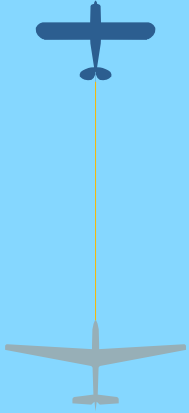


The Flypaper



Volume 2026, Issue 1

6th April 2026



After many years of effort, Tim Bromhead is Open Class National Champion. Trophy presented by Bob Henderson—Contest Director on the right.

Tim Brook now solo.



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Owen Mooney re-solo after many years away from gliding.

Club President Iggy Wood making the most of some Easterly Wave.



Lots of really positive things have been happening in and around the club lately. There has been plenty of good and bad weather over summer. The good has resulted in some really spectacular flights. We have also had an influx of new members.

Since the last Flypaper, Norman Duke's **National ATC course** had great weather and lots of flying. 20 students and 5 of them managed a first solo. This is a really important week for our club, and the only reason it can operate is with the support of experienced instructors, plus other clubs being able to help with gliders and tow planes. Well done to all those involved.

A week later was the **Youth-Glide course** and while the weather was clear, it wasn't outstanding for the 12 candidates. There were a couple of first land-outs.

Xmas Camp was active, but the weather again a bit inclement.

Lots of planning went into our foray to **Thames**. Dave Dennison and Josh Donderwinkel aerotowed EO all the way. Then Stacey Hart with George Downing took a short tow and a plan to glide all the way to Thames in PK. It didn't quite turn out and they landed near the Tirohia bridge. Luckily, James Godwin was towing the trailer passed just as they landed, so an easy recovery. PK got lots of use at Thames, mostly Trial Flights and flights for members of the Hauraki Aero Club. We did get a new member Wolfgang Kaepfel from Whitianga, an experienced German pilot.

This year we hosted the **GNZ Multi-Class Championship** and 15 of the 31 were Piako members. 4 in the Open Class, 7 in Racing Class and 4 in the Sports Class.

Big congratulations to the 4 of them had podium finishes. See later write up.

We also hosted the **GrandPrix Contest**. This time it was a GNZ National Competition instead of an MSC Competition. There were 27 entries, so almost as large as the Multi-Class Nationals. 13 were Piako members, 5 of whom had podium finishes. Again see the write up later in this Flypaper.

Straight after the Multi-Class Nationals, was the **Vintage Kiwi Rally** 14th to 20th Feb at Matamata. It was well attended by pilots from all over the country and lots of flying. Sorry I don't have any pics, but it was well run by Roger Brown (Vintage Kiwi President).

A big welcome to the following **new members**:-

Matt & Lisa Avila (family).

Gideon Venter (full).

Wolfgang Kaepfel (full).

Matthew Moore (full).

Bill DeRenzy (full).

Aria Zijlstra-Schmidt (youth).

Juhi Kansara (youth).

Jack Ganley (youth).

Nui Haimona (youth).

Jasmine Barker (youth).

Ray Burns (tow pilot; second club).

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New member Bill DeRenzy is the son of Peter DeRenzy (DeRenzy Pot Trophy) who was one of our most significant founders in the early 60's and into the 70's. Welcome Bill. He is being guided along by Rob Shuttleworth. Also catching up with Rob was Adam Robinson who did some flying with us during the Vintage Kiwi meet. Adam was a club member of ours in the 1970's and 80's. He was a member of the Otago Gliding Club at Alexandra, until it closed, so is now looking to fly at Omarama.

Some not so good news is, that we have had some theft and vandalism to gilder trailers at the airfield entrance. A wire winch, flight manual and a short wingtip for XP have gone missing. It pales in comparison to the damaged and theft at the Kaikohe Gliding Club, who were unfortunately uninsured. All the same, it has prompted the committee to look at security in a new light and there are a few changes happening.

Dave Dennison has organized some new winch strops and quick changed weak links. Please keep checking to make sure you have the right weak link for your glider. Winch launching may become more important if the fuel crises deepens.



