

# WARM AIR 7 Oct 17

## Aviation Sports Club Gliding Newsletter

<b>THIS WEEKEND:</b>	Club Cellphone 022 357 6731	<a href="http://www.ascgliding.org">www.ascgliding.org</a>
<b>Saturday</b>	Instructing: Ray Burns Towing: Jamie Wagner Duty Pilot: Phil Scarborough	
<b>Sunday</b>	Instructing: Ivor Woodfield Towing: Rex Carswell Duty Pilot Jonathan Pote	

**SATURDAY START OF SEASON BRIEFING, PARA CLUB ROOMS 1000 ALL REQUIRED MEMBERS NEWS**

### SATURDAY Instructor Lionel Page starts the tale

Arrived to a lonely Roy Whitby, waiting patiently as I was, yet again, a little late. Having said that, there was no one else waiting. We unlocked and started getting things ready when Geoff Leyland, Tony Prentice and Matt Moran arrived. I knew the rain was due by 12 O'clock so "hurried" things along. Towie Fletcher McKenzie arrived, DI'd RDW and did a few circuits to re-familiarise himself with her.

First up was Geoff with a 1,500ft launch and circuit. There was a bit of lift over the ridge but not enough to sustain our altitude. Eventually we re-entered the circuit.

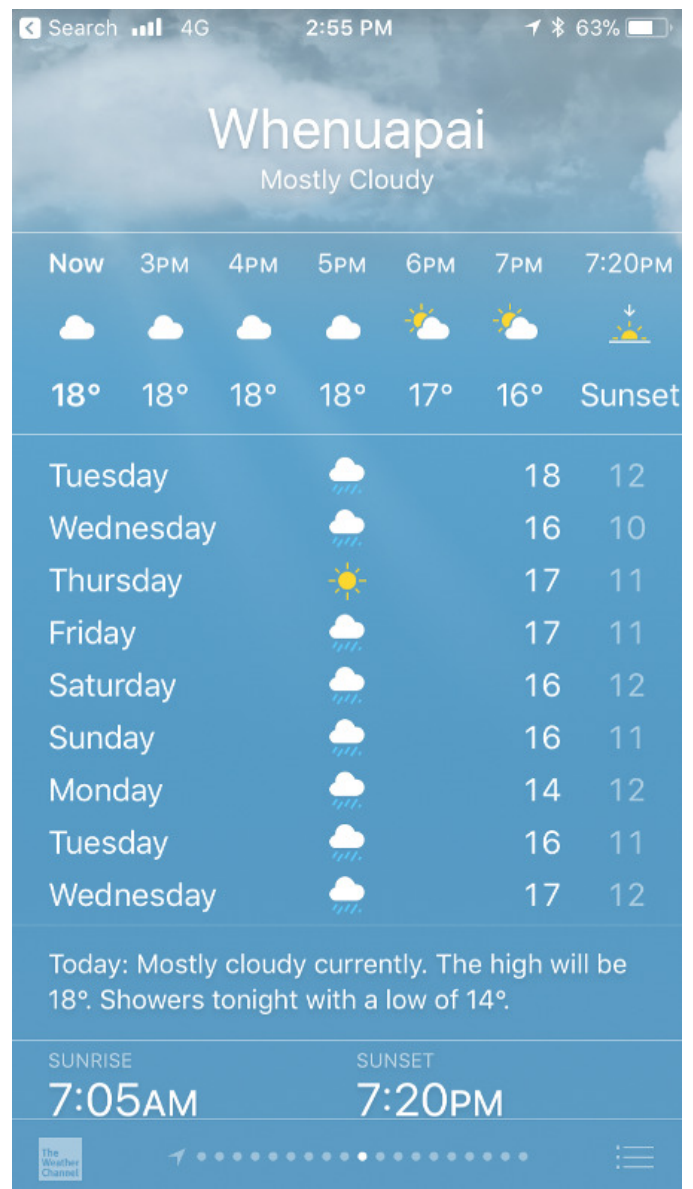
Next up was Matt with a solo also to 1,500ft, when we heard an interesting radio conversation - a drone at 1,600ft overhead Riverhead. We duly reported to Base Ops when Fletcher landed and we had the whole story. Interesting that it was THAT high.

