



# CHAOTIC

Monthly Newsletter of the Darling Downs Soaring Club

November 2001

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I'm finding this month's article more difficult to write than normal. Usually I'm sitting at home with soaring club papers all around me and a reasonable feeling that I know what's going on. But this time I'm writing it on Rottneest Island which must be about as far away from McCaffrey Field as you can get without leaving Australia or going to Christmas Island, which I don't plan on doing.

I'm in the middle of two and a half weeks away from home. That means three consecutive weekends of not visiting McCaffrey Field, which is a rarity. However I will have time for some flying at Gawler with the Adelaide Soaring Club, one of my old club's.

I must say that it's been great to get away for a few days and recharge the batteries. Before I left I was doing two jobs at the same time at work, Training for a marathon, organising the British expeditions and a few other things. Being away has again taught me the joys of modern communication with the ability to check emails while being thousands of kilometres from home.

Before I left, we farewelled Dudley Waters from the club as he has now moved back to New Zealand to live at Omarama. When we came to say a few words it became a very sombre occasion. Dudley has been a member for three years. During that time he did a lot of work around the club looking after the strip, the buildings and the bar. He also contributed significantly to the committee and the direction of the club. But more importantly he encouraged people to go flying and to get out there and go cross-country. In all these ways he will be missed. We wish Dudley all the best in Omarama.

By the time you read this, the first expedition for this summer will have arrived with a group of 10 pilots from the Army Gliding Association. I'm really disappointed that I wasn't there for the arrival of the Army, but the schedules just didn't fit. I know that others ensured that our visitors were given a suitable welcome to Australia and to McCaffrey Field.

We have changed the meeting schedule a little to fit in with our visitors. The

instructor panel and general meeting for November have been put back a week to allow us to have BBQ with our visitors on Saturday 10 November.

The Instructor Panel will now be on Friday 16 November and the general meeting on Saturday 17 November. As always everyone is encouraged to attend and contribute to the running of the club.

*Ralph Henderson*

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## **Farewell**

Life can be a series of chapters for some. This week closes one and opens still another new one for myself. The past one covered a period of three years at Queensland's Premier Soaring Club where strangers met and became good friends. Also there was the privilege of being able to share the sky with the enthusiasm of younger and young aviators as well as the world class pilots so willing to pass on their skills and knowledge to all. There were many highs and lows along the way and maybe a couple of letdowns but whether in life or in the sky, there were always genuine crews to get you going

again. To these people I can never give enough thanks.

On Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> October I felt very humbled at the warmth of the house BBQ when unexpected words of friendship and thanks were given from club members. I was genuinely lost for words, as I have always felt that I could never repay or put back into the club what DDSC has given me.

Thanks and thanks again to all those that made it so. It is a 'Premier' club in every way and I am certain it will remain so with such a strong core and good leadership.

Starting another new chapter (and there have been many) has always been exciting and challenging to me and maybe has kept me young in expectations. Omarama is also a premier soaring site and I still have many good mates flying there. I love flying in the mountains. I am sure I will miss the challenge of the Downs but I hope I will not miss those genuine friends from McCaffrey Field.

There is a welcome sign for them at 17 Totara Park Drive, Omarama, phone 0011 64 021 170 8624. Landline phone number and email address to be advised.

*Dudley Waters*

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## From the Committee

All the Committee members have a number of jobs as part of the running of the Club. If there are others out there who want to help the

club by taking on a job, but didn't want to participate on the Committee, we'd love to hear from you. In future we will publish a *Jobs to Do* List in CHAOTIC. Contact any of the Committee members if you are able to help, either as a coordinator or helper. Also stay posted for notice of working bees and lend your support to them.



### Jobs to Do

**Pie Cart Refurbishment**

**CHAOTIC editor**

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The RAF expedition is from 26 Nov to 14 December. Club aircraft will still be available on weekends on the normal booking system. If not being used by Club members, they may be used for the RAF pilots.

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Don't forget to mark the Xmas Party, **15 December**, in your diaries. This will also be our opportunity to farewell the RAF group.



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## From the Instructors' Panel

The final 'C' in our pre-takeoff check is for canopy, carriage and controls.

### Canopy

Closed, properly locked and clean. Check that there is nothing caught in the canopy frame that may cause it not to lock properly. Do not push on the Perspex to check use the canopy frame and visually check the locking mechanism. We had an incident with the open cirrus recently where the canopy became unlatched. Fortunately, the pilot was able to hold on to it and land. If the release is near to the canopy latch be careful that in reaching for it you don't unlatch the canopy at the same time.

