Significant changes to club

The early pioneers in aviation had many things in common – most were engineers and many were manufacturers of bicycles. Henri Farman and Herbert Pither were professional cyclists. Pither and the Wright brothers manufactured bicycles. These early pioneers understood and developed concepts of lightness, strength, control and stability.

Recently our club has formed a successful cycling group, and in response to this change in club focus, and in recognition of the pioneering status of cycling to aviation, the committee has decided interfrastically to rename the club “Kapiti Radio Aero Pedallers” club.

Funds have been set aside from club reserves to build a cycle shed adjacent to the clubhouse. Discussions are underway with the Queen Elizabeth park management to investigate whether a cyclocross course could be built linking the sand-dunes surrounding our airstrip.

In keeping with the clubs ambition to become a focal point for club members, other plans are to cultivate a “gentlemen’s club” profile, with a petanque area adjacent to the bike sheds, the airstrip being used on windy days for tennis, and for bowls on the third Thursday of each month.

Transparent Aluminium for cowlings

The formula for transparent aluminium is documented as being discovered in 1986 by Dr Nichols, after being given a hint from a Doctor Scott who is rumoured to be from the Star Ship “Enterprise”. It appears that the substance which is used in future intergalactic starships, came to Dr Nichols as a predestination paradox, through a warp in the space time continuum. This is documented in the definitive work “The Voyage Home” by Harve Bennett and Leonard Nimoy.¹

While the original formula for manufacturing transparent aluminium is complex, relying on a reaction between allochthonous dilithium, and tritanium crystals, commercial processes have now been developed, and hobby supplies can be obtained from your local supermarket for as low as $3.99 per cowling (or less if orange juice is on special).

¹ From Wikipaedia (so it must be true).
This is a sentient material which cannot be moulded by conventional workshop tools. It must be encouraged such that it wants and needs to become a cowl. No sense in trying to make a cowl for an ugly model – the material will simply refuse to cooperate. Traditional workshop techniques will not be effective. You should appeal to its aesthetic instinct through subliminal psychic neurophysiological processes (ask your wife - this is how she makes you wash the dishes.) If in doubt, on how to use this material, ask Barry Mansfield.

**New ARF models from HobbyQueen**

Pictured are club spouses Cherryl and Linda, assembling their Hobbyqueen ARF vintage stringbag. This is a large scale vintage floatplane with a frame of beech, and macramé wing covering. Power is by 16 Bernina electric motors, Simpson servos and a Fisher and Paykel control system. Further details are OUCH! --- withheld.

**Lightweight toolkit/flightbox**

Does your flight kit take up too much room in your car? Is it too heavy? Now available from Yumpoo trading company is a complete inflatable flightbox. This comes complete with lightweight spanners and screwdrivers, which can all be inflated using your trusty bike pump. For further details see http://uk.alibaba.com/product/549877339-PVC-Inflatable-Wrench-Spanner.html

Daylight saving – this ends on April 5th. Wind your clock back by 1 hour, and your calendar forward to 2015. Make sure you adjust your transmitter, or your plane may be airborne before you get to the airstrip.

The Tomboy group

The Tomboy group recently celebrated their first anniversary with a screening of the film “Tomboy”. Roger Ebert’s review of the film described it thus :-“The first shot is disconcerting. The camera is close to a wind-swept head and shoulders floating through space and backdropped by sky, clouds and trees.” We all know that feeling. After the film, comments from our guys were heard such as “took me to new heights”, “unstable”, “made me dizzy”, “must adjust my linkage”, “my pushrod is bent” and several experienced spontaneous confabulation. They are now waiting for the sequel “Tomtits” to be released. See https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JvfdCI4MArQ.
Rabbit control
Last year the clubhouse nearly collapsed into a rabbit hole dug below the foundations. Our rabbit problem has become so severe that John Miller felt driven to donate a couple of cubic meters of topsoil to the club, to fill in the holes. You may have seen this in a pile near the grass rollers. The rabbits continue to dig, and our supply of topsoil will shortly be exhausted. We are now going to add a couple of additional strands to our electric fence, so that the bunnies will get zapped if they try to venture on to the runway. This may mean that setting up and removing the fence is a little more tedious. If this is successful, we may consider a purpose built netting fence stored on a portable reel. The fence will be driven from a wind generator to be installed on the clubhouse roof. This means that when its too windy to fly, the fence will keep the bunnies under control. Dead bunnies will be used for Silver Fox Squadron BBQ sausages.

