

OUTLANDING

The Taupo Gliding Club's Newsletter



February 2025

Welcome all to this edition of Outlanding. Well, summer is officially over but that doesn't mean that the flying season is over. We still have another good six weeks or so before we enter our winter flying period. So enjoy and make the most of the season.

We will have to say goodbye to our summer tow pilot and instructor Erich, which means we will be reverting back to normal club days of Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday. This doesn't mean that we can't arrange a flying day on any other day, it just means a bit more organising.

This season we have seen many around-the-lake flights as well as great distance flights, and we have had many visitors flying out of Centennial Park. All have been pleasing to see.

The next newsletter will be at the end of March, so if anyone has an article or notification to be included into that edition, please have it to Trace by 20 March 2025.

Fly well and have fun! Cheers, Trace 😊

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CFI Info by CFI Colin McGrath



Hi everyone. We recently had a concerned call from Mark Funnell because Charlie Papa was flying overhead the Taupo Airport.

We have an understanding with the Airport and the other airport users that we will stay clear of the drop zone.

And when looking at the AIP, overflying the parachute operations should be avoided.

The following extract is taken from the AIP for the Mandatory Broadcast Zone.

Operating Procedures Taupo Mandatory Broadcast Zone

Overfly Traffic;

- Listen to Taupo AWIB 125.20,
- Broadcast position relative to a published reporting point,
- Altitude and intentions on 118.40,
- Pilots should avoid flying directly overhead or upwind of the airport to avoid parachute operations,
- Remain clear of circuit area.

Regardless of the above, it would be **Good** airmanship to remain clear of this area full stop, as getting tangled up with a sky diver is unlikely to end well for a glider and its occupants or the sky diver.

Bill's Instructing Retirement by CFI Colin McGrath

Bill Kendall is stepping down from the instructor's panel, and on behalf of the club and myself personally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank him for all the time and effort he has put into the club over the many years he has been an instructor and CFI of the club.

While he may be retiring from instructing, his expertise will remain with us as he plans to continue towing for the club and to fly his own glider in to the future.



Thank You Bill!

Central Districts Championships by Trace

The Central Districts Championship was held between the 15th and 22nd of February at Waipukurau. The Practice day kicked off with 12 gliders launched into a largely overdeveloped sky, but pilots found reasonable lift to 4000' around the local area. The practice task was fairly short, just to get pilots into the air and to get a feel for the local area for those who hadn't flown at Waipukurau before. Of course the day before was a boomer with 6000' bases as far as the eye could see.

The forecast for the first contest day, was of course....Rubbish! And it proved to be so. It continued to be rubbish for the next three days. On the Wednesday the weatherman and task setter were optimistic but the day fell flat once again.

Thursday saw the first contest day and there were a lot of smiling pilots having been grounded for so long. There was one landout for the day, this being David Hirst in GGR. David had another David on board as P2 which was David's (P2) first contest and first outlanding. The evening was completed with a roast chicken dinner followed by a trivia night.

Friday bloomed and pilots gridded and waited and waited but in the end it was untaskable. There was local flying for those that chose to but most remained on the ground. We had the final dinner that evening.

Saturday, final day and what a cracker. Everyone was smiling and there were lots of stories to tell and to listen to. There was a fantastic convergence running down the coast of which pilots flew and enjoyed immensely. Although the week didn't result in a contest we had winners in both classes.

Champions

Open				Racing			
1	IO	Patrick C. Driessen	1,492	1	NM	Trace Austin	1,442
2	TD	Tony Van Dyk	1,293	2	GR	David Hirst	1,413
3	FS	Michael Cooper	1,087	3	LL	Derek Shippley	1,324



Robert Alan Land - Final Glide *by Tom Anderson*

Recently we heard of the passing of Alan Land. Although there will be a number of club members that do not know Alan, there are many that do, so here is a brief overview of Alan's achievements at the club.

Alan joined the Taupo Gliding club in April 1999 as a Tow Pilot. When he joined he was already a Tow Pilot of some 20 years but had not flown for nearly 20 Years.

Alan was always available when required to come and tow for the club.

With Alan, John Curtis and myself instructing and towing, we were able to operate the club seven days week.

