

NSWRA Newsletter



New South Wales Rocketry Association Inc.

October 2022

It's been a while since our last newsletter – I was waiting to include information about Whalan launches. Unfortunately there's been so much wet weather that we had to cancel September's launch, and the October launch day had to be postponed to 12th November. This is to hopefully allow the ground to dry out sufficiently that we can access the site.

There is more rain forecast in the days leading up to then, but we're hoping that it will only be light, and we can finally resume launching.

Extra launch pad

At our last Whalan day, on 20th August, when we had near-perfect conditions, there were 67 launches! This was fantastic, but it meant that we finished quite late as sometimes the pads were full and members had to wait until the next launch session. We have now acquired an extra launch pad so we will have 16 rods available at future launches.

Mullaley August weekend

There was a huge turn-out at Mullaley on 27-28th August. Members took advantage of the excellent conditions to launch 65 rockets on Saturday and 69 rockets on Sunday.

There were numerous MPR assessment flights and HPR certification attempts. Congratulations to all who were successful! For the others, consider this as an opportunity for improvement. I hope that you learnt something from your attempt so you can succeed next time.

Although I could not attend the get-together on Saturday night, I heard that it was a great night. It was especially good to see the university teams comparing notes and either celebrating or commiserating together. NSWRA is keen to support and offer advice to all teams.

Special thanks go to the site officials and members that stayed quite late on Sunday to help launch those last-minute rockets and pack up the range. We want to avoid these late finishes in future, as it's not fair on those dedicated members. We intend to be stricter on the time of range shut-down. Any "essential" launches should be planned for Saturday, or Sunday morning at the latest.

Macquarie University Astronomy Open Night (AON)

The AON was very popular again this year, apparently all the tickets were sold out by the preceding weekend. We are grateful to Macquarie University to allow NSWRA to be involved.

It was a really fun evening and we enjoyed sharing our passion for rockets. As usual all the best questions came from the kids.

We look forward to participating again next year.

Thank you to Derek, David B, David C, George, Phillip, Tim, and Peter Berg.

A gallery of photos from the evening can be found on the NSWRA website.

Membership renewals

Your current NSWRA membership will expire on 31st December 2022.

You will be able to renew your membership in December, to cover you for 2023.

The membership fee was increased last year to enable the purchase of the Wilson F/X launch controller. The membership fee for next year has been reduced to \$60. Please ensure that you pay well before our first scheduled launch day next year, on 28th January.

MPR Motors now available!

Most members would be aware of the shortage of MPR and HPR motors.

I am pleased to advise that Peter Berg has now taken delivery of a range of mid-power motors. The HPR motors that were ordered are in limbo at this stage (but allegedly are in Australia)

As expected, the cost of these motors has increased dramatically. This is due to the decline in value of the Aussie dollar against the US dollar, but especially due to the exorbitant jump in freight costs.

His shipment also included Aerotech Q-Jet motors. These are all 18mm diameter. RRP will be confirmed once the charges have been finalised, but prices are expected to be approximately:

Q-Jet (2 per pack)		Mid Power Motors		
A3-4	22.95	E20-4W	2-pak	\$79.95
A3-6	22.95	E20-7W	2-pak	\$79.95
B4-4	25.95	F44-4W	2-pak	\$89.95
B4-6	25.95	F67-6W	2-pak	\$99.95
C12-4	29.95	G80T-14A	Single	\$89.95
C12-6	29.95			
C12-8	29.95			
D16-4	34.95			
D16-6	34.95			
D16-8	34.95			
D22-4	39.95			
D22-7	39.95			

Rescheduled Whalan launch days

As was mentioned before, the next launch day is scheduled for Saturday 12th November.

Then the usual November launch day is to be held on SUNDAY 27th November.

And we have added a launch day in December to make up for the previous cancellations, on Saturday 10th December. This will be a shortened event, as we will be holding the AGM and end of year get-together afterward – see below.

AGM/End of Year Get-together

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Saturday 10th December, at the Sawmillers Restaurant at the Quakers Inn (7 Nirimba Drive, Quakers Hill). We will be shutting down the range by 11:30, to allow time to pack up, travel to the venue (15-20 minutes' drive), and settle in.

Expected start time of the AGM will be 12:15.

The meeting will be followed by the end of year party, paid for by the club, which will include a light lunch consisting of pizzas and sandwiches. You will need to purchase your own drinks.

Please check your calendars so you can advise if you will be attending – we need to let the venue know the number of people.

Further details will be sent by email shortly.

Upcoming Events

All launches are at Whalan Reserve unless otherwise noted

November

12 Launch Day

27 Launch Day (NOTE: SUNDAY)

December

10 Launch Day

Annual General Meeting and End of Year get-together