

AGC Weekly News

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

Farewell Georg

One of the club's summer instructors, Georg Schulte, will leave NZ for his home in Germany next Monday. As a note of gratitude and farewell, the committee proposes a BBQ this coming Sunday evening.

While the weather hasn't been that of a typical summer, George and Miha have shown themselves equal to adversity, being willing to do

anything useful around the club, including cleaning trailers.

If you're free, please come out to the club from about 5.30 onwards this Sunday to farewell Georg. The club will put on sausages and salads; if you want steak or dessert, feel free to bring something. In fact, if you can, please do bring something for dessert.

John Turnbull - Re-solo

Murray Wardell



John Turnbull – his 17m grin after a very recent

re-solo (23 years after first solo) tells it all.

Competition Finishes



There was once a time when the "Beat Up" changed its name to that of "Competition Finishes".

Our club rules still allow Competition Finishes under certain strict conditions. The club rules says "no crossing of the airfield below 2500ft when winching is in progress". Although you might think that is draconian, that is the determination laid down by others before me.

For my part, I am continuing to allow Competition Finishes that are done well, according to the club rules and with a very high standard of airmanship. That means when there is no risk to others in the vicinity of the airfield circuit, or on the ground.

Competition pilots will be aware that Competition Finishes have been replaced by Finish Cylinders at every level in Gliding up to and including World Gliding Contests, so really they have no future and most clubs have banned them. It may be that this club will make a decision of doing the same.

No matter what you call the "act" of doing it, it is an expression of "exuberance," of getting home after a long or difficult flight, a feeling that all cross country pilots can identify with.

When a pilot announces his intention on the VHF radio to carry out a Competition Finish when no winching is in progress, he will get one of these three replies:

1. No traffic = Go for it
2. Traffic in the circuit = No Competition Finish
3. No Reply = ?????

There is no other valid response, discretion is advised.

The decision to go ahead is always the decision of the pilot, nobody will say "Yes" or "No". If you get it "wrong" - expect consequences at every level.

Regards,
Russell

Flight of the Week

Anton Lawrence has had an impressive run of three day wins in the 15m Racing Class at the Central Plateau Contest at Taupo, followed by fellow AGC club member David Moody in second place.

https://www.soaringspot.com/en_gb/central-plateau-contest-2023-taupo-2023/results/racing-v2/task-4-on-2023-03-08/total

The Task flown on Day 4 Wednesday 8th, like Day 1 on 6th March, showed his class when he was the only pilot to complete the task, a day when many with bigger wings in the Open Class either landed out or had to start their engines.

After Day 1 Anton was heard to say, *"That was a day I do not want to repeat, it was like flying a hang glider- drifting downwind over each hill, one*

after the other at low altitude."

