

NSWRA Newsletter

New South Wales Rocketry Association Inc.

September - December 2018

We wish all members a happy and safe Christmas break, and hope to see all of you at our first launch in 2019 on 26th January

Possible visit to ANSTO in January

ANSTO (Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation) at Lucas Heights holds Water Rockets Workshops for kids aged 8 to 14 in the January school holidays:

www.ansto.gov.au/whats-on/water-rockets-workshop-multiple-dates

The organiser is interested in having NSWRA attend as it adds to the spectacle for the children – on previous occasions we have launched a couple of small model rockets on A8 motors up to around 100 metres.

There are also organised tours of the facility on some afternoons.

If the site tour is running on Monday 21st January, some of us are planning to join the Water Rocket Workshop and launch a few small rockets in the morning, and then stay for the tour that afternoon. This will depend on circumstances on the day – eg if raining, or if a fire ban is in effect, or if ANSTO need to re-schedule.

An email will be sent to members once we have more details.

Mullaley launch weekend 6-7 April

Mullaley, near Gunnedah, is our high power rocketry (HPR) site, but it's not just for HPR. The site is much larger and more open than Whalan Reserve, so is ideal for any rockets that you may be reluctant to launch at Whalan. Plus we can launch up to 17000 feet!

All NSWRA members (& their guests) are invited to attend the first launch at Mullaley for 2019. We have scheduled this for the first weekend in April, to be outside the dates for the fire season and school holidays, and to not conflict with the THUNDA event

Thank you for your generous donation!

At the last Mullaley launch in 2018, we asked members if they would like to make a donation to help the landowners who have been severely affected by the drought. We raised \$754 from attendees – thank you all! The club put in extra to make a total donation of \$1500. This was greatly appreciated by the landowners. We received a nice thank you letter which is attached to the end of this newsletter

End of year get-together

More than a dozen members met up at Rooty Hill RSL after the last launch in 2018. It was nice to relax in the air-conditioned comfort with a cool drink after spending the morning in the sun. It was a fitting end to a great year of rocket launches

Upcoming Events

All launches are at Whalan Reserve unless otherwise noted

January

- 21 Visit to ANSTO (to be confirmed)
- 26 Launch Day. First launch in 2019

February

- 23 Launch Day

Annual General Meeting – Outcomes

This is a summary of the AGM held on 26th October; the full minutes are available on request.

- Committee for 2018-19:

President: Tim Banicevich

Vice President: Geoff Mee

Treasurer: David Head

Secretary: David Cumming

Assistant Secretary/Senior Advisor: Norman McGeoch

Committee Member: Kenny Fackler

Committee Member: Rhys Lane

We thank the out-going committee members Andrew and George for their outstanding contributions over the years.

- Kevin Burchell was declared the winner of the streamer duration contest (flight time of 35.0 seconds)
- We encourage more members to take on the roles of LCO and RSO
- Date of the Mullaley weekend decided

We would like more members to attend these meetings. The AGM gives a broad overview of the club's current directions and financial health and provides an opportunity for discussion amongst members and the committee.

Launch Report Mullaley Launch weekend 8th – 9th September

Number of launches: Saturday 38, Sunday 26

After weeks of dry weather, there was some heavy rain just before the weekend. Unfortunately this wasn't sufficient to aid the landowners. Saturday morning was fine and clear, although windy, and the ground at launch area 2 dried out very quickly.

Saturday: David H set the scene with the first flight, "Weidmuller A Series" on a H550.

Congratulations to those that achieved their MPR assessments – attempts made by Derek ("Long John" on an E20), Ryan ("Big Daddy" on an E22), Ron ("AGM Pitbull" on a G77), and Justin ("Selenite" on a F79).

HPR certification attempts were made by Travis with his "T2" on a H125 for his L1 cert, followed up with his L2 attempt using a J285 motor in his "T4" rocket; Ron & Josh ("AGM Pitbull" on a H100), Muhammed ("Champ" on a H135).

Pavlos launched his "King Kong" on an I285 for his L1 attempt, but encountered a separation.

Other good launches included Scott's Hi-Tech on an I55, Jeff's "Gurgle Splunger" on a J270, Kevin's "Spitfire" on an I175, and David C's "Bunyip" on an I218.

Of course, the big highlight was David Bell's half-scale "Patriot", launched on a M3500 for a perfect flight and recovery.

Last flight of the day was Sam's "The Next Big Thing" on an L3200.



David B's ½-scale "Patriot"



David H's "Weidmuller A Series"

Sunday: David H was again first of the pads with another flight of the "Weidmuller A Series", this time on a J354.

There were two more MPR assessments - Tom used an E20 motor in his "Purple Galaxy", and Winston's "Hilmer 66" had a F51.

HPR L1 certification attempts were made by Muhammed, launching his "Agile Champ" on an H87; Justin used a H151 in his "Selenite", and Pavlos used an H90 in his "Godzilla".

Congratulations, guys!

Vineeth was unsuccessful with his attempt – his "Big Shot" on an H550 motor ended up as a lawn dart. Back to the drawing board!

