

1st West Wyalong National Championships Contest Report

28 December 2021 – 4 January 2022

After a long wait and two postponements due to Covid and travel restrictions we were finally able to hold the 1st West Wyalong National Championships at the Adrian Bryant field. The dates selected were not ideal but the thought of delaying the champs again with a new Covid strain on the way may well have put them to bed forever. It certainly brought back memories of yesteryear when the nationals were always held over the Christmas period.

Ultimately the new strain (Omicron) and travel restrictions in Queensland kept quite a few away but the approach by Victorian and South Australian governments gave us the enthusiasm to continue. Attendance was down and some events had few starters, but all disciplines were represented. The New Year's dinner was well attended and very successful. We did not have our traditional bon fire due to the time of the year so it will be bigger and better in April at the AFFS presentation night. During the competition I managed to visit most venues and see many of the flyers competing. The most notable was F2A (Speed) There were six entries, and the competition was quite fierce. In one heat Andrew Heath managed to equal the Australian speed record and, in another, break the 300 kmph barrier smashing the record. It was a spine-chilling flight, and I did not realise the difference between 290kmph and 300kmph until I witnessed it. The sound of an engine at 41.5 thousand rpm is truly a sound to remember.

This new record was achieved on our new fully asphalted circle with a steel cyclone wire safety fence installed at a working bee only weeks before the competition. The circle should now be christened 'The Fastest Circle in Australia'.

I did not manage to get to McAllister oval during the aerobatics competition, but our judges reported to the house daily. Numbers were again down, and catering was not available due to the time of year and lesser numbers.

Bob Phippen, his sister Marianne and Eric Nutter managed the control line grass circle. I timed for some of the vintage combat bouts and became excited by the cut and thrust of the flyers attacking each other in the air. Carnage was high with line tangles and some unusual tactics in the centre. Apparently shouted encouragement and instructions are provided free of charge. I was once a gun at this but that was 60 years ago; reaction time now below ground level

Peter Scott was the contest director for SAMs. I eventually got to the SAMs field and saw some action even though the rules had to be explained to me. The flyers are keen and the models huge but there is no shortage of enthusiasm in competition, building and flying. The field turned out to be super good and these huge models with big wheels could just about manage anything. It was interesting to note that even SAMs flyers can lose models

Everybody helped with free flight, but of note were Mike and Yvonne Pettigrew, Col Collyer, and Di Hanna. Everybody pitched in on the outdoor field often with more than one event in progress. Len Surtees enthusiasm with hand launch and catapult glider drove most of us spare but it was good to see his ability challenged by others. The field had been part slashed so that cars could drive over the field on temporary roads rather than drive through high grass and thistle. There were several changes of flying site to comply with wind changes but the weather during the competition was quite good. Wind speeds were about 3-5 metres per second most of the time and only on one occasion did we have to delay the event a few hours.

Camping sites were selected on arrival by campers and the facilities were praised. More than once did I hear; 'we have power, and we have showers.' Separate bathroom facilities were available for ladies and gents. Cooking and refrigeration facilities were available in the camp kitchen and once the

mossies were evicted the area was quite comfortable. The camaraderie in the caravan/camping site was excellent and the site was left clean and tidy. Thanks campers.

Even with setbacks that we had to overcome we still managed to make a small profit. To date the semi-final figure is about \$1045. This was due to fees from our camping ground, house accommodation, the raffle and swap meet. Many members who had entered and could not attend did not want reimbursement and donated their monies to go to further development of the AB field. Even though Covid had people reluctant to come to the nationals it was very pleasant to note that we had visitors and contestants from Queensland, South Australia, Victoria, ACT and New South Wales.

Results are attached.

Coordinator
President NSWFFS
Terry Bond
29 Jan 2022

Attachments;
Contest Results