



Thermal

Newsletter of Bathurst Soaring Club

Spring 2012
www.bathurstsoaring.org.au

What's Inside

- Page 2 From the President** *Keith Gateley*
- Page 4 Mountain Pilots – Second Chapter** *George Marbot*
- Page 8 Around the airstrip** *Editor*
- Page 9 Dates for the Diary**
- Page 9 Editor's Notes**
- Page 10 Club Contact Details**
- Page 11 Mud Map to Pipers**

FROM THE PRESIDENT

The soaring season is just around the corner, are you ready?

Cross Country Flying

There are many of us who enjoy Cross Country flying and from my experience you cannot over prepare. Have you got your soaring season planned?

Glider ready?

Be familiar with the instruments especially GPS and flight computer. Make a commitment this year to log more (or log your first) flight(s) on the OLC. Select Bathurst Soaring Club rather than Pipers field when loading the flights. Let's advertise what a great club we have and what can be achieved from our site. Form 2 completed before the soaring season? Is your favourite Club Glider available, maybe book it well ahead?

Trailer ready?

Is the registration paid? When was the last time you checked the tyres, bearings, fittings? If you use a club glider, make yourself familiar with the trailer and treat it as your own. Trust me, you cannot cause any problems if five people check the same trailer then it is ready for the season.

Pilot ready?

Have you completed your Annual Check? What about out-landing check, or training if you are looking to go cross-country for the first time? Are you current? Make sure you are familiar with your glider before you venture away from the field. Maybe you want to arrange a training flight with one of our coaches. All you need to do is check the cross-country training box as you book the Orion or ASK-21. Maybe a lead and follow is more what you are looking for, ring Graham Brown and he will arrange it on the weekend you are planning to fly.

Cross Country Kit

These are all the important things that you need, suitable hat, glasses, sufficient water, maps, tie down kit, register your flight in the SAR book, arrange crew and this is just a few. Be prepared. Ask an experienced cross country pilot or two if you are not sure.

Competition

We are running the NSW State Gliding championships in Narromine between December 1st and the 8th. I would love to see all the club gliders booked for this and also many private gliders to be entered. Plan your holidays well ahead. Maybe you want to fly the

Narromine Cup the week before and have two weeks gliding. Never flown a competition before? We have two excellent two- seaters which can be used. .../ cont'd Arrange a coach and come and check out the competition scene. I remember one of my favourite flights in the Corowa IS-28 at the Benalla Rose week competition. If at my home club I would not have taken the glider out of the hangar, yet in the competition they set a 300 km flight, and we got round What a fantastic day and a great learning experience!

Set Goals

Have you set any goals for this year, a 300km flight? Maybe a 1,000km flight, or maybe it is just to crack 100km per hour over a cross country flight.

Power to the Caravan Park

We have recently upgraded the power supply to the Caravan Park. Hopefully blackouts will be a thing of the past. Enjoy the warm nights.

New Tug Pilots

Both John Rappell and Martin Wookey have recently joined the ranks of Tug Pilots. Welcome guys, good to see the grin on your face when you are on roster. Clearly you are enjoying yourselves.

Local TV advert

We recently had a film crew and a number of volunteers at the club one Friday. The end result will be a local TV advert, stay tuned.

Working Bees

The club over the years has held working bees form time to time. I would like the next twelve months to change this to a more regular structured working bee. There is always something to do, maybe if you notice something that needs attention bring it up at briefing and see who will volunteer. Maybe we can have 52 mini working bees each Sunday?

Plan a club dinner

In the last twelve months I have been directly involved in three club dinners. The AGM meeting weekend will be the 4th. Gail and Dave Wilkins have offered to run this and we know Janine Humphreys has organised many in the past. I am keen to have different members arrange this. We have great facilities and this is a good opportunity to improve our facilities as all profits are turned into Kitchen and Club house improvements.

Catch you in a thermal sometime soon.

