

Waikato Whispers



Waikato Hot Air Balloon Club: www.waikatoballoonclub.co.nz Tel: 07 856 0060

CLUB NIGHT Wednesday 4th May

No Club Night for May

CLUB DAY Sunday 8th May

6:30 am. Location to be confirmed. Ideally we would like to do some training on setting up the walk through balloon.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Club Night: It was really great to see a good turnout of members at the April Club Night. Tim Wilkinson gave a stimulating presentation.

There will be no club night for May

Club Day Auckland: With the changing fortunes of the weather we finally made a decision to go – and the winds dropped out and we were able to do an impromptu night glow and a flight from Kumeu on the Sunday morning. Special thanks to the Anderson's for having us stay at their place Saturday night – great BBQ and lots of stories shared. Definitely need to do this again!



Do ATC take any notice of a transponder! As we found out on Sunday morning – at the most inopportune time – yes they do. The pilots flying were directly contacted by Whenuapai Tower once they were on station. It just so happened that both balloons were in landing mode at the time but were able to confirm locations.

And with social media reaction to the balloons out over the 'peaceful' rural countryside was swift – many pleased to see balloons out flying again. One person complained of the disruption to the tranquillity of the rural morning by the operation of the burners disturbing their sleep-in.

Everyone taking part is keen for us to do this again. On the Sunday morning Gail did an inflation at the Northwest shopping centre. This is (and will be) a MASSIVE shopping complex and a great place to be able to tether balloons.

New CAA Rules: There are a number of new Rules out. Part 1, Part 61 and Part 91 – especially Part 91 which are the Operating Rules. There is an amendment to Rule 91.11 Documents to be carried:

Except as provided in Parts 103, 104, and 106, a person must not operate an aircraft unless the following documents are carried in the aircraft:

(1) *except if rule 91.101(c) applies, the current airworthiness certificate or a certified copy of the current airworthiness certificate:*

(2) *the aircraft flight manual or an equivalent document acceptable to the Director:*

(3) *for New Zealand registered aircraft:*

(i) *the technical log required by rule 91.619, unless for aircraft operating under an air operator certificate from a fixed base an alternative means acceptable to the Director is used to inform the pilot of the maintenance status of the aircraft:*

(ii) *a completed form CAA 2173 Weight and Balance Data or equivalent:*

(iii) *a completed form CAA 2129 Aircraft Radio Station Equipment Approval Levels:*

As we do not have a fitted radio in the balloon I have asked CAA for clarification of the requirement to carry form CAA 2129 – especially as we each have our own aircraft radio and some pilots use it in a range of different balloons.

Those Special Moments: Last Saturday Dave had the pleasure to fly Ben and Ally on what was to be a special occasion for them. Ben – even though several years younger and not thinking about getting married – had clearly seen the Australian advert where the guy loses the ring overboard! So Ben had the ring tied off to a long piece of string – just to be sure. Linda having already guessed why they (BEN) wanted to fly only needed a radio message to say she was right and a detour to the shops resulted in the crew arriving with flowers and bubbles!



Today we hear that other YOUNGER family members have called the two green and black balloons the ‘watermelon’ balloons as they resemble a watermelon!

So here is how you can make your own watermelon balloon

The [Fly High Poster](#) in our Foodscapes collection was created with a number of fresh fruits and vegetables. Below is the ingredient list that you can use to make your own sky scene.

- Clouds:** cauliflower
- Sun:** orange
- Trees:** broccoli, leaf lettuce, pineapple tops
- Birds:** carrot, red pepper beak, clove legs
- Hot air balloon:** watermelon, yellow pepper, chives
- People:** grapes, green bean legs, chive flower hats

Subs Due: Subscriptions are due and remain the same as last year. \$60 per person. Thanks to those who have already paid.

Our bank account number is: **38-9015-0216761-00**

Ideas for Club Night and Club Day activities – we need your ideas please. Guest speakers, social activities, flight activities, places to go/fly from. We do have a couple of new people from Auckland and one from Levin wanting to participate in what we do.

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	Mark Brown	021 912 679	
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Just in: Re CAA-2129. This does not apply to handheld radios (ref: AC43-10 I)