

# Waikato Whispers



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

**CLUB NIGHT** TUESDAY 31<sup>st</sup> Oct

Eliot Park - Treats in the Park. Cold inflate WBC. Meet at the Park from around 5pm. Entrance off Hyde or Livingston Ave.

**CLUB DAY** Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> Nov

Tether followed by breakfast. Meet up at Innes Common. Will put meet time up on facebook.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Club Day and other Activities:

What a great day out at the Waihi Trolley Derby. Some really positive comments about our being there and adding to the occasion. A couple of interesting comments: one that it was too hot and the other complaining about our doing basket burns until I responded that was the reason we were there! And then there were all the usual comments about the envelope! The oldest competitor was 81! She stopped by the baskets on her way down the track to thank us for being there.

We cancelled the proposed night glow on the Friday due to the forecast weather for Saturday evening.

### Junior Balloonists

Next meeting Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> October -

The Launch Field – choosing a launching site, what do we need to consider, what preparations need to be done, and things that might influence the final decision whether to fly or not.

Ballooning Communication 1 – using a UHF radio

### Riverlodge Balloon Meet

This is an annual balloon over the long weekend at the end of January. Accommodation at Riverlodge can be limited depending on the timing of Christian retreats. Freedom camping is permitted and there is the Golden Springs camping ground only 5 minutes away.

What do we pack into this long weekend:

- Flying
- Boating
- Hot Pools
- Having fun as a group of aviators.

It is an open event so any balloonists are welcome to join in. Everyone pays their own way.

For those camping out at Riverlodge – it's a 5:30am briefing then out to the airfield to launch balloons if the weather is right.

We will update the web site over the next few weeks

<http://www.riverlodgeballoonmeet.nz/>



## CAA – The Rules as they apply to Hot Air Ballooning



Rule Part No.	Classification	Recreational	Commercial
1	Definitions and Abbreviations	X	X
12	Accidents Incidents and Statistics	X	X
21	Certification of Products and Parts	X	X
39	Airworthiness Directives	X	X
43	General Maintenance Rules	X	X
47	Aircraft Registration and Marking	X	X
61	Pilot Licences and Ratings	X	X
67 (note 1)	Medical Standards and Certification		X
71	Designation and Classification of Airspace	X	X
91	General Operating and Flight Rules	X	X
100	Safety Management Systems		X
115	Adventure Aviation – Certification and Operations		X

Ref: How to Navigate the Rules CAA June 2016

Note 1: Whilst not applying to the private balloonist, the requirement to be “IMSAFE” applies and it is important that pilots on medications check that they can fly when taking these medications. ALL pilots need to declare to their doctor that they fly an aircraft.

In our day-to-day flying the Rules we need to be aware of are Part 43 and Part 91.

Balloon Maintenance Manuals define the maintenance which needs to be done and often how to undertake this work. It can be like a Workshop Manual. The Kubicek Maintenance Manual clearly states:

*It is essential that hot air balloons are properly maintained and that those who carry out this maintenance are correctly trained and qualified. To make it clear who may carry out specific repairs the maintenance in this manual has been divided into four categories as described in paragraph 1.3. In some countries certain operations may only be carried out by certified repair stations.*

In NZ, there are very few maintenance operations on a hot air balloon that the owner may undertake!

Part 91 is a comprehensive Rule covering the General Operating and Flight Rules.

- Operating Rules
- General Flight Rules
- Visual Flight Rules
- Instrument Flight Rules
- Instrument and Equipment Requirements
- Operator Maintenance Requirements
- Special Flight Operations
- Foreign Registered Aircraft Operations
- Operating Noise Limits
- Instrument and Equipment Specifications

As a pilot, we MUST BE cognisant with these rules. They are MANDATORY, not voluntary.

Let us look at a couple of these:

### 91.305 Fuel requirements for flight under VFR

(a) A pilot-in-command of an aeroplane must not begin a flight under VFR unless, in the forecast weather conditions, the aeroplane has enough fuel to fly to the first point of intended landing at the planned normal cruising speed and to fly after that point of intended landing for at least—

15 April 2016

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CAA of NZ

Civil Aviation Rules

Part 91

CAA Consolidation

- (1) a further 30 minutes during the day; or

For the Club balloon, we have a KNOWN maximum flying time of 1hr 20 to 1hr 30 depending on the passenger loading and temperature on the day. This means that for any normal flight we should be planning to land within 1 hr of take-off. That is what we all plan to do – changes in the wind and directions can impact on this and pilots have had to use the reserve fuel capacity to reach a safe landing site. Hence – if we have a safe landing site available at 45 minutes into the flight – we land. There may be no safe landing site available at the 60-minute point of the flight.

