



The Australian Thermaleer

Information, Competition Results and Articles for Australian SAM Chapters and Groups

Issue No. 24

July-September 2025



SAM 1993



Condo Smith "What makes the bush special." as published on his Facebook page



The Australian Thermaleer

The Australian Thermaleer is the Official Bulletin of SAM 1788

SOCIETY of ANTIQUE MODELLERS of AUSTRALIA Inc.

SAM 1788 EXECUTIVE 2025-2026

President:	Peter Scott	44 Ravel Street, Seven Hills, NSW 2147	02 9624 1262
Vice President:	George Bishop	16 Main Street, West Wyalong, NSW 2671	0419 196 492
Secretary:	Peter Smith	P.O. Box 898, Parkes, NSW 2870	0423 452 879
Treasurer:	Gail Scott,	44 Ravel Street, Seven Hills, NSW 2147	02 9624 1262
Editor	Peter van de Waterbeemd,		0412 632 470

COMMITTEE

Peter van de Waterbeemd 0412 632 470 Paul Farthing 0427 640 264 Terry Scolari 0408 646 760

Email for The Australian Thermaleer: pwaterbeemd@gmail.com



SAM 1788 PRESIDENT'S REPORT From Peter Scott

We decided to run the 'Coota Cup' in spite of awful weather predictions, in hope that it was not going to be that bad. Also, several people were coming a long way to be there.

Well, Friday was windy, but we flew Cabin Scramble and Electric Old Timer Glider only.

On Saturday we flew nothing (*actually, Nostalgia was flown Ed.*) free to visit the town. We caught up some friends. Basil, Gail and I visited all the op shops we could find and bought-up big! Saturday evening most fliers met at the RSL for a great night of good company and great food. Not such a wasted day.

Sunday we awoke to great weather. It had been decided that all contests would be three rounds, two to count. We had a great, if busy day flying everything else except Texaco. A vote was taken and the decision made, as all in attendees were retired, to stay over and fly Texaco on Monday.

The decision to fly all contests in future, except SAM Champs as two out of three had been the right choice.

Texaco, on the Monday went well and presentations were made before we all headed home.

Peter van de Waterbeemd took home the 'Coota Cup', Condo close behind second and I was third.

Everyone had a good weekend. It's good to go flying with old friends and their 'old' models.

Jumping to the next SAM Champs, all fliers who enter, prior to the entry cut-off date, will receive a free cotton tee-shirt with a suitable logo and models depicted on them. So, free entry, good company and a free tee shirt. What more could you want?

Our next comp is Orange. This is still along way off, giving plenty of time for building, rebuilding and practise.

Best wishes to you all for next year and a merry Christmas to you and your families.

Keep flying, Peter Scott.

FOR SALE:

Nice Ohlson 60 SP \$100 or swap for small diesel.

Several good 4Str motors in very good condition (cheap) swap or sale.

Saito, OS, Magnum all cheap. – give me a call.

I have too many! (02) 96241262

Ex Geoff Potter Playboy, standard size – free to a good home.

Contact me if you would like it – would take a Saito 4 stroke!!



SAM 1788 Contest Calendar 2026

ALAN BROWN MEMORIAL SHIELD - Orange

20, 21 and 22 March 2026

Note this is a new time, approximately seven weeks later than previous.

8:30 am Friday - 1/2A Texaco, 1788 Electric OT Glider
30min Cabin Scramble

8:30 am Saturday - Burford, Nostalgia, '38 Antique

8:30 am Sunday - Texaco, Duration

2026 SAM 1788 Championships - West Wyalong

Wednesday 29 April

Setup Day, SAM Champs Model Scrutineering

10 -4pm , Phantom and Champ Racing on hard C/L circle

Thursday 30th April

9.30am 2cc Duration,

1:30 pm SAM 1788 Electric Old Timer Glider.

