

AGC Weekly News

Weekend Roster

Saturday

Tug Pilot: Ben Duthie-Jung
Instructors: Paul O'Neill-Gregory, Graham
Cochrane
Duty Pilot: Volunteer needed

Sunday

Tug Pilot: Ron Burr, Brett Nicholls
Instructors: Norm Duke, John Robertson
Duty Pilot: Nathan Montano

Well done AJ Dudley!



AJ after his first solo.

From AJ: A massive thank you to Russell, Graham and everyone else at AGC for helping

me get to this stage. Looking forward to soar with you all soon.

Young Eagles Visit Sunday 27th February

Russell Thorne

Next Sunday 27th February a visit is scheduled by 10 young pilots from the Ardmore based Young Eagles organisation for flying and local club activities.

Vaccine Passes will be required for all visitors, including parents. Consent forms signed by parents for any passengers under 18 will also be required.

Co-incident will be tow pilot training for Brett Nicholls who has recently completed his initial Pawnee Type Rating.

Any extra ground support in visitor hosting or instructor availability will be appreciated.

Continuing Drone Flights near Drury airfield

Russell Thorne

Drone Operations

There is an ongoing pattern of drone flights near the Drury Airfield. These flights are numerous, sometimes three to five per week during the Monday-Friday period.

They are either associated with the quarries or subdivisions nearby, or the marketing of local real estate properties.

The maximum altitude is usually below 400ft AGL and some operators listen out on the VHF radio for flying activity at the airfield.

All pilots operating at the airfield during hours outside club days should be aware of these drone flights should they traverse those areas at low

altitude as they can be numerous, especially in those quarry areas.

Drone operations normally occur with 24 hours of notice as below via the CAA Airshare notification.

Blasting

Blasting does take place at Stevies quarry and therefore the need to advise any danger to local flying can only be individually advised to pilots who contact myself through email or by phone. Notice of Blasting occurs on the day of operation, sometimes lasting the whole day until 4pm. There is no notation of this activity on aeronautical charts in contrast to the Bombay Quarry.

From the AGC President

As you will know, the Omicron variant is spreading fast in the community. In fact, one club member - who was at the club last Sunday - tested positive via a RAT test after becoming symptomatic on Tuesday. He immediately advised the club, to his credit. All those who were present last Sunday have been advised to be vigilant; two of those present have already had precautionary RAT tests, which were negative.

While many of us may yet contract Omicron, the goal remains to slow its spread, to avoid overwhelming the health system. Despite the Phase 3 self-isolation requirements being less restrictive, it is in both our own interests and the

national interest to spread the slow. Equally, the damaging effects of "long Covid" cannot be ignored.

With the high numbers of positive cases in our community it is highly likely that we all will be in contact with positive cases that we are not aware of. We believe any risk is low and as such the AGC will be continuing operations in line with its current Covid policy (including mask wearing in enclosed spaces and two seaters). If you have any symptoms relating to Covid 19 we would suggest you get yourself tested at your local pharmacy or testing centre. These RAT tests are easy to perform and are now readily available.

Duty Pilot Issues

Patrick Lalor is unable to be Duty Pilot on Sunday due to home isolation. This means that a volunteer will be needed if flying goes ahead.

It is pointless trying to swap duties at this stage as there is probably going to be a whole lot more of these covid-related issues.