



Autogyro enthusiasts gather at Dannevirke

GYRONAUTS from around the country gathered at Dannevirke on Auckland Anniversary weekend for their annual fly-in and AGM. Dannevirke has become a permanent fixture on the gyro events calendar owing to the large field which is friendly for gyro training, central location, and the hospitality of the Dannevirke Aeroclub, Council, and locals. A date change for the 2012 meeting reduced attendance last year with some questioning the event's future, but the 2013 fly-in was very well attended and enjoyed - all agreeing that it was the best get-together for several years. Needless to say, the AGM closed with a same place, same time next year agreement.

It's only a handful of years ago that gyros mostly arrived at the 'fly-in' by trailer, except for one or two locals who might have made a short hop from nearby strips. Nowadays, the great majority fly in, thanks to the predominance of partial or fully enclosed 'touring' gyros available as



Captions - 1. Jim McEwen has hundreds of hours on this single seat Dominator he built from plans. **2.** Oskar Stielau is now instructor rated in his MTO-3 based at Parakai. **3.** An original Air Command design from the 80s. **4.** This Magni has made several trips to the South Island. **5.** Tandem Dominator design built by Autoflight in Hamilton. **6.** An Air Command with nose pod. **7.** Another single seat Dominator. **8.** Paul Scherrer built this gyro to his own design. **9.** Magni Orion offers 2 place side by side comfort. **10.** Fully equipped Magni panel. **11.** 8 gyros made the trip to Athbey Farm for morning tea on Sunday of the fly-in. Thanks to Betty and Athol.

turn-key machines from manufacturers such as Autogyro Europe in Germany and Magni Gyro in Italy. Both brands are supported in New Zealand by local distributors. The furthest flown trophy this year went to Oskar Stielau (MTO-3) and Leo Levine (Magni M22), both from Parakai. (There was a friendly debate that Leo had perhaps flown further as he started behind Oskar.)

15 gyros attended in total with most flying throughout the weekend in perfect weather conditions. Sunday morning saw a fly-out to Athol and Betty Sowry's nearby Athbey Farm (also the home of the 'world's first fly-in of the year' on New Year's Day every year). Several fixed wing aircraft dropped in for a look throughout the weekend and more than a few visitors and locals took the opportunity for rides in the tandem machines at the field.

More fly-ins are planned throughout the year. See www.autogyro.org.nz for details.

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