

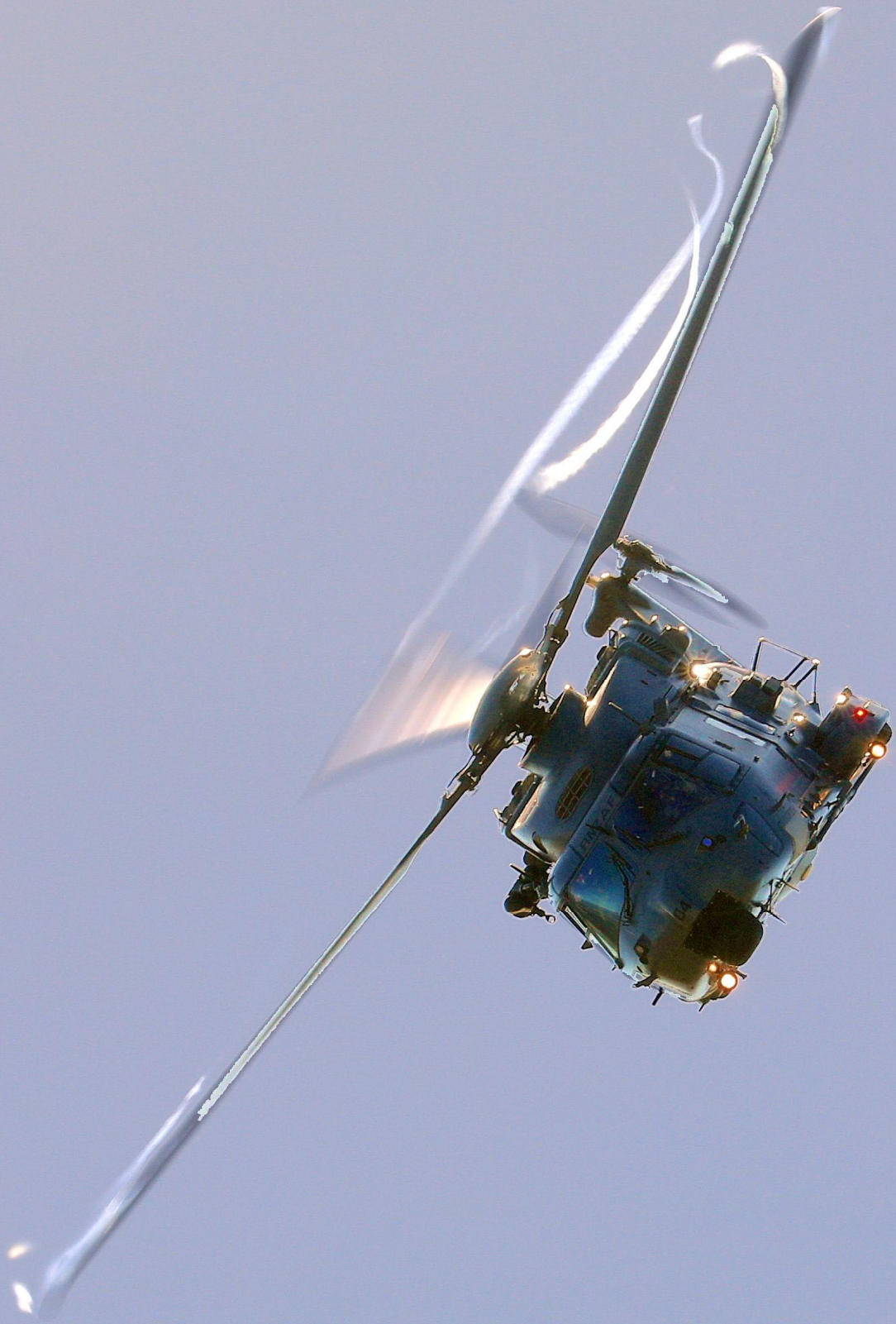
RECWINGS

THE MAGAZINE FOR RECREATIONAL FLYERS



- WARBIRDS OVER WANAKA 2024
- CRAC KAIKOURA FLIGHT

MARCH-APRIL 2024





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RECWINGS

is produced in conjunction with the **Canterbury Recreational Aircraft Club**.

Contributions for the next edition are due by **June 15th, 2024**. We invite contributions from all, with editorial discretion being final.

editor@crac.co.nz

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Cover, That Mosquito... a sight and sound extravaganza! Thank you to the American owners for allowing this aircraft to display before it heads home to the U.S.A.

