



Presidents Report – 25th April 2015

You would think that with the last AGM having only been 5 months ago, I would not have much to talk about, but actually plenty has happened in the last few months.

The MFNZ Nationals were held at Waharoa for the first time ever, and what a success they were. Record numbers for attendance, and stunning weather made for a great nats. I looked back through the emails last year about contests we tried to run, and several were either postponed or cancelled due to dodgy weather. Never before can I remember such a run of bad luck trying to hold events. But perhaps it was worth it, because the weather at the Waharoa Nats was without a doubt the best Nats weather I can remember in 35 years of going. On day 5 we got a 10 min rain shower and it was a blessing. The action at Waharoa was all around us with Jets and Scale flying only a few hundred metres away, Control Line and Heli just a little further up the runway, and even DLG action on day 5 really close to the Aerobatics site. Although we did not have a massive turnout for IMAC or Pattern, where as other disciplines like Scale were flooded with entries, this meant we had plenty of time to get our flying through. After 5 days of zero wind and scorching sun, we all left the nationals needing some time to recuperate, but also thinking, let's do it again, same time, same place, see you in 12 months !!! Actually, it will be 2 years before we can do it again at Waharoa. Getting full use of the main runway was no easy feat, and at this stage the next Nats are scheduled for Clareville at Easter in 2016. We will no doubt be back at Waharoa at some time in the near future, and plans are underway for 2017.

In early March, the first F3A Trans Tasman since 2006 was run in conjunction with the Australian Masters, in Sydney. A full complement of Kiwis attended, Ross Craighead, James Danby, Anthony Hall, and ex pat Brian Dooley competed in the F3A class, while Hamish Galloway flew in Masters. Noeline Craighead Judged Masters, and Ewan Galloway attended as helper. Even though we just missed out on securing the team trophy, it's good to see the Trans Tasman being contested again, and we look forward to the next event. Congratulations to the NZ Team, and also to Glen Orchard who was the crowned the individual winner of the Masters class.

Only a few days after the Nats, when I should have had my feet up, I was whisked away to India with Baldrick, to give some private IMAC and 3D style coaching. What an experience that was, and we both really enjoyed this time away. Over a few beers I can tell some really funny stories about this trip, like the bit where Baldrick had to down an entire Bottle of Jack Daniels in under 2 minutes, so we could board our connecting flight !

In late March, we also attended an IMAC event near Adelaide, in the Barossa Valley. I managed to secure first place in the Unlimited class against some up and coming ozzy pilots, and Baldrick placed

second in Sportsman, both flying the new PBG Extra 300. This Barossa Valley contest is building into a popular event, a good time of year to attend with nice weather, easy journey for Kiwi's due to the direct flight from Auckland to Adelaide. Only a 1 hour drive up to the Barossa Valley from Adelaide. A superb model club situated on a full size runway with hardly any full size traffic, it ticked all the boxes. The icing on the cake, the place is surround by Vineyards ! Because it's a central as it gets for the ozzies, they all travelled from far and wide to be there too, eight guys from Perth drove for 3 days each way to be there. Keep an eye out for this one in the future.

At this stage, it looks like the 2015 Tucson Shootout is on, so all things going to plan, it'll be all guns blazing in October later this year. It's likely we will have a few kiwi's making the journey, nothing in concrete yet, but watch this space.

As mentioned at the last AGM, we have still been on the lookout for a Central North Island site where we can run 3 or 4 Aerobatic events per year, with the uninterrupted airspace that we need to make it worth the drive. Baldrick has since visited the Gallatea site, and given it two thumbs up. Google it, and suss out how far the drive is from your place. It's about as central as we are going to get. We are now working with contacts through to the local council to get us on there for an initial gig. Fingers crossed this works out, because I'm sure that if we can get a central site working again, just like in the old Taupo and Turangi days, it's a step in the right direction to build up some new interest in Aerobatics scene again.

Well, it seems that my job as Chairman may have finally come to an end. It's been a long road. 5 years as Secretary/Treasurer, and 10 years as Chairman, what a journey. Character building without a doubt. I can definitely say I'm proud to have done it. Would I do it all again ? Of course I would. Am I happy to be stepping back ... you bet ! I'm sure things will keep rolling on in the right direction, or I wouldn't be standing down. Thanks to committee members past, and a special thanks to those who along the way, have offered small words of wisdom, that have really helped, without you even knowing it. I'm pleased to announce that Hamish Galloway has agreed to put his name forward as nominee for the new Chairman.

Frazer Briggs