Rob Richardson (our Maintenance Officer) has become extremely busy with his new business and has had to step down. He has done a fantastic job up until he got busy, so his efforts have been very much appreciated. The committee are seeking someone to take on the role. It would mean working towards a Class 2 Engineers rating. We are extremely grateful to Derry Belcher for all the work that he has been doing for the club. He is a professional and he has done a lot of work for the club that he has not charged for. It hasn't gone unnoticed and it only through his efforts that we have been able to keep the club running. Ross Gaddes at Sailplane Services is our main engineer, but to take a glider out of the air for a flat tire, minor crack or squeak can be expensive.

ANZAC day 25th April (3 weeks away) is looming. We are ringing land-out farmers now, but need your support to make the day run smoothly. Please let Genny (ph021 973167) know if you can attend and help out. It is mainly a PR exercise. As it's ANZAC day there is no flying before midday, so it will be a barbeque lunch. If you have landed in a farmers paddock please let her have their contact details. We are passenger flying them at reduced cost.

Dave Jensen is looking to sell his 1/5th share of the Duo Discus YL. It includes all the equipment, hangar etc and he wants about \$48K. His contact phone is 027 451 7757.

Steve

SNIPPETS



Nathanael Melia has had a great summer, flying LZ in both the Nationals (Sports class) and Grand Prix. He even managed a 2nd place on one of the Grand Prix days and three 2nds in the Nationals Sports Class. Well done Nathanael!

Up and coming Youth Glide member Ross Lovell in EO.



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Daniel Delgado has been a member for just over a year and making good use of GNI.

Paul Castle driving the winch for the Morrinsville ATC group. Saturday 28th March.



Rae Kerr



SNIPPETS

George Downing our visiting instructor from Lasham (UK) has been the absolute backbone of our club over summer. His flying and instructing skills are beyond anything our club has seen since Ben Hilton (also Lasham), let alone someone so young. He flew PK in the Nationals to a credible 7th place, but he let the pilots with him do most of the flying. That's no easy task, especially if the weather is tough. My suspicion is that George's future will fit firmly at the top of the UK and possibly World gliding scene. Thank you George for your huge contribution to the Piako Gliding Club.



Ben Sly is a member of our club (2nd club to Aviation Sports). At 16 years old, he is defying all logic I have ever had about youth. He was on our Cross-Country course last October (probably with less than 100hrs of gliding) and later went to Omarama to fly in a competition with GNZ President Nigel Davy. He also flew in the Club Class nationals in Auckland. He has a background in sailing (like Sebastian Kawa) and entered this years Multi-Class Nationals at Matamata, achieving an outstanding 4th place. But, his significant achievement was on Day 5 when a 307km task was called. It was a tough ask with much of the task in the blue and over difficult terrain. All but 4 not even achieving the half way mark. Ben received the Trophy for the most meritorious flight and also his FAI Diamond goal.

We can owe a huge debt of gratitude to Derek Shipley for all his work with YouthGlide. He has just started his YouthGlide course, with several new members to our club. The weather is not as ideal as it could be for the more advanced youth, but he has bucket loads of knowledge and experience to pass on. He has had great competition year and is at last on the podium for 2nd place in the GNZ Grand Prix Group B.



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SNIPPETS



We had a group of Morrinsville ATC cadets doing winch launching 28th March. Morning fog set in and we weren't able to get started until lunchtime. Phil had his (and I think the clubs) simulators set up. It's a great way to get some basic experience before getting into the air.

One cadet did not realize that moving the stick left or right banked the glider. Great work Phil

Pegging down at Thames airfield



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Thames away trip.

Thames right base 14



SNIPPETS



Derek Shipley landing late at Thames during the Drury Club class champs, while we were operating at Thames. Can I get a tow behind TOW back to Drury?

No problem!

Max Claxton in EO



Tim Bromhead in OP in Easterly wave. Low tow into the secondary, then climb to get forward into the primary.

Will Verland is a busy man. He has taken over management of the GNZ web site from Tim Bromhead and is also active on our Committee. Charlie Irvin has been busy in Omarama, so has taken over the role of Secretary (until our AGM). All this in adding to full time work and fatherly duties. The committee would not have survived without you Will and your efforts are very much appreciated. He even took time to run some wings at the Nationals.