Inside cover, the RNZAF's NH90 Helicopter display was remarkably energetic, here it is adorned with rotor-tip vortices in a very tight turn!

Both © 2024 Brian Greenwood

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WARBIRDS OVER WANAKA 2024 – WOW!

BRIAN GREENWOOD AND AS ATTRIBUTED

It's incredible to think that an organisation can exist for six years with little or no income and survive. But that's exactly what the Trust that runs Warbirds over Wanaka have done. Some of the local businesses have done it tough, and my favourite Fish and Chip shop is no more.

However, when the Trust finally got a chance to run the airshow again, they really pulled out all the stops – more stars than the Milky Way. I booked my journey when I heard the P-8A Poseidon was coming, and the stars just lined up from there.

An early announcement was the U.S.-based Jet Aerobatic Team, the American Eagles (A.K.A. the Patriots), which nearly got forgotten in later announcements such as Steadfast, Jurgis Kairys, the P-51Ds, Corsair, and the once-in-a-lifetime Mosquito. All were brilliant but the American Eagles team was such a wonderful surprise that it really left an impression.

For the first time ever, the one-day tickets were sold out – on both main show days! The show days followed roughly the usual format, something amazing to open the show – the F-16 – and set times for displays. It's all subject to aircraft availability, the only no-show was one of the T-28s.

Both CRAC and RAANZ were officially represented. Craig Ruane and Harry Offer flew our sexy Tecnam, RGE, down to the display and spent the whole show manning the display.

I was very impressed with the RNZAF's display this year. It was lovely to see our classic C-130 Hercules, NZ7001 and NZ7002 (with '01 being the original prototype of the -H model) participating. '01 flew a great display and was joined by '02 and the RNZAF's 757 in the 'Kiwi Thunder' routine. The A109's pirouetted, the NH-90 was almost aerobatic, and the Seasprite charmed as always. And then there were the stupendous Black Falcons of 14 Squadron... and the wonderful P-8A Maritime Patrol aircraft.

Friday evening saw a very special lake-side event at Wanaka Township. The recently restored Grumman Widgeon performed, followed by the Yak 52's, the Yak-3U 'Steadfast' painted the sky, and then the Kiwi C-130 and F-16 of the USAF Pacific Display Team (PACAF).

I don't have space or time to report on all of the participants, suffice to say that the skill levels and aircraft displayed were world-class, and the crowd reaction and enjoyment appeared to be the best ever.

One shout-out – the redoubtable Graham Bethell flew his last solo airshow display at Wanaka in his P-51D (Ray Archibald's colours, NZTAF). Graham will be retiring gracefully and will still participate in the air show scene. Thank you for many wonderful air show displays over the years, and keeping ZK-TAF in the country for so long.

Heading photo – The incredible Mosquito at full power.
© 2024 Aaron Murphy



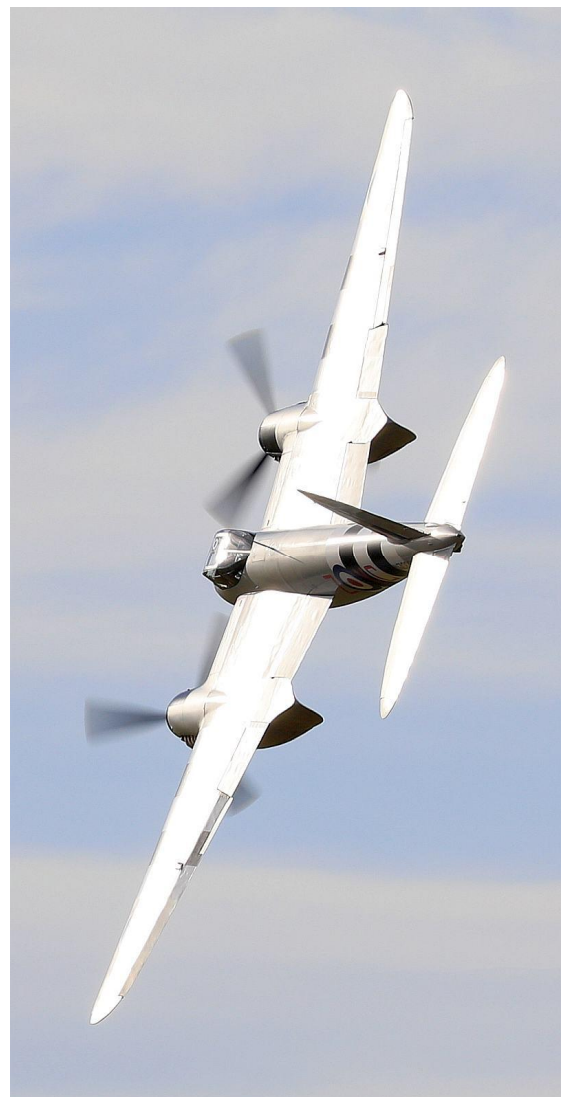
Pilot Extraordinaire **Steve Hinton** and AvSpecs owner **Warren Denholm** put the latest Mosquito restoration through its paces. I cannot describe the beautiful noises emanating from this aircraft, suffice to say it is a truly awe-inspiring sight and sound.