### 91.311 Minimum heights for VFR flights

(a) A pilot-in-command of an aircraft must not operate the aircraft under VFR—

- (1) over any congested area of a city, town, or settlement, or over any open air assembly of persons at a height of less than 1000 feet above the surface or any obstacle that is within a horizontal radius of 600 metres from the point immediately below the aircraft; or
- (2) over any other area—
- (i) at a height of less than 500 feet above the surface; or
- (ii) at a height of less than 500 feet above any obstacle, person, vehicle, vessel, or structure that is within a horizontal radius of 150 metres from the point immediately below the aircraft; and

**THIS IS THE RULE** – and as balloonists we should set out to fly in compliance with this rule. CAA do allow some discretion to this rule but the pilot (PIC) **MUST HAVE** a bona-fide reason for flying below these minimum heights. Clearly one is when in landing mode.

So how do CAA know if we are not flying in compliance with the Rule.

The public will often lodge a complaint with CAA if they think that a balloon is operating in an unsafe manner. In this situation, CAA must investigate, under Part 12, as the 'incursion' is classified as an incident.

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## Balloon festival planned

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"Alexandra could see some spectacular high-flying visitors in September and next June, if Elaisa Chapman has her way. She, along with colleagues Jo O'Connor and Michelle Wallis, want to use the airspace above Alexandra and launch a hot air balloon festival, tentatively called the "Southern Air Fiesta", at the airport next June.

The owner of Central Events, Mrs Chapman spoke at the Alexandra Business Group's breakfast meeting last Friday about her plans and the need for seed funding and sponsorship.

"The festival will be held in conjunction with Matariki celebrations," she said.

"It will be the southernmost balloon festival in the world. "There will be balloon rides from commercial operators, sport balloon races and possibly an inflated balloon available for people to walk through, and a 'Night Glow' night market at the airport. "We will have balloons lighting it up."

Hugh McLellan, of Sunrise Balloons in Queenstown, was the initial point of contact and had helped start the communication with the Balloon Aviation Association of New Zealand, Mrs Chapman said.

"Support from Central Otago Flying Club has also been obtained.

"I'm very excited about its future. I just need to get it off the ground and we would hope it will be as big as the Wairarapa festival is, after three years."

Carrick McLellan, a pilot with Sunrise Balloons, said the proposal was "pretty positive".

"It would be the only one in the South Island," Mr McLellan said.

Balloon festivals are held in the Wairarapa, Levin and the Waikato. The annual five-day "Balloons over Waikato" festival in Hamilton attracts more than 50 balloonists and about 130,000 people. Mr McLellan said the weather needed to be pretty calm to fly.

"September should be pretty good, and June should be as well as long as we can avoid the foggy stuff that hangs around — but it should be relatively calm."

Central Otago Mayor Tim Cadogan was at the meeting.

"The prospect of a balloon festival in Alexandra and especially the 'Night Glow' market proposed has a lot of appeal and confirms again the value to the community of the investment made on behalf of the community by the council in the Alexandra airport," he said.

Mrs Chapman said three North Island balloonists would be bringing their craft down in September to hold a "taster" event with a race and would be providing commercial flights from Pioneer Park.

"The balloons fly between the airport and various schools, where they will drop a sandbag into shopping trollies."

She is looking for funding to contribute towards the balloonists' costs and provide support, as well as sponsorship for next June's event, and has launched a "Give a Little" page.

She has six balloon rides to give away for the September taster to potential sponsors.

She can be emailed at [elaisa@centralevents.co.nz](mailto:elaisa@centralevents.co.nz).”

For now it appears that there will be a limit of 10 balloons for the first fiesta. I guess a lot will depend on what level of sponsorship Elaisa is able to arrange. She will let me know when the registrations are sent out. Timing appears at this stage to be late June 2018



Photo from the past – ZK\_LUB

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