

RECWINGS

THE MAGAZINE FOR RECREATIONAL FLYERS



APRIL-MAY-JUNE 2025





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

Contributions for the next edition are due by **September 20th, 2025**. We invite contributions from all, with editorial discretion being final.

editor@crac.co.nz

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Cover, Ryan Humphreys lifts off in Chris Pennell's Bantam B10 at the CRAC Open Day

Inside Cover, The ex-SAAF Harvard III, appropriately registered ZK-XSA, dropped into Rangiora prior to Easter.

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CRAC OPEN DAY 2025

BRIAN GREENWOOD

Once again the weather gods favoured the club Open Day, with gentle breezes featuring during the entire day. Public turn-out was even better than 2023's, with an estimated 4,000 people dropping in to check out the coffee, food vendors, and aviating.

The feedback we received was excellent, one of my friends reporting that his family were reluctant to attend but thoroughly enjoyed the day. Special mention was made of the fact that it wasn't too packed, and the close proximity to the aircraft operations, especially watching light aircraft operate in a safe and co-ordinated manner was an absolute thrill. The clear delineation between the operational and public areas made the event feel safe and well-organised.

Well done to all the volunteers and committee who worked hard on this chance to show-case our hobby, you can take a bow. Special thanks to the Instructors for the keeping the event safe and providing the trial flights.

The accounting shows that we made a minor loss on the day of around \$300, which is close-enough to our aim of making it revenue-neutral.



***This page top photos** – the club planes were busy doing Introductory Lessons, giving ample time for the general public to view our beautiful birds reasonably close. To see so many aircraft movements happening safely must be impressive to those not in the know!*

***Bottom photo** – the lovely Nanchang '02 visited us to support the Open Day – and was very appreciated!*





Left – Some junior aviators enjoyed some air time, ably supervised by some of the ever-helpful ATC crew (shout out to the Mighty 88!)

Row 2, the Nanchang had many admirers (as did the Yak 53) – and Roy in the syndicated Tecnam PAB.

Other delights included the Aeroprakt A22 ZK-JOM, Cessna 182P Skylane ZK-RLG, The Bantam B10, and the Rans S-12 Airaile





Some of the trike community on the day including Doug Anderson in his high-performing wee trike with the odd wheels (below left). Rans S-6ES-116 ZK-MLD – well I finally got the cowlings back on her for display, only to take them off a week later! Our friends at the Canterbury Aero Club having a normal training day, I do still have a soft spot for the Cherokee/Warrior/Archer range – ZK-LJD is a Piper Warrior III.



**TAIL DRAGGER
TRAINING**



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Titan Mustang ZK-MLD is a Suzuki 2.7L V6 version – seen here departing Rangiora after supporting the CRAC Open Day.
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CLASSIC FIGHTERS 2025 - CANCELLED

BRIAN GREENWOOD

A few days prior to the airshow the organisers took the decision to cancel this year's Marlborough Lines Classic Fighters airshow. A quick glance at the weather forecast showed how wise that was!

Obviously, this must have been a deep disappointment, and a huge financial burden on the trust which runs the show. I applaud them for putting the safety of the pilots, public, and aircraft first.

Over Easter there were still quite a few people on the airfield, plus there was a small amount of flying when the weather permitted. Sometimes, it was solid rain and quite windy – confirming the wisdom of the cancellation.

When the weather was good there was a some aerial activity - Andrew Love performed aerobatics in his Pitts Special, and the lovely Lockheed Electra 10A was taking passengers for a spin on a couple of occasions. The Bristol Fighter replica, two Nieuport replicas, and other aircraft took to the skies at times. The Nieuports are both registered as microlights, so I can definitely claim some microlight content!

Rob Mackley's Lockheed Model 10 Electra was one of the aircraft I wanted to see – this superbly finished aircraft is painted in NZ Union Airways colours on one side, and LAN Chile on t'other. So watching it operate (it didn't do a display, as such) gave me lots of photographic opportunities.

Thanks to the pilots who flew in the few moments of good weather, and commiserations to the pilots who couldn't get there, and the organisers for doing the right thing.





Heading Photo - the Lockheed 10A Electra

Rest of page – Andrew Love enjoying his Pitts S1S Special ZK-PUG, including the ‘taxi around in circles with the smoke on’ trick!



Top, another view on the Lockheed 10A Electra.

The rest of the views are the gorgeous Bristol Fighter replica. Another replica is due to join it at some point.



***This page**, almost re-creating the classic scene from Casablanca, two spectators watch the Lockheed Electra 10A taxi past. Somebody was using the quiet circuit and variable winds to do cross-wind landings in the Patchett Ag-Air Beaver, every runway and direction! The rare Percival Provost (later called the piston-Provost) charmed, what a lovely aircraft! **Bottom right**, peeking out of a hangar is one of the other want-to-see aircraft, the replica Fokker E.III. Here's to CFO 2027!*



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CELEBRATING OUR SUCCESSES



Heading Photo, David Stewart completed his first solo on the 30th of May in RGE, under Lionel Green's Instruction.

