

AGC Weekly News

1-2 October

The weekly newsletter of the Auckland Gliding Club at Drury, Auckland

A quick summary of the AGM

Gerard Robertson

About 22 members attended the AGM last Saturday; it was unfortunate that the abruptly-announced Monday holiday resulted in a long weekend for many. While I can understand why many were away, the AGM is a good opportunity for members to communicate directly with the committee as a group. As was asked by some in the survey responses, we'll consider having "town hall" meetings during the year to let this happen more often.

The goal of circulating reports ahead of the meeting was to promote discussion at the meeting, which was achieved with good participation by those present. The draft of the minutes is presently being circulated amongst the committee; they'll be attached to the newsletter next week.

With only three nominations, the following members were elected:

President - Gerard Robertson (as confirmation is required by the club rules when someone accedes to the position between AGMs).

Vice-President - James Butterworth.

Secretary - Kevin Johnson.

These latter two have provided brief biographies, which are included below. My plan is to take photos of everyone on the committee at the next committee meeting and add these to the website.

A brief bio of the new Vice-President, James Butterworth

I joined the AGC in 1992 and have 260 hours flying [not enough!]. I am the former private owner of an ASW-15 from 1996 to about 2002 with Hamish Kebell, but haven't done much gliding in the last 20 years. I've done one Northern Regionals and a Drury Comp and have made quite a lot of cross country and outlandings.

I was previously treasurer for ~ 1.5 years in 2011-2012, between Neville Drake and Neil Harker.

By profession I am a Chartered Accountant, with my own practice in St Heliers (we do the annual accounts for the club).

I live in Glendowie with my partner, who is a doctor at Auckland Children's Hospital. We have three children, aged 17 to 22. I've lived in Auckland my whole life.

Other interests are road cycling, trout fishing and skiing.

A brief bio of the new Secretary, Kevin Johnson

I first encountered gliding when I was in my final year of high school when the Kaikohe Gliding Club offered gliding as an option for school sports afternoons. This also extended to the weekends where we would help out with winch cable (No. 8 wire!) retrieves, the occasional flight in the tow plane, and fitting this in around our model plane flying on the other side of the airfield.

Unfortunately, my gliding never progressed beyond those handful of flights as I moved to Auckland to start an Electrical Fitting apprenticeship at the Naval base, and on completion, I immediately left to start writing software and designing electronics for a company making laser simulation equipment for the NZ Army.

Following that, I started developing my commercial experience working as a product manager for an Electronics Component distributor and ultimately ended up running an electronics design centre for that company. As with many large corporates, a restructuring occurred and the design centre was closed down. I and a few others brought the assets of the design centre and entered into Start-up land in 2001. Fast forward 20 years (and many trials and tribulations later) this company was sold to a NZX-listed transportation technology company EROAD where I'm currently working as VP Product and Market development.

In March this year I decided it was time to do something new in life and turned up at the field unannounced to take a look at what goes on. This rapidly turned into a trial flight, signing up and getting underway with lessons the next weekend.

Over the winter I attended the Winter Lecture Series, which was a fantastic learning opportunity. I also made use of my electronics and software skills (along with learning some new 3D printing skills) to build a simulator for training which some of you might have seen at the mid-winter dinner.

When the time came for committee nominations, I put myself forward thinking I might be able to contribute as a committee member, but somehow Gerard twisted my arm and I ended up as secretary.

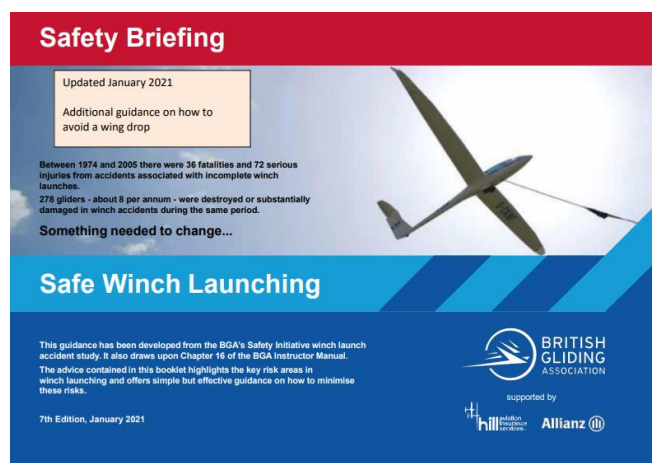
Anyway, that's a quick overview of myself and I'm looking forward to making a positive and I hope valuable contribution to the club.

And now...

For those of you who haven't seen the attachments already, including an updated BGA winch launch guide, here they are. I also include the BGA 2021 accident review, from which I think that the key safety messages on page 5 are particularly worth sharing.



