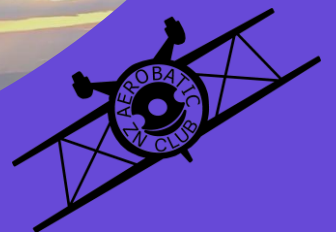


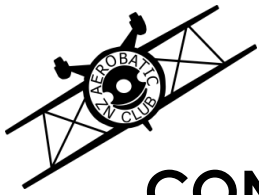
NEW ZEALAND AEROBATIC CLUB



JUNE 2025

Newsletter





CONTENTS

STRAPPED IN TIGHT.....	3
FROM THE PRESIDENT - Morris Tull.....	3
A FEW SCREWS LOOSE	4
NUT's in all the right places.....	4
AEROBATICS AROUND THE TRAPS - CANTEBURY	6
Andy Love.....	6
International Aerobatics Day Mid-Winter Training Camp 27 & 28 June 2025	7
WINTER READING LIST	8
2025/2026 AVIATION EVENTS CALENDAR	9
NEED TO KNOW MORE?	10
Useful websites:	10

**North Island
Akro Fest
2025**

Mercer Airport
awarding

The Langley Marshall Trophy
Saturday November 8th
(Backup Sunday 9th)

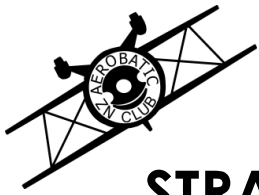
More info to come, or  phone Grant 0210629929

SOUTH ISLAND AKRO FEST



NOVEMBER 20TH - 22ND 2025
ASHBURTON AIRFIELD, MID CANTERBURY, NEW ZEALAND





STRAPPED IN TIGHT

FROM THE PRESIDENT - Morris Tull

Hi everyone and welcome to the winter flying season. The committee are using the winter season to get ahead of the workload and are starting our organization of the coming events. Andy Love and Lachlan Falconer are preparing for a winter judge training session at Ashburton 27-28 June and I hope many can go and also find some new members.

North Island Akro Fest date has been decided for 8 November and South Island Akro Fest locked in for 20 – 22 November. Reminder; We have moved the Nationals for 2026, one week later to 11-15 March 2026 to de-conflict with the International Shearing competition at Masterton, an especially big event next year. Note your calendars now and get your accommodation booked as there will still be lots of people around the area.

After a bit of a delay, we now have the correct sequences on the website, thanks Mike Slack, in addition to being loaded on OpenAero, thanks Grant Benns, so no excuses, start practicing and start designing your Free or Free Known sequence and get them perfected.

Gill Phillips has stepped in to edit and assist on the Newsletters, thank you very much. If you have any articles and photos you can contribute, it would be much appreciated.

Please use the dark winter nights to explore our website and read up on past newsletters and all the great articles Grant and others have written, there is a wealth of knowledge there. Read up the rules too as that is where you score or lose the points. We put a list of great aerobatic training books on the WhatsApp group and it's a great time for reading them too, get on your favourite book store and get them, you won't regret it.

Winter time is also a good time to fix up some of those small jobs on your aircraft or send the propellor away for service while the airfields are wet or soft.

Hopefully we will see a few Pitts restorations completed this season, ZK-JAG is looking great, ZK-PPS is ready for assembly, ZK-JNW is getting some fabric work. I have been chatting to one guy building a Pitts S1 in Christchurch and another building a Giles 200 near Christchurch so we hope they see them in the future. There is also my RV7 enroute from Dubai to Lyttleton and it will get some final artwork painted on and hopefully fly this summer.

Building an RV7 in Dubai is a story in itself, many things can not be put in print, and the hassles continued all the way to the end with extra hassles exporting it from a region with sanctions and possible smuggling to hostile operators and drone warfare the new norm. I am glad to have it on the way to its new home.

I hope many of you are able to attend the world's best airshow at AirVenture, Oshkosh in July. Myself and many of us are devastated to hear of Rob Holland's accident, he was the best airshow pilot in the world and a great ambassador for aerobatic competition and it is a great loss. Lessons will be learned from this event that can even happen to the best in the world, RIP Rob.



Going forward, our committee will continue our main purpose to encourage aerobatics at every opportunity by organizing aerobatic events and competitions, spreading the word and assisting with training.

Stay in touch, fly safe, keep learning, but have fun.

