

AGC Weekly News

Airfield Condition Report

Russell Thorne

A group of four old (and therefore wise) men have inspected the Drury Airfield recently. As the conditions are unfortunately unchanged from last week, the airfield remains closed.

Whilst some pilots are confident they could land on the good spots, the sides are very soft in places inviting damage from anyone who misjudges their touchdown spot.

The water table is still quite high in the majority of the airfield, only protected by surface clay

preventing easy drainage, until an extended period of suitable drying wind and more absence of rain, which in the opinion of all, could otherwise definitely delay the return of flying.

The mounds of dirt at present surrounding the drains will be removed shortly.

The seven day weather outlook is here:

<https://www.metservice.com/rural/regions/auckland/locations/pukekohe/7-days>

Greater Auckland Weather Website

Peter. Himmel found this live webcam link for Auckland which may be useful to members. It has a webcam which pans through Auckland Harbour from Devonport to the Sky Tower every hour on the hour. This shows the current sky condition, while between the hours it stays fixed

looking down harbour towards Brown's Island. Peter says the website response is good, and there is no advertising.

<https://www.haurakigulfweather.com/>

Membership Update

Keith Macy

Emma Derold has resigned from the club.

Revised Winching Roster

Grahame Player

A REVISED roster for September and October is shown below. The operation will depend very much on the weather and the field being flyable. This is for Saturdays only and is intended to

continue up to 13h00. If there is sufficient demand and the driver is happy to continue, then winching could continue for the remainder of day.

September		October	
Saturday 3	Grahame Player	Saturday 1	Grahame Player
Saturday 10	Grahame Player	Saturday 8	Keith Annabell
Saturday 17	Bradley Greer	Saturday 15	Bradley Greer
Saturday 24	Anton Lawrence	Saturday 22	Paul
		Saturday 29	Keith Annabell

Clubhouse renovations in progress

Team Anton has started the installation of the new doors at the front of the clubhouse opening out onto the deck. Keith, Dion and others have made a great start on providing us with a more user-friendly clubhouse for the summer.





Committee Nominations

Gerard Robertson

Members are being perhaps a little shy at putting themselves forward for the committee. Committee membership is not unreasonably demanding; a monthly meeting and the will to take on projects (without necessarily doing it all

themselves). Those who hate meetings will feel right at home; I've got the average meeting time down to about 1-1/2 hours.

Please give it some thought; your club needs you.

Think Flight Channel

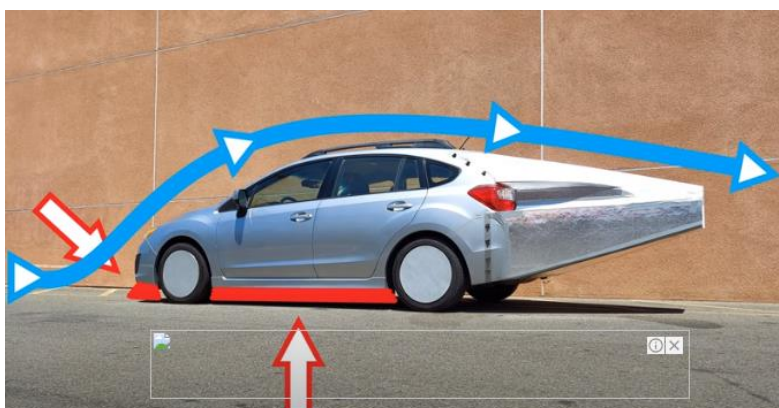
Here's some more from Gerard:

This particular video is interesting - \$150 in materials for modification to improve aerodynamic fuel efficiency!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O-FYljEmsJQ&t=2s>

The whole channel is one man's aerodynamics quest.

Something to try with your own Subaru, or whatever you drive.



Trailer Polishing

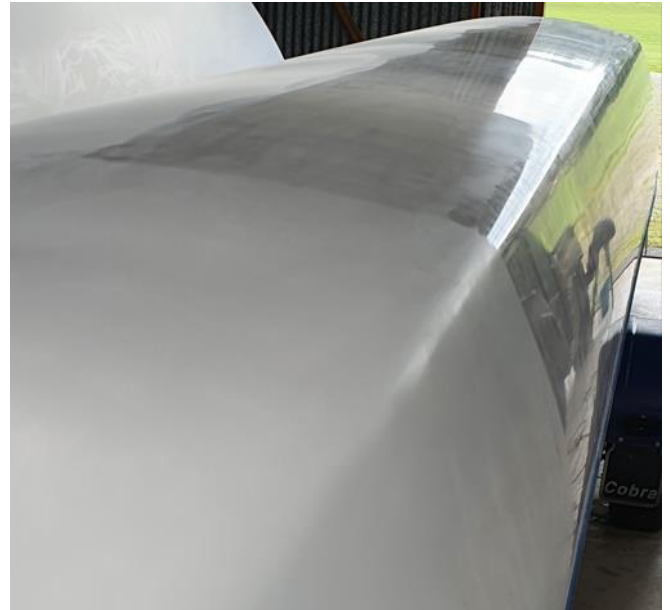
Gerard Robertson

As mentioned last week, I'm polishing trailers, having done the preparation (with some help, fortunately). The surfaces could do with a bit more of a tidy, as the oxidation layer re-forms quickly.