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Pre-Season and Safety Briefing – this Sunday

This important meeting will take place at the Drury Clubroom at 10am on Sunday 2nd October. In the absence of our CFI, Russell Thorne, the meeting is being convened by the ACFI, Paul O'Neill-Gregory. Attendance is mandatory for all pilots who intend to fly once conditions allow.

Murray Wardell, the GNZ National Coach, will also be presenting a talk on Setting Goals for 2022/2023

Murray would like pilots to think, before the meeting, about the goal you would like to set yourself. These goals should ideally be:

- Challenging enough to stretch you
- Achievable with a good chance to achieve, or..
- Difficult to very difficult, possibly needing support.

Please forgive the short notice, but members are urged to make every attempt to attend this very important meeting – **THIS COMING SUNDAY**.

Some Words from Gerard



Goal setting after the Safety briefing

Murray Wardell is the national coach and has provided the attached presentation for you to leaf through before the goal-setting session. Be ambitious and bear in mind that we will have summer instructors available from January who can assist you, as their presence means that the club will operate 7 days a week.

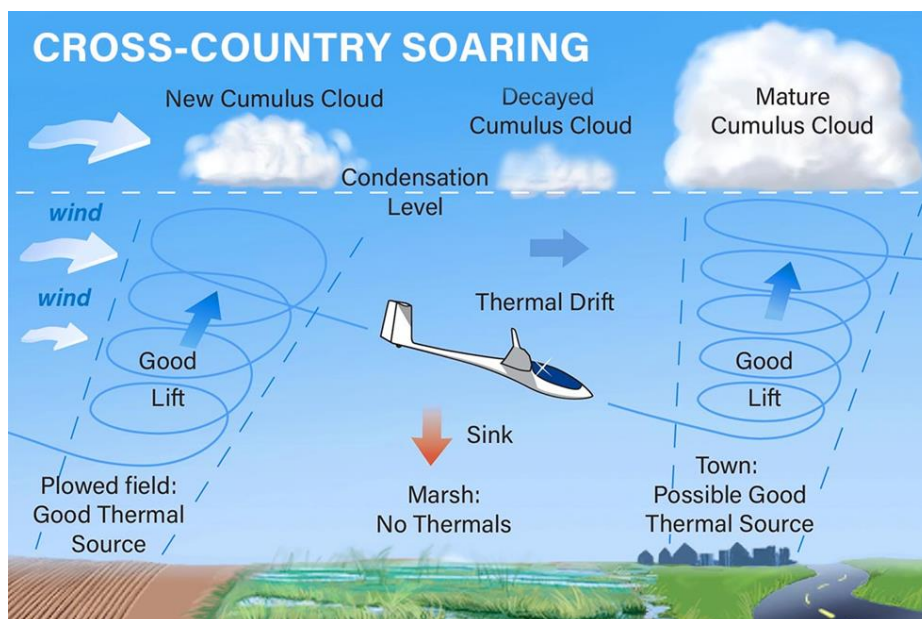
Regaining currency for the season ahead

I have a personal habit of flying with an instructor at the start of the season before going flying in my own glider. I encourage you to think about doing the same. I went to Matamata last weekend and flew in their new DG-1001s (PK) and then took SW up.

All of us go flying with the idea that accidents are what happens to other people. To avoid being one of those people, it's instructive to read about the accidents which have occurred. To that end, the BGA accident review for 2021 is attached.

Winching

Winching certainly does require currency. Our low use of our winch was discussed at the AGM; you'll see more in the minutes next week. The British Gliding Association (BGA) put a lot of effort into improving winching safety, as they had a string of incidents and accidents, with several fatalities. The latest version of their winching guide is attached.



Chief Tow Pilot Report (AGM Sept 22)

I'm pleased to report the Tow Plane, Pilots and supporting engineers are all set for the coming season. The aircraft is in good shape with a program of airframe maintenance well underway.

We've had a change of Chief Tow Pilot as Wayne Thomas has moved to Gisborne for work. Wayne's left us (and the Bar) in great shape and we look forward to his regular visits when in town.

Airframe maintenance:

Minor corrosion is present on some of the aluminium fuselage panels and trim. Replacement parts for the cockpit trim have been manufactured and are currently being custom fitted, painted and installed.

The Engine cowl was also removed to allow for corrosion removal and refinishing prior to refitting. The work on the cowl is complete and has been refitted. Work will continue until completion and will not impact on availability for towing.

The materials and labour have been donated to the club at no costs to the club. This is all made possible by one of the club's quiet contributors who freely gives of his time and experience to the club's benefit.

The Pawnee is supported by a small group who share many hours of their lives supporting the Tow Plane operations here at the AGC.

The engineering team work closely, ensuring the aircraft is kept in top condition and that availability uncompromised (sometimes a difficult task).

