

# ROTORUA MODEL AIRCRAFT CLUB (INC)

OCTOBER 2023 NEWSLETTER

Secretary Andy Watson

Email: [top.place@xtra.co.nz](mailto:top.place@xtra.co.nz) Ph 07 357 5656



AOTEAROA  
GAMING  
TRUST



Rotorua Trust  
MŌ TĀTAU KATOĀ



## Welcome to the October 2023 newsletter

As usual the weather over the last month has been a mixed bag. The mid week fliers have had some excellent conditions with plenty of activity in the skies.

Congratulations to Tim Charleson on passing his Basic Power Wings Test. Well done Tim!



Tim and model after his Wings Test



We finally managed to record some times for NDC Vintage ½ A Texaco. We missed August's Precision and Duration events thanks to strong winds.

New models keep appearing including this one.



Built by Andrew W this model is superbly finished. After a little sorting it is flying beautifully and is producing some very presentable aerobatics and is a delight to fly.

With a wingspan of 1200mm and electric motor of unknown power a 2200mah 3S battery gives about 20 mins flying.

Rumor has it there is a Jensen 60 spark ignition powered vintage model about to take to the air any day. The Jensen 60 was made on the Channel Islands in the late 1940s!

We understand there is a lot of testing about to begin as this has genuine points and coil ignition system so there could be some spread spectrum radio interference!



Our Cambridge scribe as also been enjoying fine days recently and sent this picture of action in the pits at Hamilton.



Brian provided the following information

The T-28 Trojan is a military trainer aircraft used by the United States Air Force and United States Navy going back to the 1950s. Also successfully employed as a counter-insurgency aircraft during the Vietnam War. They make excellent radio controlled models too!

We can confirm that. We have seen a few over the years and they have all preformed well. There must be a few round town needing an airing!

Earlier in the year three members flew in an international Tomboy duration postal event. The results are out as can be seen below we did not disgrace ourselves. Interestingly there were no entries from the UK where this event is very popular. And the winner Bernard Scott from NZ!  
We had a lot of fun flying this event and the organizer advises they are arranging another one next year!

#### Visit from Denys Clarke

We recently had a visit from Denys Clarke. Denys is one of the original founding members of the club in 1948. At the young age of 91 Denys now lives in Australia. He recounted many stories about the early days of the club and flying Tiger Moths out of the old Fenton St aerodrome as an ATC cadet.



*Button Man*





## A Word From The Pres

Once again, not a lot of flying done over the last month apart from the “hard core half dozen”, although the frequency of suitable flying days is slowly getting better. Without trying to sound like a broken record, give those favorite models (or those new ones that were built over the winter) a final “pre preflight” before leaving for the airfield, and that your fuel is not too old, or batteries out of condition.

That reminds me, “electric flyers” (who haven’t been out for awhile) should brief themselves up on the correct procedures for charging and handling the Lipo batteries, and have their House and Contents Insurance up to date! Ray wrote a very informative and easy to understand article in a recent Bulletin on this very subject. Also as a reminder, the electric and “open throttle” powered models must now use the outer side of the run-up line as their pits area for safety reasons.

Random Stuff..



On the day, the two extremes of fixed wing!

Both performed very well, as we look forward to many more fun days coming up.

Dave L.

## **Beginners Corner**

This month we'll take a look at Propellers

Propellers are one of the least understood items of our modeling kit. Basically they are nothing more than a wing. We won't go into the design of propellers other than to say the pitch of a typical prop is very low at the hub and steadily rises to about 70 – 80% of the radius then drops off slightly (washed out) towards the tip.

Balancing a prop is one of the greatest things we can do to improve the life of our engine, model and radio. Vibration is a well known killer of radios, shakes models and blows plugs to bits and damages engines.

### **WHAT PROP TO USE?**

RTBI. A good place to start is to read the engine manufacturers instructions.