Another circuit for Geoff and then I had a go, just to refresh myself on what it actually felt like to do some actual flying.

All packed away by 1pm when the rain set in. The rain at least meant that the aircraft got a rinse and wipe down (both RDW and GMW).

We left with Ian O'Keefe and Derry Belcher waiting for Liviu to complete some annuals and avionics checks.

At least we got to fly. It has been a while.



*Towie Fletcher McKenzie go a bit excited as he was allowed to fly:* So the week started with rain and it had lots of rain and rained, nothing new really given that I've missed the last six scheduled towing days dues to the wet stuff. Out of the week, Thursday looked good - which was the only day I really had meetings I could not move. Thursday turned out to be a beautiful day - I remember one very similar last year....

So we get to Friday night and I was expecting the usual. Waking up to no rain was unexpected, and then it turned out it was not raining!



I excitedly checked the weather and boom, it looked like there was potentially a window of no rain. I emailed Rex, who wasn't able to instruct, so Lionel was communicated with and I made my girls eggs on toast for breakfast and I consumed at least two flat whites. Once I got the go from Lionel I grabbed my gear and ran out the door with some left over pizza, a protein bar, an apple, water and no sunscreen (Murphy's Law works).

I arrived with the caravan already set up with Roy and Jonathon, GMW was getting DI'd by Geoff, Matt and Lionel. I said my good mornings and did my own checks, having a good look and reading my notes. Checking my log book it was sometime since I had actually towed - in fact it was March (with 17 tows!). As a result, I wanted to do three circuits to get current and to remind myself what to do in case of emergencies.

After fueling up, we were ready for flight. Ian turned up for rigging and we said our hello's. During my last check before chocks away and felt a slight nick on the left aileron, so I stopped and inspected the areas I could see for any signs or reason for this slight nick as the stick moved to the left - there was nothing impeding the control, I just felt a nick. Maybe I was paranoid after finding a pot under the mechanism last year?

Feeling 100% confident it was nothing and that I was safe I took off. Once airborne the feeling of being happy hit, the sense of freedom and a huge 'thank god it's not raining'!!!

Three easy circuits with a little bit of headwind, landing on Grass 26 and backtracking to pick up GMW after doing my tow rope checks with Matt.

First up was Geoff with Lionel - 1500 feet tow. Easy tow, some spots of rain and sink and little bit of lift. Neville had turned up.

Second up was Matt, as I was climbing I noticed a large bird, I assumed in a thermal, but it was not moving, it was big and suspended in the air - surreal almost, it must be a drone I thought as I climbed towards it. It was yellow and red, and big and it was not rising. Matt released at 1500 and I tried to get a fix on it as I descended in a hurry in a left turn - with a radio call warning others.

On landing we called base ops and I googled red and yellow drones.

Talking to Matt after landing his thought was that it was a balloon, which made me hunt Google even more, I was sure it was a drone. Sometimes we do see things what we want to see, I was shocked to think that my mind was playing tricks on me.



Next up was Geoff again, this time a 1000 feet tow, I was busy looking for the the drone - nothing sighted. Being lower I elected to land No 2 behind GMW.

After landing, I kept googling, lots of yellow black drones and not red yellow ones - next time I will have to think is that a drone or a balloon?

The next three tows were with Geoff and Lionel up to 1000 feet, the usual blue skies with rain hitting the aircraft, wind started to get up, however it was comfortable and it wasn't raining **heavily!** With the last tow, I finished with a hangar landing and sat in the plane at the hangar until the rain shower passed. More rain was coming, so we got the aircraft back into the hangar for cleaning.

Ironically as soon as we left the airfield the weather became fine and settled - Auckland had a beautiful afternoon with no rain (or at least where I was).

Day 25 as Tug Pilot was complete.

**SUNDAY** *Instructor Steve Wallace waxes lyrical*

It rained and it blew,  
And past my window the clouds flew,  
For the Air Scouts it was sad,  
For ASC aviators it was bad,  
But next weekend is looking fine,  
On blue skies we shall dine.

