

AGC Weekly News

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

From the CFI



The first official day of the Grand Prix was Wednesday, after three days of rain.

Today's task was 209km or thereabouts down to Arapuni back up to lower Waitoa, then down Putaruru way, then back to Matamata.

I ran down the valley each way which was a tactical mistake as I got passed by those going down the ridge on leg three. A bit of luck and guile saw me manage a second place so not all was lost.

Steve Care won the day.

The weather looks good for the rest of the week, so we have four more competition days to go.

We had a wonderful BBQ at Drury to send off Georg and Kevin last Friday. Georg flies out next Wednesday and Kevin a week later. From then on, we will be back to Wednesday and weekend flying. Make the most of the good weather and their expertise while you can.

There have been a couple of trips out to Douglas Road which have given Georg, Kevin, and a number of club members a taste of coastal soaring.

On derigging BI for the coastal trip, it was noticed the plastic rods that retain the wings at the tips were missing. These will have been lost while BI was on a road trip. Apparently, they've been missing all summer, which means its been transported without them.

If you have taken BI away, please check your car for these items, in the meantime a timber hand tool handle has been cut to size as a temporary replacement.

Please treat the club's gliders and gear as if it was your own (it actually is yours) and be familiar with the rig and derig process so this doesn't happen again.

March 2024 Outlook

Copied from the NZ Met Service

El Nino westerlies ease for a time, with more tropical influences mid-month

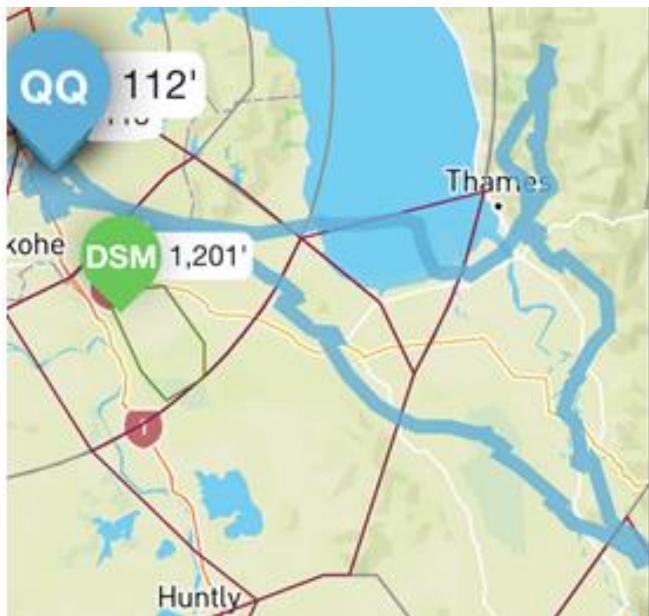
A dreary start to autumn as a Southern Ocean cold front sweeps up the country and brings a burst of rain and wind to much of New Zealand as the active westerly weather pattern persists. After this front, some respite is likely as high pressure settles across the country. However, with clearing skies and lighter winds comes falling temperatures, and parts of the lower South Island could see overnight lows approaching freezing by the middle of next week.

This pattern shifts around the middle of the month as the MJO once again becomes active in our neck of the woods, which brings an increased potential

for a subtropical low or two to approach the country. Peak risk is from mid-month into the third week of March, with the North Island most likely to see warmer temperatures, a potential rainmaker and an uptick in thunderstorm activity, though this is a 'boom or bust' situation. The South Island may see some northerly rain as well if a low can drive further south. However, if a subtropical low does not affect New Zealand, then much of the country can expect an overall drier-than-normal month.

March ends on a transitional note, as high pressure builds back across the North Island and lower pressure returns once again further south. Although El Nino is on an easing trend, its impacts will likely be felt well into autumn.

Gerard and Georg took QQ for a flight last Friday afternoon, following the convergence for a shortcut to Thames (which worked for nearly half way), then up the Peninsula and down to Mt Te Aroha before cutting back across the swamp to the Tahuna hills to avoid the sea breeze and home.



A record has been kept of Georg's hangar-stacking technique for future use. His ability to fit gliders into places we wouldn't normally consider - without dissension - has to be seen to be believed. His unstinting commitment to hard work (along with Kevin's) is an example to us all.



Farewell BBQ for Georg and Kevin

About 30 of us (with a jet-lagged Georgia in attendance) had a very nice meal and companionship last Friday evening. Marion was well-supported in the kitchen, while the CFI proved he can cook a great steak.



This edition of the newsletter was compiled by Peter Wooley – wooleypeter@gmail.com – 021 170 2009