

Waikato Whispers



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

CLUB NIGHT Wednesday 6th July

No Club Night for July

CLUB DAY Sunday 10th July

???? – to be advised via the club facebook page.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Sensitive Zones: A parcel of land (farm) where the property owner or farm manager has asked us not to land. The Club has a policy of getting this in writing (Registration of Sensitive Zone) so that we can contact them in the future to check if things have changed. It is important that we have the correct information so that we can inform pilots of the sensitive zone by positing the information on our facebook page.

It is very difficult when you approach a farmer who says his farm is a sensitive zone and all balloonists know about it! Five pilots I know of do not have it marked up on their sensitive zone map. So if you hear of any farmer who is sensitive to having balloons land on their property, get them to contact Dave.

Nicholas is busy working on being able to load the sensitive zones over aerial photographs and with GPS tracking we can potentially see exactly where we are in respect to a sensitive zone. More on this later in the year.

For our Younger Members: (Copied from Kids Learning Resources by Cameron Balloons)

Let's keep safe on the launch field!

2) Next is the Super, Mega, Important Briefing!

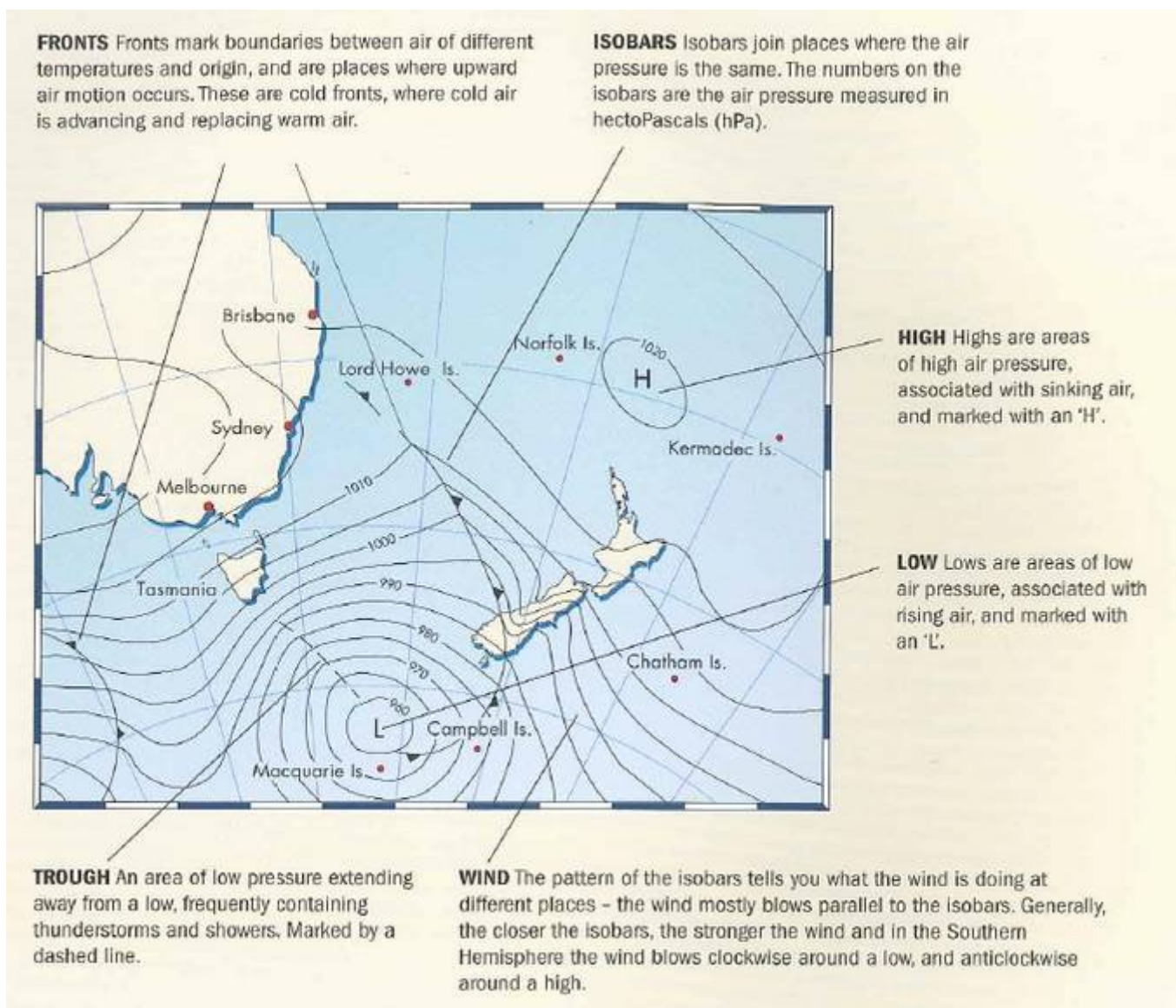
SIX crucial rules for safe ballooning, before we go off, on our lighter-than-air adventures.

