



Hi All

Hope this newsletter finds you all in good health and not much damage at home!

As everyone probably well knows the Aeroclub has been very busy with the post-earthquake response. Working alongside other organisations such as the Canterbury Aero Club, Ridgeair, Adventure Flights Golden Bay, Mid Canterbury Aero Club, Trevs BBQ & Various other operators. The Response has been nothing short of outstanding and took alot of coordinating, with the aeroclub being the coordination center of it all.



Thankyou Andrew Spencer Photography for the Action Shots!



In other news we also attended the RNZAC Regionals in Okaia. Was a good day overall despite the weather trying its best to hinder the progress, Big congratulations to Ben Southern, Peter Mooney and Nigel Finlay for representing our club in the competitions, and doing bloody good at it! With all of them getting placings!

Young Eagles – Apologies you have been on the back burner for a little while. However we have not given up on you! I shall be emailing around when things quieten down a little with a revised calendar for the rest of the years activities we shall have a get together soon.

Happy Flying

Shannon

PRESIDENTS REPORT

Bits in Pieces

Congratulations to the team at the “coal face” of the recent upheaval – they coped with style and efficiency and the word out is that you have done a magnificent job. I witnessed the action and hectic movements of people and freight in the early days of recovery and was impressed and proud. The pilots continued with professional delivery of services and have earned many appreciative accolades and friends

Condolences to our neighbors the Edgar family for the sad loss of Louis and the family homestead. We make our services available to all those who need transport in and out of our beautiful but disrupted district on 3196579 and are very pleased to assist during these stressful times.

May the summer be calm and peaceful for you all.

Safety in the air and clear skies.

Barb

SENIOR PILOT REPORT

Hi All

Three weeks on from Kaikoura’s earthquake and we are still very busy moving people back and forth between Christchurch and Blenheim. I am very proud of the way our club members and my staff have help so many people to leave Kaikoura in this very difficult time. We have also been involved in bringing in a lot of supplies in for the people of Kaikoura.

Our small aircraft DUQ completed almost 50 hour flying in 7 days and did not miss a beat. We got ZK-DOP back from maintenance last Friday and she has also been working very hard.



Our airfield has never been so busy with aircraft with all types coming and going. I got the chance to go for a run in a Fletcher down to Cheviot and back to pick up dog rolls and steak which was great fun.

We are planning to have a club dinner get together before Christmas so I will let everyone know when this will be.

Murray.

CHIEF PILOT REPORT

Greeting all from sunny Marlborough. Well, not always sunny, there is that much lush grass around to show we have had a reasonable amount of rain. Anyway, back to reality and everyone who is getting back on their feet after the quake. We certainly got the shake but personally suffered no damage. I feel a bit of a fraudster! I flew down on the Wednesday to see the crew at the club and they were all hard at it including Emma, Matt's wife, and Barbara called in too. As already mentioned everyone has worked extremely hard and have been a credit to the legacy of Kaikoura. The club house suffered only minor damage so is all but normal. Great news for the workers.

Obviously the whole operation is in a bit of a state of flux at the moment but with work being able to continue, it has been good for staff and the business. This state will continue for a while and we will just have to play things by ear a bit. That does not mean that club activity has to stop totally and it continues to be very therapeutic to see members down there, just saying hello or making a cup of coffee so do please feel free to call in. But it may be busy and we can all appreciate that.

As the business still operates we must still look after the books and accounts and to this end the committee will ensure we continue to do the right things. I expect to be down on Monday to assist in this and also to complete a flight check or two which still have to be done on time to ensure the business carries on.

Prior to the event it was great to see the club represented at the Flying NZ regional rally and as Shannon has said, all did well. It was also great to see quite a number of supporter come up for the dinner. I guess they may have been up earlier in the day but the inclement weather would have cooped everyone up a bit. The day was wet but not hideous so competitions continued with our own boys flying aircraft that they had no or very little experience in. And they still did well!! It is hard to think too far down the line in times like this but the Nationals are in Taumaranui in February and I will probably be there and we will check the feasibility of others joining me.

