

2026 ASRA Nationals (fly in or dive in)

Tooraweenah, NSW

Friday to Sunday, 17 to 19 April

Overview

The **2026 ASRA Nationals** is getting closer and will be held at **Tooraweenah, NSW** from **Friday to Sunday, 17-19 April 2026**

ASRA is very grateful for the kind invitation from the **Arthur Butler Aviation Museum (ABAM)** to host the 2026 ASRA Nationals at Tooraweenah.

The Tooraweenah Aerodrome is an excellent venue for the Nationals. The airfield also reflects a proud aviation heritage through its association with Arthur Butler, Butler Air Transport, and the village of Tooraweenah itself.

Tooraweenah is a welcoming rural village with a rich history dating back to the mid-1800s, a strong community spirit, and is in close proximity to the **spectacular Warrumbungle Ranges**. Dubbo is located approximately 105 km to the southwest.

Please note that the nearest fuel is at Gilgandra or Coonabarabran, however fuel will be made available at the Tooraweenah Aerodrome for gyrocopters during the Nationals.

Accommodation

A comprehensive list of accommodation options in both Tooraweenah and Gilgandra is included with this article.

If you are planning to bring a caravan, motor home or camping style arrangement, and if your preference stay in the Tooraweenah village, then we recommend the local caravan park should be considered. The local showground can also assist with overflow requirements.

As there is no town or potable water, or powered caravan sites at the aerodrome, ABAM has requested that participants make use of local accommodation in Tooraweenah or nearby Gilgandra. However, provided you have self-contained facilities and are not dependent upon town water or town power, then staying on site at the Tooraweenah Aerodrome is permitted.

ASRA is considering hiring a mini bus to assist with transport arrangements, if required.

Arthur Butler and Bulter Air Transport

During the period 1938 to 1958, the Tooraweenah Aerodrome was a major aviation hub for Butler Air Transport, serving western NSW and southern Qld, to and from Sydney.

Cecil Arthur Butler (1902-1980), founded Butler Air Transport in 1934, pioneering passenger and mail services across country NSW and Qld. Post war growth saw the airline become one of Australia's most respected independents until a hostile takeover in the late 1950s forced its absorption into Airlines of New South Wales.

Butler's legacy endures through his connection with Tooraweenah and the Tooraweenah Aerodrome.

Event Outline

The 2026 ASRA Nationals will commence on **Friday afternoon (17 April)**, with a meet and greet and a welcoming BBQ dinner at the local town hall that evening. The Nationals will conclude with a farewell dinner on **Sunday evening (19 April)** at the village pub, both food events are sponsored by ASRA.

The event program covers:

- Presentation on Arthur Butler & Butler Air Transport and its historic connection with Tooraweenah.
- Presentation/workshop on Rotax aircraft engines including maintenance tips.
- Presentation on Flight of the Phoenix – the story behind the building of G2637
- Presentation on a Gyrocopter Adventure in 2025 to parts of Outback NSW & SA.
- Presentation on Gyrocopter Expeditions - tips and tricks.
- Presentation on lessons learned from the comprehensive ASRA accident database, plus a CASR Part 103 update.

Due to insurance and safety considerations, competitive flying events will not be held. Instead, the 2026 ASRA Nationals will focus on technical presentations, workshops, and celebrating the camaraderie of the gyrocopter community. Pilots may, at their discretion, undertake private flights over the weekend in accordance with normal operating requirements.

Photo Gallery

A photo gallery (comprising 12 images) has been prepared by the Organising Committee and is displayed in this article. The images are intended to provide a visual sense of the rich history of the Tooraweenah aerodrome, as well as images that connect with the planned presentations and workshops, and the shared experience of being part of the gyrocopter community.

Information Pack

An Information Pack has also been prepared with the images displayed in this article, being:

- Event program (subject to change, if required).
- Images of the Tooraweenah village and surrounding area.
- Accommodation options in and around Tooraweenah and nearby Gilgandra.
- Information on Tooraweenah Aerodrome.
- A schedule of nearby aerodromes.
- A CASA Ramp Check requirements summary (as it's always good to be prepared).

