

# The Flypaper



## Start of Season Briefing—Sat 30th Sept Clubrooms 9-30am

Volume 2023, Issue 6

8th September 2023



Looks like the middle of summer; but no, it's the deepest darkest depths of winter with lots of cold morning frosts. Cloud base was only about 3,000ft, but enough for Tim Bromhead, David Jensen and Dave Johnson to rattle out around 300km each. 26th Aug

Tim Bromhead receiving his Paul Tissandier Diploma award from immediate past FAI President (and our club member) Bob Henderson. 12th Aug



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Pauanui isn't a place gliders usually go to from Matamata. Photo from Tim in OP 26th Aug

Dave Johnson and VM in race mode. 26th Aug



A big thank you to all those that attended the mid-winter dinner and awards night (46 attended). Also congratulations to all those that won trophies and awards. Find out who won what later in this edition. A big moment during the evening was selection of the rego for the new tow plane and the decision was 'Papa Golf Charlie'. Since then, there has been some even more exciting news that it will be here sooner than expected. It is now due in NZ in June next year.

Also in this edition is an article from one of our youngest members Aiden Cartwright.

A big welcome to our newest member Paul Blackmore. He did some gliding in Australia 20 years ago, but also had some more recent other aviation pursuits. He recently re-solo'ed (no photo). Also welcome to new Tow Pilot Trevor Crocombe.

Also some sad news that Life Member Harold Oates passed away recently. Please see later in this edition, just how long he has been part of the club and the huge contribution he made.

OLC change-over date is 26th Sept. Some of our top pilots have done some pretty big OLC hours this season. Tim Bromhead 149hrs, Dave Johnson 136hrs, Phil Rees 122hrs, Iggy Wood 94hrs and Sarel Venter 93hrs. Well done guys, you can consider yourselves well and truly current.

Winter is a great time to brush up on some theory and cross country tactics. During COVID the club and GNZ posted some good videos, some of which make for some really good viewing. Have a look! One of them is from gliding legend Terry Delore (multiple world record holder) and well known to many Piako members. Very inspirational. Hopefully the following video links work: - Piako webinars:

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCe\\_OVOpTiyY5cga\\_vsoGiA](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCe_OVOpTiyY5cga_vsoGiA)

GNZ webinars:

<https://www.youtube.com/@glidingnz9592>

Coming up there is a CAA seminar at our club rooms on the 15th Nov 7pm. If you want to know the big picture stuff on radio communications please pencil it in your diary now. There will be other airfield users attending as well.

Winch news. We had a problem a few weeks ago, when the winch would not start. Neil Raymond found major parts of the electrical system broken and could not be replaced. Therefore, he is changing everything over to electronic ignition. No small task, so hopefully it will be up and running soon.

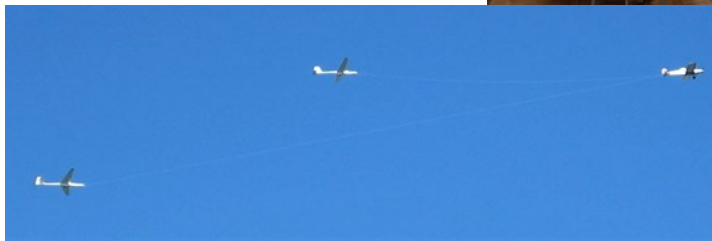
Steve

## SNIPPETS



Trevor Crocombe, our newest Tow Pilot 2nd Sept

Mid-winter dinner and prize giving 12th August



In the past the club has done a lot of double towing. Our away camp was Taupo

at Easter and then January at Raglan, where we towed both 2 seaters. Double towing was pretty standard in the early 80's to save tow costs (75% of a normal tow). However, the turnaround is slow and the skill needed reasonably high. When the club loses CNC it will be an art that the club will likely lose forever. Tracey Gore is quite keen that we organize a day for pilots to experience it. A date will be coming up soon and good weather will be needed, ideally early before thermals kick in. Keep an eye on the web page for further news.