So, in closing I hope we can all keep our spirits up, keep smiling and if I can ever bring anything down for anyone do not hesitate to call me.

Wishing everyone a very happy Christmas and a better New Year.
Cheers Alistair

CLUB CAPTAIN REPORT

Hi Everyone

Where do I start! I find it hard to comprehend the devastation that Kaikoura has sustained from that BASTARD Earthquake, we had the same shake here in Hanmer, but nowhere the damage & upheaval you poor people had to endure. I wish you all well for the future & that EQC & your insurance companies give you no grief.

I had the opportunity to fly into Kaikoura a few days after the Quake from Hanmer & was amazed at the change of the terrain, the slips, the busted inland road, it was truly a sad sight, I particularly wanted to sight the "Elms" as it was my wife's family home, she lived there from age 2 to 12 & she had only been there a few weeks earlier to celebrate her aunties 100th birthday, sadly she lost her 1st cousin, end of an era. It's also a very small world as our daughter Penny was one of the police contingent that was sent down from Auckland & it was her task to take a statement from the Edgar family. Penny had not been to Kaikoura since a child & has fallen in love with the township & district, she was sorry to leave & was quite content to carry on her duties further, beats Auckland hands down she said. Penny was taken by the resilience of the local people, the kindness to tourists & to each other.

I was quite fortunate as I was going to come up to the club on the Sunday afternoon but changed that decision for an early Monday morning departure as I had to do a BFR & finish my type rating on TUG that's all on hold at the moment as the boys have been flat out with transporting people & goods back & forth to Rangiora, Christchurch, Blenheim & Nelson, the pressure is still on them & will continue until there is access via the inland road & the main highway south.

The whales are still doing their thing off the coast & there will be tourists who will want to visit Kaikoura to view them either via boat or plane & look around the township in spite of what's happened. The inland

road & particularly the main Rd south is a priority, & there is rumours that the main Rd could be open by Xmas, if that is the case the visitors will come & we will again enjoy their company & \$\$\$\$.

Our beloved DOP is back on line, with a new front oleo & it's great to have her back, she was certainly missed the week of the 14th with her extra seating capacity & weight loading, poor old DUQ was worn ragged & did a great job being a taxi & transporter & never let us down she will deserve a thorough refurbishment in the near future. TUG got a little hanger rash on the leading edge of the wings during the shake, luckily only very minor, & spot of paint will fix it. Over all the club came out of this EQ without any damage we were so lucky, Murray said he was not surprised as his Dad built it, & thankfully the air field was perfect.

As I have not been up at the club since that one occasion & only had odd chats with the boys I haven't been up with the play so to speak, therefore my input this time is limited. The boys will update you in their report & the results from the recent competitions held at Omaka where I was told our team excelled themselves, & whatever else that has been happening within the club & what's planned moving forward in the short time.

Don't forget to keep current & have a flight around the changed local scenery, or do some circuits, get a TUG rating, have fun.

I like to take this opportunity to wish all members, the committee, the pilots, Murray, Barbara, Ernie & Alistair & your families a very MERRY XMAS & PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR, each & everyone of you are very important to Air Kaikoura / Kaikoura Aero Club & without your input & dedication we wouldn't now exist & be successful as we are.

Blue Skies
Paul Faulkner
Club Captain

CLUB MEMBERS REPORT

New Pilot - Taylor Murray

Hello everyone, my name is Taylor Murray and I am a new pilot for the aero club. I have been here for about 2 months and am really enjoying my time so far. I am from Hamilton originally and completed my training for my commercial pilot's license and diploma in aviation in Auckland about 2 years ago and have been working through a few different jobs including aircraft ground handling and lifeguarding before starting here. I'm currently training towards my C-Cat instructor rating and am really excited for the upcoming summer and meeting everyone involved in the club.

