

# *Far Cumulus (Cu)*

The Unofficial Journal of the Adelaide University Gliding Club

## IN THE HEADLINES

- The surprise revelation of plans to install a **wind farm** on top of the Hummocks ridge. Naturally this will really cramp our ridge flying, so the club executive is doing what it can to prevent this from happening. See the whole story on Page 2.
- More news from around the club. Plenty of conversions have been happening of late and you need to be on the airfield to enjoy the free beers each conversion brings. See Page 3 for who has been doing what.
- Want to know what is going to happen in the near future? See Page 4 for what is going to happen and when.
- The club will be holding its 25th anniversary in February 2001. The celebrations will include a huge dinner for past and present members as well as a flying weekend for past members (present members are always at the airfield anyway aren't they...). We are looking for volunteers to help organize these events. If you are interested in helping out in any way, give Cathy Conway or Anthony Smith a call.

## STOP PRESS

**Sky Diving, November/December 00:** Matt is arranging a skydiving weekend to an Accelerated Free Fall Course at Murray Bridge. If you have ever wondered about how to use a parachute, this is your chance! We need to get a group of 8 people in order to get a group discount. Call Matt on 0412 870 963 for all of the details if you want to do a cheaper than normal jump.

## MONEY MATTERS: READ THIS!

There are a number of money matters that everyone needs to be aware of in the club.

**Club Accounts:** Your account status is printed on the address label. If the figure is in brackets, you owe the club money. If this owed amount is more than \$50, you will need to reduce this debt in the very near future. Ask Dennis about your account if you have a query.

**Club Accounts By E-Mail:** You can now get your gliding club account e-mailed to you each month. If you want to receive this FREE SERVICE you must make sure that the treasurer, Dennis Medlow: [dmedlow@adelaide.on.net](mailto:dmedlow@adelaide.on.net), has your correct e-mail address. Send him an e-mail requesting that you be put onto the club account e-mail out list.

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## THE FUTURE OF THE RIDGE?

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Over the last week the Executive Committee has been very surprised to learn that a company called Wind Concepts has plans to install up to 24 wind turbines on the ridge next to the airfield. The wind turbines would generate electricity for the local grid.

The first stage of their plan is to erect a measuring station on top of a tower just north of the large water tank to see if the ridge has the potential to be a wind farm. This is presently due to happen in the next couple of months. The station will consist of a 100 foot high tower, stabilised by guy wires. These guy wires extend some distance out to the sides of the tower and would present a significant hazard to anyone flying the ridge at that end.

If from the results of the station the ridge is considered to be economically viable, up to 24 wind turbines like those shown in the picture, could be arrayed along the crest of the ridge to generate electricity. The President and the CFI believe that these turbines would present an excessive risk to aircraft using our airfield and to those hang gliders that also use the ridge. We will also be seeking advice from CASA on their opinion on the construction of the turbines immediately adjacent



**The future for the ridge? A typical wind farm.**

Because we couldn't fly the ridge, it may make the club unviable at its present location and may even precipitate the club moving to a new location. Shutting down the airfield would certainly have an impact on the crop dusters who service the local community.

The club has spoken to Wind Concepts and explained the situation. The club is also writing to the local council seeking to delay the construction of the measuring station. We hope to arrange a meeting between Snowtown Council, Wind Concepts and the club and resolve the situation before the measuring station is built. Both council and Wind Concepts representatives will be invited up to the airfield so that they can experience themselves how any towers or wind turbines would impact our operations.

The club will seek to keep everyone informed as this situation develops.

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## DON'T MAKE RUTS IN THE RUNWAY

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If you have ever landed across the cross strips, you would understand why we don't want vehicle ruts on our runways. Please do not drive up and down the same piece of runway in exactly the same place as it will cause ruts to develop and we will be stuck with rough ground across the runways.

Drive anywhere but on the track of someone else down the runway.

## WHAT'S BEEN GOING ON!

Lots and lots of things have been happening within the club over the last month. The Bergfalke is still in the shed at West Beach for its annual inspection. However, the PIK-20 has been returned to service at Lochiel. The Blanik two-seater that we loaned from **Emilis** has been returned to Monarto. **David Hichens** has decided to return to our sunny shores after a two month working holiday in the UK and the US.



