

PAUG Newsletter #8

30th April, 2007

1. MAINTENANCE

The long absent AWIB ... thanks to Ross Wales for dropping the AWIB off for repair. Yes, it is repaired this time! New software and a new aerial (the aerial was probably the cause of a lot of the problem!). I will pick it up on Thursday and hopefully it will be up and running for the weekend.

I have submitted a report to the Council with photographs of all the damaged signs itemising *exactly* the signs needing repair.

The PD workers have been busy painting the fences with paint supplied by the TCDC. They are already looking much better. Many thanks to Brian Jackson of the TCDC for his kind help with this. I understand Brian has now rustled up some timber to repair the damaged parts of the fence. I met Brian at a service station in Whangamata where we discussed the use of diesel (for smoke) in our Yaks. He mentioned that it would be a great to start the Whangamata annual parade with a flypast. The Pauanui Yaks had a display practice off the beach at the appropriate time ... and now well maintained fences ... thanks also to the Yak pilots involved. Great progress ...

The rabbits continue to cause considerable damage to the airfield. Any aircraft with light undercarriage systems should exercise CAUTION when operating on the airfield. We are filling the worst of the holes with topsoil but will not get on top of the problem until we get rid of the rabbits. According to the expert (Roger Smith) June is the best month to poison so I will be calling on volunteers to lay baits (Pindone) over this month.

2. FUNDING

A separate letter has been sent to commercial operators outlining the requirement to pay landing fees. I have allowed a grace period after publishing this requirement in the AIP (NZUN landing chart). So far ... ZIP! So all I can do now is go direct. The fee is \$20 per landing for ALL commercial operations. An optional annual fee may be negotiated.

In my last newsletter I mentioned that the Yaks boys might take some rides in exchange for donations to the airfield. Some community minded spirit saw fit to forward this to the CAA who in turn threatened me with legal action for advertising "for hire or reward" in the Yaks. Great that we live in the land of the free, isn't it ... Maybe a special landing fee needs to be applied to all aircraft owned by either whining members of the community or CAA bureaucrats!

Anyway, thanks very much to those of you who have already donated to this year's cause especially the \$500 donation which will pay for repairs, new software and a new aerial for the AWIB.

3. EVENTS

The fly in this year was a great success. 110 aircraft visited and the weather was superb. A fantastic array of aircraft added to a wonderful carnival atmosphere. The BBQ on Saturday night started off slowly but turned into a great night of dancing and fun. Pass it on to all you know ...

January 5th and 6th 2008

Please book accommodation early and stay Saturday night. And let's have a big turnout for the BBQ. Let me know if you're interest NOW!

4. FEEDBACK

Any comments, complaints or suggestions I would appreciate an email at bryan@pauanuibeach.com or phone 021 936 188.

Bryan Coppersmith