

Lismore Model Flying Club Newsletter

May 2026



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President's Update

Yes, this is the May newsletter coming to you in early June! The club has come through a busy few weeks with endless rain, failed electrical equipment, a committee meeting and our General Meeting. On top of this was the drive to Upper Crystal Creek to pick up the garage which was kindly donated to us by the Lower Tweed Club. Somehow in all this, the newsletter took a backseat whilst other actions were completed. This is now newsletter number 34 since I restarted our newsletters back in August 2023 and I would like to hand over the role of newsletter editor following our Annual General Meeting in July. The new owner of this role would also be on the club committee and be part of the running of our club. Please let me know if you have any interest in taking this on and we can talk about what is involved.

Our membership stands at 65 and this looks like where we will finish the financial year. I know of a couple of visitors looking to join us from 1 July to take advantage of the full year's membership. The MAAA has now set their component of our annual fee which provides

each member with public liability and personal accident insurance. In addition to this, MAAA provides a range of club assistance and activity schemes that we have used in the past. The other components of our annual membership fee is the ANSW (State body) fee and our own club fee. The MAAA component has now been confirmed as being the same as last year and the ANSW component will be set at the ANSW AGM this Thursday evening 11th June. The club committee will also set our component of the annual fee this week meaning that the FY26/36 Membership fees will be announced at the end of the week.

The important message for all our members is that your membership ceases on 30th June, and you cannot fly after this date unless you have paid your fees. This is an MAAA ruling as insurance will not cover you after 30th June. Your membership fees must be in the club account by 30th June, and all renewal details will be emailed to every current member on Friday 10th June. There are no exceptions to this, and the visitor rules do not apply to expired members.

Field mowing has been difficult with the significant rain activity although both runways were fully mown last week. The mowing team is hopeful of having everything mown this coming week, depending upon rainfall.

I would like to thank all for the great turnout at the recent General Meeting, including family and other visitors who joined us for the day. The BBQ was a success and together with the sale of the last of the recently donated equipment, we were raised \$472 for the club. The minutes of the meeting have now been emailed to all members. The committee took the opportunity to hold a committee meeting immediately prior to the General Meeting and the committee meeting minutes will soon be available under the club documents tab on the website. As advised in the last newsletter, Brett is working through several updates to the look and feel of our website as well as expanding the EVENTS tab and adding our newsletters and minutes to CLUB DOCUMENTS tab.



Finally, if you see new faces at the field, please introduce yourself. We all share a common interest in aeromodelling, and we have several new members this year, including Ezra as a Junior Member who demonstrated his flying skills at the social fly in following our recent club meeting. I have had several members ask for the re-introduction of name badges and the committee will be discussing this.

I meant to comment on the cover photo for this newsletter...I think Stuart has well and truly caught a bad case of "helicopter bug!"

See you at the field.
Peter Whitely
ylismfc@gmail.com

Land Acquisition Progress

Our draft sale contract is now with the Council for review and signature. If approved, the subdivision plan will be lodged with NSW Land Registry Services, and the final contract can be signed. At this point we will need to pay the stamp duty, surveyor, and solicitor fees.

We are looking for ideas to celebrate our land ownership when the contract is signed. Some sort of club event at the field with invitations going out to our members, neighbouring clubs and all organisations, including Lismore City Council, who have been part of the overall land acquisition process. Please pass any thought you might have around this event to any committee member or send an email to ylismfc@gmail.com

Getting close now!

Richmond River High Campus

Tuesday 9th June will see our field attended by the Year 10 Science Teacher from Richmond River High Campus. We will be doing a one day build and fly of a Lismore Wonder to provide first hand experience for the teacher before we undertake the 4 day program with a group of year 10 iSTEM students later in the year. The program goes beyond the previous Youth Holiday activity that our club ran with students having a greater role in the engineering and overall design of the models.

I need to thank Clive for helping to put this together. A call out for additional volunteers will go out before the 4 day program begins in September.

Social flying is still welcomed on Tuesday 9th.

General Meeting and Social Fly

Our General Meeting was very well attended, and the BBQ was a success with some 60 sausages, combined with coleslaw, sauces, cheese and mustard disappearing very quickly. I have increased the number of sausages at our BBQs from 30 to 40 and now 60 and it is rare to have any spare at the end of the day!



Peter Pine (Pottsville Pete) took the opportunity to maiden his long-term build of a 123" old timer Nimbus. Apart from an unexpected rate of climb, the model performed well with much applause upon landing. Pete did well to take on the mixture of cross wind, tail wind, head wind and everything else that day threw at him.

Unfortunately, I do not have photos of all the other models that were present on the day, but from the feedback I have received, the combination of general meeting, BBQ and social fly was well received. Perhaps the car boot sale of donated items also helped. The result was a great contribution to club funds to help with a range of expenses that we are currently facing.

Nigel has offered to put on his fun fly day soon. This will see each participant performing a series of manoeuvres (limbo, touch and go, throttle cut and spot landing etc, etc,) with Ben offering to score each participant. An email will provide more details once the date has been set. I thought my Lismore Wonder would be perfect.... until Nigel mentioned the touch and go component... maybe time to fit undercarriage! There will be a range of prizes on the day.

Seen at the Field

I took the opportunity to join our Saturday crowd this weekend saw an incredible range of models being flown. Everything from Discuss Launch Gliders, control line, gyrocopter, Cox .020 powered micro radio control, and the normal range of high wing foamies performing precision touch and go circuits.



It was great to see so many forms of aeromodelling safely existing side by side with everyone enjoying their time at the field.

Everyone stopped what they were doing to watch Keith take to the air with his autogyro. This is an amazing model to watch in action, including taxi, takeoff, circuits and landing. Keith has put significant time into perfecting his creation. This is not something that you can buy off the shelf. The mechanics

are re purposed from a Trex 700 helicopter with a Goblin head. The autogyro uses a pre rotator which I believe is a system that spins the main rotor blades up to a significant speed before beginning the takeoff roll (information provided to me by AI). I know that there is a lot more to the complete system however the result is that Keith has just about perfected his long-term project through trial and sometimes error, but overall, an outstanding outcome that I sure has been somewhat frustrating but very satisfying to see in the air. The main rotor is a 2m span with power provided by a 10S lipo and an all-up weight of 6.4kg. Well done Keith!



It is amazing how the sound of a Cox .020 peaking out at around 20,000 rpm can get spectators interested.



The Cox .020 Tee Dee is a tiny, but classic powerhouse that Ben has fitted to a Real Hawk Mini Stick. It may be tiny, however once airborne, it performs every manoeuvre in the book whilst running flat out for a couple of minutes and then gliding to land using about 1m of runway! Ben's model was only on the ground for a minute or two for refuelling, starting and hand launching for the next pilot to enjoy. Apparently, we have a few more Mini sticks under construction with Howard's electric version already in the air and performing well. These models have a wingspan of 580mm and weighing in around 110grams – yes grams! This is a very good value model available on AliExpress. Have a chat to Ben or Howard for more information.