

# *Fly About*

Northam Aero Club (Inc.) Newsletter

Vol. 54 Issue No.12 DECEMBER 2023



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# Presidents Message

The Christmas lunch was very well attended and it was comforting to see a lot of our early members making it back to the club. John Douglas has retired from Instructing and as one of the club's first Instructors, we enjoyed his company on the day. It was fantastic to see JD and also Mike Smith another of our Instructors catching up with our members. John Masters and Bruce Smart always enjoy their time together, with JD reminiscing and I could only imagine the stories that would have been told.

Thank you to all the people that helped clean up the club rooms and put food together to make it the success that it was. We are fortunate to have such a great group of volunteers within the club. A special thank you to Paul Blain for repairing the kitchen tiles and keeping all the workers safe.

I took the opportunity to have JD present the Northam Aero Club volunteers with their Appreciation Certificates and as I stated if it wasn't for JD we would not have the club to present the certificates.

I must thank Peter Hill for feeling sorry for me coming last in the monthly flying competition by presenting me with a stop watch so I can fly more accurately and hopefully move up the ladder. Thank you Peter.

2023 has been a big year of events for the Northam Aero Club and as we move into 2024, I cannot help thinking how lucky we have been with the events that were held in May and September for the Ballooning Championships.

Our humble airfield of Northam has been the centre stage for both the National Championships and International Women's World Championships for hot air ballooning. The weather proved challenging for both events and still gave us a great result.

Thank you to all for 2023 and I wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Cheers,  
Errol

# Club Captain's Report

## **Captain's Report — Rescheduled November 2023 Competition**

The November Competition was held on Sunday the 26th due to storms forecast on the normal day.

The task was a Navigation Exercise to the north and east with targets mostly new. The targets were chosen in the area of the President's youth, trying to help him with his scores.

Six pilots took part. The early ones had a more comfortable flight due to turbulence building during the morning.

One pilot lost a few points when selecting a place to land, after a theoretical engine failure. He chose a stubble paddock instead of Dempster's airstrip....

Navigation and accurate flying were evident with most pilots passing two of the targets on the correct side.

All the pilots flew accurate final turns, stayed on the centre line and recovered well from the turbulence. A couple of aircraft didn't concentrate on staying on the center line after a really good landing. Perhaps they relaxed a bit after the stressful approach and flair.

- |   |              |  |
|---|--------------|--|
| ➔ | First place  | James Hill – C152 BFC with 119 points          |
| ➔ | Second place | Peter Hill – C152 BFC with 118 points          |
| ➔ | Third place  | Sir Errol Croft – C172 JXI with 93 points      |
| ➔ | Equal fourth | Paul Blain & Ian Berry C172 PGL with 85 points |

Thanks to Marg Mac for her gourmet muffins and personing (apparently manning is sexist) the kitchen! We all enjoyed morning tea, unfortunately Ash had a prior commitment so we missed out on his scones.

Cheers

Dave McFarlane

0428 743031

# Club Captain's Report

## **Captain's Report — Rescheduled December 2023 Competition**

The Competition was held in gusty turbulent conditions with wind shear and sink on Runway 14. As the Captain was driving back from Cue and couldn't be back until 1100hrs the participating Pilots shared judging and scoring. Thank you. Father Christmas had an ETA of midday so to clear the airspace for his arrival, the competition was shortened to 3 circuits consisting of Flapless, Powered and Glide.

Five and a half members participated (the half being the Captain only bringing half his skills)

Winners were....

- |                |                                 |
|----------------|---------------------------------|
| → First:       | Ashley Smith C172 PGL 67 points |
| → Second:      | Paul Blain C172 PGL 66 points   |
| → Equal Third: | Peter Hill C152 BFC 63 points   |
|                | Errol Croft C172 JXI 63 points  |

When we have gusty north easterly winds we should establish a temporary Club room adjacent to the Keys for the entertainment of the observers!

Next official competition will be Sunday February 11<sup>th</sup>. Briefing 0900hrs.

Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> January, if temperatures and weather look good we may have an unofficial competition. I will email you with details.

Merry Christmas and a Happy and Safe New Year everyone!!!!

