

REC WINGS

THE MAGAZINE OF THE CANTERBURY RECREATIONAL AIRCRAFT CLUB



- CONFESSIONS OF AN AIRPORT LURKER
- AIRWAYS AND MCDONALDS JV
- STRATFORD FLYERS
- ATC FLYING WEEKEND

MARCH-APRIL 2022



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RECWINGS

is produced by a keen group of individuals within the **Canterbury Recreational Aircraft Club**.

Contributions for the next edition are due by **May 12th 2022**. We invite contributions from all, with editorial discretion being final.

editor@crac.co.nz

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Cover, Undisputed Queen of the skies, Emirates Airbus A380 A6-ADL graces us with her presence in this December 2018 view.

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CANTERBURY RECREATIONAL AIRCRAFT CLUB

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
AT THE CANTERBURY AERO CLUB CLUBROOMS

7:00 PM, APRIL 12TH



CONFESSIONS OF AN AIRPORT LURKER

BRIAN GREENWOOD

Originally, I was going to do a story based on “Confessions of a Train Spotter” – a charming film by Michael Palin about the last days of Britain’s steam railways. It was full of humorous double-entendres and puns.

Apparently, I have neither the literary skills nor charm to carry it off. All I can say is when it’s dark, don’t frequent the back of a large airport if you value your eyes.

Daytime and dusk, however, is a different matter! Every two weeks, I have a family transport job that I do not look forward to (although the company is lovely) which takes me past Christchurch Airport. To make it a little more pleasant, I throw the camera in the car and try to catch anything interesting on Flight Radar 24. The paid for version of the app is probably the best \$10 I have spent.

Military aircraft do not always show up on Flight Radar 24, but everything else is fair game. Air NZ, QANTAS, Jetstar, and Virgin machines are the bread and butter. Over the years, and even during the pandemic, we have got even more interesting aircraft - the China Southern 787 (presumably delivering face masks, RATs, and the ever-vital impulse purchases off AliExpress) and the Abercrombie and Kent Boeing 757.

Christchurch also hosts GCH Aviation with a selection of lovely King Airs, a Cessna Citation business jet, the Flying Doctor service and Westpac Rescue Helicopter.

Operation Deep Freeze also operates out of Christchurch, as does the RNZAF on occasion.

Some of these are still on my yet-to-capture list.



Above and heading photos Virgin on the ridiculous? Virgin Australia Boeing 737-800 arrivals, daylight and dusk; December 2016 and July 2019 respectively.

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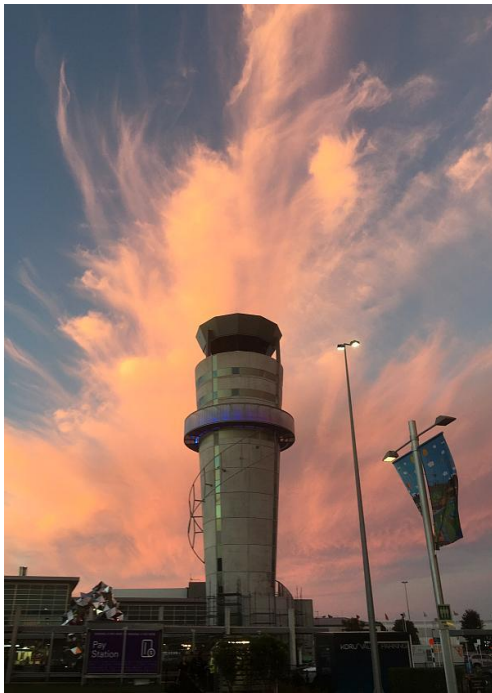
Wayne has just returned from his bi-annual, update course for Rotax Aircraft Engines at Bert Flood's facility in Australia. This keeps him factory current



