

The Flypaper

Mid-winter Dinner and Prize Giving 30th Aug at Matamata Club (in Matamata township)

Volume 2025, Issue 2

14th July 2025



Rob Richardson now in GNI. He is also our new Maintenance Officer



PGC AGM 5th July



Max Claxton making good progress. Now in SN



ANZAC day farmers landout BBQ.

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BUILDING A SUSTAINABLE MEMBERSHIP

Communicate

Cooperate

Aviate

It's the deepest part of winter, but there is still the occasional day when ridge or wave suddenly appears. David Jensen, Paul Blackmore and Dave Johnson had a quick mosey up past Thames recently, just to prove that there is still lift around. Now is a good time to reflect on the past season and start planning for spring.

The next big event on the calendar is the Mid-winter Dinner and Prize Giving night on Sat 30th Aug at the same venue as last year (Matamata Club in Matamata township). There will be a link to register sent out shortly.

Page 4 & 5 is a great article from David Jensen showing traces of all the cross country flying we did this season. Until it's shown like this, it's hard to truly comprehend how much we do.

Neil Raymond has a core group of winch drivers and we can now offer winch launching **every Saturday** (weather permitting). If you are a bit mindful of your \$, winch launching is a great way of making it more affordable. You just have to be able to catch a thermal off the winch and you can have a days flying for \$30 (if you are on the unlimited flying club scheme or have access to a private glider). It's a good test of skills, but more achievable than most would think.

Paul Blackmore is kindly organising parachute repacking for this year. Price is the same as last year. Your parachute must have an annual re-pack certificate if you fly in "any" gliding competition.

While the Walsh is on, the committee have decided to try out Thames for our summer camp. This was after a successful Vintage Kiwi meet there earlier this year. Approx dates are 5th to the 20th Jan 2026. There is no camping available on the airfield although there is a campground not far away. Bookings will be essential at this time of year and my suspicion is that accommodation will be at a premium. It's a great site and was the home of the Thames Gliding Club for many decades. There's good potential for cross country flights and soaring seems to start earlier by the coast.

Big welcome to new members Tim Brook, Jeremy Reichmuth (rejoined) and Sierra Wakeman.

The PGC AGM was well attended 5th July with 28 members. There are 2 new names on the committee list, Rob Richardson and Will Verland. A full copy of the Reports and Minutes are available on the Membership section of the club website.

Of late we have had quite a few rostered duty pilots not turn up (particularly new members). It takes a lot of volunteer people to run a gliding day. It can be a major problem in summer or when we get a busy day with winch and aerotow. If you can't do your rostered day, either ring around or arrange for an email to go out seeking a swap or replacement. Club Captains will assist with the email if necessary, but please don't leave it until the last minute. If you can see a conflict with something else a couple of weeks or month ahead, a swap is not too hard to organise.

SNIPPETS

PK in easterly wave 9th July. Day started out with forecast no lift, wind 4kts, high cloud and no wave. There were 3 flights over an hour, max altitude 5,500ft. Not the best wave, quite lumpy but not as severe as it can sometimes get.



Example (left) of some good winter easterly wave. Very clear and smooth. Dave Dennison at 11,000ft in YL 20th June 2018.



Derek Shipley took it upon himself to run our 5 day YouthGlide course. It was a while ago (14 to 18th April). He had 5 post solo students, 4 close to solo students and about 4 others with little or no experience. He was assisted by a number of other club members, Dave Dennison, Phil Rees, Ross Scholes (Tga), Norman Duke, Stacey Hart, Rae Kerr, and winch driving was done by Neil Raymond. The biggest days were the Monday and Tuesday, when they had 43 and 54 launches respectively. Highlights were; conversion to SN, Aiden Cartwright, Max Claxton (+winch solo) and Josh Donderwinkle. Conversion to NI Josh and Charlotte Donderwinkle. First solo Noah Newcombe, Kodi & Kaiden Hyde. Ben Sly was winch rated. Other students who all made huge progress Jeremy Reichmuth, Ross Lovell, Surtr O'Connor and Sierra Wakeman (apology if I have missed anybody or anything out).

The success of this course is an enormous reflection on the drive and energy of Derek Shipley. On behalf of the club, thank you Derek.

