

Waikato Whispers



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

CLUB NIGHT Wednesday 1st August Social night 6pm Ice Age mini golf.

CLUB DAY Sunday 5th August Club Day. Time and location to be advised. Tethering if fine.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Pilot Training:

Our next pilot training day will be Saturday 4th August. We will review Human Factors and then go through the theory and practice of tethering. 9am start and plan to finish early afternoon.

Mycoplasma Bovis

The Club has developed a Bio-security Policy focusing on Mycoplasma Bovis and Myrtle Rust. This will be posted on our web site.

We will also develop a summary on what actions to take at the gate of a farm to disinfect the vehicle etc. The chase vehicle will need to carry the resources and instructions on the process to disinfect everything so as to be able to enter the property.

Window on Crewing

Key crown line points:

- Don't put the rope around any part of you
- Never cross a fence or road with the line
- Try to keep knots out of the crown line rope
- Never run a crown line under a power line
- Make sure you have gloves on
- Don't pull on the lines until instructed (after the top is set)
- When directed, pull with your weight - knees bent - leaning back
- If the balloon is rolling toward you, walk backwards to keep the pressure constant
- Do not let any slack in the line
- If you have to "short line" the crown (because of lack of space), use a hand-over-hand technique to dole out the line while keeping as much pressure on it as you can
- Don't try to run to counter the roll of the balloon
- Keep steady pressure on the balloon as it rises
- When signalled by pilot, bring the line to the basket, disconnect the ski rope, hand the crown line to the pilot for connecting to frame, then put weight on the basket



Ref: <http://cazooee.com/crewing/crown.html>

JB's Sunday 29th July

Meeting out at the yard 9:30 for a maintenance day involving cleaning down a basket and painting up a backdrop. Come prepared to get dirty.

Bunnings 30th August

We have been invited to set up the walk-through balloon from 5:30pm to 7:15 on Thursday 30th August at Bunnings South. We are also working on having a balloon basket set up for people to take photos of their kid's as a balloon pilot. Please let Linda know if you can help out please.

Hence our working bee day on Sunday to clean down and prepare a basket with a painted backdrop.

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Chief Pilot	Mark Brown/Liam McGirr		
Secretary	Linda Norris	0275 386 206	bellan@sirron.nz
Treasurer	Lizzy Rushforth		
Whispers			

Committee members: Michael Toulson
Liam McGirr
Mark Brown
William McDermott
Veronica Guadarrama
Gail Dryland

The 5 Most Famous Balloon Flights in History

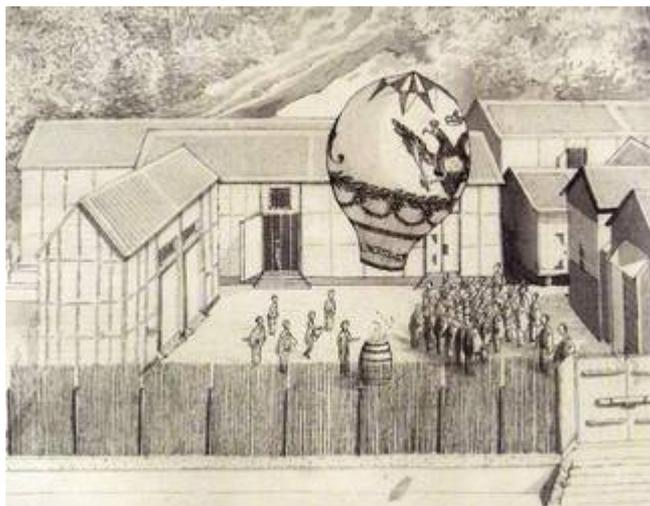
<https://www.aerogelballooning.com/blog/2017/10/28/the-5-most-famous-balloon-flights-in-history/>

Since the invention of the hot air balloon in ancient Chinese history, it's gone through some major changes to become one of the most recognizable leisure transports in the world.

Now we all take the hot air balloon for granted, even those who consider it a hobby. That's why we're looking back at 5 of the most famous balloon flights in history.

1. First Manned Balloon Flight

After some previous experiments involving a sheep, a duck, and a rooster (but no punchline), the first manned balloon flight took place on 19th October 1783. This first flight was tethered, so it was a stationary adventure.



