Wyalong

West Wyalong Competitions Start, Venue: West Wyalong

Friday 1 st May	Combined Vintage	3 flights no rounds	0800-1300
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	E36	3 flights no rounds	0800-1300
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	P30	3 flights no rounds	0800-1300
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Saturday 2 nd May	Combined F1G/F1H/F1J	5 x 1hour rounds	0800-1300
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	Combined %	3 flights no rounds	0800-1300
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	Scramble	1 hour Scramble	1600-1700
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Sunday 3 rd May	Open Power	3 x flights no rounds	0800-1300
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	Open Rubber	3 x flights no rounds	0800-1300
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	Combined HLG/TLG		0800-1300
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	CLG		0800-1300
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Evening Presentation Dinner	1800		
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Venue: NSWFFS West Wyalong Farmhouse



48th Australian Free Flight Society Championships and Widgiewa Cup Narrandera & West Wyalong 2026



General Notes

- 1) Smoking on the field is not allowed. If you smoke in a car the doors must be closed.
- 2) Daily compulsory event briefings will be held before commencement of competition flying.
- 3A) Motorised retrieval, To be Determined Narrandera flying site location, Strict adherence to the CDs daily decisions regarding retrieval must be adhered to.
- 3B) Motorised retrieval, West Wyalong flying site location is allowed (car, motorcycle, electric bicycle) Any additional instructions from the NSWFFS must be adhered to.
- 4) Combined F1G, F1H & F1J First round will be "High Time" NOTE (6 min max first round only. NB time above 2 min max will only be used to resolve ties)
- 5) F1A, F1B & F1C First round max will be 4 minutes. (Weather permitting)
- 6) Flyoffs for F1A, F1B & F1C will be 10-minute duration.
- 7) FAI events will be flown from a flight line in 5 x 1-hour rounds, please assist by volunteering to time keep other competitors (AFFS does not provide dedicated timekeepers)
- 8) Gliders otherwise conforming to the F1H/A1 rules will be allowed in F1H at any weight provided they are fitted with a non-latchable towhook.
- 9) Old style F1J/Class 1 Power models – restricted to plain bearing motors of less than 1cc and no moving surfaces except DT will be allowed an 8 second motor run in F1J (bring out your Mini Weavers and ½A Vikings).
- 10) COMBINED VINTAGE, first flight will be "High Time" & must be launched before 0830 (6 min max first round only, NB time above 3 min max will only be used to resolve ties) Entry in more than 1 class allowed however only 1 (best) score to count for AFFS Champion. Note that the vintage cut-off date is 1956. Vintage classes get bonus points (2 per year pre-1956) as per MAAA rules 2009.
- 11) Open Power & Open Rubber, first flight will be "High Time" & must be launched before 0830 (6 min max first round only, NB time above 3 min max will only be used to resolve ties)
- 12) COMBINED % is 3 flights no rounds. FAI models are excluded from entry in combined %, Score is the percentage of the max for that class. HLG and CLG are allowed but are only allowed 3 flights (i.e., no discards) Two attempts are permitted for each flight (a 20 second attempt rule applies).
- 13) HLG/DLG are combined into one event. Only 1 set of scores allowed per competitor, all flights from the box marked by 4 cones.
- 14) Radio Dethermalization (RDT) is allowed in all events.
- 15) All Competitors must be in possession of a current MAAA/FAI Licence.
- 16) PLACEGETTERS models, lines, motors etc may be processed. There will be spot checks and check timekeeping on the field.



48th Annual Australian Free Flight Society Championships
 Incl. World Cup – Open International for F1A, F1B, F1C
 Narrandera & West Wyalong from 26th April to 3rd May 2026



ENTRY FORM

NAME: AUS No..... FAI ID.....

ADDRESS: AGE (If junior)

.....

PHONE EMAIL.....

	EVENT	F1A	F1B	F1C	TICK
1	Widgiewa Cup 2026 (FAI World Cup Event) Narrandera	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2	AFFS Championships 2026 (FAI World Cup Event) Narrandera	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3	Southern Cross Cup 2026 (FAI World Cup Event) Narrandera	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4	P30				<input type="checkbox"/>
5	E36				<input type="checkbox"/>
6	COMBINED %				<input type="checkbox"/>
7	COMBINED F1G, F1H, F1J				<input type="checkbox"/>
8	COMBINED Vintage				<input type="checkbox"/>
9	COMBINED Outdoor HLG & DLG				<input type="checkbox"/>
10	Outdoor CLG				<input type="checkbox"/>
11	Open Power				<input type="checkbox"/>
12	Open Rubber				<input type="checkbox"/>
13	Scramble				<input type="checkbox"/>

FEE CALCULATOR (There are no fees for Juniors)

WIDGIEWA CUP (FAI WORLD CUP EVENT) Narrandera	\$30	
AFFS CHAMPIONSHIPS (FAI WORLD CUP EVENT) Narrandera	\$30	
SOUTHERN CROSS CUP (FAI WORLD CUP EVENT) Narrandera	\$30	
AFFS EVENTS ONLY, (Non-FAI events, Any number) West Wyalong	\$35	
CONTEST DIRECTOR LEVY, (Payable by FAI contestants Narrandera only)	\$25	
PRESENTATION DINNER, (West Wyalong farmhouse Sunday 3 rd May)	\$25	
AFFS MEMBERSHIP (includes electronic FFDU via email)	\$10	
FFDU HARD COPY (sent by post - requires AFFS MEMBERSHIP above)	\$25	
TOTAL FEE	\$	

PLEASE SUBMIT ENTRIES BY 14 MARCH 2026

Completed entry form emailed to: vinmorgan2@gmail.com

Bank transfer details: Name: Australian Free Flight Society

BSB: 033 174

A/C 331732

Payment reference required giving **Name and Amount Paid.**

Overseas entrants may pay on arrival but please email entry form by 14th March 2026 to confirm entry.



