



Hi all,

Well, it looks like Winter held on til I was home! What a brisk start to Spring we have had aye. And what better time for a flight, with all that fresh snow on the hills. Here are a couple of recent pics if you need a little encouragement. :)



We have had a few good days of sunshine though. During this time the fence painting was finished, and the new van decked out with some sign-writing.

We had our AGM on the 13th September. It was a good turnout this year, and a positive feel all round as to how the Club is going. Thank you to all who attended. We appreciate the support you provide in keeping the Club alive and kicking.

And we must not forget Matt who has eloped overseas to get married, leaving Murray and myself to hold the fort. All the best Matt and Emma.

## CLUB CAPTAIN'S REPORT

Hi Members,

Spring is here & roll on summer, also daylight saving on our doorstep, so we have extra hours of beautiful flying days to look forward to.

The winter has been kind to us with many whale flights happening, which brought \$\$\$ into our club, all planes especially DOP were kept very busy & our pilots certainly added many hours to their log books. It was good to have some members (myself included) utilising DUQ & DNY for private hire & itinerant visitors to the club piloting a plane with an instructor.

The club house is looking different with a spruce-up, a new flat screen wall mounted TV to show our visitors what we are about & to explain what to expect about the whales & Kaikoura.

There was a working bee recently which involved moving our picket fence giving more space to the front entrance of the club & also a closer entry / exit point for vehicles to access the back of the club if required.

No doubt you are aware of our new outstanding website, which is working so well for us with bookings on a daily basis, importantly the excellent reports we get on "trip advisor" from overseas & NZ visitors who praise our whale flights, services & our pilots. With these positive responses, the increasing exposure to offshore visitors to Kaikoura, growth & revenue, our new lease on life from committee & members, we are conscious that we must keep improving our image to encourage more whale flights, increase club membership, pilot training, streamline our business to succeed.

We started the ball rolling with the purchase of DOP which gave us extra bums on seats for our whale watching side of the business & made us able to compete favourably against our friendly foes & without doubt put us in a more positive financial position to expand our foot print in Kaikoura to the masses. Our next acquisition has been a people-mover vehicle beautifully sign-written in similar design as our web site, this will allow us to advertise our presence on a daily basis whilst driving around & picking up whale watchers from their motel etc. We have also purchased a 900lt mobile Avgas tanker to keep up at the club to fill the planes, the benefit of it is to reduce the starting, stopping, taxiing down to the pumps reducing the unnecessary wear & tear on our aircraft. We must be mindful of our important assets, the aircraft, therefore it's being considered that we extend the hanger to accommodate all our aircraft, to keep them out of the ever present salt air, sun & wind, & if big enough may encourage private owners to store their aircraft for a fee. However, we must remember to keep this big ball rolling successfully, we must pay tribute to our experienced pilots Murray, Matt & Mel for their dedication & enthusiasm to date. Without their input our planes would be sitting on the ground.

We still want to see current members & friends visiting the club, drop in for a coffee, have a chat, if you know of anyone wanting to have a trial flight bring them out, they may wish to continue on for a PPL if they enjoyed the experience.

I mentioned in my previous report that we have 3 aircraft available for local or cross country flights, if anyone would be interested in a trip anywhere with sharing costs please contact the office we would love to see you.

As always, I'm available for members to contact me, to offer ideas, suggestions for club activities etc.

Blue Skies

Paul Faulkner

Club Captain

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## FLYING NZ (RNZAC)

Hello Everyone

It's that time of year again.

The Registrations for all 5 Regional Competitions for 2015 is now 'LIVE'.....please note, there is 'Close Off' date of two weeks prior to each Regional Competition.

<http://www.flyingnz.co.nz/competitions.html>

Please ensure that all your Club members know that they can now Register.

Thanks, and we look forward to the 2015 Regionals being safe and enjoyable competitions for both supporters and participants.

Best Wishes,  
Karen Groome  
Executive Secretary Flying NZ

Kaikoura is part of the Alpine Region, so the competitions for us will be held in Ashburton on Saturday 7th November 2015. Please see the above link for details, or pop into the club to find out more.

Flying NZ also recently held their annual conference, which Alistair Matthews attended. Please see the links below for their latest newsletter, and their annual report:

<http://www.flyingnz.co.nz/flightpath.html>

<http://www.flyingnz.co.nz/pdfs/documents/Annual-report-2015.pdf>

## EVENTS

Other than the Regionals, there's not too much in the way of events happening around the place at the moment, but here are some dates to keep in the back of your mind:

### 2015

13-15 November - Pitts Special Gathering - 70 years - Omaka Airfield, Blenheim

### 2016

6-7 February - Healthy Bastards Bush Champs - Omaka Airfield, Blenheim

Pitts Special Gathering - Seventy Years  
Omaka Aerodrome

This year, 2015, is a special year for General Aviation. In recent years we have seen the milestones for many designs/events which have shaped aviation. 75th anniversary of the Piper Cub in 2012, 70th anniversary this year of the end of WW2, 100th Centenary of the Gallipoli landings, the sales success of the RV (10,000th) with over 400 attending Oshkosh in 2012 and the list goes on. I have been fascinated with the Pitts Special since I was 10 years old, watching Richard Hood fly his trademark performance in his S1S in 1994 at Warbirds Over Wanaka. His performances inspired me, to put it mildly. Dad bought me a flight in a Pitts at the Wanaka airshow in 1996 and there was no going back. Despite being only 12, there was something about that nippy wee biplane that really captured my imagination.

