

Pauanui Airfield User Group

Informal notes of the inaugural meeting held on 31 July 2004
in the annex to the Pauanui Sports and Recreation Club

Present

Phillippa Barriball
Deputy mayor, Thames Coromandel district

Bryan Coppersmith
Airfield Operator

Kim Coppersmith
Airfield operations secretary

Paul Hughan
Airfield operations manager

Paul Schrader
Residents Association
President Pauanui Sports and Recreation Club

Rod Shaw
Airfield user, member of TCDC

Bill Rolfe
Airfield user

Trevor Pask
Secretary, Pauanui Flying Club

Ian North
Pauanui Rate Payers Association

Phillippa Barriball opening the meeting by saying that the TCDC had introduced a policy to relinquish operations of all airfields within the Thames Coromandel district, Pauanui included, hence the appointment of Bryan Coppersmith as the Pauanui Airfield operator.

She also suggested that she felt it appropriate to set this meeting up as a regular forum to meet the needs of all people involved with the airfield in an appropriate environment. She also stated that she felt the meetings should be structured more as an informal workshop than a formal meeting, of which there was general agreement. A discussion arose regarding the frequency of the meetings and it was a general consensus that they should initially be held quarterly but after the group becomes established every six months. It was also decided that meetings could be held more frequently if required and to organise future special events.

Phillippa then asked each attendee to introduce themselves outlining who they were representing and what they felt the meetings would accomplish and promote.

Bryan Coppersmith stated that as operator he had a direct link to the TCDC but as the structure of the user group shows is on an equivalent level to all other users. He also said he had legal obligations as airfield operator to the Civil Aviation Authority of New Zealand (CAA) and contractual obligations to the TCDC.

He brought up an idea to create a user group card, costing approximately \$45. This card would entitle all holders to discounts for local goods and services and would be approaching local businesses as such. He was also wanting to look into organising fly-ins in early January and mid-winter.

Bryan advised that he has created a website which outlines administrative and operation information for the airfield. There are downloadable documents including an operations manual for the Pauanui airfield (some of which was still under construction awaiting consultation with various other informed sources) and a suggested User Group Structural diagram). The address for the site is <http://airfield.pauanuibeach.com>.

He said he was also liaising with Vanessa Witt, our local district nurse and was setting up a meeting with Medical staff, volunteer fire personnel, police, the first response team and the coast guard to formulate an emergency plan for the airfield.

Paul Schroeder said he hoped the meetings would benefit local businesses, and was keen to support any events involving the airfield. He said he was happy to help in any future events, including making the Pauanui Sports and Recreation Club a possible venue for any functions held in conjunction with future fly-ins.

Trevor Pask asked where queries regarding issues involving the airfield should be directed in future. Bryan replied that if it was of an urgent nature to contact him either by telephone or email, or if the matter was less urgent to note it and bring it up at the next meeting. Phillipa mentioned that if it was a straight TCDC bylaw issue to contact the TCDC directly on 0-7-868 6025.

Ian North said he would like to see the airfield used as a venue for Air Force manoeuvres where training was involved. He also mentioned the willingness to assist in organising accommodation for over-nighting aviators and discussed the problems with security for aircraft participating in such events, and suggested we contact Mr and Mrs Jim Allison, who reside at the western end of the airfield, and who often have visiting aircraft parked adjacent to their home.

He also said it would be good to see Pauanui used for other aero club fly-ins.

Paul Hughan queried what OSH requirements would be required for future events. He asked all present what they were prepared to do and asked all involved to be willing to participate in future events. He suggested that the newsletter sent out by the TCDC to rate payers would be a good medium to keep local residents informed.

Phillippa Barriball said she would obtain a copy of the OSH Act from Sandra Goudie and would investigate the current status of the Act. She also said that it would be a good idea to get all applicable information regarding the airfield and events to Trevor Pask to pass on to the flying club.

Bryan Coppersmith said he would be doing all he could to inform the community of any future events and he felt it was a great opportunity for local schools and community run facilities to benefit from any events financially. He said he felt an early afternoon close of events, followed by a dinner at the Pauanui club would be a great opportunity to promote Pauanui.

Paul Hughan discussed noise from such events and the impact on the local residents. He also felt it appropriate to have an early finish to flying, on days which events were being held. He also discussed commercial operations in and out of Pauanui and noise resulting from such activity.

Rod Shaw discussed the Pauanui airfield website that Bryan Coppersmith has constructed, and said how it was a very thorough and well presented site that was a great tool to show how the operations of the airfield were being managed in a professional manner and wanted to ensure that this website be made readily available for any interested parties. Bryan said the website was a sub site of the <http://pauanuibeach.com> site and as such was available to promote local businesses.

The meeting concluded with everyone agreeing it had been a constructive one and had a very positive outlook for the future of the airfield.

Action Points

1. Phillipa to obtain OSH requirements
2. Bryan to obtain contact details of all members of the user group and post on website
3. Phillipa to pass notes of meeting onto Peter Hazael to do a press release into council and coastal notes
4. Bryan to organise a working bee to tidy up flight office on airfield