**UAV Update**

Last weekend, Simon Nimmo - Cabarita Beach, Kristian Clear - Salt, Mark Atkins -Lennox Head and David Field - Cudgen attended the UAV Train the Trainer Course held by AVIAssist on behalf of SLSNSW at Ballina.

The four qualified to train volunteers in UAV operations thus giving our Branch 6 qualified trainers. A plan has been formed to hold a training weekend on 23rd 24th January at Ballina. Mark Atkins from Lennox would be the lead trainer and is developing additional teaching resources. Some other points under consideration are:

1. Mark Atkins is looking at offering the theory in two 2 x 1 hour evening sessions prior to the weekend.
2. If structured correctly the group feel we could offer more places in the training particularly if many of the candidates completed the theory prior.
3. The trainers also support the idea of supervised flying for new operators like that trialled by Lachlan Field following the course at Salt and Cudgen. Four hours logged supervised flying sounded about right given the positive feedback we received from Lachlan's courses.
4. Manage the expectations of clubs (eg. Ballina Cabarita) who prepared candidates for the postponed courses.
5. Hold a Pilot and Operator "fly in" in August 2021 to conduct skills assessment/proficiency, revisit SOPs and get everyone together.
6. Develop a Branch UAV Observer’s Certificate as a means of recruiting younger members to fly once they reach 16.

Blue skies ahead and light winds ahead.

David Field, Mark Atkins, Kristian Clear, and Simon Nimmo with acknowledgement to Elton Cummings