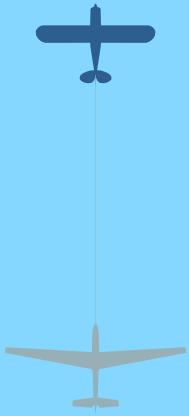


The Flypaper



Volume 2025, Issue 1

9th Apr 2025



Rob Richardson is now solo. 26th March.

New member Nathanael Meila after his first solo
2nd April



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David Johnson is having his best season ever. 1st Place in Class A in the MSC Grand Prix 9th March. He can add this to his Regionals win. Trophy presented by Dave Dennison Contest Director.

Phil Rees has finally got hands on the trophy. 1st place in Class B in the MSC Grand Prix 9th March. A well earned and deserved achievement at that. In addition to 2nd place in the Regionals, he has flown nearly 200hrs this season. As well as being very skilled, it is little wonder that something 'really' good was going to happen for him.



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I have to apologize for the delay in getting this newsletter published. Last one was in Dec, so some of the news here is a bit out of date. Having not been able to be at the club as often as I would like, it's possible that I might also have missed something important.

One great thing to report is that we have had a recent influx of new members. Welcome to:-

| | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| Andrew Osborne -Tow Pilot | Noah Newcombe |
| Hayden Bromwich-Tow Pilot | Oliver McKeon |
| Jayden Duske-Miles | Pawan Kumar-Tow Pilot |
| Jess Stewart | Ross Lovell |
| Kartik Ghansela | Steven Truscott |
| Nathanael Melia | Daniel Delgado |
| Owen Mooney | |

We are all hoping that you will find gliding as rewarding and fulfilling as the rest of our club members.

Derry Belcher (ex AASC; now PGC and Matamata resident) has been doing a bit of emergency maintenance work for the club. Some examples are XP's undercarriage and EO's front tow release, which had more broken wire strands than expected. Derry is a glider engineer and very handy person to have in the club. Many thanks Derry.

The winch has been getting a lot more club use of late. This is especially important for our Youth members. 3 winch launches seems better training value than 1 aerotow and there is still the possibility of catching a thermal for a soaring flight. I was comparing the cost of gliding in 1976 when I started, thinking that gliding has become more expensive for those starting out on a minimum training wage. To my surprise, excluding cost of living increases and inflation, it's around 25% less expensive. Glider time has become more expensive but youth are excluded when flying dual. Derek Shipley has been actively promoting the winch and the club is trying to get it operating at least once a month.

We have had a few members trek south to Omarama this season, although I don't have any write ups. Despite the cost, it is a impressive place to fly with very different weather to Matamata and a Mecca for glider pilots from around the world. Those to make the trip were Derek Shipley, Brett Slater, Tim Bromhead, Charlie Irvin and Bob Gray. Maybe a write up for the next newsletter someone?

Our transfer of operations to Taupo for most of January during the Walsh was slightly less supported than previous years. However, it was outstanding for a few students. If anyone has ideas on how we can better promote it, or suggest alternatives, please talk to a committee member.

Duty pilots are no longer rostered on a Wednesday, so you should not be called upon as much as previous. Please check the roster to see when your next duty is. It's an crucial role for a smooth days' operation and it's a great way to catch up on club gossip. Plus it always possible to get a flight in as well.

Steve C

SNIPPETS



Derek Shipley's new LS3a had a mechanical problem just before the MSC Grand Prix. Not to miss out on a good contest he entered in our club glider NI. In a field of 10 he ended up 7th, but managed a 3rd place on day 3. As a club glider it is in outstanding condition thanks to Malcolm Piggott's paintwork. It's probably the best Grob 102 in the country and very capable of flying big distances.

Vintage Kiwi glider K13 GFX about to winch. Robin Britton, Derek Shipley in the back seat and Nick Bowers. An active glider pilot, Nick was visiting from Old Blighty for a month or 2 and found Matamata a good place to escape from the cold and rain. It's the 2nd or possibly 3rd year he has been here and hopefully we will see him again next summer.



