

VMAA Trophy Weekend

13 to 15 April 2018

Congratulations to P&DARCS for winning the VMAA Trophy Weekend. This is the third time the Club has taken out the VMAA Trophy. Well done



The winning team. (Back row). David Chivers, Rolly Gaumann, Allen Foley and Glen Orchard (Front Row). Cliff McIver, Peter Harris (Team Captain) Rameesha DeSilva, Chris Culcutt and Norm Morish. (Away, Steve Melcman)

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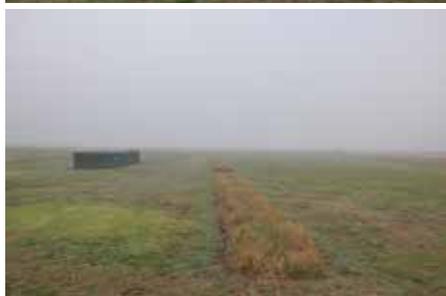
This year the VMAA Trophy was held at P&DARCS, Pakenham with the field ideally laid out with the 3 runways. This does provide some benefits with changing weather, especially wind direction. No doubt we have experience this many times at various fields.

The weather forecast for the weekend seemed promising as I sat in my motel room preparing the final bits and pieces including a final check of the electronic scoring system. This system has been developed over the past 3 years and has provided accurate and consistent results. The system also reduced the time taken to record and provide individual and overall result status of each team as events are completed. Definitely a time saver.

Saturday – 21 April

The morning started early as I left the motel room at about 6:45 am to get some breakfast and set up for the day at P&DARCS Clubroom. On leaving the motel room I did notice a bit of fog but did not think much of it. As I turned onto Cardinia road it became thicker and all of a sudden pea soup was the order of the day. You will see from the photos it was thick but the competition is designed to be flexible

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The mornings started with a fog, but soon cleared to reveal a beautiful day, while Peter Harrison raise the flags below



The fog did not stop the Heli event from going ahead. (Top) CD Paul Webber running the show





so we can fly suitable events if the weather does not cooperate.

On arriving to Burly Field, I was greeted by the Club Member Daniel Jenkins who was a great host as were the other Club Members over the weekend. It did not take long to set up the admin area and prepare the various items needed. Based on the weather, we started with Helicopter Timed event, followed by the Scale Aerobatics when the fog lifted at about 10:15 am. So, we were off and running knowing the weather was going to be fantastic (which it was) when the fog did decide to lift.

Ten events are scheduled over the weekend; however, 6 events are held on the Saturday with the remaining 4 on Sunday. This is so competition can be completed early afternoon with the presentation following soon after. This allows teams to make the journey home at a reasonable hour.

There were 6 teams this year, Pakenham (P&DARCS), La Trobe (LVMAC), Greensborough (GMAC), Peninsula (PARCS), Darraweit Guim (NFG) and VARMS. Greensborough entered a team for the first time I believe and achieved a great result. There were a couple of teams that did not compete this year due to the Nationals starting on Monday, 23 April. It is unfortunate as the trophy weekend had been planned for 12 months, however, the Nationals is another great venue for competition and needs to be supported as well and we wish all competitors for this competition the very best.

As the day progressed, Fun Scale, RC Combat, Thermal Glider and the Bomb Drop (which is the second year this event was conducted) were completed. There was some excellent flying with plenty of laughs, stirring and best of all, camaraderie. It was great to see so many Club Members and visitors having a good time, enjoying the sun and what was on offer. Pit area 13 (Club Members that do a little bit of talking and watching) was in full swing. So why do they sit around, have a chat and provide some vocal commentary over the day..... Because they can...

At the completion of the first day, team scores were close with P&DARCS slightly in the lead. Even though there are 10 events, only the team's best 6 event are counted out of the 10 events conducted. Junior attract additional points if they place in an event, but for the first time in a number of years, there were no juniors. A trend that I hope will change for future trophy weekends.

Sunday – 22 April

Once again, the fog had rolled in but not as bad as Saturday morning. We waited an hour or so while some pilots took the opportunity to practice and see how low the fog base was. All good though



CD Reeve Marsh preparing the popular Combat Event. Lots of fun chasing each other around the sky.. Below, pilots raising for position..



