



WHERE	Mercer Airport, North Waikato
WHEN	Saturday/Sunday November 28th /29th 2026
ENTRY FEE	\$80 (flying in 1 category) \$120 (flying in 2 categories)



For 2026, there are two trophies to compete for:

The Langley Marshall Trophy

Contested for 30+ years and memorialising Brian Langley and Paul Marshall, passionate North Shore Aero Club aerobatic instructors and NZAC stalwarts, this magnificent trophy is awarded to the pilot scoring the highest overall percentage score across all completed 'Known' and "Free/Free Known' sequences.

Past winners have typically - but not always - been from the lower categories, so every pilot in every category is in to win this trophy.

The NI AkroFest Unknown Trophy

Competitors in Sports/Intermediate/Advanced/Unlimited will fly an 'Unknown' sequence, without any opportunity to practice. The pilot scoring the highest percentage score will be the first winner of this new-for-2026 trophy.

Multiple flights, multiple categories over multiple days

Weather permitting, all competitors will get to fly three sequences over the two days of competition. Additionally, competitors may enter in two categories (but with only the score from the higher category counting towards the final results).

Flights flown by Category

Category	2026-27 Sequences
Primary	Known 1 + Known 2 + Known 3
Recreational	Known 1 + Known 2 + Known 3
Sports	Known + Free + Unknown
Intermediate / Advanced / Unlimited	Known + Free Known + Unknown

Sequence Descriptions

Known

All categories will fly the 2026-27 Known sequences, found on the NZAC website.

For **Primary** and **Recreational**, you will fly all three Known sequences over three flights

Free / Free Known

For the Sport category you have the option of flying your own Free sequence, designed in OpenAero, or re-flying your 2026-27 Known sequence (you opt for this on the entry form).

For INT and above, you must create your own Free Known sequence using the figures of 2026 CIVA Free Known, using OpenAero.

Creating a 'Free' for newbies

If you are new to creating your own Free or Free Known using OpenAero, have a read of the article on the NZAC website 'Aerobatic Sequence Design Part 2'. The NZAC Competition Rules (website - Resources/Rules) provide limits and requirements of sequences and figures, and as you build your sequence in OpenAero the Alert box will also provide guidance on what you can and can't do.

Entry

Enter via the NZAC website (Events tab). You must be an NZAC member to enter (which is just \$35 per year and can be paid with the entry).

ENTRY CLOSES NOVEMBER 15th – please enter early to make the organiser's job easier. Refunds provided for cancelations up to November 25th.

The entry fee is \$80 for one category (eg Recreational) and \$150 if you enter in two (eg Recreational + Sports). The entry fee includes lunch on both days but **not** landing fees, hangarage, accommodation, and the BBQ dinner. Or fuel!

Volunteer helpers required

No experience required for many of the ground roles – get involved to learn more about our sport.

Please register too - no membership or entry fee required for registered volunteers, and you get a free lunch!

Programme

Friday 27th November	
10:00 am onwards	Arrivals, Box Marker setup
12:00 pm onwards	Practice/critiquing
Saturday 28th November	
9:00 am	Pilot Briefing – attendance compulsory
10:30 am	Known flights
12:00 pm	Lunch
1:00 pm	Known flights continued
6:00 pm	BBQ dinner at Mercer Lodge
Sunday 29th November	
9:00 am	Pilot Briefing – attendance compulsory
10:30 am	Known flights continued
12:00 pm	Lunch
1:00 pm	Unknown flights
4:00 pm	Awards presentation
5:00 pm	Departures

Flying-in early and getting in some practice/critiquing

If you want to arrive early, to take the stress out of getting to Mercer in time on Saturday morning, and/or to get in some sneaky unofficial practice, let us know – Friday will be available for coaching/critiquing, weather permitting. Some help setting out the Box markers would be nice too.

Accommodation, Hangarage and Fuel

Mercer Lodge, located right on the airfield, has various sized rooms available – book via the Mercer Airport website.

Hangarage is also available. Landing fees and hangarage fees are payable to Mercer Airport and will be invoiced to the aircraft operator.

Go Fuel have an avgas pump on-site.



More Info?

Contact Contest Organiser, Grant Benns, for more details.
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