

# ROTORUA MODEL AIRCRAFT CLUB (INC)

June 2025 NEWSLETTER

Secretary Andy Watson

Email: [top.place@xtra.co.nz](mailto:top.place@xtra.co.nz) Ph 0274 856553

[http://www.rotoruumac.org.nz/wordpress\\_Z](http://www.rotoruumac.org.nz/wordpress_Z)



AOTEAROA  
GAMING  
TRUST



## Welcome to the July 2025 newsletter

Plenty of wind, cold days and rain lately with several Wednesday mornings at Third Place but the flying continues on the odd good day.

We've had some good turn outs and July 10 was a typical example. With all sorts of models flying from Ian's aerobatic ship to Dave's 1/2Texaco and a sprinkling of trainers.

Ashley had a new model acquired at the Tauranga Auction which proved impossible to trim. Closer inspection after landing revealed why it was in the auction! However with a little TLC we should be able to turn it into a half reasonable model.

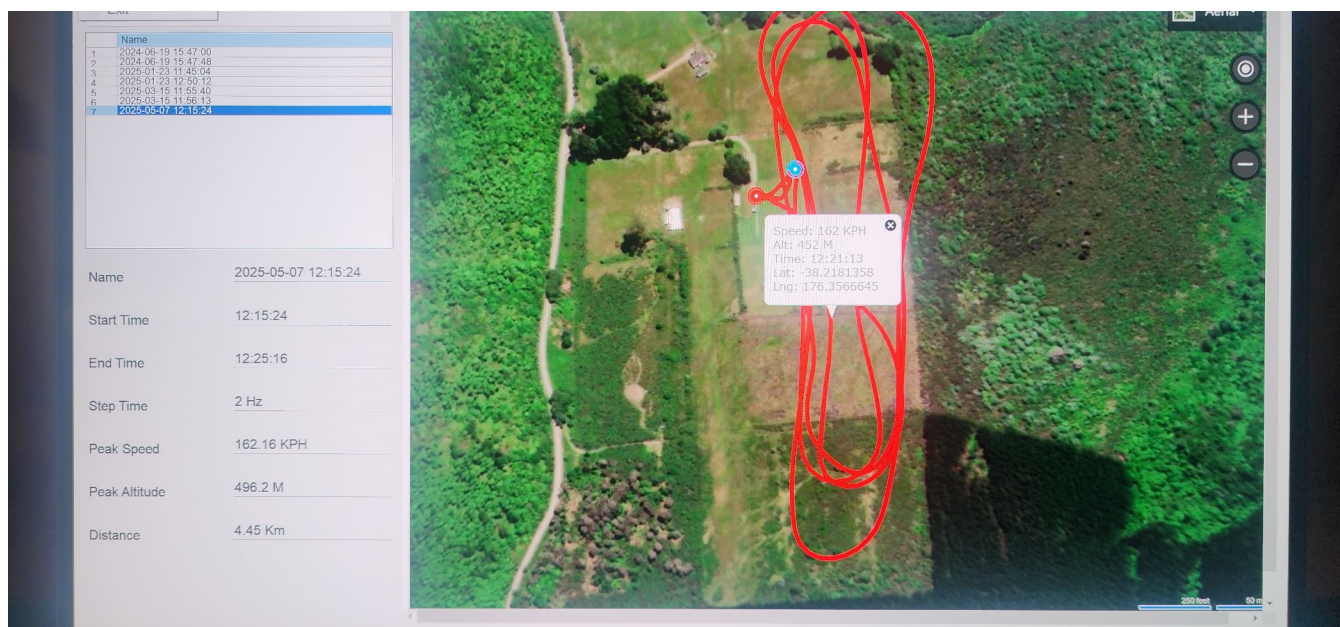
Trevor has been putting in the airtime making rapid progress and is now taking off and landing.

Graham has a new Helicopter. With three rotor blades. Its an impressive beast and he is having lots of fun with it. How about an article about it?

Andrew has another museum visit for us and Andy and Tom have been playing with technology.

### Ever wondered where you fly

Tom and Andy have been playing with a tracker and produced the track below from one of Andy's flights. Note the speed 162kph. Don't panic the 496m altitude is ASL not ground level.







## NEW SIGN

Thanks to Dave, Dylan and Ray we now have our new sign installed on Mead Rd.

## Mosquito Progress

Flaps, control pushrods installed.  
Engine mount/ uc mounts progressing





## **GIVE THOSE MODELS AN ANNUAL CHECK**

Over the winter months when we can't get to do as much flying as we would like to so it's a good time to carry out some preventative maintenance on our models. So what should we check?

- Remove the push rods from each control surface and check they move freely, rust on the hinge pins can cause problems. Are any of the hinges coming loose?
- Load up each servo by pushing down on the centre of the output arm and check there are no click or bands (damaged gears) as it moves or it doesn't move at all.
- Check all the mounting screws are tight and all there. Are all the mounting rails secure.
- All the nuts and bolts tight on the engine mount.
- Check the receiver is well mounted and isolated from vibration.
- Cycle the batteries and replace if suspect.
- Check the prop for nicks and scratches. These can be carefully sanded out with 220 grit sand paper and finished with 400. Balancing will be required.
- Secure anything loose and repair any damage to the covering.
- Fix any fuel leaks and clean fuel filters. It's not a bad idea to replace the fuel tubing.
- Are all the wheels free. Rust can build up on the axles and restrict rotation
- Give the Tx case a through clean with a rag dampened with water and dish washing liquid. (Avoid petroleum based products as these can damage plastic)
- Open up the Tx battery hatch and clean out the accumulated rubbish. While you will be doing most of these checks as pre flight checks every time you fly a winter maintenance check will save many wasted hours at the field fixing problems when you could be flying.