### **START OF SEASON BRIEFING.**

Our Start of season Briefing will take place rain or shine this Saturday. We will hold this in the Parachute Clubrooms Shed starting at 1000. Everyone who thinks they might fly this summer season needs to attend.

Bring a chair.

### **TITIRANGI AIR SCOUTS**

Those of a discerning nature will have noticed the rain and not very nice weather Sunday morning. Instructor Steve Wallace suggested the Air Scouts make use of their rain alternates. So...we are hosting the Titirangi Air Scouts on the weekend of 4/5 Nov.

### **UPCOMING DATES**

7 October - ASC Start of Season briefing - everyone required to attend

17 October - ASC Annual General Meeting. Notice is given of the Annual General Meeting of the RNZAF Base Auckland Aviation Sports Club Gliding Section to be held on

Tuesday 17 October 2017 at 1900. The venue is likely to be the Walker Lounge. Notices of Motion are sought to the Secretary Ivor Woodfield not later than 10 October - Nominations are also sought for the committee.



21st to 23rd October (Labour Weekend) ASC at Matamata and also Taupo 50th anniversary

4/5 Nov. Titirangi Air Scouts flying with us

6th to 11th November Central Plateau Competition—Taupo <http://www.taupoglidingsclub.co.nz/central-plateau-contest-2017.html>

25th November to 2nd December Northern Regional Competition - Matamata  
<http://msc.glidering.co.nz/events/msc-northern-regionals-matamata/>

26th December to 5th January Christmas Camp - Matamata

1st to 5th January MSC Cross Country Course <http://msc.glidering.co.nz/events/xcountry-course-jan-2018/>

The Cross Country Course is a great way to get into X country. You get to fly alternate days Dual with experienced instructors and solo with great lessons and a certain chance to get your confidence up. Well worth doing and highly recommended.

5th to 13th January Club Class Nationals and Audi Enterprise Competition - Drury  
<http://msc.glidering.co.nz/events/club-class-champs-audi-enterprise-contest-2018-drury/>

17th to 24th February Central Districts Competition at Waipukurau

## **MATAMATA - LABOUR WEEKEND -- 22 - 24 OCTOBER**

As is our custom the club will deploy to Matamata for Labour Weekend 22 to 24 October. Naturally there are a few minor details that need some pre arranging, stuff like getting yourselves and the gliders there and back, where are you going to sleep and how to prevent starving to death in three days. There is also some gliding to be done, (with luck the ridge will be working at least one day, one will be a great thermal day and the other a wave day), *good luck with that wishful thinking although we often get two out of three.* The social promises to be pretty good too.

So let's start with important stuff, where are you going to sleep. There are a range of handy motels and hotels in Matamata and Morrinsville that are not too expensive. The most cost effective is to remember Matamata Airfield has a camping ground within the fenceline, good kitchen and ablution facilities, good cabins and plenty of space for a tent, caravan or camper. The layout of the cabins is on the Matamata Soaring Centre web site <http://msc.glidering.co.nz/accommodation/> and bookings are done by emailing Ralph Gore [Gore.Family@xtra.co.nz](mailto:Gore.Family@xtra.co.nz) Camp kitchens mean taking your own food for some or all meals and/or eating out for some or all. Genny Healey (Piako Co-Club Captain) has written recommending the Eldonwood Bed and Breakfast <http://eldonwoodbedandbreakfast.co.nz/>

Genny tells me there will be a Dinner in the Matamata club rooms on Saturday Night \$25 per head and children up to age 12 at a rate of \$1 per year of age. Sunday is a dress up day for the ladies and high tea at the Tea Plantation.

The club and private gliders need to get down and back. The owners usually tow down their own but we will need three (or six) volunteers to road tow down MP and VF as well as MW empty trailer. MW will be aerotowed down (Rahul) and back (Izzy). Those without transport can usually cadge a ride with someone who is driving down.

Please give all this thought and talk to Ray Burns on how you can help.

