

Event Notes

14th March 2021

Overview

Thankyou for entering the 2021 Supagas Canowindra International Balloon Challenge. We look forward to welcoming you to Canowindra and putting on a great event for balloonists and the public.

This year's event will be different to other years in that we are trying to move with the times and are changing quite a few things to try and improve the experience for you and for the officials.

Briefings

This year all Briefings except the Master briefing will be held at the Canowindra Community Centre located at the end of the main street opposite memorial park. For those who have been to Canowindra for a few years you will remember this as the location of our awards night previously. We are really stepping it up as the facility has toilets with lights and heating!

Refuelling

We are thrilled to have the ongoing support of Supagas for this years event. As with previous years Supagas are providing a heavily discounted fuel price. However unlike previous years we are not in the financial position to provide the LPG for free. In 2019 this cost us approximately \$30,000 which we just don't have.

Supagas have indicated a maximum price of 66c/L and this will reduce if the wholesale price reduces in April.

We will be passing this price on to you at the time of refuelling. We will have an EFTPOS terminal at refuelling and will ask you to pay for the LPG immediately following refuelling. We will not be issuing accounts so please make sure you are prepared for this when refuelling.

There is one other LPG supplier in town (BP Service Station) where you can also refuel but this is not affiliated with the event. Their current price is 91c/L.

Team

This year we have a much smaller team of officials than in previous years and with covid restrictions this is a local team for 2021.

Event Directors:	Andrew Robertson and Adam Barrow (more on this later)
Safety Officer:	Steve Griffin
Meteorologist:	Don Whitford
Measuring Team leaders:	Carol and Ian Benning, Andrew Phelan

We will announce more details on other roles closer to the event.

Landowners

The Canowindra area continues to get tighter and tighter to fly and being a week later than usual this year means we may see a few more crops in the ground. Many properties in the flight area have changed hands in the last 18 months and this gives us opportunities to build relationships with these new owners.

We will provide a list of all competition goals and known SZ/PZ to the watchmefly website <https://watchmefly.net>

Please make sure you check back regularly for this site as it will change through the week.

Documentation

As stated in the invitation we will not be requiring you to send in all of your documentation this year. We already have a lot of it on hand from previous years. You will be required to have all of your paperwork ready as well will be doing spot checks of relevant paperwork.

You will need to provide us with a current copy of your insurance for the balloon you are flying. You MUST be named on this policy. If you are not specifically named then you will not be able to enter the event. We will not accept pilots who fall under the "100 hour" rule as we have no way of validating your previous claim history.

Student Instruction

Canowindra has always been a student friendly event. However with the complete ballsup from the ABF regarding Instructor ratings, instructing will not be allowed unless you can demonstrate to us that you have met all the requirements of the ABF Operations Manual and have been re-validated.

No Student solos are allowed during the event.



4 Podium Places
2013, 2014, 2017, 2018



3 Podium Places
2015, 2016, 2018

Cabonne Community Glow

As usual we will be having a nightglow and music event on the last Saturday night of the event. This is critical for the ongoing financial success of the event and we will ask 15 balloons to participate. This will be based on colours and/or sponsorships. If you are asked to participate we would really appreciate your ongoing support. LPG will be provided for the nightglow so you are not out of pocket.

Competition Notes

A Paper Free Event

For those who have previously been involved as an event official, organiser or anyone who has competed at a few events, you will know that paperwork and printing things out slows everything down.

For this reason, we have decided to make things more efficient, and we are going to run a paper free event. This means that Task Data Sheets (TDS), weather information, results, the Official Noticeboard and Flight Report Forms will all be going online using WatchMeFly (<https://watchmefly.net>).

The main change from previous events is that Task Data Sheet (TDS) and Weather information will be provided digitally on WatchMeFly. Over the last year, during COVID times, many international events have been successfully running competitions in this way. One of the big advantages for pilots and crews is that Directors will be posting the TDS as soon as it is available. So, you will not need to wait until TDS is photocopied and the doors of the briefing hall are opened. This will allow you to start your flight planning well before briefing and also allow you to be prepared with well thought-out questions for the briefing.

