

AUGC AGM 2018 Presidents Report

The last year has been one of change, growth and opportunity for the club.

Operations

Its pleasing to see a good safe year with increased flying hours and mixed launching operations. Thanks to the training panel, the winch drivers and all who have contributed to this. As always we must be ever vigilant not to relax our guard and allow complacency or inattention to lead to a poor safety outcome.

Congratulations to all who have progressed their flying goals this year. The solos, GPCs, badges, XCs, aerobatics, single seater flying, and personal bests.

Membership

Our membership has grown a modest amount over the year and closer links with the University are being developed, particularly with the engineering department where we hope we can integrate more with the aero engineering course as well as be seen as a useful addition to the resume of graduates. Ian Linke from the engineering department is working with us to progress this.

We had hoped to attract the Air Force Cadets to Stonefield as their permanent home but unfortunately this was not to be.

Fleet

The big news for the year was the acquisition of the Janus B from the Melbourne Gliding Club. This was made possible by generous support from the Hackett Foundation. Simon has been very generous over many years and late last year the club formerly recognised this with the award of Life Membership and Club Patron.

The Janus allows us to further our training syllabus with Cross Country Training more accessible to all members. Even students not yet solo benefit from knowing what lies ahead. Being a flapped glider, it also allows easier and quicker transitions to the Pik so we can increase the utilisation of that asset.

Mark Morgan and Martin Rule have commenced the repairs to the Astir and we have first option to buy it and return it to the fleet where it bridges the gap between the K8s and the Pik. In the interim we have been offered the AUJC (Juniors) Astir CS for 12 months and that should commence later this month.

Airfield

The funding for the new clubhouse is contingent on a plan and submission to the Sports Association and we have been progressing this. It should be a high priority this year with funding decisions to be made about October.

An opportunity to work with the Centre for Automotive Safety Research has arisen since they are looking for somewhere to build a bitumen dual use strip/car track. This would cut

down dust for aerotow launch and allow us to hold more competitions at a higher level. Hosting a Junior Nationals should be our medium term goal with Club Class in the future.

A meeting with CASR and the Mid Murray Council was a success with the Council interested in helping us with other projects around the airfield too including assisting with earthworks and fill and base material needed for paving and lawns.

Events

The Janus has enabled more of a cross country focus which led to AUGC hosting the SAGA Basic Coaching Week. It also participated in junior coaching at Joeyglide and in the two mini-Grand Prix events held recently at Stonefield. These events have allowed members of other clubs to discover our improved facilities at Stonefield with many positive comments and repeat visits.

The Pawnee HZY also facilitates these events as it allows the launching of ballasted gliders as well as many non-winch rated visitors. Aerotow is the accepted norm for competition launching.

A new large nine burner BBQ was purchased by SAA, along with an upright freezer which has helped with the catering for these events.

Future Plans

The airfield development plan needs to be a high priority early in the year.

Projects planned for the year include

- Lawn area around the firepit by next summer
- Paving around the clubhouse
- (Mid Murray Council will assist with fill and base – some funding required for paving)
- Kitchen build in the existing clubhouse (grant application pending)
- Plans submitted for new clubhouse for AUSA funding
- Work with CASR to progress the bitumen strip
- Work with AU Engineering Departments to integrate gliding related skills to courses
- Hold more mini-GP competitions
- Return Astir KYR to service in the club.

We'd like to hear from anyone with ideas and muscle who would like to help us with the list.

Thanks to the 2017-2018 committee and instructors, coaches, airworthiness engineers and all involved with the club over the past 12 months. Its been an honour and pleasure to work with you.

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