

# THE FLYPAPER - Sept '09

*Newsletter for Members of the Piako Gliding Club*

*Editor (temporary) Jan Mace*

<b>President:</b>	Steve Care	<b>Vice-President:</b>	Tim Bromhead
<b>Chief Flying Instructor:</b>	Bob Gray	<b>Club Captain:</b>	Bill Mace
<b>Chief Tow Pilot:</b>	Richard Small	<b>Secretary:</b>	Joan Wine
<b>Maintenance Officer:</b>	(open)	<b>Treasurer:</b>	Jamie Pirrit
<b>Committee:</b>	Neil Raymond, Anna Doer, Robin Britton		

## BLOWIN' In The WIND

Spring Weather is reportedly going to be on the dry side and – wait for it – windy! Sounds promising. Predictions are the El Nino weather pattern is expected to result in more frequent south-westerly winds.

The excitement must be mounting, with the season open day next weekend hopefully signalling the start of these better soaring conditions – well, the end of winter at least!! I've just been overseeing glider polishing, I want the machine ready for the next good day...

The pilot will have a chance to get himself primed and polished on all things aeronautical at the compulsory briefing, September 13<sup>th</sup> @ 1000 hrs at the Clubhouse. Followed by **a free lunch** for all those attending. What a great idea... A medley of subjects: safety awareness, radio and airspace procedures, working with other users, new duty pilot sheets, etc etc. In other words, all you need to know to be prepared. BFR's available afterwards – bookings needed. Flying after lunch – weather dependant – as usual. **Coffee and cake available until 0955 hours!**

It was great seeing a photo of the club's trophy winners in the latest Soaring Magazine. We'll have to organise a special photo shoot of Joan Wine receiving her trophy at the following committee meeting (she was "flu sick" on the night). Certificates were also presented on the night, Harold Oates (in recognition of his long service as a tow pilot) did the presenting. Yours truly was presented with a bouquet of flowers and I thank all those that came and made the night a most pleasant and enjoyable one. Thanks especially to Tom Shanks, his paintings were terrific – very bold style watercolours with a wide variety of subjects, from women to rusty trucks. Not only that, it was his first exhibition (he's had paintings at galleries) and several members had brought along their paintings he had done to be included. Tom also talked enthusiastically, encouraging us all to have a go at painting – very few tools were needed and anywhere and any time was appropriate. Could easily fill those few times when gliding was not suitable and the simulator was being used, bearing in mind the excellent view we have from the airfield. A big thanks also to Kate, kitchen hand and back-up cook, 2 little girls who set tables. To Elisabeth for some delicious entrees. And not forgotten, those on the night who helped with dishes and dishing-up, I thought you all did a marvellous job. Included in that is Tim's "World-Wide Launch" of his Online Logbook, a new product from our IT man. His Power Point presentation was another first for the PGC.

*The NEXT BIG Social Occasion? Xmas Camp and New Year's Eve Dinner (and Dance?)!  
with Auckland & Aviation Sports Clubs - plan on being there.*

Short Notice: possible evening at Auckland Gliding Club (Drury Clubrooms) with Terry Delore talking about gliding ... an email will be sent around. You might want to club together and make a car load. Those that heard him a while ago enjoyed the casual chat with slides taken in Argentina. Also a chance to see the new upgrading being done in their clubhouse. Many hands were working paintbrushes last month prior to new carpet etc. The Simulator has been set up (in its own room) ready for Club training courses to make use of it

The club is in need of a new maintenance person. Even a co-ordinator would be a help, mainly to organise annuals and repairs to the club's 5 gliders i.e. it's not necessary to be a "maintenance" person yourself. Please contact president Steve or a committee member (or Les) if you think you can help out. Taking a "leave of absence" is John Shuttleworth, a member for many, many years. We look forward to seeing you soon when you've got over your Mustang! Will you be bringing it to the Open Day?

AIRFIELD USERS COMMITTEE: A Draft of the Airfield Reserve Management Plan is ready for comments. See notice further on.....Progress has certainly been slow, but still progressing.

The big project at the moment is organising another **Open Day, set for 13 March 2010**. Rainer, Anna and Steve are on the sub-committee working through the logistics and joining an enthusiastic bunch of aviators promoting our sport and facility. Have you any ideas (or help) you can contribute? Please contact them.