**Scott Lewis** had his 21st birthday party up at the airfield (which was probably a mistake you only make once). His parents provided a great spread of food. It was so much to the delight of the masses that Scott's parents were unanimously elected Clubhouse Catering Officers for the term of their natural lives. Afterwards Scott was introduced to the water (it was water once, honest!) in the sheep trough.



Lots of people have achieved things in the last few months. In a conversion frenzy on one day, **Mark Newton** was converted to the Arrow (already!), **Claire Clements** was converted to the Club Libelle and **Matt Fenn** was converted to the PIK-20D (I think they were just after lots of free beer that night).

Above: Anyone see where they hid the sheep trough?

Left: Scott relaxes in the sheep trough after a hard night partying.

## SO YOU WANT TO HELP AT WEST BEACH?

West Beach is where we carry out the maintenance and repair on our gliders and equipment. There are usually volunteers working down there on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday evenings. The **Bergfalke** needs lots of TLC. The airbrakes need to be fibreglassed and the paint touched up. Lots of work still to be done. The **Bocian** is still at the back being slowly rebuilt. Dave H is back, so **Winch #3** will have the gearbox fitted to the front engine and the transfer box then located and fitted.

- So you want to help fix the gliders at West Beach, but can't get there?
- You can ring Anthony on 8269 2687, E-mail: [Anthony.smith@adelaide.on.net](mailto:Anthony.smith@adelaide.on.net). He can organise a lift for those who need it. If you are **truly desperate**, his work phone is: 8393 3319.
- A lift can be available from the Adelaide University footbridge at 7.30pm by arrangement.

## SO YOU WANT TO GO FLYING THIS WEEKEND?

- You must ring the club contact person, Matt, on the Thursday before, between 8.00pm and 10:00pm, on 0412 870 963, so that he can organise instructors and transport for those intending to fly.
- A lift to Lochiel is available from the Adelaide University footbridge at 7.15am, or from the Caltex Service station on Port Wakefield road, Bolivar at 7.45am
- **Remember to phone the contact person or you could be forgotten.....**

## WHAT IS GOING TO HAPPEN SOON

### General Meeting, Wed 1 Nov 00

**Official Observer Course.** Essential briefing if you want to be an Official Observer for badge flights. We need lots of people to be OO's in the club for all the cross country flying that the people who went to the previous meeting will be doing. Presented by Cathy Conway.

6:30 pm Uni Bistro for dinner, then

7:30 pm Canon Poole Room, Adelaide Uni

### Sky Diving, November 00

Matt is arranging a skydiving weekend. If you have ever wondered about how to use a parachute, this is your chance! Huge amounts of adrenaline fueled fun!! Call Matt for details.

### X-Country Weekend, Sat/Sun 18/19 Nov 00

A dedicated weekend for all those people who want to try and go cross-country flying at Lochiel. Yep, grab your favourite aircraft and head off into the wild blue yonder, go somewhere and try to get back. Book an aircraft in advance with Matt!

### 'The Dish' Movie Night Tues 21 Nov 00

Come along and see 'The Dish' at Norwood Cinemas. The plan is to see the first session after 7:00pm. Call Anthony for further details closer to the day.

### Performance Week At Waikerie 5-15th Dec

This is a week of cross country coaching ranging from novice cross country pilots through to improving the performance of experienced pilots. MI is available to share if anybody is interested in taking it along. Contact Mandy Wilson or Andrew Wright for further details.

### Christmas Party, Sometime in December 00

Yes its time for the Gliding Club Christmas Party! Usually a BBQ evening at someones place. Who will get thrown into a pool this year? More details as soon as they are available.

### Flying Extravaganza 26 Dec-1 Jan 00

A full week of fantastic flying at your favourite flying field. Simply the best time of the year to fly, especially if you want to do some cross country tasks or just lounge around at 10,000 feet. Stay in the clubhouse all week for a cheap flying holiday this Christmas.

**25th Anniversary of AUGC Feb01.** The 25th anniversary celebrations will include a huge dinner for past and present members as well as a flying weekend for past members (present members are always at the airfield anyway aren't they...).

### Uni Gliding

If undelivered please return to  
AUGC Inc.  
c/o Sports Association  
Adelaide University, SA 5005