



WWGC Newsletter May 2024

From the President - Simon Casey

Well the season is coming to an end and it has been the best year at Papawai over the last 5 years in terms of the number of flyable days. With 2 months to go, we already have a new record with 134 flying days year to date. But unfortunately, the flight numbers are down but the flight duration is up. See the figures below.

The reduced number of flights in club owned gliders is mostly likely due to a reduction in the number of training flights. Why is this? I personally believe that gliding, like other discretionary activities, is very sensitive to the cost of living. With inflation being as high as it is, gliding will be affected.

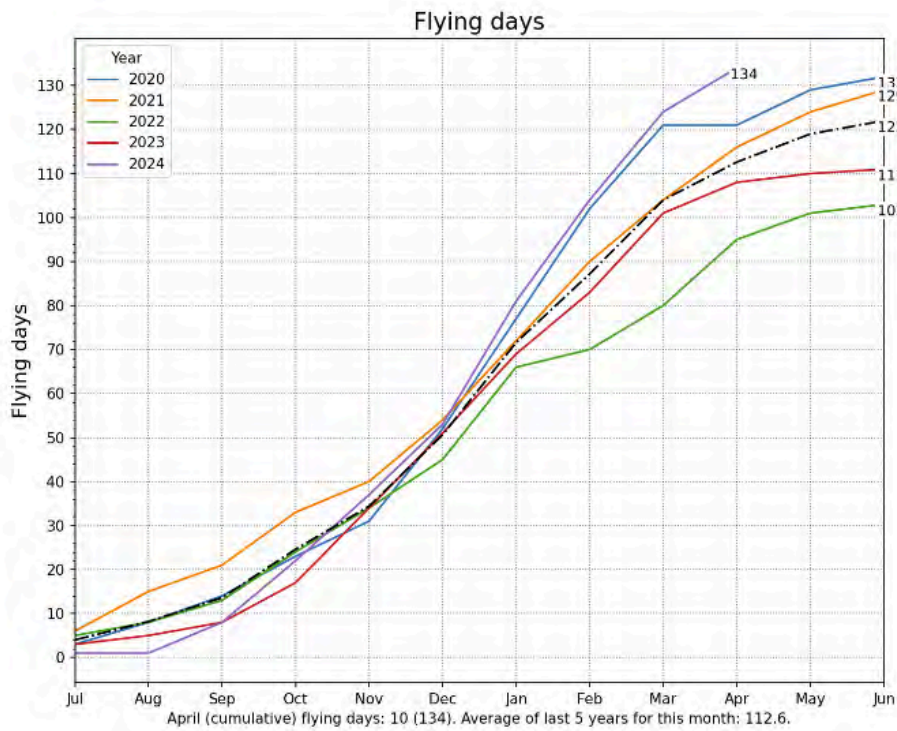
If our training is down, we need to engage more with our community and try to attract more new members through trial flights. The best time to do this is near the start of the new soaring season which will be September.

Ideas to grow community awareness include:

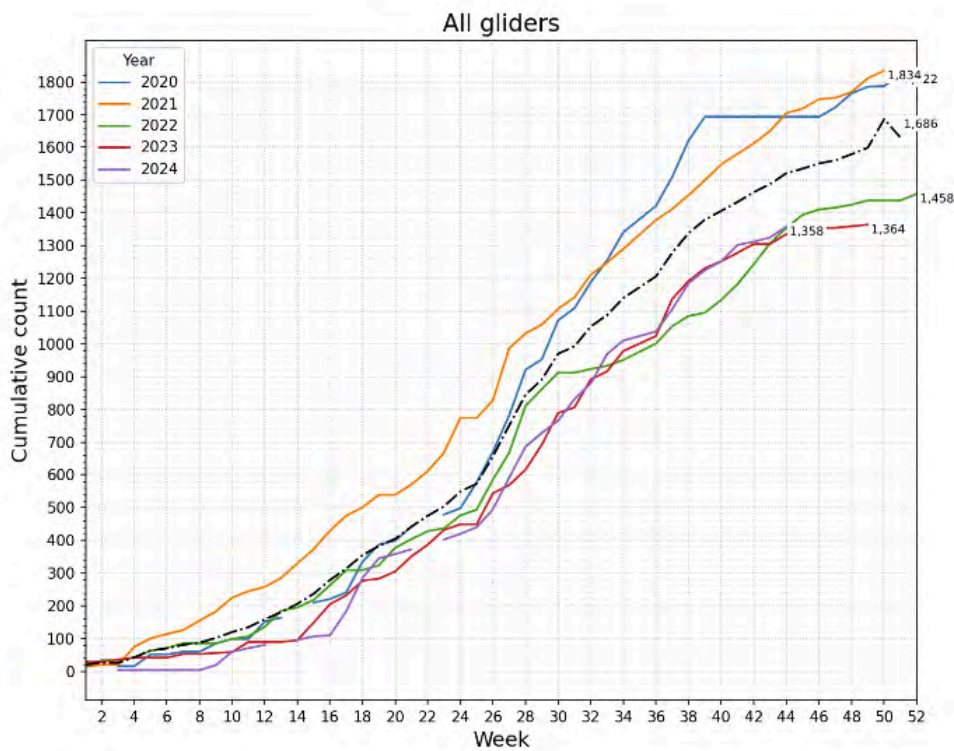
- Social media posts
- Open day
- Have a trailer with a sign encouraging the purchase of vouchers parked on busy roads.

