

WWGC Newsletter - June 2022

Welcome to the first in what I hope to be monthly newsletters. Yeah Right! I hear you say!

I would like these newsletters to contain a number of things including

- Member achievements
- Club news
- Social happenings
- Flying tips
- And other general stuff

If you have anything that you would like to contribute to this newsletter, please let me know. I especially would like flying stories where you may have had an experience that should be shared with others. It can be educational, safety related or humorous.

This newsletter has a lot in it as it covers the last few months. The following newsletters will be shorter.

From the President - Simon Casey

Right now I guess all of us have been looking skyward wishing we were in the air - well not during the recent thunderstorms. Although winter does reduce the soaring opportunities, winter can also bring some amazingly calm days which are just great for training.

However Papawai can get water logged and we are planning to operate from Masterton's Hood aerodrome during July and August. This will be a great time to not only experience another airfield if you are not already familiar, but an important opportunity to refresh your aerotwo skills or gain an aerotow rating. Aerotow allows for higher flights on stable days that allows us to do the upper air exercises we sometimes cannot do at Papawai.

So plan now for some great training at Hood.

The NZMCA will be camping at Papawai on the nights of Friday 8 July & Saturday 9 July. They will be bringing their own motor homes and we have offered our facilities including toilet, showers and the club rooms. They will not likely get in the way as we will likely be operating from Hood during that time. I am really pleased they have chosen to stay with us which also will help us financially.

Achievements

Let's record the achievements of our members. Achievements include, 1st solo, single conversion, badge or part badge achievements and some others.

The list below (in no particular order) comes from me trolling through the End of Period reports that the Ops Bosses compile for the committee. This is since July last year so there are a number to list but I apologise in advance if I have missed anyone. If so, please let me know as I do want all achievements on the record.

Name	Achievement
Bruno Tagiapietra	Gold Badge, Certified as Official Observer
James Austin	Gold Badge
Mike Lennard	Gold Height, Certified as Official Observer
Phil Scarborough	NB Conversion
Katrina Merrifield	1st Solo
Taylor Barry	1st Solo and MB,NB & BC Conversion
Reegan Tock	1st Solo and MB conversion
Mark Shillingford	Silver Height Gain
Mark Wilson2	XCP
Harver Frizzel	1st Solo
Anthony Tribe	Silver Badge
William Keedwell	XCP
Tom Wilson	Re Solo
Martin Forest	Re Solo
Nick Johns	MB Conversion
Alistar Grocott	Winch Operator Rating
Marty Moncrieff	Silver height and duration. Aerotow rating
Allan Johnson	Certified as Official Observer

Next month, I will include any I have missed plus any new achievements.

From the CFI - David Hirst

It's been gratifying to not be hearing of incidents or seeing OPS10s from the club; this could be indicative of the lack of flying recently but I choose to think that it's down to the skill and airmanship of all our club pilots. Keep it up.

As ROO, I get to hear about incidents at other clubs and one recent fatal accident at Feilding was particularly sad. It highlighted several aspects of aerotows which loom large in their potential for danger. The first is one of appreciating what goes on at the other end of the rope. Towplanes are fitted with mirrors so that the towpilot can see the glider but the combination of a small mirror, a vibrating mount and a small-frontal-area-glider that is 50m away, and the tow pilot's ability to monitor the position of the glider at all times can be very

limited. Try it next time both aircraft are on the ground: lay the rope from the towplane to its full length and put a glider near the end of it; go to the towplane, sit in the cockpit and try to spot the glider. You'll be surprised at how difficult it is to see.

This is particularly so on the initial ground roll and takeoff. The towpilot has his hands full just controlling the attitude and keeping straight; he hopes that the glider is maintaining the correct position behind the towplane. If the glider deviates, then it will move the tail of the towplane before the towpilot has a chance to react. In other words, for the first couple of hundred feet above ground, the pilot who has the most control of the towplane's direction is the glider pilot. If the glider gets above the towplane (and the glider pilot may not think they're too high at all), the towplane will be pointed towards the ground and will most likely crash. Stay in line and just above the slipstream. If you get too far to one side on a slack rope, the sudden tightening of the rope can yaw the towplane and stall the inside wing at a height where a recovery is not possible. Stay in line and just above the slipstream.

Please keep this in mind whenever you take an aerotow: You have the life of the towpilot in your hands and if you get it wrong, particularly at low altitude, you will probably kill them. If this scares you, good. It should. If you're not confident in your skill or aerotow currency (be honest), fly P2 with an instructor. There will be plenty of opportunities over the coming months to fly out of Hood if the Papawai field is too wet, so make the most of it. Be alert. Fly safely. Oh, and have fun.

