Nelson Aero Club

November Newsletter

With only 55 sleeps until Christmas the festive season is fast approaching! Warmer days and more sunlight bring opportunities for flying after work – a great way to finish up the day!

As we eagerly await the return of ETU, we have been keeping busy in FLF, DKX, and DJA over the past month.

Students continue working hard with great results!

Milestones

Congratulations to **Mark** for your first solo!





By that grin I'd say Ed's been waiting for this moment his whole life!

Congratulations to **Robert** and **Mika** for both completing your PPL night ratings!

Weather

Watch that wind!

Be careful when parking your aircraft that you make sure to park it into wind and ensure the park brake is on and/or it is tied down correctly using the fixed tie-downs or pickets as required.

An unattended aircraft was spotted last week turning 180 degrees on the spot as an unexpected gust of wind caught it from behind, causing it to weathercock into wind which had changed direction. Thankfully no damage was caused in this case.



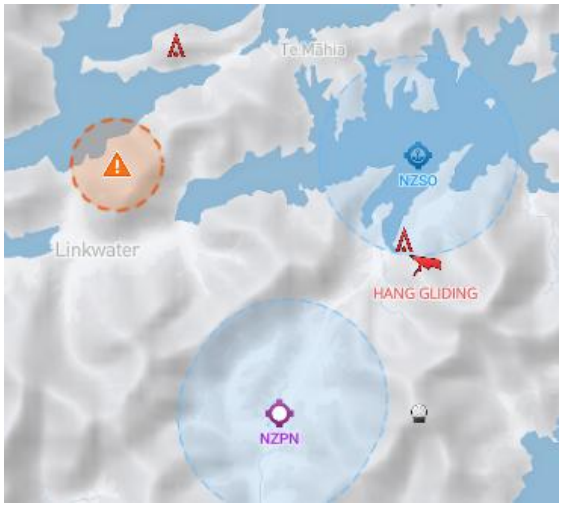
HAAST

Improved situational awareness

There is a new tool available to pilots called **HAAST** which the NZ Defense force has recently started using in place of **Flight Advisor**.

The platform (*Hazard, Airspace & Aerodrome Safety Tools*) aims to provide a visual way to advise pilots of low-level operations conducted throughout the country by military and other operators. It also shows obstacles that have not been reported to the CAA and therefore are not published on VNC's as they are discovered.

Enroute NOTAMS are displayed by orange circles, which is very helpful when planning a cross country as it is much easier to see if your flight will go near them.



Visit **haastaero.com** for more information and to create a free account.

Night flying

Time is running out!

With circuits prohibited after 22:00 local time, we are fast running out of useful time for night flying, so if you're wanting to have a go, now is the time!



Cross Countries

Landing fees

A reminder that it is **your** responsibility to pay landing fees when landing at other aerodromes (this normally includes touch and go's too).

The only exception is Motueka where we have a special arrangement in place.

Most aerodromes will have either a cash drop box, Eftpos facilities, or a bank account to pay into. It is cheapest if you pay on the day. With many airports charging additional fees if they have to send invoices out.



Operational Notices

Airside Access

As licensed pilots, we enjoy convenient airside access through the locked hangar door. This door provides access to the entire airfield, so it must remain **closed** to prevent **unauthorized** access.

Do – Check that the door has closed properly behind you.

Don't – Use objects to prop the door open while moving back and forth from the aircraft.

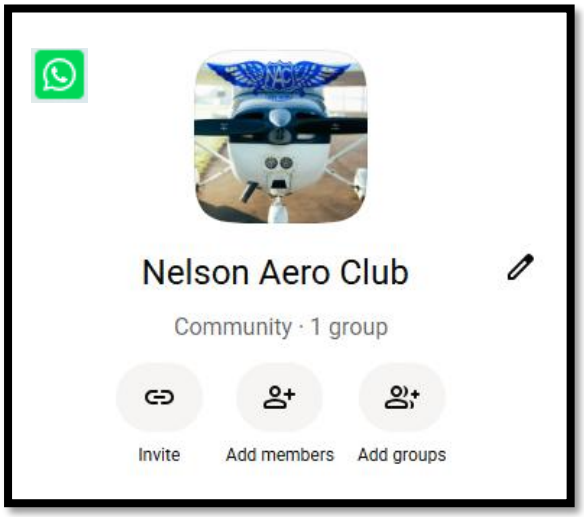


WhatsApp

Keeping you in the loop

We have created a WhatsApp Community to provide a place where we can quickly get notices out as well as provide a more streamlined way of organizing events and courses.

If you have not yet received an invite, get in touch with us and we'll make sure to add you.



Competitions

Competitive or just for fun!

We had a great time joining the Motueka Aeroclub for the competition they hosted during the month. Members tested their skill doing non instrument circuits, spot landing on a grid, and dropping "bombs" (squeaky dog toys) on a target.







Gallery

Some recent activity

Our neighbors at GCH



Exploring the Marlborough sounds



Young eagles visiting the Control Tower



Looking north towards Greville Harbour



Putting the aircraft to bed after night flying



From the CFI

Hi everyone,

It's been a busy month and while we wait for ETU's engine to come back from overhaul flying has continued in FLF. RMB has had some downtime in maintenance also which means that FLF has been working quite hard.

It's been nice to see DKX out and about and while it's not an option for training flights it's another option when you have your license. Chat with the instructors if you're interested in joining that syndicate.

On a personal note, I had the pleasure of sending Mark (my son) First Solo this month and also made sure he had a decent wash before school!

One of the things I'm trying to impress on him is to understand why we do things rather than just rote learning how to do something. Maybe we can all take that on ourselves to ask why we do a check or a procedure and if it's serving us well or should we ask more questions….

Happy trails,

Ed