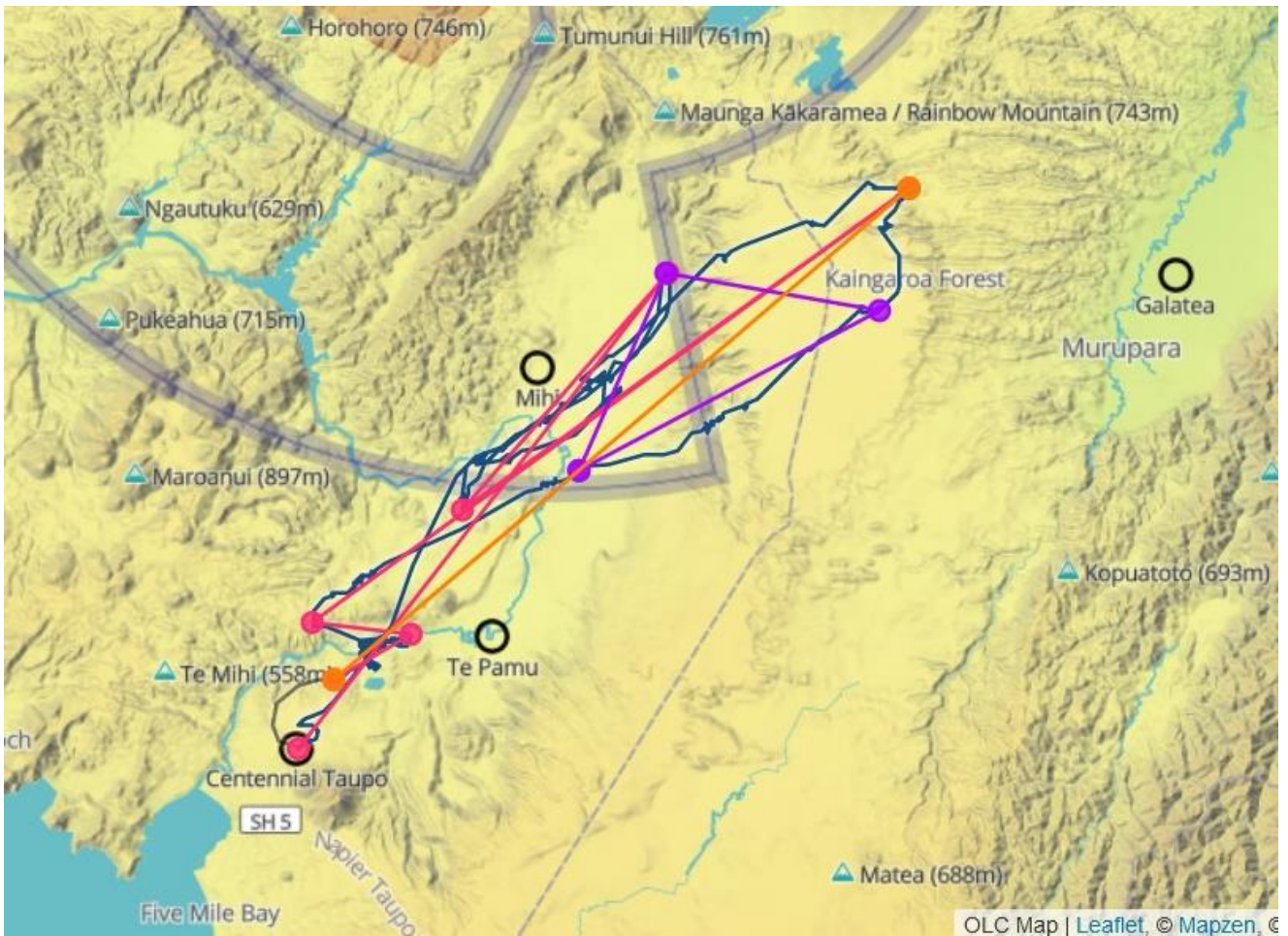
Any one of these three flights could be Flight of the Week, but I shall choose the one on Wednesday 8th, because I know together with Miha and myself who flew the same task, it certainly needed a lot of patience and good decision making to make it back to the Centennial Finish.

https://www.soaringspot.com/en_gb/central-plateau-contest-2023-taupo-2023/tasks/racing-v2/task-4-on-2023-03-08

There are some plots on the next page detailing the flights.

Regards,
Russell

Top Taupo Competition Flights



<https://www.onlinecontest.org/olc-3.0/gliding/flightinfo.html?dsId=9289124>

Central Plateau Competition Report

Gerard Robertson

The Central Plateau contest is actually achieving flying weather, something not seen for most other North Island contests this season. In the Racing class, Anton Lawrence and David Moody occupy the top two positions. Although yesterday wasn't scored, with Anton the only one to make it around in very weak conditions, some of the flying has been excellent. Day 3 (picture below) had the highlight of a long run up to Kawerau, taking us directly over Mt Tarawera. Mind you, it's as well there was a strong cloud street on the Kawerau side, as there's an awful lot of forest with nowhere to land.

I got low not far from the airfield on the way home, having to thermal away from 1,200'. If you've seen Tim Bromhead's videos about Taupo comps, you may recall him trying to ridge soar a small, low hill. Well, between that hill and the nearby milking shed, there was a 1 kt thermal which strengthened with altitude, thank goodness.