If you have ideas about keeping our club active, affordable and a growing membership, please let me know.

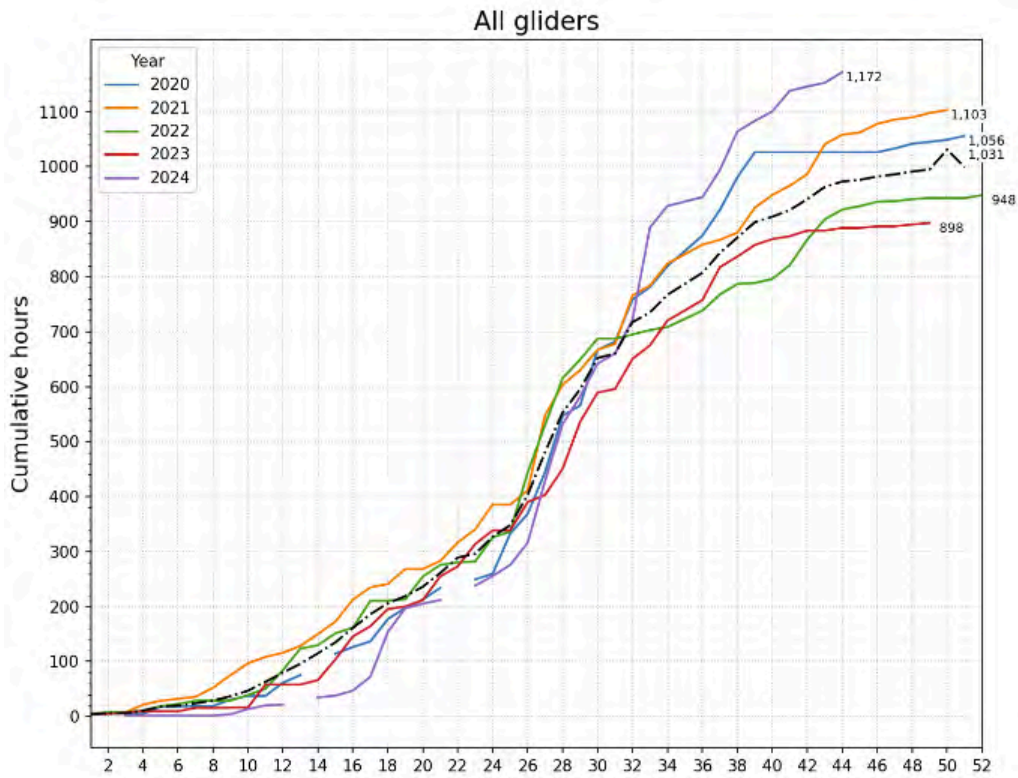
Utilisation Year to Date



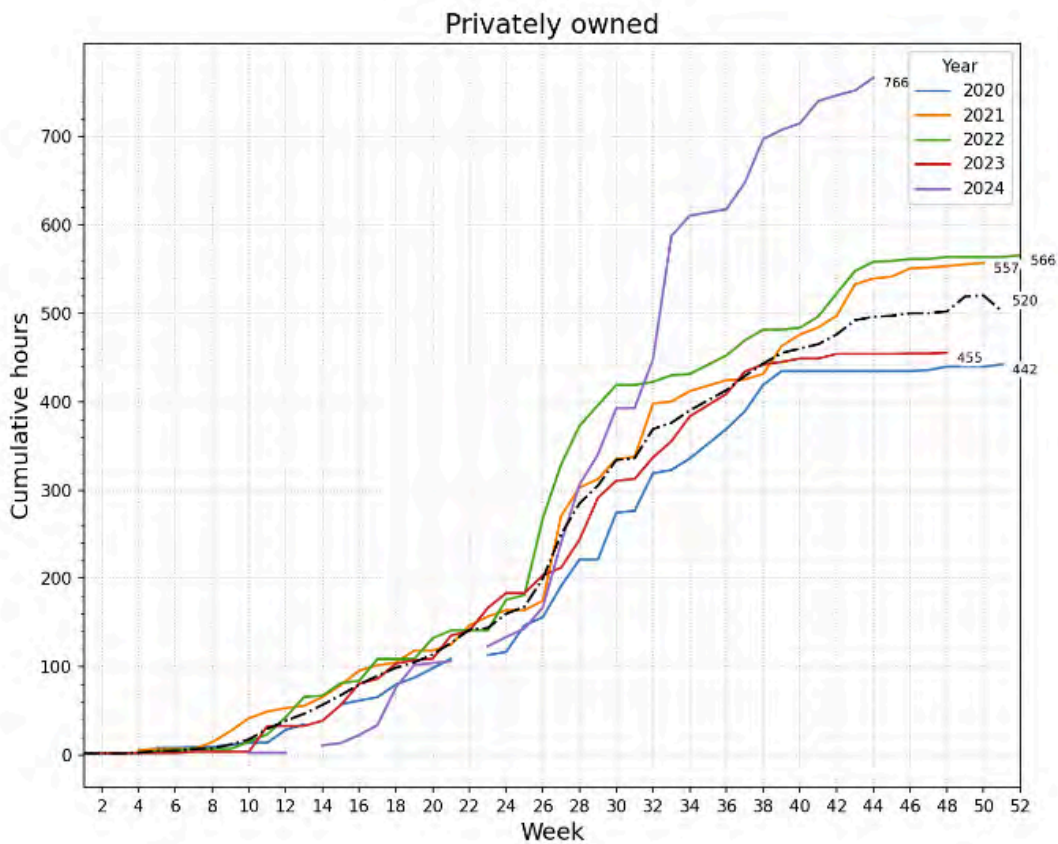
This graph shows this financial year from 1 July to 30 April