

# RECWINGS

THE MAGAZINE FOR RECREATIONAL FLYERS



- SOUTH ISLAND AKRO FEST
- CRAC'S NEW SAVANNAH
- WE CAN DO BETTER!

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2023





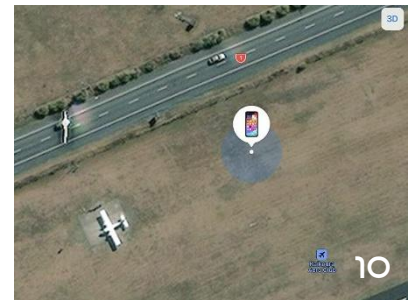




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### RECWINGS

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

Contributions for the next edition are due by **February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024**. We invite contributions from all, with editorial discretion being final.

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*Cover, CRAC's ZK-RGC doing circuit duty, NZRT, 11/11/23*

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*Inside Cover, Aaron Murphy's superb photo of Rangiora Airfield.*

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# MERRY CHRISTMAS!



The Editor would like to wish all our readers a very special season's greetings, here's hoping for a flight-full 2024!



## AOPA FLY-IN 2023

AARON MURPHY

These were taken on Sat 23 Sep after the very abbreviated AOPA Fly In.

The three of us (CCL, RDY, and ASL) went to MacKintosh Beach to meet Stu Bufton for an impromptu BBQ.

*Above, Lionel Green's awesome Auster J1*

*Below, two shots of Lionel's ICP Savannah, ZK-RDY. It shows the skills of the CRAC Instructors that Lionel can simultaneously fly two aircraft to a fly in.*







1) ***WE continue to have incidents where club members do not prepare before arriving at an airfield that they are unfamiliar with.***

Being prepared!

On Sunday 8 October several club members flew to Forest Field for the 35<sup>th</sup> celebrations.

Unfortunately, although FF is a local field and many of our members fly there regularly, a number of our pilots did not review the plate before going and caused significant disruption by not joining correctly, joining for a “right hand circuit” although FF is all left hand and turning right after take-off. One member even “got lost” and returned to RT even though FF is only 10 miles!

This is very disappointing. It is unsafe and reflects poorly on our club and on all microlight Pilots. FF is a private airfield and the owners have generously allowed CRAC Instructors and members to use this field for practice for many years... this threatens the access we have to FF.

The fact that a number of GA Pilots also mucked this up does not absolve us from being professional.

People just saying “***I have plenty of tech in the cockpit and just go***” is far below any standard required. As certified pilots we are required and expected to be prepared for the flight we are contemplating. Just going into a place you are not very familiar with is not the way, even with familiar fields we always need to check the NOTAMS

The ***Club approved Instructors*** have the skill, professionalism, and willingness to work with anyone and educate them to the standard. Take the opportunity of using the expertise around us to become a better and safer pilot.

The airfield plate should be reviewed and understood, these do change, and the NOTAMs checked as a bare minimum. Should you be unfamiliar with a field talk to someone, take a knowledgeable passenger etc.

To be clear, the standard procedure approaching a field are encapsulated in the two common acronyms.

**ABREIFS:**

ATIS set

Brief plate and NOTAMS

Radio frequency set and call as required

Engine T's and P's

Instruments set

Fuel- sufficient/ fullest tank

Secure all items

Approach/departure **TCTWO:**

Threats

Charts briefed

Terrain

Weather

Operational (i.e., NOTAMS)

2) We have had two club fly aways this month to Lake Station and to Paraparaumu I developed and presented the preflight briefings for these.

3) RAANZ are looking at a subsidy for 50% of the cost of the Flight Instructors Guides for the Club Instructors. Scott can give an update on the progress.

5) The Tecnam “fix” for the undercarriage of RGE has arrived and I expect will be completed soon

6) An Instructors Meeting was held on 18 October. The main topic was a SOP for use when training in the club Savannah. In addition, Controlled Airspace training and Bombing competition were also discussed.

7) Lionel/ Colin and I held a Controlled airspace seminar on the 18 October the highlight was Colin being an ATC controller on a “radio” actually intercom everyone felt this was very useful and it is highly recommended that we do this again.

8) RAANZ has updated their Exam system, this looks much better and far more professional. I have used



this for one student so far and it is a bit flaky. However, the new system **needs a good Internet connection**. This now makes an upgrade for CRAC a higher priority.

Starlink was installed by Scott/Buzz ?? and a Wi-Fi repeated installed. This has resulted in an increase

from 20mbit/s to 135 in the kitchen and to 270 in the Instructors Office.

Glenn N Martin, CFI



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The ADSB Subsidy is over, but there are some cheaper options out there for those who would still like ADSB.

Microair...

Microair have been advertising an upgrade path for their T2000SFL Transponders for about 18 Months. Only about 6 weeks before the end of the subsidy did they actually get a working one out. There were considerable problems getting them to work in NZ, but that is now all sorted out. As a result of this process Microair made us a NZ Dealer for their products.


