



FUNDING NEWS

I have forwarded all the material and our request to the Justice Department, Consumer Affairs, for a ruling on the legitimacy of the actions of the HGFA/VHPA regarding the handling of Trike Pilot State Levies.

FEBRUARY'S MICROLIGHT TRIP – WESTERN WANDER

An update from Gary Wheeler follows:

Just an update for everyone to pass on information that you may not be aware of.

The attendees so far are Steve Bell and partner Heather , John Waite, Josef Ferstl, Kel Glare, Max Glynn, Graham Keen, Dean Marriot, Russell Purdy, Ian Rees, Reg Thaggard, David Watson, Steve Ruffles, Chris Bullen, George Vassis and Penelope Vostek.

We will have a 12 seater bus and Steve Bell's car and trailer as ground support vehicles with Heather, Penelope, Chris and Graham as drivers.

The trip will start from Flowerdale but people can join at any spot along the route that suits their needs. The route tracks past many airfields that may be more suitable for some. If you wish to join at a location other than Flowerdale please let me know so I can factor it into the itinerary.

All pilots must supply their own portable fuel cans *appropriately labelled* for the ground crew as required.

Each pilot will need to pass on to me a \$100 deposit by or on the December 14 club meeting to ensure their place. The \$100 deposit is for the bus hire and any leftover will go to the ground crew fuel bill. The ground crew vehicle expenses will be split evenly by all the pilots attending as required. Each pilot will be responsible for their own expenses, e.g. fuel, food and accommodation. ***It should be noted that in the event that the bus is involved in an accident there is up to a \$2000 excess payable*** that would have to be shared by all.

It is estimated that the total expense for the trip to be approximately \$1000.

The accommodation on the 22nd Feb will be at The Grampians a private airfield with cabin accommodation and a restaurant that will be opened for us on the night. The 24th Feb will be at the Torrumbarry Hotel.

Because we will not be sure whether we will be in Colac or Peterborough on the first night no accommodation bookings have been made. Either of these location have plenty of accommodation options so there will be no problems. Hopefully the third night will be at Ouyen and there are also plenty of accommodation options here.

All pilots must have a working VHF radio and EPIRB for the trip. Any pilot that does not have appropriate qualifications or endorsement should note that there will be a CFI and Instructor on the trip and they should make good use of this facility.

Each day there will be a morning briefing for weather reports and NOTAMS and to organize the morning teas, lunch stops and fuelling requirements for the day.

For pilots that are new to cross country trips ensure that you have appropriate tie down equipment for your trike overnight.

The maps you will need to study and carry are WAC Adelaide, WAC Hamilton and Melbourne VNC or VTC.

Any queries or suggestions please feel free to contact me on Ph 97621978 Mob 0418 519 530 or email scrapfx1@netspace.net.au or jilgar@netspace.net.au .

There is still room for a couple more trikes if you know of anyone who wishes to join in.

Regards,

Gary Wheeler.

[GATHERING OF THE MOTHS 2010](#)

[From Steve Bell:](#)

This is the first time I have been to this gathering and I was warned that in previous years the weather had not been kind for this event. But the gods were smiling on us this year and turned on some of the best flying, camping and sightseeing weather that I have experienced. With a year of really good rain the landscape is so lush and beautiful and this weekend end turned out to be a dream weekend for pilots and flying.

The event was well attended with a multitude of various aircraft and their effervescent pilots. A large contingent of paragliders, paramotors, and aerochutes combined with 9 trikes, 1 helicopter, 3 warbirds, 2 Drifters, several Jabirus, Cessnas, gliders, radio controlled model aircraft and a variety of other aircraft

set the scene for a great weekend.

The flying started from 6.30am and continued through till dusk and the locals set up a kiosk at the airfield and made sure everyone got fed bacon and eggs, hamburgers, tea, coffee etc.

We did flights over Mt Bogong and Mt Buffalo, to and from Porepunkah, up to Dederang Station and all around the Kiewa Valley. Alf and Terry flew up from Latrobe Valley, had an old man snooze and then flew back. On Saturday Joe found the late afternoon sun too hard to fly into and so aborted his return to Porepunkah. Such is the comradeship of trike pilots Joe soon found a bed for the night, but had to share with a very interesting bedfellow, apparently neither man slept very well. Anyways Joe's bedfellow slept so badly that he had a mishap getting into a Helicopter and found himself the next night in a very comfortable bed at the local hospital minus his snoring buddy.

With a very busy airfield and a lot of aircraft without radios and pilots with various experience we all had to keep our wits about us. Fortunately there were no incidents other than Joe and his merry bedfellow. The social part of this event was really good as all pilots mingled and talked about their various aircraft and life experiences. The local hosts were fantastic putting on smiles and great hospitality. Rob Snaith's state of the art radio controlled aircraft was just amazing to watch, these aircraft have come along so far.

All who attended had a great time, great flying and great weather. I've already marked next years calendar.

Various photographs of the event are set out below.





Chris says Hi!



Joe has an afternoon nap





[Its curtains for Graeme and Joe](#)

[From Chris Bullen](#)

What a fantastic weekend awaits me as I drive out the driveway towards Mount Beauty, for the Gathering of the Moths weekend. I haven't been on one before so I'm not sure what I'm in for really.