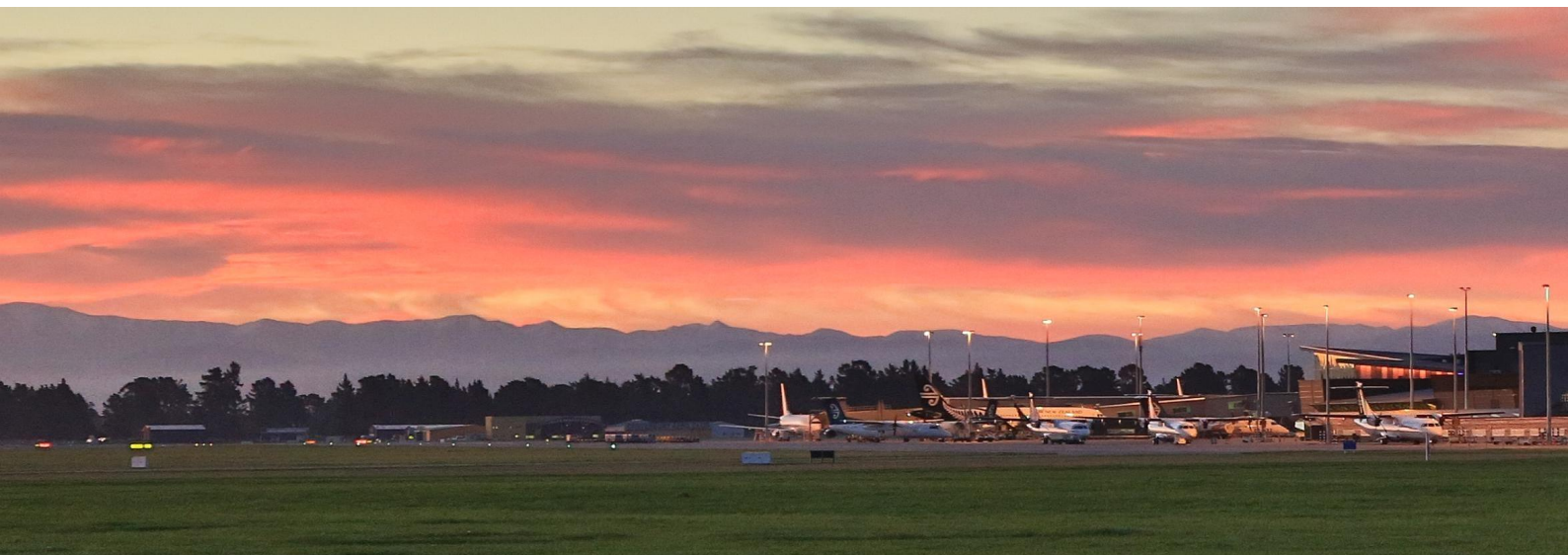
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Above right I've always liked the look of an aircraft on finals – probably since my training days when I learned to balance the drag of the flaps with power, and get the thing trimmed so it's stable. This is the staple of Air New Zealand's fleet, Airbus A320-232 ZK-OXB in January this year.





