

MAY 2016

MODEL AERONAUTICAL ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA  
QUARTERLY MAGAZINE



# WINGSPAN

NEWS • AIRCRAFT • EVENTS • OUT AND ABOUT • SAFETY MATTERS

## AUSTRALIAN COMPETITORS SHOWING OUR SKILLS IN THE SKY

RESULTS FROM THE 2016 ASIA PACIFIC F3K OPEN, F2 CONTROL LINE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS  
AND PYLON RACING AT CAMPERDOWN



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RORY AND CALLUM DILLON KEEP UP  
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### AVIATION IN THE RED CENTRE

AN INSIGHT INTO THE ALICE SPRINGS  
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**COVER IMAGE:** Courtesy David Hannah Photography

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

President: Neil Tank



A SPECIAL PART OF BEING PRESIDENT IS HONOURING THOSE SPORTSMEN AND WOMEN AMONGST US WHO EXCEL IN OUR SPORT AS WELL AS THOSE WHO GO ABOVE AND BEYOND IN SUPPORT AND SERVICE.

At our 2016 Annual MAAA Council Conference this month, it was a privilege to announce the recipients of the Hall of Fame Awards and the MAAA Service Medallion.

Congratulations to the following who have been inducted into the MAAA Hall of Fame:

**Brian Eather** for services to Control Line modelling specifically aerobatics.

**Daniel Arapakis** for 3rd place in the 2015 F3D Junior Pylon Racing World Championship held in the Czech Republic.

**Bruce deChastel** for 1st place in the FAI Pylon Racing World Air Games held recently in Dubai.

**Robert Fitzgerald** and **Mark Ellins** for 1st place in the 2016 F2C FAI Control Line World Championships and setting a new World record.

**Murray Wilson** and **Mark Poschkens** for 2nd place in the 2016 F2C FAI Control Line World Championships.

**Roy Summersby** for 2nd Place F1C World Championships Mongolia 2015.

Congratulations to the 2015/2016 MAAA Service Medallion recipients:

**Bob Vigar** for his initiative in setting up a model aviation museum in Alice Springs.

**Trevor Letchford** for organising and directing the 2016 F2 FAI Control Line World Championships.

**Lorraine Stivey** for performing the role of International and National Registrar for the 2016 F2 FAI Control Line World Championships.

Continued next page...

## MAAA EXECUTIVE

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Enquiries about Wingspan, including advertising, feedback and story ideas can be emailed to [editor@maaa.asn.au](mailto:editor@maaa.asn.au)

► REMEMBER, IF YOUR CLUB IS INVITING MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO AN EVENT, FEEL FREE TO ADVERTISE IT ON THE MAAA WEBSITE!

Go to: <http://www.maaa.asn.au> to add your event.



The prestigious F2 World Championships was a real thrill

Any one of the many MAAA members who attended and assisted will be the first to say what a prestigious event the F2 World Championships was. See our article in this edition. It's a real thrill to host world championships and showcase our beautiful country. As such, the MAAA is supporting a bid to host the 2019 F3D Pylon World Championships on the Sunshine Coast in August 2019.

Another way of showcasing our sport, to both locals and visitors, is through public museums. Following submissions from two clubs keen to establish a permanent public aero modelling museum, the MAAA would love to hear your views on the desire for and location of an MAAA Museum. So keep an eye on your inbox next month for our online survey. We'd really appreciate your input and opinion.

Finally, a reminder that it's time to renew your membership. Membership fees have been kept the same as last year. We've been able to achieve this by separating insurance premium costs from the 2016/17 budget used to calculate

member fees. The 2016/17 insurance will be in place by next week and will be paid from the insurance levy account, rather than as a component of member's fees as previously done.

As you'll see from the great articles in this edition, we love receiving your stories, photos and successes for inclusion in Wingspan. So please send your ideas to me at [editor@maaa.asn.au](mailto:editor@maaa.asn.au).

Until next time, have a fun, safe flight.

Neil Tank

President MAAA

## 2016 MEMBERS' SURVEY IS NOW LIVE

Please take part in the MAAA 2016 Members' Survey. Last year's survey produced some fantastic results and insights! This year we want to hear your views on how we can grow our membership and ensure a strong future for our sport.