Friday 1st May

8:30am R/C Cabin/Sports Model (designed before 1960) Scramble

9.30am 1/2A Texaco

1:00pm Nostalgia

Saturday 2nd May

9:00am Gordon Burford Event

1:00pm O. T. Texaco

6:00pm AGM and BBQ, No cost to members ... Men's Shed West Wyalong

Sunday 3rd May

9:00am R/C '38 Antique

1:00pm Duration.

Evening Dinner TBA

Monday 4th May

9am All day general flying and socializing ...& clean up...
AB Field

Sarina, Queensland - 10, 11 12 July 2026

Coota Cup - Cootamundra

Friday 11th, Saturday 12th and Sunday 13th September 2026

Note this is a new time, approximately two weeks later than previous.

Friday

10:00 am: Cabin Scramble,

10:59 am: SAM 1788 Electric Old Timer Glider

2:00 pm or so: Nostalgia

Saturday

9:00 am: Gordon Burford Event,

11:30 am: '38 Antique, (1st round before lunch)

Early to mid afternoon Duration

Sunday

8:30 am: 1/2 A Texaco

Late morning Texaco



SAM 1788, Secretary

0423 452 879

peter_condo@yahoo.com.au

Gday,

Half a dozen dedicated souls braved the terrible weather forecast for the Coota Cup event held in late August. Despite the gloomy forecast it turned out to be a very enjoyable weekend with all events flown. Given that Monday was forecast to be a great day, we stayed over and flew Texaco on Monday morning.

I had the misfortune to lose a model out bounds in the wind, can't fly what eyes can't see, hopefully fixed by next competition. This was topped off with my DX10 letting the smoke out. Stripped a gear assembling my Burford Model, but all repaired now. Four months between comps is too long!

We had a little spare time between showers, so we nipped out a few items for the next years old timer events:

*All three-day club old timer weekends shall be 2 out of 3 rounds to make the flyoff.

*The next Event is the Alan Brown Memorial Old Timer at Orange, to be held on March 20th to 22nd, 2026. [I have already confirmed with the club].

*1788 SAM Champs, will be held away from Easter and Anzac holidays, Thursday 29th April to Sunday 3rd May, Monday the 4th May will be a cleanup fun fly day. The program of events will be attached. Note that Control Line racing now has a full day due to the demise of Standard Duration. All rounds for the Championships are 3 out of 4, to make the flyoff.

*The Coota Cup 2026 shall be moved back two weeks to avoid clashing with the Cowra Oily Hand Day [late august] and Father's Day [Sunday 6th Sep,] and a Swap meet in Cootamundra on Father's Day.

* Coota Cup Dates are September 11th,12th,13th,2026.

Again the 2026 SAM 1788 Championships there will be no entry or event fees, plus admission to a free BBQ to those that enter the event on the official entry form.

Condo 18-9-2025



May and Condo Smith after the Coot Cup Texaco event, Sunday morning. Note the apparition in the form of one Terry Scolari to the left of May

COOTA CUP - 29, 30 31 AUGUST 2025

Report by Peter van de Waterbeemd

The Coota Cup for 2025 has been run and it will possibly be remembered for the weather. Poor flying conditions on Friday with strong gusty winds, horrendous on Saturday with gale force winds, excellent on Sunday and Monday with sunny conditions and very little wind.

I arrived at the field on Thursday afternoon and found the facility to be in a sad state. It is very much in need of renovation and continuing maintenance. The runways had not been mown and there was no power for the showers. The runway was usable for our SAM purposes as we don't require much space to take off or land. ANSW is aware of the issues and has a plan going forward. In fact, the runways were to be ripped up, irrigation added, cambered and resown as soon as we departed. As a result the field is closed for the remainder of the year.

Terry Scolari and George Bishop also stayed on the field for the three days. I flew a Radian late on Thursday afternoon and found conditions to be windy with very turbulent air. Not a good omen for Friday.

The turnout for the competition was not great. Some had been put off by the forecast winds and yes there were some!