The Tow Pilot pool remains strong with 11 active pilots and two new candidates waiting in the wings.

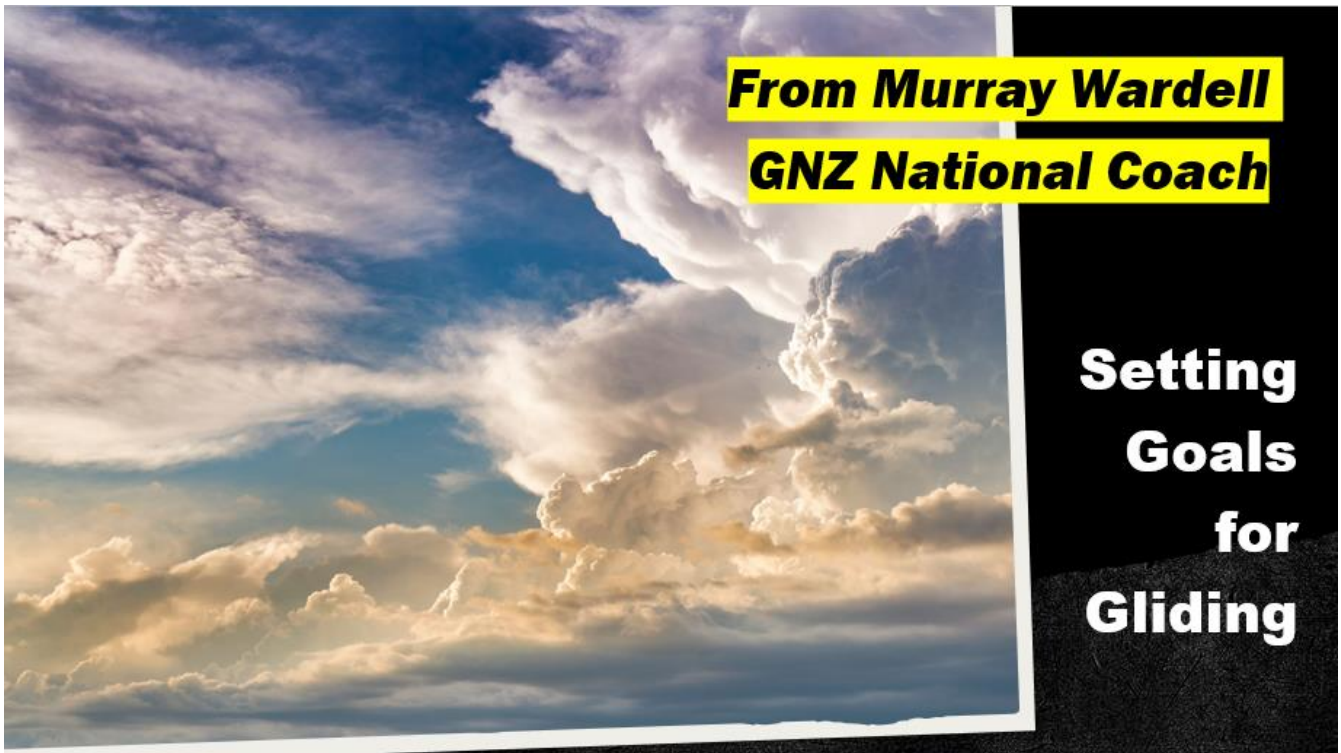
We also recognise the contribution that Wayne Thomas as Chief Tow Pilot made through to his departure earlier this year. Wayne was instrumental in securing the services of Steve Cronin and providing non-rostered towing resource to those keen weekday fliers.

The Numbers:

TTAF	7820 hours
Prop TSN	720 hours
Engine TSO	1500 hours
All inspections & services current	

Dion Manktelow
Chief Tow Pilot AGC.

This Sunday at Drury 10:00



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Bomb Drop & Spot Landing Comp

Anton Lawrence

It has been proposed that we once again have a Bomb Drop Spot Landing Competition Day at the club. I'm not sure when we had the last one so this will be a first for me. However, due to the lack of volunteers to run it, I put my hand up to organise it.

The basic format will be a winch lunch in a two-seater with a student in the front seat and instructor in the rear. The student will do the flying and the instructor will drop the bag of flour on command from the student. If the student is not winch rated or proficient, the instructor will do the flying as required, and obviously take control if he feels the need. Suitably rated pilots may also buddy up, but we want to encourage student flying as much as possible.

The circuit will be something resembling the diagram on the **following page**. Release should be between 1000' to 1300' depending on wind, then a dumbbell turn and a run down the centreline, or to the western side of the field, depending on wind strength and direction. The bomb is to be dropped at no less than 500', after which an abbreviated circuit will be flown ending with attempted spot landing on the target.