Dave McFarlane

0428 743031

# Club Captain's Report



**Ian Berry in his Cessna Cardinal**



**Peter Hill in his Cessna 152**



**Ashley Smith making it look easy**

# Christmas Luncheon



**SANTA WAS A HIT WITH THE KIDS**





# Christmas Luncheon



Club President Errol Croft kicks off the presentations



Errol presenting John Douglas with a retirement gift

# Membership Renewals

Its that time of year and club memberships are now due. The committee is pleased to advise that the membership costs will remain at \$55 per member for 2024

Invoices will be sent out to members just after Christmas, however if you wish to pay beforehand, please ensure you include your name in the bank transaction description so we can identify your payment.

If anyone has any questions, please feel free to either email me or give me a call.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you and your families,

Cheers

Paul

Email: [nactreasurer@bigpond.com](mailto:nactreasurer@bigpond.com)

Telephone: 0427 909 412




# Around The Web











## ERSA Changes


Within the ERSA, you may be familiar with the PRD (Prohibited, Restricted and Danger) Areas. This has now been updated to be the SUA (Special Use Airspace) section of the document (see below).


Thanks to MJ for sharing


 Documents


ERSA & DAPS 30Nov2023

	PreFlight Information and Flight Planning
	DAP Introduction
	DAP East Introduction
	DAP West Introduction
	AVFAX - AVFAX MADE SIMPLE
	INTRO - ERSA INTRODUCTION
	SUA
	AERODROME AND ALA CODES
	IFR WAYPOINTS
	VFR WAYPOINTS

 Maps

 ScratchPad

 Airfields

 Documents

# Membership Renewal & Apparel

## Northam Aero Club Membership & Apparel Order Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Not Renewing

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Membership: ☐ Adult \$55.00

☐ Junior \$10.00

Club Bank Details: BSB 036-107 Acc Number: 69-2937

Apparel: ☐ Club Polo Shirt \$35.00 – Size \_\_\_\_\_ Name on Shirt: \_\_\_\_\_

100% breathable polyester jersey knit, snag resistant. Knit collar with contrast tipping.

Mens sizes S M L XL 2XL 3XL or 5 XL (185gsm standard 3 button)

Womens sizes 8 10 12 14 16 18 20 22 or 24 (Ladies 215 gsm with open V with 2 press studs)

Club Cap \$25.00 plus \$8.00 postage



Caps also available from the Bar

Total enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

If you would like to receive an invoice please tick ☐

"Fly About" magazine Yes ☐

No ☐

Many thanks,  
Northam Aero Club Committee

Northam Aero Club Cap \$25.00

Northam Aero Club Polo Shirt \$35.00 personalised



# Bar

The Bar will be open each Saturday  
evening from 17:00 — 19:00

**(excluding Saturday 30th of December)**

## Next Club Committee Meeting

**Sunday 11th February 2024 at 13:00**

### **Wanted - Aviation Memorabilia**

- Books
- Artefacts
- Photographs
- Old Aircraft Parts
- Signs

If it's old and historic—I'm interested

**Adam Price—0428 611 797**

### **NAC Club Aircraft Bookings**



Enquiries— Matt Bignell

**0407 873 700**

# Classifieds

## Northam Aero Club Merchandise

**Club Polo Shirts with name and club logo—\$35.00**

*Postage available—\$10.00 per order*

**Club Caps with logo—\$25.00**  
*available at the bar*

**Stubbie Holders—\$7.00**  
*available at the bar*

*Postage available—\$8.00*



## LEARN TO FLY Recreational Aviation Capital of the West



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and pilots' supplies"**

# NAC Cessna 172—VH-PGL

## Hire Fee Structure

- Private Hire - \$260 per hour
- Dual Training - \$410 per hour
- TIF's - \$205 per 1/2 hour
- Briefing - as required
- Instructor (in owner's aircraft) - \$150 per hour

## Pre-paid Discounted Block Rates Available

- 5 hours - less 5%
- 10 hours - less 10%
- 20 hours - less 15%

*Student pilots may use the discounted block rate for aircraft hire only. Instructor fees remain as priced above*

For all further enquiries please contact:

NAC Treasurer - [nactreasurer@bigpond.com](mailto:nactreasurer@bigpond.com) T: 0427 909 412

Aircraft Bookings: **Matt Bignell** - 0407 873 700

## Next Club Competition

**Next Competition: 9:00am Sunday 11th February 2024**

**Cheers,**

**Dave McFarlane**

**Club Captain 0428 743 031**

**President**

Errol Croft

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