Patrick made his L2 cert attempt with a K535 motor in his "Kilo One Four" rocket.

Sam again had the last flight of the day with his "Get the Shovel" rocket using a H400 motor. This lived up to its name, experiencing a separation event

Thanks to all for making this another great weekend

Launch Day 29th September

Number of launches: 33

Toby started the activities with a nice flight of his “Stormcrow” on a F44 motor. He later launched his “Zenith” on a B6-4, and Vincent used an A10 motor in his “Hammerhead”. Kevin took advantage of the moderate winds and launched his “Sunseeker” for the streamer duration contest, recording a flight time of 35.0 seconds. This will be very hard to beat.

All the Shaw family launched rockets – Aaren & Caeden used B4 motors in their “Flash” and “Patriarch” rockets, Ryan launched his “Big Daddy” on a D12, and Korina’s “Yellow Star” used a B6 motor.

Jean and Ulysse launched rockets from their “Vega” series on C6-5 motors, the “Vega 3.2” was a little unstable.

Kenny’s historic “Mercury Redstone” had a great flight on a B6-4.

Possibly the most unique rocket flown today was Derek’s tube-fin rocket made from Pringles tubes, appropriately named “Once You Pop, You Can’t Stop”. It had a great flight with an E20 motor

Laurence launched his “Silver Bullet” twice with B6 motors.

Tom’s “100% Failure to Launch” had an unstable flight, but his “Puuple Galaxy” had a nice flight on an E20.

Sam used an F240 in his “Astrobee D” for its first flight, but had a separation issue. It had a good subsequent flight on an F51.

We had a few other rockets experiencing separation. This serves as a reminder for us all to ensure that the shock-cord is of sufficient length, in good condition, attachment points are secure, and the motor delay is appropriate.



Derek’s “Once You Pop, You Can’t Stop”

Launch Day 27th October

Number of launches: 24

Some great launches today in light to moderate winds.

George wasn’t launching his water rockets; several members could be considered as launching in his honour to make up for it:

His son Paul launched his “Thunderbee Hero” and “Fire Flight”

Derek launched his “Dark Shadow Junior”, a scaled-down version of George’s rocket. Derek also launched his entrant in the streamer duration contest – the “Streamer Dreamer” had a respectable flight duration of 24.6 seconds; and the “Once You Pop, You Can’t Stop” had another nice flight with an E20 motor.

Laurence used a D12 in his “Liquidator” – a good flight, but the 7 second delay was a bit long.

Other flights of note included:

Kenny’s “Patriot”, “Red Max” and “Nike Apache” on C6-5 motors – unfortunately a separation occurred on the “Apache”

Rhys’ “Kookaburra 5-B on an F50, Tom’s “Purple Galaxy” on an E20 – unfortunately a wayward flight.

Oliver’s “Blue Streak” on an F32, Tim’s “Cweasel” on a G64.

Phil’s “SCR Cyclone” on an F24 for his MPR Assessment. Congratulations, Phill!

Launch Day 1st December

Number of launches: 46

The launch day scheduled for 24th November had to be postponed due to the high winds, and was re-scheduled to today.

What a huge launch event! Winds were only light, but it was very warm.

There were too many great flights to list them all, but they included:

Derek’s “Steampunk 1”, Oscar’s V2, David C’s “Snarky”, Josh’s “Eliminator”, and Laurence’s “S.P.1.”, all on D12 motors

Norman’s “Nike Smoke” on a G53; Derek again launched his “Once You Pop, You Can’t Stop” with an E20 motor.

Rhys launched the Kookaburra Mini 2 on a cluster of a D12 and two C6 motors, Ryan used an E20 motor in his “Big Daddy”.

Pavlos finally managed to launch his “Week Old Cyclops” on a G80 motor after several attempts. The 14 second delay was definitely too long!

Some of the more unusual launches were Laurence’s “Sputnik 1” on an A3 motor, Tim’s Christmas tree “The Last Noel” on a cluster of 3 D12 motors, and George’s water rockets with the water replaced with flour (not self-raising!)

It was a fantastic end to launching in 2018. Thank you all for a great year.



Tim’s “The Last Noel”



"Montana"
173 Finlay Road
Mullaley NSW 2379

20 September 2018

Mr. Tim Banicevich
NSW Rocketry Association
9 Wyalong St.
Panania NSW 2213

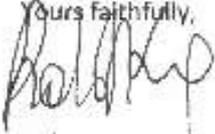
Dear Tim,

On behalf of our family, I would like to express our grateful appreciation for the most generous donation you made. We feel humbled and very grateful for this most generous gift.

It offers comfort to know that our "city cousins" have an understanding of the financial and emotional strain the drought is having on a large section of rural Australia.

This drought is by far the worst we have experienced. We did not get enough rain to sow our winter crop which represents half our annual income. We now have to hope that there is rain in the next few weeks to be able to sow summer crops.

Please pass on to members of NSW Rocketry Association our heartfelt appreciation.

Yours faithfully,

Robyn King