Go to <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2016MAAA> and have your say for your chance to win one of five \$50 vouchers.

# SAFETY FIRST

## KEEN ON A DRONE AS YOUR NEXT AIRCRAFT?



With the popularity of drones on the increase, knowing the do's and don'ts of taking to the skies in this unmanned aerial vehicle is a good idea. Here are a few things to consider if you're getting a drone as your next model aircraft:

- Drone use in Australia is managed by the Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA). CASA distinguishes between model aircraft (drones used for fun) and remotely piloted aircraft (drones use for business or research), depending on what you do with it.
- You don't need formal qualifications to operate a drone for fun, but you do need to follow some rules. Only fly your aircraft in your line of sight and during daylight hours and don't fly over heavily populated areas, like beaches or other people's backyards.
- There is currently no guidance on how the privacy of individuals can be protected from remotely piloted aircraft. However increasing concerns that people might be filmed by drones in their own backyards without consent mean legislative reform may come soon.
- If you plan to fly a drone for business, currently you need an unmanned aerial vehicle controller's certificate and unmanned operator's certificate, but CASA may exempt commercial remotely piloted aircraft under two kilograms from certification requirements this year.
- It's an offence to carry out a commercial activity in a Commonwealth reserve, so if you are flying a drone for business purposes, stay away from National Parks.

Thanks to the team at Marque Lawyers for their great advice. [www.marquelawyers.com.au](http://www.marquelawyers.com.au)

# FIRE & FLIGHT

## Fire & flight don't mix

The risk of fire from on board LiPo batteries is real for every model aircraft pilot as a couple of recent incidents demonstrate.

A large IMAC aerobatic model was lost when it rapidly nosedived into a heavily wooded area and caught fire after the elevators appeared to be affected by some on board problem causing a 'porpoising' movement in flight. Club members used fire extinguishers to put out the fire and the Rural Fire Brigade made the area safe.

The final investigation concluded that the elevator servo may have 'shorted' – the likely cause of the 'porpoising' – and the resultant high amperage drain on the batteries (LiPos) probably contributed to the fire.

In another incident a member was practising aerobatics and lost control due to disorientation. The electric powered 'Boomerang 40' model was lost when it crashed in the flying area and caught fire.

The fire rapidly spread and the local fire brigade had to extinguish it. The field's fire breaks successfully kept the fire controlled within the field's boundaries. The investigation concluded the fire was almost certainly caused by the onboard LiPo batteries igniting on impact.



# INTERNATIONAL GLIDERS FILL THE SKIES AT THE 2016 ASIA PACIFIC F3K OPEN

IT WAS WITH A NEWFOUND SENSE OF PRIDE AND EXCITEMENT THAT VICTORIA'S RADIO CONTROL GLIDING ASSOCIATION (RCGA) HOSTED THE 2016 ASIA PACIFIC F3K OPEN AT LONGWOOD, VICTORIA IN MARCH THIS YEAR.

It was the biggest F3K event of its kind ever held in Australia and the first since F3K Hand Launch Radio Controlled Gliders were promoted to an official class by the Federation Aeronautique Internationale (FAI), the international body responsible for the global governance of aeromodelling.

Thirty-one competitors from seven nations were welcomed by event

coordinator Shona Guest and fellow members of the RCGA.

"It was fantastic to be able to have so many people from the Asia Pacific region come to Australia. We really gave them a taste of our Aussie hospitality and lingo," said Shona.

The very hot and windy weather made for tough conditions but

that didn't wilt the camaraderie of visiting pilots and their families, or the enthusiasm of the locals who turned out in big numbers to support the event.

Everyone pitched in transporting competitors, providing accommodation, serving meals, sweeping dust and making sure the tents didn't fly off. Competitors were also grateful to Richard and



Jon Day, co-founder of the APO executes a perfect turnaround.



Thomas Lee (Hong Kong), co-founder and organiser of the inaugural APO.



Father and son team from Thailand has a good practice session.



Cai Xuming launches right at the edge of the marked field.

Jenny Naughton for permission to use their flying field.

F3K gliders are small aircraft with a wingspan of up to 1.5 metres and a maximum weight of 600 grams. As the name suggests the gliders are hand launched by pilots before being radio controlled in flight.