Kind regards

Morris Tull

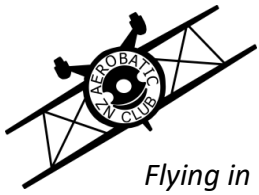
A FEW SCREWS LOOSE

NUT's in all the right places

Brent Griffin is a passionate aerobatic pilot and enthusiast who doesn't hesitate taking passengers for an aerobatic flight in his impressive Giles 202, ZK-NUT. This month he's the cover gentleman, flying with Adele Dromgool, C-Cat instructor at Auckland Aero Club, over the Hunua Ranges on a late autumn evening. Adele was inspired by her flight and has written the following;

"Hi, I'm Adele. I am an aeroplane instructor at AAC. My students and fellow instructors always notice the purple machine flying around Ardmore. It is a hard one to miss. We are always impressed by its rocket propelled departures out of Ardmore. Brent took me for a fly in NUT and let me tell you, it lives up to the name in the best possible way. From the moment we took off, it was clear this wasn't just a regular flight it was a full on rollercoaster in the sky. We soared, looped, and rolled our way through the stunning green countryside of Hunua, turning peaceful farmland into our personal playground in the sky.

The flight had my stomach flipping and my grin glued in place. The power and precision of this aerobatic aircraft was unlike anything I have ever experienced. One moment you're looking at the horizon the next you're inverting it. NUT doesn't fly, it simply shows off.



Flying in Nut was one of the most fun, unforgettable things I've ever done. It was the perfect mix of adrenaline, amazement, and pure joy. If you ever get the chance, buckle in and hold on tight. You're in for a ride."

Brent has been flying aerobatics for 45 years and has enjoyed flying NUT for about 15 years, initially in a syndicate with Richard Hood and Mike Slack then progressing to a syndicate of 10 people. Brent is now the sole owner of NUT and through sharing his love of the aircraft; there are two more prospective pilots working on a rating (and a couple more scheming towards it).

Brent's quirky and enthusiastic personality matches his aircraft and together, they create an unforgettable experience for passengers. He has also developed his skills in aviation photography and is known for creating beautiful pictures for passengers to remember their flights. The smiles are always wide and the view is always phenomenal when inverted!

This weekend there is an aerobatic ground course at Ardmore through Warbirds and the young Jake Sanders will be participating, in the hopes of finishing his rating in NUT and enjoying its punchy aerobatics in the future.

The New Zealand Aerobatic Club is always encouraging people to try aerobatics. Pilots have an incredible amount of fun sharing a glimpse of their passion with others and the experience is hard to forget. It is also a great way to encourage other pilots to venture out of their comfort zone, and a way to recruit new members to the New Zealand Aerobatic Club.





AEROBATICS AROUND THE TRAPS - CANTEBURY

Andy Love

I really enjoy the flying conditions offered by the cooler Autumn months, down here in Canterbury. In the 8 weeks leading up to the Easter Airshow, I avoid doing any instructing that is not to do with display pilot training or my own prep to reduce my workload. Once Easter is done and dusted with, I get back into instructing through Autumn. This Autumn, the conditions have again been stunning. It has been a great opportunity to bring a couple of new pilots through the Aerobatic Rating, down at South Canterbury Aeroclub.

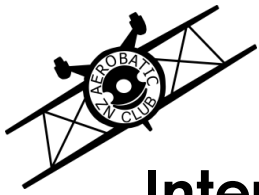
The SCAC have been hugely supportive of the aerobatic training I have pursued there, with their pair of Alpha 2160a's. Timaru offers us the opportunity to do all our aerobatic training overhead the field, generally above 3000ft.

During 27th – 28th June, we are running a judge/competitor training camp at Ashburton, the home airfield of the South Island Akro Fest. The focus for the camp, is judge training and more specifically, learning the scribe short-hand and deductions. It will also be a great opportunity for those keen to run some sequences in the aerobatic box. For those who haven't been to one of our training camps previously, the format is relatively flexible to take in to account exact weather conditions on the day. It includes seminars and classroom critiquing sessions using video, then we run a judging line and have pilots fly their sequences or individual figures. The focus is of course Primary through to Sportsman for judge and scribe training. Our more experienced competitors in the upper categories also have an opportunity to practice.



I say it a lot but I will say it again, we absolutely love running these training weekends and the competition itself, at Ashburton Airfield. It is a fantastic location, 5500ft available directly overhead, a relatively quiet airfield at any given time, and the aerobatic box on the NE side of the airfield all makes for enjoyable recreational flying. We are hosted by the Mid Canterbury Aeroclub. I cannot thank the team enough for their support with immaculate clubrooms and a large hangar for basing ourselves.

