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from the editor

december 2013/january 2014

Welcome to the first of our new, supersized, summer editions. There will be three magazine issues over the summer, and then, in the depths of the dark and gloom of the winter, you will receive another fat, fun-filled magazine to whet your soaring appetite and see you through until spring time. *SoaringNZ* is now quarterly.

We have a real range of articles this issue, from instructional pieces designed to help you fly better and safer, through contest reports, articles about equipment and articles about exceptional people, to what I think is my favourite piece this issue: a contest report like no other; Dane Dickinson was one of three Kiwi pilots flying (and placing) in the Mediterranean Cup in Italy. Dane tells a wonderful story full of derring-do. How much of it actually happened the way he wrote it, I'm not sure, but it definitely falls into the 'don't try this at home' category.

It is an absolute delight to have the space to run stories like Dane's without having to abridge them to fit into a limited number of pages. The new, four issues a year regime allows so much more flexibility in timing as well. As I write this editorial, I am sitting at Omarama and have been working, timing the launches for the South Island Regional contest. I've allowed pages for the contest coverage and once it's over, we can go to our final proofing and to print, no stress, no worries. No having to meet a print deadline set months in advance. Many thanks to our printers, MHP Group in Auckland, for allowing us to set our own deadlines and for making the printing process so easy.

There has been a lot happening since my last editorial. I thought my fledglings had just about flown the nest, but no, they've decided to come back home. The attraction is our new house. About the time you're receiving this magazine in the mail, we'll finally be moving into our new, rebuilt home in Christchurch. It's been a long three years since our house was broken in the first of the Christchurch earthquakes, but the new house is fabulous. We're on the same site as before, with foundations that would hold a skyscraper steady. The new place is completely different to the old original sixties bungalow, with a boomerang shape designed to optimise the sun, make better use of the garden, and block out the ubiquitous Christchurch easterly. I'm really looking forward to the fact that it will have an office. A real office. I will no longer be working from a desk in the corner of the dining or living room.

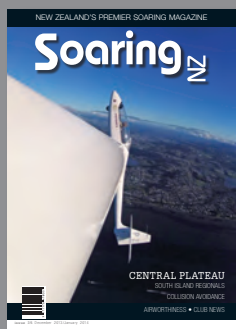
I am, of course, also looking forward to all the mod cons of



Nearly completed, thoroughly earthquake proof, new house.

double glazing, full insulation, gas fire, gas cooker and shower heads with decent pressure. I will be close to exploding with sheer joy when I finally get to unpack my books and other goodies that I haven't seen since packing them away nearly three years ago.

In the meantime, Robert is leaving school. Alex has gained a degree. Alex is flying this Regionals contest and making a good showing, and is heading to Australia again with Nick Oakley and Philip Dunlop to compete in Joey Glide. John's working hard, the summer is his busy season as he works with grain and seed farmers, but he's managed to get some gliding in from time to time. And of course, he's been taking photos where ever he is. I've



Tauranga Gliding Club's Puchacz over Tauranga. Photo Derek Wagstaff.

next issue

North Island Regionals. Multiclass Nationals, Enterprise Omarama, advances in ultralight gliders.

revised magazine deadlines

Deadline for Club News, articles and pictures is 18 January and 28 January for advertising.

CENTRAL PLATEAU

Soaring Competition ... the competi



tion that nearly was!

2–9 November 2013

The new soaring season started with a positive outlook, with 22 competitors entering the 2013 Central Plateau Soaring Competition held at Centennial Park in Taupo in November.

BY TRACE AUSTIN

This time of year the weather is normally favourable, however, the weather Gods had other ideas for 2013.

Most competitors arrived on Saturday the 2nd, which was programmed as a practice day and Centennial Park quickly filled up with gliders and trailers. The glistening sleek white chariots of the sky stood out against the lush green backdrop of the airfield as they were lined up and secured.

Some pilots elected to take to the skies and check out the local area, while others reacquainted themselves with fellow competitors and friends. The CPSC is not a GNZ sanctioned contest but rather a friendly week of flying fun. It also allows pilots to dust off the cobwebs of winter and encourages newly trained cross country pilots like Joe Ward (Taupo) and Steve Foreman (Aviation Sports) to taste the challenges of cross country and competition flying.

SATURDAY – PRACTICE DAY

There was no task set for the practice day but the sky had unlimited options. The sun was shining, the ground heated up nicely and there was a slight breeze from the southwest. Most flights initially took off and headed up the Reporoa valley and into the Kaingaroa forest area, before turning around and heading out towards Titiraupenga and the western side of the lake. It was an excellent day for those who took the opportunity to fly around and enjoy what Taupo has to offer.





SUNDAY – DAY ONE

Sunday started out as another great looking day. Gliders were prepped and readied and everyone was keen to fly but before any flying could commence, the mandatory safety and site briefing had to be completed. During the morning session it was decided that there would be two classes, Open and Club, but all tasks would be the same for both classes and the majority of the tasks for the week would be AAT's.

Once the initial briefing was completed, the weather forecast was provided by David Jensen, who assured us that we were in for a good day, although there would be overdevelopment in the high ground to the East, South and West.

With this weather prediction in mind, the task setters set the first task of the week as:

Start A → Galatea (20km Cylinder) → Poronui (20km Cylinder) → Tokoroa (20km Cylinder) → Lake Rotokawa → Home. Distance to the centres was 272km.

The over development didn't arrive as expected, although there was rain back in the Kaimanawa Range, back down and behind Poronui. The area between Poronui and down the Reporoa valley was mostly blue, so a reasonably long glide back to Taupo was had by all, before getting a climb to take them up to Tokoroa.