Key reasons not to miss the 2026 ASRA Nationals

- Fly in or drive in
- Welcoming BBQ dinner- Fri night
- Farewell dinner-Sun night
- Light casual breakfast provided
- Gyro friendly airfield
- Rich aviation heritage & history -Arthur Bulter & Bulter Air Transport
- Rural village location dating back to the 1800s
- Learn from actual ASRA accident data 1984 to 2025
- Practical Rotax tips you can use
- The challenges behind the building of G2637 - Flight of the Phoenix
- Gyro trip to parts of outback NSW & SA- what we did & saw
- Expedition skills & planning insights
- CASR Pt 103 - what matters
- Spectacular Warrumbungle Ranges scenery
- Shared passion, friendships & community
- Leave smarter, safer & knowledgeable

Please let us know if you're coming

To assist with **food catering and general planning**, we ask members who would like to attend to please let us know.

Please contact **Geoffrey Learmonth** (Organising Committee Member), who will arrange for a registration email to be issued - contact details are:

- E: glearmonth@cherryblue.net.au
- M: 0418 977 238

Any pilots who do not carry a VHF radio and who wish to attend should contact the ASRA organisers for further advice.

The 2026 ASRA Nationals will be a wonderful opportunity to renew friendships, meet some new friends, have some fun, and come away a wiser and more knowledgeable gyronaut- a reminder of why we all love this unique form of aviation.

To register or for further information

Geoffrey Learmonth

E:glearmonth@cherryblue.net.au

T:0418 977 238

2026 ASRA Nationals
Tooraweenah,NSW
17-19 April



*Australian aviation history
alive and well*

2026 ASRA Nationals
Tooraweenah,NSW
17-19 April



*Fly in or dive in. Best not
to miss it*

2026 ASRA Nationals
Tooraweenah,NSW
17-19 April



Rotax tips you can use

2026 ASRA Nationals
Tooraweenah,NSW
17-19 April



Moments that matter

2026 ASRA Nationals
Tooraweenah,NSW
17-19 April



*Gyro trip-parts of outback
NSW and SA*

2026 ASRA Nationals
Tooraweenah,NSW
17-19 April



*Gyro expeditions-tips and
tricks*

2026 ASRA Nationals
Tooraweenah,NSW
17-19 April



*Learn from ASRA's accident
database 1984 to 2025*

2026 ASRA Nationals
Tooraweenah,NSW
17-19 April



*Morning mist. Evening
stories*

2026 ASRA Nationals
Tooraweenah,NSW
17-19 April



*Presentations and workshops -
this time in the village hall*

2026 ASRA Nationals
Tooraweenah,NSW
17-19 April



*Learning by day. Stories
by night*

2026 ASRA Nationals
Tooraweenah,NSW
17-19 April



*Warrumbungle Ranges
from the air and ground*

2026 ASRA Nationals
Tooraweenah,NSW
17-19 April



Every Gyro -Every Story

Information Pack- Full Version



2026 ASRA Nationals
Tooraweenah, NSW
17 to 19 April
Fri to Sun
(fly in or drive in)



This Update 1 Feb 2026

Event Program (V5)

GRL60_ASRA Nationals 2026_Event Program

This Update

16 Feb 2026

2026 ASRA Nationals

Fri to Sun, 17 to 19 April -Tooraweenah, NSW, (YTNW)

