

AGC Weekly News

Weekend Roster

Saturday

Tug Pilot: Wayne Thomas
Instructors:
Duty Pilot: Lal Busher

Sunday

Tug Pilot: Ron Burr, James Bassett
Winch Driver:
Instructors:
Duty Pilot: Lance Feldwick

Wally (Waldemar) Meyer



In an email to Russell Thorne on 30 January, Daniel Meyer writes:

“Unfortunately, Dad passed away suddenly on Friday night from heart complications. It was completely unexpected as he had been totally fine and healthy with no signs of any problems. I'm grateful that he managed to live an amazing life full of wonderful experiences.”

Some of the more senior club members will remember Wally, the father of Daniel Meyer. He had a very broad Swiss accent and others may recognise him from the photos.

Wally was part of the club back in the Ardmore days and again from around 2004 onwards for a period. He also flew out of Dunedin. He worked alongside Russell Thorne at one stage and also flew out of Whakatane for Graham Bell before he

joined Meyer Helicopters. He often used to talk about flying gliders back in Switzerland.

The funeral will be by invitation only due to Covid restrictions but will be recorded and posted on Youtube later on. There is also a Zoom link for the service:

Topic: Wally's Memorial Service

Time: Feb 4, 2022.

Zoom link active from 02:00 PM, ceremony commencing at 2:30 PM NZDT

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://auckland.zoom.us/j/96996740377>

Meeting ID: 969 9674 0377



On the following page is a short article written by Wally for Soaring NZ, way back in 2011.



Roger Didsbury (III) Club Class runner up.



WALLY MEYER

talks about his flight with Paul Knight in DX, Drury-Pio Pio, 304 km.

On Sunday I talked to Paul after flying and said, "I wish I could come along just to learn a few things, to see what it's all about" and he said "What are you doing tomorrow?"

We put on about 65 litres of water, which was a new thing for me, and we struggled to find good lift. Geographically challenged, I learned a lot about navigating as we scratched our way down country to Pio Pio; in serious danger (in my opinion) of landing out for most of the trip. Paul managed to superbly work all the lift we found and eventually we found ourselves back at the swamp below the Bombay Hills.

We came closer to Mercer; looking at the final glide calculator I saw that we would be on final glide in another 5-600 feet. It was amazing how my feelings changed. For the last three hours I had thought we were going to land in a paddock somewhere. Initially when we were low in Pio Pio I thought, "This is it! It's going to be 2 o'clock in the morning before I'm back in Drury," but Paul made it all the way back. Making it back to Drury was a real possibility, and it felt fantastic. We were working on the final glide, Paul wanted to

give it 1,000 feet to spare, and then the lift really started. We flew into wave-like lift, it just went up; I couldn't believe it. I've got a photo of the instrument panel where you can see we are just short of VNE and we are going up 3-4 knots, so of course the final glide wasn't a problem anymore.

The feeling I had after making it back was just awesome. It was a handshake /hug / "the beers are on me" kind of thing. People tell me that they think me flying to Los Angeles is a big deal - it's not. This was a different kind of flying, so different! I fly big aeroplanes for a living, but this 5½ hour flight was so much more enjoyable than the 12 hours flying to LA.

You learn a lot when you fly with somebody who's been in competition and you see how they look at thermals, centre and stay up. I must give credit to Paul; if I'd been on the same flight, I don't think I would have made it back. It was an eye opener. Perseverance comes into it - don't give up too early. When we were at Pio Pio I probably would have landed. Maybe next year I'll be in the Club competition.

MERCER MBZ CAUTION



Feb 5th and 6th

**February 2022 NI Akro Fest
Mercer Airport**

**AVOID MERCER AIRPORT AND
THE CIRCUIT AREA**

Extensive aerobatic flying will be taking place immediately
to the SOUTH (within the Mercer Airport circuit).

Listen out on 119.2 for Mercer Airport aerobatic activity

If you need to join to land at
Mercer Airport, fly a **wide circuit** →
clear of the Aerobatic Box ←



Contact Contest Director, Grant Bennis,
for more details

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Weekend Weather for Drury

Submitted by Gerard Robertson

Hunua

3 February 2022

Friday 4 FEB		Partly cloudy with the chance of a shower or two until evening. Humid northeasterlies.	▲ 27°C ▼ 20°C
Saturday 5 FEB		Partly cloudy, with the chance of a shower. Humid northeasterlies.	▲ 27°C ▼ 21°C
Sunday 6 FEB		Occasional rain developing. Humid northeasterlies.	▲ 26°C ▼ 18°C

Newsletter compiled by Peter Wooley 021 170 2009