The club was without TOW for part of the summer and CNC was committed elsewhere. The club kept active by winching as much as possible, but we got stuck on Wed 12 Feb with no winch driver and bookings from non winch rated private owners. Glyn Jackson from the Taranaki Gliding Club just happened to be working in Rotorua and saved the day by bringing over his well tuned Foxbat for the afternoon. He ended up doing 8 tows for us. It's not the first time Glyn has donated or helped our club out in some way. Good on you Glyn, you are a true gentleman.

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On Line Competition (so far)

The World

5th 82,384 points Piako Gliding Club

Australasia

1st 128,175 points Beverley Soaring Society 145 members

2nd 82,384 points Piako Gliding Club

New Zealand

1st 82,384 points Piako Gliding Club (1st place for 4 successive years)

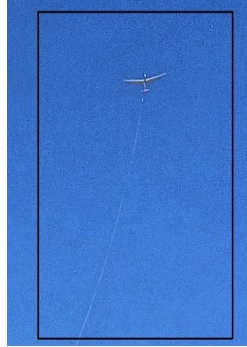
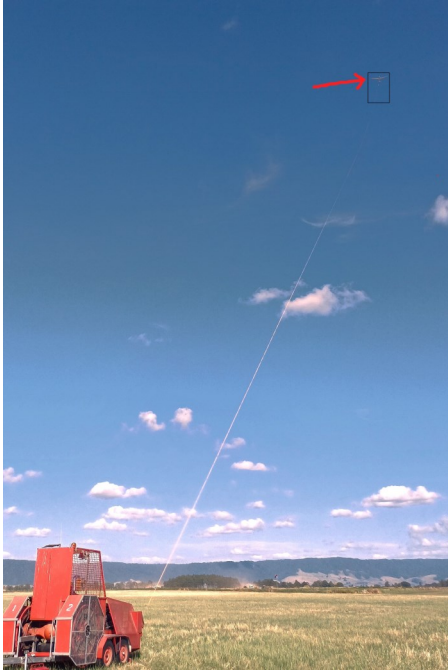
2nd 39,273 points Auckland Gliding Club

| Name | Flights | Duration | Overall Points |
|------------------|---------|----------|----------------|
| Tim Bromhead | 42 | 183hrs | 15,902 |
| David Johnson | 40 | 156hrs | 12,422 |
| Philip Rees | 58 | 166hrs | 11,607 |
| Brett Slater | 52 | 168hrs | 11,181 |
| Sarel Venter | 43 | 146hrs | 10,395 |
| DP Jensen | 10 | 36hrs | 3,381 |
| Ian Wood | 20 | 52hrs | 3,103 |
| Bob Gray | 11 | 39hrs | 2,890 |
| Neil Raymond | 11 | 34hrs | 2,372 |
| Royden Hooker | 19 | 29hrs | 1,764 |
| Charlie Irvin | 10 | 21hrs | 1,495 |
| Steven Care | 8 | 23hrs | 1,469 |
| Steve Thrupp | 9 | 17hrs | 1,098 |
| Paul Blackmore | 11 | 20hrs | 1,017 |
| Ross Hyndman | 6 | 14hrs | 936 |
| Bob Henderson | 6 | 11hrs | 799 |
| Colin Kelly (NZ) | 5 | 9hrs | 553 |

To say we are doing well on OLC would be an understatement. To be No 5 in the world at this time of the year is truly impressive and it looks like we will be No 1 in NZ for the 5th year in a row. Collectively we have flown 76,756km Cross Country since October. That's nearly twice around the circumference of the Earth. Just as impressive is that we have 5 pilots well past 100hrs flying and there is a real possibility they might all get past 200hrs for the season. For any pilot to get past 200hrs in a year puts them in an elite category that only a few in our club have ever achieved before.

