



TORQUE BACK

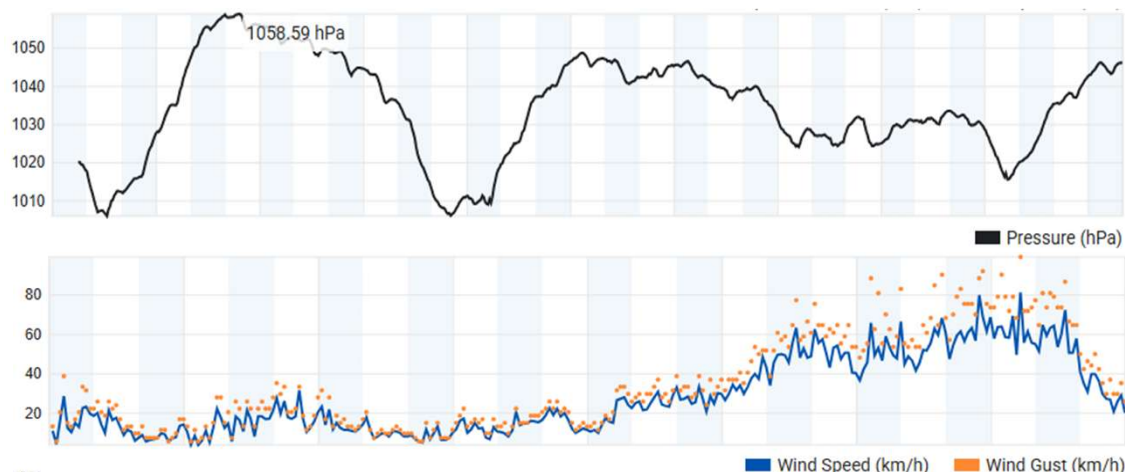
Winter Edition 2026

Hobart Model Aero Club Inc. (00549C)

Editor: Charles Connor
Email hmacsec@gmail.com

What's news?

It's been a mix of weather over the last few months at HMAC. We experienced a record high pressure system of over 1058hPa on July 6th. Exactly one month later HMAC experienced winds of 81km/hr with gusts of 99km/hr!



Amongst the windy and wet days and bitterly cold frosts we did have some odd spectacular days! Who said climate change wasn't real?

Given the colder months are upon us, there hasn't been much action at the club recently in terms of significant upgrades to the grounds. Although the drone area (perhaps we should name it "Billie's Drone Zone"?) has now had a temporary renewal, utilizing some of the bowls carpet and underlay. A landing pad has been ordered so Billie (and others of-course) can hone her landing skills to perfection.



Our President is now on a well-deserved holiday and is due to return for the start of term 4 of the school year. Prior to leaving, Ian prepared the grounds for a potentially dry Spring and Summer ahead (experts have coined this a "Godzilla El Nino").

Welcome back to all our renewing members. We've also been fortunate to add a handful of new people to the membership since the last newsletter and we welcome David Chadderton, Dennis Phelps, John McGuinness, Milton Moody, Lyell Glover, Sebastian Browning and Steve Barrow to HMAC. We also thank Peter Ralph and JJ for supporting these new members in their training. We are now at 57 total members.



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The solar panels on the shed roof have now been upgraded to larger, more efficient panels (donated by club sponsor REST Energy) and we have been maintaining close to 100% charge on the two lithium batteries since the swap over.

The camera system is still having the odd periods of drop-out which can only now be put down to data connectivity, which we hope to rectify completely with a more powerful antenna. Feel free to report any outages to me directly so I can look into it. Thanks to Bob McAllister for his assistance with troubleshooting recently.

We had another successful fundraising day at our second Bunnings BBQ for the year, raising over \$1600. Many thanks to the volunteers, especially our young members Gabriel, Grace and (previous member) William.

Finally, the frequency board that was removed for the Fun Fly Weekend last year has been reinstated at the club after it became apparent that some members still used frequencies other than 2.4GHz. Thank you to those who made contact about this.