Competition is based on a selection of flight tasks including completing as many 30 second flights as possible in a certain time or attempting to reach a single flight time of up to three minutes. In official competition there must be a minimum of five rounds of flying and points are awarded based on times achieved for each task.

The RCGA Open was held on the Friday, following a practice day on Thursday, and was won by reigning World Champion Alex Hewson with Joe Wurts and Peter Williams taking second and third respectively, making it a clean sweep for New Zealand.

The Asia Pacific Open kicked off in earnest on the Saturday with the early

preliminary rounds concluded on the Sunday morning. The top ten pilots then went on to complete in the fly offs on the Sunday afternoon.

The weekend drew 100 spectators who watched as competitors battled it out for team and individual honours, witnessing up close the thrilling spectacle of F3K glider flying. It was a very social event with tales of the day's competition shared over evening meals at various eateries around the Strathbogie Shire.

The individual results had a familiar look with New Zealand once more taking top honours led by Alex Hewson in first and Kevin Botherway and Peter Williams taking second and third respectively. New Zealand won the team competition with Australia in second and Singapore just beating China for third.

The F3K Asia Pacific open is a relatively new competition for this class of model aircraft and was first held in China in 2014. It was the brainchild of glider enthusiasts Thomas Lee from Hong

Kong and Jon Day from Australia who wanted to promote the sport, offer more international competition and give pilots a chance to further develop their skills in the year between World Championships.

Event co-founder Jon Day was delighted that Australia was this year's host.

"It was an honour to be able to host this event and I sincerely hope that this competition continues long into the future with the same level of intimacy and good sportsmanship," said Jon.

**The next Asia Pacific F3K Open is billed for 2018 and with both New Zealand and Singapore voicing an interest in hosting it, it looks like this event will continue to be a mainstay of the F3K competitive calendar for many years to come.**

**IMAGES:** All images courtesy David Hannah Photography



# YOUTH CORNER

TEENAGERS RORY AND CALLUM DILLON ARE FOURTH GENERATION AERO MODELLERS OF INDIGENOUS HERITAGE, FROM THE WORORA PEOPLES IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA, AND ARE PART OF A FAMILY TRADITION THAT STRETCHES BACK TO BEFORE THE SECOND WORLD WAR.

They follow in the footsteps of their great grandfather Jim Dillon, a Second World War fighter pilot who first flew free flight models in the 1930s before taking up control line in the 1970s.

Dad Paul Dillon began flying control line when he was three years old and took up radio control in his teenage years. He was control line F2D Combat National Champion at the Dalby Nationals in 2010/11 and he continues to fly today and support both boys in their flying endeavours.

As members of the Control Line Association of Ipswich Incorporated – CLASSII, Rory and Callum have been flying control line since a very early age and have their silver and gold wings respectively. They fly both control line and radio control model aircraft with the RAAF Amberly Model Aircraft Club on most weekends.

The boys are also keen on sport and fit this in around their rugby league, boxing, basketball and fishing.

Both boys took part in the 2016 Control Line World Championships

in Perth this May in the F2D Combat category where Callum competed as a junior pilot and Rory was his mechanic and runner.

Although either boy could have represented Australia at the World Championships, there was only one Junior place on the team and after much deliberation Callum was chosen as he is considering a future career with the RAAF and Rory already plays representative rugby league at state, city and club level.



# RESULTS



The lead up to the World Championships saw them practicing hard for F2D Combat and they prepared with a lot of friendly competition flying against their Dad and Pop as well as other members of the club.

The boys had a great World Cup and World Championships in Perth and a fantastic week of competitive flying saw Callum come third in the Junior F2D competition, 28th overall in a senior field of over 50 competitors.

Both boys also took honours in the junior World Cup F2D competition that was held just before the World Championships, with Callum coming second and Rory taking third.

It seems the future of aeromodelling is in safe hands in WA.

Callum Dillon being interviewed by an ABC journalist at the event



## Junior World Championships

### F2A Speed

Junior places awarded

- 1st Evgen Savenko from Ukraine
  - 2nd Aleksey Emelyanov from Russia
  - 3rd Ivan Valishev from USA
- Who ranked overall in the F2A Speed; 10th, 21st and 23rd respectively.

