

# Waikato Whispers



Waikato Hot Air Balloon Club: [www.waikatoballoonclub.co.nz](http://www.waikatoballoonclub.co.nz) Tel: 07 856 0060

**CLUB NIGHT** Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> April

7:30pm Woodworks Guild Hall Storey Ave. Tim Wilkinson from Grassroots Ballooning will be here to talk to us about ballooning in the UK and building 'homebuilt' balloons. Everyone welcome. This should be a really interesting presentation.

**CLUB DAY** Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> April

6:00 am. Parakai Airfield Auckland.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

**Club Night:** Tim started building balloons some three years ago and is now on No.7 homebuilt. He and his wife also run the Grassroots balloon meet – a balloon meet for balloonists.

**Ultra MAGIC Balloons UK**

### Grass Roots Meet 2016 8th - 11th September

**About Grass Roots Ballooning.**

In the UK there is a large choice of balloon meets to fly from each year. Most of the large balloon gatherings or 'fiestas' are aimed at entertaining the public.

The purpose of the Grass Roots Meet is for as many balloonists as possible to gather on a social basis and fly for fun without the pressure of entertaining crowds - balloonists going back to their roots!

At Sackville Lodge, Tim Wilkinson and his family provide camping and catering facilities for participants. We place emphasis on helping PUTs (Pilots under Training) with their flying training. As a gesture of good will we also invite local farmers and landowners to fly from the event as it is their land on which we land throughout the year. The timing of the event is deliberate so that the recently harvested fields provide plenty of stubble on which to land.

**Club Day:** Tether at the Parakai Airfield Auckland.

The plan is to drive up to Auckland Saturday afternoon/evening and stay at Parakai. There are options for accommodation – the local camping ground (no cabins) being the cheapest option. Ideally we would like to glow the balloons on Saturday evening at the domain. On the Sunday morning travel across to the airfield and tether the balloons in support of our Auckland members and to encourage younger people to join the Club.

Further details to follow.

## Top 5 things to drop out of a hot air balloon



Last month we published a list of things to drop out of a hot air balloon. On 30<sup>th</sup> March an item got added to this list courtesy of The Breeze and Camille who went flying with Mark Brown. As part of a promotion Camille dropped a PUMPKIN from the balloon down onto Innes Common for Bunty to record.

From all accounts it was a lot of fun and certainly got a lot of air time.



**Flying:** It has been good to see club member pilots out flying and participating in the BOW fiesta.

Congratulations to Liam for being awarded the Best Individual Display Trophy with comments on his focus on safety.

Everyone appeared to have a great time and the atmosphere was positive and friendly. Also pleasing to see pilots and crew helping each other – especially to pack up so as to free up space for other balloons targeting the same landing area.



Congratulations to Michael Toulson (local pilot) for his flying skills and being placed 1<sup>st</sup> overall in the competitions.

Well done Nicholas for his cameo appearances on TV One Weather and a Korean TV report on the Fiesta.

**Balloon Discovery Tent:** Special thanks to Julie Bevan, Carol Worsnop and Merlyn for managing the Balloon Discovery Tent during the fiesta. Linda had revamped the presentation which was well received. We had also update the slide show. There was a lot more interest in the Club this year and we hope this will result in new members. The Club benefited by \$208 through the sale of merchandise, pins and cards.

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

**Whispers:** If you have any news to include in Whispers please email it to Dave. Reports on attending fiestas, ballooning items for sale, photos – anything to help build up the newsletter. Links to information you find on overseas sites.

**Flying a BOX:** One term we use in ballooning is Flying a Box. What this means is that you effectively land where you take off from having flown away from the launch site then found a wind layer that will bring you back to the launch site. It doesn't happen very often but when conditions are right it becomes a personal challenge for the pilot to actually achieve the BOX. The winds are generally confined to a narrow band so the challenge is for the pilot to keep the balloon within the layer.

Last Sunday the wind conditions were just right – a sou-easterly at ground level changing to a nor-westerly at 540 ft – go higher and the wind changed to a sou-westerly taking you away from Innes Common over town.

**Tethering:** For those new to ballooning, tethering in light wind conditions can help you master control of the balloon. Try not to go to the end of the tether ropes as this puts stress on the envelope, stress on the tether ropes and burner frame. When first tethering, try and hold the balloon 2-3m above the ground. There will be times when in landing mode that you need to float over the tops of buildings or trees as you target a landing spot. Go too high and you start to 'see-saw' and the chances of reaching your target landing site will diminish – especially if it just large enough.

Ideally - use a tethering bridle. DO NOT use a Quick Release bridle unless you bridge out the quick release.

President	Nicholas Norris	021 213 8861	<a href="mailto:nnorris@ihug.co.nz">nnorris@ihug.co.nz</a>
Chief Pilot	Dave Norris	021 351 957	<a href="mailto:nenya@ihug.co.nz">nenya@ihug.co.nz</a>
	Mark Brown	021 912 679	
Secretary - temp	Linda Norris		<a href="mailto:bellan@vodafone.co.nz">bellan@vodafone.co.nz</a>
Treasurer - temp	Dave Norris	021 351 957	
Whispers	Dave Norris		<a href="mailto:nenya@ihug.co.nz">nenya@ihug.co.nz</a>