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Uni Gliding

February 2006

The Official Journal of the Adelaide University Gliding Club



Allan Wiseman about to land the Puchatek solo for the first time.

Photo: David Hichens

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QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"It was a gentle 4.7G"

My account of how Derek S loaded up the Puchatek in a loop. At least he thought it was funny.

Editorial

Happy New Year!

Many of our club members saw in the New Year at Waikerie and made a mess with the mandatory party poppers. The previous few days at Waikerie certainly warranted some healthy celebration; notably, the Bergfalke completed its longest flight on record of 340km piloted by Derek Spencer and James Dutschke. Waikerie was the base for many other personal achievements, including Mark Newton's Gold height gain.

Early in January I was surprised to find myself with the prospect of completing the duration test of my Silver C. I was in MI, and was encouraged by James who had converted to BVGC's Astir that day. After battling the pressure in my bladder for around two hours, I landed and recorded a flight time of five hours and 12 minutes.

James and I have both completed the requirements for the C certificate, excluding outlanding checks due to the painful absence of the Motorfalke. We have also been deemed worthy to fly without daily checks: Thanks Mark! Unfortunately I now have to kick my own butt into a glider rather than hope an instructor does it for me...

Congratulations to Arien who converted to MI, which was always on the cards for this newsletter :) Someone will have to take a photo of him soon so I can show him enjoying his flying like he obviously does. Nicole also deserves a commendation for only failing to fly solo because of a technicality. Hopefully she can become a full GFA member on returning to Australia in six months time.

A few midweek flying days were enabled during January. I don't believe these resulted in any cross-countries, but Igor achieved a mighty cross-country on a stinking hot Saturday by flying 250km (SF-Burra-WKI-SF) in the Boomerang. Congratulations and well done for staying far from a 42°C ground.

Congratulations to Allan for going solo on the same day that Franko converted to the Club Libelle. Allan's solo was after a thunderstorm had passed through, and once everyone had become de-motivated watching Futurama in the clubhouse. It was fortunate



*Franko Fonovic seems relatively pleased with his conversion to MI.
Photo: David Hichens*

that he gave himself the opportunity with his commanding "It would be nice to fly" before we all helped to pull out the Puchatek and the winch.

Currently the winch very much resembles its state when we were operating at Lochiel. Both drogue-chutes are broken and we are using the old wire weak links. Fortunately, Derek S fixed the brake problems we were having by simply tightening a spring and also proved that walking the cables regularly dramatically reduces the number of cable breaks we have to endure.

As you will note, this newsletter only contains information on the new-improved constitution and the second instalment of Greg's Strategic Planning. The Fees document has also been reviewed and can be accessed at: http://www.augc.on.net/members/docs/doc_fees_060201.pdf.

Thanks to Anthony, we should all be able to sport AUGC T-shirts for our O'Week display. Hopefully all our preparations are not in vain and we can convince a troupe of uni students to come up to Stonefield, ideally when we have towing gear for the Puchatek.

Yours truly,

Anne



An LS-3 panorama. Contact our Treasurer, Anthony, if you'd like your own print.

Photo: Justine Thompson

February 2006



Not really a February picture, but it's pretty cool. I'm in the front seat waving after one of Derek's hangar runs. Photo: David Hichens

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
		1 Airfield and Constitution Meeting	2	3	4 Go Gliding!	5 Go Gliding!
6 Help at West Beach	7 Help at West Beach	8	9	10	11 Go Gliding!	12 Go Gliding!
13 Help at West Beach	14 Help at West Beach	15 Airfield Decision Meeting, 7pm, venue TBA	16	17	18 Go Gliding!	19 Go Gliding!
20 Help at West Beach	21 Help at West Beach	22	23	24	25 Go Gliding!	26 Go Gliding!
27 SGM: Constitution. 7pm, Harry Medlin Room	28 West Beach Social BBQ Help at West Beach					

Orientation Week

Constitutional Review

Greg Newbold

You will find notification of a Special General Meeting, which is to be held soon to consider the adoption of a proposed constitution, elsewhere in this newsletter. A copy of the proposed constitution for you to review can be found at: <http://www.harley.net.au/AUGC/AUGCNewConstitutionv5.pdf>. This article has been written to help explain the review process we have undertaken and what is proposed in the constitution, in an open way.

