

Display Upgrade

Thanks to our grant from the Kapiti Coast District Council, we have added another two revitalised display boards, replacing the old SafeAir story with an upgraded one, and the old RNZAF Maritime board with a new story-board about the history of the Civil Aviation's Calibration Flight which was based at Paraparaumu for many years. Lots of good comments from visitors already.



Next on the list is the Will Scotland Story, to go on the wall under the Caudron propellor, and further options for the future are being considered, such as the Wartime Training at Levin. Do you have any additional ideas?

We are continuing the usual **Tuesday morning Open Forums, 9.15am to 11.00am.**

Feel free to bring items of interest and / or friends.

New Member: Welcome to **Denis Ryan** from Waikanae.



Kapiti Aero Club lineup

Courtesy: Keith Mackersy (See following story)

The Kapiti Aero Club Story

The Wellington Districts Aero Club (formed in 1929) moved to Paraparaumu in mid-1958 after being banished from Rongotai during the last 6 months of the redevelopment of Wellington Airport. After it returned to Rongotai, the Wellington Club continued to operate a satellite operation at Paraparaumu from the late 1960s.

In 1983, as part of a restructure, the Wellington Districts Aero Club offered to sell the Paraparaumu branch to Kapiti-based members who took up the opportunity and formed the Kapiti Districts Aero Club, recently renamed the Kapiti Aero Club. The new Club initially had access to a range of light aircraft including three Cessna 150's and two Grumman Traveller/Cheetahs (bought from the Wellington Districts Aero Club), and a Cessna 172, an Auster, a Piper Cub, a Victa 115 and a Tiger Moth, all privately owned.

KDAC initially operated from the old NAC terminal building and a hangar on the Kapiti Road frontage at Paraparaumu Aerodrome. The old terminal building was in very poor condition so when the Airport Company, owned by an Auckland development group, headed by Sir Noel Robinson, subsequently had plans to develop commercial property on the Kapiti Road frontage, they negotiated a generous arrangement with the Club to move it's operation to its present location on the western side of the airport. This involved moving the relatively new hangar building across the airfield and helping towards providing a brand-new clubrooms.



Kapiti Aero Club building and Hangar 2026

The Club currently has a fleet of nine including a Piper PA28 Archer and Cessna 152 & 172 aircraft. The Club rooms include a reception area/office, briefing and classrooms, a lounge that also includes flight planning and study desks, a kitchen, bar and their Garmin G1000 Simulator setup.



Garmin G1000 Simulator



Lounge and Kitchen

The Aero Club now has over 300 members and focuses on providing both basic and advanced pilot training, including private and commercial pilot licences (PPL & CPL). The Club is staffed by a team of experienced instructors, an office manager and volunteers, and over the years has trained thousands of pilots with many going on to have successful careers with airlines such as Air NZ and Sounds Air.

Members can also enjoy social activities, including Pilots' Nights when guest speakers give talks and presentations on a range of aviation topics. From time to time the Club arranges "flyaway" trips to various places around the country, such as Hanmer Springs in the South Island (for a dip in hot pools!), D'Urville Island, Foxpine Aerodrome (Foxton) and Omaka (Blenheim). Fly-ins are also held when other clubs and aircraft owners outside Kapiti are invited to "fly-in" to Kapiti Coast airport for the day and enjoy the hospitality of the Club.



The Club supports Youth in Aviation through a non-profit Young Eagles Programme, backed by Flying NZ, the national body which represents aero clubs throughout New Zealand, and dedicated to promoting sport and recreational aviation, flight training, and flight safety. The programme is designed to introduce young adults to aviation and provide them with an opportunity to gain knowledge of the different sectors within the aviation industry.

Supported by volunteer members, the Young Eagles experience a wide range of aviation activities such as free local and cross-country flights in club aircraft, visits to the Wellington Air Traffic Control Centre, the LifeFlight base in Wellington, Ohakea Air Force base, engineering workshops and more.

The Club is also involved with the NZ Police Blue Light "Take a Kid Flying" programme, which has been running for nearly 10 years and is a collaboration between the Blue Light Charity, Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPS), and the Police. Each year, around 30 young people are invited to events around the country, with the Kapiti event being hosted by the Kapiti Aero Club. The programme aims to reward young people (mainly from the Kāpiti/Horowhenua Region) and give them a memorable experience.



On several occasions, Aero Club members have provided voluntary search and rescue assistance in coordination with various authorities. Members have assisted in high-profile searches, including searching the Wellington South Coast for a missing kayaker and monitoring shorelines for orca pods. Assistance has also been provided to those affected by civil defence emergencies with club aircraft ferrying essential items to those in need.

The Aero Club is committed to minimising noise impact in the local community, and it works closely with the current Airport Company and the Kāpiti Coast District Council to ensure its operations follow all applicable rules in the District Plan. As such, the Club is a member of the local [Community Liaison Group](#) which works to improve communication between residents around the Kāpiti Coast Airport, airport users and the Council.

Open days are held during the year and provide a great opportunity for people to visit the Club's aircraft fleet or even go on a trial flight or try out the Simulator. Visitors can also meet with the instructors, visit the club rooms and its facilities, and enjoy a BBQ put on by Club members.

Some extra photos: *Courtesy Kapiti Aero Club and Keith Mackersy*



Aero Club Cessna 172S ZK-KAZ exploring the other side of Kapiti Island.



Cessna 152 ZK-JEN set up as Air to Air photography platform (door off).



Plane spotting by Stu



Sikorsky S-76C++, ZK-IBI, owned by Volta Aviation, paid a quick visit to Paraparaumu recently. Specialises in luxury boutique transport, based at Ardmore.



Piper PA-46-310P Malibu ZK-MBU.



Merlin Labs NZ's Cessna 208B. Used for autonomous flight research.



MBB Kawasaki BK117 B-2. ZK-IIX. Owned by Search & Rescue Services Ltd. Rescue helicopter for the Manawatu and Whanganui region.



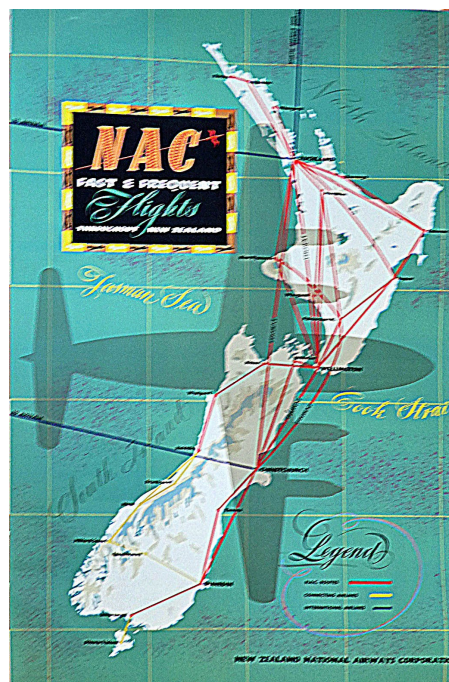
Shark Aero Shark 600 ZK-SAS 600. Private owner.



Cockpit, Boeing B-52 at Darwin Aviation Museum

Classic NAC Posters

In May this year we gifted several NAC posters, surplus to our needs, from our collection to the Classic Flyers' Museum in Tauranga, care of Bernice Smith who had gifted them to us back in 1999. She worked in NAC Head Office in the 1960's.



MUSEUM HOURS: SUNDAYS 1pm to 4pm

PRIVATE AND GROUP VISITS BY ARRANGEMENT

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