



## Tumut Aero Club

### Christmas Newsletter 2011

Well another year is quickly coming to a close, and what a fantastic year it has been. The social side of the club over the last twelve months has been extremely positive and it's great to see past members getting involved in the club again, as we are putting the negatives from the past behind us and really pushing off strongly in the right direction. Last week the committee had a three and a half hour planning meeting, separate to the committee meetings to get all the ideas on the table so that we can really work on a game plan for some short term goals, long term goals and building a strong club whilst utilising all the positive aspects of the club. Some of these things will be kicking off early next year, so remember to come along and get involved as we will be looking to improve further from a very positive 2011.

It was great to see so many events happen locally here through 2011, including the Airtourer Association visit along with the Bathurst Aero Club in March, Griffith Aero Club also popped in for lunch and a look around in September. Our 2011 fly-in was the biggest aviation event in Tumut to date, and yes planning for the 2012 Tumut Valley Fly-in has already commenced. The Tumut Aero Club Float at the Festival of the Falling Leaf was the most popular with the crowd, and having Mike's Bubble bee part way through construction in the park attracted plenty of interest, just to mention a few highlights though out the year.



Bathurst Aero Club members during their visit in March 2011.

With the aircraft back from Queensland in May, Graham Smith put in a mountain of time to have the club flying twenty hours a month and a very positive flying training operation and the club. Three club members completed their RAAus pilot certificates in 2011 and I'm sure these members will be making the most of the club aircraft for hire. Graham currently has about half a dozen students training with a few close to completing his RAAus licence and others well on their way to solo standard.

Some of the reasons for such a great training operation than other commercial operations are not only more affordable flying, but also a very encouraging club atmosphere and social activities as well as quality instruction. Graham has over 40 years flying experience including general aviation as well as gliding and recreational aviation instruction. Also the club CFI Guy Bowley who completed his flying training in the Tumut Aero Club has 30 years commercial flying experience under his belt. In 2012 the club will also be expanding its training operations.

Our fuel facility is well on the way due to plenty of hard working members. It won't be long now until we are able to make the most of having an operational fuel site at the airfield. The Tumut Shire Council also has big plans for airport upgrades including taxiway extensions, completion of the airport lighting project and a whole lot more in the planning. It is extremely positive to have the Shire council with such a positive outlook on the aerodrome and I have

heard plenty of comparisons between Tumut and plenty of other airports optimising their potential such as Temora, Yarrawonga and Narromine.



Many hands making light work. Core filling working bee Fuel Facility November 2011.

Congratulations to the Holbrook Ultralight Club on a fantastic weekend for their annual Rag and Tube fly-in also incorporating the first Jab fest. The Tumut Aero Club had around thirty members there over the course of the weekend and although I missed club member Mike Roodt's talk on Saturday evening I heard plenty of positive feedback. I'm impressed that they had Mike as the first speaker on the night and they managed to have other speakers as well. We all know if you stop to talk to Mike and get away in under an hour you have done well. (I imagine Mike talks in his sleep too!)

Early in November the TAC held its first open day which of course was yet another successful event. Plenty of our visitors were impressed by the aircraft under construction, especially Mike Roodt's various projects. The Tumut Shire Mayor John Larter brought his family along and stayed all day talking to all the club members. It was also nice to see some of our club members from Tumbarumba come down for the day.



Aero Club members and visitors at the open day.

It was fantastic to see so many club members attend the CASA Avsafety seminar at the start of December. We also had a handful of visitors from Wagga Wagga and Albury drive across for the seminar. Thanks to Teraya Miller, Mathew McKay and Albert Flemming for coming down to Tumut to run the seminar and keep us up to date, making us all the wiser for it. A big thank to Albert as he gave his final presentation to us. Albert has always done an excellent job and I personally have always enjoyed his talks. All the best in your retirement Albert.





# TUMUT AERO CLUB 2011





The club Christmas party was another example of how well the social side of the club is going at the moment. There was plenty of flying going on and the catering from Michelle from Mylk Delights was simply a treat. We decided that due to all the fantastic catering done by the aero club ladies over the past twelve months that they deserved a break and a chance to socialise rather than being 'stuck in the kitchen'. A big thankyou to Glenyce, Dianne, Pam, Anna, Marsha, Sonya, Elaine and to the rest of the ladies for catering for all the events over the year. The clubs social events have been exceptional all year and we will definitely be carrying this over into 2012.

Congratulations to the 2011 Tumut Aero Club award recipients. David Francis received the Wynyard Shield for the Best Tumut Private Pilot. Although David won the award last year, David completed his IFR training and also flew his RV-7 to the Kimberly's and back in August. John Lowther received the Tumut Air Taxi's trophy for the 'Most improved pilot', the Laurie Turnbull clubman ship award and the President's trophy both went to Glenyce Francis for her tremendous efforts on the paperwork for the club.

Thank you to everyone for making 2011 at the Tumut Aero Club such a fantastic and highly enjoyable year. Plenty of clubs around are taking notice of what a great club we have, and I have no doubt that we will have more clubs visiting us here throughout 2011. To all members, families, friends, fellow aviators and clubs I extend my best wishes for a safe and an enjoyable Christmas and an even better 2012. Safe flying to all and I look forward to seeing you all in the new year.

For everyone looking to fly into the New Year, don't forget to drop in for our first Sunday of the month BBQ starting at 8:00am New Year's day. Remember to keep up to date with events at [www.tumutaeroclub.org.au](http://www.tumutaeroclub.org.au) .

Season's Greetings and best wishes,

Simon Smith

Tumut Aero Club President