### Carriage

Down and locked. Check that the undercarriage lever is in the down position. If it isn't then get out carefully, you don't want the undercarriage to collapse on you. If it is fixed, then acknowledge that it is fixed ie 'undercarriage down and locked – undercarriage fixed' rather than 'undercarriage not applicable'. Having an undercarriage is always applicable.

### Controls

Check for full and free movement. Don't just wiggle the stick, move it around all four corners of the box to ensure that there are no obstructions. Check that the rudder also moves to its

limits. In the event of an emergency you may find you need full control movement and that is not the time to find out that there is something obstructing them.

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Airspace requests to Oakey are no longer required on Saturdays and Sundays but are still required on weekdays.

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Could Duty Pilots please make note of significant flights, and annual checks etc on the flight sheets, so these can make CHAOTIC and annual check flight due dates can be tracked.

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## Queensland State Comps

Congratulations to all those DDSC pilots who participated in the Queensland Comps at Kingaroy. DDSC was well-represented and special congratulations go to Shane McCaffrey and David McManus, both with 1sts.

The 2002 State Comps will be hosted by DDSC.

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## From the QSA

QSA held their AGM on 17<sup>th</sup> October. Executive are:

John Fairbairn – President  
Stuart Lutton – Treasurer  
Daniel Byrnes – Secretary

The QSA intends to send out a newsletter to all glider pilots in Qld, to include information on clubs, classifieds, aircraft for hire, etc. Send details to the QSA Secretary at 229 Swann Rd, Taringa 4068, or [djb@powerup.com.au](mailto:djb@powerup.com.au)

## Events Calendar 2001

### 16 Nov

Instructor Panel Mtg  
Peter Bell

### 17 Nov

General Meeting  
Jenny Thompson

### 26 Nov - 14 Dec

RAFGSA Visit  
Peter Bell

### 7 Dec

Instructor panel Mtg  
Peter Bell

### 8 Dec

Committee meeting  
Jenny Thompson

### 15 Dec

DDSC Christmas Party  
Ralph Henderson

## ***DDSC Instructor / Tug Pilot / Duty Pilot Roster November – December 2001***

<b>November 2001</b>	<b>Instructors</b>	<b>Tug Pilots</b>	<b>Duty Pilots</b>
Sat 3	P Bell T Lake	J Geddes R Muir	R Percy P Downey
Sun 4	D Lambert A Wetherspoon	D McCaffrey B Ward	B Kruyssen R Armstrong
Sat 10	R Bennett R Henderson	T Barker D Cramer	J Somerville B Hofmeister
Sun 11	Jeremy Thompson C Jordan	N Kranenburg Jenny Thompson	L Matuszczak N Muspratt
Sat 17	S McCaffrey B Keen	J Knox L McQueen	J Hook S Tromp
Sun 18	K Senz D McManus	M Robertson D Baartz	D Hughes P Hughes
Sat 24	T Cavanna T Lake	A Garrone D Gerschwitz	R Henderson K Houghton
Sun 25	G Brown M Codling	R Bradley B Keen	A Midwood D Pinel

<b>December 2001</b>	<b>Instructors</b>	<b>Tug Pilots</b>	<b>Duty Pilots</b>
Sat 1	D McManus C Jordan	Pam Kurstens B Ward	R Henderson H Hofmeister
Sun 2	D Lambert B Keen	J Geddes M Robertson	R Percy J Lee Lewes
Sat 8	Jeremy Thompson R Henderson	T Barker D Gerschwitz	J Hook Jim Knox
Sun 9	R Bennett T Lake	Jenny Thompson N Kranenburg	L Matuszczak S Kehoe
Sat 15	S McCaffrey A Wetherspoon	A Garrone D Cramer	A Midwood P Hughes
Sun 16	K Senz T Lake	D McCaffrey R Muir	D Hughes A Barker
Sat 22	M Codling P Bell	J Knox L McQueen	B Rolfe P Hyde
Sun 23	G Brown C Jordan	M Robertson D Baartz	C Hall A Sim
Sat 29	T Cavanna A Wetherspoon	D Cramer D McCaffrey	B Kruyssen J D'arcy
Sun 30	P Bell R Henderson	R Bradley B Keen	J Somerville T Kehoe

### CONTACT DETAILS

Postal Address - Darling Downs Soaring Club PO BOX 584 Toowoomba QLD 4350  
Airfield – McCaffrey Field Masons Rd Bowenville 4404  
Clubhouse Telephone (07) 4663 7140 Fax (07) 4663 7228

Website - [www.ddsc.org.au](http://www.ddsc.org.au)

e-mail - [info@ddsc.org.au](mailto:info@ddsc.org.au)

Newsletter – [chaotic@ddsc.org.au](mailto:chaotic@ddsc.org.au)

***Queensland's Premier Soaring Club***