

# Newsletter No 7 October 22<sup>nd</sup> 2020

One of the inspiring community organisations in the North East

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## AGM 2020 – From the Immediate Past Secretary – Judith Falle

The AGM of Alpine U3A had been postponed from the original date of 7 August, 2020 because of COVID-19 restrictions. The Committee of Management decided to hold a Zoom meeting in order to establish a new committee rather than continue to postpone matters until an uncertain future date.

David Wood offered to “host” the meeting and about 28 members initially contacted David requesting a Zoom invitation. Sixteen members (a bare quorum) participated in the meeting. In order to facilitate a speedy meeting (free Zoom allows a time of about 30 minutes) all relevant documents were circulated to members. Rollo opened the meeting at 2:08 pm (he had a little difficulty getting in). The Minutes of the 2019 AGM, the Annual Report and the Treasurer’s Report were duly passed after little discussion. Hugh Skey took the Chair for the election of office bearers for 2020-2021. A list of nominations had been circulated prior to the meeting.

### The results of the election

President: Rollo Kiek; Treasurer: Henry Ziemnicki; General Committee: Luise Mock, Christina Callinan, David Wood (Newsletter), Linda Parkinson (Website/UMAS), Brian Rochford.

**Positions remaining vacant:** Vice-president, Secretary, Course Coordinator.

The motion “That fees for 2021 remain unchanged from 2020 – namely \$25 per individual and \$45 per couple” was passed 14 for, 2 against.

Note:

It appears that some members experienced difficulty in entering the meeting. David had sent an email requesting those receiving an invitation (link) to acknowledge receipt by return email to him. Only 8 replied. Perhaps some of the difficulties could have been resolved at that earlier point.

## New Management Committee Members

**President: Rollo Kiek (0419814240) Vice-president: Vacant**

**Secretary: Vacant Courses: Vacant, Speakers: Vacant.**

**Treasurer: Henry Ziemnicki (0407931129)**

**Committee:** Luise Mock, Christina Callinan, Brian Rochford, Linda Parkinson (Web site), David Wood (Newsletter)

## Editorial Comments David Wood

As you can see from the above, in spite of lots of notice regarding the AGM we had no nominations for Secretary, Vice President, Course coordinator and Speaker organiser. These are all important positions but none more so than the Secretary where the position is the Public Officer of the organisation. Legally we cannot operate as an incorporated organisation unless there is a Secretary. The Committee led by the President will have to find a secretary or commence proceedings to wind up “The Alpine U3A Inc.” As a former Secretary and President I am very disappointed with this situation and I have seriously thought about putting my name forward for this position. At present I have a number of health challenges which could lead to me having to withdraw after just a few months and this is unacceptable.

**It is now up to the President and new Committee to meet and decide the way forward.**

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In this newsletter we have two articles volunteered from our members and I am very grateful to Christina and Ian for their submissions. They are most interesting and give us the opportunity to find out a little bit about our members.

## From Christina Callinan *In Search of all things Egyptian*

Our recent trip to Canada, Alaska and Hawaii found us taking many forms of transport in search of adventure.

Los Angeles Airport proved to be a destination to be avoided in the future. Victoria, British Columbia won our hearts with its charm. Our horse and carriage ride around the streets and parks gave us a glimpse of its rich history.

Vancouver was reached after a float plane experience over snowy mountain tops. Our APT group of 40 people and guide travelled by bus to Whistler, Lake Louise, Banff and return to Vancouver. We experienced five brown bears on a jet boat river experience. Banff golf course provided a thrill ride by golf buggy around 18 hole course with a moose eating the daisies and moles popping out of their burrows checking the tourists. The Club House came close to the Egyptian theme with a pyramid style fire place inlaid with American Native symbols.

We joined the Holland-America ship "Volendam" for a 7 day cruise up the inside passage to Alaska. The ice glacier "Marjorie" was the highlight of the trip. Early morning whales, sea otters, puffins put in an appearance.

We called into the capital Juneau, Skagway a wild west town with a diesel rain trip through the mountains and a visit to a gold mining venue, Liarsville. Ketchikan, the wettest town in Alaska, provided a cultural museum of First Nation totem poles and artefacts.

We discovered our own totems - the Eagle and the Hummingbird. We purchased souvenir machine embroidered totems which I will mount on some lovely plain Japanese silk which a friend is bring back from a Japanese holiday for me.

The Rocky Mountain Railway trip of two days gave us an amazing ride of a life time. Canyons, millions of trees, waterfalls and streams running with salmon. Most of Canada's freight goes by rail and a derailment on the second day of our trip shortened it by several hours. We passed derailed transport trucks pushed to the side of the track. We were taken by bus to our last hotel for the night.

Honolulu was our next destination reached by West Jet Airlines. The density of Hawaii's capital amazed me. We experienced Paradise Cove for a five hour dinner/dance evening. A Bay Cruise with similar entertainment and lovely food. Our last day took us to a church service at Unity of Hawaii in Diamond Head and we visited the Honolulu Zoo with only the Orangutan glad to see us in his very untidy playpen.

It was on the Qantas flight to Sydney that Egypt finally received a mention. After enjoying two films, The Silence and a J.K. Rowling's fantasy on mythical creatures, the documentary on the History of Knitting mentioned that the earliest example of knitted objects were a pair of stockings worn by an Egyptian mummy. Decorated with Egyptian symbols these stockings kept the feet warm of the mummy for all eternity.



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## From Ian Cohn *My Record Breaking Career*

In 1969 I joined the Department of Civil Aviation as an Airworthiness Engineer specialising in Aircraft performance. At that stage DCA Airworthiness was housed in offices at Queen St Melbourne and subsequently in offices in South Melbourne next to the United States Consulate offices.