The first event flown on Friday at 10am was the novelty event Cabin Scramble with five entries. There was moderate wind but flyable with only one model damaged however it is repairable. The turbulence was less at height, perhaps 400' plus.

Glider was flown in the early afternoon with five brave souls participating. Conditions were windy yet flyable with some calm periods in between strong gusts. This was to be the only event flown over four rounds. There was little thermal lift but there was some wave lift from the ridge behind the hay shed. Condo Smith lost his Albatross when the steel wing joiner failed and a wing panel parted company from the rest of the model. Unfortunately the model was severely damaged. Only three maxes flown over the entire event and there was no flyoff.

In view of the increasingly windy conditions, Nostalgia was not flown.

Saturday was a shocker. Very windy on the field overnight and I wondered at times whether the van would blow over. The President and Secretary of Aeromodellers NSW arrived to inspect the facilities with major renovations in mind. They were accompanied by a builder and a facilitator who assisted with the planning. The consensus was that a much modified approach was required centred around a new stand alone clubhouse.

It was decided to attempt to fly Nostalgia early in the afternoon. A discussion in the pits determined that no rounds were to be flown and that all entries were in the flyoff. Four entrants flew with two landing out and the winning flight was just 148 seconds. It was just too windy to fly!

All looked forward to Sunday which was forecast to have very favourable weather conditions and for once the forecast was correct. There was a frost early in the morning and that promised light or no winds.

Given that four events were to be flown, all events were to be three rounds with two to count.

First off Burford with five entries, but only four flew as Condo had servo issues. This event was flown to our (SAM1788) new rule of a 35 sec engine run, but it appeared to make little difference in the height gained. There were a number of maxes flown, most in rounds two and three with two into the fly off. Good times for the fly off.

'38 Antique followed with four entries but only three flying as Peter Van de Waterbeemd's Attwood Triumph had developed a broken mounting lug on the front housing and as a result the crankcase was no longer working as a pump. All three rounds were flown but only Peter Scott managed two maxes and as a result there was no fly off.

After lunch the sky had clouded over but conditions were still very pleasant. Five entries for Duration and all flew. Three rounds flown with only Peter van de Waterbeemd scoring two maxes so again, no fly off.

Last event of the day was 1/2 A Texaco, again with five entries, all flying. Conditions were still overcast and decidedly chilly by the end of the round. Condo scored the only max of the event but then had issues with his model. Peter Scott landed way, way out in the second round but was able to retrieve the model in time for the third round. Gail and Peter had a lovely walk in the

meadows. There was very little lift to be found anywhere and the round ended without a fly off.

However, it had been a wonderful day's flying in complete antithesis of the previous day. Monday was forecast to be the same and thus Texaco was scheduled to be flown at 9am or so.

Five models in the flyoff with all five completing the event in what were ideal conditions. Plenty of maxes (everyone scored at least one) with three into the flyoff. The flyoff proceeded as Texaco fly offs do with the models at very good heights and then the downer came and all models landed with only a little more than a minute between them. It depended on where the model was in the sky.

That completed the Coota Cup competition. Plenty of flying in spite of the very poor prospects at the beginning of the competition.

Trophies were awarded but with a twist! Condo had provisioned for the weekend and brought along a supply of toilet paper. Event winners were also awarded a roll of the paper as a memento.

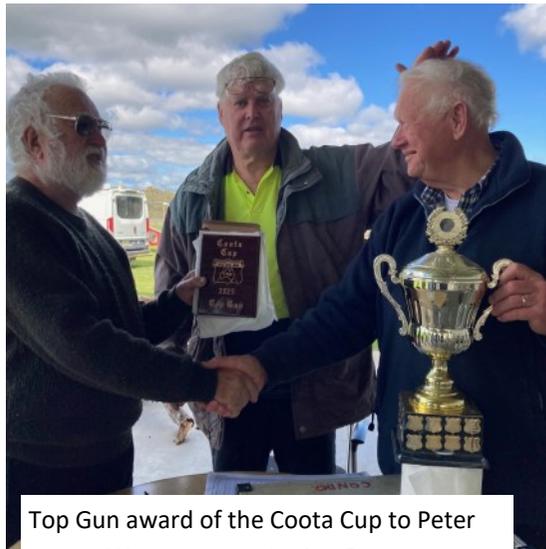
Top Gun for the weekend was Peter van de Waterbeemd.