Dave Lewis and Glen Neal (LaTrobe), working hard as a team..



After a recent trailer fire, Mark Sills develops a new way of charging his batteries with a retractable arm.



Khalid Ally and Dennis Davis (PARCS) lining up for the bomb drop. Intense piloting...



Vaughan Humphreys (GMAC) preparing the Club bomber



Some interesting designs Clubs come up with in dropping their bomb..... Simple but clever.



Chris Culcutt (P&DARCS) Combat ready



The VARMS Team in action. What's this..... There own camera crew!!!!

and by 10:00 am we were back in the air with the first event of the day, the Fun Fly.

This event was reintroduced back into the competition and replaced the Old Timer event. The conditions for this event had changed slightly with the scheduled that would be flown. As the VMAA CD, it is my responsibility to ensure the rules and conditions are clear and, in the attempt, to challenge the pilots I added a change to the tasks. This did course some confusion in regards to how the tasks would be executed. This will be rectified as all events are reviewed and includes documentation.

The event is popular with pilots with some very good times achieved with the new schedule. Well done to Mick Gunn from LVMAC taking out first place. Cliff McIver P&DARCS (2nd) and Bob Stewart GMAC (3rd), were not far behind. Great effort to all Clubs that entered this event and took part.



Peter Harris preparing for the fun fly. Good skill event.



Thermal glider in action. Another popular event



The next event was the Electric Glider, another popular event with pilots going through their paces in the various tasks and is based on time once again. The Sports Limbo produced some excellent flying in the four rounds completed. David Chivers (P&DARCS) was the first pilot in this event to complete two passes inverted and obtaining double points. Colom Kahan (PARCS) was very consistent in his attempts with Wayne Lewis right on their heels with a steady approach to the task. Well done.



Below, Mani Riederich (PARCS) in action



The last event for the weekend was the Musical Landings which is fearlessly contested and were pilots go through a transformation when they are on the flight line. Once again, good pilot skills and having the right model helps to achieve the ultimate aim to be the last one standing and the model still functioning. This event will be looked at as well to increase pilot skills as it is not intended for models to be damaged but flown hard and land onto the runway with minimal or no damage at all.



By 3:00 pm the all events were completed and the final scores added up. Between first to third there was only 6 points difference which indicates how close some of the events were. At the end of the day, congratulations must go to P&DARCS for winning the VMAA Trophy for 2018 with a total of 32 points. P&DARCS has now won the event 3 times in a row, but only just... Great effort.



Brian Dowie and Ivan Chiselett doing some judging

By 4:00 pm the presentations to individual and teams was completed with the photos showing the big smiles and fun had by all. The event could not be what it is without the cooperation and assistance from the various Clubs who provided judges and officials throughout the weekend. A big thank you to all the teams, pilots and supporters who participated and made the weekend fun and challenging.





I must also thank the VMAA Committee Members assisting with events and official tasks throughout the weekend. Many things happen in the back ground to ensure the event is conducted in the best possible way with the rule and conditions laid out.

The VMAA Trophy weekend is over for another year with a review of all events and their associated rules and conditions. I have received feedback already from some of the Clubs which is great. The only way the event can improve is by constructive criticism and discussion. The ethos of the event has always been to bring Clubs together for some competition and introduce pilots to different events that require pilot skill without forgetting to have some fun and laughs along the way. I think for 2018 we managed to achieve this and as the VMAA CD, it was pleasure to conduct the event with the above elements in the forefront. I would encourage Clubs to give it a go and put a team together as any Club, big or small, can win the trophy.



LaTrobe having a break to discuss tactics



Riley Sills (NFG)., Was a junior last year but now playing with the big boys and doing well



Well done to all and hope to see you next year for another fantastic Weekend. The dates have been set already for 6th and 7th April 2019. There will be some changes to the conditions and rules to improve the events even further. These will be posted up within the next month or so. So, until then, get a team together for some fun and a bit of competition.

The only way is up....



VMAA CD Joe Finocchiaro congratulating all pilots and supports for a great weekend



VMAA CD congratulating P&DARCS Team Captain Peter Harries on another great win.

