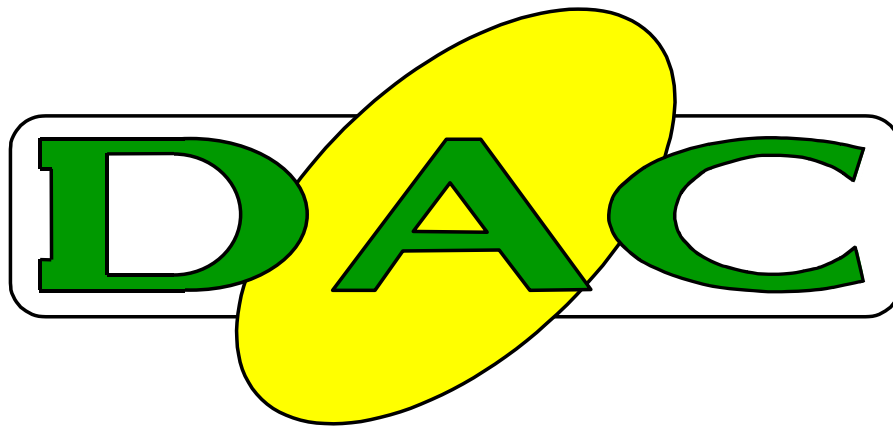


# December Newsletter

2000

**DONCASTER**



**AERO CLUB**

XMAS Breakup / Funfly this Sunday 17/12/00.  
BBQ at 12-12.30, Funfly starts straight afterwards, &  
will include specific events for Electrics (contact  
Morgan Hill for details)!!

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## Presidents Report

When my Grandkids ask me what happened in the year 2000, above all else I'll tell them that time passed faster than ever before. What happened to the year, it was supposed to be here for 12 months...?

Season's Greetings to all... Don't quite know where to start, so much has been happening lately!

You may recall that John Harper has been recovering from a stroke earlier in the year; from what I hear he's well on the mend which is great news. He / his family wrote to us recently thanking the club for everything thing we've done, which was read at the last meeting, and is now posted on the notice board in the club house. We're all looking forward to seeing you back on deck John.

Ray Halstead is also a long serving member, who has provided a lot of time, support, & effort in taking care of our club & facilities over many years. He's been cutting the grass every week for longer than I can remember, & has kept a watchful eye on everything in general. After many, many years of involvement on the committee etc., Ray has resigned his position, and we'd like to extend our personal thanks and best wishes to him for his enormous contribution. Of course, you'll still see him building & flying down at the club on a regular basis; thanks again Ray.

Coincidentally, our ride on mower has gone out in sympathy! The diff<sup>r</sup> / rear axle has pretty well had it, & given that it has provided years of hard service, and is now becoming costly, a new Greenfield machine has been purchased. Whilst it is physically smaller, it has far greater cutting power, and is more robust in its design and construction which will better cater for our growing needs. The only preferred option would have been something similar to a small tractor being nice and solid, and capable of doing the entire job faster, but it was cost prohibitive. However, given the commercial / industrial quality of our new machine, it will be able to be traded favourably in the future when we can afford to upgrade if necessary. The old machine will be sold privately as the trade in value wasn't high enough in the committee's view, should any of you be interested, please let me know before we advertise it. If there's enough interest we might even auction it at the next meeting!

Our last meeting (27/11/00) was very encouraging, with a far greater level of participation / attendance, and enthusiastic discussion on many items. Martin Lui proposed we utilise our facilities to host a public electric flying event planned for early 2001, which received unanimous support; Martin will investigate it further then we will start making the necessary preparation. Anyone interested in participating, assisting, or competing should contact Martin at the club. We also agreed to begin preparation for next year's VMAA trophy, and I've been asked to prepare and manage the team / entry. Since then Barry Taylor has expressed interest in this also, so we'll both be working on this together; thanks for the help Barry. Neil Spencer will be installing additional charging facilities in the clubhouse for electrics as well (at no cost!), thanks Neil. The meeting was very productive, and I thank you all for your contributions and encourage everyone to attend in the future.