I'm using a proper polisher, which is heavy and a struggle for my arthritic shoulders.

If you're looking for a way to contribute to the club, at your own pace, arrange a time with Paul Schofield (022 680 8548) for some brief training and get stuck in. The trailers are in the hangar, so progress can be made whatever the weather.

While the results show that I'll never get a job with Sailplane Services, the trailers are at least cleaner and protected by a layer of wax.



Fit to Fly

Adam Woolley, courtesy Wings & Wheels



Photo by Sean Franke

Every day before we fly we (daily) inspect our glider, we'd all agree it's an important part of our flight. But what about the pilot? Clearly, it's the same, however, every day we as humans perform, react and feel different every day we wake up. Diet, sleep, work, relationships, and a whole range of external factors affect our moods

and levels of arousal. If we have a headache, fatigue from a poor night's sleep, or feeling slightly ill, we might even take some medication or have an energy drink to help fade the feelings away. The question begs though, are we fit to fly?

Stress

There's no doubt about it, we're all different and we all react differently to external stimulation or pressure. There is also no doubt in my mind, that stress is highly detrimental to our performance. What we don't want to see, is the stress from home or work tipping one over the edge in a flying-related situation. It's easy to say we'll leave the problems at home or work, but to take this advice is quite a different story. Mental overload situations are a bad thing, we all know what the end result can be, especially in aviation.

Eating

Have you ever heard of the saying, "you are what you eat?" Fast food can be highly detrimental to your performance, it's loaded with fats and sugars, which conveniently fixes our feelings of hunger. Other good (poor!) examples of these sugars and fats come from biscuits, some (not all) muesli bars, naturally sugary lollies, and soft drinks. These give a good boost of energy, but the other side of the coin is that once the sugars die off, you end up with less energy and focus, something we want to avoid when we are in the sky or dealing with a stressful situation requiring concentration.

Drugs and alcohol

This is an easy one, you wouldn't fly with someone who is under the influence, so it's the same for you. Drugs and alcohol erode your judgment and decision-making, not to mention impairing your balance, vision, etc. Even hours after our blood alcohol level has returned to zero, our performance can still be affected, not to mention becoming more and more fatigued by poor night's sleep from drinking too much alcohol.

Illness

Primary senses are what we need as a pilot, even a mild illness can affect these. Severe ear and sinus discomfort is something that quickly comes to mind, this is caused by mucus blocking our sinuses. Even a low circuit can cause severe discomfort, pain, and disorientation. Don't be fooled by thinking you can fly low with a cold. Eye irritations can occur too, all these things are stacking up to saying, stay on the ground, rest up to fly another successful and safe flight next weekend.

Medication

The pilot wasn't kept in mind for over-the-counter medication, while they work great on the ground, their side effects in the sky could be a disaster. Dizziness, stomach pains, drowsiness, and the suppression of our primary senses come to mind. If you intend to fly, then be sure to tell your pharmacist, remember to state as a pilot, rather than a passenger. (Editor note; here is a link to the FAA's rules on over-the-counter medications and fit to fly. If you take a "NO GO" medication the package instructs you to use every 12 hours then your NO FLY TIME is 60 hours after the last use).

To sum all the above up, if you're feeling unwell, it's best to listen to your body and mind, refrain from flying this day or days, rest up and live to tell another tale, or avoid an insurance claim. If you become unwell in flight, it's best to land as soon as possible, we can't be sure how the situation will develop, or that you'll need your concentration to deal with a stressful situation in the circuit later for example.

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 variors. 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

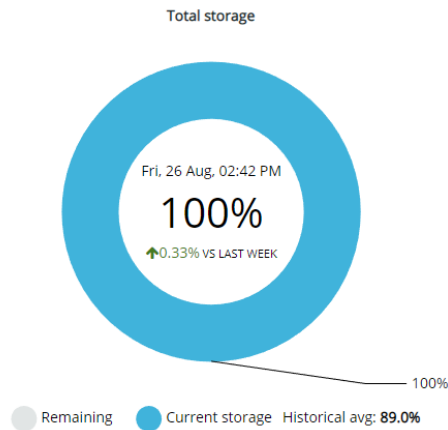
Drury hangar space wanted. Contact Peter Himmel on 0210768805 or himlp@xtra.co.nz



(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

Auckland's Dams






Weekend Weather

From Gerard

Hunua

1 September 2022

Friday 2 SEP		Fine breaks. Northerlies developing in the afternoon.	▲ 16°C ▼ 6°C
Saturday 3 SEP		Fine at first, then cloud increasing. Rain developing from late afternoon. Northwesterlies.	▲ 17°C ▼ 10°C
Sunday 4 SEP		Showers, clearing in the morning and becoming fine. Southwesterlies.	▲ 17°C ▼ 7°C