If you are concerned about not having pieces of paper to scribble in briefing on or a physical TDS to scrunch up on the bottom of the basket floor (or to float out of the basket in a fast descent), we suggest you bring along your own notebook to the briefings.



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Loggers – FAI Balloon Live App

This year's event will be using a combination of physical markers (with target teams) and the Balloon Live logger app. Pilots will be required to bring their own device (phone or tablet) with the Balloon Live app pre-installed.

For those who have not used the Balloon Live app before, we highly recommend you download it now and play with it in "Training Mode". Go for a walk around the block and practice declaring goals and dropping logger marks.

During the event, you will be running the App in "Competition Mode" which allows the App to download the flight information prior to the flight and it will also upload your track points, goal declarations and marker drops in real-time to WatchMeFly for the purposes of scoring.

If you have not used the Balloon Live app in a competition before or you are using a new device, you may want to test the transmission of data prior to the event. To do this, we will set up a practice flight in the weeks leading up to the event, which you will be able to connect to and test that the data is transmitted correctly. We highly recommend you do test this before the first day of competition.

An instructional video will be provided in the weeks leading up to the event. In the meantime, to download the app or for more information on its use, please go to <https://balloonlive.org>

Please let Andrew Robertson (auntymonkey@gmail.com) know if you have any questions or need support using the Balloon Live app.

FAI Balloon Live Sensors

There has been a lot of talk recently about the new FAI Balloon Live Sensor units which are currently being manufactured in Europe. The Balloon Live Sensor (BLS) closes the gap of the Balloon Live App running on many different phones and the need for precise GPS and barometric measurements. This is done using an external sensor that connects to the app.

Many of the registered pilots and the ABF have ordered these units for use in competitions. The FAI has prioritised Australia to be one of the first country to receive these units and they *may* arrive in the country before Canowindra (if Customs don't decide to delay delivery).

At this stage, we are planning to use the Balloon Live app without the Sensor units, however if they do arrive in time, we may decide to use them. If this does occur, we will work with the ABF on arrangements for pilots without Sensors to use/hire the ABF units.



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Digital Flight Report Forms

During the competition pilots will be required to fill out a Flight Report Form (FRF) after each flight. To make things more efficient for the scoring team and to save pilots from needing to return to the Competition Centre after each flight, we will be using the new WatchMeFly digital Flight Report Form system. Pilots can enter their estimated task results, their launch and landing details, and the landowner information online (using any web browser).

Instructions and a tutorial video will be provided in the weeks leading up to the event.

Are you a member of WatchMeFly?

Most of the registered pilots are already members of <https://watchmefly.net>, however for those who are not already registered, we highly recommend you sign up. While you will still be able access the Electronic Noticeboard, the flight and task data sheets without being a member, your life will be easier accessing things like the Flight Report Forms and your flight track data if you are a member. It will also make the lives of the competition officials a lot easier.

It is also worth noting that the Canowindra Challenge is likely to be the last Balloon Live event that does not require a WatchMeFly login, so you will need to sign up in the future anyway.

Two Directors

This year we will be running the event with two competition Directors – Adam Barrow and Andrew Robertson. At the most basic level, Adam will be in charge of all ballooning operations and Andrew will be setting tasks and scoring. The soon to be published rule book will stipulate that both Directors will have equal powers.

As Andrew will also be competing, any decisions that could be deemed biased towards (or against) Andrew will be made by Adam or, if need be, the Jury. As this is not a National Championships and is a chance for all pilots to enjoy some good, fun competition flying, we believe there should not be any issues with having one of the Directors also competing.

If you have any questions please give me a call on 0459 847 846

Look forward to seeing you all in a few weeks

Adam Barrow



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