### F2B Aerobatics

Junior competitors were

- 1st Letong Xu from China
  - 2nd Yaroslav Fokin from Russia
  - 3rd Ivan Lavryk from Ukraine
- Who ranked overall in the F2B Aerobatics; 32nd, 37th and 38th respectively.

### F2C Team Race

- 1st Luzian Gehlhaar / Bryan Oh from Singapore
  - 2nd Egor Aksenov / Pavel Guzov from Russia
- Who ranked overall in the F2C Team Race; 16th and 29th respectively.

### The F2D Combat

The final was between Russia and Ukraine. Illia Rediukn from Ukraine, a junior pilot, took the honour of being World Champion by beating Pavel Narkevich.

Illia also won the status of Junior World Champion F2D Combat.

### OVERALL Junior Results

- 1st Illia Rediukn from Ukraine
  - 2nd Eriks Kochunts from Latvia
  - 3rd Alexandra Nadein from the USA
- who ranked overall; 1st, equal 6th and equal 10th respectively.

For more results, please see the website at <http://www.cl-wch2016per.org/Results/>



# CELEBRATING AUSTRALIAN AVIATION IN THE RED CENTRE

THE CENTRAL AUSTRALIAN AVIATION MUSEUM IS HOME TO A TREASURE TROVE OF FULL-SIZED AND SCALE REPLICA AIRCRAFT INCLUDING A FULL SIZED REPLICA TIGER MOTH VH-BAA THAT WAS USED BY THE ROYAL FLYING DOCTOR SERVICE FROM 1946 TO 1949 AND COULD CARRY A STRETCHER.

The museum was set up in Alice Springs in 1978 on the old town site Aerodrome which was the original Alice Springs Airport, and home to Connellan Airways from 1939 to 1968 when it moved to the current Alice Springs Airport site.

The old Connellan hangar was renovated and turned into a museum by locals keen to honour the memory of those who lost their lives in a tragic air crash at the site. In 1987 the Bellman Hangar was erected next to it to continue to display and preserve the history of aviation in Central Australia.

Connellan stopped flying in 1980 but its story is kept alive at the museum thanks to a host of dedicated volunteers like Bob Vigar, secretary of the local aeromodellers club the Alice Fun Flyers, who keep the doors open to local, national and international visitors seven days a week.

This year the museum set up an 'Aeromodelling is Fun' exhibition of aeromodelling over the years. It has been an exciting project for the museum and features a display of photos and stories of aeromodelling from around Australia as well as showcasing a 25% scale model spitfire.

The exhibition has been a great way to encourage young locals to take up the sport of aeromodelling and it's Bob's hope that aviation museums around the country establish similar displays so young people can "experience the wonderful gobsmacking thrill of building and flying an aircraft they have built".

Bob's own contribution to the museum includes a 12% scale model of Sir Charles Kingsford Smith's famous Fokker Tri-motor 'Southern Cross', affectionately known as the 'Ole Bus'.

Among the popular tributes to Australian aviation is the Douglas DC-3 in the Bellman Hangar which has been converted into a theatre that plays the Eddie Connellan Story, about the founder of Connellan Airways.

Future plans for displays include the reassembly, preservation and display of the DE Havilland Heron flown by Connellan that was also lost in a crash in 1975.

The Central Australian Aviation Museum is located at the Memorial Avenue entrance to the Alice Springs Cultural Precinct, just off Larapinta drive, in Alice Springs, Northern Territory.

For information email [caaminc@gmail.com](mailto:caaminc@gmail.com).

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## ASAC REPRESENTS AUSTRALIAN AIR SPORTS

ASAC represents Australian air sports on the international stage

Air Sport Australia Confederation (ASAC) is an umbrella organisation that represents air sport bodies in Australia. Member organisations include: Australian Ballooning Federation, Australian Gliding Federation, Hang Gliding Federation of Australia, Australian Parachute Federation, Model Aeronautical Association of Australia and the Australian Aerobatic Club.

ASAC's role is to lobby government on behalf of members and is Australia's representative at the Federation Aeronautique

Internationale (FAI), the world body which governs air sports in 130 nations for more than 42 million participants.

