

# AGC Weekly News

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## Meet Our New President Murray Wardell

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Hello from your new President!

For those who think they know me, my first job when I left school was with Parks and Reserves where amongst other duties, I became a grave digger. The first person I buried was my boss! Once people know this about me - we seem to get on a lot better.

For those of you who don't know me – see the note above about those that do think they know me.

I am excited about the helmsman role that goes with the Presidency, and the make-up of the new committee. There are a lot of things that need to be addressed. We as a club, do a lot of things okay, but we could do them better by fixing some of the things that don't work properly. One of the first things is to look at some of our systems and processes, especially as they concern our existing members and how the club can serve them better. Indeed, some of this initiative had already started and been put in place by the previous committee, with for example, a review of how we did our accounting and the change initiatives driven by our Treasurer Keith Macy; our new web site development to update our public image and profile, now in the hands of Georgia Schofield; canvassing of members thoughts and questionnaires, arranged by Diane Edwards.

Our club is made up of volunteers and to make it hum properly, it needs lots of input from many members, so please offer your services if you can. And don't be surprised if someone might ask you if you can help. Firstly, for the club, I would like to see the wheels turning a bit freer with our current systems; the booking system, how we look as a club, how we treat our members and visitors. Further down the track (but fairly quickly) the committee will be looking at a number of issues including but not limited to:

1. Fleet review (Tow Plane(s) and Club gliders for now and for the future)
2. Safety on the airfield.
3. Website development

4. Engaging members and attracting new members.
5. Promoting the new training syllabus.

The committee works for the members of the club, so we want to have your feedback. If you have any comments about how the club is or should be run (especially if we have any problems that need addressing), then please contact any of the committee members. In the short time since the AGM, I have already had some direct contact from members with insightful comments on how we could do some things better.

A bit more about me personally:

I have had a mixed career, including being a Telephone Technician, Secondary Teacher, IT – many roles, and a dozen other oddities – all of which adds to my spectrum of understanding.

My interest in aviation started when I was 17 with a TV news clip on hang gliding in the mid 70's. I had no previous interest in aviation or the sport and when I witnessed my first hang glider flight at Spirits Bay at the top of the North Island where the pilot landed in the sea – somehow I knew that this was the sport for me. Hang gliding was exciting – it was like pioneer aviation – we taught ourselves to fly – or learnt from others who had been flying two weeks longer than we had. After 20 years (on and off and 1,000 hours hang gliding) of chasing the wind and not being able to close in on any of the flying goals I had set myself, I suddenly realised that this was no longer the sport for me and I turned to gliding. So here I am another 20 years (and 800 hours gliding) on, still loving it, and waiting for the next flying season with enthusiasm, dreams and ambitious plans.

There is a niche in gliding for all pilots – for me I found it particularly in cross-country/adventure flying, and especially chasing personal goals and records. I also get a lot of pleasure out of helping other glider pilots through instruction. I look forward to doing some cross-country flying in a two-seat glider with you, or alongside in another glider – so don't be surprised when I come up to

you at the field and ask how your flying is coming along.



Murray Wardell, Bayley's Beach, on the Ides of March, 2007 after setting a new World Record in the World Class (PW-5) 579.1Km using up to 3 Turn Points. This flight was done in the Auckland Gliding Club's glider ZK-GES. Photo John Bayliss Auckland Gliding Club.

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### ***Recreational flying in Alert Level 3 for the Auckland Area***

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Earlier this week, CAA announced that recreational flying is allowed in the Auckland Area under Alert Level 3 - see note below.

(Note that under these rules to “**remain within the Auckland region throughout your flight**” **you** will only be allowed to fly as far south as Pokeno and Hotel Du Vin. Mercer airfield, for example, is out of bounds as it is across the Auckland/Waikato border).

The committee, in discussion with the CFI, have determined that the airfield is closed this weekend, Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> October, 2021 due to:

- the field being too wet to operate from and ruts needing to be filled in;

- much of the Auckland Gliding Club fleet (presently at Drury) being currently unserviceable (annuals have not been able to have been completed due to Covid Level 3 border restrictions);
- Pawnee tow plane CEB needing some minor maintenance;
- Duo Discus DX, ASK21 AK, Discus 2 BI all being geographically isolated at Matamata in border crossing lockdown from the Level 4 lockdown a couple of months ago. This is relevant to ALL members because we all need to have check flights to regain currency after such a long period of being grounded.

The committee is working on how to resolve the issues that it can – so watch this space and we will begin flying out at the club as soon as we can,

as well as producing an updated a Covid-19 Policy that reflects the realities of the Delta variant.

If you are intending to be at the club in the short term, before we commence flying again, please observe all the Level 3 protocols that are required and expected.

Further updates will come via the newsletter and Website as they come to hand.

### **Civil Aviation Authority of New Zealand**

This is a notification that the following information has been added to the CAA website, [aviation.govt.nz](http://aviation.govt.nz):

#### **Recreational flying at Alert Level 3**

The CAA has reviewed the current Alert Level Requirements Order in relation to recreational flying under Alert Level 3.

Recreational flying using 'manned aircraft' **is not allowed in the Waikato Alert Level 3 area.**

Recreational flying using 'manned aircraft' **is allowed within the Auckland Alert Level 3 area** providing that it:

- Is done in an outdoor place appropriate for that kind of exercise or recreation, and
- Is done in compliance with the requirements that relate to physical distancing and the prohibition against gathering in outdoor places, and
- Does not involve travel to Waiheke Island or Great Barrier Island.

If you are flying recreationally in Auckland **you must remain within the Auckland region throughout your flight** – the border in place is both a land and air border.

Engagement and Communications Unit Civil Aviation Authority of New Zealand.

If you have any enquiries, please email: [info@caa.govt.nz](mailto:info@caa.govt.nz)

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## **Weekend Weather**

*From Gerard Robertson*

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### **Auckland Central**

*7 October 2021*

#### **⚠ Severe Weather Watch**

**Friday**  
8 OCT



Cloudy with isolated showers to start, then clearing afternoon and fine breaks developing. Southwesterlies, tending northwest in the evening.

▲ **19°C**  
▼ **12°C**

**Saturday**  
9 OCT



A few morning showers, then becoming fine. A morning southwest change.

▲ **17°C**  
▼ **11°C**

**Sunday**  
10 OCT



Fine spells with southwesterlies.

▲ **18°C**  
▼ **10°C**

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## Autumn Flying in Alberta, Canada

Sent in by Gerard Robertson

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Cowley Airfield, Alberta, Canada. A good place for Diamonds. Climb into the wave and scoot around your multi-turnpoint polygon at around 15 000', to arrive

home at a blistering average speed with no time spent circling. Sounds a bit like Omarama...  
*(PW's comments)*