This is one of five Mosquitos flying in the world, and the fourth out of the Glyn Powell moulds and turned into an aircraft at AvSpecs. NZ2308 was to be Glyn Powell's own aircraft but sadly he passed away in 2019, having enabled so many others to enjoy these aircraft. In a fitting tribute, this aircraft is registered as ZK-PWL.

Online readers can click [HERE](#) to read Dave Holmwood's history of this aircraft, print readers will have to search for NZ2308 at vintageaviationnews.com!

The colour scheme is based on the authentic RNZAF post-war scheme with added D-Day stripes (a nod to the 80th Anniversary perhaps?) and red codes. It certainly popped!

It was displayed with vigour, expect to see more of this lovely aircraft in future issues.





The USAF's Pacific Air Forces Display team (PACAF) sent two F-16s with a supporting KC-135 tanker and a C-17 transport aircraft.

It's fantastic to have this level of support, all four aircraft displayed separately, with the F-16 being the most obvious and noisiest!

We got a chance to interview one of the F-16 pilots, **Captain Ethan Smith** (see photo, page 22) who said they wanted to display the aircraft without tanks to enable 9G turns. That only gave them a couple of minutes on the display line for the morning display. However, they could refuel from the tanker in the afternoon allowing for an 11-minute slot.

The F-16s performed a solo display twice a day, and also at the free lake front show on Friday evening.

As with the Mosquito, these photos aren't enough to pay tribute to the spectacle, the service persons, and aircraft performing - expect more in coming editions!

Left, ectoplasm (OK, condensation vapour) pouring off the airframe during an after-burner turn.

Above, releasing defensive anti IR-missile flares as it climbs away.





Another star in this galaxy of stars is the ex RNZAF FG-1D Corsair ZK-COR. Owned by Kiwi Businessman **Mike Jones** it was displayed very capably by NZ Warbirds President **Frank Parker**.

It was fantastic to hear it running so smoothly, click [HERE](#) to read Gavin Conroy's history of this aircraft – or search for 'Kiwi Corsair back where it belongs' on [key.aero](#)





More stars – **clockwise from top left** – Bill Reid’s gorgeous Avro Anson I paired with Bevan Dewes in his equally gorgeous T6 Harvard in RNZAF World War 2 colours; the same aircraft taking off; then **Simon Spencer Bower** in the historic Hiller UH-12E, this aircraft has been restored in the early deer-recovery colours of Luggate Game Packers Limited; displayed as part of the massed Helicopter display (next photo) which was very impressive to watch.

Below, the beautiful P-51D NZ2423 of the Biggin Hill Historic Aircraft Centre, RNZAF Ohakea, flown by Squadron Leader Sean Perret. This aircraft is operated by the RNZAF Historic Flight in conjunction with the BHHAC. Read Zac Yate’s history of this aircraft [HERE](#) (or search ‘restoration of Mustang two-three’ on key.aero)







Previous page, more shots of both Mustangs including NZ2415 in the colours of Ray Archibald (pilot and Jaguar racing driver) owned and flown by Graham Bethell. As mentioned previously, Graham's retiring from solo airshow displays and has the P-51D up for sale – so it was very special to see the display.

