



Recreational Pilot e-zine

Issue 10
May 2016

RAANZ office closed

The RAANZ office will be unattended from Friday 29th April until Wednesday 11th May.

If you have any urgent enquiries during that time contact the following RAANZ officers. Otherwise send an email or voicemail to the office and I will attend to it on my return.

General	CEO	Evan Gardiner	ceo@raanz.org.nz	09 424 8602
Operational	OPS	Bill Penman	ops@raanz.org.nz	07 575 4151
Technical	TECH	Colin Alexander	tech@raanz.org.nz	07 574 7973
Political/club	PRES	Rodger Ward	pres@raanz.org.nz	03 359 9671

From the President

Rodger

I recently attended the AGM of the Canterbury Recreational Aircraft Club (CRAC). It is encouraging to see an active and expanding organisation. Membership is upwards of 200 and a second new Tecnam is on it's way. Very healthy indeed.

Attendance at the AGM was probably like all AGMs - a small percentage of the membership unless there is something controversial on offer. Any organisation will have active and not so active membership. All members of an organisation like your local microlight club or RAANZ need to be aware of the fact that their membership is important and they do have a vote. You may be surprised at what you can offer , how you can help and what you can gain from active participation.

I have to admit that I have been a little slow to embrace some new technology. One piece of technology that has caught my eye is the 'WhatsApp' thingy on your phone. CRAC has been using this extremely pro-actively recently as a means to promote short notice group flying activity.

Eg " It looks like tomorrow will be a great day to do a trans alpine. I plan leaving around 9. Any starters? "

It is amazing the interest and camaraderie this has generated. Very healthy indeed.

I think winter is nearly here. You know those days of very little wind all day, less daylight and perhaps a bit more fog or low cloud. Enjoy your flying, look after each other and speak up if you notice anything unusual happening.

Bringing home a dream

Rick Watson/Thames

Like most pilots the dream of owning your own aircraft is always top of mind after you start your first lesson. My first toe dipper was in ZK-HEU a Hughes 269c based at Heliflight Wairarapa at Hood aerodrome in Masterton under the instruction of Cathy Penney back in 1987. A year later I converted to fixed wing with Colin Sandbrook in Dannevirke on ZK-EBL a Piper Cherokee and since

then have flown a variety of different makes and models.

The aircraft owning story has been through many chapters but through one thing and another (divorce, redundancies, mortgages) the final chapter had yet to be written. I had long been a fan of the Micro Aviation Bantam B22s and had written one into my first children's book, so it had always been in the back of my mind.

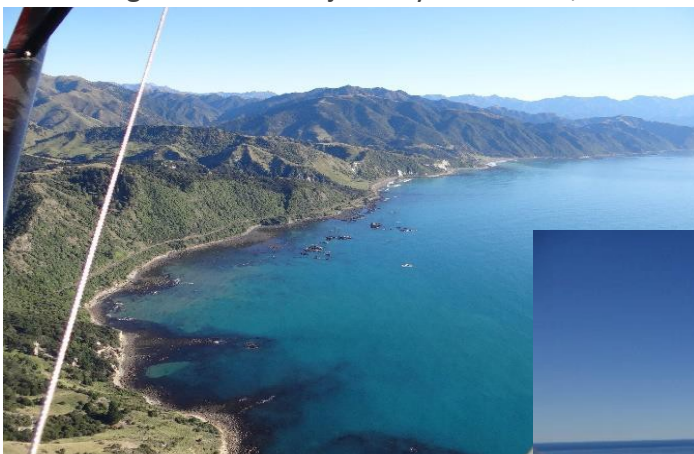
Fast forward to March 2016 when things got real. I had been looking on TradeMe constantly for a fun, cost effective way of getting into the air and still be able to take a passenger when the need arose, I had already obtained my High Performance Microlight Pilots License on A Tecnam P2002 Sierra ZK-JNG and had done many hours flying her around the



North Island. All of a sudden a change in circumstances meant that an aircraft could be put into the budget and that's when ZK-JAE appeared. After finalizing the payment I was now in ownership of my first aircraft, the main obstacle now was I was in Thames and she was in Rangiora!

I began the task of pre planning the trip, asking copious numbers of questions to current owner Alan Slade, previous owner Iain Blyth who had flown her from Parakai to Rangiora and Wayne Lindebaum from Rangiora Light Aviation. I organized with my friend Martin Henton from the Gordonton Microlight Club, who owns Bantam ZK-MLK, to get my rating. After finding out about performance and fuel consumption and checking the weather conditions on April 4th 2016 I made the decision that Wednesday the 6th would be perfect for flying.