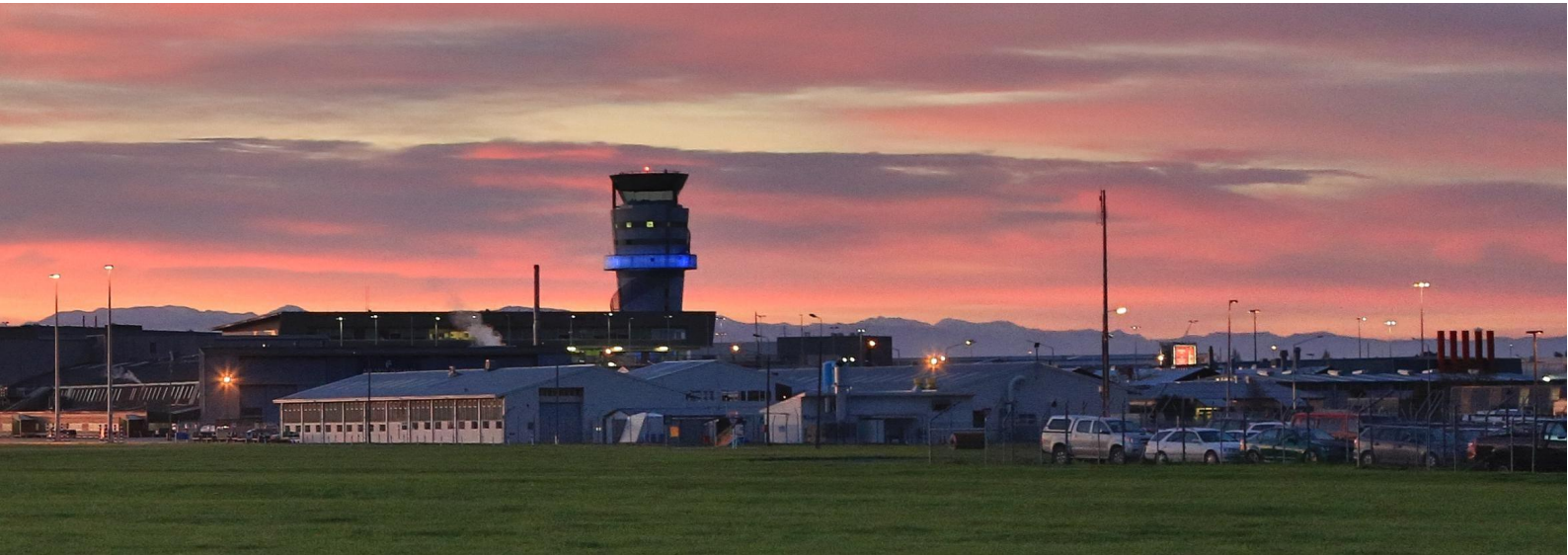
Left and Below, another welcome operator in Kiwi skies is the QANTAS-owned low-cost carrier Jetstar, providing some competition to keep prices down.

Right, VH-VFX is another of the ubiquitous Airbus A320-232s.



Left, GCH Aviation's King Air ZK-FDN on short finals to Christchurch from Greymouth (IIRC) in this February 2020 view.

Right, Air New Zealand paints the lead aircraft of a series in a distinctive 'All Black' scheme. This is ZK-OAB, an Airbus A320-232.



Right, still wearing the older "twink" scheme is Air NZ Link's DHC Dash 8 Q300 ZK-NEO in January 2022.



Left and below, an unusual visitor is this pristine and gorgeous Boeing 757 of luxury travel operator Abercrombie and Kent, in these October 2018 shots.



Left and below, another very attractive scheme is Southern China's Boeing 787 Dreamliner. February 2018.





Left, QANTAS Boeing 737-838 inbound from, I think, Brisbane in 2018.

Right, Fiji Airways Boeing 737-800 series DQ-FJM in April 2017.



Below, The mighty Herc! An incredibly lucky shot from December 2016, an LC-130 of the New York Air National Guard, supporting Operation Deep Freeze.





Emirates A380 on short finals to Christchurch in December 2018. Note the Hawk above the tail, #2.
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AIRWAYS AND MCDONALDS JOINT VENTURE

STAFF REPORTER

Wellington, April 1st

Due to the reduced airport traffic caused by the global pandemic, Airways Corporation income has taken a major hit. In a brilliant move designed to increase revenue, encourage use of their systems, and retain their highly skilled staff, Airways has entered into a joint venture with McDonalds to provide fast food from every manned Airways control tower.

Airways Head of Operations, Ronald McNugget, states that the expected revenue from this venture will allow continued growth of Airways services. Existing Control Tower staff will be trained to provide the extra services, and Control Towers will be equipped accordingly.

Ronald gave an example of the ordering process, which is expected to seamlessly fit into existing radio procedures. The call-sign has been chosen at random.

