

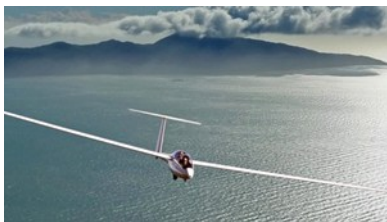
September 2025

Issue No. 167

Flight Training at Paraparaumu (1958 – Present) – A Brief History

Researched by Keith Mackersy

Following on from last month, Keith has put together an article covering the Gliding Club operations at our airport.



The **Wellington Gliding Club** was formed in 1965 and was a very active gliding club based at Paraparaumu for 51 years. It offered its members the opportunity to fly in a wide range of conditions ideal for gliding and provided great opportunities for people wishing to learn to fly gliders. With the lease on its facilities at Paraparaumu running out, and with increasing costs and restrictions on flying from a commercial airport, the club decided to relocate to Papawai, east of Greytown in the Wairarapa, in 2016. The club has since joined with the Wairarapa Gliding club and is now known as the Wellington Wairarapa Gliding Club.



**WELLINGTON
HERITAGE FESTIVAL**
18 OCT - 9 NOV 2025

Upcoming:

Members of the Discover Kapiti Heritage Group, comprising museums and heritage sites in the Kapiti District, including the Kapiti Aviation Museum, are taking part in Wellington's Heritage Festival again this year. This event focuses on the Kapiti District over Labour weekend and our Museum will have extended opening hours from 10am to 4pm on Saturday 25 October and Sunday 26 October. More news next time, but please consider helping out with these open days to take some of the load off our usual minders.

Security Update

We have recently upgraded our security system by installing extra smoke alarms and a 24/7 connection to **Alarm Watch**. Any minder or member who sets the alarm off by accident will need to advise Roger, Stu or Wilson immediately as they will be contacted in that order by the monitoring company to confirm whether the alarm is genuine or accidental.

Planespotting



*Air Rarotonga Saab 340B
E5-SMW at Avarua Airport.*

*Kiwi Air Ltd Reims/Cessna
F406 ZK-XLF in the back-
ground.*

Photo: Wilson Lattey (on holiday)



*Peter Merwood's Vans
RV6 ZK-VRV at PPQ.*

Photo: Stu Brown



*Search & Rescue Services
Kawasaki BK117 B-2
ZK-IPT overhead
Paraparaumu*

Photo: Stu Brown

Upcoming Meeting Programme

Every Tuesday	9.30 to 11.00am	Open forum at the Museum