Date	Program	Topic	Venue	Time	Hrs	Min	Comments
Frid -17 Apr 2026	Welcoming BBQ Dinner (Sponsored by ASRA)	Meet & Greet	Town Hall	5.30 pm to 8.00 pm	2.50	150	Sponsored by ASRA (note alcohol at the attendees cost - soft drinks etc provided)
Sat -18 Apr 2026	On Site Breakfast	n/a	Town Hall	7.30 am to 9.00 am	1.50	90	A light breakfast provided by ASRA, tea, coffee, fruit juice, cereal, toast, etc.
	Presentation / Speaking Forum	Arthur Butler & Butler Air Transport, and its historical connection with Tooraweenah.	Town Hall	9.00 am to 10.00 am	1.00	60	Presenter/s: Gary Weston & Mark Pitts (President and Vice President, Arthur Butler Aviation Museum)
	Coffee /Tea Break	n/a	Town Hall	10.00 am to 10.30am	0.50	30	Tea, coffee, biscuits, etc provided by ASRA.
	Presentation / Speaking Forum	Gyrocopter Adventure - Parts of Outback NSW and SA, May / June 2025	Town Hall	10.30 am to 11.45 am	1.25	75	Presenter: Geoffrey Learmonth (Organising Committee Member).
	Presentation / Speaking Forum	Gyrocopter Expeditions - Tips and Tricks	Town Hall	11.45 am to 1.00 pm	1.25	75	Presenter: Mark Regan (ASRA Head of Airworthiness & Maintenance).
	Lunch (attendee cost)	n/a	Local Pub	1.00 pm to 2.30 pm	1.50	90	See Note 1 below
	Afternoon free	n/a	n/a	2.30pm to 5.00pm	2.50	150	Afternoon free for sightseeing or relaxing
	Evening Dinner (attendee cost)	n/a	Local Pub	n/a	n/a	n/a	See Note 2 below
Sun -19 Apr 2026	On Site Breakfast	n/a	Town Hall	7.30 am to 8.30 am	1.00	60	Same as the Saturday program
	Technical Discussion/Workshop	Rotax aircraft engines and maintenance tips	Town Hall	8.30 am to 10.00 am	1.50	90	Presenter: Chad Summers, Chief Engineer, New England Aviation.
	Coffee /Tea Break	n/a	Town Hall	10.00 am to 10.30 am	0.50	30	Tea, coffee, biscuits, etc provided by ASRA.
	Presentation / Speaking Forum	Lessons learned from ASRA's accident database 1984 to 2025 plus CASR Part 103 Manual of Standards update	Town Hall	10.30 am to 12.00 pm	1.50	90	Presenter: Mark Regan (ASRA Head of Airworthiness & Maintenance).
	Presentation / Speaking Forum	The story behind the building of G2637 "Flight of the Phoenix"	Town Hall	12.00 pm to 1.00 pm	1.00	60	Presenter: Phillip Harper (ASRA member and the person with the inspiration to build G2637)
	Lunch (attendee cost)	n/a	Local Pub	1.00 pm to 2.30 pm	1.50	90	See Note 1 below
	Afternoon free	n/a	n/a	2.30pm to 5.00pm	2.50	150	Afternoon free for sightseeing or relaxing
	Dinner (Sponsored by ASRA)	n/a	Local Pub	6.00 pm to 9.00 pm	3.00	180	Close of the 2026 ASRA Nationals Fly-In. (note, drinks & alcohol at the attendees cost)

Note 1. Lunch is available at the local pub. If you would like to attend they have requested attendee numbers be provided to assist with catering (note- Attendee cost).

Note 2. Attendees make their own arrangements on the Sat night. Dinner (a "Community BBQ Night") is available at the local pub. If you would like to attend they have requested attendee numbers be provided to assist with catering (note- Attendee cost).

Note. All pilots are responsible for their own flight planning and decision making. Any material provided, including but not limited to any email, correspondence, publication or post, is for guidance purposes only and all pilots should make their own independent enquiries.

Images of Tooraweenah Village & Nearby Locations



Tooraweenah & Gilgandra - Selection of Accommodation Options

GRL60_V3_ASRA Nationals 2026_Accommodation

This Update

1 Feb 2026

2026 ASRA Nationals

Fri to Sun, 17 to 19 April -Tooraweenah, NSW, (YTNW)