Lots of happenings in the Park
- **Walkway update**  As part of the walkway upgrade project, the Council will shortly be installing push button switches similar to the picture, at each end of the pilots box. When taking off or landing, pilots can hit the switch which will operate a radio link to activate warning lights and a klaxon horn, at each end of the walkway runway crossing. This is similar to a garage door opener system. The lights and horn will operate for 30 seconds. This will indicate to track users to vacate the area immediately, as a plane is committed to take off or landing. We will carry out trials to ensure that the frequency used does not conflict with aircraft systems. If you have one of the new FrSky transmitters with downloadable software you may be able to operate the crossing warning from a spare channel.
- **Multicopter rotorcross circuit.**  Following successful multicopter events at Levin and Battle Hill, the Wellington based Unmanned Rotary Aerial Pilot Association (URAPILOC), has approached the Queen Elizabeth Park management with a request to establish an eventing course. This will take the form of various obstacles around and through which the machines will be raced. Obstacles will include derelict buildings, a disused power pylon, old car bodies, oil drums and other examples of the built environment. If you have any suitable obstacles, which you wish to donate, they may be left at the clubhouse.
- **Tree Planting** – A significant amount of tree planting is planned for the next year. Some of this will be on the sanddunes behind the clubhouse, where they will be available to electric flyers for charging your models. You will need to have a tree pin plug.

AGM Reminder
This month is the AGM. Rumour has it that several important remits are on the agenda, which will require intense debate and contrabilation. These include:
- **Jerry Actrix** and **Pat Riarch** want the club to consider that membership be granted only on production of a “Gold Card”. This remit is to ensure that the current age distribution and culture of the club is preserved, and to avoid exposure of existing members to loud music. The remit proposes that the club will install solar panels for charging hearing aids and mobility scooters, and a ramp access to the clubhouse.
• Mr R. Thrustbuckett proposes that all jet aircraft be banned except for a few members who hold Jetex units, and who are grandfathers.

• A remit proposed by Win D. Windmill is that flying be only allowed within the length of the airstrip, and east of the airstrip. Fliers will be required to execute a 45 degree turn away from the flightbox, immediately on takeoff, and use a similar approach path. Vertical descents will be encouraged as these avoid the need for complex approach paths during cross winds.

• Dr O. Nespy, would like the club to acquire a large multicopter, equipped with FPV and a grapple, for use in finding lost Tomboys and aircraft downed in the blackberry patch. A large flat screen would be installed in the clubhouse to enable club members to participate in search operations while enjoying a glass of fine red.

• Seekan Forage, has suggested that the club allocate a wall in the clubhouse for a detailed map of the area immediately surrounding the clubhouse. In the event of a downed aircraft, the last known bearing and general distance can be marked on the map, which will then serve as a historical record for found aircraft remains when the blackberry is finally gone. This will also enable evidence gathering to prove or disprove the theory that the blackberry patch contains a mysterious attractive force, like the Bermuda triangle. It could be a lively AGM. To be sure be sure to be there.

**Teapot racing**

The latest addition to club activities is teapot racing. You may have encountered one of these ripping up the strip while you are waiting to take off, or have had one whack you in the shins while trying to start your 150cc Superfluous. These are examples of typical variations seen on the airstrip.

![Teapot Racing](image1.jpg)

![Teapot Racing](image2.jpg)

![Teapot Racing](image3.jpg)

Thats all folks, wishing you all enthusiastic contrafibularities.

Must go – I hear Dave coming.

Until next year --

Andy Avgas – temporary editor.

Parting thought:- “You can’t lose a homing pigeon. If your homing pigeon doesn’t come back, then you have lost a pigeon”