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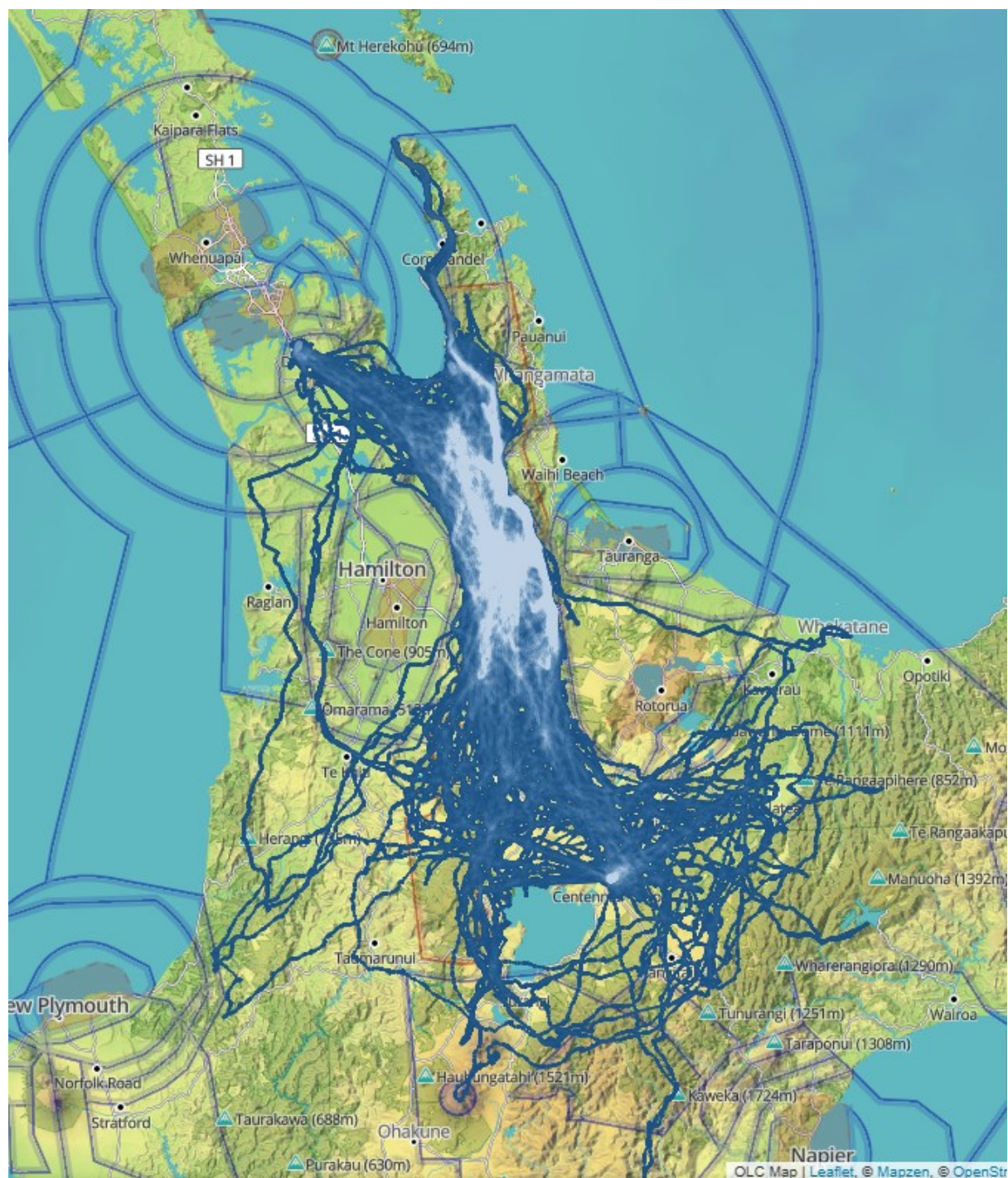
Amalgamation of Cross-Country Ground Tracks 2024-25 Season

David Jensen

Supposedly a “Picture is worth a thousand Words”.

(The actual quote is “One look is worth a thousand Words” – 1911)

So, what does this screen shot of the club members flights during 2024/25 tell us?



- 1) The ridge is very popular. No surprises. It's why Waharoa is such a good place to teach and to learn. *You can stay up as long as your bladder holds out...*

Continue next page....

2) We have the centre of the North Island covered. From Port Jackson in the north, to Mt Ruapehu in the south, and Raglan to Opotiki from west to east. *Damn we are good...*

3) And look how closely we adhere to the airspace boundaries. The bureaucrats will be happy...

BUT I contend point 3 is a failure. Look at all that soaring terrain we fail to access. With modern ADSB it's really easy to get clearances to soar the eastern side of the Kaimai's (wave) or the high ground between Tokoroa and Rotorua. There are also areas in and around the Hamilton Control Zone worth a look. The Bay of Plenty sea breeze convergence that runs all the way to Whakatane.