Many microlite owners and some certified aircraft owners will have the old unmodified units on the shelf gathering dust. I would like to get the info out there that these Transponders still retain some value.

Upgrade cost is as follows.

T2000SFL Transponder Mod7 or Higher AUD \$2500.00 + GST


T2000SFL Transponder pre Mod7 AUD \$2900.00 + GST

<https://www.microair.aero/product/t2000adsb-transponder-upgrade/>




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ZK-CCL

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Ryan Humphreys' IBIS Magic GS-700 ZK-CCL  
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## SOUTH ISLAND AKRO FEST PHOTOS SUPPLIED



CRAC President Ian McPhail participated in the recent South Island Akro Fest at Ashburton.

Iain must be very pleased with the results, he was placed 1<sup>st</sup> overall in the **Primary – Power** category, and second in the **Recreational – Power** category.

He also gained the **Most Improved Pilot** award – how cool is that?!

## FLYING TO WARBIRDS OVER WANAKA?

Members thinking of flying into Warbirds Over Wanaka Airshow next Easter might want to consider a new option available for aviators. Distinction Hotels have two hotels in Omarama and one in Twizel.

They offer comfortable hotel rooms with restaurant and bar facilities. Park your aircraft at either Pukaki or Omarama airfields and stay with Distinction who are looking to put on bus transport to Wanaka return on the main airshow days.





## LOST IPHONE

TIM WARD

Amazing saga about my phone. Modern technology with iPhone and “baby boomers.”

I was flying to Paraparamu for the Canterbury Recreational Aircraft Club and AOPA fly-in to support the Kapiti Aero Club and others to help retain their airport from potential closure.

A coffee break at Kaikoura was called for and when returning to ZK-TIM I had my phone in my back pocket. Taking it out, to get seated, I left it on the wing, outside the door while I did some pre-flight check. All done, I shut the door and ready to venture north, across the ditch.

After take-off I suddenly realised my phone was absent! Oh no, panic! A return to Kaikoura was executed and returned to my parking spot. Searched the parking

area, but to no avail, I then walked the taxi route and grass runway, but no phone. So I thought, oh well, must have dropped off after take-off onto the beach dunes, so new phone, cancel everything, credit card and drivers licence, and the inevitable hassles and time wasting. C'est la vie!

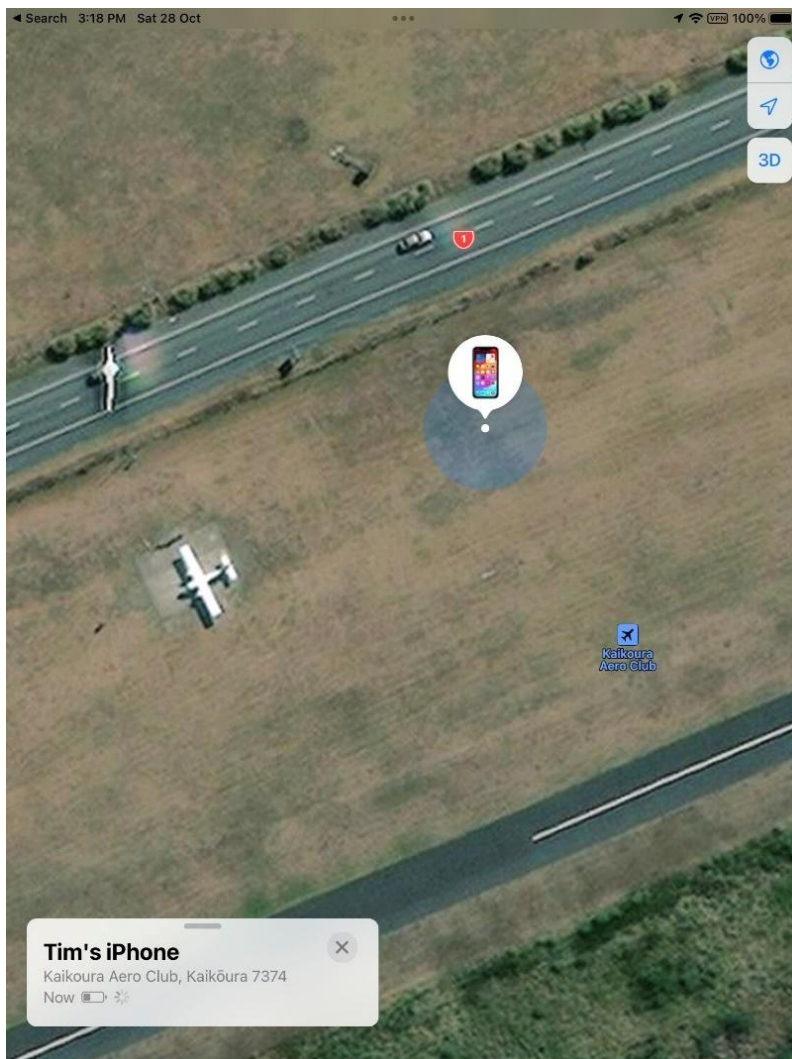
Got to Paraparamu and borrowed a phone to call Angus, my son. When he got to the airport he said "we will find it". Modern Generation Z!

