

7 June 2025

Matamata Soaring Centre President's Annual Report for 2024-25

It is my pleasure to present the President's Annual Report for the 2024/25 year. It's been a successful year marked by strong participation, dedicated volunteers, and well-run soaring events that highlight the continued passion and commitment within our organisation.

Thank You to all our Volunteers

Firstly, I'd like to extend a sincere thank you to all the volunteers who have contributed their time and energy this year. From the excellent financial and administration work, property maintenance, event organisation and excellent events catering — your contributions are the backbone of everything we do at Matamata for the benefit of all our member Clubs. Your support ensures that MSC not only operates effectively but continues to thrive as a welcoming and dynamic hub for soaring in New Zealand.

Key Events at Matamata

2024 MSC Cross Country Course 26 - 30 Oct 2024

X-country course was a success managed by Gerard Robertson. 9 students attended the course, some quite new to X Country soaring and were able to complete the XCP syllabus. 6 landings in the 'goat farm', 4 of which towed out and a couple of minor incidents of two wheels up landings.

2024 Northern Regionals 23 - 30th Nov 2024

A well run and successful competition with 23 gliders in two classes, - 10 in Open Class and 13 in Racing Class. Contest Director was John Etches with support from many of our experienced people.

2025 MSC Grand Prix 1 - 9th Mar 2025

Dave Dennison led the organisation and took Contest Director role. Another well supported soaring competition with 21 pilots entering gliders which were divided into 2 groups, above and below the median handicap. The Grand Prix format that Dave has developed has become a soaring pilot favourite and provides an exciting competition with live tracking followed by supporters and spectators in the Clubhouse.

The Soaring Centre also supported the following activities by other groups:

ATC Annual Camp in early December 2024. Clubhouse and accommodation being made available for classroom instruction and flying training. Training was coordinated and managed by Norman Duke, Piako CFI.

Youth Glide NZ Matamata Camp 16 - 20 Dec 2024 used our accommodation and clubhouse facilities. Organised by D. Wagstaff, this camp continues to play a vital role in

nurturing the next generation of soaring pilots. We're grateful for the time and care that goes into making these events both educational and fun.

Walsh Scouts Flying Camp January 2025. Clubhouse and accommodation being made available for the Walsh staff and student classroom instruction.

Matamata Airfield and Facilities

MPDC Airfield Reserve Management Plan

Council has continued their Reserve Management Plan Consultation process over the last year with no significant development or progress. A new incorporated society, the "Unified Waharoa (NZMA) Aviators Inc" was set up last year to create a separate Sub-Committee from the airfield user's group specifically to deal with the RMP process. The most recent report from that group is that Council's consultants have largely stopped work on the draft RMP until they receive direction from Iwi on who their representatives are and what the process of engagement with them will be.

Clubhouse and Accommodation Facilities

Our ground lease with Council came up for renewal this year and Council advised that they would not give us a long-term lease and instead offered a lease period up to June 2027 with no right of renewal and including some unacceptable clauses. We have not agreed to this lease and are now on a short-term arrangement which has not been resolved due to delayed work on the RMP.

We have spent some volunteer time and money this year on keeping our building and facilities in good repair. Thanks to Iggy Wood for carrying out many of the minor repairs and coordinating contractors for woodwork repairs and repainting of the Clubhouse window joinery. We've also bought a new kitchen freezer and other kitchen upgrades.

The clubhouse accessibility project, including an improved deck and ramp access, has been put on hold until we receive a more certain lease agreement.

Loss of Fuel Pump

Air BP removed their AvGas fuel pump and tank in February this year, leaving no facility to refuel aircraft at Matamata. This will affect our organisation of events using tow planes which require AvGas. At the last Grand Prix contest, we were able to borrow a trailer tanker from Taupo Club for the contest duration but a more permanent solution is required. We are in discussions with other groups at the airfield to pursue this and we may consider some shared cost arrangement.

Looking Ahead

MSC remains committed to promoting soaring at Matamata with a line up of competitions and events for the coming year. We are in good sound financial health and have an experienced core executive managing our activities.



We will continue to work with other airfield users for Council to provide us with a long-term security of tenure so that we can make plans to develop and enhance our facilities.

I encourage all members to get involved—whether it's flying, volunteering, or simply showing up to support others. The strength of the Matamata Soaring Centre lies in its people, and together, we ensure our continued success.

Bob Gray

President

Matamata Soaring Centre

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