Keith Gateley

MOUNTAIN PILOTS

- THE NEXT CHAPTER

Omarama 20th November – 10th December 2011

For some time we've tried to get some notes together about the camp in general and the first good wave flight to Mt. Cook in particular. The assault party consisted of Graham Brown and myself although we also had the company of Bernard Eckey and Bryan Rau, both from South Australia.

For some time Graham has 'threatened' to join the Omarama Gliding club and at long last we made it. This is Graham's second visit and I've lost count of my own. For newcomers, Omarama lies in the middle of the South Island of NZ and is some 100 km south west of Mt. Cook.

As Graham and I are also very interested in fly fishing we were never bored even when the flying was not very productive.

We arrived in Christchurch on the 20th and reached our lodging in Omarama that night. We spent the next day preparing our gear and dealing with the various formalities, checking the glider, oxy etc. We decided to fly mutual whenever possible, because it saves some money and is also more pleasant for sightseeing as we can take it in turns flying.

On the 22nd it was Graham's turn to take command in the front seat and the weather briefing appeared good for some wave flying. The aptly named Lenny, 'the weather man' was on the 'maybe side' with that day's forecast analysis. The DUO was checked for oxy, new batteries for the Mountain High, went over the instruments and all the other gear we needed, including the mandatory SPOT. So around 1.30 pm we took off in a now, very strong westerly, with an estimated 20+ knots on the ground. At Mt Horrible we released and climbed steady in moderate lift to its summit.

At 6000+ft Graham started to push forward towards the Cloud Hills, in the middle of the Ahuriri Valley. Sure enough, after some heavy sink, we connected with the rotor and started to climb to a height in very rough air. Finally we contacted the wave at a reasonable height of some 7500 ft. From here on the climb became steady and smooth. In no time we reached 15,000 ft and headed towards the secondary wave, which brought us over the mountain toward Wanaka.



View from the Duo Discus

But at the same time the airspace from Queenstown was becoming ever closer, so we decided to turn and explore the Mt. Cook area, where airspace was not so critical. I believe we never had another turn until we reached the Mount Cook /Glen Tanner Airfield at some 19,000 ft. Now the competition pilot Graham wanted to finish the set task by going around the turn point – Mt.Cook . This was easier said than done, because we had up to 75 knots on the nose. But we made it, and the sight was worth every second.



Mt Cook with Mt Tasman behind

So at around 17,000 ft. we headed home towards Omarama. Now we had the ride of our lives, flying some 90 – 100 kt and going up. Halfway home we reached our maximum height of 20,553 ft.

Then we were over the Omarama Airfield at 16,06ft and still going up again. But by now our feet were ice, the 'bladder' was pushing for relieve. So reluctantly Graham had to fly to the lee side of the wave to get sink so that we landed after a memorial flight after 3h 32 min. The first words from Graham, what an fantastic first flight of the camp, and his second word "I have to go for a p...."

Now some statistics:

Turned Mt Cook at 17,139 ft

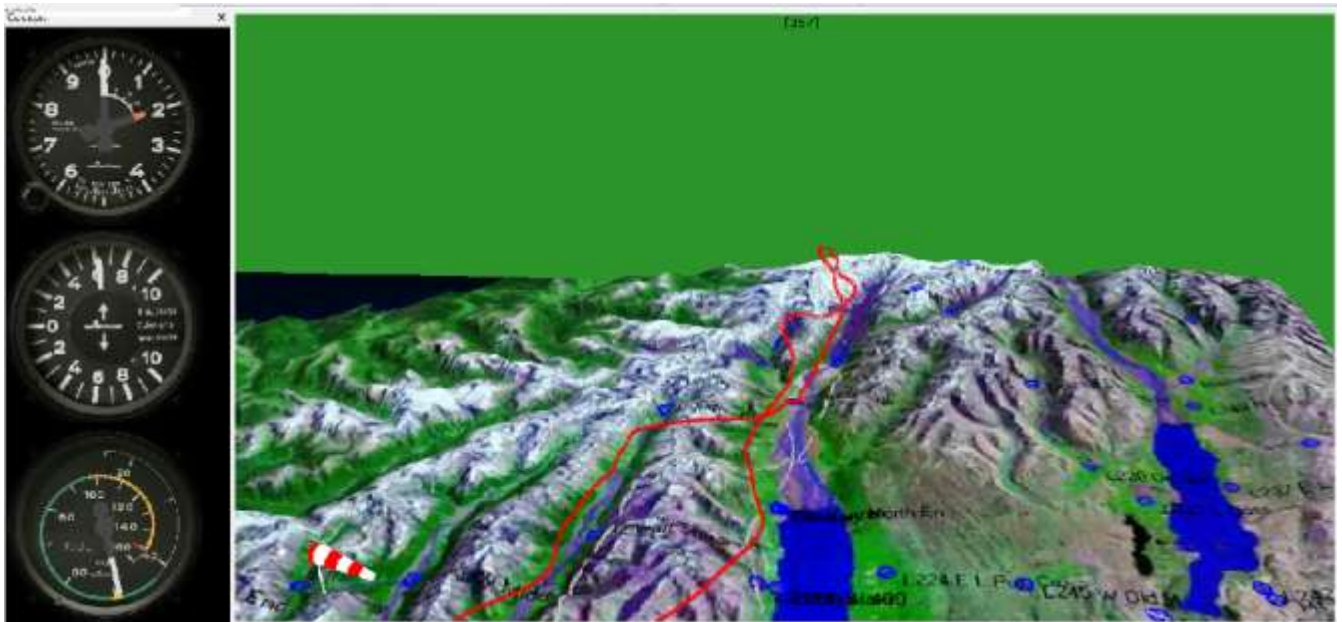
Returned over the Omarama airfield at 16,060 ft some 110 km later

Max height 20,553ft,

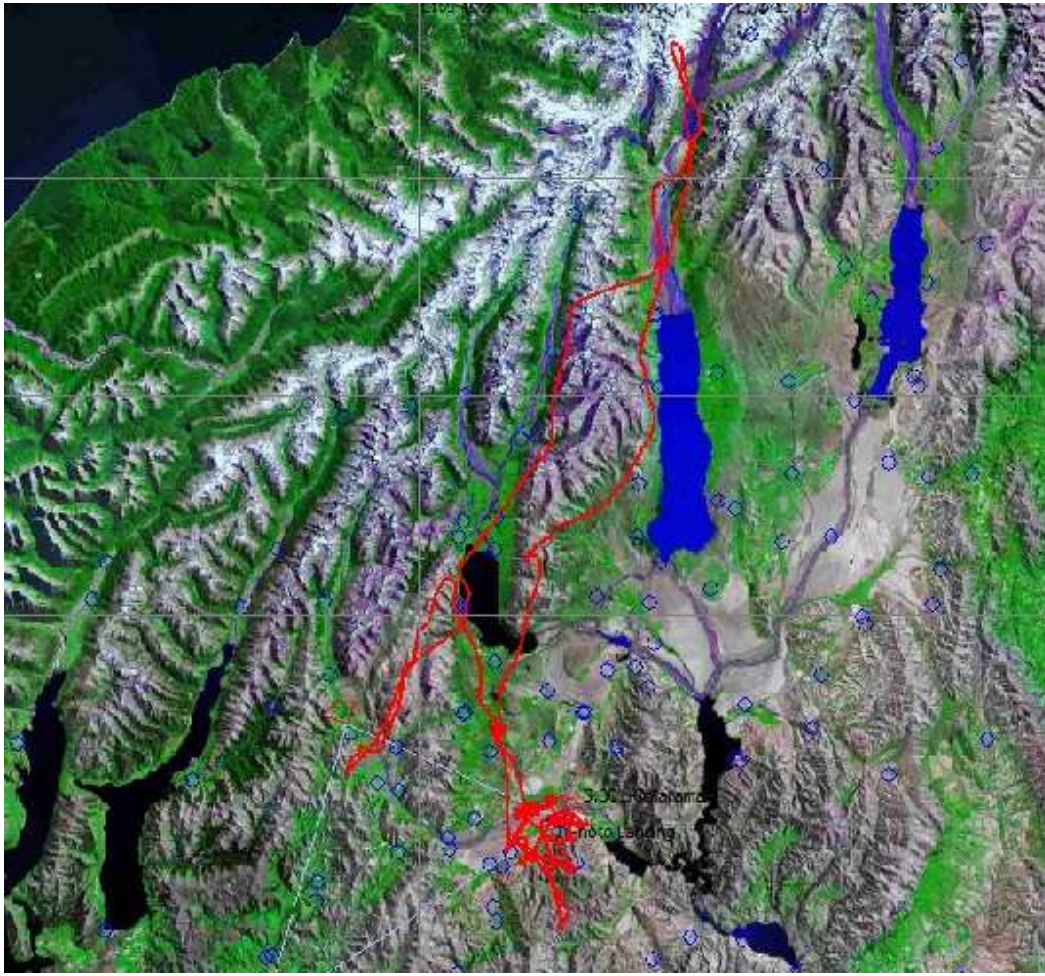
Average ground speed 77kt, maximum ground speed 156 kt, min ground speed 24 kt,