This page, above clockwise from top left, the De Havilland formation including 5 Tiger Moths, 1 Moth, 1 Chipmunk, and one Dominie/Rapide! Jay McIntyre and Cam Hawley in their WACO UOC ZK-AEL and Beech C 17B Staggerwing VH-UXP respectively. **Second row**, The lovely Lockheed Electra 12A owned and thrown around the sky by Robert Borrius-Broek. **Below**, the aerial ballet provided by Doug Hamilton in the Schiecher ASH 25 Glider and the Pitts Special S-1C flown by Te Anau-based Ivan 'Krazzy' Krippner!

Bottom photo – RNZAF King Air NZ2351 performed transport duties during the show





In a fond farewell to the amazing 'classic' C-130H Hercules, the RNZAF certainly pulled out all the stops. Two aircraft attended the show, NZ7001 (which was also the prototype 'H model) performed a lively routine, and NZ7002 joining for the two-Hercules one-757 routine of 'Kiwi Thunder' (p15).

These aircraft have served New Zealand since 1965 and will be replaced by the larger C-130J models shortly

Below right, NZ7001 taking off ©2024 Aaron Murphy







Previous page top row, the RNZAF NH90 certainly churned up the air, and all of the RNZAF helicopters did a winching demonstration. The RNZAF A109 Makos break dramatically. Next row, the soldier (air person?) and her dog that were lowered from the NH90, and the RNZN's Seasprite.

Page 11 lower two rows and this page left – the RNZAF Black Falcons just get better and better – a super display in their T-6 Texan IIs.

Below, the RNZAF's Kiwi Blue team exit the Hercules, and form a stack before landing safely. Beautiful trails...





The de Havilland Mosquito NZ2308 owned by Rod Lewis, flown by Steve Hinton with navigator Warren Denholm, banks past the Warbirds Over Wanaka crowd.
© 2024 Brian Greenwood



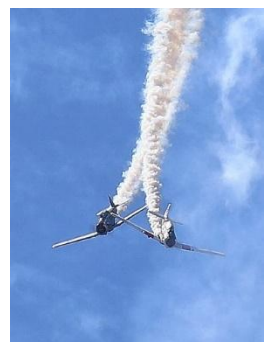
Page 12 lower photo and top left, the RNZAF's new P-8A Poseidon Maritime Patrol aircraft did a gentle fly by in deference to the fact that it's still working up to operational status.

Above centre and right, the RNZAF's Kiwi Thunder team was an excellent demonstration of displaying aircraft of different performance envelopes safely, the two C-130H Hercules (NZ7001 and NZ7002) and the 727 (NZ7571) kept a tight formation and did a huge break towards the crowd.

Below left, the Boeing KC135 tanker supporting the F-16s performed a very welcome fly-by (with refuelling probe deployed), as did the supporting C-17 **below right**.

Next row left, the RAAF sent a very welcome Leonardo C27J Spartan, one of 10 aircraft operated by the RAAF's 35 Squadron.

Next row right, and lower row – the Roaring Forties T6 Harvards – so good they make it look easy!





No doubt about it – the award for the most unexpected pleasure goes to the ‘American Eagles’ display team, flying Aero L-39 Albatros aircraft supplied by Fighterjets.co.nz based in Tauranga. The precise formations and superbly accurate opposition passes (top photo) were a spectacle to behold. Back in the USA the four pilots are part of the ‘Patriots’ L-39 display team, widely regarded as the best civilian jet display team anywhere.

The pilots are:

Dean "Wilbur" Wright, #1 Flight lead (retired USAF Fighter pilot with 151 combat hours and 4,000 total fighter hours including A-10, F-117, RAF Hawk and Harriers, and USAF Thunderbirds F-16 aircraft).

Rob "Stache" Hutchinson, #2 Right wing (competitive aerobatic pilot, accomplished skydiver, avid marathoner)

John "Bordz" Posson, #3 Left wing (25 years as a Commercial pilot, 1,300 hours in the P-51, a P-51 Instructor for Stallion 51).

Paul "Stricky" Strickland, #4 slot (Retired USAF A-10, F-5, and F-16 pilot with 270 combat hours and 3,000 total fighter hours. Flew #4 slot pilot with the USAF 'Thunderbirds' display team).



Above, the T-28G and T-28B Trojans flown by Brian Hall and Peter Vause respectively. They were going to be joined by the T-28C owned by the late Brett Emeny (and flown in tribute to him) but major engine problems on the way to Wanaka forced a stay at Ashburton.

