



Autogyros at Dannevirke and Murchison

THE TWO major autogyro gatherings of the year, Dannevirke on Waitangi weekend and Murchison at the beginning of March were both more subdued than normal due to unfortunately inclement weather. However, as with many fly-ins, it isn't so much about the flying there, or about flying while there, as it is about catching up with friends and enjoying socialising with like-minded enthusiasts. Dannevirke also suffered by being shifted from its traditional Auckland Anniversary weekend slot to accommodate club members who were demonstrating at the Tauranga Airshow, as this meant that others were not able to attend so the turnout was lower than usual.

Dannevirke

Those who headed to Dannevirke early and from more fortuitous starting points made it through the low cloud and showers, while some, like Oskar Stielau from Parakai thought better of it and turned back for home. In Oskar's case that was shortly after Taumarunui, just before his calculated point of no return position. Nevertheless he still got a good day's flying in, with a stop for coffee at Raglan in both directions. Those who did get there

by air arrived from places as far away as Wairoa, Matamata, Taupo and Tauranga. One member trailered his gyro all the way from Pukekohe. None were quite as well off as Paul Scherrer though, who only had to open his hangar door. Gyros in attendance for the weekend included Eagle and Calidus models from Gyrate at

gaps when they needed them including those who crossed the Manawatu Gorge then headed up the Desert Road at a chilly 4500 feet before going their respective ways (Matamata and Tauranga) at Taupo. In spite of the weather and reduced turnout, it was still a great weekend and will be looked forward to next year by all those who could, and couldn't attend the 2012 event.

Murchison

The Murchison fly-in was also moved from its traditional date, this year taking place on 2nd-4th March. The weather forecast wasn't a bright one but as with Dannevirke, several members attended regardless – the point of these annual gatherings being more about saying hello to good friends than about actual flying. Several gyros were trailered in and although rain set in overnight, it cleared

to reveal fresh snow on the tops and very strong upper winds in the morning. Conditions were favourable for flying until early afternoon, when attention turned to performing leakdown tests on many of the engines present, with some surprising results. Sunday turned out to be a great day with trips taking place up the Glenroy, Matakaitaki and Martiri Valleys. Gary Whiting in his Eagle MTO3 and Lloyd Heslop in his RAF2000 took numerous locals for flights before heading for home in the afternoon, Gary being the only person who flew both ways to the fly-in. In Lloyd's words "it was a fabulous weekend once again."



1: Paul Scherrer would have won a 'least distance to travel competition. His gyro lives at Dannevirke. 2: Cylinder leak down tests surprised a few. 3: Lloyd Heslop's, RAF2000 took numerous Murchison locals for flights. 4: The field at Murchison.

Tauranga, an AutoFlight Dominator, ELA, Xenon, Magni and homebuilts. The club AGM was held on Sunday and in the usual fashion, members of the public who turned up were enthusiastically introduced to the sport. Those who flew in headed for home on Monday in weather not much better to that in which they had arrived. All found

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