



NSWRA association with STEAM Australia

As a direct result of our participation at the Macquarie University Astronomy Open Night, NSWRA has now been involved with the school holiday programs organised by STEAM Australia. STEAM (Science Technology Engineering Arts & Math) is “an innovative and fun workshop aimed to nurture digital skills for the future, fostering creativity, innovation and confidence.” You can check out the website (www.steamau.com) and see the video they produced of our rocketry activities at one of their sessions.

Mullaley launch weekend

Everything was in place for the weekend at Mullaley on 10th-11th September. However, we were a little anxious about the weather. The area had some rain in the days leading up to the weekend, and the forecast was for more rain on Friday, easing on Saturday – but at least Sunday looked like being fantastic. As it turned out, Saturday morning dawned sunny and bright, with very little wind.

The full report is on page 2.

Annual General Meeting - report

The annual general meeting was held on Saturday, 29th October. Most committee members were returned in the same capacity, with Tim as President, David C as Secretary, George as Assistant Secretary (and Registrar and Webmaster), and David H as Treasurer.

The flight cards have now been in use for some months and are working well. However, it was brought to our attention that the size of the fields for entering details may present difficulties for some people. Accordingly, we have now made available the same card in a larger size (A4) to supplement the existing card. Both cards will be on the NSWRA website. Please use the smaller cards unless you must use the larger version.

We keep a summary of the information on the flight cards for historical reasons. This means that the flight cards can be returned to the owners of the rockets for their own records. These cards may be picked up at the next launch day, so if you want them, please collect them. Unclaimed cards will be destroyed after some period of time.

The NSWRA Policies and Procedures document has been updated, and has been loaded to the website. Please take the time to read through this.

We want to encourage members to take on the operational roles of LCO and RSO. The AMRS website has an on-line course and tests. More experienced members (especially HPR fliers) are urged to take on these responsibilities.

We are planning to have 2, and possibly 3, weekends at Mullaley next year - in April, the June long weekend, and possibly September, with the first launch to be held on 1st & 2nd April. Mark this in your diaries **now!**

Upcoming Events

All launches are at Whalan Reserve unless otherwise noted

November

- 13 Launch Day
- 26 Launch Day

December

- 11 Launch Day. Last launch for 2016
- 25 Merry Christmas!

January

- 28 Launch Day. First launch for 2017

Mullaley launch weekend report

The rain in the days beforehand meant that we couldn't access launch area 1. However, LA2 is a suitable alternative, and, being off a public road, is almost always accessible. The biggest drawback was that one of the neighbouring properties had a crop of canola, so dense that you wouldn't want to have a rocket land in there.

The first flight on Saturday morning was George's new "Light Shadow" rocket. This fibreglass rocket is unique in that it is able to be launched as either a water or a pyro rocket. It was launched with water at 240psi for its first flight, to over 600 feet. George has uploaded video of this to Youtube: www.youtube.com/watch?v=-e522K-xywo.

George also had 2 nice flights of his "Polaron G2" water rocket.

Jeff tried launching his "Gurgle Splunger" with an unusual motor setup - unsuccessfully - but managed to get it off the pad with an H123. Unfortunately the chute didn't deploy. He and Adam made up for this with nice flights of "Eli" on a D12 and "Leo I" on an F52.

David C used an F24 in his "Jabiru" and an H123 in his "Gambit" for 2 good flights.

Norman had perfect flights of his "Arreaux" using G76 and G53 motors.

Andrew's "R14" flew well on a G64, although only the drogue chute deployed. He then launched his "R8 Firebird" - remember that canola crop mentioned earlier? Unfortunately that's where it landed, waiting to be recovered by the farmer. Sunday morning saw us back at the site for Norman to get things going with his "Arreaux" on a G64.

David C used an I161 in his "Bunyip" for a nice flight. Unfortunately the G79 motor in his "Ganymede" didn't have the expected 7 second delay, and the chute came out while under thrust - time for a re-build.

We were joined this morning by Patrick with his new rocket called "Bundle of Tubes". The pre-flight check suggested that its stability may be marginal, so Patrick improvised cleverly and overcame this by inserting some very small rocks in the nosecone. It had 2 good flights on D12-7 motors, although the 7 second delay was a bit long.

You had to feel sorry for Jeff and Adam - their new "Bones" rocket headed down-range when launched on an H152, and couldn't be located. All the owners of the surrounding properties are friendly and helpful, so we're sure to get it back.

You don't want to miss the next launch in 2017 - scheduled for the first weekend in April.

Launch Day 24th September

Number of launches: 30

Light winds made for some great flights, although the morning didn't get off to a good start - David H's "Phyzer", launched on an F79, separated and resulted in a core sample. He made up for this with good flights of his other rockets - "Fat Boy" (D12), "Hot Point" (F15 and E75 - an amazing motor!), "Green Bean" (C6), and his "Big Red Saucer" on a G64. His son, Johnathon, had a good flight of his "Type 31" on an F15.

We had a couple of V2 rockets - Kevin launched his on an E9, and Mitchell used a D12 motor in each of his 2 flights. Kevin also launched his "FAI 40", "Rascal" and "Bigger Bertha", and Mitchell launched his "Rising Star" on a D12 for a nice first flight.

Spencer's large "BBX" and "Mirage" rockets had great flights on G motors. He also launched his "Nike Smoke" on an F27.

Jason launched his scratch-built "Patriot" on a C6, and also used a C6 in his "Phoenix". The stability of this is still a bit marginal - always an issue with rockets with fins extending forward.

Patrick, with the support of members from the Sydney Uni Rocketry group, was successful with his MPR accreditation flight using a kit from LOC Precision, named "Xiao Feng's Fury", with an F50 motor. Congratulations, Patrick!

The group also launched a number of low power rockets.

Launch Day 9th October

Number of launches: 1

Blacktown City Council had mown the area recently, so the range looked fantastic in the fine weather. Unfortunately, nobody had shown up by 10:15, so the gear was packed away. The lack of attendance was a little surprising, as this was the first Sunday launch at Whalan for some time. Apologies to anyone who arrived late to find the range closed.

Launch Day 29th October

Number of launches: 8

Numbers were down a little today - were people avoiding the AGM?

George flew his "Axion II" water rocket on 4 occasions, testing an acoustic apogee detector. This may not be the most reliable method, as the last flight resulted in a lawn dart. George's son, Paul, successfully launched and recovered his "Black Thunder" twice on C6 motors.

David C's "Heatseeker" had a good flight and recovery on a B6, only to have it drift into the trees. Fortunately, Mark, with Geoff's assistance, was able to get it down. Thanks, guys!

David C also launched a plastic spool (maybe a first for the club?) on a C6 motor. Theoretically spools exhibit stable flights - it was actually quite amazing how stable it was.



David C's "Ganymede"
- pic by Patrick