The two T-28s performed a brilliant display, with the characteristic noise and energetic performance that's a hallmark of the type.

Below and lower half of page 18 – the nimble Yak-52 team put 11 aircraft into the air including Rob Fry in his 'Air Bandits' marked aircraft later flown by Jurgis Kairys.

We were spoilt for choice with display teams this year, none of them disappointed, with the Yak-52 guys forming the biggest group.





Above and left, the two BAC Strikemasters performed a formation display and then separate displays, the compression vapour highlighting both aircraft!

The ex-RNZAF one (above) owned by the Strikemaster 72 Syndicate based in Wellington, and the ex-Saudi (RSAF) one on the left is owned and flown by Brian Hall (see the T-28 section) and is based in Christchurch.



Page 19 top half, Jurgis Kairys demonstrating his gob-smacking skills in Rob Fry's 'Air Bandits'-marked Yak52. Jurgis used to own this aircraft.

Page 19 lower half, I could watch this all day – Yak 3U 'Steadfast' creating poetry in the sky.







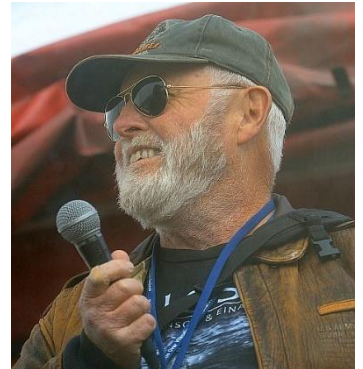
This page: People! Above, the Warbirds over Wanaka Management team, left to right – **Geoff Marks** (Media Manager), **Bosh Raich** (Operations Manager), **Andrena Davis** (Event Manager), and **Ed Taylor** (General Manager).

Right, I didn't catch this gentleman's name, but he gave me permission to publish, and he did one of the most important jobs on the airfield - getting rid of the important jobs. Thank you, sir!

Below Left, **Harry Offer** and **Craig Ruane** worked hard representing CRAC at the show.

Below Centre, **Steve Hinton** (L) and **Warren Denholm** (R) in front of the Mosquito. **Below Right (upper)**, the AVSPECS crew in front of the de Havilland Mosquito they restored. **Below Right, lower** – **Frank Parker** in the Corsair.





Top, part of the Friday evening lake-front display, the pristine Grumman Widgeon ZK-CFA belonging to Grant Harnish frolics on Lake Wanaka in front of an appreciative crowd.

Top row left to right, Captain Ethan 'Bantam' Smith of the Pacific Air Forces F-16 Demonstration Team, Ed Taylor (Warbirds over Wanaka General Manager) catches a few brief minutes to watch the air show in front of the commentary bus, Dave Homewood (host and creator of Wings Over New Zealand, Editor of Sport Flying) talks about the WONZ Show, Podcasts, and Forums), Ian Brodie (Author, Photographer) talks about his past involvement with WoW.

Bottom Row, Geoff Soper (Media photographer) gives the 'thumbs up' after a flight in Bevan Dewes' Harvard, and here's Bevan himself in said Harvard (did you know he's a Rans S-6 Instructor as well?), and finally the handsome, intelligent group that made up the media contingent this year, doing Spitfire Wings. Your scribe is in there, hiding shyly behind an arm! (Last photo credit Geoff Marks)



The finale of this world-class show was a unique formation and a massive wall-of-flame. A huge shout-out of appreciation to the Organisers, Managers, Caterers, Workers, and the hard-working Volunteers who made the event such a success. To quote a USAF pilot – “Don’t under-estimate how good this is in world terms”!



17 SQUADRON ATC TRAIN AT CRAC

SAM MILLER

Sometime in early April the Cadets from 17 Squadron (City of Christchurch) visited CRAC for a Training Day. Thanks to the Instructors – **Glenn Martin**, **Lionel Green**, and **Tony den Haan** for their time and hard work.

Sam Miller supplied the photos for us, thank you.



CRAC KAIKOURA FLIGHT
PHOTOS: IAIN MCPHAIL



On Sunday, May 28th, Iain McPhail and a group of aviators organised a spur-of-the-moment flight to Kaikoura, dropping in at Stephen Field's airstrip on the way through.

Heading photo, Motunau ahead

Left, a corker dawn with the CRAC-House in the middle distance

Left below, Iain Mc and Gary McGregor airborne in Karatoo ZK-KTW

Below right, Klingons off the starboard bow.