The last time that the constitution was updated was 1992. (Incidentally, this was the year that I joined the club.) There are, in fact, a few errors that were not corrected then. There have been a number of changes to the management of the club since then that are not accurately reflected by the constitution. In addition, the club has not considered the requirements of the Incorporations Act (1985).

The club has made several attempts to update the constitution, however, as time has passed, this has become a bigger and bigger job and has fallen into the 'too hard basket'.

The review of the constitution has been undertaken now because of the desire to better manage the funds of the club. Anthony Smith, the Treasurer, found that changes he would like to implement were inhibited by the current constitution.

Recently, changes to the constitution, in particular to address the needs of the Treasurer and make other minor changes, were proposed. The proposed constitution, as a whole, was not likely to be acceptable to the Office of Consumer and Business Affairs, and would not have met the requirements of the Incorporations Act (1985). Subsequently, a thorough and more complete review has been done.

The principle references for this have been:

1. The AUGC Constitution (1992),
2. The Incorporations Act (1985),
3. A draft Rules of the Association provided by the Office of Consumer and Business Affairs, which meets the requirements of the Act,
4. A draft constitution supplied by Guy Harley, the AUGC Legal Officer, which meets the requirements of the Act, and
5. A draft constitution supplied by the Adelaide University Sports Association, which meets the requirements of the Act.

The Rules of the Association provided by the Office of Consumer and Business Affairs have been used as the basis of a new constitution. Many changes have been made to that document. These changes reflect the structure and operation of the Club, as described in the current AUGC constitution. Other changes are described below. Guy Harley has reviewed these changes, and made amendments where necessary. It was accepted at the executive meeting held on 1 February 2006. It is a requirement of the Act that changes to the constitution must be passed by a Special Resolution at an Annual or Special General Meeting and notification of the meeting and distribution of the draft constitution must be made 21 days prior to that meeting. The timing of the SGM is to enable the new constitution to apply for the forthcoming membership year. After the club has accepted any changes to the constitution, they will then need ratification by the Office of Consumer and Business Affairs.

The proposed constitution includes the following:

- ATO requirements for a not-for-profit organisation.
- The mission statement is described by the objects of the club.
- The various types of members of the club are described (Ordinary, Life and Honorary) and a social membership is added.
- Formal mechanisms for people to join and resign are described. Membership will now be terminated if a member does not renew. The means to expel a member has been added, and a means for members to appeal their expulsion.
- Description of each of the executive member's powers and their responsibilities has been copied from the existing constitution and updated to reflect current practice. Also, a way for them to resign or be evicted and the mechanism by which a replacement is appointed up until the next AGM are described.
- Election of the executive members and officers is copied from the AUSA constitution, and avoids the need for a Returning Officer.
- The conduct of executive meetings, SGMs or AGMs is more fully described (i.e. chairperson, quorum, one member one vote, rules to change the constitution, appeals, calling an SGM).
- The President is given a casting vote at executive meetings, in cases where there is an equal vote for and against a resolution.
- The concept of a Special Resolution is adopted from the Act, which is required for changes to the constitution.
- The requirements for passing Ordinary Resolutions and a means for disputes and their resolution are defined.
- Financial procedures and reporting methods are more fully described.
- Winding up of the club has been added.

Strategic Planning: Part 2

Greg Newbold

Development of a strategic question

AUGC and its members have made several attempts to develop a comprehensive strategic action plan in the recent past. Generally, these have been narrowly focused. Some were simply finding a way to justify fleet purchases. It has been suggested that a strategic plan should just be goal setting, and that we double membership of the club. These have seen the club grow, however the club is largely unchanged over the last ten years or so. Nevertheless, we did develop a mission statement during a previous strategic planning session:

“The AUGC provides flying opportunities to Adelaide University students, graduates and the wider community at an affordable cost.”

That session also constituted a SWOT analysis of the then current state of the club. In this method, a group of club members proposed what they saw as the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats to the club. We certainly identified that airfield tenure was a significant threat to the club then. It was also felt that the more rapid progression of trainees to solo and to cross-country rated could be made through the purchase of a motor glider – and so the club now has the Motorfalke – and that would help increase flying hours. It is now perhaps time to revisit the process of strategic planning and to identify a meaningful strategic question. One form of a strategic question is:

“A form of words used to stimulate a solution to a strategic problem.”

Factors that need to be considered include:

- Why is there a problem?
- What is to be achieved?
- When is it to be achieved?
- How can the problem be solved?