So he used his personal hot spot on his android phone to connect WiFi on my little ZK-TIM iPad. He then used "Find My", an iPhone App, where my devices were activated. I couldn't believe it, he found it, still working, receiving and transmitting near to the original parking spot. He then screen shot the map display, see below, which providing a reasonably accurate location, and we phoned

Kaikōura Aero Club. They kindly agreed to go and look for the phone after Angus emailed them the screen shot. We didn't hear from them for a while, so when at Angus's house in Wellington, we used "Find My" again and it was located in the Aero Club office on a charger! Amazing connectivity!

I was so relieved and amazed how he was so positive it could be found, and how naked you feel without the device. So ended a good weekend, picking the iPhone up from the Aero Club, on the return journey. Saved me \$1400 plus the hassle with credit cards, licences etc. So if you have Apple devices, activate the “Find My” on your iPhone plus other Apple devices and it may well save you some money and embarrassment one day! Also, included in your preflight checks, “mobile phone on board”.

For the baby boomers anyway!





## CRAC'S NEW SAVANNAH WAYNE WILSON



*Wayne Wilson contributed this smashing photo of the Club's new Savannah, now wearing her flash new graphics. She's still sailing through her required test hours and should be online soon. Flying rate will be set shortly, how cool is that?!*

## STEW'S NEW... FRANKEN-AVID BRIAN GREENWOOD



*Stewart Bufton has recently flown his pet project, a somewhat modified Avid Flyer IV. Stew's lengthened the fuselage to increase stability, and created an undercarriage worthy of the Apollo Lunar Lander for his favoured off-field landings!*



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# TAIL DRAGGER TRAINING



**contact:**

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**Scott 021525561**

**Mike 0274362602**

## COMMITTEE NOTES

### OCTOBER-NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2023

- Flight hours down significantly
- CFI: Some issues with incorrect circuits flown at NZFF (see report)
- Fire extinguishers tested
- Christmas party planned, awards to be re-instituted
- ATC Flying day planned before Christmas (subsequently cancelled due to weather)
- Timothy Ward appointed Treasurer understudy, potential to replace Scott James at next AGM
- New bank account being created
- 3 new fuel cards obtained for club aircraft use
- Training syllabus for new Club Savannah outlined by CFI. Three levels of training offered, from basic type- rating through to off-field landings.
- RGE Undercarriage fix still a work in progress - interpretations over the "approved alternative" composite repair causing issues.
- EFTPOS considered for tuck shop but too expensive given the turnover
- Working bee to be organised to fix the sign on the Oxford Road/Mertons Road intersection – new year
- First Solo certificates to be presented at the Christmas Party
- Fuelling situation: decisions made at special committee meeting on field were ratified at next committee meeting. Pneumatic pump to be connected and the current fuel trailer used to directly fill club aircraft. Instructors to be trained, and the process documented in writing. Club members will be allowed to fill **Club** aircraft once they have been trained.
- Christmas function set at \$30 per person. 70 people expected, volunteers requested for a hangar tidy-up on November 17<sup>th</sup>.
- Club Savannah progress – going well, aircraft expected to be online around the Christmas period.
- Emergency Contacts (NoK) system to be upgraded
- Discussions between CFI and AMC regarding Aircraft maintenance, specifically the fix for RGE and other issues. AMC subsequently resigned from the role.
- Aircraft options due to lack of flying hours discussed, with the possibility of one or more aircraft being sold, mothballed, or leased. To be discussed in full in February.



# CRAC CHRISTMAS PARTY

SAMUEL MILLER



*Above, a great Triptych showing a reaction to the Wizard's wit!*

*Right, Ben Jackson*

*Below, Duncan Wooley in a reflective pose*

*Bottom right, Peter and Bonita Collins*







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Interested in joining us?

E-mail [secretary@crac.co.nz](mailto: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**

- January 1st 2024** - Hood Aerodrome Fly-in
- January 2nd - 9th January** - Gliding South Island  
Regionals Omarama
- February 3rd** - RAANZ Fly-in Hokitika
- February 3rd (Tentative)** - CRAC Working Bee on  
Hangars
- February 4th** - Omaka Wings and Wheels Open  
Day
- March 28th - April 1st** - Wairarapa Balloon  
Festival
- March 29-31st** - Warbirds Over Wanaka 2024

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, Glenn Martin,  
Iain McPhail, Sam Miller,  
Tim Ward, Wayne Wilson

RecWings logo by **Eric Lim**.

*Disclaimer: This Magazine is prepared by  
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:

- Sam Laurie
- Neville Bailey
- Paul O'Neil
- Terry Priest
- Mary Patterson

Please make our new friends feel  
welcome.

**NEXT NEWSLETTER**

Contributions for the next edition  
are requested, publishing deadline  
Early February 2024

Next publishing date approx. end of  
February 2024.

Brian Greenwood, Editor  
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