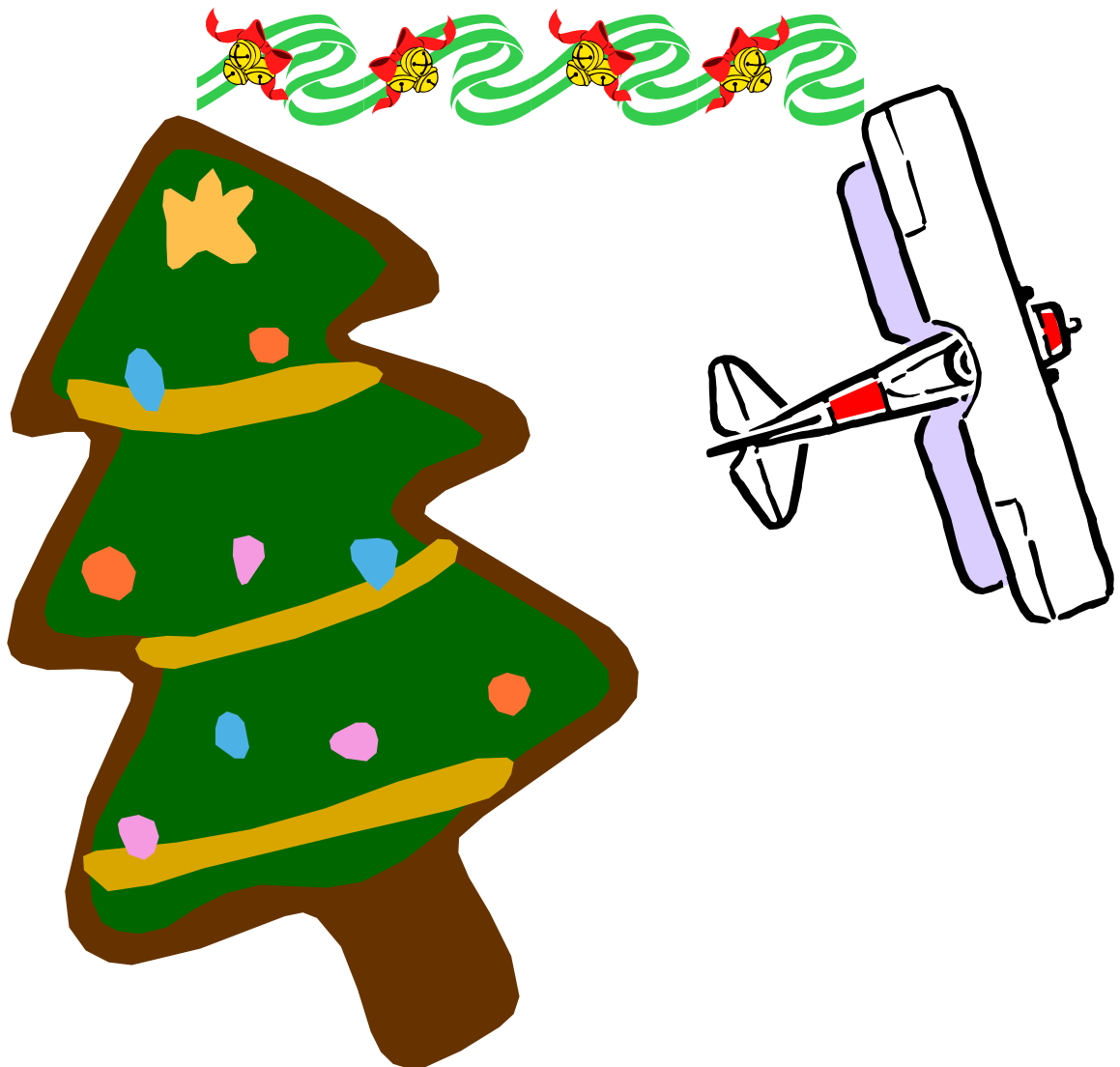
Merry Christmas everyone, and may you all have a happy, safe, and airborne New Year!!

*DON'T FORGET THE CLUB'S XMAS BREAKUP BBQ / FUNFLY ON THE 17/12/00!!*

Dennis Travassaros – DAC President.

PS Anyone interested in building a beaut little combat model should have a look at the plans Cliff had at the lasting meeting; 2 designs, both great....!

Merry Xmas & Happy New Year to all from your committee!!



President, Dennis Travassaros  
Secretary, Richard Page  
Treasurer, Graham Kay  
Vice President & Safety Officer, David Porter  
Contest Deirector, Morgan Hill



## Safety

A few issues have been raised recently which should be noted....

- Whenever revving / tuning your engine, position yourself behind the rotating prop., not in front of the model. Also make sure anyone close to the model is not in line with the prop either, and there is no debris etc. which can come into contact with the blades.
- Transmitters (switched off) and frequency keys must be kept in the pound, or in a closed, secured carry case with your field equipment when your frequency is occupied, or your equipment is not in use.
- When preparing for landing, you should call 'Landing' as you turn onto base during your landing circuit. Calling it before or after that is causing congestion and confusion on the strip, and in the air.

The pit area is located and designed for that purpose, the areas around it are not; when setting up / 'pitting' your model / equipment, it **MUST** be inside the 'pitts'.

## Top effort James!! (last Funfly)



### Member Achievements

A number of our members have been getting great results at recent competitions. I've listed all those I'm aware of, well done guys!!

Kevin Fryer competed in four vintage flying events at the Hadden field (Ballarat) 18 & 19/11/00 against many components. He gained

- 1<sup>st</sup> place in 1/2A Cox Duration
- 1<sup>st</sup> place in Texaco with Irvine Diesel
- 2<sup>nd</sup> place in Duration
- 2<sup>nd</sup> place in 1938 Antique event

Well done Kevin, not bad for an old timer...!

