

MAAA recognises Henry Hutchinson for his 45+ years service to the aeromodelling fraternity - and he's still going strong

Article by Joe Finocchiaro



Photo: From left, VMAA President (and representing the MAAA) Reeve Marsh with Henry Hutchinson and Victorian Precision Aerobatics (VPA) President, Fernando Monge.

The VMAA has in the past travelled to clubs either to catch up with the club membership, discuss areas of concern and perhaps provide guidance on various issues that affect the clubs. Interaction with local councils or a better way to do business are always key talking points.

The VMAA Committee takes these opportunities willingly so club members can put faces to our organisation, enabling them to communicate in person over informal meetings. At times these meetings can have a dual purpose. This particular day was a prime example whereby VMAA representatives were able to acknowledge a club member who has donated a considerable amount of time to his discipline over many decades.

On Saturday, 4 December 2021, the VMAA had one such occasion to present an MAAA Service Award to Henry Hutchinson. Henry's contributions over many years to precision aerobatics started back in 1975. Prior to the MAAA Conference in May 2021, the nomination of Henry, noting his history, was submitted to be considered for a service award for his contribution to the sport and our great hobby. The MAAA Executive, after examining the submission, voted unanimously in favour of the award. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19 and the accompanying lockdowns, it was not until December when the opportunity came up to present this prestigious award. *(Continued on next page.)*

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On this fine day the VPA was holding its second competition after the lockdowns had lifted and like many of our day to day disciplines, getting back to some normality at the flying field was a long time coming. At the event, held at the [SWAMPS](#) field, there were over 20 pilots in attendance, all wanting to compete in several aerobatic categories. It was so pleasing to see some competition happening again. To make the event even better, Henry had no idea of his award presentation, which was arranged by VPA President, Fernando Monge.

For the VMAA, the day's outcome was gratifying and rewarding for Reeve and myself to see Henry accepting the award in the presence of his peers and the grateful recipients of his efforts. With a tear in his eye, Henry was speechless, as a round of applause broke out with shouts of, "Well done," coming from the assembled crowd.



VMAA President, Reeve Marsh pictured presenting Henry Hutchinson with his 'MAAA Service Award' for services to aeromodelling. The surprise presentation was given at the South West Amalgamated Model Plane Society (SWAMPS) field on Saturday, 4 December.

I'm sure Henry will place his medallion in a prime position at his home for all to see and as he approaches the young age of 83, he shows no sign of slowing down or giving the sport away.

Well done and congratulations Henry for being who you are and doing what you love for so many years. The discipline, sport, VMAA and MAAA acknowledge the contribution and dedication you have shown to your peers and other like-minded modellers.



Henry, seen here pictured with his 'Cyclone' aerobatic model. Approaching 83 in January, Henry is still mixing it with his competitors and he still has a passion for the sport. Remarkably he's been the Contest Director of the VPA since its inception.

- VMAA Secretary Report -

by Joe Finocchiaro

I'm sure none of us will miss 2021 for what it brought us or more importantly what it did not. As the borders open up and restrictions ease, we see ourselves once again looking at a new threat, that being the Omicron variant of the current virus. I hope this new threat can be contained or at least managed, so we can get on with our lives and enjoy our sport once again. Irrespective of the discipline we need to maintain, it is always great to catch up and enjoy the camaraderie we have missed.

It was great to attend some aero events in recent times, now that we're able to get out and about. I'm sure there were many pilots who just enjoyed being outside and being with friends. The VMAA has attended a couple of events, one being a presentation to Henry Hutchison with the MAAA Service Award. It was indeed a pleasure to acknowledge a dedicated member of over 45 years service to the aeromodelling fraternity. Great effort.

New VMAA Appointments

We welcome Keith Quigg (P&DARCS club) as the new VMAA Contest Director. Keith is keen to provide continuity with the VMAA Trophy and any other events that the VMAA is involved with. If you have an event that needs to go into the calendar, please send it on through so that Keith can include it and spread the word on what events are being held. The intent of the calendar is not only to inform but to provide a heads-up to see what other clubs are doing and to reduce any conflicting events scheduled in the [calendar](#).

We now have a new newsletter editor with Ian Cole taking on the role. Ian is very keen to get the newsletter out and keep us abreast of what is happening in our great association. If you have any photos from a club or display/event or something that is special and you want to share it with the rest of the association, send it through to Ian and he will try and include your article. I hope you enjoy the bulletin, as Ian will include his flavour of the edition. Remember, the bulletin is there for you to make use of and promote an event or tell others of events you've recently held. Articles and photos are always welcome.