I arrived in Christchurch on the Tuesday night and Alan was at the airport to meet me and I enjoyed his hospitality for the night. Next morning it was up early and off to the airfield, I was intending to make the journey in one hit, so after getting acquainted with JAE and loading the



passenger seat up with my gear, fuel and aircraft logs I took to the skies, next stop Kaikoura. After a toilet and fuel stop it was onwards to the Cape Campbell airstrip to refuel before crossing Cook Strait.



After a brief leg stretch and a refuel it was time to cross the big bit of water that separates the North and South Island, during the pre-flights I heard a horrible sound coming from the motor, after a call to Wayne back at Rangiora Light Aviation it was determined that it was my front carburettor that was acting up, without the necessary tools on board Wayne hatched a plan to fly to my rescue, after clearing his afternoon, 4 ½ hours later Wayne arrived



Boy was I relieved to see him, after a few adjustments I was good to go, next stop Foxpine. The forecast Northerlies had now materialized after the 5 hour delay and my ground speed was greatly diminished, a quick calculation before reaching the point of no return told me that all was within tolerances, I pressed on enjoying the view of the North Island getting closer.



After reaching land again I tracked for the Paraparaumu overhead transit, I radioed the flight service to inform them of my intentions and a cheery voice greeted me with the wind, QNH and traffic report and an acknowledgement of my intentions, after crossing overhead it was a short hop to Foxpine.

Day 2: Back out to the airfield and ready to go but the weather and my nose-wheel had other ideas, the good ol' Manawatu Westerly had appeared overnight and the springs had come off my pedals. Thank goodness Jennifer Lester was on site to help out and after a quick call to Gavin Waite in Levin the problem was fixed but the wind was still stiff. It started to die down after lunch and it was again flyable and at 1:30pm I left Foxpine headed for Wanganui for a refuelling stop.

After navigating around M306, the Raumai firing range, I arrived at a blustery Wanganui, another quick refuel and it was time to head to Taumaranui . Another refuel stop and airborne for Matamata.



I had made another calculation and made the decision that I would not get to Thames in the daylight that was left. So there she sat until Saturday morning when my mate Nooky Robinson flew me down to get her- the journey was almost over. After the short flight it was time to descend into Thames. The Crew from The Gordonton Microlight Club were there to meet me as well as my good friend Les Sword whom I did a lot of flying with back in Dannevirke.



The flight was done, I had clocked up 8.3 hours of flying time and covered close to 400NM over this beautiful country of ours.

Would I do it again? Yeah I guess I would, am I allowed to do it again, not in my lifetime!! But I had achieved this huge cross country in a Bantam microlight and crossed the Cook Strait, it showed me that the flying fraternity was still very much alive, I am truly thankful for the lives that crossed my path over the 2 days.

Now for some fun flying.

Dear FAI Members

Faustine CARRERA | FAI Communication Manager

Please note that we have produced a 2 minute video summarising all the action of the FAI World Air Games Dubai 2015.

- You can watch it [on Youtube](#)
- You can download [the original file from Dropbox](#) and use it for promotional purposes

Kind regards.

Membership changes

Martin Healey	Canterbury Recreational Aircraft Club	Advanced Local	Upgrade
Kenneth Bayer	Bay of Islands Aero Club	Advanced Local	Upgrade
Michael Odering	Canterbury Recreational Aircraft Club	Advanced Local	Upgrade
Peter Ashcroft	Hawkes Bay and East Coast Aero Club	Flight Instructor	Upgrade
Myles Taylor	Bay of Islands Aero Club	Novice	Joined
Tara Piech	Bay of Islands Aero Club	Novice	Joined
Michelle Polglase	Canterbury Recreational Aircraft Club	Novice	Joined
Keith Shackleton	Gyrate Flying Club	Novice	Joined
Brendon O'Connell	Mercury Bay Aero Club	Advanced National	Joined
Michael Moss	Gyrate Flying Club	Novice	Joined

© 2016 Recreational Aircraft Association of NZ Inc
PO Box 15-016
Dinsdale 3243
Hamilton

07 825 2800
office@raanz.org.nz
w: www.raanz.org.nz

Not receiving this by email? [SUBSCRIBE](#)
Don't want to receive this any more? [UNSUBSCRIBE](#)
Want to contribute? [CONTRIBUTE](#)