*This page, various views around and on Stephen and Phoebe Field's airfield.
Top Right, Phoebe Field makes the guests welcome.*



Next page – top, the crew relax at a Kaikoura pizzeria.



CONGRATULATIONS!



Left, Congratulations to Agnes Yu on her first solo on May 5th, under Scott James' instruction.

First solos are a fantastic achievement and always worth celebrating, well done, Agnes!

Photo courtesy Colin McDonald.

NEW ZEALAND NATIONAL AEROBATIC CHAMPS

Right, another achievement that nearly slipped under the radar – Club President Iain McPhail competed in the NZ National Aerobatic Championships (Hood Aerodrome, Feb 29th to March 3rd) and achieved a first in both the 'Recreational Power' and 'Recreational Unknown' categories.

I don't know what's unknown about the unknown category, which only proves the old adage – you don't know what you don't know. Well done, Iain!



HANGAR SPACE FOR RENT

Club member **Frank Barker** has a microlight-shaped space in his hangar which he is willing to rent out.

Conveniently located nearest Airport Road, a mere 200 metres from the CRAC House, vehicle access and parking are a breeze. The hangar has light and power (not all of them do these days) and must be one of the tidiest hangars in Rangiora. (Ed)

Contact Frank on 021 081 69414 for details.



COMMITTEE NOTES AGM 2024

Elected Officers for the 2024-25 year:

President	Iain McPhail
Patron	Mike Sheffield
Treasurer	Tim Ward
Secretary	Megan Alexinas
Co-Club Captains	Ryan Humphries Paul Hyde-Smith

Committee	Mike Glen Wayne Wilson Nigel Malham Stewart Bufton Buzz Harvey Brian Greenwood
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Life Members	Buzz Harvey Stewart Bufton
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On behalf of the Committee, the Editor would like to thank those members who have left the committee this year for their hard work, open and frank discussions, and their willingness to be part of the team this past year.

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FUN AVIATION LINKS

Wings Over New Zealand Aviation Forum
<https://rnzaf.proboards.com/>

NZ Civil Aircraft Blog
<https://nzcivair.blogspot.com/>

Classic Aircraft Photography
<https://classicaircraftphotography.com>

Geoff Soper Photography
<https://geoffsoperphotography.queensberryworkspace.com/>

...and HAFU, as shown left – many hours of enjoyable viewing!



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WHATSAPP

CRAC Drop Of The Hat
CRAC Revolution (for chat)

FACEBOOK

www.facebook.com/flyCRAC



Interested in joining us?

E-mail secretary@crac.co.nz or use
the online application form.

We can send you an information pack
which includes membership details,
costs, and joining forms. Membership
enrols you for the magazine, too.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday June 1st - Hanmer Springs Club fly-
away

July - Mesopotamia Station (TBC) Club fly-away

August - Lake Heron (Local back up - Okains Bay)

All Fly-aways:

9.00 - 9.25 am Position your aircraft outside the
CRAC Clubrooms

9.30am Flyaway briefing by the CFI (or
designated person)

10.00am Departure.

**Please ensure that you're current, up to date
with your BFR and Medical, and qualified for
these events. Discuss it with a club Instructor if
in doubt.**

Keep your eye out for weekly club e-mails,
join the **CRAC Drop Of The Hat** WhatsApp
group for informal group fly-aways. Join
CRAC Revolutionary for general chat and
good humour.

CONTRIBUTIONS AND ATTRIBUTIONS

**Aaron Murphy, Iain McPhail
Colin McDonald, Sam Miller, Geoff Marks
RecWings logo by Eric Lim.**

***Disclaimer:** This Magazine is prepared by a
dedicated enthusiast; the opinions expressed
herein are not to be taken as official club policy
unless approved by the committee.*

NEW MEMBERS

Welcome aboard to:

**Dave Gill
Richard Dickerson
Daniel Sherrif
Vivek Chaudron
Malcolm Campbell
Aidan Green
Matthew McCaughan
Giles Lancaster**

Please make our new friends feel
welcome.

NEXT NEWSLETTER

**Contributions for the next edition are
requested, publishing deadline June
15th, 2024**

**Next publishing date approx. end of June
2024**

Brian Greenwood, Editor
(editor@crac.co.nz)

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