Therefore, this summer's challenge is – brush up your radio skills, practise the calls required to enter Controlled Airspace (I can help if you want), turn your transponder on and let's broaden this map out for 2025/26.

David Jensen GVR...and if I don't return your radio calls it's because I'll be on 119.5 – Bay Approach...*or on the ground*



Rae Kerr supervising a winch launch 21st June



The old winch, as it was in 1977.



Chris Money in 'I'm ready and waiting' mode on our rebuilt winch. 21st June

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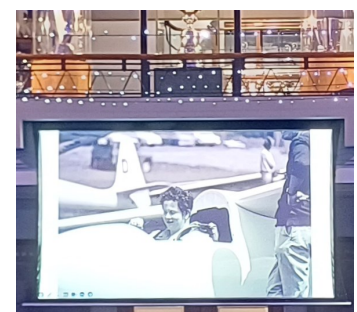
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The GNZ AGM celebrated it's 75 Anniversary at the Royal NZ Yacht Squadron, Auckland on the 14th June. 100+ attendees. Abby Delore gave a presentation on women gliding pioneers. That included long time PGC member Ann Johnson (David's mother), who at one time held 21 NZ gliding records. 5 are still standing.

The America's Cup was appropriately just above the screen.



The event was attended by 19 PGC members and partners. Photo includes Dave and Marion Moody (Nthrn ROO) and Peter Lane. The Care's and Jensen's not shown.



The airfield now has a defibrillator. It's in our front porch, outside the committee room. Given there are lots of older farts and fartesses about, you never know when it might come in handy.

We are intending to have a 3 Steps to Life Course involving St John. Tentatively we are looking at 10th Aug, but still a bit more planning before we know for sure.

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A DeLorean was spotted outside the clubhouse and some enquiry found it was owned by our club member John Currie. It even has a working Flux Capacitor.

John tells me he has been Back to the Future and the club is in for big things. 120 members, 2 DG6000's, 1 AS44, a Ventus 7, 2 Discus 10 and a Bristell 6 electric tow plane.



NAVITER SEE YOU, SKYSIGHT, PUREGLIDE and PURETRACK

For newer cross country pilots, 'Naviter See You' is probably the best tool for task planning and viewing, analyzing past flights. If you go to the Naviter.com web site you can buy SeeYou for 49 Euro per year. Winter is a good time to subscribe as it will take you right through summer.

Another good download tool is 'SkySight' for weather forecasting. It's far more accurate than RASP (which is free) and has fantastic task planning features. Downloadable at SkySight.io. It's a bit more expensive at US\$89 per year, but can save lots of land-outs.

Of course none of these can compare to our own club Vice President's web sites Pure Glide and Pure Track. Tim Bromhead has 'lots' of products available on pureglide.nz. His tracking app is available for free on puretrack.io, but my suggestion would be to get "PureTrack Pro" for US\$49 per year. It has so many tracking features that it almost feels like cheating. Believe me the top pilots will be using it and you won't even be in the game otherwise. You are also helping to support Tim.

Fédération Aéronautique Internationale

PGC FAI AWARDS JULY 2025 [CURRENT FULL FLYING MEMBERS]

NAME	SILVER				GOLD			Diamond			
	Height	Duration	Distance	SILVER	Distance	Height	GOLD	Goal	Height	Distance	3 DIAMONDS
	1,000m	5hrs	50km		300km	3,000m		300km	5,000m	500km	
Bob Henderson	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Rae Kerr	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Dennis Creguer	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Steven Care	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Tim Bromhead	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Bob Gray	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
David Johnson	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Bryan O'Brien	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	
Godfrey Larsen	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Roger Brown	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Ralph Gore	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			
Rainer Kunnemeyer	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				
Phil Smith	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X		
David Jensen	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				
Sarel Venter	X	X	X	X	X			X		X	
Ross Hyndman	X	X	X	X	X			X			
Colin Kelly	X	X	X	X	X						
Ian Wood	X	X	X	X	X						
Robin Britton	X	X	X	X		X					
Norman Duke	X	X	X	X							
Derry Belcher	X	X	X	X							
Chris Money	X	X	X	X							
Genevieve Care	X	X	X	X							
Paul Blackmore	X	X	X	X							
Brett Slater	X	X	X	X							
Neil Raymond	X		X		X						
Steven Thrupp	X		X								
Dave Dennison			X								
Charlie Irvin			X								
Derek Shipley		X									
John Currie		X									
Royden Hooker	X										

The above was published last year. This year the details have been taken directly off the GNZ register. Only full current flying members are included. Most impressive that we now have **seven** 3 diamond pilots, with David Johnson being the last to get his officially on 3rd Oct 2024. At no point in the clubs past history have there been as many as 7.