Lionel adds "David has worked very hard towards this and it is a great achievement he can be very proud of. David is working towards his Advanced National certificate and looking forward to the challenge. David is showing a great attitude, is very dedicated and showing good decision making"

Left, CRAC member Sam Glassey has gone on to tail wheel training and soloed in Karatoo ZK-KTW on May the 12th under Terry Salmon's Instruction. Sam's a current CRAC Tecnam pilot and has a PPL too. Terry is a RAANZ Instructor operating with the Tail Wheel group. It's great to see CRAC Members furthering their qualifications!

Thanks to the Instructors for providing the photos and information, please send any you would like published to editor@crac.co.nz

COMMITTEE 2024/5 – THANK YOU!

This year's AGM is being held a lot later than usual to allow your hard-working committee time to finalise the draft of the new club Constitution.

There's been some amazing work this year, Megan Alexinas and Mike Sheffield have spent many hours working on the new Constitution draft. The committee as a whole have spent heaps of time refining and working it to our specific requirements.

Every Committee member has worked hard to achieve our aim of safe flying training, a heartfelt 'thank you' for all of your time, thought, morals, technical knowledge, and hard work.

President Iain McPhail has given us a path of constant steady improvements during the year. Iain's business experience is very current and he knows the rules around such things as health and safety, liabilities and responsibilities, and the privacy laws.

We're all volunteers trying to manage the club to a professional standard. We have over a million dollars' worth of assets and up to 300 members. None of us are perfect, we're all capable of making mistakes, but as a team we're stronger.

If you're interested in standing for the committee, we're keen to hear from you! People with practical skills, recent business experience can be helpful but a desire to learn into a role, contribute intelligently, and accept the democratic process are important. The key ingredient here is being able to communicate, agree or disagree civilly, and to have a lemonade (or other beverage) afterwards.

A shout out to Griffith Hansen from Clear Prop, whose professional services and willingness to go above and beyond to keep the club aircraft serviceable has been a significant factor this year.

To the Committee 2024/5 - Thank you. Good luck to the Committee 2025/6!

COMMITTEE NOTES APRIL-MAY-JUNE 2025

- After recommendations from RAANZ, CAA, and the safety plan approved by WDC, it was resolved that "On 12 April 2025 (day of Club Open Day) Club members are not to undertake flight/s with any member of the public who is not a friend, family member or associate"
- Ben Jackson volunteered as AMC
- WDC requiring BUND for trailer, despite Work Safe not requiring it. It's the council's airfield, they can do what they want!
- ELTS to replace PLBs in the club aircraft
- Friendly Manager adopted as the Club online system going forward - will do aircraft bookings, club emails (outbound bulk emails), online (secure) membership listings, surveys, online resources, and the club website. Running as a trial for the first year, with help from Friendly Manager and Gary McGregor from the Jet Boat club. It is hoped that the system will simplify club administration which is getting more complex
- AGM set for Sunday June 29 at the Rangiora RSA - 4:00pm, club to provide finger food
- Membership fee to remain at \$120/pa
- Council to pay for Defib servicing since it's in a publically available place.
- Constitution work - ongoing - draft sent to members
- Aircraft Rental cost increased to \$170 and \$190/hr from 1st June with a 6 monthly review
- Club computer being replaced, with the old one gaining a new SSD and repurposed to the Instructors.
- Club GSuite being expanded so that key club emails are kept online and are handed on to the next person in the role (e.g. President, Secretary, Treasurer, CFI, etc).
- Pegasus Bylaw agreement between CRAC and WDC questioned as the drafted bylaw seems to include all WDC beaches, not just the Pegasus Beach. Draft being corrected this was an oversight.



For Sale

ZK-JOR Rans S-6ES Coyote II

Great condition and well maintained. Looking for a good home to keep her in top condition.

Plenty of Club memories for the many that flew this aircraft. Fresh Annual SkyEcho, Rotax 582 Blue top E Gearbox – on condition, runs sweetly.

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CANTERBURY RECREATIONAL AIRCRAFT CLUB (INC)

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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 enrolls you for the magazine, too.

UPCOMING EVENTS

June 29th – CRAC AGM at the Rangiora RSA, from 4:00pm. Finger food provided, cash bar for post-event drinks! Please support your club.

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

Lionel Green, Terry Salmon

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:

Connor O'Loughlin

David Horrocks

Freddy Scott

Jack Ramsay

Eva Lukes

Fiona McCloy

David Stewart

Trevor Clay

Please make our new friends feel welcome.

NEXT NEWSLETTER

Contributions for the next edition are requested, publishing deadline September 20th, 2025

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