Back to the Soaring Magazine – did you see the large ad for the **MSC X-Country Course** being held 23-27<sup>th</sup> November? Bernard Ecke, Australian National Gliding Coach will be lecturing, coaching, and flying at the course this year. He will be "living-in" at the airfield. Subsidy by the Matamata X-Country Trust and funding through GNZ is helping keep the fees to a minimum. A great opportunity to extend your gliding. Please read the ad: 2 classes will be run concurrently, the usual learners and alongside, an advanced class. Lunches and dinners at the clubrooms every day.

Following on, 28<sup>th</sup> Nov – 5<sup>th</sup> Dec the **Northern Regional Competition**, and it is possible that Bernhard will be in attendance for the first few days. Be prepared for "An evening with Bernard" at short notice over that weekend. Have you organised some time to fly? A glider to fly in? A partner if you can't make it every day? Great time and place to try task flying skills with some very experienced x-country pilots.

Reminder: The National Gliding Champs are in Taupo during February and includes the Sports (PW) classes. There is NO MSC competition being held this summer at Matamata.

NB. Does anyone have a spare car we could offer to Bernard while he's here in case he needs to go to town? Please contact Bill or Steve Wallace.

A recent forum run by Sports Waikato focused on the important role our "clubs" have in NZ. We rely on these clubs to provide facilities i.e. the actual facility, along with gear, coaching, set-up and running, and assistance, for all our sport endeavours and participation. Our club enjoyed some kudos at these meetings – remember we've won "Club of the Year" twice, also "Administrator of the Year". Something must just be done right here. (Nothing like a bit of self-praise occasionally.) Some resource material has come from these talks. Another initiative is a series of Workshops aimed at support and advice for your role. (See later in this edition.)

In the meantime, remember to promote our "Learn to Glide" courses whenever you can. These play a major role in maintaining a healthy membership. And have you put a club business card in your wallet to hand out? Invite someone to come along and enjoy what our club has to offer.

I look forward to see you at season opening day. **Jan**

## From The President's Pen.

A big welcome to Vikki, our newest club member! She has just completed her 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday under watchful instruction of Dom and I understand she is making great progress.

Also a very warm welcome to Alan Belworthy! Alan used to fly an ASW 15 many years ago and is now a captain with Air NZ. He is also involved with the model club and quite keen to also pop down to our end of the runway.

The last couple of months have been very quiet, mainly due to the weather not behaving very well for us in the weekends. However things are on the improve and summer will be upon us

quicker than you expect, so it is really season kick-off next Sunday.

Many years ago Gerald Van Vliet very kindly sold us a Toyota Corona for the sum of \$1. The vehicle has served us well, although we did not put too much aside for repairs and maintenance. It had been running on 3 cylinders for the last 12 months and the exhaust fell off, I don't know how many years ago. We now have a very flash replacement kindly donated by Neil Raymond (a white Ford Falcon). Apart from the odd bit of rust, it's better than my car (mind you that's not saying much). It really looks the part with our new caravan. Good on you Neil and thank you.

The club has had to spend quite a bit on maintenance this year, mainly due to the fact that we do a lot of hours and we have mostly Polish gliders. Hopefully it's one off and we will try and find a way to budget our glider expenses in the same way we do for BZA. We are also on the lookout for a maintenance officer. Sefton has done a fantastic job for us over the last couple of years and it would be good to find someone with the same interest and enthusiasm.

Over the last few weeks I have been attending meetings for an open day and air show that will happen at the airfield on March 13. All of the airfield users are involved and it is a good opportunity for us to make sure we get in behind the event and make it work. Up front costs will be kept to a minimum although it is intended to be a bigger event than last years. The aim is to publicise our respective sports and show that the airfield is a great facility for the local community. It is also about us getting along side the other airfield users and making this a real joint effort. I was involved in organising a couple of air shows many years ago and can be a very exciting and rewarding project. If you are keen to be involved in the organisational side, are keen to make any contribution, or are just interested in what is going on, you would be most welcome to come along to the next meeting, Monday 14<sup>th</sup> September at 7pm.

