



## **Presidents Report – 15<sup>th</sup> November 2014**

Once again I find myself writing the Chairman report hours before the AGM, while its hosing down outside !! It seems we just can not catch a break with the weather these days.

Due to a technicality our AGM was postponed from June to November, but next year we will get things back to how they were, with an AGM following out final comp before the winter break.

Since our last AGM, it's certainly been a year of ups and downs.

First off a congratulations to those that competed overseas since our last AGM.

Stephen Greig attended the Australian IMAC Nat's this time last year, and while mixing things with ice may have gotten in the way of mixing things with oil, it's no small feat to transport a 3m model on your own to Australia and back, regardless of the flying result. Plus all sorts of drama's getting home unravelled on his trip. When you are a young bloke, this stuff just builds character !

For the first time in a while we had a full team of three compete at the F3A AOC, this year it was in Thailand, back in May. Hamish Galloway, James Danby, Anthony Hall, plus Ewan Galloway as a helper. Noeline Craighead represented us on the Judging panel and by all accounts she did a great job, and with a bit of luck will get invited to the future events which can only be good for Kiwi's competing. Hamish just missed out on a spot in the Semi's, and as a team the guys did well placing in the middle of the pack.

But things haven't been going so well on the home front. They say things go in waves, and 5 years ago when he had 50+ contestants at the Rumble, and 8 ozzies in attendance, we must have been on the crest of that wave. It seems that since then we have been surfing down the front, and it feels like at the moment we are the bottom.

The weather has definitely hampered events over the past 2 years. But strangely enough, we just had the best winter flying weather I can recall. The three months we avoid comps, (June, July, August), I think I counted 8 weekends in a row where the forecast was terrible, but actually we had some stunning days. It's a tough call, but I think for future events, unless it's going to be diabolical, we need to stick to the scheduled date, and just run with it. Someone mentioned to me that going away for a meet, catching up with the guys, and going home earlier than expected with a model intact is not such a bad thing. It keeps the interest alive. Besides if you'd stayed home you'd only be mowing the lawns anyway ! Often when a comp is postponed, the result is even less can make it to the new date. Perhaps for a bit we need to take that approach and see how it pans out.

Suitable flying sites is a major problem we need to solve. We just don't have so many places to fly big models at the moment, and it has made running comps a problem. Many club sites are bolted down to 400 feet now, which makes pulling a loop with a sport model near impossible. Waharoa is 900 feet, I see our days here for running IMAC contests are numbered, unless we want to place the MPMAC club in hot water. 900 is plenty of room for what they need to do. The ceiling height we need to "legally" fly a 3m IMAC model too is a bit more than we currently have in place on paper. However the Cambridge club have just been granted a 1500 foot ceiling, through some hard work by the Vintage SIG. So precedence has been set, and maybe we too can get something like this sorted. Jeff Winters has found a couple of sites in Taupo, but the proximity to full size operations I'm sure will result in us having a venue that doesn't quite fit the bill for what we need. Reality is, a suitable site for IMAC will need to be out in the sticks somewhere away from fullsize activity.

The next thing we need to tackle, is why our numbers have dropped off ? To the hard core who have made the effort to get to tonight's AGM, on a weekend when the weather is pretty dismal, it's great to see you here, and I thank you for your attendance. It's this hardcore group that will need to actively start working on building up the interest again back in our own areas. So where have all these people gone ? Where are the 50+ that flew in the Rumble 5 years back ? As I go down the list of names, I can mainly see the guys who have dropped off the scene, have done so due to life circumstances changing, they have other priorities at the moment. Some of the guys are just into different types of flying now. As a group we need to figure all this out and start building that wave back up again. I think that finding a central flying site that actually works is paramount to our success.

On a positive note, in the past few weeks I have received a few phone calls and emails from new guys wanting to get started in Aerobatics. The first ever Nationals at Waharoa are just around the corner, and with the action happening in the golden triangle for a change, this is sparking some interest at club level. We already have 19 people who have registered for Aerobatics, and it's still only November. I expect this number could grow half as much again, and maybe this northern based Nats is just what we need to kick start the enthusiasm out there. But we will need to get a contest calendar in place for the months after, so we can keep this new blood hooked.

Something else positive, it sounds like the Ozzies are keen to get an F3A Trans Tasman happening again, with an event in March near Sydney on the cards. There is already some talk of interest in this, and the Nats will serve as a Team Trial. With a bit of luck this all goes ahead and we get a bunch of guys going over for this. This could mean we might be hosting a Pattern TT here in NZ at some stage in the not too distant future. The last TT was at Waharoa in 2006. Fingers crossed.

On a personal note, I think I've gotten to just about the end of my stint as President. A lot of work goes on in the background running comps, and dealing with the odd drama. I feel like it's time for someone else to take over the reins. It must be 10 years now, I'm looking forward to the super annuation cheque ! Right now my focus is the Tucson Shootout next year. It will be 5 years since I've been. I'm not sure if we can find someone tonight who is keen to take over the Presidents job, but more importantly we need a Pattern Rep and an IMAC Rep with some passion and drive to keep the events happening. As a group, we need to be heading back up that wave again.

Frazer