AUSTRALIAN FREE FLIGHT SOCIETY Inc

FREE FLIGHT DOWN UNDER SUBSCRIPTION OR
AFFS MEMBERSHIP IN AUSTRALIA

Renewals: Go to **Payment** details, unless you have Contact Detail or FFDU subscription changes.

New Members: Fill out your **Contact Details**, then complete **Option A or B**.

If you only wish to subscribe to receive Free Flight Down Under, complete Option A.

If you wish to join the AFFS and receive FFDU in your membership, complete Option B.

CONTACT DETAILS:

Name:	<input type="text"/>		
Address:	<input type="text"/>		
Mobile:	<input type="text"/>	Email:	<input type="text"/>
Date:	<input type="text" value=" / /"/>		

Now choose one of the following options – NOTE: FFDU is distributed electronically. A posted paper copy of FFDU costs an additional \$25 pa.

Option A I wish to receive the electronic version of “Free Flight Down Under” \$10

I wish to receive the printed version of “Free Flight Down Under” \$25

Now go to the Payment section.

Option B I wish to become a member of the AFFS. \$10

(You will receive an electronic version of FFDU as part of your membership)

I wish to become a member of the AFFS & receive a printed version of FFDU \$35

Option B applicants, must fill out declaration below:

I hereby apply to become a member of the AFFS. Upon acceptance of my application, I agree to be bound by the rules of the association for the time being in force. I declare that I am a financial member of a club recognised by the MAAA.

MAAA number:	<input type="text"/>	FAI number:	<input type="text"/>
Signed:	<input type="text"/>	Date:	<input type="text" value=" / /"/>

Payment: Annual Subscription OR Annual Membership Fee: \$10.00 (1 January to 31 December) plus \$25 if you elect to also receive a printed version of FFDU.

Send the completed form to:

Vin Morgan

Vinmorgan2@gmail.com

Payment by electronic transfer only to
Australian Free Flight Society inc

BSB: 033 174

Account No.: 331732

Reference: insert Your name



NSW FREE FLIGHT CONTEST CALENDER 2026 V1

Date	Event	Venue	Time	CD
January 11	½ Scramble and Combined % BBQ – BYO food	Richmond	7:00am – 12:00pm	Roy Summersby
January 16	General Meeting	Dundas Sports	7:30pm	
February 8	P30 State champs and Combined Vintage	Richmond	7:00am – 12:00pm	Peter Scott
February 22	Unorthodox Day and Scale Rally BBQ – BYO food	Richmond	8:00am -12:00pm	Michael Towell
March 7 - 8	Hunter Valley Championships CL & FF	Muswellbrook	See program	See program
March 15	1 hr Scramble State Champs and Combined % BBQ – BYO food	Richmond	7:00am – 12:00pm	Roy Summersby
March 27	General Meeting	Dundas Sports	7:30pm	
April 12	E36 State Champs and Combined Vintage	Richmond	7:00am – 12:00pm	Michael Towell
April 26 - 30	AFFS Champs + Widgiewa Cup (World Cup Events) + Southern Cross Cup for F1A, B and C	Narrandera	See program	See program
May 1 - 3	AFFS continued at WW – 1 st Combined Vintage, E36, P30 – 2 nd F1 G, H, J, % & Scramble – 3 rd Open Power, Open Rubber, HLG, TLG & CLG – See FFDU - Evening Presentation Dinner	West Wyalong	See program	See program
May 16 - 17	Muswellbrook Veterans Gathering	Muswellbrook	See program	See program
May 22	General Meeting	Dundas Sports	7:30pm	
May 30 – June 1	F1ABC State champs + Open Rubber/Power State Champs + Victorian State Champs for F1ABC	West Wyalong	See program	See program
June 14	Combined F1G, H and J State champs and Combined %	Richmond	7:00am – 12:00pm	Gary Pope
July 3 - 5	Trans Tasman Scale Rally + CL Scale (Fri to Sun) + 1 hr Scramble and Fun Fly BBQ – BYO food	Richmond	7:00am -12:00pm	Phil Warren Michael Towell
July 17	General Meeting	Dundas Sports	7:30pm	
July 25 - 26	Mid Winter Mini Maxout 2min max models (5 flights per day)	West Wyalong	See program	See Program
August 9	Combined Vintage State Champs & Combined %	Richmond	7:00am – 12:00pm	Gary Goodwin
August 29-30	Cowra Oily Hand Weekend	Cowra MAC	See program	See program
September 6	½ hr Scramble and Scale Rally BBQ – BYO food	Richmond	7:00am – 12:00pm	Roy Summersby
September 18	General Meeting & AGM	Dundas Sports	7:30pm	
September 27	HLG/CLG State champs and Combined Vintage	Richmond	7:00am – 12:00pm	Nat Beckett
October 11	Ebenezer Day and George Fuller Event BBQ – BYO Food	Richmond	7:00am – 12:00pm	Michael Towell
October 23 - 29	75 th Free Flight Nationals	West Wyalong	See program	See program
November 8	Precision Power (sport models)	Richmond	7:00am – 12:00pm	Nat Beckett
November 20	General Meeting	Dundas Sports	7:30pm	
November 21	Presentation Dinner	See invite	5pm	
November 27	Friday Xmas Party	Richmond	7:00am-12:00pm	Michael - Lyn
December 6	½ hr Scramble + Christmas Party BBQ – BYO Food	Richmond	7:00am-12:00pm	Michael Towell

*** NOTE: ALL SCRAMBLES START AT 8:00AM ***