Coming up in November is the Soaring Centres cross country course. This year Bill has managed to get "Bernard Eckey" to come over from Australia. He is the Australian National gliding coach and he was over here about 12 months ago. He is an 'extremely' interesting speaker and talks about the psychology of our sport, which after all, is more of an intellectual rather than physical sport. Hopefully he will have a evening talk while he is here and I would urge everyone to make a point of attending, whether you are a cross country pilot or not.

Personally, I am really looking forward to this summer. I am just starting to feel current again and setting plans towards what I would like achieve and what I would like to see other club members achieve.

See you in the air.

Steve

## **CFI JOTTINGS**

### **From the CFI**

#### **Get Briefed**

After all the poor weather over this last winter we are all looking forward to a great soaring season. You should all be aware, through notices, that the **Start of Season Briefing** is on **Sunday 13th Sept** and repeated on **Wed 16th**. Last years briefing was

We have made the briefing a “**must attend**” for all glider pilots for the reason that with the increasing imposition of controlled airspace and increasing air traffic around our airfield it is important the all glider pilots are aware of correct procedures. You pilots who have been flying for many years but may not fly very often nowadays are especially encouraged to be at the briefing even if you may not plan on flying till sometime later over summer. If you don’t attend either briefing day then you will have to arrange a special session with me to be briefed before you fly this season.

It is also a good social event with Jan putting on lunch and we’ll have time for discussion from the floor on general club and flying stuff, so you can have a say on what is planned by the Club for the season, eg Christmas camp, Raglan, etc.

### **New Student Vicky**

Welcome to our latest new student pilot Vicky Blundell who has joined the latest A certificate course. Vicky is brand new to gliding so make her welcome if you see her on the field. Remember - new club members are VIPs!

Our other students have generally had disrupted winter training but are looking forward to the more flying and getting into soaring.

### **Winching**

A recent winch training day was well received and went well in terms of getting a number of our instructors current again on the winch. Unfortunately a mechanical problem with the gearbox gave us some dud launches at the end of the day. No doubt the problem will be solved soon and we’ll get the winch back in action more regularly this season.

### **Radio Certificate Course**

Thanks to Rainer for running this course over the last four weeks. Eleven students, some from Auckland GC and Sport Aviation as well as our members, went through and sat the exam and are now sweating on results. Needless to say this is an important part of our flying competency and it is good to see the interest in getting up to speed and qualified in radio procedures from our members.

***Fly safely,  
Bob Gray***

### **News Flash**

The latest draft edition of the **Reserve Management Plan** has been released. Robin and Bill have copies available. As this plan will certainly affect your sport and the airfields future you may like to read it and share your views with them so they can be included in submissions which have to be in by 5<sup>th</sup> October 2009. They would want your views well before that.

### **Club Captain’s Dissertation**

While little flying has been done of late, other things have been going on.

Recently I attend some meetings organised by Sports Waikato as a result of being involved in the Sports Awards. The aim was to get all the sports clubs in the area

It surprised me that the most common problem was a lack of volunteers to run the clubs and make things happen. There was a general lack of appreciation out there that the clubs are not being run by professionals. Clubs are run by ordinary members that just want to see the necessary work being done so the sports can be played. In general the committees had low morale due to over-commitment by the few.

In gliding it was apparent right from the start that members were going to be very dependant on each other to be able to fly, and we ensure that everyone that joins the club understands that helping is a major part of club life.

Virtually every other club lacked the equivalent of our “How we do things” which lays out what is required of members among other things. This document clarifies what is expected of individuals, and how we operate. It is an idea that other clubs will pick up on. With the new season approaching it may be a good time to refresh your memory as to its contents. (If you have lost your copy, see me at the clubhouse.)

Another common problem was that of finances. For a long time the committee has run budgets and financial planning out to 15 years to ensure we are able to cope with maintenance and growth. I often thank the wisdom of those that have served before us. I think we still have club fees at the same level as 2002.

Falling memberships were mentioned by a number of clubs also. Publicity is so important in maintaining the awareness that gliding is available as a sport at Matamata. When I said who I represented to someone at the meeting, they replied “You guys are always in the paper”. Well done Tim, that is just so important. I asked for their perceptions of what gliding was all about. Some thought it was an up and down affair, others were aware we could be away for hours. I asked for an indication from them as to what they thought it may cost to fly. When I told them of the actual costs they were surprised how cheap it could be.