Tim going through the Tirohia gap. Hard to believe that this view might one day be filled with wind turbines. No news on the project, but understand it is still on the table. 26th Aug

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## Harold Oates

Further to Iggy's email, it's very sad to report Life Member Harold Oates' passing on 2nd Sept. Harold had been ill for the past few years. He was one of the foundation members of our club and on the committee in 1963 (and possibly earlier). His club membership would have been continuous for more than 60 years. While he did quite a bit of gliding (Silver C and was an instructor) his flying was remembered mostly as a Tow Pilot in Tiger Moths and our Pawnee BZA. For several decades Harold would tow every Wednesday, with his wife Mavis doing duty pilot and Les Riesterer instructing. Harold reached a real milestone in the late 1990's with a total of 10,000 tows for the club and by the time he retired from towing he had done 20,000. His biggest day was just over 60 tows. Both these stats are unlikely to ever be bettered in our club again. He was also honored by the club at our 60th anniversary by cutting the cake

with another foundation member Lew Hale in 2017. Our sincere sympathy goes out to his wife Mavis and the rest of his family.



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## 2023 AWARDS



Dave Johnson has had a big year. Here he receives the national trophy 'The Buckland Soaring Award'. He also won this years Care 200 trophy, by 27 seconds

Brett Hunter has also had a good year. Brett is one of NZ's top glider pilots and has won lots of competitions. This season he won 'every' contest held in the North Island.

The Great MSC Contest  
NZ Club Class Camps (Open Class)  
Central Plateau Contest  
MSC Grand Prix  
Ken Bartlett Award



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Charlie Irvin won this years 'De Renzy pot' for the most improved new pilot.

Aside from The Paul Tissandier Diploma, Tim also won:-  
The Presidents Pot  
The X/C Award  
The Bill Mace OLC Trophy





## AWARDS



Dave Dennison won both the 'Les Reisterer Short Course Trophy' and the 'Catlin Trophy'.

The newest trophy is one Sarel Venter donated called 'The Valley Trophy'. There were lots of attempts at the 150km task, but the only one to complete it was Bob Gray.



Bob also won the Tom Martin Trophy in recognition of his many years as Club CFI.



Stephen Healey is Genny Care's cousin and with his wife Sarah were the band for the evening. This is the third year in a row that 'Sarah and the Base Slave' have provided background music for us.



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## AEROBATIC DAY - Aiden Cartwright

As many of you would have been aware, a few weekends ago on August 6, the New Zealand Aerobatic Club flew down to Matamata Aerodrome with a number of their north island-based aircraft (mostly from Ardmore) for a day of aerobatic flying at Matamata Aerodrome. We had been very fortunate to have been given almost perfect weather, particularly in the morning with barely a breath of wind and not a cloud in sight. Not to mention the warmer than usual temperature. That day was probably the busiest I had seen the aerodrome for a very long time, with a large percentage of the local based aircraft out and flying, making the most of the stunning weather. There was gliding activity taking place as per usual and a couple of Tauranga-based aircraft flew over the hill to join in on the action too. A real hive of activity!

It had been planned that the New Zealand Aerobatic Club were going to be heading down to the aerodrome for a practice day, which was a first for Matamata Aerodrome (at least for a long time). They had many interesting aircraft down, many of which would be easily recognisable by airshow attendees. The box was set-up on the non-traffic side of runways 10/28. It was practically a mini airshow, with many of the solo aerobatic routines being flown not far out from the gliding club clubhouse which was essentially the base for the day. A big thanks to Colin Kelly for putting on a sausage sizzle too which was much appreciated by many!

I was inspired to bring my photography gear along to capture some action shots of the aerobatic activity - some of these photos will be included in this article. A very big thanks to Sarel Venter for the ride out to the aerodrome, as both of my parents have been eagerly looking at open homes recently as we have just sold our house!