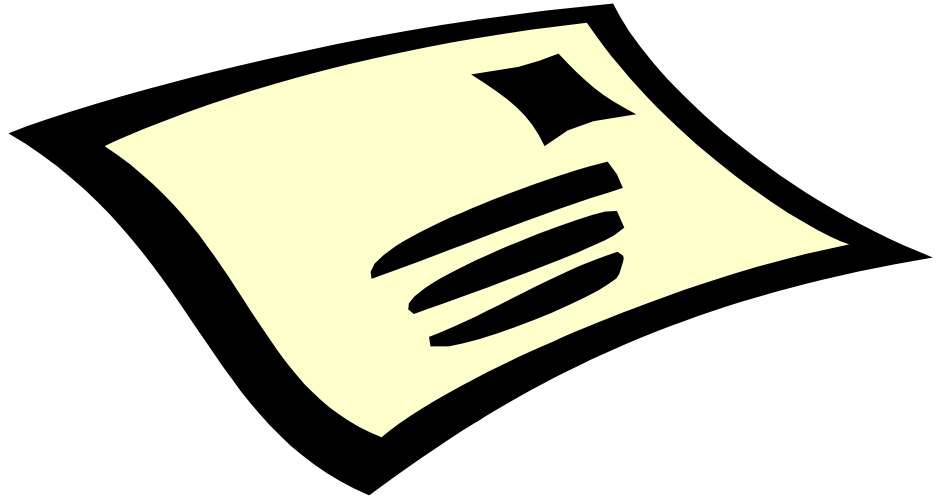
We've been doing well in Aerobatics too...

On 12/11/00 Boz Student won his first ever Competition in the expert category, well done Boz!!

The resident Sportman 'expert' has been at it as well, Fernando Monge winning his 4<sup>th</sup> Sportman Competition, has now moved into the advanced category. He will no doubt continue up the ladder with his determination and enthusiasm. Don't let the recent set back slow you down Fernando, you're obviously headed in the right direction at a great rate of knots; great effort mate!!

*GO Doncaster Club!!*

Dennis Travassaros



## Letters to the Editor

Dear DAC members,

Regarding Safety, on Sundays at the field I would like to think the most dangerous thing I do is turning right out of Bulleen Rd into Bulleen Park. The Traffic flow down Bulleen Rd hill is sometimes doing 90 – 100 kph off the freeway – frightening!

Well of course I realise it does not stop there, in the pitt area, and in the flying area, certain rules are observed in general, and we as a group show great responsibility for ourselves and others.

A friend pointed out to me that we don't use model restraints at all.

He noted that people were quite good at helping others hold models whilst starting and tuning engines, and also noted a person sitting in front of his model with his head directly over the top of the propellor whilst revving and tuning his engine. This he thought was much too dangerous not to point out to me at the time. I told him I would write to DAC regarding this safety issue.

Received anonymously..

Dear DAC,

I am a member of a number of flying organisations, and read in a newsletter recently that 36.150Mhz can be dangerous to fly on.

Apparently two frequencies can combine, one from ABC FM, the other from ABC TV, resulting in potential disturbance of the FM flying frequency, 36.150Mhz.

Anonymously received.

Thank you for these contributions, I've also seen the article on 36.150, which was quite disturbing, as it is said that this has occurred in neighbouring suburbs. Anyone wanting further information can contact me directly.

Thanks all, Dennis Travassaros.



Dear Jake,  
How can I determine the pitch of my prop.? Propnut from Northcote

Dear Propnut from Northcote,  
Take your prop to a brightly lit area and carefully examine it's hub / blades.  
You should see a couple of figures, i.e., 10-6, or 9-7. The second figure is the pitch.

Dear Jake,  
Alright then, what is prop wash? Propnut from Northcote

Dear Propnut from Northcote,  
Ajax is ideal!!  
Jake

Dear Jake,  
I read an interesting article in a digest while in a waiting room recently. It was

called 'Disasteroids' and was about this scientist who was keeping tabs on bits of rock that are floating around in space. Seems that they could wipe out life on Earth.

Could these things affect our radios just like SunSpots do? Heavenly body from Hereabouts.

Dear Heavenly Body from Hereabouts,  
I reckon' a direct hit wouldn't do a transmitter much good and you wouldn't want to be holding it at the time either.

Don't really know much about them at all. Can recall that when I was a kid that Grandpop used to suffer from them. Us Grandkids had great fun chipping up large blocks of ice for him. But we never heard that they were actually life threatening....

*Jake!!*

Happy snaps from the last Funfly..

The Juniors put in serious competition!!



*But us Seniors didn't give up.....*





*He never was much good as a tail dragger.....*