

## **Millennium Cup Round 2.** **Muswellbrook - 14 April, 2002.**

Many excellent glider events have been held at Muswellbrook, in the Upper Hunter Valley, over the years, but this is the first time a round of the Millennium Cup has been run there. I don't think it will be the last.

For HSL members it is a long drive to Muswellbrook, and some regular Millennium Cup competitors were unable to make the trip. On the other hand, holding some rounds in regional centres a long way from Sydney gives some country pilots, who would not normally be involved, a chance to compete. There were seventeen entrants, and more than a third of them were locals who have not flown in the Millennium Cup previously.

Although showers were forecast, none eventuated. It was cloudy, with some sunny periods, and the wind was just a bit too strong for two metre gliders. It was not dangerous, but those who followed lift downwind often failed to get back to the landing spots.

The result was that six minute flights were difficult to achieve, and two minute flights were not unusual. With so many short flights being recorded you could make up a lot of places with a six minute flight, so the placings were in doubt until the end of the day.

We used two reflex launch systems, which proved to be a great success. Flying started at about 10 AM and, despite a lunch break of nearly an hour, eight rounds were completed by about 2 PM. By 3PM we had packed up, added up the scores, handed out the prizes, had a good yarn, and were on our way home, a good result for those of us who had a long way to drive.

The results were:

1st	John Kinlay	1909
2nd	Tom Prosser	1887
3rd	Mike Towell	1842

John used the conditions well. He followed the lift downwind regularly and, while he sometimes failed to get back to the spot, the extra flight time more than made up for this.

With two rounds flown so far, Tom has a good lead of nearly two hundred points from John, with myself in third place. But with probably five rounds still to be flown, and only each pilots best five scores to count, everybody is still in with a chance.

**Ian Roach.**