Why bother with getting FAI awards? It's not just flying skill; it's being able to follow a challenging set of rules. The same rules apply if you ever want to get an NZ or World record. FAI awards are Internationally recognized. For all badge flights you need an FAI approved GPS recorder. The club has 2, so please ask if you would like to borrow one and make sure it is returned (fully charged) after you use it. Latest barrier for the Gold and Diamond height gain (apart from oxygen) is the need to have ADSB.

SILVER C

1,000mtr (3,280ft) gain of height
 5 hour duration flight (from release)
 50km distance flight (from limited height release)

GOLD C

3,000mtr (9,843ft) gain of height
 5 hour duration flight (from release)
 300km distance flight (up to 3 turnpoints)

DIAMONDS

300km goal flight (up to 2 turnpoints)
 5,000mtr (16,405ft) gain of height
 500km distance flight (up to 3 turnpoints)

Start and finishes are generally a 1km line
 (0.5km radius)

Biggest flight done by any club member at Matamata, was David Jensen a couple of years ago. He flew 1,000km, but it could not be recognized by FAI as he used 7 turnpoints. However, it is still commended as our greatest OLC achievement.

On Line Competition

The World

16th 86,599 points Piako Gliding Club

Australasia

1st 135,269 points Beverley Soaring Society 145 members

2nd 86,549 points Piako Gliding Club

New Zealand

1st 86,549 points Piako Gliding Club (1st place for 4 successive years)

2nd 39,920 points Auckland Gliding Club

Name	Flights	Duration	Overall Points
<u>Tim Bromhead</u>	42	183hrs	15,902
<u>David Johnson</u>	45	170hrs	13,643
<u>Brett Slater</u>	54	174hrs	11,758
<u>Philip Rees</u>	59	167hrs	11,741
<u>Sarel Venter</u>	44	149hrs	10,572
<u>Bob Gray</u>	13	46hrs	3,492
<u>Ian Wood</u>	24	58hrs	3,468
<u>DP Jensen</u>	10	36hrs	3,380
<u>Neil Raymond</u>	11	34hrs	2,372
<u>Royden Hooker</u>	22	32hrs	2,107
<u>Charlie Irvin</u>	10	21hrs	1,494
<u>Paul Blackmore</u>	15	27hrs	1,490
<u>Steven Care</u>	8	23hrs	1,469
<u>Steve Thrupp</u>	10	18hrs	1,148
<u>Ross Hyndman</u>	6	14hrs	935
<u>Bob Henderson</u>	6	11hrs	799
<u>Colin Kelly</u>	7	11hrs	690
<u>Nathanael Melia</u>	9	6hrs	130

The season in the Northern hemisphere is well under way, so its inevitable that our 5th world placing would reduce. But we have only gone down to **16th out of 1,055** gliding clubs.

The points are fairly close to km's distance, so we have **5** pilots that have done huge distances this year. Top of the list is Tim Bromhead (again) with David Johnson not far behind. Brett Slater started gliding less than 3 years ago and already in the top league. Phil Rees and Sarel Venter have both also had really big seasons.

Welcome new member Nathanael Melia who has wasted no time in getting his name on the board.



Wheel brake doesn't work too well in the wet.

POV: You're the training glider



The Flypaper

PILOT: We are now flying over 20,000 feet



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UPCOMING EVENTS

Mid-Winter Dinner & Prizegiving	30 th Aug
Compulsory Start of Season Briefing	27 th Sept
MSC Cross Country Course	26 th to 30 th Oct
Northern Regionals (Taupo)	29 th Nov to 6 th Dec
ATC Course	8 th to 12 th Dec
Youth-glide Camp	15 th to 19 th Dec
Matamata Xmas Camp	26 th to 4 th Jan
PGC to Thames during Walsh	5 th to 20 th Jan
NZ Multiclass Nationals (Matamata)	31 st Jan to 8 th Feb
New Zealand Grand Prix (Matamata)	7 th to 15 th Mar

PIAKO GLIDING CLUB COMMITTEE 2025/2026

President:	Iggy Wood
Vice President:	Tim Bromhead
Secretary:	Charlie Irvin
Treasurer:	Sarel Venter
Club Captain	Steven and Genny Care
Chief Flying Instructor:	Norman Duke
Chief Tow Pilot:	Phil Rees
Bar Manager:	Sarel Venter (but open for a new person)
Maintenance Officer:	Rob Richardson
Committee:	Bob Gray, Genny Care, Rob Richardson, Will Verland
User Group Rep:	Dave Dennison
Winch Master:	Neil Raymond