Man its 1400hrs Friday already, so much for leaving at 1000hrs, with some actually up to date maps and charts (Nov. 18th ones) - oh well two or three years old won't matter too much I guess, maybe I can bluff my way through if asked!

The drive up was just a drive listening to some sermons, looking forward to dinner with the guys, glad I've got an air conditioner in the car - man its hot out there!

Dropping in to Porepukah to grab some of Max's stuff he couldn't squirrel away in his microlight for his flight over to Mount Beauty, hmmm sleeping bag, helmet, jerry cans, rubber bed, and a bag of assorted treasures, yep that wasn't going to fit, a quick 'hi' to Steve doing some training. One of the guys, Dale, is another paraplegic!

Up over the mountain and find the Mount Beauty Holiday Centre - hmmm - what a nice place and I'm just in time for tea with Max and Frank across the road to a fantastic pizza place were we meet about 40 others. Wonder if they have an air conditioner in the restaurant, man were all boiling in there, must be all the hot air flying about from a hundred happy conversationalists!

The three of us are glad to get to bed about midnight it's been a long day.

Saturday morning - man we're up at seven - even the birds aren't up yet! Hmmm - Steve Bell is though and comes over to say he would meet us at the airfield in half an hour - .half an hour – you're kidding - Franks still in his pj's and very nice they are too.

Okay so me and Max arrive at the airfield at 0800hrs and find Steve waiting for his flying buddy Frank. Steve already having gone up and yes come back down again with a grin! We get Max's trike ready and by this time its 0830hrs and yes here is Frank just arriving and ready to go.

Our flight for the day was over Bogong do a 'ueeee' down the valley to Dederang sub station do a 'ueeee' up another valley and over to Porepukah for tea with Steve! I ended up flying with Steve - man we had just a great flight in the best parts of Victoria for a couple of hours!

Landing again in Mount Beauty we'd stay on the ground till after lunch and towards the evening so during the next hours we were entertained with the gliders, about 6 odd, and an assortment of ultralights, a BBQ, and cold drinks and this guy with some amazing electric radio control planes, the motors on his f16 spinning up to 58000 rpm - imagine a Rotax doing that? The technology was just amazing out of these tiny motors. Someone asked if he also had a more standard radio controlled model, so he came back with a Cessna, that was doing things a Cessna shouldn't do like going straight up out of sight.

During all this I'm thinking man I need a hat some insect repellent sun screen and more cold drinks!

Near evening after a couple of hours at a local bakery, were ready to go again, amongst the paragliders about a dozen of whom created a nice and colourful backdrop to the mountains.

Watching them take off the words "run man run" whizzed through my mind with the odd 'orrrrrr' when

he collapses face forward in the dirt, the man needs wheels I think!

In with Max we head up the valley, down the valley, up the valley, survey the forest for bugs on the branches, of the trees and back again to base, what a great couple of hours.

In magnificent fashion Max and Steve both did their calls on the chat channel. We were packing up the trikes for the night and tying down when Frank spotted a headlight at about 2030hrs - hmmm - who's this at this time of night. Hawk eye Frank says its Joe back again in his 582XT due to the setting sun he can't see forward to even get back to Porepunkah, so came back to Mount Beauty - good call Joe.

No worries Joe you can bunk in with us. We rummage for extra tie down stuff and tied his trike down, then at past 2100hrs head for the restaurant for dinner and to a lovely meal that would have been even more lovely if I wasn't so tired!

Back at the cabin as well as Joe we also had Graeme - hmmm - Max has a bag, I have a bag, Franks in his bag, in his car due to abandoning ship the night before from cabin to car due night time noises.

Man what are we going to do both men who just have the clothes they stand up in, that's it! There's a spare double mattress, and I mean just the mattress base, that's it in here.....***I know we could take the curtains off the rail and wrap them in them one either side of the bed.*** I know they've just met but heh they are grown ups!

Many other things happened these are just a few.

Ps: Graeme even ended up in hospital Sunday due slipping getting in to a helicopter and cutting his shin badly.

[RENO AIRCRAFT CRASH OF MUSTANG P-51](#)

Tracy Loebert sent graphic photographs of the crash of a Mustang P-51 at the Reno Air Show. Unfortunately there are too many to reproduce in this Newsletter but suffice to say the pilot was lucky to survive. What are the odds of walking away from this? Have a look on the Internet.



Thanks Tracey.

BRIAN MILTON's AROUND THE WORLD TRIKE TRIP

Having shown two installments of Brian Milton's round the world trip, courtesy of Chris Bullen, it is still intended to show the remainder whenever time permits.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is at the Manhattan Hotel, Canterbury Road, Ringwood, on Tuesday, December 14 at 1900hrs for a Christmas meal and celebration with our spouses, partners, lovers, friends and whoever else you choose to bring.



Some indication of numbers by Saturday, preferably by email, would be welcome so I may advise the Manhattan accordingly.

CONTRIBUTIONS

I welcome contributions from members and thank those who do contribute. Any story or item of interest adds to the pleasure we all get from our association. Do not be shy – Nobel Prize for Literature standard is not expected.

Newsletter Closing times:

Last Tuesday of the month.

Advertising enquiries and any articles or items of information to:

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