Average climb 2 -6 kt max 10+, Thermals 8

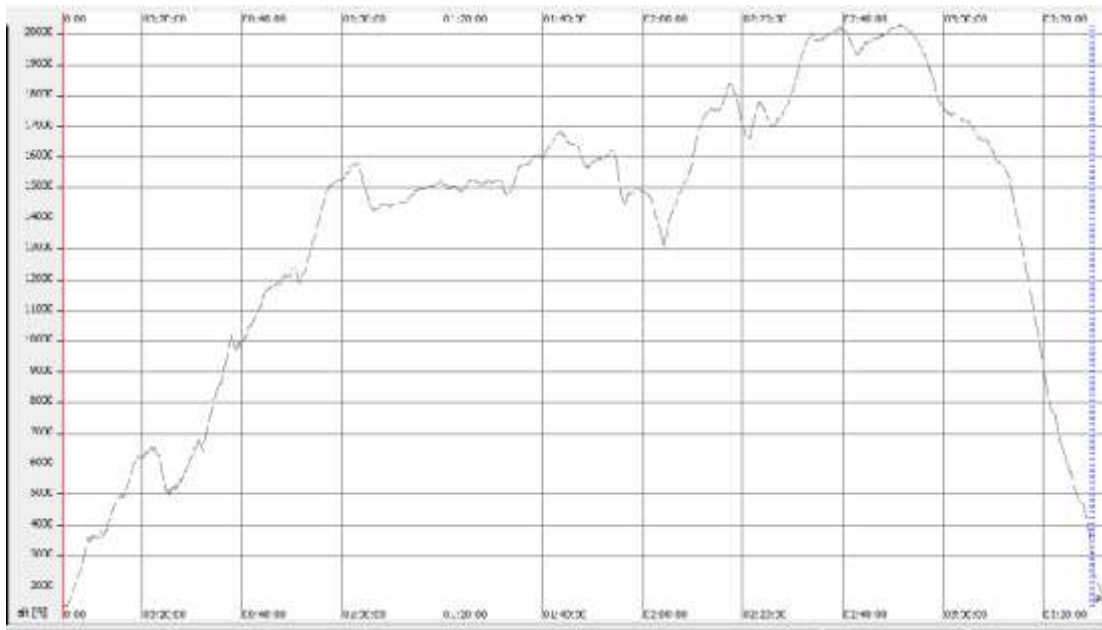
Total OTC distance 325 km, flight duration 3h32min



Our track doubling the Mt Cook turn point



Our track



Here's the altitude trace

For the rest of the camp, we enjoyed very good fishing every day and the wineries around the area are second to none. We had another three good flights, another wave flight and remarkable flight in the conversion, about which we might write at another date. We made some very good friends had great barbeques at night. Sunset is around 9.30 or later, so next year here we come again!