- “Christchurch Tower, Juliet Oscar Lima”
- “Juliet Oscar Lima, go ahead”
- “Juliet Oscar Lima is one mile west of the pylons, wun tousand four hundred feet, request joining per flight plan, I have 2 POB, 3 hours fuel, 1014, Charlie. I’d like Two Big Macs, a happy meal with orange juice, and two McFlurries.”
- “Juliet Oscar Lima cleared direct to left base grass two-zero not above wun thousand fife hundred feet, report on joining. Caution one aircraft in the circuit. Unable to comply on the McFlurries, Ice Cream machine is broken. Would you like Fries with that?”
- “Juliet Oscar Lima is cleared direct left base grass two-zero, not above wun thousand fife hundred feet, call on joining. Affirmative on the Fries.”

The costs will be automatically debited to your existing Airways account. I asked Airways Chief Financial Officer, Hamish Burglar, what the expected effect would be.

“Please, call me Ham – we’re expecting a major revenue boost as most pilots conflate fast food with fine dining. The costs of retraining our ATC staff and re-equipping the control towers is expected to be recouped within the first six months.”

Ham, who admits that his internal nickname has become “the burger king” (note the lack of capitals to avoid trademark infringement), is extremely keen on the project. “With modern equipment being so much smaller than the gear our Towers were designed for, accommodating the fryers and other paraphernalia is relatively easy. The background noise of the fryers and grills is similar to radio static, so we don’t anticipate any noise issues”.

“Surely you can’t be serious?”

“I am – and don’t call me Shirley”

I asked how the staff are coping with the changes, Ham stated “They’re really taking to it well. Some very positive suggestions, well, mostly positive suggestions, have come from them and we’ve refined many of the processes. They’ve taken to it like a duck to orange sauce.” Perhaps that should be “like chicken to herbs and spices”?

When questioned about extending the service to airline catering, he stated that the current menu was probably too nutritious for the airline industry.

Back to our example procedure:

- “Christchurch Tower, Juliet Oscar Lima is left base for grass two-zero, one aircraft in sight”
- “Juliet Oscar Lima cleared to land, number wun, contact Christchurch Ground after landing. Please report to the Tower at your convenience”.

It’s going to be very refreshing to go to the Control Tower for a Grill instead of a Grilling.



Above, McDonalds has a long history of supporting Aviation in New Zealand.

Author Fuwuyuan, Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 4.0 International
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8 June 2017, 16:26:19

An advertisement for the Historical Aviation Film Unit (HAFU). It features a blue t-shirt with a cartoon illustration of a blue biplane with the number "548" on its side. Below the t-shirt, the text reads "New aircraft caricature t-shirts now available". In the bottom left corner, there is a logo for HAFU, which includes a film reel and the text "HAFU HISTORICAL AVIATION FILM UNIT". The website address "www.aviationfilm.com" is displayed in the bottom right corner.



STRATFORD FLYERS

AARON MURPHY

A group of Zenith 601 pilots from Stratford recently passed through Rangiora. **Aaron Murphy** spoke to Luke Venables (ZK-OBH) who explained they had left Stratford via Foxpine, Omaka and Kaikoura to Rangiora where they had a breather in the CRAC Clubhouse. They were headed to Stewart Island, making a stop at Oamaru and then Taieri for two nights.

Maybe weather related but that was as far south as they went in the end, from Taieri they went to Te Anau on the 13th and visited a few other strips before parking up for a night at Alexandra. They passed back through Rangiora apparently on the 14th from Alex for gas and headed home for Stratford via Omaka.





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ATC CADETS FLYING WEEKEND – 19-20TH MARCH 2022

WORDS: TIA WARWICK

PHOTOS: EMMA WARWICK

Saturday the 19th of March heralded the start of our annual flying weekends held at the unit, and the weather definitely turned up for us. This year we had a total of 30 cadets show up for their intro to aviation, and despite the masks you could almost see the grins of excitement. Over the two days, we managed to successfully get all 30 up into the air for their half an hour trial flights, and it was a delight to meet them all as they stepped out the planes, rushing to tell their parents all about their experiences. Those who weren't flying were attending NCO training organised by the units Acting WO, F/S Elson.