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COMPETITION RESULTS

Auckland Enterprise Competition 2nd to 10th Jan (Dury-Auckland)

5th VM **David Johnson**

Two 3rd's and a 2nd, but didn't fly the last 3 days

NZ Club Class Nationals 2nd to 10th Jan (Drury-Auckland)

HC OP **Tim Bromhead**

7th LL **Derek Shipley**

Tim flew Hors Concours as his glider at 15mtrs was 2 points over the club class criteria, so no placing. He did comfortably win the last day. Great effort from Derek who came in 4th on day 4. Most days were 4 hours plus in trying conditions.

NZ Multi-Class National Gliding Championships 30th Jan to 8th Feb (Matamata)

OPEN					RACING				
1 OP	Tim Bromhead	PKO	Ventus cT	3,906	1 NS	Nigel Davy	OGC	Duo Discus	3,330
2 IO	Patrick C. Driessen	AKL	AS 33 Es	3,860	2 BI	John Robertson	AKL	Discus-2b	3,186
3 XL	Brett Hunter	TPO	Ventus cM	3,701	3 YL	Robert Gray	PKO	Duo Discus	3,009
4 DK	Derek Kraak	CTY	AS-33	3,410	4 ON	Ben Sly	AAV	Mosquito	2,738
5 BH	Ross Gaddes	AKL	Ventus-2a	3,372	5 VC	Steven Care	PKO	ASW 20	2,651
6 TD	Tony Van Dyk	WLN	ASG 27-18E	3,346	6 MC	Derek Shipley	PKO	Astir CS 77	2,643
7 TT	Alan Belworthy	TGA	Duo Discus T	3,198	7 PK	George Downing	PKO	DG-1001 Club Neo	2,494
8 BZ	David Todd	AAV	Ventus-2cT	2,986	8 ML	Brett Slater	PKO	SZD-48-1 Jantar	2,227
9 OB	Mark Tingey	TGA	JS1-C 18/21	2,906	9 SW	Gerard Robertson	AKL	Ventus cT	2,213
10 VM	David Johnson	PKO	Discus-2cT	2,893	10 SA	Ross G. Perry	TRK	DG-200	2,167
11 FE	Frank Excell	AKL	Discus-2c FES	2,426	11 XP	Ian Wood	PKO	Discus b	2,162
12 BE	Neil Raymond	PKO	Ventus-3F	2,280	12 YF	John Chittenden	TPO	Discus CS	1,366
13 CK	Neil Harker	TPO	Ventus-2cT	214	13 ZI	Geoffrey Thompson	TPO	LS6-a	109

SPORTS				
1 KT	Alexander Michael	AAV	Mosquito	3,553
2 EZ	Rae Kerr	Piako	Dart 17	3,295
3 LZ	Nathanael Melia	PKO	DG-200/17	3,214
4 MI	Paul Blackmore	PKO	LS 4	2,161
5 SL	Steven Thrupp	PKO	Discus b	839

As per front page, **Tim Bromhead** finally has won the big prize, Open Champion. Only 46 points from gliding legend Pat Driessen, and it all came down to the really tough day on Day 6. Also a Nationals podium finish from **Bob Gray** and **Dave Dennison** in YL. Most of the Sport Class (while not a Nationals contest) was mostly

made up of Piako pilots and Rae was the only experienced one, but flying a much lower performing glider. Podium finish for Rae and Nathanael. Paul Blackmore and Steve Thrupp only flew 3 of the 5 days. All of them came away with bucket loads of experience for future contests.

The Nationals are the biggest event in the NZ gliding calendar and it only happened because of the support of our club members. Thank you to all those that made it happen, including Bob Henderson who would have to be the most experienced Contest Director in the country.

Contest Director	Bob Henderson
Organiser & Question answerer	Bob Gray
Safety Officer	Steven Care
Task Setting	Bob Gray & Steve Wallace
Weather & Scoring	Tim Bromhead
Tug Master	Phil Rees
Grid Marshal	David Cleverley
Radio and Retrieves	Ralph Gore
Catering	Marion Moody
Finance	Dave Dennison

Nat's Snippets



A sea of fiberglass stretching to the horizon. Probably about M\$6 plus worth.