Charlie, HMAC Secretary





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Update from the Committee

Committee members volunteer their personal time to support the club. The Committee's focus is on maintaining and improving HMAC, supporting members, and creating a safe, friendly and enjoyable environment where people can participate in and celebrate the sport of model aviation. It may be worth noting that a majority of the current Committee members work full-time.

It has become evident that there has been ongoing gossip, complaining, and unfounded innuendo circulating among members in recent times. It also appears that some members may feel the Committee has been operating in a secretive manner or has not been sufficiently transparent in its decision-making.

All significant actions undertaken by the Committee, particularly those involving expenditure from club funds, are required to be presented to the Committee for consideration and approval before the action can take place. Details of these proposals, along with any decisions made, are recorded in the Committee Meeting minutes, which are posted on the club notice board shortly after each meeting to ensure members remain fully informed.

While the Committee makes every effort to consult with relevant members on specific proposals, it is simply not feasible to seek input from all members on every decision. Some matters require timely action, and others involve operational or administrative considerations that fall within the Committee's delegated responsibilities.

Remember that Committee members are elected to their position and all members have an opportunity to nominate for such positions, oppose nominations, participate in AGMs, ask questions and provide feedback through an established governance processes. The Committee makes decisions on behalf of the membership while remaining accountable to members through those processes.

The Committee has a responsibility to ensure the club remains aligned with changing legislation, regulatory requirements and community expectations. This includes areas such as Working with Vulnerable People requirements, member welfare, respectful behaviour, anti-bullying expectations, our own Code of Conduct and promoting positive mental health and wellbeing. We also have requirements with regards to our lease with the Clarence City Council.

We acknowledge that change can sometimes take time to adjust to. However, the current Committee is committed to implementing improvements that strengthen the club today and help secure its long-term future for both current and prospective members. Our present priorities centre on enhancements to club infrastructure and the ongoing development of training initiatives.



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Update from the Committee

Members play an important role in shaping the experience of newcomers. We would encourage all members to think about the impression they create for visitors and new members, and the kind of club they want to leave for future generations. Promoting a welcoming, respectful and positive culture will help ensure the club continues to grow and thrive. **Openly gossiping and complaining in front of visitors and new members is not welcoming for them.**

The Committee exists to represent you as members, and all members are invited to write to the Committee should you have an issue that requires formal attention. Raising concerns through informal complaints or grumbling to other members is not an appropriate communication pathway and constitutes a breach of the HMAC Code of Conduct. **Members are encouraged to focus on the issue, not the individual, and where possible offer practical solutions alongside any concerns raised.**

In an attempt to put to an end any unnecessary speculation and ensure members have accurate information, we have outlined on the following pages all current projects and forthcoming proposals presently under consideration by the Committee.

Charles Connor

On behalf of the HMAC Committee



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COMMITTEE MEETINGS

With five of our seven Committee members still working—several in full-time roles—scheduling “regular” meetings can sometimes be a challenge. Even so, it’s rare for a meeting to proceed without full attendance. We aim to meet at least six times a year, though the growing number of club activities often sees us gathering more frequently.

All meeting discussions are recorded in the minutes, which are posted on the noticeboard—usually within a week or two. Past minutes are available on request from the Secretary.

For the purposes of this newsletter, most Committee discussions over the past 12 months have centred on the following agenda items:

- Maintaining the mowers and our other assets
- Planning and progressing updates to refresh and modernise the inside of the clubhouse.
 - Committee and Instructor board — installation and maintaining the current display board showing Committee members, Instructors, and our Safety Officer.
 - Historical Executive “Honours” board — developing a new board to recognise previous Executive members, going back as far as our records allow.
- Operations Manual review – in consultation with several key members, a draft was sent to members for review and feedback and a final review has now been completed
- Development of a HMAC Handbook for visitors and new members – now complete
- Safety issues – a safety audit of the site was completed by a sub-committee and several issues were noted and acted on. Some issues are yet to be fully rectified as they require significant expenditure to complete.
- Grant application proposals – increasing our assets for training, improving the grounds to rectify safety issues and hazards and allow us to fly models with more fragile landing gear, and increasing our storage capacity for models and equipment
- Training framework (refer to ‘GRANTS’)
- Replacement of the hot water system in the club house
- Expanding the solar/power system