Events like our flying weekend can't be held without the help that we are lucky enough to receive from our officers, Support Committee, and the CRAC Club. Big thank you to the officers in charge of organising this event, and to the committee member and staff that showed up on the day to help everything run as smoothly as it did.

To the Canterbury Recreational Aero Club: your ongoing support and encouragement for our

unit is appreciated more than you will ever know. We are so grateful to have such a strong and supportive community backing us, you are a phenomenal group of people and we hope that you know we sincerely appreciate all you do for us. Events like this are not possible without you, and we are privileged to operate with you.

We would like to especially mention the instructors – Colin, Scott, and Glenn. Without you, our flying weekends aren't possible. You all have so much wisdom and knowledge that you are more than happy to pass along to our young cadets, and we know that they will treasure memories like these for years to come. Vanessa, thank you for lending your fabulous aircraft for the weekend, I know that many of the cadets were over the moon to be flying in "the cool pink plane!".

For some of our cadets, this is a flight taken for adventure and fun. For others, it is their dreams of soaring across the sky becoming realities, and the start of their journeys into the wide world of aviation.



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Above, Lachie McPhail soloed on February 10th.

Below, David Erdman did likewise on February 23rd.



COMMITTEE NOTES FEBRUARY-MARCH 2022

- Letter received from an instructor regarding charging procedures for flights. Discussion revealed that some instructors were not following the procedure which is to be documented and posted.
- Letter received regarding the location of an engine sold to by CRAC to another party, and on sold. As it was no longer our property we could only investigate and advise.
- 005 received about a precautionary beach landing
- Recent BBQs well received (Thank you to organisers)
- Some questions on why the total asset values of the aircraft were lower this year despite buying a new aircraft.
- Benjamin now taking over as CFI
- RGC elevator repaired
- Laser printer donated to the club by Peter Collins
- Lionel Green helping Club Captain with Fly Away organisation
- Club President reported an incident in the clubhouse over a misunderstanding of Red Traffic Light rules relating to Club Food.
- AGM Set for April 12th at the CAC Club rooms
- ATC cadet Lucy Gillroy the recipient of the CRAC Flying award
- WDC have accepted Chris Pennell's quotation for re-grassing 07/25
- New Tecnam to be registered as RGE. Expected to land in country mid-March, possible delivery to club mid-April.
- **Flying rates increased to \$160/HR RGA/RGC and \$180/Hr RGE. Hangar rental \$50/wk**
- A near miss reported at NZRT
- New Template for CRAC Rap by professional designers for consideration
- Security Cameras working well
- Some birds to be served eviction notices from club hangars
- WDC appointing new part-time Airfield Manager to replace the Safety Officer role.



CANTERBURY RECREATIONAL AIRCRAFT CLUB (INC)

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Rangiora 7440

www.crac.co.nz

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

2nd April – Club Fly Away
12th April – AGM – 7:00pm CAC Clubrooms
23rd April – Club landing Competition
21 May – Club BBQ

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

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dedicated enthusiasts; the opinions expressed
herein are not to be taken as official club policy
unless approved by the committee.*

NEW MEMBERS

Welcome aboard to:

Mikhail Krasnykh

Raymond Monk

David Erdman

Douglas Heaton

Daniel Hanifin

Peter Finnegan

Jonathan Vitz

Hamish Craig

Deborah Paull

Ian Walls

Lucy Gilroy (ATC)

Warren Matthews

Jeffrey Laing

Donald Payne

Please make our new friends feel
welcome.

CONGRATULATIONS

Denis Chernysov, Adv Nat

Ian Hill, Adv Local

NEXT MAGAZINE

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are requested, publishing deadline
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2022.