Triple trouble here. Brett Slater, Steven Thrupp and Phil McKinnon.



The Nationals crowd

Derek Shipley in Astir MC with gliding legend Terry Delore, who is undoubtedly New Zealand's best glider pilot achieving more than 37 world gliding records. He also won the first world Hang Gliding championships.

He stayed at Matamata most of the Nationals week and has about as down to earth personality as one could get. He must have given Derek a few tips, because his placing shot up after the photo.



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Nationals Cont



Team YL. Bob Gray and Dave Dennison
3rd place



Brett Slater



Steven Care



Phil Rees



Iggy Wood



Tim Bromhead
and Bob
Henderson



Brett Hunter and Terry Delore

COMPETITION RESULTS continue

2026 Central Districts Gliding Championships 14th to 23rd Feb (Waipukurau)

7th	BE	Neil Raymond	Open Class
8th	KW	Ross Hyndman	Open Class
6th	ML	Brett Slater	Racing Class

A really tough competition due to weather. Only 2 days flyable and the last day was in extremely rough wave conditions.

GNZ Grand Prix 2026 6th to 15th March (Matamata)

GP Class A					Points
1	XL	Brett Hunter	TPO	Ventus cM 17.6m	40
2	VM	David Johnson	PKO	Discus 2b	38
2	OP	Tim Bromhead	PKO	Ventus cT 17.6m	38
4	BH	Ross Gaddes	AKL	Ventus 2a	35
5	YL	Bob Gray	PKO	Duo Discus WL	32
6	TD	Tony Van Dyk	WLN	ASG 29 E 18m	29
7	DX	Moody & Thrupp	AKL	Duo Discus WL	22
8	BZ	David Todd	ASC	Ventus 2cT 18m	19
9	KW	Ross Hyndman	PKO	ASW 27	18
10	QQ	McPhee & Gosak	AKL	Duo Discus wl	17
11	BE	Neil Raymond	PKO	Ventus 3F 18m	13
11	CW	Sarel Venter	PKO	ASW 28 E 18m	13
13	SW	Gerard Robertson	AKL	Ventus cT	8
14	FE	Frank Excell	AKL	Discus-2c FES	7
15	RT	Russell Thorne	AKL	ASW 28 E 18m	1

GP Class B					Points
1	VC	Steven Care	PKO	ASW 20	33
2	LL	Derek Shipley	PKO	LS 3	26
3	ML	Brett Slater	PKO	SZD-48 Jantar	24
4	GJ	Phil Rees	PKO	Std. Libelle	22
4	HD	Ben Gambaro	ASC	Std. Cirrus	22
6	ON	Craig Best	ASC	Mosquito	21
7	KT	Alex Michael	ASC	Mosquito	19
8	OZ	Anton Lawrence	AKL	DG 300	17
9	LZ	Nathanael Melia	PKO	DG 200 17m	16
10	NM	Trace Austin	TPO	Discus b WL	12
10	SA	Ross Perry	TRK	DG 200	12
12	XP	Iggy Wood	PKO	Discus b WL	1

Tim Bromhead had an emergency day off, which affected his score and David Johnson couldn't repeat his amazing performance from last year. Brett Hunter has now won 3 times, so well done Brett. There were a lot of our pilots new to the GP format and it does take a bit of getting used to.

Steve Care won Class B and like Brett, is a multiple GP winner. Derek Shipley and Brett Slater both had podium wins. With Phil Rees in 4th means Piako pipped the first 4 places. For a newbie Nathanael Melia had a great contest. Iggy was only able to attend 1 day of this years contest.

This year it was not just an MSC competition, but a "**GNZ National Competition**". We had a record 27 entries and ran a bit short on helpers. We also could have done with another tow plane and it turned out fortunate that we got the ones we did. Dave Dennison did an outstanding job as Contest Director (as always) but he also did finance, retrieves, and scoring. A couple more helpers next year will ease the pressure. We were also extremely lucky that Marion Moody did catering again.

