

AGC Weekly News

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

Weekend Roster

Saturday

Tug Pilot:
Instructors:
Duty Pilot: Kevin Johnson
Winch Driver:

Sunday

Tug Pilot: Pat Driessen, Brett Nicholls
Instructors:
Duty Pilot: Lance Feldwicke
Winch Driver: Paul C

Latest Club News

Gerard Robertson

Flying every day (weather permitting)

With our German summer instructor George ensconced and comfortable in his new digs and the local flying, we await young Slovenian Miha's arrival tomorrow. Once Miha has completed his training for the CAA NZ PPL add-on for his tow rating, we'll have seven day flying, instructing and towing available. As the season has got off to such a wet start, this is the perfect opportunity to take that afternoon off work that you've been thinking of, making a booking and going flying. The booking calendar has been opened up to accommodate seven day operations. Remember that, until this happens, you can still fossick around for a tow pilot during the week, while Wednesday flying will continue.

Saturday BBQ

Miha is expected to be sufficiently recovered from his jet lag for us to welcome him to the fold with a BBQ this Saturday evening. The club will put on some sausages; bring your salad, steak and dessert for the rest. From about 5pm onwards, depending a little on the day's flying.

There is also the intention to have a family BBQ the weekend after Waitangi weekend, so put that in your calendar and we'll provide more details next week.

Our verdant paradise

As you come through the gate to the airfield, please take a moment to admire the expanse of mown grass we have available. At peak growing season, this can require mowing almost weekly. Next time you see someone sitting on the tractor, please wave at them: getting the airfield mown takes more than a day's work and the effort that goes in deserves our appreciation.

Hangar space for sale

Following the sale of a Libelle, a hangar space has become available, as the Libelle will be heading south. Anyone interested in this space should contact Jeff Brooks (jeff@13beach.com) directly.

From last night's committee meeting

Tow rates

The club lags behind other nearby clubs in aerotow charges and, while we aim to maintain that differential, the committee has decided to increase the tow charge to \$17.50 per 500'. Both Matamata and Whenuapai increased theirs to \$18.25 some time ago.

Farewell to Fergies

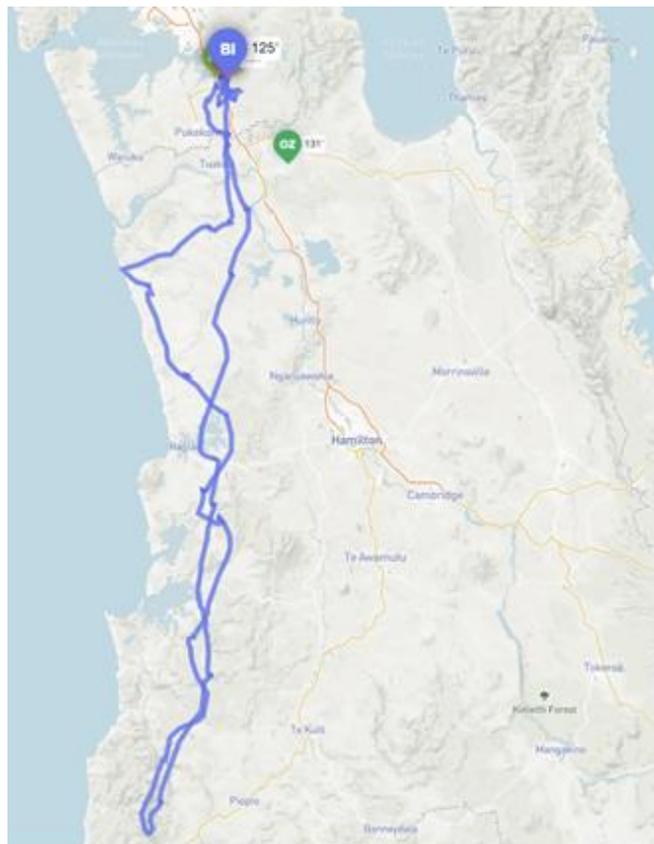
The committee has decided that the yellow tractors have had their day and has started the process of putting them up for sale and will move on to the possible acquisition of another Land Boss retrieve vehicle. The golf cart was only ever really bought as a trial for smaller vehicles and is not coping with unremitting use very well, requiring investment in maintenance and repair. Having two Land Bosses is seen as the way forward, so if you know of any tractor fans who might be interested in purchasing these classics, please get in touch with me. (As a side note, our kids went to the Massey Ave kindergarten just down the hill. The next street is, appropriately, Ferguson Ave).

