



## Sport Aircraft Association (NZ) Inc. Waikato Thames Valley Chapter



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### Newsletter April 2019

Hello everyone,

It has been quite some time since we last produced a newsletter, but since we are now well into 2019 we should probably get back into it.

The big event over summer as far as SAA is concerned was the annual national Fly in, this year “Great Plains” at Ashburton. Weather conditions proved stable this year and a good turnout of aircraft arrived. Grand champion for 2019 was a magnificent Midget Mustang I (ZK-MMI) built by John Crawford. With an immaculate polished metal finish and a very clever gas-strut mechanism on the cockpit canopy, this machine was absolutely stunning and a clear winner. As one of the Judging panel (with Rex Newman and Russel Brodie) the difficult category to judge was the Best Vans RV – the general quality of each of the machines there meant delving into minute details to find a clear winner. Not a pleasant job considering the effort everyone has put in. The full listing of builders awards will be in the next Sport Flying Magazine, along with comprehensive photo coverage.



Sadly my own flying over summer has been severely limited by the high ambient temperatures we have been having. As ZK-CKE is heavy, it really struggles in high density altitude conditions which pushes the oil and coolant temperatures to the top limits. I'm very limited as to what can be done to fix the issue due to structural limitations, however with the cooler autumn conditions returning I'm getting back into flying it again.

Noel Bailey has recently brought a very interesting aircraft up to Te Kowhai from Timaru on behalf of its owner. It's a Just Aircraft Super STOL, powered by a 180hp, 6-cylinder UL engine. Despite all that

power it cruises at 75 knots due to the drag of its huge tundra tyres. It is very much optimised for short strip STOL work – its high-lift wing incorporates huge fowler flaps, leading edge slats and roll spoilers. Once the new owner has been brought up to speed with its somewhat tricky flight characteristics it will be based at the owner's home airstrip.

Scott Montague has sent an excellent article about flying down to Ashburton, and rather than edit and reduce it, I will send this as a separate attachment – thanks Scott!

Next month the SAA council will be holding its annual meeting with CAA to discuss issues effecting recreational flying. We have a number of items on the agenda, which we hope to make some progress on. Thank you to all the people who made submissions on the ADS-B proposal. Feedback we have been given is that it was most certainly noticed! Whether it will change the ADS-B roll out, and the provision of a subsidy for transponder installation will be determined in the next few weeks, as the required rule is drafted and recommendations made to the Transport Minister.

Over Easter the Classic Fighters Airshow will be held at Omana. I know a number of our members are flying down for that. Please take care, and read the NOTAMs - there are a lot of aircraft converging on the airfield so it will be very busy. Please take lots of photos for the next newsletter!

We will have a chapter get-together in a few weeks – please see the info later in this newsletter. We will have our AGM late May, and that will be a good chance to consider where we want to go as far as the chapter meetings etc. The chapter has been pretty quiet of late, and we should seriously consider what we need to do. Please think about this, discuss informally among yourselves and note any ideas you have. Maybe we should have more people on our committee? Volunteers will be welcome!

*Following: Some photos from Ashburton.*







## Next Meeting:

**SATURDAY APRIL 27**

**Chapter Catch – Up at Bill Izard’s Airstrip**  
**Foxhill Airstrip - 106 Herbert St, Kihikihi**  
**11.00 am**

Bill has invited the chapter to his home airfield at Foxhill for a chapter catch-up. Feel free to either fly or drive, all are welcome. If you aren't confident flying into a short, one way strip, we can arrange collection from the nearby Te Awamutu Airstrip (Castleton's)

Bring the normal BBQ food - Bill has a proper wood fired barbie!

Airstrip details:

GPS Coordinates: 31 01 59 S 175 21 36 E

Elev 220ft

One-way Grass strip, 300m long 36/18 (land 18, take-off 36) Slopes uphill southern end, Trees either side.

Frequency 123.25 (Morrinsville CFZ)

All operations at own risk. Phone Bill 07 871 8940 or 021 423 853

## **Around the projects:**

### **Simon and Sarah Clark – Vans RV-8 ZK-XRV**

The engine has been hung. Over the summer we have bought paint and started painting what parts we can while the weather is good. We have finished paint and fibreglassing the empennage and have wired it and fitted it to the fuselage. We also painted everything on the fuselage that is complete and the underside. The wings are almost finished, just need one more fine dry weekend. Hoping to get back into wiring the engine to the fuselage and finish the cowls and baffling as soon as I finish what I can paint this summer.





### Interesting Videos and Web links:

Splashing around the Idaho back country in a Grumman Goose – looks like a lot of fun. (what a great “picnic” aeroplane...)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TT1r1Hifx40&feature=share>

### Other Reminders:

Waihi Beach Aerodrome is currently closed by NOTAM due to extensive runway reconstruction work. This has included raising and stabilising the runway surface and installing new drainage. The airfield will reopen only when the grass has sufficiently established, probably late May. Numerous aircraft have been reported visiting during the closure, despite a current NOTAM. Please note the entire airfield is currently closed, not just the runway. Check your NOTAMS before flight and remind other users to do so as well. The new surface at Waihi Beach will be excellent, but using it before it is ready will damage it and undo all the great work that has been done.

### Coming Up:

**Black Sands 2019, Raglan**

Friday 8th – Sunday 10th November. Beach landings will be on again – conditions permitting.

**See you at the next meeting!**

**Bruce Cooke,**  
Secretary.