



WWGC Newsletter - November 2022

From the President - Simon Casey

We have fortunately had more flying activity than what has been reported in the last newsletters. Tom our Treasurer has breathed a sigh of relief. We now have Andy Parish, Lars Hestehave and Ian Willows forming our summercrew resident on the airfield. Soon we will be having 7 day operations and if you are keen to accelerate your training, make use of these instructors as they are highly skilled and we are so fortunate to have them back with us.

7 day operation also means that if you are a private owner and the forecast is for a pumping thermal day, then take a day off work, come out gliding and treat it as a day of therapy!

William and Grae caught praying to the thermal gods for higher and stronger thermals this summer.



Achievements

We have several achievements this month.

Marty Moncrieff: For his 50Km flight along with a height gain in Wairarapa wave.

Taylor Barry for his silver height gain.

Amy Smith achieved an 80Km distance flight with a successful landout near Pahiatua and is now fully qualified as an XCP glider pilot as well as the 50K part of her Silver Badge. Here is a description of her flight.

I started off thermalling up to 3100 at Papawai under a nice cloud off of the winch and then headed towards Carterton between the blue. It was cycling really quickly and the hardest part of the flight was just trying to get to bloomin Masterton with any height left to get away again!

After that it was easy and I got to 4000ft and away from Hood, not losing much height. I got across the gap in the hills towards Eketahuna and had pretty much decided that it'd be the manly thing to do to give a land out a go. So I kept going 20 more km on a cruisy final glide to a more landable area.

I picked a paddock that initially looked nice, but on approach picked one to the left of it, because on closer inspection it was a bit too lumpy. The farmer didn't want anything to do with me, but the local kids had a great kick out of coming to sit in the glider and take photos! It was a good flight and I'm pretty chuffed :)

Thanks to Lars & Brian for helping with the retrieve. Here is a pic of Amy arriving back at the club.



Grae Harrison for his attendance at the 2022 Queensland State Gliding Champs. Here is a summary of the event from Grae

It has been 11 years since I last flew in Queensland and it was time to escape post lockdown NZ and a wet Wairarapa to compete in the Queensland Gliding Champs held at the Darling Downs Gliding Club around 2.5 hours west of Brisbane.

An ASG29 was on offer courtesy of legendary competition pilot Bruce Taylor. He was using Adam Woolley's Ventus 3 now that Adam is posted to Japan flying 787's for All Nippon.

The first week was spent flying with John (Butch) Buchanan at Kingaroy who had taken delivery of his new AS33, the same model that I have arriving at Papawai around May. Thermals were mainly blue to 8,000ft for most days but we still belted out a couple of 300km flights. The days were short as Queensland has also suffered from heavy rains for over a year now and paddocks are water logged. La Nina is not ideal gliding conditions for the eastern States.

The drive over to the Darling Downs club took 90 minutes and we were soon rigged and away on some practice days with cloud bases around 5,000-6,000 most days. The site is 1000ft lower than Kingaroy. No way you wanted to land out in a paddock as the locals said that the crew would need to carry the glider out as the Downs were saturated.

It was the first time I had flown a Grand Prix start. A start height limit was set each day and speed control of 90 knots ground speed when crossing the 20km start line to the first turn point. We all carried trackers which showed our height & speed so I tended to rely on this at the start rather than the aircraft instruments. With Delys on the radio giving us the

countdown to start the main thing was to stay behind the line but close enough to start accelerating close to 90 knots just as the start line opened. A bit like America's Cup yachting. The first few thermals were pretty busy but the field soon opened up. The team on the ground could watch the race live as well as those at home.

This was a handicapped competition from LS8's through to Nimbus 3's/AS33 etc. The Aussies have an excellent scoring system whereby the high-performance gliders had to go to the turnpoints but the LS8's would turn up to 8km short in some cases. We'd come across them on the next leg, overtake them and come across them again on the next leg.

First home was the winner. Final glides were often started around 40-50km out and it was hardcore racing to the airfield boundary fence. The minimum finish height was 200ft which we pulled up to avoid being pinged. It was the most exciting glider racing I have ever experienced, and I can see why pilots like the GP format. The trackers automatically uploaded the flights to the cloud and results were immediate. No downloading glider devices and no scorer required. Penalties were automatically adjusted for too fast or too high at the start, missing turn points or too low at the finish. I was lucky enough to have a couple of day wins.

We had quite a bit of attrition with illness's (not covid) and also a pilot who lost control of his Nimbus 3 and bailed out. The cause is still being investigated but I got a hell of a fright when a parachute went past my left wing. Never saw the glider until I looked below and saw it upside down in a paddock. I thought there must have been a midair but couldn't see any other gliders in nearby fields so carried on after watching the pilot arrive safely and calling in the position and co-ordinates.

It wasn't the usual 10-12,000ft thermals that I've come to expect in Queensland but both Dellys and I were made very welcome, and we had a fun time reacquainting with our Queensland gliding buddies. I managed to win the trophy but Aussie rules mean that you can't take it away. Got the photo though.

Next year the event is being held in Kingaroy. If its an El Nino weather system, then it will be great.





Birthday Launches

For November, the free birthday winch launches go to:

- Grae Harrison
- Mike Lennard
- Phil Milne
- Brian Nelson
- Michael O'Donnell
- Mark Wilson (1)
- Fabian Sivorarath
- Joshua Wiegman
- Oscar Wright
- Martyn Cook
- Tom Davies

George Rogers Youth Glide Camp

We had another successful George Rogers Memorial Camp last labour weekend!

We were very busy, with 30 flights Saturday, 26 flights Sunday and 18 on Monday. Lots of these were soaring flights too!

We were even busy in the evenings. On Sunday night we had a great turn out to the club BBQ, fundraising for [Kieran Cassidy](#) and his plans to compete in Joey Glide. He was thankful for everyone's support.

Thanks to our camp organisers, instructors, crew and to all of the people who came and helped make it a great weekend.





Defibrillator Training

We had two fantastic CPR training sessions at the club house courtesy of the Wellington Free Ambulance and attended by a good number of members..



This was arranged after we secured funding to purchase two defibrillators. One is in the launch point van, the other in a prominent place on the airfield so we all know where it is in case of an emergency.



Kieran's BBQ Fundraiser for Joey Glide

We had a fundraising BBQ for Kieran Cassidy on Saturday 22 October to help in fund his attendance at the Joey Glide Aussie junior nationals to be held in NSW 11-18 Dec 2022. We raised \$1,870 so a highly successful evening.

A recent announcement on one of Marty Moncrieff's flights when he couldn't get to the airport on time..



WWGC Open Evening

We are planning our first open evening on Friday Dec 9th from 6:30pm with an alternative weather date of Friday Dec 16. This is an amazing opportunity to showcase our club and sport to our local community. Many thanks to those who have volunteered to help make this evening a success. If you haven't volunteered yet and live in the Wairarapa, please let Simon know as we need as many members as we can.

WWGC Bumper Stickers

Amy has organised a number of bumper stickers to attach to your car. They are free of charge so please put them on your car and trailer to advertise our club. They are located near the lectern in the club house.