Terry Scolari, winner of Nostalgia with his special prize.



Condo Smith and Terry Scolari. They awarded themselves the losers prize in Burford.



Top Gun award of the Coota Cup to Peter van de Waterbeemd. I think Condo was checking how much hair I had left.



Texaco pits on Monday morning.



Condo Smith, First Place in Texaco also with his special prize.



COOTA CUP - FRIDAY AND SATURDAY

Cabin Scramble

Name	Time	Place
Peter Condo Smith	1385	1
Peter Scott	1206	2
Peter van de Waterbeemd	1057	3
Terry Scolari	676	4
George Bishop	555	5

SAM 1788 Electric Old Timer Glider

Name	Model	Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Round 4	Fly Off	Total
Peter van de Waterbeemd	DG-42	259	251	360	360		979
Condo Smith	Albatross		275	360			635
George Bishop	Thermal Sniffer	125	325	94	176		626
Peter Scott	Dragon	230	118	109	167		515
Terry Scolari	Thunder King	85					85

Nostalgia

Name	Model	Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Round 4	Fly Off	Total
Terry Scolari	Ft Racer	148					148
Peter van de Waterbeemd	Swayback	76					76
Condo Smith	Perses I	L/O					
Peter Scott	Dream Weaver	L/O					



Condo's Electric glider with the wing brace failure.

COOTA CUP - SATURDAY

Gordon Burford Event

Name	Model	Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Round 4	Fly Off	Total
Peter van de Waterbeemd	Ollie	280	300	300		640	1240
Peter Scott	Dream Weaver	300	216	300		474	1074
George Bishop	Jaded Maid	248	300	177			548
Terry Scolari	Footie Racer	230	180	300			530
Condo Smith	Eureka	L/O					

'38 Antique

Name	Model	Wt Lb	Engine	Sec	Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Round 4	Fly Off	Total
Peter Scott	Record Breaker	6	Forster 99	192	600	467	600			1200
Condo Smith	Standby	5	Madewell	160	535	393	600			1135
George Bishop	Powerhouse	7	Orwick 64	112	376	Att/Att	266			642
Peter van de Waterbeemd	Schmaedig Stick	5	Atwood Triumph	160						

Duration

Name	Model	Engine	Sec	Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Round 4	Fly Off	Total
Peter van de Waterbeemd	Bomber	McCoy 60	32	420	276	420			840
Peter Scott	Stardust Spl	OS 40H	25	263	345	283			628
George Bishop	Playboy	Saito 62	32	316	L/O	253			569
Terry Scolari	Playboy	Enya CX40	25	242	L/O	202			444
Condo Smith	Playboy	Saito 62	32	186	115	155			341



COOTA CUP - SATURDAY AND SUNDAY

1/2A Texaco							
Name	Model	Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Round 4	Fly Off	Total
Terry Scolari	Valkyrie	270	333	361			694
Peter Scott	Baby Burd	241	L/O	406			647
Peter van de Waterbeemd	Stardust Spl	Att/Att	323	200			523
Condo Smith	Lil Diamond	420	Att	52			472
George Bishop	Stardust Spl	340					340



Texaco										
Name	Model	Wt Lb	Engine	CC	Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Round 4	Fly Off	Total
Condo Smith	Bomber	6	OS 60 OR	18	600	600			1026	2226
Terry Scolari	Lanzo Stick	7	Enya 60 FS	21	600	600			1003	2203
Peter van de Waterbeemd	Bomber	6	Irvine 40 diesel	18	600	600			948	2148
Peter Scott	Record Breaker	6	Forster 99	24	600	398	495			1095
George Bishop	Flamingo	5	Atwood 60	20	366	469	600			1069



2025 SARINA OT CHAMPS

The Sarina Aero Modellers under the leadership of Mike Rankin conducted the 2025 Sarina OT Champs from 11 to 13 July.