As mentioned above, some have previously said that the strategic question should be

“In light of decreasing membership (why) the club should double the number of members (what) in the next three years (when) by developing appropriate strategies (how)”.

Clearly this is an important question, and the executive has made marketing and development a

priority. As a result of this prioritisation the club will conduct promotional days that are intended to prioritise the flying day for prospective new members, promoting these across the university and to club members’ friends and families. If we step back one level, we might generate a different question:

“Given the opportunity to relocate (why) what would be the most advantageous airfield option for the club to adopt (what) by considering the wants and needs of the current and future club membership (how).” And it is implied that it should happen now (when).

The club is also acting on this with an assessment of the club members’ needs as part of an assessment of the airfield options available to it. In this way a balance between costs and benefits of each option as identified by the club as a whole can be made. So, can we step back one more step?

“Given the fluctuating membership, loss of grant income and costs of relocating (why) what action plans can the club develop (how) to ensure that AUGC is an established independent gliding club (what) in 10 years (when).”

You might notice that I already wrote some weaknesses and threats into the question. This is a hint that a SWOT analysis is a good starting point for the development of an action plan.

How might we proceed? We should revisit the SWOT, which we always intended to do. It is recommended that threats and opportunities be considered first (such as, “How do our prospective members see us?”), because they are external to the club and we have less control over them. Then, consideration of the weaknesses and strengths of the club provides an internal picture of the club. The next step is to develop plans, or courses of action, that can weigh internal factors against external factors. What can we do that will use our strength(s) to address a threat(s), or what opportunity might strengthen the club? These questions will most certainly require thinking “outside the box”.

Note: The outcome of the previous strategic planning sessions is documented in the newsletter archives on the AUGC web pages (Volume 26, No. 5, June 2001).

Lost and Found



Thanks to the honed lookout skills of Derek Spencer, our poor little radio that was considered AWOL has returned to the fold. Obviously this radio is a tough character as there was evidence that it had been run over, quite apart from the neglect and rain it had to suffer at the end of RWY 29 for a few months. Unfortunately, yet another important item has gone missing: one of our beautifully made AUGC sandbags (right). If you know of its whereabouts or took it to a competition but can’t remember taking it home, let Justine Thompson know.



Stay In Touch

The club has an email group address, augc-people@lists.internode.on.net, that is used to either discuss or arrange things within the club. If you want to stay in touch with the club, subscribe to the mailing list by filling out the online form at:

<http://lists.internode.on.net/mailman/listinfo/augc-people>

You can still send an email to the list even if you have not subscribed to it. There is also an 'augc-announce' list for official club announcements, courtesy of our friends at Internode. If you are an AUGC member and have provided your email address then you will already be on this list. If you want to join this list or want to change your subscription, go to:

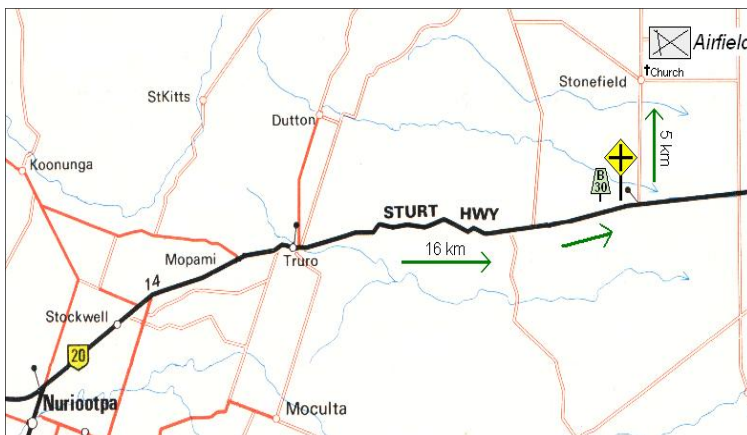
<http://lists.internode.on.net/mailman/listinfo/augc-announce>

You can also get the latest newsletter and up to date news on what is going on at the club's web page:

<http://www.augc.on.net/>

If your email address is on the membership database the club's Assistant Treasurer can send you your account updates over the internet. Send an email to: accounts@augc.on.net

Want to fly this weekend?