The other benefit is that this disposal - coupled with the fine efforts of Peter Wooley in clearing out the workshop - will leave the workshop empty so that club members can work on their gliders (or polish the wings of club gliders) over winter. The

details of how to work this will emerge in due course; it wouldn't be fair, for example, for one glider to be there for weeks and weeks on end.

Tractor safety

Please be very careful in your use of the one functioning Fergie. The brakes have gone on holiday, so please never approach a glider directly, but leave yourself space to turn and come in parallel to the wing leading edge, with two or three metres clearance. Equally, the plywood deck at the rear is rotten and, until it's replaced, please don't travel standing there.



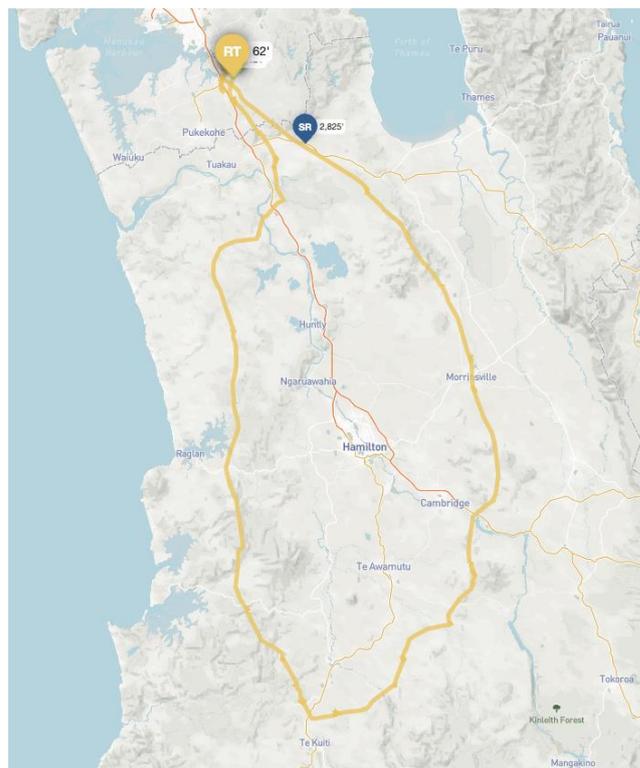
John Robertson's flight to Piopio

Flight of the week

We'd like to introduce a new section of the newsletter where significant flights are recognised. On the one hand, John Robertson's flight last Sunday to PioPio and Russell Thorne's flight yesterday around Hamilton are noteworthy, but it's equally important that we recognise progress such as Angelie Madsen having her first solo flight from Drury yesterday. Well done all!

Please feel free (or obligated, if that's more

motivational) to contribute flights and significant events. You can send them directly to Peter Wooley with some accompanying text, as he has enough to do without finding more words.



Russell Thorne's flight to Te Kuiti, around Hamilton airspace

Hangar licences

Hangar owners were invited to a meeting in December where the draft agreement was presented. Feedback from that meeting has now been incorporated and the agreements will be sent to hangar owners shortly for signatures. For those who don't own hangar shares, but may one day, the legal situation is that the existing agreements are so old, many and varied, that they are deemed to have expired. The new agreement, essentially a licence to occupy the space, will set a common standard for all current and future owners, while offering them better protection than is presently provided. As you might expect, several of the committee are hangar owners so - while they recused themselves from involvement in drafting the new agreement - they are equally affected club members.

New Members

We extend a hearty welcome the following:

Riley Noonan (Youth member)

Jesse Marsters (a Youth member who joined some time back but has only just started flying).
Nigel Caigou, (flying member).

Duo Discus pilots **Matamata National Competition 3-12 February**

There is still day slots available for club pilots to fly with an instructor during the forthcoming Club Class Nationals at Matamata from 3rd to 12th February 2023. It maybe that two Instructors may fly together on days where otherwise an opportunity for club members to gain cross country experience is not taken up. This competition now has a record number of entries from other clubs due to three prior competitions earlier in the season being cancelled due to adverse weather. A decision to suspend seven day operations at Drury while that competition is in progress, is another less palatable option.