We also welcome Phil Mohr (BRAG club) who has taken up the position of VMAA Ordinary Member. Phil brings an array of views to the table, as the BRAG club is regional. It will certainly be a bonus to have a voice from country areas and for Phil to present ideas and views from a different perspective.

Heavy Model Inspectors

The VMAA listing on the website has been updated after the successful audit that was held early this year. There are some additions to complete the list but we now have new State Giant Model Inspectors (SGMI) to fill the gap that the State Heavy Model Inspectors (SHMI) had identified. There is an MAAA review of the HMI Manual of Procedures (MOPs) currently underway, so watch this space. The review is well-overdue and needed to be modernised. New technology is also being used in order to keep up with the times.

Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) Communications

Clubs are requested not to contact CASA directly seeing as the MAAA is the Approved Self Administering Organisation (ASAO) recognised by CASA. All clubs should direct any CASA enquiries to the VMAA Secretary in the first instance. If your query cannot be answered at the State level, the VMAA Secretary will communicate with the Federal Secretary. In most instances, CASA will direct you back to MAAA.

Flying Area Approvals

We're now catching up with area approvals and hope to see an online tool developed for the next 5-year cycle period. The application is intended to make things easier when you need to apply for an area approval at the end of the 5-year cycle period. This will certainly make life easier for all involved.

Summing Up

Thank you to all those members who responded and submitted the survey. It is much appreciated.

I would personally like to welcome our latest VMAA Committee Members to the Committee of Management. I hope you find your tenure interesting and you'll support the association in what it represents and provides to our member clubs. We all hope 2022 will allow us to enjoy what we love and get out and about with friends. The only way is up. See you on the other side.

Regards, Joe.



P&DARCS

Pakenham and District Aircraft Radio Control Society



Monty Tyrrell Memorial Scale Rally Sunday 27 March 2022

Field Location: Wenn Rd. Cardinia (50km East of Melbourne)



**All Scale Aircraft welcome be they ARF, kit built or scratch built.
Just come along for a great day's flying.**

**P&DARCS has excellent facilities, including long and wide grass runways and several
12 and 240 volt electric charging stations.**

- Covid-19 Rules apply. Check the website for updates
- Flying starts at 9am
- Excellent Trophies & Prizes
- No documentation required - just fly and have fun
- Bring lots of aircraft, any size any type, as long as it is scale
- MAAA cards and Model permits must be sighted
- There may be no catering due to Covid-19 restrictions

Check the website for further information.

P&DARCS Home Page OR P&DARCS Monty's Page

Come along for a great day's flying at a great field.

\$5 per car entry/registration fee for pilots and spectators.

- Mangalore Jets -

12 December 2021

Article by Joe Finocchiaro - Photos by Melisa Law



It is fantastic to see events coming back onto the VMAA Calendar of Events, now that COVID-19 restrictions have eased. It has been a long time since our skies have graced the presence of model aircraft, along with their pilots and families who enjoyed the outdoors.

This event was one of a number of jet events planned for next year. Mangalore and Wangaratta airports should set the scene for a good turnout of pilots, as well as the many spectators who enjoy the jets. There have also been some new models taking to the skies during the prolonged lockdowns - with the opportunity for building.

David Law was flying his Raptor 22, providing an awesome sight and by all accounts it flies very well from the sticks. I am sure we'll see more of the Raptor in future events. There have been some new model offerings from manufacturers but availability and delays in delivery certainly makes things challenging as the world tries to catch up with post COVID-19, if there is such a thing.

The weather was overcast for most of the day but it did not stop the pilots from getting up into the yonder and having a good time burning fuel. It was also an opportune time for model inspections to be completed for certification with the HMIs kept busy. Prior arrangements were made so no surprises were encountered. Many inspectors, if available, will provide this service but prior arrangements make the task so much easier for inspections to be completed in a relaxed manner. We need to remember, HMIs also enjoy model flying and they need their space and time to also have a fly. *(Continued on next page.)*



Left, a Lockheed Martin F-22 Raptor stands at the ready for another mission, while a Fairchild Republic (now a part of the Northrop Grumman Corporation) A-10 Thunderbolt, affectionately know as the 'Warthog' for its aggressive look and often painted with teeth on the nose cone, waits for its next flight.

- Mangalore Jets -



(Continued from previous page.) Digressing. I am sure most of us will be happy to say goodbye to 2021 due to the COVID-19 crisis impacting us now and for some time to come. We're heading in the right direction as our freedom is more forthcoming and people once again are able move around freely to finally catch up with life.

