

Newsletter, Promotion & Publicity

The first issue of "Vintage Kiwi News" has now been distributed and well received. It contains national and international news, restoration progress reports, and articles of interest to all types of membership. We have a website, thanks to Gliding New Zealand, and this is under constant development. Articles will continue to be written and the press kept informed.



Rhonelerche GKE about to be towed by New Zealand's oldest Tiger Moth



A restored Capstan

Help Wanted

We have already located most of the "known" gliders that are not on the current register, or at least determined their fate. There must be others that we do not know of and a regular feature in "Vintage Kiwi News" will be "Lost and Found".

This is an area where you can help, in addition to paying your subscription that is. Do you know of any old gliders or bits and pieces lying around? Do you know what you or your club were flying before 1970 say. If you do, please let us know, it won't matter if you tell us something we already knew about, we can sort that out. What is important is finding out somewhere there something valuable.

We have a keen team working on "Vintage Kiwi", if you would like to help join them, particularly if you have financial, computing, fund raising or museum expertise, please let us know.



An Olympia in the launch queue at a International Rally in Finland.

What if we fail?

Firstly we hope we are not going to as we are growing steadily in size and influence, but you already know the answer to the question. Look how few vintage gliders are left in New Zealand, the stories of how many gliders have been allowed to deteriorate, or been taken out of service and forgotten. This may be the only chance we have to stop the rot; literally, before more of NZ gliding history is lost. Is that what you want to happen?

Ian Dunkley

19th March 2005.

THE VINTAGE & CLASSIC
VINTAGE KIWI
GLIDER CLUB OF NEW ZEALAND



Why should I join?

"Do you want the history of the sport you love to be lost, old record breaking gliders allowed to rot. The value of your "oldie" diminish?"

"Do you think it's a bit daft that you can see vintage cars, vintage farm machinery, classic fire engines, at "Wings over Wanaka, but no vintage gliders?" We may not have a Horsa or a Waco to fly, but so what?"

"It's up to you to help save our gliding heritage"

Vintage Kiwi

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Vintage Kiwi

With the 2004 launch of "Vintage Kiwi, at the first vintage rallies to be held in New Zealand, we can claim to have joined the worlds major gliding countries in protecting a gliding heritage. These week long rallies in the North and South were repeated in 2005, and will be followed soon by mini rallies over three day weekends at various locations

You may have seen some of the remarkable press coverage in "NZ Aviation News", "Pacific Wings" and "Sports Flyer", and of course in "Gliding Kiwi" and our own magazine "Vintage Kiwi News". All of which helps our cause.



Slingsby T31 in the Dolomites

You are less likely to see the international coverage in Italy, the UK, Australia, Holland, Finland, Poland, and the USA. This indicates the importance they attach to our efforts, of which they are aware, as we represent the vintage side of our sport at international rallies and other events. We have come a long way during the past two years, and by the time the "Vintage Kiwi" rallies for 2006 are held we will be, with your help, a significant force.

Scale Modelling & Museums

Internationally modellers are active members of vintage organisations showing, along with museums, gliders that are no longer flying, as well as examples of others. The NZ Model Aeronautics Ass.n are VK members and modeller participation is planned in the 2006 rallies.

On the museum front we are developing contacts, been invited to join a working party planned to develop a national "Aviation Heritage Trail" and are determining items of gliding interest held by museums.

Membership

It is essential that membership, which is international, should solely be by interest, not only ownership, or flying, of, vintage or classic gliders. This is intended to increase our recruiting base, and enable all owners, pilots, modellers, aviation historians, museums, and others who could work towards our objectives. The membership fee is currently \$25pa., a small price to pay.

Vintage Kiwi's Objectives.

"To promote the preservation, and restoration of New Zealand's vintage and classic gliders for flying, or display".

Subsidiary objectives to progressed when our main objective is being achieved are:-

To promote the low cost advantages of "Vintage and Classic Soaring" and to attract new recruits to our sport who may otherwise be deterred by cost.

To encourage and support the aeromodelling fraternity to build models of vintage and classic gliders.

To bring to the attention of the public New Zealand's historic gliding achievements and the gliders.

To collect, preserve and publish information about the above; to locate and preserve documents and artefacts..

To support and assist in the creation of a New Zealand Soaring Museum.



All that remains of the world record breaking Weihe, thankfully restored for static display by Ashburton Aviation Museum.

What is a Vintage or Classic Glider?

The European definition is not appropriate for New Zealand, simply because we don't have many "vintage" gliders left. Instead we cheat and "Vintage" will be classed as anything built of wood or tubular steel, fabric or wood covered, whilst "Classic" will be glass produced prior to 1975, this date being reviewed say every five years. Metal is a perversion, but we will fit them in to suit.



New Zealand's oldest flying glider, EoN Baby GAF with Skylark 2 GBX at a Vintage Kiwi Rally-North at Taupo.

Flying

As all flying members are already members of Gliding New Zealand, all flying activities take place under the direct control of the host gliding club. This facilitates a single membership fee for all classes of member types, and of course recognises the reality of GNZ flying authority.

Rallies are a main activity, an annual national one, based on two sites, that already attract over seas pilots and families. In 2006, Taupo will again be the venue for Vintage Kiwi North, 28th Jan to 4th Feb, whilst Nelson will again host for the South, 25th Feb to 5th March. Additionally mini rallies will be held at various locations over three day holiday weekends

A new development is to encourage the formation of large syndicates within "Vintage Kiwi" to acquire old gliders to keep them flying, as well as being able to offer a home for any glider that may be donated or made available on loan.