

AGC Weekly News

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

Committee News Roundup

Committee meeting report (Gerard)

Last night's committee meeting lasted about 2-1/2 hours, letting the committee get through a lot of reports and decisions, which are presented below for member information.

Financials

Unsurprisingly, given that the weather has now resulted in 4 out of 5 North Island competitions being cancelled, the club's revenue has taken a hit, leading us to dip into our reserves to the tune of about \$4,000.

The good news is that the club does have reserves to weather this, along with the large buffer of the bequest from Greg Douglas.

To celebrate the departure of Cyclone Gabrielle and the prospect of soarable weather this weekend, the event described below will be held. Please attend if at all possible: we need to get back in the habit of spending time at the club, flying and socialising.

Bye Bye Cyclone Gabrielle at Auckland Gliding Club on Sunday 19th February (Russell)

As we say goodbye to the effects of Cyclone Gabrielle and set about recovery, the club committee committed last night to a Winch Launch promotion this Sunday 19th February, beginning sharply at 9am.

Although discounted half price winch launches will be favoured, aerotow launches will also be available. Those who make prior dual bookings will be given priority.

As a special event, the Puchatec will be drawn from the back of the hangar and offered at no charge off a winch launch for the longest flight in excess of 30 minutes. The winner will be announced at 7pm.

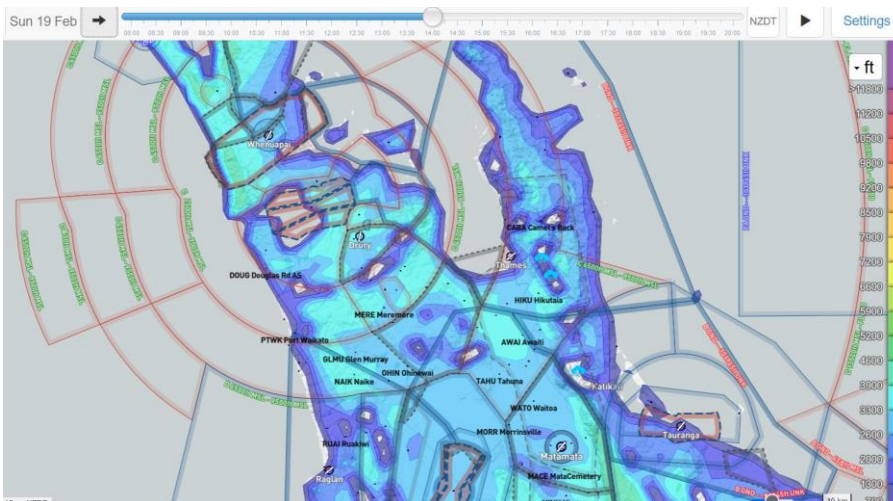
Formation Flying

The aim will be to have all gliders airborne at one time and as many as possible will be flown in loose line abreast formation for a clubhouse flyby above 1500ft. Followed by a managed circuit and landing for those who need priority.

Privately owned gliders will be accommodated in formation, or in a separate group if possible. It may take several attempts to stage the formation.

Compulsory Briefing at 10am for all those who wish to participate, some holding will be required for higher performing pilots or gliders. The time of maximum effort will then be determined.

Although the forecast for the weekend suggests that Sunday will be the better of the two weekend days, seven-day week operations continues with Georg and Miha on a daily basis. The attached Skysight graphic is for forecast cloudbase height at 2pm on Sunday 19th.



Continued on next page...

The day will close with a BYO Bar-B-Que with salads after flying followed by a special presentation by Miha Gosak entitled "Gliding in Slovenia" or alternatively "Where the hell is Slovenia?"

DX seats available at competitions (back to Gerard)

DX's flying at the Matamata comp last week (where John Robertson came second in the Club Class Nationals, headed by Steve Wallace with only 28 points out of nearly 4,000) showed just how useful and entertaining it is for club members to have the chance to fly in a competition with an experienced pilot.