A couple of years later, DCA recruited Ron Sanders, another keen glider pilot, to our section. Ron started flying with Geelong Gliding Club, of which I was already a member, but he then joined the Gliding Club of Victoria based at Benalla. Naturally we discussed gliding matters during infrequent breaks from our very busy work schedule. Eventually we came round to the proposition that we should break an Australian Gliding Record. Since we did not own a high performance glider, and had limited financial resources, our chances looked slim. Nevertheless, we investigated the current records at the time, looking for a suitable two-seat glider record to break.

Looking through the record list, it became apparent that the 200 km "speed to goal" record had not even been claimed, so it seemed to be an ideal first project. Ron could get access to a Blanik two-seat training glider from GCV, so we set about establishing a plan. The Blanik did not have really high performance, but would be adequate for our purpose.

The plan came down to flying from Benalla to the goal at Wagga airfield, a distance of slightly over 200 Km. To save time on the retrieve from Wagga, we engaged Ron's friend, Bill Sherwell, who owned a DHC-1 Chipmunk aircraft, to fly to Wagga to tow us back to Benalla. We also had to arrange for an official observer to certify the facts of the flight to enable claiming the record. At Wagga we planned to use the duty Flight Service Officer to certify our arrival time.

So, on 24 November 1973, we launched by aerotow, probably behind GCV's Auster, crossed the start line and set off on course to Wagga about 15 min after taking off. Apart from a nervous low point near Rutherglen, we did not have any trouble and overflew Wagga aerodrome about three hours after crossing the start line. The Flight Service Officer acknowledged our arrival time, so we only needed to obtain the approval of the Official Observer to claim the record. As I recall, Bill Sherwell arrived shortly after we landed at Wagga, ready to tow us back to Benalla.

*"In those days, there were two classes of Private Pilot Licence; Restricted and Unrestricted. Restricted PPL holders were only allowed to fly in the immediate vicinity of their take-off airfield. Bill had never done the navigation training to get his Restriction lifted. This did not bother him, and he regularly flew well beyond the area permitted. Nevertheless, I think that he was suspected or known by the Department of Civil Aviation officials to have previously breached the limitations of his licence and had probably been warned to desist."*



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*Extract from the Australian Gliding Yearbook 1977.*

So when he arrived at Wagga, he was very nervous that the Flight Service Officer might accost him, and cause unwanted bureaucratic nuisance. So he asked me, as a Commercial Pilot Licence holder, to fly in the Chipmunk to legitimise the flight back to Benalla. Anyway we did that, and duly arrived back at Benalla. Bill liked to do aerobatics in the Chipmunk, so when Ron, in the Blanik, had released the tow rope near Benalla, Bill did his usual aerobatic routine.

The Gliding Federation of Australia Records and Certificates Officer, Tom Philcox, accepted our claim, and so Ron and I entered the record book, as holders of the two-seat speed to goal record with a registered speed of 62.72 kph. The record was never broken as explained below.

There my gliding record breaking career rested until 1978 when I planned to break the single seat 100 km speed to goal record. The record at the time stood at 101.34 kph, set by well known competition pilot Malcolm Jinks in a Standard Libelle on 10 November 1973. For me the only opportunity arose at the 1977/78 Geelong Gliding Club Christmas/New Year camp at Corowa. I had access to the GGC Standard Libelle, VH-GBL. On 1 January, 1978, the plan was to aerotow out to Deniliquin aerodrome behind the GGC Super Cub and fly back to Corowa with the tug pilot/official observer noting my tow release time and height at Deniliquin. Apart from a low scrape shortly after release at around 2,000 ft. at Deniliquin, I made good time back to Corowa, recording an average speed of 113 kph and reaching 10,000 ft in thermals on the way. So I confidently claimed the record.

However, a few weeks later, much to my disgust, my claim was rejected because the GFA had, a few months earlier, decided to abandon speed to goal records including our two-seat 200 km record. So that was the end of my gliding record breaking career.



A Blanik glider similar to the glider used by us in the speed record flight.

This one was owned by VICAIRTC and used for Cadet Gliding training at RAAF Laverton in the 1980s.

In the front seat is the CO VICAIRTC Barry Videon.

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## AND NOW SOME FUNNIES FOR RELAXATION!



Trump after quietly using vaccine from China



"What do you mean, you forgot where you parked? You're shopping online."



CHRISTMAS PRESENTS  
ALREADY WRAPPED FOR THIS YEAR!



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The Alpine U3A has been advised of the following upcoming event by Bushfire Recovery Victoria.

- **Supporting the Supporters:** This is a free workshop on Monday, 26th October, from 5.30pm – 7.30pm.

## SUPPORTING THE SUPPORTERS

Free workshop:  
*'Steps to wellbeing and self care'*

**Monday 26 October, 5.30pm - 7.30pm**  
Where: MT Beauty Information Centre - Auditorium

Members of the Kiewa Valley community are invited to a free 2 hour workshop to focus on your self-care. This workshop is for anyone that is supporting others, formally or informally during times when communities are under significant stress.

The workshop will look at the theory behind stress and impacts it has on people, the importance of and tips around wellbeing and self care. It aims to provide time for reflection as well as assisting people to re-prioritise wellbeing when living and working in challenging situations.

Complimentary food and refreshments will be provided at the session. The new mental health clinician from Albury Wodonga Health, Pip Sellar, who is working in the Rural Outreach Team for Kiewa Valley will also be in attendance.

If you would like to attend this session please email your local Recovery Hub Coordinator Shelley Herman at [shelley.herman@brv.vic.gov.au](mailto:shelley.herman@brv.vic.gov.au) or phone 0429 529 700 to book your place. Spots are limited so please book ahead to avoid disappointment. Social distancing guidelines will be followed and don't forget your mask!