Many thanks goes to Gavin Wills and his crew and the Omarama gliding club for having the foresight to accommodate good gliders for their members, Duo Discus, LS6 and single seater Discus.

George Marbot

Cohen Smalpage

I am saddened to report the tragic passing of Cohen having been killed in a car accident on the Wakehurst Parkway during August. He was seventeen years of age.

Those of us who met Cohen at Pipers knew him as a quiet and gentle young man with a great enthusiasm for gliding.

AROUND THE AIRSTRIP

- **Spring weather has the grass growing.** Sharing tractor time makes it so much easier.
- **Pete Edkins has been around spraying** for serrated tussock. Please offer to give him a hand if you see him spraying. It's a huge job and done quietly without complaint.
- **Leigh Youdale** has run with the idea of appointing **New Pilot Contacts** for new members. A number of seasoned members will act as points of reference for all those detailed questions which may arise in the minds of newcomers to Pipers. The original idea came from **Armin Kruger**.
- **A warm welcome** to new members who have joined since the start of this year. Some of you have since become familiar faces. Considering that I sprung this idea on Leigh and he responded to my urgent request, if you're not included, mea culpa. Please let me know.

Andrew Ahearn

Michael Humphrey

Paul Nichols

Stephen Smith

James Turner

Chris Becek

Graeme Kelly

John Patterson

Andrew Spoor

Gideon Van Rensburg

David Damary

Stephen Lacey

Josh Powell

Jonathon Tims

Andrew Wilkins

DATES FOR THE DIARY

3rd – 11th Nov	Hunter Valley GC XC week
11th – 16th Nov	Ab Initio Course
17th – 23rd Nov	Cross Country Course
26th – 30th Nov	Narromine Cup
1st – 8th Dec	State Comps Narromine
2nd – 16th Jan	Temora Camp
7th – 20th Jan	Multi Class Nationals Benalla
22nd – 31st Jan	20M Two Seater Nationals Narromine
2nd – 8th Feb	West Wyalong Camp

EDITOR'S NOTES:

Thanks to all those who've complimented me about Thermal. I confess to becoming somewhat discouraged by the general lack of contributions and informative bits of information for inclusion. Our sport or pastime provides a very rich mix of information which can and indeed should, be shared. Not only encouraging new pilots when they meet significant milestones (first solos etc), but helping other pilots to stay current with developments. All I need is the facts; around which I'm more than happy to fill out with the words.

The Sunday Retrieve Group is now being formed. Many pilots are reluctant to venture XC on Sundays because of a perceived difficulty getting a crew. Considering the ubiquitous late starts on many Saturdays, our XC opportunities are significantly reduced. So here's the solution. To join you must simply be willing to crew on a Sunday if needs be. They in turn will crew for you. We understand family and job demands will preclude some people's participation

By the way, doing retrieves not only provides great fun and memories. It's a part of our culture – like helping people rig and de-rig. All genuine glider pilots do it willingly.

Contact mike.timbrell@techpack.net.au to join the group.

Mike Timbrell

Bathurst Soaring Club

Bathurst Soaring Club Inc.

ABN 50 000 677 565

General: PO Box 1682, Bathurst, 2795

Treasurer: PO Box 825, Spit Junction NSW 2088

Airfield: Pipers Field (02) 63 371180
(On Fremantle Rd. 1.5km from Eglinton)

Position: 33° 23' S 149° 30' E

100 flying members

Operating Weekends, Public Holidays

Launching: Aerotow

Bar, Clubhouse, Bunkhouse, Camp sites, Workshop,
Hangar sites available,
Club owns airfield

Fleet Club:

3 dual seater gliders :

DG-505-Orion [BSC]

ASK13 [GUQ]

ASK21 [GBW]

