

# NSWRA Newsletter



New South Wales Rocketry Association Inc.

November 2025

We have had a number of new people join the club recently - Welcome!

With this influx of new members, it is a good opportunity for you to familiarise (or re-familiarise) yourselves with the club's launch protocols:

## Step 1. Registration.

Any member intending to fly must register first. You must be able to provide evidence that you are a member of both NSWRA and Tripoli, by showing your membership cards; or a copy of your receipt of payment (or email from Tripoli). You must also sign the launch liability waiver form. You will then be issued a wristband.

## Step 2. Flight Safety Review (FSR).

All rockets must be approved to launch by a flight safety review officer/RSO.

Fill in **all** the required fields on the flight card, do not write in the shaded sections. Ensure that you are using the current version of the flight card, available on the NSWRA website: [https://nswrocketry.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/Flight\\_cards\\_double\\_sided.pdf](https://nswrocketry.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/Flight_cards_double_sided.pdf). Blank cards from before September 2024 are superseded and will not be accepted. Please also make sure you print these in the correct size – there are 4 cards on an A4 page. There will be blank cards available at the launch site

**Write legibly!** The FSR officer and LCO must be able to read it. Always re-check that you've filled in the card properly and completely before presenting the card and rocket for approval.

Be aware that you, the owner of the rocket, are responsible. You need to assure yourself that the rocket is OK to launch. Do not rely on FSR to identify any deficiencies.

Note: the first thing that FSR will check is that you are wearing a wristband. If not, you may not launch.

Once approved, the flight card will be initialled by the FSR official. If it's not initialled, the rocket won't be launched.

## Step 3. Launch control.

Place the rocket on an appropriate pad, checking that it slides freely on the rod. Connect the clips to the igniter, ensuring that they're not touching each other. You can check for continuity by pressing the button with the corresponding number on the pad box unit.

Place your flight card on the launch control board at the LCO table, on the clip that corresponds to your pad number.

## Mid-Power Rocketry Assessments

Mid-Power Rocketry is one step up from low power rocketry, and is a progression towards high power rocketry. NSWRA, amongst other clubs, requires its members to gain experience with low-power rockets before attempting a MPR assessment. Members must be able to provide evidence of having launched several rockets and recovering them intact.

The criteria are outlined on the website and are detailed in the document "MPR Assessment Procedure" <https://nswrocketry.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/MPR-Assessment-Procedure-Nov2025.pdf>.

Potential candidates should ensure that they become familiar with the process beforehand. It is recommended that applicants print the application form and fill in the first section prior to the launch day.

## Upcoming Whalan Launch Days

Note that the next launch day will be held a week earlier than usual, on **Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> November**. We have been forced to do this due to a large football event taking place at Whalan Reserve on the weekend of 29<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup>. Also, we always try to hold a couple of launch days each year on a Sunday, to help cater for those members that have difficulty making it on Saturdays.

We expect SafeWork NSW to be attending this launch. This doesn't mean any change to the way we conduct our activities, but we will be much stricter in what we allow to be launched. Any rocket with some uncertainty about its design or construction may be rejected by FSR. We recommend that the only rockets

flown should be of proven designs. This is not the day for first flights of non-conventional or dubious configurations.

The final launch day for the year will be held on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> December. This will be a shortened event, as the annual general meeting will be held afterwards.

## Annual General Meeting

The AGM will be held on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> December at our usual venue, the Sawmillers Restaurant in the Quakers Hill Tavern, starting at 12:30pm. These meetings typically only last about 30 minutes. This will be followed by a light luncheon (food is provided)

There will be an email sent to members in the weeks leading up to this. This email will request that you indicate if you will or will not be attending. It is essential that you reply, so we can confirm numbers with the venue.

I recommend that all members try to make it. It is a good opportunity to find out more about the functioning of the club and discuss topics in a more relaxed environment than we have at a launch day. Plus there will be lucky door prizes!

## Membership Renewals

All NSWRA memberships expire at the end of this year. The annual fee for renewal is \$60. However, if you renew early, after the AGM but **before** the first 2026 launch on Saturday 24 January, members can take advantage of our Early Bird discount. When renewing simply use the code “earlybird” to receive a \$20 discount. Every renewing member should take advantage of this offer. After renewing, simply go to “Membership Card” and retrieve your new 2026 digital card.

## Restrictions for 2-stage rockets

A recent incident at Whalan Reserve involving a 2-stage rocket has been investigated and reviewed by the committee.

It has been agreed that, in order to ensure the safety of all attendees, the following restrictions will be in place for any 2-stage rockets launched at Whalan Reserve:

- The booster sections, if intended for tumble recovery, must not weigh more than 50g. Otherwise they must use a suitably sized parachute or streamer for recovery.
- Only black powder motors may be used throughout, no composite motors.
- Rockets should be launched from the furthest pads, and angled appropriately.

## Upcoming Events

All launches are at Whalan Reserve unless otherwise noted

### November

23 Launch Day. NOTE: SUNDAY

### December

13 Launch Day, followed by AGM and end of year party