Single seater entries for club Discus2 and PW5 is also available for qualified pilots.

Enter here for Duo Discus for Team Auckland, copy to cfi@glidingauckland.co.nz
<https://gliding.net.nz/events/bid-for-2022-2023-club-class-nationals-feb-2023>

Seven Day Operations

A reminder is required to club members to support the safe provision of 7 day a week operations.

When there is no Duty Pilot present on days other than the weekend, pilots are reminded of their duty to report both their intentions and safe return to Drury or an outlanding together with a flight record.

This notification can be as simple as an email to cfi@glidingauckland.co.nz "BI going down west Coast" and upon their safe landing, a similar report "BI landed at Matamata at 1715, T/O at 1400. Tow 2000ft."

Many will remember the Search and Rescue callout of a helicopter for a life member of the club who we later discovered had landed safely at Thames just before dark after a long trip on the Kaimai ridge during a Drury Competition. He did not recognise that people were concerned about him, he did not phone the club to prevent a CAA SAR callout. As nobody had heard from him, he could have spent the whole night in a glider and nobody would have known where to look. Online GPS flight following nowadays is not a reliable means of knowing what happened to a pilot on cross country.

Bookings

A summer instructor will only be available when a prior booking is made, if no prior booking is made, he is free to embark upon his own arrangements for the day. It is the responsibility of the pilot who wishes to fly on a non-club day to arrange a tow pilot and carry out his own responsibilities for flight records - it is neither the responsibility of the club treasurer or summer instructors to perform those duties.

Safe Flying,
Russell

Weekend Weather

Hunua

19 January 2023

Friday 20 JAN		Fine with a few clouds. Southwesterlies.	▲ 25°C ▼ 15°C
Saturday 21 JAN		Fine breaks. Chance of an early shower or two. Fresh southwesterlies, easing in the evening.	▲ 24°C ▼ 13°C
Sunday 22 JAN		Fine. Southwesterlies.	▲ 24°C ▼ 14°C

MERCER MBZ CAUTION

January Sat 21st / Sun 22nd



Summer 22/23 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).

WEATHER DEPENDANT! CHECK NOTAMS

Listen out on 119.20 for aerobatic traffic

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



Contact Contest Director, Grant Benns,
for more details

grantbenns2014@gmail.com

021 0629929



Mercer airfield remains open for all operators and visitors, however please be vigilant of aerobatic aircraft operating between the Quarry and immediately south of the airfield (the Aerobatic Box) between 500' and 4500', avoid overhead rejoins and plan to fly a wider circuit for either vector.

Check for a daily NOTAM confirming the event is proceeding, and the hours of expected operation.

For more information, contact Grant Benns on 021 0629929.

Two Videos: The Science Behind Cross-Country Soaring

Lawrence Hardman (submitted by Gerard Robertson)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mT6912xWGY&t=61s>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NFb4zfkQMIA>

Scottish Weekend Cross Country Training Group: Competition & Expedition preparation



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GzkHrF3YGJ0>

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 varies. 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



(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. **Price for share is \$15 000.00.** Contact Russell Jones on 021 180 5544 or email russell.jones@orcon.net.nz

The editor would like to thank Gerard Robertson, Russell Thorne, Keith Macy and the others who submitted material for this edition.

This newsletter was compiled by Peter Wooley wooleypeter@gmail.com

Roster

	Instructor 1	Instructor 2	Tug Pilot	Duty Pilot	Winch Driver
Jan 2023					
Sat 28			Andy Campbell, TBA	Lois Kok	
Sun 29			TBA	Matt Findlay	
February					
Sat 4			John Bongrain, TBA	Matt Kerrigan	Keith A
Sun 5			TBA	Nathan Montano	Bradley
Sat 11			TBA	Peter Wooley	
Sun 12			Pat Driessen, Brett Nicholls	Patrick Lalor	Grahame
Sat 18			TBA	Peter Himmel	
Sun 19				Tristan Harvey-S	Paul C
Sat 25				Wolfgng Schenk	
Sun 26				AJ Dudley	Bradley
March					
Sat 4				Allen Pendergrst	
Sun 5				Dylan Watson	
Sat 11				Frank Excell	
Sun 12				Geoff Green	
Sat 18				Geoff Gaddes	
Sun 19				Georgia Schofld	
Sat 25				Gerard Robertsn	
Sun 26				Caleb Rosvall	