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- Runway dimensions and better definition of the boundaries to help orientate for landing
- proposals for a possible upcoming club fun event including overnight camping followed by a “come-and-try” day for visitors
- improving the data reception for the modem
- Reinstating the frequency board for users on frequencies other than 2.4GHz.

As you can hopefully tell, your Committee is dedicated to improving your club and work very hard to achieve it. We want to be as transparent as possible, so if at any time you want clarification on something, please write to the Committee, or come to a meeting to raise an item you wish to be addressed.

CLUB FINANCES

All maintenance at the club is carried out entirely by volunteers. It has become increasingly clear that our current club fees no longer cover the ongoing costs of regular upkeep. Fuel and gas prices have risen sharply, and the cost of equipment, replacement parts, and essential materials such as dirt, gravel, grass seed, fertiliser, and herbicides continues to climb.

Our financial position has fortunately remained healthy. This is largely due to the Committee’s ongoing efforts to secure additional funding for club projects and improvements. Income from the sale of grass bales, fundraising through Bunnings BBQ events, and the successful application for community grants have all contributed significantly.

Without these supplementary income streams, relying solely on club fees would eventually make the long-term operation of the club unsustainable.

Members can be assured that all expenses are pre-approved by the Committee, and every banking transaction requires authorisation from a second signatory—meaning two Executive members must approve each payment. Aside from routine maintenance costs, all other purchases are funded through money raised by the club, not through member fees.

Our finances are presented at each AGM, where members can ask questions and seek clarification. In addition, any member may request a financial audit at the end of each financial year should they wish to do so.



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COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

While our Bunnings BBQ fundraisers bring in useful funding for the club they also double as invaluable community outreach events for our club. We have also previously been involved with community events, such as the Kempton Festival and Bunnings Father's Day and Easter events. We receive a lot of interest and enquiries about our hobby/sport at these events and encourage members to assist with hosting a stall.

We have established a strong working relationship with both TasFire and SES, who now use our site for regular RPAS training. In return, they have taken out a full membership with HMAC for two years running and have kindly offered to participate in demonstrations at club events whenever their availability allows.

The Committee is also keen to strengthen our connection with local community groups, such as the Air Cadets, by offering our facilities as a venue for STEM sessions. Opportunities like these not only support youth engagement in aviation and engineering but may also help attract new young members to the club.

We are also planning to host a "come-and-try" day in the near future. The timing of this event will depend on the availability of members and instructors who can assist and take visitors for a fly, ensuring a safe and welcoming experience for everyone who attends.

We have recently been supporting a student, Sebastian ("Seb"), in achieving the goals of his school project — designing and building a model aircraft, taking it through its first flights, and beginning his journey in learning to fly. Congratulations to Seb, who is also now one of our Junior HMAC members and is under the instruction of JJ and hopefully will remain a valued member of the club for years to come.



Seb with his project at a school presentation event recently



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GRANT APPLICATIONS (currently being considered or in progress)

Active Clubs 2026 - Project Flightpath (successfully achieved!!)

As announced to members by email on 5 August 2026, we are pleased to confirm that our grant application has been successful. This funding will allow us to develop a dedicated HMAC training framework that closely aligns with the MAAA training guidelines while tailoring the process to our club's needs.

Importantly, the grant also enables us to acquire a range of new training models—covering multiple aircraft types and both Mode 1 and Mode 2 setups—with radios configured in a buddy-box arrangement. In addition, we will be able to purchase a laptop and the latest RC flight simulation software to support new pilots as they begin their training journey.