The FAI only recognises one national organisation and in Australia it's ASAC. Organisational or individual international recognition has to be through ASAC.

The FAI regulates air sports through a number of commissions, from astronautics to general aviation, and ASAC member organisations have delegates on each relevant commission.

ASAC represents members' interests on air space, regulatory and general aviation matters to

State and Federal government, and has input into policy affecting those areas. Member bodies also support the setting and monitoring operational and safety standards in their respective air sports.

ASAC is recognised by the Australian Sports Commission as the National Sporting Organisation for Air Sports in Australia and is affiliated with the Australian Olympic Committee.

Find out more at the ASAC website: [www.asac.asn.au](http://www.asac.asn.au)



# RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP WITH THE MAAA

WITH MORE THAN 300 CLUBS AND THOUSANDS OF MEMBERS, THE MAAA PROVIDES MUCH MORE THAN INSURANCE. THE MAAA IS THE LARGEST AEROMODELLING ORGANISATION IN AUSTRALIA. WE ENCOURAGE AND SUPPORT AUSTRALIANS TO ENJOY AEROMODELLING IN A SAFE AND FUN ENVIRONMENT. WE ARE COMMITTED TO PROVIDING MANAGEMENT SUPPORT THAT WILL HELP OUR CLUBS DELIVER THE HIGHEST LEVELS OF SERVICE, TO NEW AND EXISTING MEMBERS.

## What does the MAAA do for our clubs?

### Safe Skies

If you are a member or club with safety concerns the MAAA is the only national body in Australia recognised by the Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) as a model aviation Recreational Aviation Administrative Organisation. Being recognised by CASA means we can assist your club with public displays, night flying and more, and we can help you reduce costs.

### Club Assistance Scheme

The MAAA offers insurance for your protection and peace of mind, but our services extend so much further. We lead and protect the

future of our sport, giving a voice to our members.

Clubs can apply for our Club Assistance Scheme which has previously supported the purchase of firefighting and mowing equipment and the construction of shaded areas and toilet blocks for some of our clubs across the country.

### Insurance

To support our members, the MAAA looks after **all of your insurance needs**, so you can spend more time in the air. However, we provide more than insurance.

The MAAA helps your club handle some tough issues. From safety and risk management, to

accidents, event management, insurance claims, field improvement and even liaising with your local community. Our experts provide advice and advocacy to support you.

Get more out of your sport! The MAAA helps clubs to provide the best advice, instructors and knowledge base so you can safely learn to fly and enjoy your sport.

Join or renew your membership today.

Until next time, have a fun and safe flight!

Neil Tank

# OUT & ABOUT

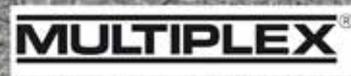
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Daniel Arapakis and Wayne Newman buddied with the kids for the hands on event.



## FAST AND FURIOUS: PYLON RACING AT CAMPERDOWN

The Victorian Miniature Pylon Racing Association (VMPRA) Trophy, held in February at the Camperdown Racecourse, attracted visitors from as far away as South Australia, Sydney and Bairnsdale.

The weekend's events started each morning with the hotly contested F400. Leigh Hocken's first round time of 61.75 seconds set the fastest time in this class for the weekend. The ever consistent Shaun Jacobsen took out first place by 0.3 seconds with his rocket red AR-6. Leigh Hocken took second place and Jarrod Jacobsen took third.

The Q500 followed and contestants enjoyed a ripper event. Eight rounds in the heat of the day produced some very quick times and it was great to see Mick Kellet return to racing. Only a handful of seconds between most place getters saw NZ F3D pilot Tom Wetherill take first place with times consistently less than 100 seconds. Second place was taken by the fancy florescent pink Addies Hobbies sponsored plane flown by Mick Kellet. Third place was taken by the ever reliable John Schmidli.

F3D commenced mid-afternoon on both days, with 12 pilots spread across four heats battling

high temperatures and hot racing. Friendly camaraderie and competition saw Beau Murphy finishing in first place, Leigh Hocken in second place and Daniel Arapakis finishing third after a last round cut.

It was fantastic to witness such a high standard of competitive racing. Perfect engine work with start-ups every time combined with ultimate precision flying is no doubt the success to this F3D class.

Spectators agreed it was the best weekend's racing they had witnessed in a long time.