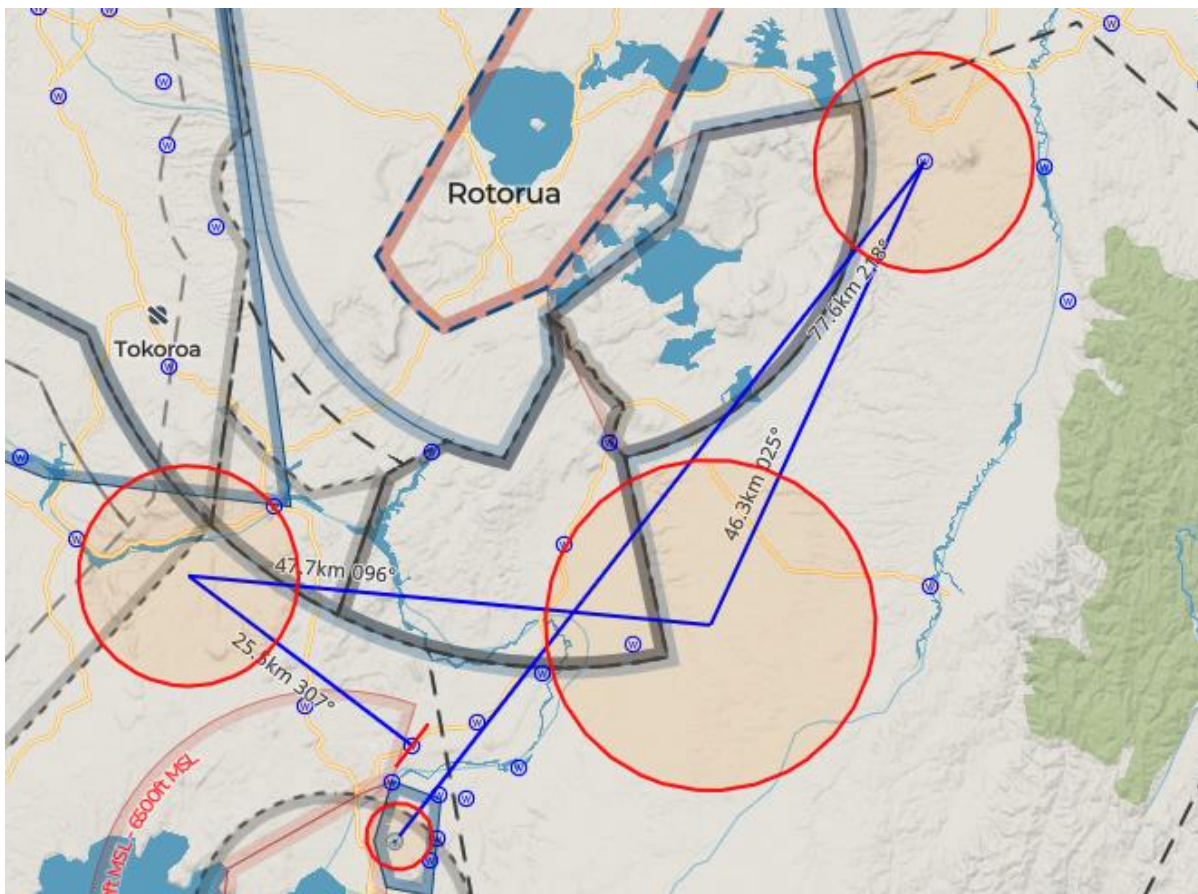
Taupo can be a bit challenging. You have to constantly subtract 1,500 from your altitude as that's the airfield height. Some of the surrounding terrain is between 2,000 and 2,500' high, so an altimeter reading of 4,000' is not the cause for

satisfaction that it is further north.

Contests are good for several reasons. Not only does flying tasks (most) days help your flying, but the strong sense of camaraderie (often thinly-disguised by mickey-taking) is great to be amongst. You can also meet the locals, as I have, by going on three retrieves in four days.

Taupo has changed since I lived here 40 years ago. There's a Pak'nSave on the corner where I used to live. There are also quite a few traffic lights, where in the old days there was only one. My mother used to joke that Friday night entertainment for the locals was coming downtown to watch the lights change.

If you have the chance to go to the Matamata Grand Prix from 18th - 25th March, take it. I understand that the plan is to have DX there, so you don't need to be cross-country rated. In fact, flying with someone experienced is a great learning experience. Miha told me that it took the combined experience of him and Russell to get DX around the course yesterday, so we can all learn from one another.



Taupo pictures from Tim Bromhead



Weekend Weather Outlook




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The weather is looking settled for most this weekend as an active front clears the North Island just in time for Saturday. Rain with a front which affects the lower South Island on Sunday is the

only fly in the ointment to the generally dry bill of weather.

Hunua

9 March 2023

Friday 10 MAR		Rain developing before dawn, possibly heavy and thundery in the west, easing to isolated showers afternoon as northwesterlies turn southwesterly. Showers clearing evening, except about the west coast.	▲ 24°C ▼ 14°C
Saturday 11 MAR		Fine. Southwesterlies, easing in the evening.	▲ 23°C ▼ 12°C
Sunday 12 MAR		Fine with southwesterlies.	▲ 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

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

Roster

	Instructor 1	Instructor 2	Tug Pilot	Duty Pilot	Winch Driver
March					
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 Robertsn	
Sun 26	Ross Taylor	Keith Macy		Caleb Rosvall	