Youth Watch from Kieran Cassidy

The youth side of the club is going strong with 22 current active youth members. Many new youth have joined us from the Kurunui programme.

We have just set up a youth email as well! We are planning some events for the youth in the near future including a working bee to begin renovations of the Gliding Wairarapa club rooms so they can be another facility the youth can utilise.

We are also planning a Go Karting night for a bit of fun, so make sure you keep your eyes peeled! More information will follow soon.

President's note - can the oldies join in???

Club Captain - William Keedwell

We have the following important dates to remember:

Club Dinner on Saturday 6 August (***note the change of date***)

WWGC AGM Saturday 27 August

Kane Trophy Saturday 3 September to Sunday 4 September

George Rogers Memorial Camp Sunday 23 October (Labour Weekend)

There are more activities planned and you can find them all on our website by looking here.

Upcoming events

From competitions, camps and courses to working bees and meetings there's always something planned. Check out our upcoming events regularly so you don't miss what could be just the event for you.

[View upcoming events](#)



From the Service Delivery Team - Brian Sharpe

Planning for the above is well underway for this year's summer operations.

Most importantly our summercrew are booked !!

Lars Hestehave arrives at the end Oct departs late March.

Andy Parish and **Ian Willows** arrive mid November depart end March

Ron Beezer arrives mid January departs late March.

We are also expecting **Tanja Ziegler** to be here during Feb with **Ross** and **Ilse** here on & off throughout the summer.

A full program of activities is under preparation so watch this space - we have lost ground to catch up with :)

Wellington/Wairarapa Willing Weekday Workers (WWWWW)

Without these workers, we would have a lot less flying days. Damage due to flooding and general airfield work is undertaken by our unsung heroes that make up this group. Over the last few months, achievements include:

- Runway 29 Terrace improvements
- Filling in the potholes and depressions on the gravel track leading to the runways
- The installation of our 1st outhouse toilet known as ZK-CAT on runway 29.
- Continual lawn mowing of runways and areas around the club house.

Engineering

Another group of unsung heroes are our engineers. Without their dedication, we would not have flyable aircraft as often as we do. A big thanks goes to Alistar Grocott who has gone out of his way to help keep the club vehicles working. In particular, the Wizard needed to tow out the winch. It required cannibalisation of another vehicle that was almost the same to make it happen.

Wetlands Project

We are members of the Papawai-Mangarara Stream Restoration Group. This group comprises most of our close neighbours including the Marae.

The group's work overlaps several of our interests but primarily matters related to trees, water and drainage. Warren Dickinson spearheads our involvement and he has prepared the attached note below to give some background. As you'll see we would welcome other interested parties. So if you are one of these please make yourselves known to Warren or Brian.

Summary of Proposed Wetlands Project

Wetlands provide a range of environmental benefits including preservation of water quality, flood mitigation through water storage, carbon sequestration, and habitat for animals and plants. However, NZ has lost over 90% of the wetlands that existed before farming and most councils are actively looking for ways to restore natural wetlands.

At Papawai most of the area southeast of Tilsons Creek culvert, which includes half of runway 11/29 and all of runway 03/21, were wetlands before being farmed (see figure). At present, runway 11/29 bisects the remaining wetland area as outlined in red. This area is generally wet and boggy, especially in winter or after major rains.

The Bicknell farm, purchased by the South Wairarapa Council (SWDC) for on-land wastewater disposal, consists of about 200 hectares. The proposed wetlands (outlined in red) is about 16 hectares or 8% of the farm. Currently our aim is to work with the SWDC to understand how we can bring about restoring these wetlands.

Wetlands restoration would have 2 phases: Phase 1, fence off the areas in red, which are currently open to cattle, and plant with native wetland species. Phase 2, build up the 11/29 vector so that it is above the prevailing ground water table.

For the last year several members of the gliding club have worked with the Papawai-Mangarara Stream Restoration Group. This group, which has focussed mainly on restoring Papawai stream, includes local home owners, farmers and the Papawai Marae. We have now included the restoration of Tilsons stream and wetlands in this group. There are 10-15 of these catchment community groups within the Wairarapa and they make up the Wairarapa Pūkaha to Kawakawa (WaiP2k) Alliance. Recently MPI funded the Alliance \$1.1 million for 3 years to facilitate group operations. If anyone is interested in helping with stream and wetland restoration, please contact Brian Sharp or Warren Dickinson.