

OUTLANDING

The Taupo Gliding Club's Newsletter



June 2024

Hello everyone, welcome to this edition of Outlanding. We can all tell that winter is here! But, on the bright side of things, the shortest day of the year has been and gone and summer is just around the cornerand so is the next soaring season 😊

This edition of Outlanding is focussed on the AGM and Awards Night which was held on the 22nd.

The next edition will come out at the end of August - so if anyone has an article or notification to be included into the next newsletter, please have it to Trace by 20 August 2024.

Keep warm and have fun!

Cheers, Trace

Inside this Issue....

President's Report

CFI's Report

Committee 2024/25

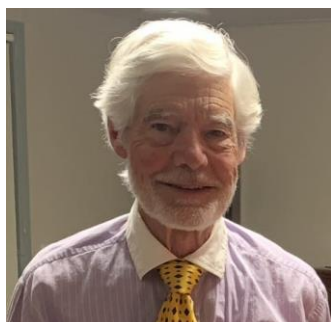
Awards

Airmanship

Club Pics

President's Report June 2024 *by Hugh de Lautour*

Welcome everybody - thank you for coming.



Firstly, as this will be my last report as President, I want to say a huge thank you to you all for supporting both the Club as you do, and me personally over the last four years. In particular my thanks to Tom and to all the past and present committee members for all their help and support. I've made plenty of mistakes and have had to say and do a few unpopular things, but in the long run I feel we've come through as a pretty good team. At the recent GNZ AGM in Queenstown there was a whole session on "Culture" within clubs and how it affects the club's membership and operation, and I thought at the time of how so many of the gliding community from all over the country have said how much they enjoy coming to the Taupo Gliding Club. We are not perfect, but we must be doing something right, and it's the whole wider club membership that makes that difference. I would also like to thank Colin McGrath for his role as CFI. It's not an easy job, and Colin is a busy man, but I feel he is just getting better and better each year, and hope he has many more years ahead. He has recently qualified as an A-Cat instructor, so congratulations Colin and thank you again on behalf of the Club.

So how have we done over the last 12 months? As always, there's good and bad.

One bad and sad moment was the passing of our Patron, Richard Izard on the 2nd of January this year. Richard was a keen aviator and a great supporter of the Gliding Club. As a very successful business man he was always available for advice if we needed it, and as a club member he was always very generous. He will be missed. Also not so good is our membership decline, but more of that later.

On the good side, we now have a good and well-repaired tow plane, which, as I mentioned in last year's report, we could only afford thanks to Craig Hunter and John Hobday. So although we still have to do a bit of long term planning in that regard, we can have confidence in the Pawnee for a few more years yet. Also working well is our move to having all committee meetings by Zoom. That means we have a good attendance record, and with at least four committee members living out of town, it is much more convenient.

We also have a reasonably good bank balance. That's not grounds for complacency, but it is something we can take some comfort in in the short term. We made the airfield available for car parking for the Supercars event in April which was a bonus, but overall we are doing OK compared with other clubs. Membership and flying hours are down, as I said, but with Trial Flights, visits from other clubs, and competitions supplementing the good amount of flying that a few stalwart members are doing, we are keeping our heads well above water which is more than can be said for some of the smaller clubs. We benefitted from the presence of our German "Summer Instructor", Erich, during December: Erich was an enthusiastic instructor and tow pilot who helped our 7-day-a-week operation flow very smoothly. Hopefully he will be back.

Before we leave the financial theme, I would like to thank Ivan Booth for his invaluable support and ongoing help with the club's finances. You will have all seen an email from Ivan which outlines his thoughts on the way forward for the Club's financial management systems, and I hope you have all read it. Any changes to be made will be a matter for the new committee, but we will discuss it further at the end of the AGM, as we would like all club members to be aware of what we are thinking of doing, and why and how. One of the changes that we have to adjust for is the retirement of our unofficial auditor, Ted Swanney. Ted has done a sterling job for us over many many years, and he also will be missed. Many thanks, Ted, for all you have done for the Club..

So now I will step aside and hand the reins to the next president, Martin Jones, who has generously agreed to take on the presidency once again. I know that Martin will do a good job, and as immediate past-president I will still be around and watching from the wings - if you'll pardon the pun.

Thank you all once again - enjoy the rest of the day and the rest of the year, and don't forget to come flying. And bring your friends. The Club needs ALL of you. Thank you.

CFI's Report *by Colin McGrath*



The 2023 – 24 weather has been much improved on compared with what we had in 2022 – 23.

The Central Plateau competition was successful despite less than perfect weather.

Piako Gliding Club joined us in January with a successful two weeks flying whilst the Welsh Flying School occupied the Waharoa airfield.

We hosted the Multi Class Nationals in January. Once again the weather wasn't brilliant, but we did have a successful competition enjoyed by those that attended.

We have had two or three students from Taupo Nui College but they seem to have come and done the flying that the collage can pay for and then unfortunately drift away.

We have also had about six regular student pilots working their way through the training programme

Erich Schleifer came to the club for a good part of the summer. This made a big difference to the activity over this period. He is planning to return again this coming summer.

On the instructors front there has not been any changes except that we are all one year older.

The major challenge for the club still remains to grow our membership by both attracting new members and retaining the members we have.

Flying stats for the year

Flights from 1st of January to 31st of December 2023

All Flights - 388 up 6

Trial fights - 60 up 34

Youth flights - 36 up 1

Committee 2024/2025

Patron	Vacant at present
President	Martin Jones
Vice President	Rob Lyon
Club Captain	Trace Austin
Manager	Tom Anderson
Secretary	Hugh de Lautour
Committee	Ivan Booth – Bill Kendall – Peter Lynch – Craig Hunter – Mathieu Turquier
C.F.I	Colin McGrath

Awards 2023/2024

Most Improved Student – (Taupo Gliding Club)

John Rika – *(Still knows how to learn after 20,000 plus hours of flying)*

Most Improved Pilot – (Taupo Gliding Club)

Craig Hunter - *(Gaining his C Cat Instructor rating)*

Landout – (Norman Marsh Trophy)

Trace Austin - *(Eight Landouts for the season)*

Tail End Charlie – (Radio Lakeland Trophy)

Craig Hunter - *(For all of his work on TPO.)*

Club Member's Trophy – (Tom Anderson Trophy)

Peter Lynch - *(For his contribution and effort on repairing the stolen caravan and the water treatment system)*

Toilet Seat – (Taupo Gliding Club)

Not awarded this year

Height Gain – (Taupo Gliding Club)

Trev Terry - *(Still on top of his game)*

Most Meritorious Flight – (Trev Terry Challenge Trophy)

Trev Terry - *(Still the Master)*

Wooden Spoon

(Not awarded this year)

Tow Pilot Trophy – (Tom Anderson Trophy)

Not awarded this year, no retiring tow pilots

taskPilot Champion – (Trace Austin Trophy)

Geoff Thompson – (1149 pts)



Airmanship, Competition

Airmanship - *(Buck Jones Trophy)*

1st Hugh de Lautour – 266 pts

2nd Colin McGrath – 220 pts

3rd Martin Jones – 217 pts

A Few Pics

