

# Taumarunui Aero Club NEWSLETTER

December, 2014

It's been a while since the last newsletter posted on Flying NZ – 16 months, in fact, and so quite a lot of the Wanganui has passed under the bridge since then.

## CATCH UP

The 2013 **Central Area Rally at Hamilton** came and went. President Kevin and Secretary Jeanette earned their way to the **2014 Nationals in Tauranga**. The memory is a bit hazy about the results. Jeanette, in the end, was unable to take part and, if I remember correctly, Kevin aborted his forced landing comp. Still, it was an entertaining few days of aviation comradeship and well done Tauranga for another well run competition series. Sorry that the Aussie contingent didn't get to compete cos of WX issues.



Moving on, **The Tauranga Aero Club** fell in love with our club plane **C152 FMV** which they were leasing and early in 2014 they purchased it. There were kind of mixed feelings among club members but it was an asset not being used to anywhere near its full potential so it had to go. Kevin's **C172 EJS** has sort of slotted in the club plane role.

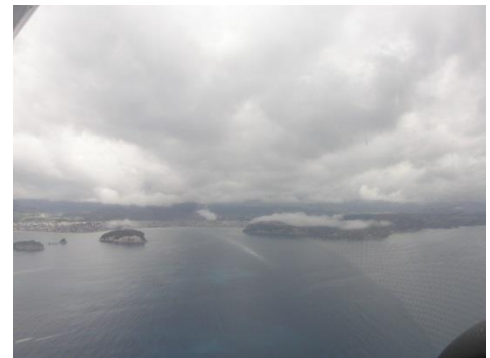
Current flying membership of the club is 7 with 5 domiciled in Taumarunui, one in Taupo and one in Whakatane – **Cameron Shaw** (flies the AP floatplane), **Howard Bradley** (Bantam and Minicab flyer), **Tony Fullerton-Smith** (C172 TFS [Hmmm means that with 2

C172s on site the club could look at competing in the Graeme Davidson pairs formation!!!), **Jon Rose** (Student), **Tony Hogg** (Been in FNZ since late in the last millennium), **Jeanette Lei** (Club Secretary) and **Kevin Vile** (Club President and Central Area Rep for FNZ).

## **MEMBER ACTIVITIES -2014**

Kevin, Jeanette and Tony began 2014 with their customary sorties to the Whitianga and Tauranga airshows.

The former two flew over to Whakatane and picked up Tony for the Whitianga Airshow. WX metars were okay at Whakatane and Tauranga so the decision was made to fly in a direct line to Whitianga. Off shore low cloud put paid to that and we had to come in from Motiti Island (Rena wreck fame) into TG control and follow the coast. Cloud base was on the hills going further up but we spotted Murray Rogers (TG Aero Club) in his Airtrainer and followed him. We heard on the radio other TG members unsuccessfully trying the Waihi gap route.



For the Tauranga Airshow K & J picked up Tony from AP. We had a landing slot reserved so no dramas. We could sense the tower controllers wanting to tear their hair out with the number of incoming aircraft being required to orbit.

More recently Kevin and Tony went to the Warbirds display at Ardmore, stopping off for lunch at the hospitable Matamata Aeroclub club rooms.

## **CLUB ACTIVITIES**

### **The Annual NZ Tigermoth Club Rally**

This was hosted, as always, by the Taumarunui Aero Club over the weekend before Labour Weekend. It never fails to amaze me of the number of aircraft movements taking place safely without an air traffic controller or incidents. The usual rivalry between TAC and the Tigers ended up in the manipulative and persuasive Tigers winning the interclub trophy. Dave Phillips gave his usual outstanding aerobatics display at the end of the comps and the following day the Tigers flew to the old Taumarunui airfield at Echolands.



## Echolands Revisited

John Pheasant, Tiger Moth pilot and owner of ZK-BFF, and Jeanette had unbeknown to each other, been planning a possible visit to the original TAC airfield, situated SE of the present airfield, across the Wanganui River from the Taumarunui camping ground. Having contacted the current owners Lyn and Craig Henderson, a visit was planned for Sunday morning.

John was very keen for this event to take place as he had previously flown into the airfield 50 years ago as a New Plymouth student pilot, to attend an air pageant. So he checked out the strip again, gave a briefing at the clubrooms prior to departure and away went a gaggle of 6 Tiger Moths, a Gypsy Moth, 2 Piper Cubs and a C180. The weather was perfect, the strip wide and long and a small audience awaited the arrival of the aircraft.

After many photos taken, it was time to return to the TM airfield, with the 6 Tigers taking off in 2 "vic" formations, flying overhead the town and back to base.

This could be repeated next year with a Sunday BBQ lunch. Many thanks to Lyn and Craig for allowing this special event to happen.

Another great weekend of aviation camaraderie.



## FLYING NZ FLYING PROFICIENCY SCHEME

For those who don't know, Kevin, Central Area Representative is in charge of managing the **Flying NZ Pilot Proficiency Scheme**. This is many tiered programme to recognise pilots at all levels of experience and abilities and encourage improvement of pilot skills.

## CENTRAL AREA RALLY 2014 - MATAMATA



The club sent a team of four to the Central Area Rally, this time held at Matamata – Kevin Vile, Jeanette Lei, Jon Rose and Tony Hogg.

For the first time this century The Taumarunui Aero Club actually gained a place in the **Wigram Cup Team Competition** – 3rd. This was more exciting for the club than the many firsts that members have gained in other events over the years. It involved all of our contingent competing.

### Other Club Successes were:

#### Precision Circuits and Landings -

*Newman Cup* – Jeanette 1<sup>st</sup>; *Sir Francis Boys Trophy* - Kevin Vile 1<sup>st</sup>

**Low Flying PPL** – *Airwork Cup* – Jeanette 3<sup>rd</sup>;

**Non Instrument Circuit** *Wigram Cup*– Tony 3<sup>rd</sup>

**Junior Landing** *Wigram Cup*– Jon 2<sup>nd</sup>;

**Bombing** *Rotorua Trophy* – Tony 2<sup>nd</sup>;

**Liferaft Drop** *Ivon Warmington Trophy*– Tony & Kevin 1<sup>st</sup>.

## DIARY 2015

- Best of luck to Kevin, Jeanette and Tony at the Flying NZ Nationals being held at Whitianga at the end of Feb, 2015.
- Taumarunui Aero Club is hosting the 2015 Flying NZ Central Area Rally 30 Oct -1Nov.
- The Annual NZ Tiger Moth Club Rally, 2015, is set for 16 – 18 Oct.