Signing up for OLC is easy and you can even log club 2 seater flights that only go a short distance.

Winching



Winch drivers do need good eyesight to see the glider on the other end of the cable.

Getting the glider speed right is also a real art form of it's own, as well as keeping an eye out for any potential traffic or other hazards.

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There are rules and then there are rules. Above our club winch rules there are GNZ winch rules and above that are CAA launching rules. Matamata Airfield has it's own dedicated CAA rule around winching (below). This means even if the light on the top of the winch stops working we are not permitted to launch. Nor if the launch is not under the direct supervision of a winch rated gliding instructor. Part 93 f has been published in Flypaper before, but it was a while ago. The club also has a winch drivers manual.

NZ CAA rules Part 93 f - Matamata Aerodrome

A pilot-in-command of a glider must not launch by winch unless—

- (1) the winch is positioned to the northern side of runway 10 and 28; and
- (2) the crosswind component on the runway in use is less than 15 knots; and
- (3) the launch is under the direct supervision of a glider instructor who is authorised by a gliding organisation; and
- (4) a row of cone markers are positioned along the centreline of runway 10 and 28 and take-off and landings are—
 - (i) for gliders, conducted on the northern side of the cone markers; and
 - (ii) for powered aircraft, conducted on the southern side of the cone markers; and
- (5) the winch is equipped with a flashing amber light and that light is activated and functioning; and
- (6) the winch launch can be conducted without conflict with other aerodrome traffic.

2025 Contest Scene

NZ Nationals Omarama 3rd to 11th Jan

Tim Bromhead (OP) and Derek Shipley (MJ) made the big trip to the South Island. Neither made podium status this year, although Derek did win the first day equal with another pilot. He even beat the famous G Dale, which must have put a smile on his face. The weather was not particularly typical for Omarama, but there were still some big tasks.

Auckland Enterprise Competition 4th to 11th Jan

Results for this competition are difficult to find. There were 21 competitors, including Piako pilots David Johnson and Sarel Venter. There were some huge flights. David ended up in 2nd place and Sarel 3rd place.

NZ Club Class Nationals Taupo 18th to 26th Jan

Club Class

Derek Shipley (LL) was on the podium for 3rd place and Brett Slater (ML) a very commendable 5th place, but would have been much higher if he had flown the last 2 days.

Open Class

David Johnson (VM) also on the podium for 2nd place and Neil Raymond (BE) in 6th place.

Central Districts Champs Waipukurau 15th to 22nd Feb

There were only 2 days on competition but 10 competitors in the Racing Class.

Racing Class

Derek Shipley (LL) was again on the podium for 3rd place and Brett Slater (ML) in 7th place.

Open Class

Neil Raymond (BE) was in 4th place and Sarel Venter (CW) in 5th.

MSC Grand Prix 1st to 9th Mar

There were 21 competitors in 2 classes. 11 in Class A and 10 in Class B. This is Dave Dennison's 4th year as Contest Director and yet again he proved his dedication to the job. Piako had 4 pilots in Class A and 6 pilots in Class B.

Class A

David Johnson won Class A ahead of Tim Bromhead in 2nd place. David was ahead at the beginning and managed to stay there throughout the contest. Sarel Venter was in 8th place and Neil Raymond 10th.

Class B

Phil Rees won Class B after coming 2nd or 3rd in previous years. This year it was a real battle with Steven Care in 2nd place. The lead swapped several times and it came down to the last day and tactics at the last turn point. Brett Slater had a great competition to be in 4th place. Derek Shipley, Steven Thrupp and Iggy Wood were in 7th, 8th and 9th respectively.

New member Nathanael Melia 12th Feb. The instruments say it all.



Vice Pres Tim Bromhead pleased collecting 2nd prize in the MSC Grand Prix. He was also the weatherman and did a great job of providing good weather.



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Steve Care VC getting some pre flight shade. GP wins in 3 of the last 5 seasons. 2nd in 2023 and 2025.