we have had 134 flying days which is the highest over the last 5 years.



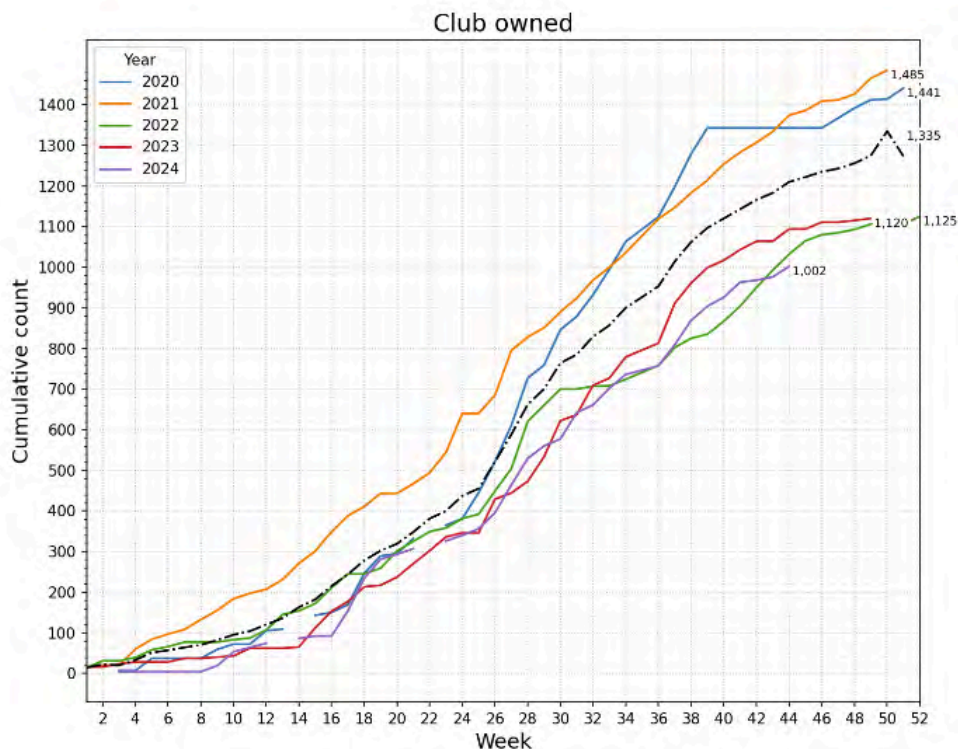
This graph shows the total number of launches with 1358 which is only 6 behind last year of 1364 with 2 months to go before the end of the financial year.



