

BAY OF ISLANDS AERO CLUB

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MARCH 2017 NEWSLETTER

Greetings everyone. Just two submissions from you good folks for this newsletter but they are significant. Liam has passed his Advanced Local Certificate, and Tara has gone solo. Well done to you both. I will let you read their accounts below. I would however make the comment that I don't remember receiving a hug from John when I went solo.

The other big news for the month is that the AGM was held and some new members elected to the Committee.

The members of the committee are as follows.

John Nicholls	President
Tara Piech	Treasurer
Russell Simister	Secretary
Gary Mills	Committee Member
Murray Miskelly	Committee Member
Alan Murgatroyd	Committee Member
Myles Taylor	Committee Member
Jack Dalbeth-Hudson	Committee Member
Willie Morton	Committee Member

The first meeting of this committee was held on the 21st of March. A presentation was given to the committee by Far North Holdings, detailing their plans for the airport and the implications to the Aero Club. In particular the renewal of our lease and the requirement for

the Airport to occupy part of our clubrooms on a permanent basis was detailed and discussed. The committee is currently investigating options as a result of this presentation.

Advanced National Certificate Microlight: Liam Gahegan

The Chance of a Lifetime



Before anything I would like to thank everyone, who assisted in any way with this scholarship. Learning to fly has been a dream of mine for years and the granting of this scholarship has finally made it possible.

Every moment I have spent in the air has been exhilarating, even if I did start off a bit green faced, and I am so thankful for not only the opportunity that has been gifted to me but the opportunities that it opens up for me.

Just over a year ago, an opportunity was advertised in the local newspaper which seemed far too good to be true. The Bay Of Islands Aeroclub was offering one lucky recipient what amounted to over 40 hours of free flying tuition. The offer was open to any local teenager who cared to apply. Applications were to be vetted, and candidates selected for interview, with the winner being gifted a very substantial scholarship, generously donated by the then chairman Len Thompson MBE.

It has always been my dream to learn to fly from as early as I can remember, but the prohibitive costs had always been a stumbling block. I had decided my best chance lay in joining the air force as a Pilot, and training with the RNZAF. To this end, I had already joined the Kaikohe 25th Squadron ATC (Air Training Corps), and had set my heart on a flying career.

My application was written and sent, and after a short wait I was called for interview. A nerve wracking experience, but the friendly approach put me at ease and I was lucky enough to be selected. After a medical, I was granted the chance of a lifetime, to fulfil my ambition, and learn to fly.

From day one, the tuition was extremely thorough and as a result, my progress exceeded my own expectations as I learned to master the controls, and was guided through all the necessary theory and legislation required to confidently and competently control a microlight aircraft.

So good was the teaching that I have in fact managed to attain my Advanced Local Certificate, which allows me to fly solo for 50 nautical miles from any airbase at which I am deemed to be competent, and I am hoping to progress further to Advanced National Certificate and obtain a Gyrocopter endorsement.

There has been a significant amount of home study throughout the course of my training, but it has truly been worth it. I could not be more grateful to Len, to Alan Murgatroyd, Willie Morton and John Nicholls, who have all contributed significant time and effort to make this all possible. Whatever direction my life takes, I will be forever in their debt, and I hope and believe that their kind efforts may just have given me a huge "foot on the ladder" for the career I wish to pursue. What more could anyone ask for?

First Solo: Tara Piech

It's taken me a year but I finally did my solo! Wasn't nervous. Thank you to John who's been extremely patient with me.



Upcoming Events

Saturday 22nd April - Presidents shout - drinks & eats at the club 18:00 - free to ***paid up*** members and their partner - \$10 to anyone else. Please notify John of your intention to attend so he can make suitable arrangements and adjust himself to the shock of the cost of office!

May: Nothing organised yet - it is your club, is there anything you would like to do? - let a committee member know.

June 16th CAA safety evening - fuel for thought – will forward details in next news letter