Contest Director	Dave Dennison
Contest Manager	Bob Gray
Safety Officer	Steven Care
Task Setting	Bob Gray
Weather	Tim Bromhead
Tug Master	Phil Rees
Grid Marshal	Roger Brown
Radio	Norman Duke
Catering	Marion Moody
Finance, Retrieves & Scoring	Dave Dennison



GNZ Grand Prix podium finishers.



WING RUNNING

I could write a lot about the procedures and safety around wing running, but I just want to highlight a few important safety tips. There have been times when no one is around and you have to do a wing down launch and I have even had to do it from a narrow strip. It worked out fine, with lots of luck but fraught with danger. It's dependent on the configuration, the type of glider you are flying, your experience and the type of tow plane you are flying behind. It's the same with airfield operations and it makes sense to always have a wing runner.

The wing runner is in charge of the launch and their first responsibility is to make sure that there is no aircraft in a position in the circuit where there might be conflict with the launch. It is also a good idea for the wing runner to check that the pilots canopy and airbrakes are locked, even though it is the pilots primary responsibility. Once hooked on and checking there are no aircraft on base or finals (or parachutes descending) the wing runner should yell loudly to the pilot "all clear above and behind". In Australia there was a fatal accident where a glider was winch launched straight into a landing glider, so good lookout is not just preferred; it's essential.

Not all gliders are equal. Training gliders don't take much to balance them at the start of the launch, particularly if they have a nose wheel. Primary object for the pilot is to balance the wings as the glider starts rolling forward; that they don't touch the ground causing a ground loop. A ground loop can result in a serious accident and it can happen quickly. Gliders that are more susceptible are older tail wheel gliders, then tail wheel gliders with a belly hook. Even more susceptible are tail wheel gliders with a belly hook and with half water ballast and not much wing dihedral. Generally flapped gliders are easier than non flapped gliders. Starting with airbrakes open in unflapped gliders is not a great option if things go wrong. Still some pilots do it. The 'wing runner' must balance the glider so the water is level. A slight tilt will cause the water in the down wing to flow outboard while in the higher wing it will flow inboard. It doesn't take much to start unbalanced. At any point the pilot can release and if its unbalanced they should. However in a competition pressure is on not to hold up launching or going to the back of the grid. A cross wind adds a further hazard. A good run with the wing helps aileron control. Not a walk, and good 3 second sprint (if you are able).

Wing running a winch launch seems easy due to the quick acceleration, but things can turn to disaster in an instant. NZ has not had many winch accidents, but a few years ago a pilot lost control on a winch launch with half water ballast and a strong cross wind. Unbalanced wings from the wing runner is not easy in a cross wind and was a factor. Any sense that things aren't right from the pilot 'release-release-release'. Don't be tempted to try and fix it as you might on an aerotow.

Steve

CLUB TROPHIES

SO FAR

Les Reisterer Short Course 25km

Derek Shipley	LL	LS 3a	107	3/04/2026	Reisterer	25.6 km	0:15:26	99.5 kph	93.0 kph
Phil Rees	GJ	Std. Libelle	98	11/02/2025	Reisterer	25.6 km	0:17:44	86.6 kph	88.4 kph
Derek Shipley	LL	LS 3a	107	3/04/2026	Reisterer	25.6 km	0:16:44	91.8 kph	85.8 kph
Ben Gambaro/ Phil Rees	MN	G103 Twin 2	95	12/18/2025	Reisterer	25.6 km	0:23:33	65.2 kph	68.7 kph
Dave Dennison	YL	Duo Discus	111	12/18/2025	Reisterer	25.6 km	0:20:49	73.8 kph	66.5 kph
Max Claxton	SN	PW 5	85	12/18/2025	Reisterer	25.6 km	0:29:49	51.5 kph	60.6 kph
Phil Rees	MN	G103 Twin	95	12/18/2025	Reisterer	25.6 km	0:26:57	57.0 kph	60.0 kph
James Godwin	YL	Duo Discus	111	12/18/2025	Reisterer	25.6 km	0:38:41	39.7 kph	35.8 kph