But the true watershed moment came with the first untethered flight with human passengers. This happened on 21st November 1783. And through a decree of the French king, it was almost a few condemned criminals that had the honour!

Luckily, some more historically-minded heads prevailed. Scientist Jean-François Pilâtre de Rozier and balloon pioneer François Laurent d'Arlandes argued their case and eventually were given the honour to carry out a flight for the history books. They took off from the centre of Paris and flew to the suburbs, making a journey of around twenty-five minutes.

The event was witnessed by one of the Founding Fathers of the USA and fellow scientist, Benjamin Franklin. He described the lift off as "most majestic" and described how the adventurers lowered their hats in salute to the watching spectators. Contemporary reports claim that over 400,000 spectators watched the launch. Many had even paid toward the venture!

Unfortunately, de Rozier would lose his life in another balloon endeavour. He attempted to cross the English Channel in 1785. His hydrogen and hot air balloon crashed in the attempt. The first successful crossing had actually taken place earlier that year.

2. The World's First Aviation Disaster

Sadly, innovation can't come without cost.

The world's very first aviation disaster occurred in May of 1785. There are surprisingly few reports of the incident – most information comes from just two contemporary accounts. But it's known the crash happened in the town of Tullamore in Ireland. Although the Tullamore area didn't have its own newspapers at the time, newspapers from other areas reported that more than 100 houses were destroyed in the fires that followed.

It appears the accident was caused by a collision between the balloon and a local chimney. The balloon caught fire and plunged into the street below, setting the roofs of thatched houses alight.

The town of Tullamore still remembers the incident with its emblem, a phoenix, and the yearly Phoenix Festival. The safety of hot air balloons has come on a long way since then. Many lessons from these early incidents have had an impact on balloon designs for centuries to come.

The Hindenburg disaster would become a much more famous example of a balloon disaster. But the Tullamore raised humanitarian questions about the safety of hot air balloons for the first time in their history.

3. First Long-Distance Balloon Flight

In 1836, Charles Green departed Vauxhall Gardens in the Great Balloon of Nassau. The aim was to reach Weilburg in Nassau. Five hundred miles and 18 hours later they succeeded. The journey set new standards for what balloon flights were capable of. Green's flight would make the potential of the hot air balloon clear for generations to come.

Green's balloon was known as the Royal Vauxhall, and later the Nassau. The balloon was famous in its day. Its striped design inspired many artists!

The voyage was so incredible at the time that it was even immortalized in a painting, *A Consultation* prior to the Aerial Voyage to Weilburgh.

Virgin Balloon Flights later paid homage to this game-changer by flying Green's great-great nephew across the Cotswolds.

4. First Solo Trip Around the World

The world's first solo hot air balloon trip around the world wouldn't happen until 2002. In fact, it was the first nonstop circumnavigation of the world in any kind of aircraft. It wasn't the first balloon around the world, however: that was Bertrand Piccard and Brian Jones in 1999.

Steve Fossett set off from Northam, Western Australia on 19th June, returning 3rd July, and so spent just over thirteen days airborne.

Fossett's balloon carried a number of advanced features that showed just how far the technology has come. The Comstock Autopilot kept him at a constant altitude thanks to computer-controlled burners.



But in other respects, things haven't changed much. Fossett's basket was about the size of a closet, and he was only able to sleep in naps lasting around 45 minutes, achieving around 4 hours of sleep a day.

These gruelling conditions were made even worse by temperatures that were frequently below zero. Even so, Fossett needed to exit the gondola often to check his burners and change fuel. Fossett only had military-style ready-to-eat meals for sustenance.

Fossett's story also shows that none of these momentous events come easily. He made the attempt five times before his final successful voyage. But Fossett is a balloon pioneer. He was also the first to fly across the Pacific solo, and the first to cross Africa, Europe, and the South Atlantic and Indian Oceans.

5. The World's Highest Concert

Richard Branson and the Virgin company have helped bring the hot air balloon to popular culture. It's not surprising they should make an entry on this list!

In tandem with rock act The Girls, they set a Guinness record for the highest concert ever in a hot air balloon, along with the highest recorded song. They performed 'What I Did Today' at an altitude of 1848m for an audience of just two!

The venture was supported by magazine publication Future Music, and also featured guests such as Andrew Vowles of Massive Attack fame.