This shows a new record for flying hours with 2 months still to go.



You can see here that the hours flown by private gliders has also set a new record with 766 hours vs 566 for 2022.



From this graph we see that the flight hours of club gliders is well down at the end of April with 1002 hours.

To see these and more flight statistics, click [here](#). Click on the



icon at the very bottom left of the screen to get the menu of available graphs.

Kane Trophy

SAVE THE DATE - Saturday May 18

How good a pilot are you? Find out by entering as a participant in the Kane Trophy challenge. This will be a fun event that will test your skills which will include:

- Precision circuit without reference to an altimeter
- Spot landing over a toi toi fence
- Bomb drop on a target
- A surprise challenge may be included that will be announced on the day

Flights will be conducted in the club twins with a scoring instructor in the back seat. You can have multiple tries and your best score will be used.

This is a fun, challenging and competitive event that has been highly successful in the past but yet to be tried at Papawai. Note that due to the nature of the event, only club twins will be able to fly that day.

The standard winch charge of \$50 applies but glider hire will be free.

The scores are collated and the overall winner gets the trophy. Instructors are not eligible for the trophy. Other prizes will be available for each winner in their own category which include instructors, post solo and pre solo pilots. Awards will be given at a fish & chip or pizza presentation after the event.

Please advise Simon on email president@soar.co.nz by Monday 13 May if you:

- Can volunteer to help run the event
- Would like to participate.
- Will attend the awards session afterwards

Note that this event will be preceded by a presentation on flying skills by Martyn Cook as part of the Master Class presentation series. It will be followed by Kevin Clark introducing the tasks and how they will be scored.

It should be a good spectator event so come along even if you would prefer not to fly.

Alternate day if the weather is unsuitable is Sunday May 19.

Master Class Presentation Series

We have had two excellent presentations at the club house by Martyn Cook. The first was on how to work weak thermals and the second was on aircraft technical knowledge. These occur whether flying or not from 10:00am

As a pre solo or post solo student, you need to attend these. You will find that many things will make sense as you remember your own experiences that match the theory that you will hear. Matching theory and experience makes the lessons that much more interesting.

The series runs Saturdays until 7 September. The next confirmed dates are as follows:

1. 18 May - Continuation of Aircraft Technical Knowledge + Kane Trophy flying hints
2. 1 June - Aviation Law for Glider Pilots with David Hirst
3. 15 June - Meteorology for Glider Pilots with James Austin
4. 6 July - Human Factors for Glider Pilots with James Austin

Plan to be there for the next one.

Achievements

Martin Forest

Congratulations to Martin Forest who now has his XCP and a passenger rating.

Marty Moncrieff

Marty has now got his winch driver rating. Congratulations Marty!

Anzac Day Flight - Grae Harrison

ANZAC Day 2024 turned out to be an impressive wave day. After launching and getting into wave locally behind our ridge it was a smooth fast ride south for 60km which extended well into Palliser Bay and a predictable and smooth ride north into Hawkes Bay before a return to the South Coast and home again. 480km in 3 hours.



Photo 1 looking North from Palliser Bay at 14,000ft along the secondary wave with the ultra high NW arch above.



Photo 2 taken between Eketahuna and Pahiatua tracking North at 15,000ft.



Photo 3 abeam Dannevirke looking North towards Hawkes Bay at 16,000ft.

Air Traffic control was excellent and assisted with clearances throughout the flight.

The arrival back to Papawai was the usual washing machine below 5,000 feet. Circuit was started at 3,000 feet in sink which continued throughout the entire circuit. In fact the turn on to base leg had to be conducted earlier than planned due to the excessive sink. Final approach and landing were uneventful and landed in virtually little wind. When ZY landed only 5 minutes later the head wind had increased to over 20 knots.

Special thanks to James Austin, Met man extraordinaire, for texting me in flight to remind me of the humid air mass approaching the Wairarapa. Not long after we landed, the skies clouded over completely and it started to spit.

Balloon Fiesta

Due to light southerly winds, we were asked if the Papawai could be used to launch some balloons that were part of the Carterton Balloon Fiesta on Sunday 31 March. Here are some photos from the launch.





This Month's Funny Side