Catlin Trophy 100km

Phil Rees	GJ	Std. Libelle	98	12/14/2025 5	Catlin	105.3 km	1:18:52	80.1 kph	81.7 kph
Phil Rees	KI	Nimbus 2	114	10/10/2025 5	Catlin	105.3 km	1:10:28	89.7 kph	78.6 kph
Paul Blackmore	MI	LS 4	104	10/30/2025 5	Catlin	105.3 km	1:22:30	76.6 kph	73.6 kph
Phil Rees	GJ	Std. Libelle	98	12/20/2025 5	Catlin	105.3 km	1:33:17	67.7 kph	69.1 kph
Bob Gray	YL	Duo Discus WL	111	9/03/2025	Catlin	105.3 km	1:44:42	60.3 kph	54.4 kph

Valley 150km

Phil Rees	GJ	Std. Libelle	98	12/13/2025	Valley	156.2 km	1:57:29	79.8 kph	81.4 kph
Brett Slater	ML	SZD-48 Jan- tar Std. 2	100	11/01/2025	Valley	156.2 km	1:58:26	79.1 kph	79.1 kph
Phil Rees	GJ	Std. Libelle	98	11/24/2025	Valley	156.2 km	2:09:15	72.5 kph	74.0 kph
Steven Care	VC	ASW20	110	3/02/2026	Valley	156.2 km	1:55:43	81.0 kph	73.6 kph
Phil Rees	GJ	Std. Libelle	98	11/29/2025	Valley	156.2 km	2:11:03	71.5 kph	73.0 kph
Paul Blackmore	MI	LS 4	104	12/13/2025	Valley	156.2 km	2:08:38	72.9 kph	70.1 kph
Nathanael Melia	LZ	DG 200 17m	109	11/29/2025	Valley	156.2 km	2:33:37	61.0 kph	56.0 kph

McPherson One Diamond 300km

Dave Jensen	VR	JS1	111	3/02/2026	Mcpherson	311.0 km	3:08:15	99.1 kph	89.3 kph
Dave Johnson	VM	Discus 2c	106	3/02/2026	Mcpherson	311.1 km	3:23:20	91.8 kph	86.6 kph
Sarel Venter	CW	ASG 29Es 18m	110	3/02/2026	Mcpherson	311.0 km	3:41:13	84.4 kph	76.7 kph
Dave Johnson	VM	Discus 2c	106	2/23/2026	Mcpherson	311.1 km	4:00:32	77.6 kph	73.2 kph
Bob Gray	NV	DG 100	90	11/07/2025	Mcpherson	301.5 km	4:43:20	63.8 kph	70.9 kph
Tim Bromhead	OP	Ventus C/17m	107.5	11/07/2025	Mcpherson	304.2 km	4:59:06	61.0 kph	56.8 kph

Care 200km

Tim Bromhead	OP	106	5-Apr-26	1:04:57	179.4 kph	1
Dave Johnson	VM	106	8-Oct-25	1:23:37	139.4 kph	2
Tim Bromhead	OP	106	8-Oct-25	1:27:43	132.9 kph	3
Steve/Genny Care	YL	101.5	8-Oct-25	1:33:43	129.9 kph	4
Sarel Venter	CW	110	29-Oct-25	1:27:21	128.6 kph	5
Brett Slater	ML	93	1-Oct-25	1:46:19	124.9 kph	6
Brett Slater	ML	93	20-Dec-25	1:47:25	123.7 kph	7
Phil Rees	GJ	89	1-Dec-25	1:55:53	119.8 kph	8
Bob Gray / Dave Dennison	YL	101.5	17-Sep-25	1:45:11	115.7 kph	9
Brett Slater	ML	93	8-Oct-25	1:55:15	115.3 kph	10
Brett Slater	ML	93	16-Sep-25	1:57:27	113.1 kph	11
Phil Rees	KI	106	1-Oct-25	1:44:38	111.4 kph	12
Brett Slater	ML	93	17-Sep-25	2:04:32	106.7 kph	13
Phil Rees	GJ	89	1-Dec-25	2:11:18	105.7 kph	14
Phil Rees	JJ	90	26-Sep-25	2:10:30	105.2 kph	15
Phil Rees	KI	106	8-Oct-25	1:51:26	104.6 kph	16
Nathanael Melia	LZ	101	29-Jan-26	2:01:02	101.1 kph	17
Phil Rees	MN	87	25-Oct-25	2:32:32	93.1 kph	18
Nathanael	NI	85	25-Oct-25	2:46:20	87.4 kph	19
Nathanael Melia	LZ	101	1-Dec-25	2:22:03	86.1 kph	20