Since the initial meeting Sports Waikato have put together a folder that gives help and suggestions as to how the problems may be addressed and it looks to be a valuable resource for the club.

Some of you may have seen the Friends of the Piako Gliding Club section on the website. (I meant to roll it out at the Awards Dinner.) Well this is what it is all about. There are many past members that would still enjoy coming to the club to meet up with some of their old friends. There are people that have enjoyed a trial flight and would like to keep up an association with the club, and there are people out there that just want to feel they can belong and be useful and be part of it all on a flying day or a special event. Well this is for them all, the opportunity to be a “Friend of the Piako Gliding Club”. To be able to turn up wearing their name tag that identifies them as such. To be invited to come for a flight at club rates on at least 2 occasions in the year. To join us in our social functions, and to help and feel included whenever it suits. To be on the email list for all the club newsflashes and newsletters. All that for an annual \$25 subscription – what a bargain.

Forms will be in the caravan and on the website along with payment options. Duty pilots and instructors, please offer this to everyone that has enjoyed a trial flight. Most know that our trial flights are very good value; as they pay they would be open to the suggestion of (if not taking up gliding as a sport) becoming a friend of the club. The more friends we have the longer we will be able to keep the subs down.

Thanks Les for taking a trailer load of rubbish away last week. I would like to encourage everyone to take a turn at tidying the caravan while waiting for a flight, and to sweep and tidy the hangar. Neither is a big job, but it sure is noticeable when it hasn't been done for a while.

Everyone has been great at plugging in the caravan and keeping the battery charged. By looking through the back window of the caravan as you lock up, you can see if the charger is turned on and working.

Speaking of the caravan, it has escaped most members' notice that this one was designed to be parked at right angles (or near to it) to the runway, with the car facing the fence. That way the duty pilot can see everything from his seat, we then have someone at the radio, and the people under the awning are sheltered from the wind.

I look forward to seeing you all on the 13<sup>th</sup>.

### *Bill*

[Sports Waikato](#) are putting on some personal development workshops that you may find of interest. Our Club members are invited to take advantage of these, and so below is the invitation;

## Do you volunteer for a club or community group? Would you like support and advice in your role?

WILSS, in conjunction with Arts Waikato, Sport Waikato and Community Waikato, presents a series of development workshops for administrators, leaders, officials, secretaries, fund seekers and coordinators, to help develop a better understanding of the responsibilities and roles of volunteers in voluntary and community organisations. Pick and choose from the workshops or attend them all.

#### **Sessions:**

**Oct 12:** Funding and sponsorship - learn about a variety of key income streams as well as practical knowledge in getting and keeping funding and sponsorship for your group.

**Oct 19:** Motivation and team building - getting the best out of your team and working effectively alongside them.

**Nov 2:** Leadership and delegation - look at your own style of leadership, how and what leadership tasks to delegate.

**Nov 9:** Action planning - plan for projects and your work with others

**Nov 16:** Smart marketing - develop a marketing plan for your organisation/group.

**Nov 23:** Governance - build your organisation/ groups' capabilities - ensure it is well managed without doing the actual managing yourself.

**Nov 30:** Time management - balance your volunteer work, employment and family commitments.

**Dec 7:** Personal effectiveness - communicate, run meetings, write reports and handle administration more productively and effectively

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**Please register me for the Morrinsville Development Workshop Series**

**09 Name:**

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please tick the sessions you would like to attend:

**Oct12.....Oct 19....Nov 2....Nov9....Nov16....Nov23....Nov30....Dec7....**

**WORKSHOP INFO:**

Duration:

8 sessions over 8 weeks. Attend all the sessions or just the ones you would like to.

Dates:

Starts Monday, October 12th 2009

Time: 6.30pm - 8.30pm Place:

Morrinsville Community House Cost:

\$5 a session, pay as you go on the night

Please register:

- Online at [www.wilss.ac.nz](http://www.wilss.ac.nz) or
- Post the form below to WILSS,  
Private Bag 3105, Hamilton or
- Email [vee\(@.wilss.ac.nz](mailto:vee(@.wilss.ac.nz) or
- Phone Vee on 07 839 9908 or
- Fax 028893911

**Registrations must be received by 30 September 2009**

**Hats and Shirts**

I have a stock of hats and good quality shirts and Tee shirts in various sizes available at the bar. See me there. Bill

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