As we come to the end of 2021, we still need to be vigilant and not let our guard down. I would like to think that 2022 will be the start of good things to come. The [VMAA Calendar Of Events](#) is there to be made use of by all of the members. It provides a free means of letting club members know about upcoming aeromodelling events and a means by which organisers can plan ahead so as to not clash with each other's events.

We now have new members on the VMAA Committee who are dedicated to certain tasks. Please make use of them to your advantage, as we all have our great sport at heart. 'Try and fly days' need to be programmed to get the word out and let the community know that we are back and ready to rock.



- ASAA (IMAC) Competition -

Australian Scale Aerobatics Association (International Miniature Aerobatic Club)

Hosted by the Echuca Moama Model Aero Club (EMMAC) at the State Field on 20 to 21 November 2021

Article by Joe Finocchiaro

The IMAC crew was one of the first to set a target for the first competition, post COVID-19 restrictions. The lead up to this two-day event was dampened in trying to confirm current COVID-19 restrictions and what could be allowed. Fortunately, as the scheduled date crept closer, Victoria reached certain targets, which allowed for several restrictions to be eased. If you thought new guidelines were going to be easy, then think again.

Trying to get some form of guidance required reading multiple documents in conjunction with other related issues. The determination was left with far too many alternatives and determinations based on how these documents were interpreted. The intent of any guidance offered was to support the clubs and any competitions scheduled across the State for the Special Interest Groups (SIGs).



Eventually some restrictions were eased with the Echuca club able to move forward and set up new rules to take into account all matters concerned. This was a great outcome for the club and the IMAC group, which held its event over two days and boasted an excellent turnout of about 20 pilots who competed in a number of categories. Flying commenced on Friday, as the competitors arrived and began practising for the weekend.

No doubt it was fantastic to see so many pilots competing but it was also fantastic to see juniors taking part in the event. We all know juniors are the lifeline of any club or SIG. The IMAC Committee and members, led by Michael Andrysik, has achieved excellent results when it comes to juniors and increasing their ranks. It was also fantastic to see one of these keen juniors, Cameron Sexton, taking first place in his inaugural IMAC competition. Great job and no doubt there will be plenty more to come from Cameron and other juniors.

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Above: First timer to aerobatics,

Cameron Sexton who won his section. Not bad young fella. Hopefully this might encourage other juniors to take part.

Left: Mark Sills with President of the ASAA, Michael Andrysik (right) who took out a place. Michael is a dedicated pilot who helped organise the event along with his Committee. Well done.

LATE INCLUSION: ASAA versus IMAC? As your new VMAA Editor and one who isn't familiar with this facet of aeromodeling, I found it quite confusing when editing this article as to where the ASAA and the IMAC fit in with each other. I expect many of the readers might feel the same way. So I asked for clarification to shed some light on these two groups and received the following:

The ASAA is a Special Interest Group which operates nationally and follows the same rules as the IMAC worldwide. The ASAA has contest directors in each State to assist with the organising and running of events. In the next edition I'll elaborate in detail how and where these groups operate Australia wide. Ian.

- ASAA (IMAC) Competition -

Australian Scale Aerobatics Association (International Miniature Aerobatic Club)

Hosted by the Echuca Moama Model Aero Club (EMMAC) at the State Field on 20 to 21 November 2021

(Continued from previous page.) To help with the event, the weather for most of the weekend was good with plenty of flying taking place over three days. Once again, the EMMAC host looked after all the competitors and visitors within the restrictions permitted. The EMMAC members are a friendly bunch and they made everyone welcome to the field. Well done to the Committee and members in ensuring the event was a success.

VMAA Committee Member, Mark Sills was on tap to present the awards to the winners and place-getters. His son, Riley Sills once again flew very well with a Laser 104. Congratulations to all the competitors for taking part and making the event a success. The Australian Scale Aerobatics Association's (ASAA's) International Miniature Aerobatics Club (IMAC) group is very pro-active with events and it has a Calendar of Events that can be found on its website. Click [here](#) to go to the ASAA's website.

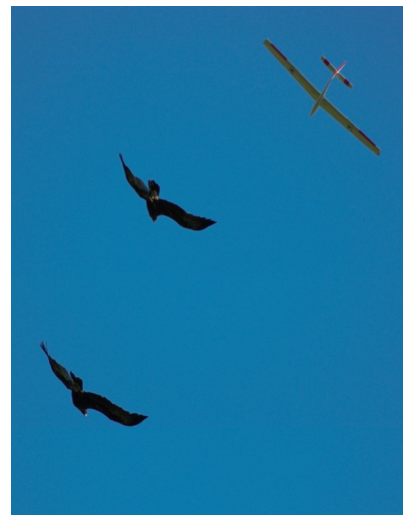
The next event will be at Northern Flying Group in February 2022. Why not go along and have a look or better still, take part and be part of the competition? The IMAC guys will be happy to share their experiences and discuss what you need to get started in scale aerobatics. More place-getters below from the event.