## **Back on the Museum Trail With Andrew**

Fleet Air Arm Museum at Nowra, and HARS (Historical Aircraft Restoration) Museum at Shell Harbour, both in New South Wales.

Next time you are in Sydney, drive south on the M1 to this Museum, at Nowra, 2 ¼ hours from Sydney CBD. Make a day of it and stop at HARS, which is 1 hour south of Sydney. I visited both in one day, with plenty of time, but plan in advance, as Nowra is only open Friday- Sunday as well as some holidays.

They are chalk and cheese. HARS is fully volunteer based, cheap and cheerful, open daily, very busy and with aircraft being restored in hangars, I was likely enough to see the start of a Beaufighter restoration. Other interesting aircraft you won't see here are a Constellation and a Caribou, and you get the chance wander into and around a 747.

There're many others including a flying Catalina, a Drover and a Convair 440. Static aircraft include a Grumman Tracker, an F111, a Canberra, a Sabre and a Mirage.

Nowra was also cheap – the website says it is free; I think I was asked for a donation. Built in the style of a large hangar, it is adjacent to HMAS Albatross airbase. The base appeared to be asleep, and the museum was sombre, empty of people, and I the only visitor.

The highlights for me were the Gannet and the Firefly. My Dad was just too young to fight in WW2. He had been ready to leave school and enlist in 1945, and he was hoping to join the FAA and fly Fireflies. Fortunately, he never needed to. He built a solid wood model of a Firefly which I still have, and maybe one day I'll build a flying model.

Other display aircraft are a Mig 17 with dual cockpit, and a Sea Fury.

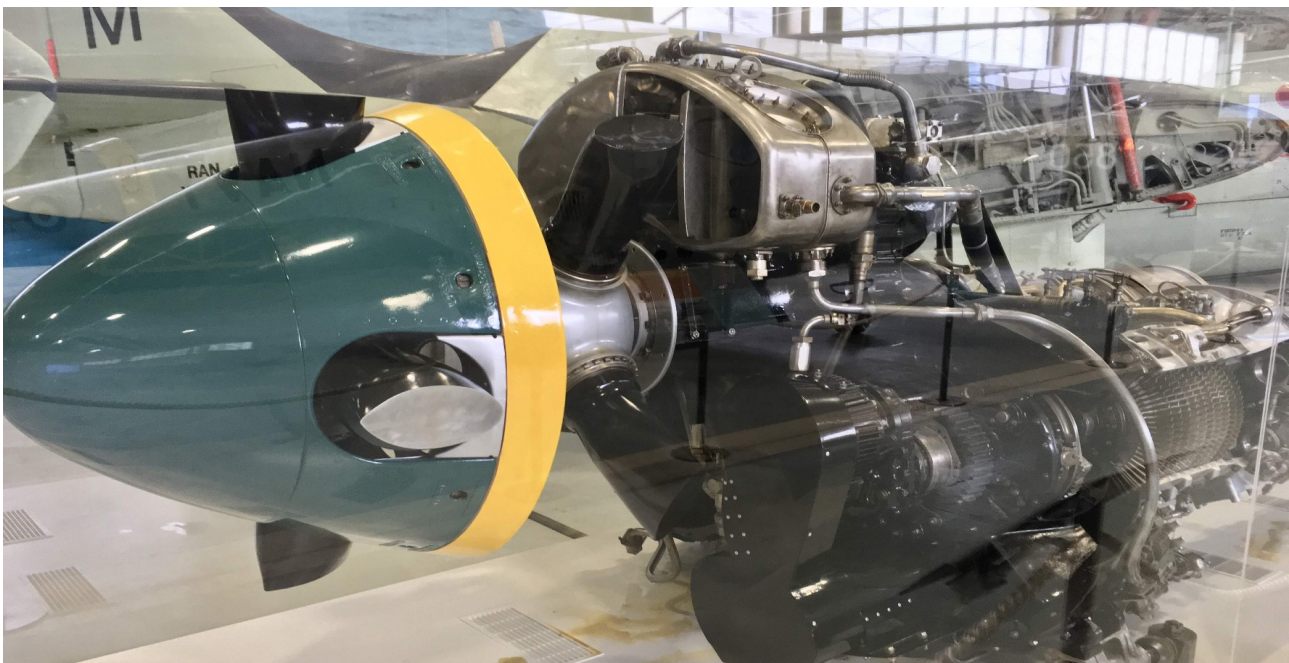
Both are worth visiting, and on the way back you can return by the coast road and see some spectacular hang gliding off the cliffs north of Wollongong.

## **Andrew**

I can confirm the HARS Museum at Shell Harbour is well worth a visit Ed



**Fairchild Gannet**



**The Double Mamba contra rotating turbo prop engine used in the Gannet**





**The RAAF Neptune sub hunter**



**DH Caribou**





**Fairey Firefly**





# For Sale

The Club has a number of small items for sale like hinges and other small items. Also a couple of gliders and an aerobatic model. Contact any Committee member for details.

## Beginners model for sale

### Arising Star

- Complete with servos and ASP 46
- Test flown and ready to fly just requires a receiver and battery pack.
- Another good beginners model.
- Has had a bit of use but has plenty of life left



If you are interested in this model we can arrange a buddy box trial flight.  
**Contact John on 020 4118 5597**



## COMING EVENTS

August NDC Vintage Precision and Duration

September NDC 1/2A Texaco

November NDC Vintage Precision

For the 27th time...



*ON THE*  
**SHORTEST**  
**DAY**

June 21st 2025  
At JR Airsail  
299 Native Rd, Pukekawa