Two years ago I realised that the Pitts Special, the creation of Curtis Pitts towards the end of WW2, was about to turn 70. With the National Championships held at Masterton, and the Brian Langley Trophy having been run at Northshore for many years, I felt it was time to get an event organised in the South Island, and conveniently, with a bit of an attraction to run alongside. I very quickly concluded that Omaka is without question the perfect place for such events with so many enthusiastic people who contribute to a very busy aviation airfield.

The Pitts Special initially made its name while being flown by Betty Skelton in the late 40s on the airshow and competition circuit in the US. When the First Official World Champs were held in Czechoslovakia in 1960, the Pitts was still a homebuilt concept.

The US had a sole entrant, Frank Price.

Watching the Czechs and Russians clean up at the world championships was enough to get Curtis really thinking. He took his original single seat S1C which was essentially, 1920s technology, and upgraded the engine to a 180hp Lycoming, fitted symmetrical aerofoils and four ailerons, and the US team made a clean sweep of the world championships in 1972. With the aircraft FAA certified in the late 1960s, the aircraft began to populate regional and national competitions all over the world. Even today, the Pitts Special is still regularly seen at Advanced level; however the unlimited category these days is the domain of high performance monoplanes. Over the 13th-15th November later this year, the NZ Aerobatic Club, hosted by the Marlborough Aeroclub along with the Aviation Heritage Centre are hosting us at Omaka for a gathering of this famous Biplane, a Regional Aerobatic Competition and a general fly-in, all are welcome. A general outline of proceedings is as follows;

- 13th Arrivals, BBQ at the MAC bar, Aircraft available for introductory flights
- 14th Morning: Aerobatic competition, 4pm: 4minute free style (airshow style routines with smoke), bar opens just as the freestyle routines commence. Dinner to follow, with a guest speaker.
- 15th Morning aviation activities, then departure

So all in all, it should be a fantastic weekend, with hopefully some suitable weather to enable us to pay tribute to one of the most exciting and thrilling aircraft in the world of aerobatics. There will be a registration form sent out very soon, which even if you are not competing, but would like to come to either the Fri/Sat night dinners, will need to be filled out so we can advise the caterers.

So while we are primarily celebrating the Pitts Special, this is also an opportunity to celebrate all things aviation so all are welcome. For more information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Andrew Love  
Vice President  
NZ Aerobatic Club  
[Torque\\_Roll@hotmail.com](mailto:Torque_Roll@hotmail.com)

## AIR SAFARI - 13th to 27th March 2016

<http://www.flyingnz.co.nz/new-zealand-air-safari/>

**EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST  
ARE SOUGHT**

A chance to travel in style and experience beautiful Aotearoa / New Zealand from the air  
Fly in the beautiful DC 3 stopping at 18 airfields  
Be part of an organised event  
Take part in the Flying New Zealand Air Safari 2016  
Be one of 18 people (plus 3 flight crew) meet new people, make new friends

Full details upon request

All enquiries to Paul  
[baghdadkiwi@gmail.com](mailto:baghdadkiwi@gmail.com)

Please note that in order to be viable it is preferable  
to have 18 people take part





## The Pilots Prayer

Our controller,  
 Who art in tower.  
 Hallowed be thy sector,  
 Thy traffic come,  
 Thy clearances be done  
 On the ground as it is in the air.  
 Give us this day our radar vectors,  
 And forgive us our poor R/T  
 As we forgive those who cut us off on final.  
 And lead us not into adverse weather,  
 But deliver us our clearances.  
 For thine is the tower,  
 the approach and the centre,  
 for until you disconnect,  
 for ever and ever... out.

## MEDIA LIBRARY

Well, we have a feast of media links to entertain you over the next month.

First up is the great new video of Air Kaikoura that will be featuring on the Take-a-Break website. Thanks Murray and Matt for putting your best photogenic faces on for the day :)

[https://youtu.be/scZjOr\\_Q524](https://youtu.be/scZjOr_Q524)

The latest newsletter from the NZAWA:

[http://us3.campaign-archive1.com/?](http://us3.campaign-archive1.com/?u=2ba0568e9607159a81908683c&id=8c5b881b8d&e=e60beaa3e6)

[u=2ba0568e9607159a81908683c&id=8c5b881b8d&e=e60beaa3e6](http://us3.campaign-archive1.com/?u=2ba0568e9607159a81908683c&id=8c5b881b8d&e=e60beaa3e6)

And a great article from the team at Fly-In down in the Lindis Valley:

<http://www.flyinn.co.nz/2015/09/flyinn-girls-day-out/>

For those Heli buffs out there, I came across this in my archives a couple of days ago. Stunning footage of Lat 45 with Helicopter Line - <https://vimeo.com/74977190>

Whilst we're on Helis, if anyone's keen on reading, here's a link to the Heli Ops magazine

<http://www.heliopsmag.com/back-issues>

Paul and Stu have also been busy trawling the internet. Cheers guys.

The first is of the Cameron Airshow in America where they obviously have oil to burn and are oblivious to the words "environmental impact". Fun to watch nevertheless:

<https://vimeo.com/100670266>

The second is a photographic glimpse of the aircraft housed at the Edwards Air Force Base

<http://home.comcast.net/~bzee1a/Edwards09/Edwards09.html>

And lastly, a look at the Spanish Air Force doing some aerial fire-fighting

<http://player.vimeo.com/video/48642618>