

November 1998

The weather improved and we put together some really big days in October. Thanks to Peter Thomas for replacing the base radio microphone. The caravan (pie cart) annexe is back in operation. David McManus had 4.11 in the Hornet, Ken Stehbens 3.31 in the same aircraft whilst Dudley Waters & Bob Garnett clocked 2.13 & 1.23 in the old girl. Dudley then shifted up a gear to the LS7 & chalked up 3.20. Not to be outdone, Bob Garnett kept the Hornet aloft on the same day for 5.28 ! Robert Scott had a good three hour flight in the Grob on the 18th. Ron Muir took the ASK14 to Clifton for the Bange's fly-in on the 18th. David Punshon had 2.47 in the LS7 whilst Bob Garnett teased another 4.14 out of the Hornet ! There have been some notable flights in private aircraft : Allan Latemore (WQR) 3.23 & 3.37, Richard Hoskings (FQR) 3.55, Lars Zehnder (XC) 2.29, Heinz Zehnder (XC) 4.00 & 4.18, Russell Bennett (WQR) 2.35, David Griffin (FQR) 3.25, Roly Sundell (GZO) 1.51 & 3.50, Ralph Henderson (KO) 2.15 & 5.07. Peter Griffiths has been treating himself & very grateful members to some memorable trips in the Nimbus 4DM. John Moore & Bob Ward have been quietly enjoying themselves in their Ventus CM's. Rosemary Zehnder had a scenic trip in the Grob with son Lars. Spring is upon us.

New Members

Welcome to Robert Scott, Dudley Waters and "the Harpers" - Andrew, Charles & John. Robert Scott has returned to gliding after a long absence and is busy giving much needed help to Shane McCaffrey. Dudley is touring Australia (& all gliding clubs in between) in his luxurious motor home. He is a former NZGA National Coach & has already settled into the Hornet & the LS7. The Harpers mid-week flying course was rained out & hopefully, there will be a re-match. We don't like to see customers disappointed.

Blasts from the past

Good to see Mike Morris and Owen Jones both back for a flight.

Avian encounter

Trevor Bange writes : " Recently, whilst flying at Warwick, I was regularly flying with (& joined by) two wedge tailed eagles. They are magnificent birds and to see them flying in close proximity is truly beautiful. On a number of occasions they came in close to the glider, within a metre of the cockpit and studied the occupants carefully before "peeling off" and coming back on the next orbit. One actually bumped a glider on its travels, but did no damage. Back home at Jondaryan last weekend, whilst on a check flight, I was joined by two more eagles. They thermalled with us whilst we climbed 2,500 feet then one set off on "task'. We did likewise, following & overtaking slowly whilst lower than the eagle. As we drew close I felt it was startled by our presence (appearing from behind) and dived to one side, impacting a glancing blow on the rear canopy of the Puchacz. Hindsight is very good, but my suggestion to pilots is that, even though you are aware that the eagle is comfortable with your presence, do not allow yourself to be lulled into a false sense of security and try to get too "close to nature" as their methods of flight and collision avoidance are totally different from ours." (The pair is still in the area, albeit a

bit shy of gliders and put on a great aerobatic display for the Scouts on the 17th - Ed.)

For Sale

1 x B25 final glide computer, displays 8 legs - \$450. 2 x Ilec auxiliary display units, display 20 second average and speed to fly - \$200. Ron Brecknell phone/fax 3821 4191. Diamant 16.5 metre - Owen Jones.

Scouts

A big contingent from Jimboomba & Mt Cotton made a real adventure of it over the weekend of 17th/18th October. Stan Cornish, one of the leaders, cooked us a sumptuous meal on the Saturday night & the clubhouse & bunkhouse were swept, vacuumed & mopped on the Sunday morning. Even the bins were emptied & relined. How's that ! On 14th November we fly the folks from Helensvale.

Christmas/New Year Flying

John Moore & Murray Knight are happy to organise a weeks flying from Saturday 26th December to Sunday 3rd January. The club has traditionally operated over this period but on an ad hoc basis. We feel that, with some leadership & coordination, good cross-country & badge flights could be flown. DDSC has not been "big" on badge flights for quite a long time & it's probably about time we did something about it. We have a large resource of cross-country pilots, private & club aircraft as well as instructors. Two seater XC flights could go out along with single seaters led by experienced pilots - a la Teams Challenge. We also consider that social & family participation is long overdue and are willing to put together a social programme (some flying may need to be sacrificed !) Warwick host their Two Seater Regatta over this period and as we don't wish to compete with it The "rules" would be : DDSC members only ; no aircraft bookings - these would be allocated along with the tasks; no pre-solo training on the week days (we have weekends & other courses for that.) If you are interested, agree with the concept and/or want to help please contact John or Murray - stating your goals. Overflow accommodation could be organised with the Bowenville hotel at good rates. Local tourist sites include : Rimfire Winery at MacLagan, Bunya Mountains, Kingaroy Wineries, Steele Rudd's Pub at Nobby, horse riding in the Bunya foothills, etc. etc.