Later in the year, South Island Akro Fest will run 20th-22nd November. Please feel free to reach out in regard to our training camp and the competition itself, if you have any queries. Here is the timetable for the training camp below:



International Aerobatics Day Mid- Winter Training Camp 27 & 28 June 2025

New Zealand Aerobatic Club

Mid-Canterbury Aero Club rooms
& Ashburton Airport



Friday 27 June

10am Pilot Brief (Andy Love)

Local Aerobatic Training (Andy Love Available for Dual)

In-Box Training (Andy Love as Safety Pilot)

In-Box Critiquing (Pilot to arrange own Coach and Spotter)

6.00pm Beer & Pizza

6.30pm Webinar: Deducting Points and Scribing Shorthand (90 mins) (Lachlan Fowler)

8pm Finish

Saturday 28 June - International Aerobatics Day

9am Revision of Judging and Scribing

12pm BBQ Lunch \$

12.30pm Pilot Briefing (Andy Love)

(Wet Weather will be video examples/practice)

1pm In-Box Judging/Scribing Practice (Lachlan Fowler)

4 min Freestyle practise?

5pm Finish

6pm Dinner @ Phat Duck



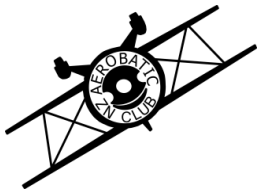


WINTER READING LIST

While the days are short, the clouds and visibility are low, find a book to read to quench your aerobatic thirst.

- *Totally the authority on Pitts. Bill Thomas*
- *Fly for Fun*
- *Fly for Fun to Win. Bill Thomas*
- *Flight Unlimited. Eric Mueller*
- *Better Aerobatics. Alan Cassidy*
- *Basic Aerobatic Manual. Willian Kershner*
- *Basic Aerobatics. Mike Goulian*
- *Aerobatics. David Robson*
- *Advanced Aerobatics. Mike Goulian and Gerald Szurovy*
- *Aerobatics. Neil Williams*
- *Flight Fantastic. Annette Carson*
- *Basic Aerobatics. Campbell and B Tempest*
- *Aerobatics Principles and Practice. David Robson*
- *Spins in the Pitts Special. Gene Beggs*
- *The Basic Aerobatic Manual With Spin and Upset Recovery Techniques. William K Kershner.*
- *Fire and Air – A Life On The Edge. Patty Wagstaff*

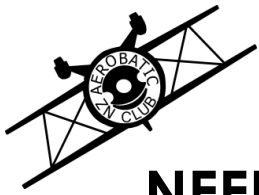




2025/2026 AVIATION EVENTS CALENDAR

June	27-28 Judge /Competitor Winter Training Camp – Ashburton 28 June International Aerobatics Day
July	21-27 EAA AirVenture Oshkosh - Wisconsin
August	
September	10-14 National Air Races - Roswell 12-20 World Intermediate & Advanced Aerobatic Championship - Hungary 28 Sep – 3 Oct IAC Nationals
October	3-4 Flying NZ Alpine Region Competitions - Kaikoura
November	1-2 Flying NZ Northern Region Competitions – Auckland Aeroclub 8 North Island Akro Fest - Ardmore 14-15 Flying NZ Central Region Competitions – Tokoroa Aero Club 20-22 South Island Akro Fest - Ashburton 21-22 Flying NZ Cook Region Competitions – Whanganui Aero Club
December	5-6 Flying NZ Lakes Region Competitions – Otago Aero Club at Taieri
January 2026	Tauranga Airshow Wings & Wheels Thames TBC
February 2026	18-21 Flying NZ National Championships - Timaru 6-8 Sports Aircraft Association Fly In – Hood Aerodrome, Masterton Wings & Wheels Omaka TBC
March 2026	11-15 New Zealand National Aerobatic Competition – Hood Aerodrome, Masterton
April 2026	Easter 2026 - Wings of Wanaka





NEED TO KNOW MORE?

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Useful websites:

New Zealand Aerobatic Club website: www.aerobatics.nz

Facebook group: New Zealand Aerobatic Club

Federation Aviation International: civanews.com. This has the Free Knowns manoeuvre catalogue essential for competition flight and international event news.

International Aerobatic Club: www.iac.org. There are lots of sequences and information for members of the IAC, it is an offshoot of the EAA.

Civil Aviation Authority: www.caa.govt.nz includes vast amounts of information useful to pilots and aircraft owners.

The www.BiplaneForum.com where the experts hang out to share a lot of knowledge on all aspects of aerobatic aircraft and maintenance and tips. Search here first for your technical questions.

