

11th – 13th AUGUST 2023

SYDNEY SHOWDOWN



IMAC (International Miniature Aero Club) made a triumphant return to the Sydney region this month with the inaugural Sydney Showdown. A two-day competition held over the weekend with a formal practice day on Friday went flawlessly. The event hosted entrants traveling from Brisbane, Victoria, and all over NSW for the chance to fly in the scenic Sydney Radio Control Society (SRCS) field on the river in Wisemans Ferry. The flying field, pits and campgrounds were so beautifully prepared by the club and combined with the glorious August weather made the trip truly worthwhile.

SRCS, on the stunning Hawkesbury River was the perfect venue for an IMAC competition. The club generously welcomed the idea of holding the competition there and encouraged its members to participate. Club President, Mike Close was away on holiday in the lead-up to the event, so he left his Vice President Matthew Haliday in charge of supporting me in running the event. I cannot personally thank Matthew enough for his efforts to help make the event run smoothly and for the great communication in the weeks before the event. Turning up to the field, Matthew and ?Ian? were busy mowing, whipper-snipping and simply going to great efforts to make sure the taxiways, pits, and starting areas were perfectly prepared for our requirements.

International Miniature Aerobatic Club (IMAC) is the organisation that grew from an interest in flying radio-controlled scale aerobatics. With the intention of emulating full-size IAC competition in the modern era, the sport is dominated by almost all of the modern classic aerobatic monoplane designs (Yaks, Edges, Extras, Lasers, etc.). 35% 120cc and 40% 200cc models are by far the most popular size in the more advanced classes, but in saying that many have bucked the trend towards large models by flying very successfully up to the top class with 30% 30cc models. In the beginner class (Basic) anything is suitable and legal to start with. At the showdown we had the Spirit of the Competition award winner Brad Duncan doing his first competition with a classic 40-sized nitro model. He gave it a red hot go and showed some very strong progression in both his flying and the scores throughout the weekend.

The most exciting part of the Showdown was the Basic class, featuring a record seven rookies and one returning former competitor. Everyone was fascinated with how they would perform under the pressure of the competitive environment. Fortunately, it was not hard to pair up the rookies with experienced pilot mentors and all of the rookies immediately got right in the groove. The mixture of highly experienced veterans and rookies made for the perfect environment for people to learn and develop their skills. There was much talk about who would take out the Top Rookie award, which eventually went to Sydney local, Avian Howard who finished in 4th. The real buzz from the veterans towards the end of the weekend was that this was an outstanding crop of rookies with praise on the safe way they were handling and flying their planes. Their ability to respond to feedback and very quickly refine their sequences was to be commended. For example, Phillip Gadd showed very clear progression throughout the event, starting at 33% in the first sequence and ending at just under a very admirable 50% in his final sequence.

Much buzz was created in the lead-up to the event with seeing some returning IMAC legends on the entry list. Featuring names such as Harley Wall, Tim McDonald, and Norm Frazer. All of them reported that they had a fantastic weekend and that they had lost none of the skills that gave them their reputations.

Day one started with a stunning fog-free cloudless sky ready for the start of the competition. The day started with a thorough safety briefing as well as an introduction to IMAC and an explanation of what to expect. Scott Bardney was adamant that the rookies would be quickly whipped into shape when it comes to the speed at which the flights need to be completed to get through all the flying across all the classes. At just a hair past nine am, David Kennedy had his comp ARF Edge 540 up in the air ready to start his first sequence. One of the pressures of the competition for new people is trying to start their engines, taxi, take off, and land in a fairly quick order. It was obvious to everyone after the first round of Basic that this new group was going to do well and would be making great strides throughout the weekend. Basic also included the return of the biggest sponsor of the event Stephen Green. After an absence of almost a decade it was clear that it was not going to take him long to be back right at the pointy end of things. I cannot thank him enough for his massive effort to slash the grounds around the runway



through his business Greenies Mowing <https://www.greeniesmowing.com.au/>. Also shoutout to Simon Langham for supplying the portable toilets for us, these were a great idea as they took pressure off the local club owned facilities.

The rest of the classes ran well and looked forward to flying the all-important unknown round in the afternoon. The event went very smoothly. Unfortunately, Norm had some engine troubles, which led to an absolute team of people gathering around him and his engine trying to correct the engine issues that forced him to do an expertly performed dead-stick landing that ended his second round early. The day ran smoothly with the scribes' chairs being occupied by Basic pilots all weekend, many of whom commented on how much they were learning from the experience.

After a solid first day of competition, it was time for dinner and we couldn't have been happier with the chance to essentially book out a family-run country cafe that put the Matildas game on the big screen for us. The atmosphere was electric and the camaraderie the sport is known for was on full display. One of my favourite things I have learned about the IMAC community is their dedication to leaving venues in better condition than when they arrived, "Emu Picking" the grounds to be clear of any rubbish, and making sure the facilities are returned to a better state than when we arrived. It was a very wholesome moment to see that this attitude was extended to that of the Wombat Cafe, with the staff clearly under a great deal of pressure with thirty people ordering dinner at the same time the fliers were quickly clearing their tables, returning empty glasses and even rearranged all the tables and chairs before leaving the venue, I couldn't help but think "this is IMAC" at this moment. This gesture was greatly appreciated by the staff of the cafe.