The target will be placed down the field so the drops and landings can be closer to the club house, in order to maximise the viewers' entertainment.

Scoring will be determined by how close the bomb is to the target and how close the spot landing is to the target.

Briefing will be at 10:00 and time will be given for instructors who are not current on the winch to have a few check rides. Then the fun can begin.

We will have a BBQ at the end of the day to celebrate the winners' achievements. Steak, sausages, salad with ice cream and fruit salad for dessert. All this for only \$15.00/head.

At this stage there will be no charge for the winch launches; all other charges as per your membership status, A or B scheme.

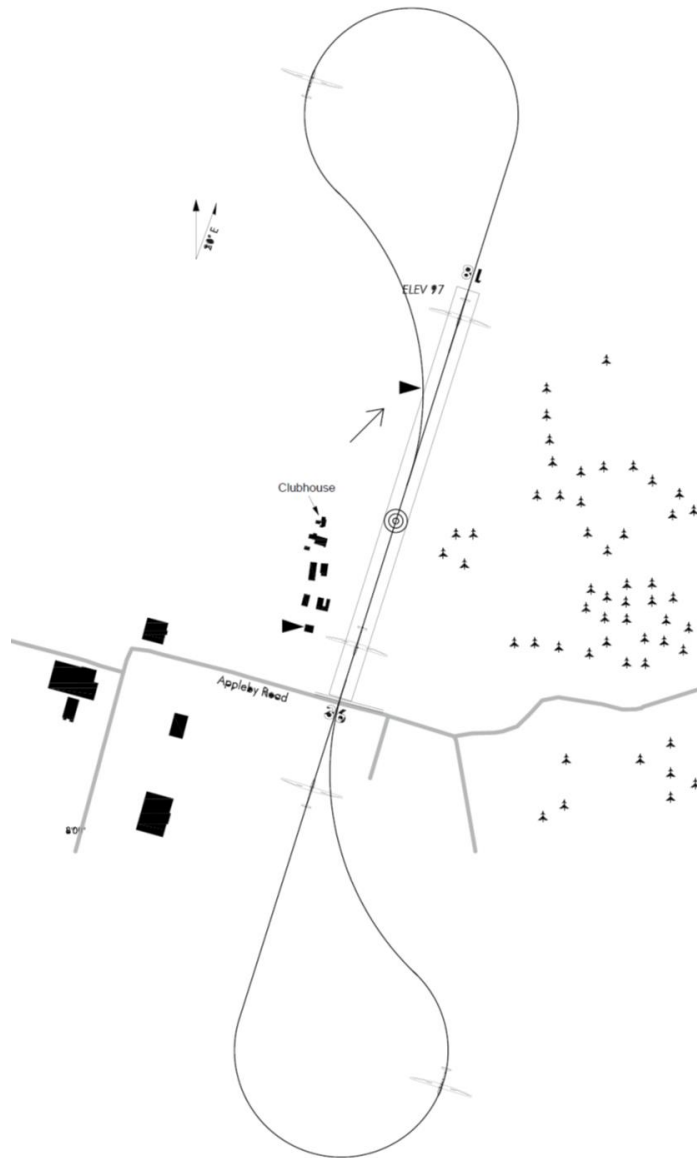
I only plan for this to happen on runway 18 with a slight westerly component, so there will be no low turns in easterly conditions. This means we are probably three weekends away from being able to run the event. We also need the strip to dry out enough for the full length of runway 18 to be available for use.

We'll need as many instructors as can make themselves available and more than one winch driver would be good as well, and of course the student pilots.

I expect everyone to help as required as on any normal flying day.

If we can get an idea of numbers beforehand it will assist with catering. Please email me on antonlawrence@outlook.com if you plan to attend and stay for the BBQ.

At this stage, booking is for 15 October but I will confirm this during the week prior.



Members' Small Ads



PW5 KF for sale. Current Annual until Dec 2022. Ready to fly. Approx 800 hours flying. Radio, altimeter, airspeed indicator, electric and mechanicals varios. Includes open trailer. Also Includes free use of hangar space at Drury until 31 Oct, 2022, if required. Priced to sell at \$8,000. Ideal for single ownership or cheap syndicate. Reason for sale is that glider is surplus to requirements. Phone Murray on 0275 875 438

Drury hangar space wanted. Contact Peter Himmel on 0210768805 or himlp@xtra.co.nz



(file photo only)

One share for sale in Grob G109 (ZK-GOC). Touring type motor glider in excellent condition. Upgraded with Limbach L 2400, so has much better take off performance than the standard G109. Contact Russell Jones on 021 180 5544 or email russell.jones@orcon.net.nz

Drury Hangar for sale. Power, water, lockable. Contact Murray 0275 875 438

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