There has never been so many entries to our Club Task trophies. There are a staggering 20 for the Care 200km and the course record has just been blown out of the water. Tim Bromhead achieved a raw speed of 181.8kph and handicapped speed of 179.4kph. That means he flew a bit over 200km in just under 1hr 5min. He recognized that he could do it on an Easterly wave day and it just happened to extend to Hikutaia (very rare).

There are 6 entries for the Dave McPherson trophy, which we have never had before. There have been multiple years when there have been no entries. Dave Jensen is leading the pack at just under 90kph.

Phil Rees had dibs on all of the shorter course trophies, but Derek Shipley decided to spoil it to be in front for the Les Reisterer trophy.

In total 46 entries for our Club trophies (so far). That has to be the largest number ever, in the history of the club.

On Line Competition – 2026 so far

The World

5th 56,009 points Piako Gliding Club

Australasia

1st 71,713 points Beverley Soaring Society 145 members

2nd 56,009 points Piako Gliding Club

New Zealand

1st 56,009 points Piako Gliding Club (1st place for 4 successive years)

2nd 6,447 points Minden Soaring Club (Keith Essex)

<i>Name</i>	<i>Flights</i>	<i>Duration hrs</i>	<i>Overall Points</i>
Tim Bromhead	30	122	9,267
Brett Slater	44	132	8,457
Philip Rees	48	115	8,419
David Johnson	33	138	8,364
Sarel Venter	30	101	6,144
Bob Gray	13	41	2,949
Steven Care	14	39	2,889
Steve Thrupp	15	35	2,415
Ian Wood	17	38	2,170
Neil Raymond	8	23	1,316
Nathanael Melia	8	16	1,289
Paul Blackmore	4	14	1,181
Royden Hooker	5	8	690
Ross Hyndman	5	12	394
Colin Kelly	1	1	59
	275	835	

We have stepped up from 6th place to 5th place out of 553 clubs in the World. OLC was going to close down last year due to the cost of running it, but it didn't. On our members list we have 5 pilots that have done more than 100hrs of distance flying and the season still has 6 months to go. David Johnson has 138hrs. Tim is at the top of the leaderboard (again), but 4 pilots are not far behind. Remember David Jensen did a 1,000km (which would be 1,000 points) in one ridge flight a few years back.

A lot of pilots switched to WeGlide last year, but I can't get NZ or club stats to show where we are as a club. At the moment, I am loading to both.



What I think i'm doing



What i'm really doing



When you spend too much money on gliding



UPCOMING EVENTS

Youth-glide Camp	6 th to 10 th Apr
Tokoroa ATC winching	12 th Apr
Ab-initio Course	20 th to 25 th Apr
ANZAC day Land-out Farmer BBQ	25 th Apr
Kings birthday weekend	1 st Jun
GNZ AGM	13-14th June (approx.)
PGC AGM	July

**BUILDING A
SUSTAINABLE
MEMBERSHIP**

Communicate

Cooperate

Aviate

PIAKO GLIDING CLUB COMMITTEE 2025/2026

President:	Iggy Wood
Vice President:	Tim Bromhead
Secretary:	Will Verland
Treasurer:	Sarel Venter
Club Captain	Steven and Genny Care
Chief Flying Instructor:	Norman Duke
Chief Tow Pilot:	Phil Rees
Bar Manager:	Phil McKinnon
Maintenance Officer:	vacant
Committee:	Bob Gray, Genny Care, Will Verland