Although the Central Districts contest at Waipukurau has now been cancelled, there are two more contests this season:

- the Central Districts Regionals at Taupo from 4th - 11th March
- the MSC Great NZ Grand Prix at Matamata from 18th - 25th March.

The committee would like to make DX available with an instructor for both these events: please get in touch with Russell Thorne if you're interested. I can thoroughly recommend such dual flying for early (or aspiring) cross country pilots. I flew with Rae Kerr at Matamata once in DX and was given a lot of useful information (I am also possibly the only person of whom Rae has ever asked "Am I talking too much?").

Equally, Matamata and Taupo are both great places to fly from. Taupo is beautiful, while Matamata will familiarise you with the countryside you'll be flying over when you start cross-country.

Ground equipment

The committee has agreed to acquire another Land Boss (or equivalent, as Kevin has been granted a week to look at battery-powered equivalents). Concurrently, we are in the process

of selling the yellow "Fergies", as our loyal tractor fleet is past its best. This will free up the workshop for members' use over winter.

Care of club equipment

A common observation is that (some) club members can be a little casual in the care of club equipment. From the committee's observation of other clubs, we have scope for improvement. As a starting point - and confirmed by George and Miha as being the norm in European clubs - gliders will be cleaned at the end of the day. This will expedite the start of the next day's flying.

The next change will be the use of wing covers overnight. While we don't have the bird problem of some other clubs, the amount of dust and debris which can accumulate is not inconsiderable.

Lastly, a more formal system of authorisations for the use of some club equipment (such as the tractor / mower combination) will be introduced, paralleling that used for driving the winch.

ATC cadet visits

The annual visits by ATC will take place later this month and early March, under the leadership of Isabelle Burr from the Whenuapai club. There will be about 10 cadets flying each day, getting launched by both winch and aerotow.

To avoid disruption to club members' flying, we will have all 4 twins available with instructors. We will aim to have two retrieve vehicles running, to keep the launches going smoothly and quickly. If you can volunteer to help for at least some of the time, please get in touch with Russell Thorne.

As always, please get in touch if you've any comments or queries (offers of assistance will also be gratefully received).

Regards,
Gerard
021 87 27 16

Drury Airfield Report

Russell Thorne

I have been out to Drury and inspected the airfield this morning which unsurprisingly, has some soft patches in the usual places. I am optimistic that with the continuing effect of wind and no more rain, that it will be operable by the weekend. The bigger issue is the reliability of the mowers for coping with the increased grass growth, Hugh

Warren is working on the mowers so that mowing can re-commence.

Pilots will still have to be judicious with their choice of landing spots avoiding the dark patches. The forecast for the coming weekend is for variable winds, tending northerly.

Updates

From the CAA:

"All pilots should be aware that NOTAMS and temporary restricted airspace is about to be promulgated around the airports and adjacent areas affected by Cyclone Gabriel. This is to protect and allow unhindered rescue and emergency operations by NZDF, helicopters and essential commercial flights. Keep an eye out for the information on the NOTAMS and respect these restrictions to allow recovery efforts to continue. Unless your flight is essential, do not fly in these areas for the next few days until the situation has stabilised."

From the Club President - Post-flood recovery

Members will appreciate that some of our club have had their homes flooded. The cleanup involves throwing out anything that got wet, due to the possibility of faecal contamination.

This may leave some of those members lacking furniture. I propose that, if you either are in that position or are able to help, you get in touch with me (bungeegerard@gmail.com) and I will put people in touch with one another.

One of our strengths as Kiwis is looking out for one another, so please give this your consideration.

Helping Hands

On Sunday night or early Monday morning the doors were blown off the southern end of the Cross-Innes-Wooley hangar. The doors on Andy Campbell's hangar were also dislodged off their rails, though fortunately not blown out. Our airfield patrol-master, Hugh Warren, discovered all this while making an airfield inspection early on Monday morning.

Shortly afterwards, Jonathan, Hugh, Andy and Peter got to work and by late morning the doors had been replaced. As the worst of the storm was not over, Hugh tied both hangar's doors in place as an extra safety measure.