Having had a keen interest in what aerobatic flying was like for some time, I was keen to watch on as the pilots flew their routines with great precision and of course a tremendous amount of skill. I was very fortunate to have been able to meet well-known aerobatic pilots Dave Cranna (who owns and flies his Extra 330LX regularly at Ardmore open days), as well as well-known aerobatic instructor Grant Benns. Both Dave and Grant were awesome to talk to, having given some very useful insight about what it takes to fly aerobatics with skill and precision.

The highlight of the day had to be when Dave and Grant very generously offered to take me for a quick aerobatic taster flight in the Extra 330LX. It is fair to say I was pretty quick to take up the offer. Strapped in, canopy down and Grant started the engine. The front seat is surprisingly spacious and relatively comfortable too - even for me, being taller than average.

It was a real thrill as Grant applied full power – with the acceleration being faster than any other small aircraft I have flown in. Lifting off right before the hangars and we pitched up to about 30 degrees for an exceptionally quick climb to circuit height (unfortunately I cannot remember the exact climb rate). This flight was a real test to see how my stomach handled aerobatics. We flew out towards the box, and we pulled up to begin the first loop. Several loops were to follow, along with three aileron rolls, each with a different roll-rate, barrel rolls, a stall turn, half reverse/half Cuban eights, and the common wingover turn-around manoeuvre. The feeling of experiencing aerobatic manoeuvres for the first time is truly a memorable experience and I am very happy to say that I felt no sign of any motion sickness which was comforting! After what felt like no time at all, we were into the circuit and were setting up for a landing. As glider pilots, we get used to the gradual descent in the circuit, starting from the joining height all the way down to landing. However, in the Extra we flew along at circuit height all the way until where the base-leg turn would be made in the Puchacz if I were flying. Grant commented that it descends like a brick at a low speed, and I really understood what he meant when we touched down right at the perfect spot on the runway. We taxied over to the fuel pumps and Grant turned the engine off.



What an incredible thrill I had just experienced. I would once again like to express my true gratitude and appreciation to Dave for the offer and to Grant for taking me up. Grant was awesome to fly with and really made the flight that much better with his enthusiasm and knowledge. It was a truly memorable experience and I look forward to flying aerobatic manoeuvres again sometime in the future.

Thanks to Dave, Grant and the rest of the pilots and attendees from the New Zealand Aerobatic Club for making that day possible. Matamata aerodrome is a superb site for these sorts of events, with an excellent drainage system (the airfield being built during World War 2), two long and wide runways and plenty of space for aircraft to park. I'm sure that the Gliding Club would agree that the New Zealand Aerobatic Club are more than welcome to use Matamata Aerodrome as a site again in the future. As I write this article, I am still buzzing from the experience, so if you have always wondered what it would be like to try aerobatic flying, I strongly recommend it!







## UPCOMING EVENTS

10th Sept	Young Eagles group
30th Sept	Compulsary Start of Season Briefing
21st to 25th Oct	MSC X/C Course Matamata
15th Nov	CAA Plane Talking seminar Club Rooms 7pm
18th to 25th Nov	Northern Regionals (Matamata)
11th to 15th Dec	ATC National Camp Matamata (TBC)
18th to 22nd Dec	YGNZ Matamata Camp
26th Dec to 5th Jan	PGC Christmas Camp (TBC)

## PIAKO GLIDING CLUB COMMITTEE 2023/2024

President:	Iggy Wood
Vice President:	Tim Bromhead
Secretary:	Charlie Irvin
Treasurer:	Sarel Venter
Club Captain	Steven Care
Chief Flying Instructor:	Norman Duke
Chief Tow Pilot:	Phil Rees
Bar Manager:	Sarel Venter assisted by Derek Shipley
Maintenance Officer:	Colin Kelly
Committee:	Genny Care
	Phil Rees
	Bob Gray
	Colin Kelly
Seconded	Gareth Cartwright
User Group Rep:	Dave Dennison
Winch Master:	Neil Raymond

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