Airworthiness Officer

Greetings. My name is Steve Mountstephen and I have been elected as the club Airworthiness Officer for 1998/99. I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself. I rejoined the club earlier this year after an absence from gliding of over eight years. I moved into the Oakey/Toowoomba area from Adelaide earlier in the year. My wife is still in Adelaide and will join the children and I very soon. My home contact number is 4639 4590, work number is 4691 7766 and my E-mail address is nimbus@enter.net.au . If, in the course of a DI, you notice an aircraft approaching a periodic inspection which could render it U/S if not attended to - please let me know. LS7 has had original tips replaced & is now operational. Puchacz canopy birdstrike now repaired. Grob mainwheel fairing is having a duplicate mould made & will

be fitted to the aircraft shortly. Hornet pilots please contact Bob Keen re working bee.

Flying Training Courses

A comprehensive programme of weekend & midweek courses has been developed. The first weekend course, commencing Saturday 7th November, is already full. Kurtz Rode-Bramanis & Dieter Gerschwitz from Scouts Air Activities have committed. Welcome to Kurtz & good flying to Dieter who has been a DDSC member since early this year. May the weather shine upon you.

Darling Downs Soaring Club on the Net

www.powerup.com.au/~shanea/ddsc/home.htm

The website is proving popular with visitors from near and far dropping in for a look. We have also been receiving quite a few compliments about the site. Recently we have added a website statistics and a guestbook facility. For those with Internet access you can find links to these facilities from the home page. For those without access here's a quick snapshot of where some of our guests have been from - Australia (240), Unknown (70), North America (64), Europe (33), Asia (12), Africa (4), South America (2) - and some comments from Marc Gohier of the Montreal Soaring Council;

Great site! I'm definitely going to have to improve our site now that I've seen yours. Excellent work, great graphics. Judging by your web site, you guys have a very nice club. Great facilities, excellent equipment! I'm going to have to find some way to get myself "down under" for a visit. Keep up the good work and best wishes for a great soaring season. Following suggestions from some members we are planning on starting an area on the site for member profiles. If you have Internet access have a look at the Wellington Gliding Club's member's page <http://www.gliding.co.nz/wgc/members.htm> for an idea of what we plan to do. If you are currently trying to buy or sell a glider, there are a number of FREE and fee paying soaring classified websites where you can place your advertisement. We can also advertise on our site. If you require further information about the website contact Shane Andersen on 07 3345 2437 or e-mail: shanea@powerup.com.au

CFI

Congratulations to the club's newest Air Experience Instructor, Ken Stehbens. Ken has also been nominated by the instructors panel for Level 1 upgrading. The club will be running weekend courses at the rate of one course a month from now until the end of next year. Each course will run for three consecutive weekends on both days and will consist of up to 32 flights. The club is also keen to run more midweek courses, numbers permitting. Remember that midweek flying is on the first Thursday and Friday of each month and bookings are essential for planning. This also includes those private owners who will require a launch. Be aware of Airspace changes - Oakey restricted area radius will go out to 23 NM which is roughly Kommamurra Silo. The steps in the vicinity of Toowoomba are to be altered and an MBZ established. Warwick City Council has also applied for a CTAF at Massey Field. These changes are planned for December 1998. Could all pilots returning from X-country tasks avoid crossing the runway below 500 feet AGL. If possible, make the finish run along the inactive side of the runway, ie if finishing from

the south then pull up on the southern side of the strip and then do a circuit. Remember that not everyone may have a serviceable radio to hear your inbound call and the person you could pull up in front of might just be on a first solo. A radio call advising that you are going to do a low fast finish across the strip does not give you the authority to carry out one. For those who may be unsure of the runway orientation it is 30-12. Aircraft bookings - If you book an aircraft for the day and you are not on the field by 10.00 AM then the aircraft reverts to "first come - first served." For the newer members, all bookings are made through the CFI (07) 4635 3468. Christmas function - Terry Mosler has graciously volunteered to organise the Christmas function. It will be held at the club on sat the 19 December. There will be dawn launches, dual tows, a pylon race, Santa for the kids and an excellent meal. Hopefully, some raffles, entertainment and a large marquee to provide some shade. It is essential for catering that people give an indication of attendance To book for any of the days activities contact Terry Mosler. Aircraft bookings through Denis Lambert. Last year went extremely well, so come and be part of your club's activities.

A new roster is out. Once again, consider entering that flight in the Decentralised Comps. You might just win. Andrew Ward will have the LS7 away for the FAI Nationals from November 20 to December 6. Safe Flying.

Treasurer

GFA annual subs are now overdue & have to be remitted from club funds. It is very important that all members have (had) sufficient credit in their accounts to cover this. If you have been short please cover this debit ASAP.