Thanks to all those who generously rallied around at such short notice to help – Jonathan who had the expertise from rebuilding his own doors, plus a whole range of necessary tools, plus Hugh and Andy who were essential in helping get the doors re-mounted. It's amazing what can be achieved when things go wrong and people get together, working to sort problems out. Thanks guys - I owe you all big time!

Now to devise a plan to make sure the doors don't get blown out with the next cyclone.

PW

What do I do after 1st Solo in a Glider?

Submitted by Russell Thorne

A Zoom talk by Graham Stanford from the Staffordshire Gliding Club. This video, produced in the UK, can be seen as broadly equivalent to

the post solo process in NZ, only the terminology is different.

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

Another contest cancelled

Gerard Robertson

The summer that never was rolls on, with the Central Districts contest being cancelled due to conditions in the aftermath of the weather over the last few days. It's an appropriate decision by

the organisers, considering not only local conditions but also the fact that the Napier - Taupo road is closed, as is SH50 down to Waipukurau.

Taupo and Wellington Wairarapa Gliding Clubs

Cyclone Gabrielle had wrought a fair share of damage at other gliding clubs.



Papawai runway completely submerged.

Seamus' birthday

Seamus turned 80 last Friday and a most pleasant gathering was held at the clubhouse to celebrate. I understand his entire family (children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren) was present and a very nice bunch of people they

were, too. Seamus has been a stalwart contributor to the club for a very long time: I found the record of a flight I had with him on 9/9/1979. It was a pleasure to be able to speak on behalf of the club to thank him for his efforts.



Preparation for Cyclone Gabrielle

Gerard Robertson

Thanks to those who turned out last Saturday morning to position trailers against the forecast strong winds. A cable was strung between the roller and the tractor, providing a secure

anchorage for the trailers (picture on the next page). I understand that, so far this year, we've had 50% of Auckland's annual rainfall.



DX field landing



DX lands out at Lichfield

Past AGC member – Tomas Suchanek



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

Dare we mention - The Weather?




We're forecasting an improving trend heading into the weekend. The last of the weather associated with Cyclone Gabrielle is expected to clear the country early Friday morning and then high pressure pushes in from the west. This will bring settled weather across the country throughout the weekend, with just the odd shower expected, and some rain in the southwest on Sunday.

Saturday will be mostly fine. A few showers about Tairāwhiti/Gisborne and northern Hawke's Bay clearing early. A few showers developing in the afternoon about Northland.

Sunday will also be mostly fine. Isolated showers in Northland.

Hunua

16 February 2023

Friday 17 FEB		Areas of morning cloud, otherwise fine. Southerlies.	▲ 24°C ▼ 12°C
Saturday 18 FEB		Fine. Light winds.	▲ 24°C ▼ 13°C
Sunday 19 FEB		Fine. Light winds.	▲ 24°C ▼ 13°C

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. **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

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

Roster

	Instructor 1	Instructor 2	Tug Pilot	Duty Pilot	Winch Driver
February					
Sat 18	George Schulte	John Bongrain		Peter Himmel	
Sun 19	Russell Thorne	Keith Macy		Tristan Harvey-S	Paul C
Sat 25	Jonathan Cross	Graham Cochrane		Wolfgng Schenk	
Sun 26	Nigel McPhee	Nigel McPhee		AJ Dudley	Bradley
March					
Sat 4	Roy Innes	Graham Cochrane		Allen Pendergrst	
Sun 5	Ross Taylor	John Bongrain		Dylan Watson	
Sat 11	Nigel McPhee	Keith Macy		Frank Excell	
Sun 12	Russell Thorne	Nigel McPhee		Geoff Green	
Sat 18	Jonathan Cross	John Robertson		Geoff Gaddes	
Sun 19	Russell Thorne	Frank Excell		Georgia Schofld	
Sat 25	Roy Innes	Graham Cochrane		Gerard Roberts	
Sun 26	Ross Taylor	Keith Macy		Caleb Rosvall	