



WHANGAREI FLYING CLUB



Situated in Hangar 10 at Onerahi Airport is the Whangarei Flying Club.

The Club was inaugurated as the Northern Recreational Flying Club in March 2001 and expanded and strengthened in 2012 when the Northland Districts Aero Club, which was closing down its operation, invested its funds in the Club and the name was changed to the Whangarei Flying Club.

Having gone through some difficult times the Club now boasts 150 members, of which, a good number are active flyers. The pilots range from new students to pilots with thousands of hours – ages range from 14 to mid-nineties with many pilots aged from 60 upwards – age is no barrier.

The Club Patron, June Billings, is in her nineties and is still an active pilot of some skill. She is a Committee member of long standing and is a most generous benefactor to the club.

A dedicated and forward looking Committee has managed the Club into a position of strength over the last few years. The flying rates are by far the cheapest around, a fact which has



attracted a number of student pilots from the Auckland city area who each come up for a day at a time, spending these days flying and taking exams.

Six volunteer instructors handle the training from an initiation flight to the gaining of passenger ratings, type ratings and license renewals. Subjects studied cover Aircraft Technical Knowledge, Meteorology, Navigation, Aviation Law and Radio Procedures.

The Club currently operates two Tecnam two seat aircraft. Tecnam is an Italian company specializing in the manufacture of a range of aircraft and aircraft parts. These Tecnams are excellent training and cross country aircraft, being stable and docile in all

aspects of flight and able to cope with the handling of pilots of all abilities.

The Club has just purchased a self-build Savannah Kit – the Savannah is a STOL type airplane capable of being flown in and out of short strips and on and off beaches and will add another dimension to Club flying for pilots with more experience.

This project will further enhance Club activities by including involvement of everyone from students through to retirees and both flying and social members. An enthusiastic band of builders has been hard at work unpacking, sorting and cataloguing the myriad parts and construction is underway. **CONT. NEXT PAGE**

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Apart from Mondays, when the aircraft are serviced by the Engineering team, the Club is open all hours thanks to Rusty and Penny Russell. Everyone is welcome at any time for flying or just a social call - the jug is always on.

Every Sunday is Club Day when pilots from all points of the compass arrive in

a range of aircraft for a yarn and lunch – Penny Burgers - the best and cheapest in Northland. This lunch is not for pilots only – anyone is welcome.

TO BOOK A FLIGHT OR FOR GENERAL ENQUIRIES CONTACT:
Rusty Russell 02 117 38942
John Healy 027 433 4511



TAKAHĒ RECOVERY PROGRAMME

Everyday sees arrivals and departures at Nelson Airport. Mid March saw the arrival of 15 takahē on an Air New Zealand charter flight from Invercargill to Nelson, transiting on the tarmac, before their helicopter flight translocating them to their new home in the Goulard Downs area of the Kahurangi National Park.

READ ABOUT THE AMAZING WORK OF ALL THOSE INVOLVED IN THE PROGRAMME.



BIKE PARKING

Whangarei Airport and the Apron Café have now got a bike rack for those who wish to have a coffee before, during, or after their ride



WHANGAREI CYCLEWAY NETWORK

WHANGAREI CYCLEWAY NETWORK IS A PROJECT WHICH CONNECTS THE MAIN RESIDENTIAL AREAS OF WHANGAREI WITH THE CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT, AND OTHER PLACES PEOPLE FREQUENT, LIKE SHOPPING CENTERS, SPORTS FIELDS, AND SCHOOLS.

There are three paths already completed or in development; Kamo, Onerahi and Raumanga/Maunu shared paths. The Onerahi path includes the Waimahanga track which runs between the Onerahi foreshore and Waimahanga. It runs through an intertidal zone dominated by mangroves. The track is approximately 2.5km and has a gravel surface and is suitable for biking.

There is car parking at either end. Alternatively, you can link in to the Hatea Loop track via the Onerahi shared path. You can start at the Airport where there is plenty of parking or at one of the many carparks along the Hatea loop. Incorporating the Onerahi shared path, Waimahanga track and Hatea loop together makes an easy 18km grade 2 ride.

RESCUE HELICOPTER TRAINING

ONERAHI AIRPORT, BEING AN AIRPORT, HAS A LOT OF WONDERFUL VISITORS FROM THE SKIES. HOWEVER ONE OF OUR AIRPORTS VERY UNIQUE VISITORS IS THE RESCUE HELICOPTERS.

These are amazing machines that are flown by even more amazing pilots. Yes they are sometimes noisy aircraft however considering the life saving work they do, the noise is negligible in the overall big picture.

The helicopter rescue teams often work in the worst of conditions, from rescues in rough seas, wild country, high winds and heavily populated areas. The pilots train for these challenging environments every day and on occasion it is the Airports turn to host a part of the training that must be completed at an Airport.

Aviation has one of the most rigorous safety systems of all industries. Included in the Whangarei system is the management of noise. All Helicopters that flying into, and train at our airport, follow the compliance rules and behave appropriately in respect of the noise management practices in place.

Next time you see or hear the helicopter training at Whangarei Airport, you can be thankful that, if you ever need a rescue ride, the pilot will be ready and capable.



BREAKING NEWS

THIS IS AN EARLY 'HEADS UP' THAT NOTIFIED INDUSTRIAL ACTION AT THE MARSDEN POINT OIL REFINERY WILL POTENTIALLY AFFECT THE SUPPLY OF JET A1 FUEL FROM 9 JUNE.

The CAA has advised that there is usually about 7 days fuel reserves available. The industrial action notice is for up to one month. Road delivery of fuel may also be affected. The CAA, Ministry of Transport and MBIE are in discussions and very aware of potential impacts on air travel (and emergency helicopter operations), including re-building of trans-Tasman visitor numbers.

SAFETY TIPS



- Most of us are a little bit shy when communicating with a radio. When flying it is critical to let others in the sky, around the circuit, and on the ground, where you are and what your intentions are. Please complete your radio checks before taking to the air.
- Over the past few months there we have had a few four legged visitors that bark. These, usually adorable, best friends are not welcome at the Airport. To help with this we ask that all gates to the airside of the airport to remain closed at all times.
- During arriving commercial flights the driveway outside the Terminal is in a state of organised chaos. Everyone can help to keep ourselves safe during these busy times by parking in appropriate parking zones, drive slowly, be alert for hazards, and respect the directions of the airport staff if they are to ask you to move on. We thank you for your cooperation.
- Both airside pedestrian automatic access gates are in operation. This will make it easier to get from your aircraft to the café without having to walk through busy apron areas.

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WHEN HARD WORK GOES OUT OF THE DOOR, POVERTY COMES IN AT THE WINDOW.

WITH HARD WORK, YOU CAN GET FIRE OUT OF A STONE.

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