Name / Type	Address	Email & Telephone No.	Rooms	Own Bathroom	Comments
Tooraweenah Caravan Park	16-26 Bridge St, Tooraweenah	tcp@tooraweenahcaravanpark.com T: (02) 6848 1133	Cabins & Sites	Yes & No	19 powered sites, 2 U/Powered, Pool, BBQ, laundry, fire-pit, pet-friendly, truck access.
Tooraweenah Airbnb Cottage "The Outback Sweet"	Murray Street, Tooraweenah (exact street number provided upon booking)	Via Airbnb messaging T:0428 550 909	2	Yes	Quiet village location; short walk to hotel, tennis courts, playground, showground and golf practice area; views toward Warrumbungles
Tooraweenah Farm House Stay (3 kms of unsealed road from HWay)	Approx 10 kms Nth of Tooraweenah (exact address provided upon booking)	kylie@moppett@gmail.com T: 0447481 036	3	Yes	Fully furnished, including w/machine. Sleeps up to 6 people, extra bedding can be made avail, if required. Includes tea, coffee, some milk and bread.
Tooraweenah Cross Roads Cabins	4921 Tooraweenah Rd Tooraweenah	Google: cross roads cabins tooraweenah T:0402 923 130	Cabins	Yes	Cabin accommodation with kitchenettes; quiet rural setting.
Gilgandra Motel	54 Warren Road, Gilgandra	gilgandramotel@bigpond.com T: (02) 6847 2500	24	Yes	Pool, BBQ area, on-site restaurant, Wi-Fi
Orana Windmill Motel, Gilgandra	36 Warren Road (Oxley Hwy), Gilgandra	oranawindmillmotel@yahoo.com T:(02) 6847 2404	18	Yes	Pool, BBQ, guest laundry, truck parking
Bungalow Motel Gilgandra	19 Castlereagh St (Newell Hwy), Gilgandra	hello@bungalowmotelgilgandra.com.au T:(02) 6847 1271	Various	Yes	Pet-friendly, beauty room, BBQ, undercover parking
Cooee Motel Gilgandra	8 Hargraves Ln (cnr Newell Hwy), Gilgandra	cooeehotel4@bigpond.com T: (02) 6847 2981 / 1800 266 333	17	Yes	Pet-friendly, truck access, gardens, quiet setting
Alfa Motel Gilgandra	7 Castlereagh St (Newell Hwy), Gilgandra	alfa.motel@yahoo.com T:(02) 6847 1188	9	Yes	Pet-friendly, room service meals, parking at door
Castlereagh Motor Inn Gilgandra	4 Quealeys Rd Gilgandra	office@castlereaghmotorinn.com.au T:(02) 6847 2697	18	Yes	Pool, BBQ, kids play area, pet-friendly
Three Ways Motel Gilgandra	2 Willie Street, Gilgandra	E: Not listed T: (02) 6847 2241	8	Yes	Ground-floor units, parking at door
Silver Oaks Motel Gilgandra	1 Castlereagh St (Newell Hwy), Gilgandra	E: Not listed T: (02) 6847 0111	Not Listed	Yes	Classic 1950s motel, pool available
Royal Hotel Gilgandra	73 Miller St, Gilgandra	royalhotelgil@gmail.com T:(02) 6847 2004	Not Listed	No	Heritage hotel, bistro, beer garden, budget rooms
Railway Hotel Gilgandra	6 Bundy St, Gilgandra	railwayhotel.gilgandra@outlook.com T:(02) 6847 0575	Not Listed	No	Bistro, pet-friendly outdoors, free camping for patrons
Golden West Hotel Gilgandra	43 Miller St, Gilgandra	Not listed T:(02) 6847 2109	Not Listed	No	Historic 1890s hotel, bar & bistro
Tattersalls Hotel Gilgandra	70 Warren Rd, Gilgandra	Not listed T:(02) 6847 2080	3	No	Sold 2024 – renovating to residential / pub reopen planned

Tooraweenah Aerodrome

YTWN

GRL80_V3_ASRA Nationals 2026_Airport Card and
Nearby Airports

This Update

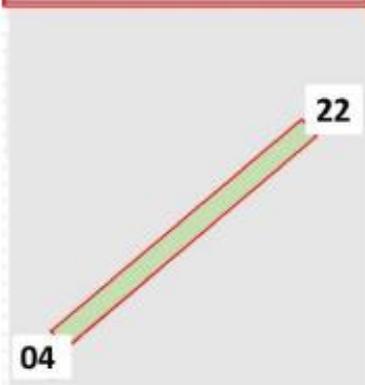
1 Feb 2026

2026 ASRA Nationals

Fri to Sun, 17 to 19 April -Tooraweenah, NSW, (YTWN)

Item	Comments		
AD Details	AD OPR: Gilgandra Shire Council. T: 02 6817 8800. Uncertified Aerodrome. PP not Req.		
Co-ordinates South & East	South	East	
	31° 26.5'	148° 54.0'	
Ctaf	126.700		
FIA	127.100	Brisbane Centre	
RWYs	04/22		
	Grassed brown sand	Approx 1158M	NE/SW orientation
Elevation -Ft	1380		
Hazards	Gilding Ops, Animals, Birds		
Fuel	Nil fuel at AD	Access to fuel will be arranged	
Chart Ref	WAC 3356	WAC: 3356	

TOORAWEENAH



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Selection of airports within 80 nm of Tooraweenah

GRL60_V3_ASRA Nationals 2026_Airport Card and Nearby Airports

This Update

1 Feb 2026

2026 ASRA Nationals

Fri to Sun, 17 to 19 April -Tooraweenah, NSW, (YTWN)

Aerodrome	Code	Approx Distance & Direction From Tooraweenah		
		nm	km	N,S,E,W
Coonabarabran	YCBB	20	37	NE
Coonamble	YCNM	38	70	NW
Dubbo	YSDU	49	91	SW
Gilgandra	YGIL	20	37	SW
Gunnedah	YGDH	75	139	NE
Mudgee	YMDG	76	141	SE
Narromine	YNRM	58	107	SW
Tooraweenah	YTWN	0	n/a	n/a
Trangie	YTGI	56	104	SW
Warren	YWRN	59	109	SW
Wellington	YWEL	61	113	SE
Wings Out West	YWOW	57	105	SW

Note. All pilots are responsible for their own flight planning and decision making. Any material provided, including but not limited to any email, correspondence, publication or post, is for guidance purposes only and all pilots should make their own independent enquiries.