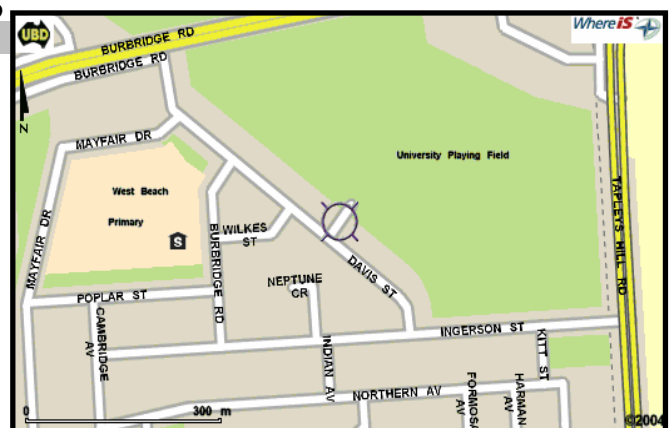
Want to go flying on the weekend? You must ring the club contact person, Tom, on the Thursday before between 8.00pm and 10:00 pm on 0412 870 963, (or send an email: contact@augc.on.net) so that he can organise instructors and transport for those intending to fly. Members can book via the online booking system at: <http://www.harley.net.au/AUGC/index.asp>.

You can either drive up yourself by following the map at left, or Tom can arrange a lift to Stonefield either from the Adelaide University footbridge (meet at 7.15am to leave at 7:30 am), or from the Caltex Service station on the corner of Montague Road and Main North Road (meet at 7.45am to leave at 8:00 am).

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 and Tuesday evenings. The entrance is at the end of Foreman St, West Beach.

So you want to help fix the gliders at West Beach, but can't get there? A lift can be arranged from the Adelaide University footbridge at 7.30pm via augc-people@lists.internode.on.net.



Contact List

President:	Derek Eilers	0431 331 460	president@augc.on.net
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Secretary:	Greg Newbold	0403 224 970	secretary@augc.on.net
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Upcoming Events

Wed 15 February: Airfield Decision Meeting

7.00 pm at a venue to be advised.

It's the final role of the dice on this issue. This will be an executive decision based upon the offers currently presented to AUGC and the results of the survey that was conducted a number of months ago.

20 - 24 February: Adelaide Uni Orientation Week

This is when we advertise ourselves to the Adelaide University and pique the interest of unsuspecting first years. We will be located in front of Union Hall and will ideally have the Standard Libelle on display, supported by the huge picture and sound of Derek S's Dad's projector! Please help out if you can.

Mon 27 February: Special General Meeting

7.00 pm in the Harry Medlin (North) Room, Union House, Adelaide University.

The proposed constitution will be ratified at this meeting. Attend to cast your vote.

Tues 28 February: West Beach social BBQ

6.30 pm, West Beach maintenance shed.

Come down to West Beach for snags, socialising and sailplane maintenance. Snags, bread and sauce are available at \$1/snag (or 5 for \$3). Bring other food/drink yourself. Soft drinks and beer are available from the fridge at the usual prices.

Membership Renewal

All Adelaide Uni Gliding Club memberships expire on **28 February 06**. As per previous years, **membership renewal is not automatic** and current members will need to confirm to the Treasurer that they wish to renew their membership with the club (it prevents previous problems that way).

Membership fees for 2006 have changed dramatically with the introduction of Voluntary Student Unionism. This year also sees the return of 'social' membership, which may appeal to a number of people. To be eligible for concession rates you need to be able to demonstrate that you are a student (high school or university) or a retiree.

Full membership: \$150

(This includes 12 months AU Sports Association Membership.)

Full membership (Concession–Non AU student): \$96

(This includes 12 months AU Sports Association Membership.)

Full membership (Concession–AU student): \$30

(Does not include AU Sports Association Membership for second semester – you will need to join the AU Sports Association for second semester if you wish to fly during the second half of the year.)

Social membership: \$30

(For people who wish to remain connected with the club, but do not intend to fly. Does not include AU Sports Association Membership.)

Social membership (Concession): \$15

(For people who wish to remain connected with the club, but do not intend to fly. Does not include AU Sports Association Membership.)

If you have any queries about 2006 memberships or your account status, email treasurer@augc.on.net.

Regards

Anthony

NB: Many of the queries regarding updated aircraft hire rates, package deals etc. can be answered by referring to the new Fees document:

http://www.augc.on.net/members/docs/doc_fees_060201.pdf