- Slope Soaring -

Article by Ian Cole

I wonder how many aeromodellers have not yet tried their hand at slope soaring? If you haven't then you're missing out on something special. We have some fabulous slopes in and around Victoria at which to fly, although in recent times some of these venues have been closed off. The Victorian Government's Biodiversity Scheme, whereby some farmers reluctantly have had to close their paddocks to outsiders, is a great loss. Mount Hollowback, Bald Hills, about a 20-minute drive north of Ballarat, has been one of Australia's most popular slope venues for over six decades due to its unique all round wind direction for flying. Unfortunately, an upgrade to the massive onsite communication towers allegedly has seen many gliders get shot down and as a result to continue to fly there risks losing your model. [VARMS](#) sent some chaps up there in 2019 with specialised electronic equipment. They reported back with the grim news that some radio interference was detected on both the 2.4G band and to a lesser extent the 36MHz band. Effectively this is like losing a State flying field. Nevertheless, there are other safe venues in Victoria for some enjoyable flying.



One of the biggest dilemmas in days gone by was the issue of driving long distances to a venue only to find that the predicted wind did not arrive or was much less than expected. In the early days, few if any fliers took electric powered gliders to the slope. However, nowadays with more efficient brushless electric motors and lightweight lithium-polymer (LiPo) batteries, most pilots will pack an electric glider when heading to the slope. This does not mean that you necessarily have to fly with the motor constantly on. It simply means that if the wind drops off or is fickle throughout the day, some quality flying time can still be had, rather than having wasted a whole day's outing.

Unlike coastal slopes, inland slopes usually have a hidden danger that can strike at any time. It's called 'sink'. This is when a cold front suddenly comes through and can suck your glider from a few hundred metres high to ground level in an instant. If you're lucky, skilful or both, you may be able to fly out of the sink into lift. Whereas with an electric glider you can fly out of trouble with ease thus avoiding a possible disaster.

Sadly, not much competition is happening nowadays but in the latter half of the 20th Century a dozen or so fliers would drive to a slope venue once a month for some fun flying or friendly competition. It would be great to see some chaps once again flying regularly together on the slopes. I invite my fellow flat field fliers to come and have a go at slope soaring. This time of year is ideal for flying along the southern end of the Mornington Peninsula or along the Bass Coast, due to the regular southerly winds that frequent the summer period. If you would like to try your hand at slope soaring give me a call one day and I'll take you for a fly. If you don't have your own glider I have gliders available. If you are new to aeromodelling I also have a slave transmitter that can be connected to a master transmitter for teaching; we call this the 'buddy system'. Some fun competitions are on offer if enough fliers are interested. Here's a link to a recent video on slope soaring that I produced earlier in the year. Click [here](#) and enjoy. For more information click [here](#) to go to the website.

Ian Cole
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Above: You never know what you might come across on the slopes. Mum and dad Wedge-tailed eagles happily flying in unison at Kilcunda. But don't get them angry - my Ricochet has the scars to prove it. **Below:** Blast from the past. 2009 Victorian Aerobatics Championship at Mt Hollowback.



- FUTURE INSTRUCTOR'S COURSES -

Report from your State Flying Instructor

Hi Members,

As a result of an MAAA direction in 2019, all current MAAA Instructors were required to attend an Instructor's Re-qualification Course by Wednesday, 30 June 2021 if they wished to keep their qualification. This need for re-qualification is a Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) requirement that will occur every 5 years for current and future instructors. Our current State numbers are made up from 143 re-qualified and 9 newly appointed instructors. This represents a realistic number that in most instances covers our current needs.

Attaining the qualification of being an MAAA Instructor is one that is held in high esteem throughout Australia. However, it also comes with responsibilities. The most important of which is that you are prepared to train and mentor your fellow club members on safe flying practices and the promoting of the MAAA Wings Scheme, which can be found in the MAAA MOP027.