CASA Ramp Checklist (as it's good to be prepared)

GRLE0_V3_ASRA Nationals 2026_Ramp Check

This Update

1 Feb 2026

2026 ASRA Nationals

Fri to Sun, 17 to 19 April -Tooraweenah, NSW, (YTWN)

N ^o	CASA REQUIREMENT	ASRA COMMENTS	N ^o	CASA REQUIREMENT	ASRA COMMENTS
1	You should carry your pilot certificate with you when you fly. However, some sport organisations may have different rules, so check your organisation's Operations manual or regulations. It is also suggested that you carry a copy of your log book page with last flight review.	Required to carry Pilot Certificate which also has ratings and endorsements on the backside. If your log book has not been signed, go to the ASRA database and log on. Click on "Certificates" then highlight the table. Copy then paste it to a blank Word Document and print. Your last Flight review status can also be printed.	13	Condition of the aircraft	Self-explanatory. It is unlikely that the inspector will have any knowledge of gyros.
2	Aeroplane operated in accordance with the privileges and limitations of your pilot's certificate.	Ensure your Certificate is for Pilot and not Student Pilot. Operate within your endorsements.	14	The daily inspection	The Ops Manual does not require documentary evidence of a completed daily inspection
3	Correct endorsements for flight.	Check that you have endorsements for radio, cross country (as necessary), passenger (if applicable), aerodrome, above 500'.	15	Pilot's operating handbook (POH) or flight manual	Copy carried in the aircraft.
4	You must carry your current aviation medical certificate if applicable and you must be compliant with any restrictions or endorsements on your medical certificate or driver's licence (e.g. the wearing of corrective lenses).	If you still have a copy of your last F011A, print a copy. If not, complete one and print a copy. Passenger carriers will be able to print the medical certificate from the Database by going to the Medical menu and clicking on View against the current medical. Then click on Download for Printing. Print the certificate.	16	Emergency checklists	Should be accessible
5	Have you maintained a navigation/fuel log?	Fill in a flight plan and navigation/fuel log form. Complete for each leg of the flight on the day.	17	Copy of Certificate of Airworthiness if applicable	Not applicable
6	Have you made a careful study of forecast weather and applicable NOTAMS ?	CASA may or may not ask for proof that you studied the forecast and NOTAMS. View the information electronically via NAIPS, then note pertinent details e.g. validity of forecast, significant weather over the route, winds up to 5000', terminal forecast in full. Suggest write on reverse of flight plan/log.	18	Warning placard applicable	This is the one that says "Neither CASA nor ASRA etc." Ensure it is visible to the occupants of BOTH seats
7	50nm from departure point ELT/PLB required for two-place aeroplane	ELT/PLB must be Registered	19	Aircraft has a placarded maximum take-off weight in accordance with the flight manual	Not required by the Ops Manual
8	If carrying a passenger - passenger endorsement	ASRA Pilot Certificate Card with PAX endorsement.	20	Aircraft is operated within weight and balance limits	C of G information not required by Ops Manual.
9	25nm from departure point – cross country endorsement required	ASRA Pilot Certificate Card. If a cross-country endorsement is not held, the flight must be within 25nm and return to the initial departure point.	21	Required emergency equipment on board is serviceable and accessible if applicable	ELT/PLB for 2 seaters required to be carried
10	Are you carrying the appropriate, current charts and documents? Are they easily accessible?	Can use Oz Runways, or Avplan etc. When using VNC/VTC chart, mark with the flight route. If using GPS, a backup chart is also required.	22	Personal locator beacon (PLB) has current registration with the Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA)	Check the label on PLB
11	Are you carrying an EFB for your charts and documents? Back-ups considered	If using EFB/GPS, a backup chart is also required. A second mini/ iPad is acceptable.	23	Document References	As per the Ops Manual which contains copies of the applicable CAOs.
12	The aircraft's registration is current	Check the mast sticker on your gyro is valid.	24	Spare	Spare