

BLUE SKIES, CALM WINDS MID MAY MUSTER

IN BAIRNSDALE

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Andy Coleman smoking up the sky with his big Mustang.

When it comes to hosting a model flying event in Victoria during May, you can almost be guaranteed of a few things. Chilly conditions and a great chance of rain. None of this was the case when the Bairnsdale and District Model Aero Club held their Mid May Muster event.

The event is one that invites all scale models that resemble a real plane to join in a casual fun fly day. Let's say that no one is policing the style of model that is

flown but the modellers brought out their best to enjoy.

The town of Bairnsdale is located in the Gippsland region in south east Victoria, an easy 3 hour drive from Melbourne.

I had never attended an event at the Bairnsdale Club but had heard a lot about it as it is a VMAA owned, "State Field". The club is the caretaker of the land but are very welcoming of any visitors.

The VMAA have now invested in four state fields located to the North, South East and West of the state. Now having visited every state field I can say that they are all phenomenal locations and will guarantee a place for Victorians to fly for many years to come.

One of the most encouraging and inviting modeller in the Gippsland region is friend Andy Coleman. Andy loves to get behind local model flying events and ensures

he invites me along to whatever may be happening. The moons collided and I had a free weekend so pencilled the date in my diary.

Further luck with the weather forecast perfect for a model flying event so I packed the camera gear and a model just in case I could squeeze in a cheeky flight or two.

Drought conditions are across many parts

of Australia and Victoria has been hit pretty hard but it was a welcome sight to see greenery across the fields of the Gippsland region.

Upon entering the Bairnsdale club, a lush, well-manicured field greeted me.

Blue skies and calm winds meant the flying was already in action, so I didn't hesitate to start capturing the moment.

Secretary of the club, Tony Wilson, with the help of some proactive club members organised the flight line efficiently so the action kept flowing.

There were many outstanding models in the pit area from large scale behemoths that included Spitfires, Cubs, aerobatic models and everything in between.

A pleasing site was the contingent of eager young members who kept the



Three blader pulling he Beaver along.



A Cub in it's L-4 Grasshoper guise.



Wes Wright's massive CARF-Models Pitts powered by a Moki radial.



Tom Prosser's must win the award for having the most scale detailed aerobatic model.



Big Cessna's always please the crowd.



Wes Wright and his big Pitts won the Pilots Choice award.



Western Wyvern. A rare sighting but a great one.



Oops. Another Spitfire canopy flop.



The Van's RV-4 translates well to giant scale.



Nice motor! Undercarriage looks stressed though.

older pilots on their toes, especially during the combat sessions.

There's a bit of a combat model competition movement happening among the clubs in Gippsland as every time I attend one of their events there is always a time when the crash and bash of the foamy models occurs. The youngsters really enjoy the combat sessions and always do well.

Spitfires were a popular choice of model

among many of the attendees, but many had trouble in wrangling their models either into the air or getting back down. No major damage but a few bumps and bruises meant many were packed up for the day early.

Wes Wright's massive CARF-Models Pitts powered by an amazing Moki radial motor was awarded the model of the event and for very good reason. It excited all the senses.

Another stand out model was Ian Wright's military inspired Cub which well and truly met the Giant Scale classification. Not only did it look the part but did all the right things in the air with low and slow passes.

A model flying event would be nothing without food and the club put on a fine spread all day with queues at the canteen for most of the day. The team of workers that kept the food and drink flowing are to be commended.

The facilities at the Bairnsdale club are excellent. Plenty of undercover area in the pits. The main strip is covered with matting to offer a very smooth, low maintenance strip but the fringing grass also provides a great runway experience.

The carpark is close to the pit area so only a short walk to setup. The maintenance shed is tucked away behind the canteen so out of sight. Clean toilet and shower facilities mean that campers at the field are well catered for.

The day ended with a few awards with recipients able to choose a prize from a table full of donated hobby related gifts.

There are fun fly events held around Australia on almost any given weekend but without a doubt the friendship and hospitality experienced at the Mid May Muster at Bairnsdale was a standout. No complaints from me and now I'm longing to head back to do the inviting surrounds of the Bairnsdale club.

A very big thank you to the Bairnsdale and Districts Model Aero Club for hosting the event. I am sure they will welcome any visitor with open arms as they did me if you wanted to head on across for a fly.