Instead of me advertising for instructor course expressions of interests in the VMAA Bulletin twice a year, my approach will be as follows:

Club committees are asked to recognise and point out that they have a genuine need for new instructors to enable them to continue with the MAAA Wings Scheme. It is then up to each committee to nominate their members who are desirous of attending the training course to become an instructor;

1. Who currently holds a Gold Wings rating and;
2. Who are currently and actively performing flight training of new members as a club-approved instructor at his or her club.
3. As some prospective applicants will have attained their Gold Wings ratings many years ago, all course participants will be required to perform a selection of Gold Wings manoeuvres nominated by me, using their own model to demonstrate that they are currently flying at Gold Wings level.
4. All applicants need to have good communication skills and have the temperament required for the position.

Club committees can nominate suitable candidates at any time, so I encourage clubs or prospective instructors to contact me by phone to discuss their individual circumstances if they wish to nominate for the course, seek clarification on the course content or any other related matters.



Les Marriner - VMAA State Flying Instructor
Australian Number 20536
0401 622 613
sfi@vmaa.com.au



- Instructors Course processed 6 November 2021 -

Surname	First Name	AUS Number	Club	Rating
STEFURAK	Peter	24775	MMAA Melton Model Aircraft Association	MAAA Instructor
TAYLOR	Foster	38606	CMAC Corangamite Model Aircraft Club	MAAA Instructor
CRISP	Alan	31395	BRMFC Ballarat Radio Model Flying Club	MAAA Instructor
SILLS	Mark	41179	NFG Northern Flying Group	MAAA Instructor
SILLS	Riley	72356	NFG Northern Flying Group	MAAA Instructor



The VMAA President, Reeve Marsh and the rest of the Committee would like to wish all of our aeromodelling members and families a very Merry Christmas, a fantastic festive season and a Happy New Year. If you are going on holidays around our great country, please be safe, fly safe and enjoy our fantastic sport.

***** CHEERS *****

- Wings processed in October 2021 -

Surname	First Name	AUS Number	Club	Rating
GUINNESS	Michael	74477	TCMAC Twin Cites Model Aero Club	Gold Power
MITCHELL	Philip	88459	TCMAC Twin Cites Model Aero Club	Silver Power
WIJEMANNE	Ras	34019	KDMAS Keilor and Districts Model Aircraft Society	Silver Power
WEST	Luke	88325	YVA Yarra Valley Aeromodellers	Bronze Power

- Wings processed in November 2021 -

CREGEEN	James	87185	PARCS Peninsula Aeronautical Radio Control Society	Silver Power
CLUSKER	Ian	88225	BRCAC Bendigo Radio Control Aircraft Club	Silver Power
LEHMAN	Peter	87941	CMAC Corangamite Model Aircraft Club	Silver Power
GRAY	Alan	85911	CMAC Corangamite Model Aircraft Club	Silver Power

Fees for Financial Year 2021/2022 as from 01 August 2021

Full Year Membership for Seniors and Juniors are:

	MAAA	VMAA	Total
Seniors	\$90	\$54	= \$144
Juniors	\$45	\$27	= \$ 72

For half year membership details starting 01 January click [here](#) to go to the VMAA website:

MAAA Latest Newsletters

The MAAA Newsletter brings you information on a number of areas at the National Level. This includes reports from the Committee and contact details, Manual of Procedures (MOPs), National and International event/competition dates and reports on the said events.

Click [here](#) for further information.

From the VMAA Contest Director

To all Club Secretaries and Special Interest Groups (SIGs). If you wish to have your event advertised, send an email with your associated flyer to the address below.

contestdirector@vmaa.com.au

The Calendar of Events is updated regularly and provides a heads-up on the goings-on throughout our great association.

When possible, your flyer will be placed in the VMAA bulletin to get the word out. The members who can get their dates organised and uploaded quickly are likely to get the best response.

VMAA Trophy 2022

Why not get a group together from your club and enter? One flier from a VMAA affiliated club, other than your own, can join your group. Each flier can enter two events. Flown over two days, the VMAA Trophy includes combat, helicopter, scale aerobatics, drone limbo, fun scale, fun fly, bomb drop, electric glider, sports limbo, limbo obstacle and musical landings. Check for updates in the [VMAA Calendar Of Events](#).



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Contact the CD to submit Calendar of Events dates.

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Contact the Secretary to organise a presentation by the VMAA on aeromodelling. We welcome inquiries from groups the like of scouts, cadets, schools or any group with a general interest in aviation.

Ivan Chiselett

DVD Librarian

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videolibrarian@vmaa.com.au

The VMAA DVD Library has one of the best collections of aircraft stories, model building and modelling techniques.

Meetings are held via Zoom Video Conferencing on the second Thursday of each month, except for January.