- 1) **NEVER** let your feet leave the ground (unless you are IN the basket.)
- 2) **NEVER** tie any of the ropes or control-lines around any part of your body.
- 3) **ALWAYS** wear gloves when handling any part of the balloon.
- 4) **ALWAYS** make sure you look after & keep your adult with you!
- 5) If you are not sure, **ASK** the Pilot!
- 6) With balloons there are also usually vehicles and trailers – so be very careful of all moving vehicles too.

Right, now we are going to be safe, let's go!

Where can balloons take off from...?

For our Junior Balloonists: For those who like to look at the weather maps – and wonder what the symbols mean – the following covers isobars, fronts and highs and lows.



Illuminart 2016: Liam will be taking RYB and the walk-through balloon across to Tauranga on Friday 15th July. We have done this now for 4-5 years and it has been a lot of fun and a good fundraiser for the Club.

David, Linda and Gail have been asked to go up to Coromandel for an Illuminart on the Saturday. Details of this are yet to be finalised.

If you can help out with either of these activities please let Linda know.

Grab a Rope: Hanger Flying: Balloon Life October 1999.

Some years ago, a San Francisco night-club was preparing to sponsor a balloon race. To publicize the event, two balloons were planning to fly out of Mill Valley, just north of the city. They were inflating for take-off. Eleven year old Danny Nowell was riding his bike when he saw a crowd and the two balloons in a field near his home.

"I went over to see what was going on and somebody yelled, 'Grab a rope.' Four boys—including me—were holding one rope. A woman was holding another, and two boys were holding another. Then the balloon took off and everybody let go but me."

Amid screams from women spectators, Danny was lifted eight feet off the ground. A man grabbed his legs but this apparently tightened the rope into a half hitch around Danny's fingers. The unidentified man dropped off as the balloon began to rise steadily. The pilot, William Berry of Concord, California was unaware of the passenger suspended 30 feet below his basket.

Berry was unable to hear Danny's cries, due to the safety helmet he was wearing and to the burner noise. Finally when the burners were quiet at 3000 feet, Berry heard the boy's plaintive cry, "Sir, please help me!"

The astonished pilot glanced down from his perch, and saw this small boy dangling in midair some 30 feet below. He spoke reassuringly to him as they drifted west. He urged him not to look down. Promptly he began spilling air to increase the rate of descent.

"We'll get you down. Don't worry," he called.

Descending at 25 feet per second before the final flare, Danny and then the balloon came to rest in the backyard of Clarence Browning's home, three miles from the take-off point.

Deputy Sheriff Jim Cain arrived seconds later. As soon as he had seen the boy carried aloft, he had started in pursuit and had called an ambulance. The boy, suffering shock and a bruised left hand, was taken to a hospital where he was pronounced in good shape. Danny said he had been up in an airplane many times, but those flights never compared with this ten minute ride. He conceded that he was pretty scared, and had not expected to come through this experience alive.

Editor: This story was compiled from newspaper accounts of the event

This has a strong message for pilots and crew – do not get members of the public holding on to ropes without any instruction on what to do if things go wrong. One of the first things you learn as a crew person is to be able to let things go quickly so that you do not get caught up.

Adventure Balloon Flights:

The only active commercial hot air balloon operator in the North Island is the Kiwi Balloon Company. Mark Brown will continue flying until mid-July then take a break whilst calving is in progress. His plan is to start flying again in September.

Can any commercial pilot with a balloon endorsement (CPL(B)) fly commercially? NO.

To fly commercially the company must hold a CAA license and for hot air balloon operators this comes under Rule Part 115. Once a company holds a Part 115 certificate, they undergo regular audits by CAA who can suspend and/or cancel the certificate. In addition to this, the pilot(s) must hold a current Class 1 medical certificate.

If you know of people wanting a hot air balloon flight, get them to contact Kiwi Balloon Company www.kiwiballooncompany.co.nz.

For the Club and private balloon owners, we can offer "cost sharing" flights – however there are rules governing the interpretation of what a "cost share" flight is. It is good to see that Club members with their own balloons are following the CAA interpretation.

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