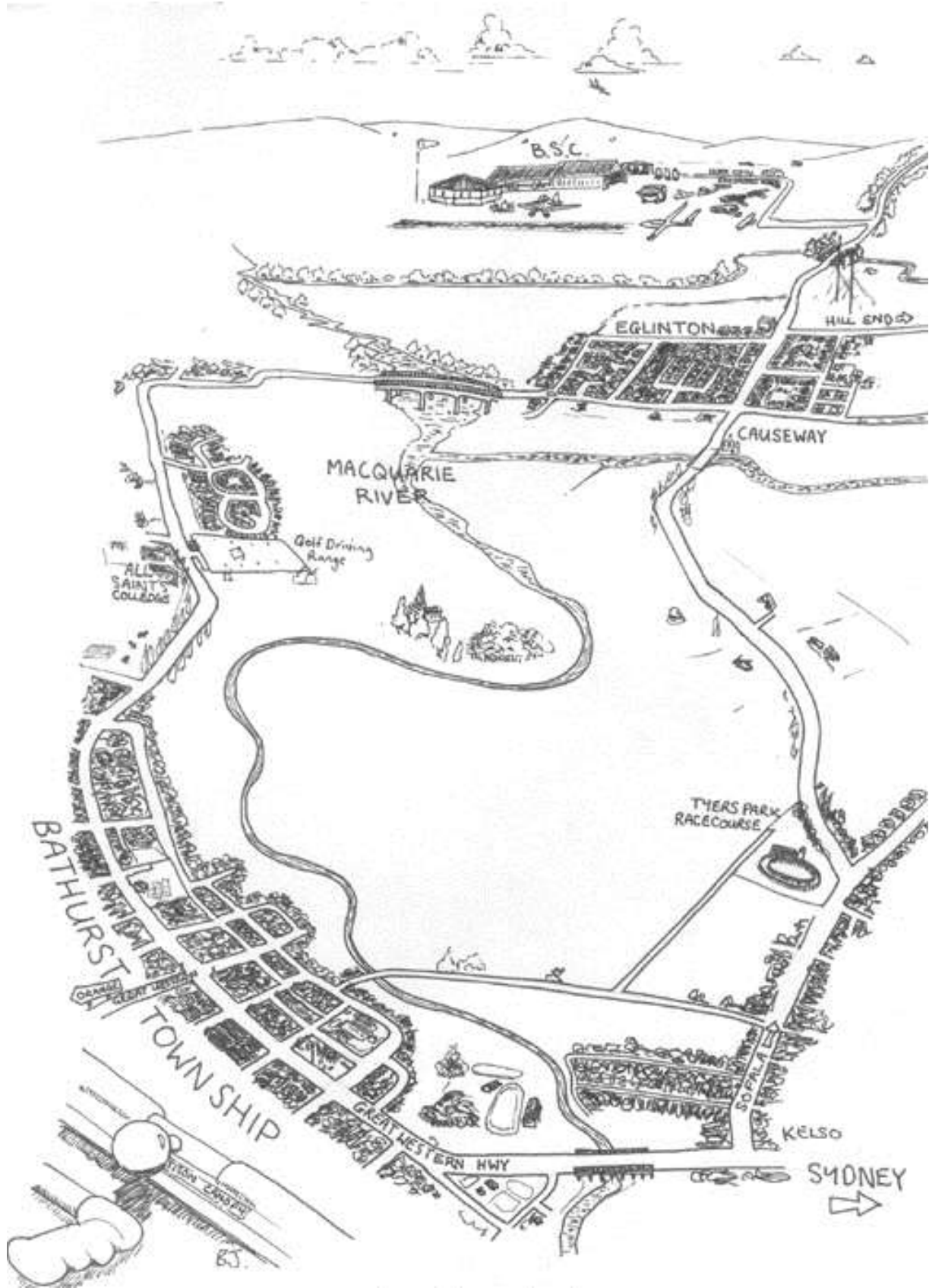
4 single seater gliders :

SZD51 Jnr [WQP]

DG300 [HDZ]

LS4 [CQN]

Two tug planes and many privately owned gliders



Piper's Airfield, Freemantle Road, Eglinton NSW 2796
Tel +61 2 6337 1180 • Coordinates 33:22.72S 119:31.11E