Alan was dedicated to his flying as like most pilots. We do it for the sheer enjoyment of flying and being of use to glider pilots to get them in the air.

Alan also owned a share in a Piper Pawnee 160 HP tow plane with Martin Jones.

On Alan's retirement he had completed 7000 aero tows.

He is now flying amongst the clouds. RIP



Erich's Farewell



During the past week we had a Potluck Nibbles evening where a nice little turn out of members came out to say thank you and farewell to Erich. Erich has been with us since the beginning of January which allowed the club to operate seven days a week.

On Saturday the 1st of March he is flying the Robin to Matamata for the Grand Prix where he will tow for a couple of days before departing the country on Tuesday the 4th.

Thank you Erich and we look forward to seeing you again next year.



Thank You Geoff

The planned use of a car for Erich during his summer stay failed to eventuate, hence a call to members for assistance. Within hours of the call, Geoff saved the day by graciously loaning Erich a vehicle for the duration. Thank you Geoff.



Incident / Loan Book

Should anyone see any damage to structures, machinery or grounds, or anything that needs attention to be rectified there is an incident book in the clubhouse that can be filled in. This will ensure that items requiring attention will not slip through the cracks and ensure that our equipment remains in a satisfactory serviceable condition.

There is also a Loan Book. Should you wish to borrow anything from the club please fill out the details. This will ensure we know where items have gone to and not gone missing permanently.



GME Trailer

There has been a *huge* effort in refurbishing ME's trailer. This is still a work in progress and has taken up a massive amount of time from certain club members and in particular Martin, so a huge thank you to Martin and team. Once completed, ME will be ready to go cross country again.



Email from Kazuhiko Hatano

Hello Tom and Lois,



you so much.

Kazuhiko Hatano

Thank you very much for your email. None a day passes without thinking about days in Taupo. It was so fantastic experience to fly long and spend time with club members'. I really think your club is ideal for all of you enjoy with glider and your life with family.

On next weekend, I will fly with ASK 13 by winch tow for 5 minutes in the air. I am sure I come to miss Taupo by and by, fly like grasshopper.

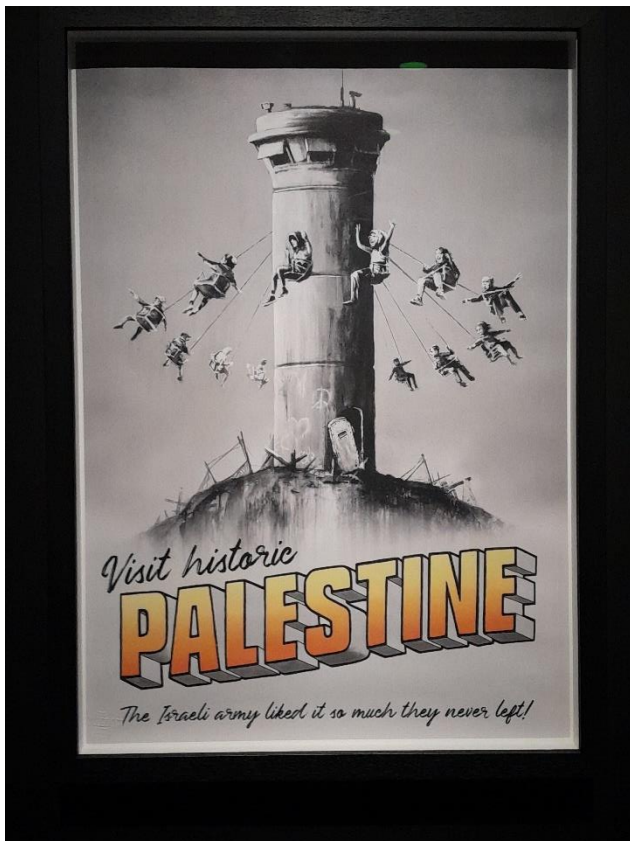
I am glad to know they enjoyed the beer. I really thank all of you! Please remember me to instructors, tow pilots, and Lois. Thank

Upcoming Events

Just a quick reminder about the following events.

- taskPilot Championship – 2nd November 2024 – 31st March 2025
- Grand Prix – Matamata 1st – 9th March
- ATC - Centennial Park – 29th March
- Supercars - April

Humour



Kangaroos are just deer who went to prison.