## F2 CONTROL LINE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS ROUND UP

Perth skies were a glorious backdrop for the prestigious 2016 F2 World Championships for Control Line Model Aircraft in May with Australia taking top team honours thanks to a world record performance.

The World Championships are the pinnacle of competitive flying for control line model aircraft and Australia was honoured to play host to this prestigious event in May 2016.

More than 1000 competitors, officials and supporters from 32 countries including China, Great Britain, France, USA, Singapore,

Israel, Spain, Brazil as well as Australia and New Zealand took part in this spectacular event, held at the WA Model Aircraft Sports Centre at Whiteman Park.

Australia's Rob Fitzgerald and Mark Ellins took top honours in the F2C Team Race, completing 200 laps in a world record time of six minutes 22.8 seconds. Australian team of Murray Wilson and Mark Poschkens took second place with the French team coming third.

First and second place in the F2A Speed competition went to Great Britain's Paul Eisner and Peter Halman, with Italy's Luca Grossi

coming third. The F2B Aerobatics competition was won by Orestes Hernandez from the USA ahead of 2014 World Champion Igor Burger of Slovenia and third placed Richard Kornmeier of Germany.

Russia and Ukraine battled it out in the final of the F2D Combat competition with honours going to Ukraine's Illia Rediuk, a junior pilot who was also crowned Junior World Champion.

The standard has been set for the next World Championships in France in 2018.



## ROYAL FLYING DOCTOR SERVICE OF AUSTRALIA

# SUPPORT THE ROYAL FLYING DOCTOR SERVICE

JOIN IN THE ANNUAL AUSTRALIAN MODEL FLYING DAY AND SUPPORT THE ROYAL FLYING DOCTOR SERVICE AT THE SAME TIME.

Following the fantastic success of last year's Australian Model Flying Day, this popular event is happening again on 22-23 October.

The fundraising from this event will help support the Royal Flying Doctor Service which support Australians with their extensive primary health care and 24-hour emergency service.

In 2015, clubs held static displays of model aircraft at barbecues, shopping centres and fun flyins, just to name a few. More than 40 clubs joined in on the action across Australia. They not only had a great day in the sky but some clubs also awarded members with badges for

taking part in the flying activities. This year's event will be bigger and better, and is a great way to promote our great sport of aeromodelling. This is what you need to do:

- Register your club's participation with the MAAA Secretary, [secretary@maaa.asn.au](mailto:secretary@maaa.asn.au)
- Let the MAAA Secretary know how many members you think will attend
- Receive 2016 MAAA Australian Model Flying Day badges
- Plan one day during the weekend of 22-23 October and

organise a club flying event or even just a fundraising BBQ

- Give a commemorative badge to each member who donates \$5 towards the day for the Royal Flying Doctor Service

The event does not need to be a flying display (unless your club wishes to do so) therefore no approvals are required. It would be great however, to see members of the public encouraged to come along and take part in our sport!



# FLY IN FOR THE NORFOLK ISLAND ALLEN DANVERS CHALLENGE

8-15 OCTOBER 2016 EX BRISBANE

Come and join in the fun of an overseas TMAC weekend fly-in on Norfolk Island! Meet the locals who will share their favourite flying spots around the island. Bring your big planes and gliders (plus this year there will be some indoor night flying!) to cover all conditions.

**All model aeroplane fans are invited to join in the fun with the Tingalpa Model Aero Club Norfolk Island Fly in for a week of flying and socialising among local club members and visitors 8 - 15 October.**

**From \$1209pp twin share**

**Holiday Package price includes:**

- Return economy class seat plus bag airfare ex Brisbane to Norfolk Island
- All pre-paid airline taxes
- Meet & Greet at the Airport
- Seven night's accommodation
- Seven days' car hire including basic car hire surcharge (petrol is extra and payable direct whilst on island)
- Welcome Dinner
- Farewell Dinner
- Fly-in T-Shirt
- Complimentary Miniature Golf – golf your way through Norfolk's history
- Complimentary "A Walk in the Wild" – a unique rainforest walk

- Bonus Norfolk Island discount shopping card

[www.norfolkislandtravelcentre.com](http://www.norfolkislandtravelcentre.com)

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