This is a significant achievement for HMAC and represents a major step forward in strengthening our training capability and securing the club's future.

Minor Facilities Upgrade Program Grant 2026 (Active Tasmania) (waiting on outcome)

A successful outcome with this grant will allow us to move ahead with Phase 2 of the grounds improvements that began last year. This next stage will address several safety issues identified during the recent audit of the pits areas and runways.

The planned works include upgrading the pits facilities, reducing slip and trip hazards, and installing new fencing to improve both safety and site layout. These improvements will significantly enhance the experience for members and visitors alike and ensure our flying environment continues to meet modern safety expectations.

Bunnings Community Grant 2026 (recently submitted)

Fresh off the press! We have recently submitted an application to increase our storage capacity. This need has become more pressing as we prepare to receive the additional training equipment funded through the Active Club's grant.

The proposal has also been driven by feedback from several members who have expressed interest in leasing a small storage area for their models—particularly those who do not have suitable transport or space at home. Expanding our storage options would allow us to better support these members while accommodating the club's growing training resources.

Some creative ideas put forward to Committee:





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WORKS AROUND THE GROUNDS

The club grounds, pit area and runway have been sprayed to kill the young Cape Weed coming through. You might notice small areas curling up and dying off over the coming weeks.

Grass and weeds growing through the carpark area will be sprayed in the coming couple of weeks. Please contact the Secretary if you wish to be notified when this will occur if you are sensitive to Glyphosate.

As mentioned previously, the drone area has now been rejuvenated. This is still a work in progress with further improvements to come.

EQUIPMENT

Looking to the future, the Committee has discussed the possibility of purchasing a robotic mower to complement our existing ride-on mowers. Maintaining the grounds requires many hours of work, and with an ageing membership we have only a small pool of volunteers who are able, or available, to take on this task.

While it is still too early for serious consideration, a robotic mower is likely to become a practical option in the not-too-distant future as we continue planning for the long-term sustainability of our maintenance efforts.





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Photos from the field



What a great looking model you have there Grace...
and I'm not referring to the old bloke standing next to you





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We'll be using this section of the Newsletter to share some useful tips and tricks. What was that one piece of advice you were given when you first started out building or flying model aircraft that changed everything? Please share by sending an email to hmacsec@gmail.com.au.



HMAC Fundraising BBQ

**A great opportunity to give back to the club.
Funds will go back to the members by
making improvements to the club.**

When: 6th December 2026, from 9am

Where: Bunnings Mornington

Bunnings Mornington have been a huge supporter of HMAC and we thank them for their generosity.



Classifieds





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Classifieds

The following items are being offered by Glynn Shevels. Contact Glynn at glynnshevels@icloud.com if you are interested in purchasing:

55 inch Spitfire 4 cell model

Electric retracts, with spare props and retracts

\$120

Please contact Stuart if interested – 0402 751 700



1 OS FS series Surpass 26 4 Stroke

Has been used in a plane

\$110.00

Please contact Glynn if interested – glynnshevels@icloud.com





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Classifieds

OS 4 stroke Surpass FS - 48 with choke

Never been used. Bought for a project, but changed direction. In original box \$220.00

Please contact Glynn if interested – glynnshevels@icloud.com



2026/2027 Membership Prices

Membership Type	Full Year	Half Year
Senior Member	\$240	\$120
Junior Member	\$50	\$25
Associate Member	\$145	\$72.50
Non-flying member	\$145	\$72.50
HMAC Life Member	\$95	-
Social Member	\$15	-

Key Dates

HMAC Committee Meeting

Date TBA (October)

Club Fun Fly and Come-and-Try Day

Date TBA (either late 2026 or early 2027)

HMAC Bunnings BBQ

Sunday 6 December

HMAC Christmas Lunch

Date TBA (December)

Please email hmacsec@gmail.com.au if you wish to promote any upcoming events.