Fantastic weekend of flying and fellowship was enjoyed by all who attended the championship. A competitor's nephew and niece who are not aero modellers commented on the friendly atmosphere and comradery and advised that they are hoping to come back next year to enjoy the hospitality and fun times. The event is becoming a real family affair with attendance by the Rankins, Morrisises, Wilsons and Hagartys. Competitors hailed from Cairns, Calvert, Innisfail, Orange, Rockhampton and Townsville Clubs which shows the popularity of this event. The standard of the competition was high and showed pilots needed to abide by the 5 P Rules to place in the top three in each event. Flying conditions varied according to the wind strength (under 25 kph) which tested the ability of the pilots.



Great effort by Maryanne and her merry band of helpers with the catering which everyone enjoyed.

½ A Texaco was flown on Friday afternoon in windy conditions with five flyers making the fly off. Vince Hagarty (Bomber) won followed by Trevor Zerbst (Interceptor) second and Alan Suley (Interceptor) third.



The Texaco event had 24 entries which would be the biggest field in Australia. The other events were reasonably well supported and slowly growing in numbers each year.



2025 SARINA OT CHAMPS

After a hearty breakfast on Saturday morning, 24 flyers prepared their models for the big event of the Championship – Texaco. It was hotly contested with good flying conditions ending in 7 fliers making the fly off. After 24 years of trying to win this event, Warren Hathaway finally managed to win the event – congratulations on your effort. Second and third placing was a close tussle with Gary De Chastel taking second place followed by Mike Rankin. All were flying Lanzo Bombers.



Duration followed after lunch with conditions deteriorating compared to the morning with lift being hard to find but 4 made the fly off. It was an effort to keep the models in the air for the fly off with very little lift off but once again Alan managed to beat Les Morris in the placings.

Placings in the Duration Event were, Alan Suley First, Craig Rankin Second, Chris Morris Third



Two fun events but hotly contested were the Radian and Catapult glider. To watch a mass launch of Radian gliders with no mishaps is amazing.



2025 SARINA OT CHAMPS



The radian event is the second most popular event with fliers trying their utmost to keep the model in the air to avoid elimination.

Placings in the Radian Event were Chris Morris first, Anthony Vicary second and Les Morris third.

There is a star in the making with our young female pilot - Mackenzie Rankin showing fellow competitors how to launch a catapult glider. She showed her father and brother how it is done by scoring a 38 second final flight. Placings were an all Rankin affair with Mackenzie first, Craig (dad) second and Connor (brother) third.



Burford

Final event of the weekend was Burford with 13 fliers was once again a spirited contest with 5 fliers making the fly off. The old fox Mike Rankin showed how to fly in the conditions where lift was non-existent and sink the deciding factor.



Placings in the Burford Event were Mike Rankin first, Garry De Chastell second and Dave Hatfield third

2025 SARINA OT CHAMPS

This event relies on two people, Marianne and Mike Rankin, who are the main organisers of the flying and catering assisted by family and members of the Sarina Aero Modellers. A very big thank you from all attendees.



For more photographs of the weekend please review Sarina Aero Modellers Inc on Facebook.

Next year will be the 25 Anniversary of Sarina OT Champs and is scheduled for the second weekend in July 2026 starting on Friday afternoon 10th. It would be great to see a good turnout by fliers, families and friends to celebrate the occasion. Mark the date in your calendar and checkout their Facebook page for details as we approach the date – 10th to 12th July 2026.



There is a flying sheep station up there



McKenzie Rankin. Winner of ???glider

Something wrong with this mass launch of Radians Vince Hagarty Launching a non-Radian.



Typical Sarina scene. A model taking to the air with cane fields and the Sarina sugar mill in the background.