Not everyone made it around the task today and there were a couple of engine starts over the Kaingaroa forest area and one landout at Atiamuri. At the end of the day it was a great start to the week and everyone had fun.

The results for the day were:

OPEN CLASS

1	Trev Terry/Rob Lyon (TT)	Distance 306.1km	speed 122.4km/h
2	Bill Walker (HW)	Distance 264.4km	speed 105.8km/h
3	Tim Bromhead (XP)	Distance 274km	speed 105.6km/h

CLUB CLASS

1	Trace Austin (NM)	Distance 232km	speed of 86.2km/h
2	Peter Cook (IA)	Distance 229.4km	
3	Adam Cumberlege (DF)	Distance 191.6km	

The evening was enjoyed with a quiet drink and BBQ and of course, the banter about the day's events.

MONDAY – DAY TWO

Graham White was elected as the weather forecaster as David could not be here today, and Graham's prediction was not ideal. A low pressure system was hanging off to the west of the North Island and was almost stationary, bring moist air into and around Taupo.



Loading the task for day two.

Setting a task with the forecasted conditions was always going to be difficult but with much optimism a task was set and the gliders were gridded onto 04.

The first six of the club class were launched and within 20 minutes they were all back on the ground. With very little lift around no one could get to the start line, so it was decided to cancel the task for the day. Nonetheless, some pilots elected to go free flying in these conditions and surprisingly, there were a couple of good local flights achieved.

TUESDAY – DAY TWO A

Wet! Time to go to the movies!

WEDNESDAY – DAY TWO B

Wet! More movies.....When will this low move away?

An evening dinner was had at the club and there was more chatting about gliding.

THURSDAY - DAY TWO C

Still wet! What to do today? The low has started to move away and tomorrow is looking good.

FRIDAY – DAY TWO D

The expected better weather conditions did not eventuate as predicted, which meant that the weather was still not good enough to be able to set a task.

With lift around and a cloud base of around 4500', the task setters made the decision to have another free day. This time, the traces would be put into the OLC and a day winner would be decided, however, none of these flights would count towards the competition points table.



The results for the day were:

1	David Jensen (YL)	Distance 202.5 km	point score 241.11
2	Conal Edwards (TX)	Distance 194.55 km	point score 223.08
3	Brett Hunter (VM)	Distance 202.59 km	point score 222.86

SATURDAY – THE ACTUAL DAY TWO

At long last the low over the North Island finally moved on and everyone was excited about the weather prediction. David was back in the seat as weather forecaster, and the forecast was for 8000' cloud base, slight winds and strong thermals.

A great Taupo day was about to unfold and the task setters had a trip to National Park in mind. The task was:

Start A → Galatea (20km Cylinder) → Tokoroa (20km Cylinder) → Mangatepopo (30km Cylinder) → Lake Rotokawa → Home. Distance to the centres was 321km.

It was going to be a fantastic day.....but!

Cloud base started off about 6000' when the club class launched and by the time the last of the open class got up the area was over developing. What started off as a fantastic day quickly deteriorated. Down through the Reporoa Valley the lift was becoming hard to find and a few pilots found themselves digging out of holes and those with iron thermals made use of them and returned to Taupo.

A number of the earlier launched gliders managed to get away from Galatea and head up to Tokoroa, only to find a paddock or strip further into the task. There were five land outs around Atiamuri, Tokoroa and Poihipi.

The results for the day were:

1	Karl Barrie (XA)	Distance 144.6km
2	Trace Austin (NM)	Distance 129.4km
3	David Jensen (YL)	Distance 128.9km

On a plus side, Vaughan Ruddick came to visit on Saturday and by taking off 60 minutes ahead of the grid and completely ignoring the task, completed an excellent flight from Taupo, down the eastern side of the lake to Poronui, around Turangi and up north of Bennydale before returning home.

SATURDAY NIGHT

Presentations and awards were held on Saturday night after dinner, along with a few more quiet drinks. There was a fireworks display from the front of the clubhouse and Adam Cumberlege proved that he can fly better than he can put on a fireworks display, after trying to set fire to the deck. It was a good night and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves.

The final results for the week, comprising of two competition flying days were:

OPEN CLASS

1	Trev Terry / Rob Lyons (TT)	1159 pts
2	Bill Walker (HW)	1118 pts
3	David Jensen (YL)	1105 pts

CLUB CLASS

1	Trace Austin (NM)	1032 pts
2	Colin McGrath / Karl Barrie (XA)	685 pts
3	Steve Foreman (KP)	557 pts

SUNDAY

Typically, the weather improved after the event and a number of pilots elected to stay around and fly on the Sunday to make the most of it. Others, of course, had to pack up and head home and some had to get ready to head off to the South Island for the Regionals.

SUMMARY

As all good things come to an end, so did the CPSC for 2013. The week's weather was disappointing in respect to flying, but all those who attended this year's competition still had an enjoyable time.

For those entering their first competition, the CPSC week has been beneficial. It has allowed them to gain further experience of cross country flying and has allowed them to be able to set new challenging goals for themselves. For the experienced pilots, it has been a good opportunity to get ready for the sanctioned competitions of the soaring season.

It takes a lot of 'behind the scenes action' to put on a contest and a special thank you must go out to all of you who assisted to make the competition successful. As for those of you that participated in the flying, thank you for attending. We hope to see you all again next year.

There is a rumour that the weather next year will be brilliant!
Cheers Trace



Left: Mavis – the lovely voice at the end of the radio. Right: Jen what would you like for lunch?