

Presidents Report

Nick Chabrel 2024

This is my first year of what to me is a very new job. I have had the gift of a well setup LSF and a diligent executive of Rod Watkins bringing his expertise to the table as treasurer. and Phil Stevenson working hard as secretary to keep things moving along and I thank them both.

This past year we had Southern Soaring League run a successful F3j trial in December, with a team of Andrew Meyer, Dan Haskell, Beth Loveday and myself and Greg Potter as Team Manager heading to Norway next month to compete.

There has also been an F3F trial held in Western Australia last month by Stuart Hamilton organised directly with the MAAA with LSF approval. Australia will be represented by Mark Jensen, Stuart Hamilton and Ross Cox in France in October. We wish them good luck!

Last year's AGM called on the executive to form a committee to investigate alternatives to Jerilderie for the annual LSF tournament. That investigative role has to date been retained by the existing executive, with discussion had on this issue at each of our zoom meetings and at competitions in the last 6 months. We are firmly of the belief that any change should be voted on by the membership, and at this time we do not have a viable alternative to present. In addition to this, our AGM this weekend is attended by a biased group because we are in Jerilderie. If we are to maintain numbers, and hopefully bring some old hands back and even better some new ones, then I propose firstly a wider discussion of possible venues, a consideration of the timing of the event, and a vote to be held by the wider membership to make this decision. We have approval to fly until March 2026 covering 2025, for both the scale weekend and the tournament, so it is not yet time we need to decide, but the time is coming. As Mike O'Reilly explained well last year, the area approval does have some restrictions which could impact on the event, the town struggles to host our numbers, more so this year, and dining options are few. None of these so far are forcing us away, but let's keep an open mind.

Venues we have considered include; West Wyalong, attended last year for the AEFA f5j event. It was a tough, hot weekend, but the venue has possibility, with work, to host the tournament. West Wyalong is a lot bigger than Jerilderie, but will have

similar issues with tight accommodation on the June long weekend with proximity to the Sikh games. It is a roughly similar locale for travel, with an increase for those from Adelaide and Melbourne by an hour or 2, and a little less from Sydney.

Horsham was discussed, as a larger town with a field potentially available. While that is close for Adelaide and Melbourne, it would really be to the detriment to competitors from New South Wales and Queensland. Likewise Milang, with a great venue close to Adelaide but nowhere else. Both venues have successful f5j events already. Armidale likewise has events already, and is difficult for Vic/SA travel and, unless we can entice Queenslanders, may not have an advantage.

The timing of the event is also worthy of discussion. It is always challenging in June, which brings many of us here, but keeps some away or from returning. Thoughts on an alternate date should be at least considered if keeping numbers up is of importance.

These considerations do not apply to the successful Easter Scale event which continues to be well attended and there is no plan for a change of date or venue. Rod Watkins with Jim Houdalakis have done a great job of putting this event on, which has included the groundwork with local residents for both Easter and June long weekend

Thank you to the executive for your hard work, and thank you for coming to another Jerilderie for the annual LSF Australia tournament

Nicholas Chabrel