### **LABOUR WEEKEND UPDATE FROM GENNY:**

Eldonwood B&B is no longer available as an option. The Art House & Chestnut Lane are also good B&B's.

Re the dinner I do need to know the numbers by Wednesday 18th for catering please. Also any dietary requirements I need to be aware of? Drop her an Email

Re the Ladies Tea Party at Zealong Plantation on Sunday 22/10. I've a tentative booking for 2pm. This is a time to put the glad rags on relax & enjoy. It is \$45/head but 2 can share for \$50. Diana Wood says it's better than Claridges in London. The ladies can google [www.zealong.com](http://www.zealong.com).

I have been speaking to the weather gods & have ordered good thermals & a moderately strong Sou Wester for the ridge.

We have short tasks within glide of the field for anyone new to x-country & we can set tasks each day for the more experienced if you would like? Otherwise just come & enjoy the best place in the North Island to fly.

A winch launch is only \$15 & aerotows only \$12/500ft.

Piako has 6 Instructor Trainers, 3 A Cats & the others are all B. The Puchaz are great spinners for anyone wanting to get this signed off. I remember how difficult it was to get MW into a spin. The Club House is well equipped to give lectures if anybody wants a briefing on anything.

Anyone wanting to do their 50km for their Silver Badge flying North to Thames is safe with good paddock landing options all the way.

We want everyone to come have fun, learn & take home happy memories.

My email is [Genny.healey@gmail.com](mailto:Genny.healey@gmail.com) for anyone wishing further information (and to confirm dinner numbers)



**The South Island Regional Glider Races Omarama 2017**  
18 to 25 November

"Encouraging first-timers to become champions"

- Open Class (handicapped) for the real experts
- Racing Class (handicapped) for not so experts
- Two seat and single seat coaching
- Social schedule for pilots, crew and families
- Cook Strait Ferry subsidies
- Youth Glide Scholarships
- Aussie's welcome!

Omarama Gliding Club, CD:Clive Geddes, Tasks:Gavin Wills  
Details: Facebook, GNZ website or [clivegeddes@xtra.co.nz](mailto:clivegeddes@xtra.co.nz)

## Duty Roster For Oct, Nov, Dec

Month	Date	Duty Pilot	Instructor	Tow Pilot	Notes
Sep	30	R BAGCHI	R CARSWELL	F MCKENZIE	-
Oct	1	K PILLAI	S WALLACE	D BELCHER	Titirangi Air Scouts
	7	P SCARBOROUGH	R BURNS	R CARSWELL	Start of Season Briefing
	8	J POTE	I WOODFIELD	J WAGNER	
	14	T PRENTICE	P THORPE	G LAKE	
	15	R WHITBY	L PAGE	C ROOK	
Labour W/E	21	T THOMPSON	S WALLACE	P THORPE	Matamata
	22	G PATTEN	I WOODFIELD	D BELCHER	Matamata
	23	N GRAVES	L PAGE	P THORPE	Matamata
	28	K BHASHYAM	R CARSWELL	J WAGNER	
	29	R STRUYCK	R BURNS	G LAKE	
Nov	4	S FOREMAN	L PAGE	J WAGNER	Titirangi Air Scouts Rain Day
	5	G LEYLAND	I WOODFIELD	R CARSWELL	Titirangi Air Scouts Rain Day
	11	V BRIJACEK	P THORPE	C ROOK	
	12	C DICKSON	R CARSWELL	F MCKENZIE	
	18	B MOORE	S WALLACE	D BELCHER	
	19	I O'KEEFE	R BURNS	P THORPE	
	25	M MORAN	I WOODFIELD	C ROOK	
	26	T O'ROURKE	R CARSWELL	F MCKENZIE	
Dec	2	R BAGCHI	P THORPE	G LAKE	
	3	K PILLAI	R BURNS	R CARSWELL	
	9	P SCARBOROUGH	L PAGE	J WAGNER	
	10	J POTE	S WALLACE	D BELCHER	
	16	T PRENTICE	R CARSWELL	C ROOK	
	17	R WHITBY	S WALLACE	F MCKENZIE	