Day two of the competition began with a 20-minute Michael Hobson crash course on IMAC and what the judges are looking for. This was very useful to everyone, especially the rookies. I was most impressed with Michael's ability to endure the heckling he was receiving from the veteran competitors. After a comprehensive safety briefing, the first competitor was in the air just on a shade after 9 a.m. It was decided that the Sunday would be a single round of double sequences for all the competitors, this allowed for an early finish which helped the folks with a big drive home immensely. It was one last chance to take all that was learned over dinner the night before and the brief lecture that morning and apply it to a couple of sequences. The weather was threatening but the basic class continued until a brief rain shower hit causing a short delay in proceedings. Following this it was back into the action for the remaining basic fliers.

The other classes ran smoothly and it was nice to see at the end of the event there wasn't a single damaged model or even off-strip landing so everyone was going home with all their gear intact. The last double sequence for Unlimited was one of my first opportunities to settle down and enjoy the show. It was great to see Adam, Scott, and Harley fly demonstrating very different flying styles and strengths (unfortunately Tim McDonald could not make it for the final day of the competition).

Whilst I may not be properly remembering everyone who stood up to help by "adopting" a rookie I was impressed by the way Amber de Brueys, a very experienced IMAC competitor from Queensland stepped up to the call for and helped offer guidance in both flying and setup to everyone seeking it. There was certainly no shortage of people excited to help out throughout the weekend and this is what it is all about.

Another highlight of the weekend was everyone's attitude to safety. Model starting, taxiing, landing, recovery procedures were all strictly adhered to by all the modellers throughout the event. The respect that all the competitors and those supporting the event gave to one another's safety was truly something that can be used as an example to other aspects of the hobby. With the increase in new and returning competitors who are eager for the next competition, it is clear there were many converts to the sport.



So if you're interested in being involved, please reach out to any of the Australian-based IMAC groups on Facebook or visit scaleaeros.com.au for more information. Whilst the IMAC community is much like one big family, it always has room to grow, and speaking from personal experience I felt included and welcomed by everyone from the moment I arrived at my first competition less than twelve months ago.

The 2024 calendar is yet to be finalised and will hopefully start to be released in the coming months, I have strong hopes that there will be more events in the Sydney region next year as well as throughout the country and coastal NSW.

If you are involved in a club that you think might be an appropriate venue to host an IMAC event please reach out to either myself or anyone from the ASAA committee for more information on what is needed to make it happen.

Once again I cannot thank the members and committee at SRCS enough for their support and encouragement to make this event happen. A huge thanks goes to those who drove huge distances to be there, from country NSW, Victoria and QLD to help support the event. Scott Bardney for supporting and guiding me through running my first competition, thank you for your patience and encouragement to make the event happen.

The event undeniably left a positive mark on everyone involved, as evident from the continuous smiles on the faces of all the pilots throughout the weekend. Anticipation for Sydney Showdown #2 is already building.

Joey Tavora - Sydney Showdown Event Organiser.

The place getters for each class are listed below and the results for all competitors are listed at the back of the review.

BASIC

1st - David Mudie

2nd - David Kennedy

3rd - Stephen Green

Rookie of the Event - Avian Howard

Spirit of the Event - Brad Duncan

SPORTSMAN

1st - Joey Tavora

2nd - Heath Macdonald

3rd - Benjamin Burrell

INTERMEDIATE

1st - Michael Hobson

2nd - Simon Ventevogel

3rd - Robert Barbuto

UNLIMITED

1st - Harley Wall

2nd - Adam Goulding

3rd - Scott Bardney



David Mudie 1st Place in Basic..



David Kennedy 2nd Place in Basic..



Steven Green 3rd Place in Basic.



Avian Howard 4th Place in Basic and Top Rookie of the Event..



Spirit of the Event Award -
Brad Duncan



Michael Hobson 1st Place
Intermediate..



Joey Tavora 1st Place in
Sportsman..



Simon Ventevogel 2nd in
Intermediate



Heath MacDonald 2nd Place
in Sportsman.



Robert Barbuto 3rd in
Intermediate



Bejamin Burrell 3rd Place
in Sportsman.



Harley Wall 1st in
Unlimited



Adam Goulding 2nd in Unlimited



Mike Close president of SRCS addressing the competitors.



Scott Bardney 3rd in Unlimited



Joey opening up the presentation ceremony and thanking everyone..



The entire field of 25 competitors.
What an event!