GP dinner. Regional Ops Officer's wife Marion Moody caterer extraordinaire.

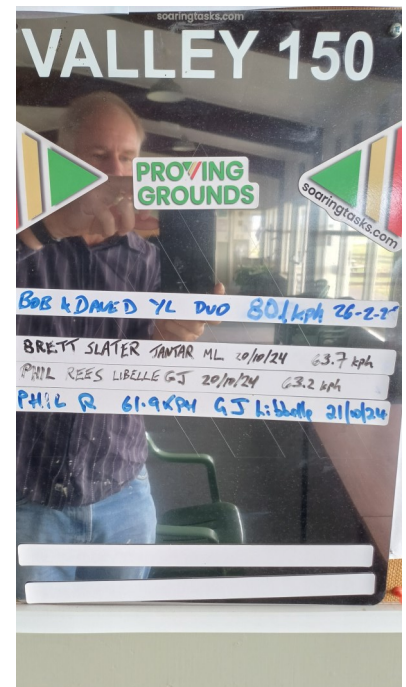
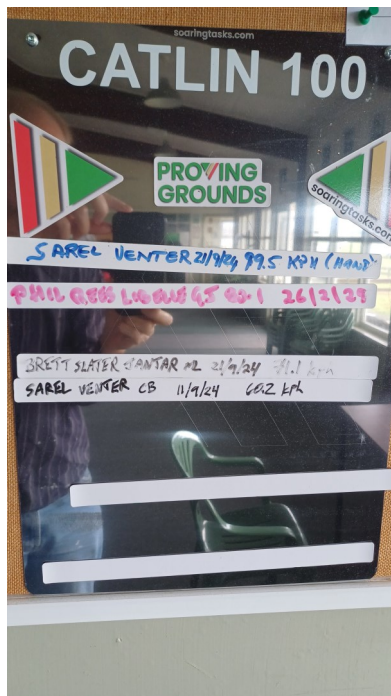


Paul Blackmore in UY has been doing great things. In the last couple of months he has completed all 3 legs of his Silver C. Top marks Paul.

I have gone through our club records since the last Fly-paper, and I am not sure if anyone else has achieved any new FAI awards. Please let me know?

CLUB TROPHIES (SO FAR)

David Johnson has a pretty fast entry for the Care200 trophy and he also has an entry for the Dave McPherson trophy. Tim Bromhead is looking the most likely candidate for the OLC trophy. The awards night is only a few months away, so trophies are still all up for grabs. Proving Grounds trophies are below:-



Brett Slater is another club member who has been doing big things. It seems like only yesterday he was getting his XC rating and he is now well into the competition scene. He is one of the elite pilots that may hit 200hrs flying time for the season.

From PK at Mt Tauhara during our Taupo camp. Rae Kerr (I think in the Dart or K8) below.



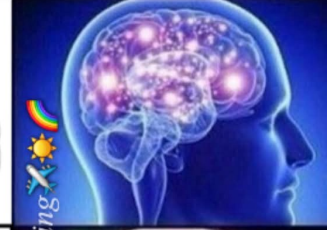


Beam me up Scottie, I'm getting low.

**BIKE
RIDER**



**RACE
CAR DRIVER**



**PLANE
PILOT**



**GLIDER
PILOT**



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UPCOMING EVENTS

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| 12th April | Vintage Kiwi Barbeque 12pm (catered for Vintage Kiwi members only) |
| 13th to 17th Apr | Youth Glide Mini Camp– run by Derek Shipley |
| 18th April | Good Friday |
| 21st April | Easter Monday |
| 25th April | ANZAC day (land-out barbeque) |
| 2nd June | Kings Birthday |
| 14th to 15th June | GNZ AGM (Auckland) |
| 20th June | Matariki |
| June | PGC AGM |
| August | Mid-winter dinner and Prize Giving |

PIAKO GLIDING CLUB COMMITTEE 2024/2025

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