### **SETTING UP A NEW PROP**

- 1 Remove the molding flashing from the leading and trailing edges with 220 grit paper. New props can be razor sharp!
- 2 Drill out the hole so it is a neat fit or if already too big use the bushes supplied with the prop or wrap the shaft with tape so the prop is a neat fit on the shaft without being excessively tight or loose.
- 3 Now balance the prop by sanding the heavy blade with 220 paper until the prop remains horizontal. Balances are available in all sorts of varieties from a few dollars to over a hundred dollars. The one shown below cost \$1.50 40 years ago is still in regular use and is as good as any.
- 4 Finally sand any scratches from your rough balancing sanding and polish the prop with 400 or finer grit.

**THAT'S IT! SIMPLE**

If you are into getting the ultimate out of a prop you can use a pitch gauge to get both blades at the same pitch, width and thickness. You can plot graphs of the pitch



distribution and try pitching another prop slightly different. However for 99% of our models you couldn't tell the difference.

Balancing a prop is where you will get the biggest bang for you buck with less vibration and all the benefits from that.

A word of warning! Electric props are a lot lighter than others DO NOT use them on glow or diesel engines. They can come apart! Its all to do with the thump the prop experiences when the mixture fires.

A basic but  
very  
accurate  
balancer



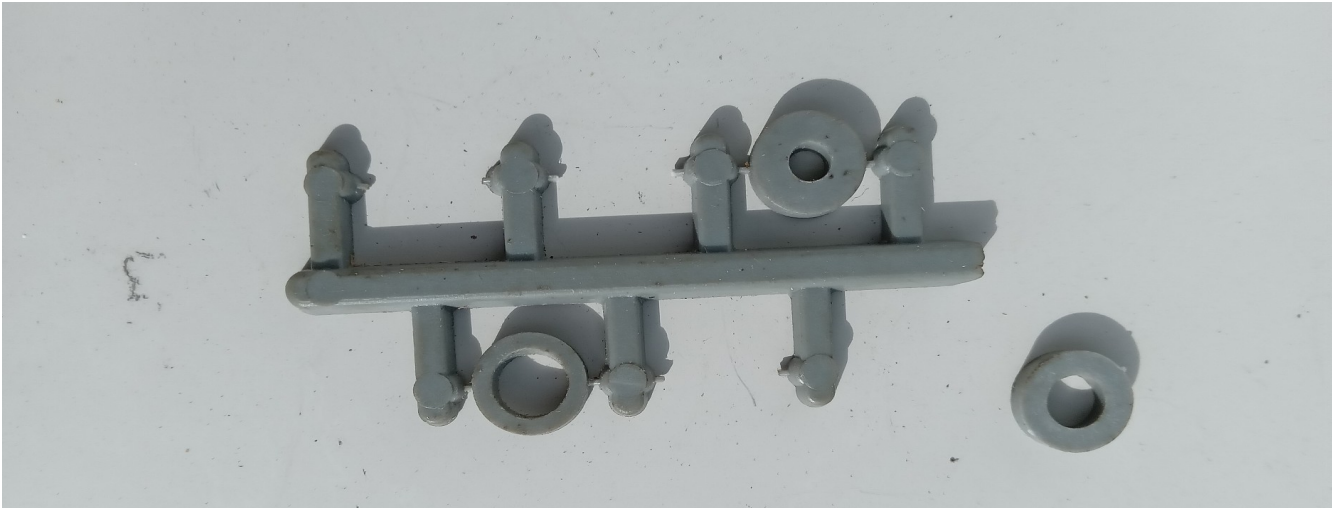




Prop remains horizontal when balanced



Bushs supplied with some props



A home made pitch gauge made in the late 1970s reading 4" pitch at 2.5" radius.



## **FOR SALE**

Thanks to several generous donations to the Club we have a couple of 46 size beginners models for sale. These are complete with servos have been set up test flown and only require a receiver and battery pack.

There are also a couple of other models, Futaba servos and Futaba Fasst receivers  
Various fittings and nuts and bolts.

For more details on any of this gear contact

Any Committee Member

## **COMING EVENTS**





# North Shore Model Airplane Club

After the success of its last Vintage Day, the North Shore Club is pleased to announce that it will hold a further two Vintage Days next year. All dates and wind-dates are Saturdays.

**3<sup>rd</sup> February 2024**

Wind date 10<sup>th</sup> February 2024

**13<sup>th</sup> April 2024**

Wind date 20<sup>th</sup> April 2024