12.08.2023



12.08.2023















Overall results for all competitors at the Sydney Showdown

BASIC

1st - David Mudie
2nd - David Kennedy
3rd - Stephen Green
4th & Rookie of the Event - Avian Howard
5th - Paul Cammans
6th - Phill Gadd
7th David Bolstad
8th Jonathan Laing
9th & *Spirit of the Event* - Brad Duncan
10th Simon Lanham
(George Katopodis - could not compete but attended the Practice Day)

SPORTSMAN

1st - Joey Tavora
2nd - Heath Macdonald
3rd - Benjamin Burrell

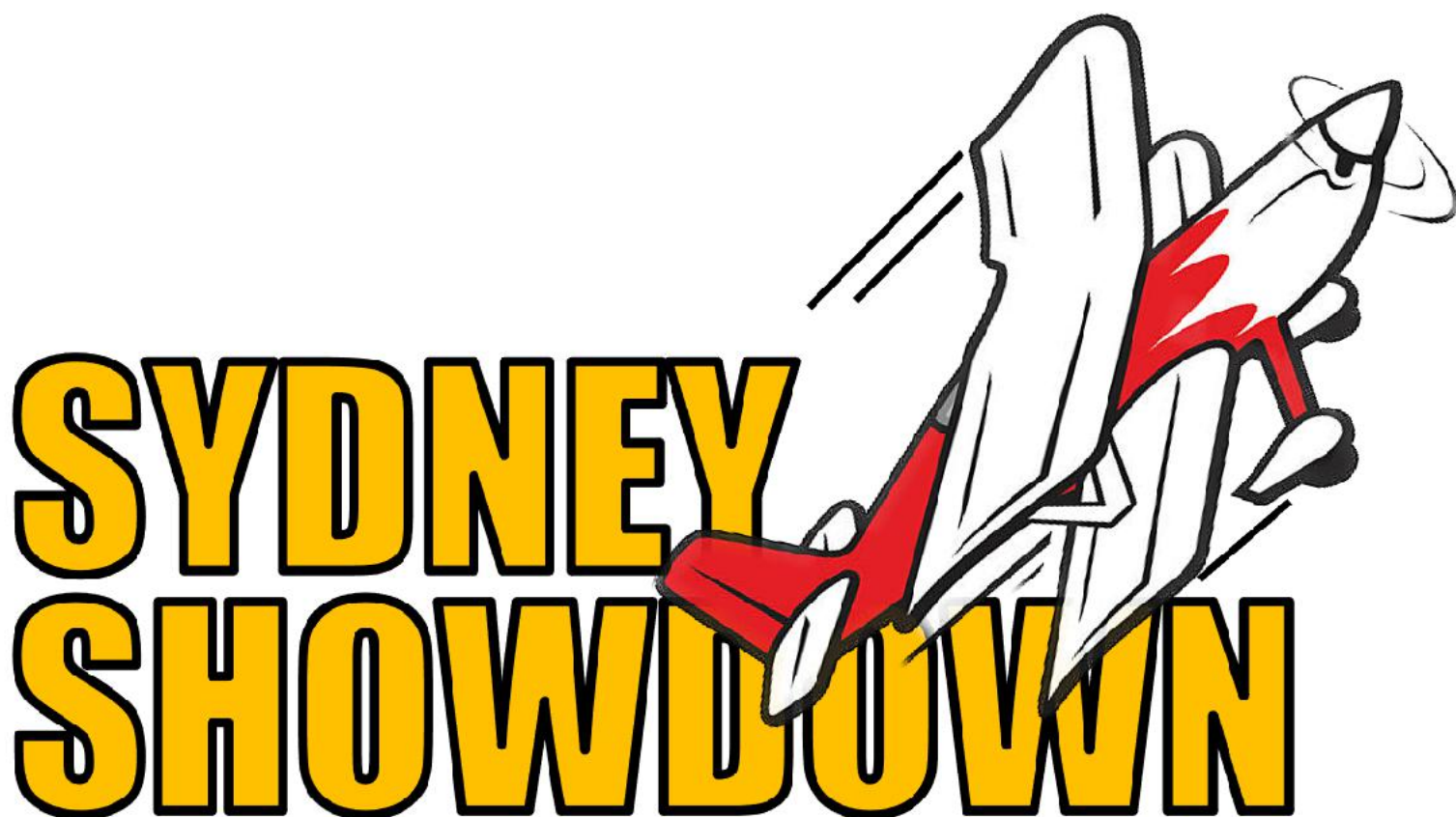
4th - John Manwaring
5th - Amber de Brueys
6th - Adam Pogue

INTERMEDIATE

1st - Michael Hobson
2nd - Simon Ventevogel
3rd - Robert Barbuto
4th - Jon York
5th - Norm Frazer

UNLIMITED

1st - Harley Wall
2nd - Adam Goulding
3rd - Scott Bardney
4th - Tim McDonald



COME FLY IN THE BOX

IMAC SYDNEY SHOWDOWN

AUGUST 11th - 13th 2023
SYDNEY RADIO CONTROL SOCIETY
WISEMANS FERRY

Practice & Coaching Day
FRIDAY 11th

Competition
SATURDAY 12th &
SUNDAY 13th

Register:
SYDNEY SHOWDOWN
(www.scaleaeros.com.au)



AEROMODELLE
NEW SOUTH WALES

