



Presidents Report – 13th May 2013

We are nearing the end of a fantastic summer flying season. I don't think I can ever remember such a great run of nice weather, with little wind and rain. Hopefully we don't pay for it during the winter !!

Tony and Rick have been busy putting a mag together in time for the AGM, thanks guys.

As events have been occurring during the year, I have been trying to get the results posted online, and a short report of what happened at the event, within a few days. The great thing about this is we can see how many people have visited the page and had a read. For example, a comp held at Awatoto only a couple of weeks ago has already had over 100 hits ... who these people are, of course we can't tell, but isn't it great to know at least 100 people have read the report, and seen the results. There were only 18 at the comp !!! Keep an eye on the NZRCAA website, for up to date info on what's happening, and what's coming up on the event calendar. All the schedules and rules are up there too, plus we also have an email distribution list with regular comp reminders. If you are not on the email list, get in touch with the SIG.

What have we been up to lately ? Well plenty of events...

The first ever IMAC Trans Tasman, over in Perth, was way back in November. This was a pretty entertaining trip, and a first time away from Mum for a couple of our flyers. If you like flies, from the moment you get out of bed, until the sun goes down, then Perth is the place for you ! Where on earth do they all go at night time ? The final outcome ... we took home a number of the titles, quite literally "left our mark", and of course we now have bragging rights that we won the first ever IMAC Trans Tasman. We look forward to the ozzies coming over here and putting up a challenge !

What else .. oh yeah, I went to the Chch Nats at New Years. It was a bit of a road trip with the family in the new van, and a chance to catch up with me old mate, Andrew Palmer and his Wife Suetonia. We had a blast. Thanks for the great hospitality. Unfortunately the weather down at the Nats was not so flash. It was really windy. We pushed on through, and got some flying in during the week. But the main problem was the low attendance from the locals. I think we need to see a major surge in actual activity down there before the SIG can support another South Island Nationals. On the positive side, I believe the boys down in Dunedin had a bit of a Sportsman IMAC comp just a few weeks ago, and a handful of fliers in attendance. I'm sure there are plenty of fliers down there capable of having a go. It's amazing how such a tiny stretch of water can create such a massive divide in activity.

The Rumble, this was another great success. Back at Waharoa, and we had pretty good weather over the 3 days. 30 contestants and we got through a ton of flying. Big thanks to Shaun and the Mitchell family for all their help again. The "Mankini Hundie" was hilarious !

Since then, there have been a number of events around the country side, with good attendance and great weather. But I have noticed that in the past 2 years, we are very thin on the ground for numbers in the entry level classes like Basic IMAC, or Sportsman Pattern. The guys who we welcomed as "newbies" two or three years ago have now moved up a class or two. As a SIG it's time to work on some "Aerobatics" promotion to the wider audience. We need to focus on getting some new people involved, to try and keep new blood moving up through the ranks. This is difficult, when we are all busy trying to do our own thing.

I'm in for a busy winter. Time for a return to the Tucson Shootout. A major PBG project is underway, with the prototype having just been test flown. Back to the workshop, more sanding ...

Frazer