



# The 2010 RAANZ Fly-in at Stratford Contributed by Nick Furmage

*The 2010 RAANZ National Fly-in was held at Stratford in March. Local pilot (of Jodel D-11 EDR), Nick Furmage contributed this report.*

**MARCH** 19th through 21st saw planes of all types descend on Stratford for the 2010 RAANZ National Fly-in, this year hosted by the Stratford Aero Club Sport Flyers. The weather was perfect here in Taranaki, though elsewhere it was not. We had 32 aircraft attend from all points of the compass. The Tower (SAA Mobile Tower) was manned over the whole weekend by Ian Tonks and Nathan Rayner. They recorded 252 movements over the three days with no issues or incidents. All pilots were very appreciative of the information provided by these dedicated chaps.

The most epic journey was easily claimed by the two fellows who flew from Christchurch in their X-air Trike over a 10 hour odyssey. They overnights in Paraparamu then set off from there at 10am on Friday morning. According to our Tower log, they landed at 1810 that evening. Reports had been coming in that the wind to the south was pretty fierce. On the trike that offered the opportunity of talking to people on the beach on the way up (they were walking faster...). It wasn't that warm further south either. We took these aviators under our wing so to speak as they were unable to make the trip back due to weather. They eventually returned home by commercial means and will be back to collect their trusty steed at some point.

The crowd during the fly-in was in the region of a thousand, give or take and the public were quite impressed with the variety of aircraft on display. The visit by Kevin Janes' black Yak was a highlight for many with of course a fine display by Kevin. Yours truly did the commentary over the three days as there is nothing worse than going to something like this when no-one engages the public. We also made life easy for visitors as Club members were decked out in Stratford Aero Club Sport Flyers shirts. This made us much more approachable to the general public and with the additional Air Training Corps (ATC) help at hand, any enquiries or questions were quickly resolved.

We had two Squadrons of ATC assisting, these being No.48 District of Stratford and No.8 City of New Plymouth, as well as assistance from the Army Cadet Corp. No.48 Squadron Unit Commander Julie Woods had the task of keeping them all busy. They basically helped wherever needed and assisted with competitions. This made the day a lot easier for everyone attending. With the help of visiting and local pilots we were able to get all the

cadets up for some air experience and are grateful to the pilots and cadets for giving their time and making the fly-in such a success. Thanks also to the ATC parents for an outstanding lunch on Saturday which was very well received by all present.

On a personal note my brother and his wife were over from Australia and both were impressed with the aircraft on display. He was quite taken with the Foxcom Terrier 200 ZK-MEG, so much

so that he's now thinking of getting his licence and purchasing a Terrier. The interesting part is that the aircraft is made in McKay Queensland which just happens to be where said bro lives. Can't get much more convenient than that. No doubt a visit to the factory will be made in due course to check it all out.

The Saturday dinner was slightly delayed due to a 'Hoon car incident'. The Stratford No.1 Sonarei Fighter wing was sent up to investigate and after locating said Hoon they opened up on him with a couple of salvos which looked very spectacular. On the second pass the said Hoon was despatched with a loud bang back to where he came from, his car looking somewhat worse for it. The Sonarei's returned victorious (you had to be there – it was a hoot). We then enjoyed a

fine meal of spit roasted lamb, venison sausages and salads, washed down with dessert and some fine ales.

Fog did delay things on all three days but made for a relaxed fly-in as it burned off pretty quickly and gave everyone time to have breakfast and check their machines out ready to start the flying day. We aimed for a friendly and relaxing fly-in and I think we achieved it. Most visitors also had the opportunity to venture out around the district and see the sites.

Prize giving went down well with Piper Sport ZK-SXY taking the Supreme Champion award and Sonarei ZK-SNW taking out the Reserve Champion place. The Ryan Memorial Trophy was awarded to the chaps from Christchurch and their X-Air Trike VTZ for an outstanding effort getting to Stratford. The landing competition was won by Glyn in Zenair 701 JLZ and from memory Feilding won the bombing and nav competition. I must apologise here as we lost the list at the dinner so this is all based on recollection.

These events don't just happen by themselves. It takes a lot of time, effort, generosity and goodwill to make a fly-in successful. As with most fly-ins, once the planes have headed for home, one can sit down and have a cold one and reflect on the event (we had a few cold ones) - and we concluded that everyone had a darn fine time. We couldn't have asked for more. Many thanks to all the people that helped out before, during and after the event.



*Scenes from the 2010 RAANZ fly-in at Stratford. The X-Air Trike was flown all the way from Christchurch. Supreme Champion was Anton Meier's Piper Sport SXY.*