



# Stratford Aero Club Profile

*Stratford and Jodel Aviation Enthusiast Nick Furmage provides readers with the following profile on activities at Stratford Aerodrome.*



Stratford town with the airfield in the foreground.

**IF YOU** are not sure where we are, then look exactly in between Hawera in South Taranaki and New Plymouth on the Northern Taranaki Coast. You can't miss our main navigation aid Mount Taranaki/Egmont (whichever you prefer) so getting lost should be fairly unlikely. Just don't hit it. Most pilots are aware of the Stratford Gap which allows one to traverse the coast in inclement weather. This actually should not be taken lightly.

Stratford Aerodrome itself is 3 kms from Stratford on Flint Road East. We are essentially a recreational aerodrome and the base for Stratford Aero Club which incorporates the Stratford Sport Flyers. GA and microlights are catered for and microlight flight training is available.

The field also hosts local Ag Operators, usually with either Fletcher or Cresco and we are home to the Taranaki Gliding Club. The local Radio Control enthusiasts are the Egmont Modellers Club. They operate off the end of runway 34 and will stop flying for you to land. Everyone seems to live in harmony and everything hums along nicely.

There are a wide selection of aircraft based at Stratford ranging from RV-4's, Jodels D-11 & D-9, Hughes 269 helicopter, Zenair Zodiacs, Sonareis, Minicab, Corby Starlet, Bantam, Challenger, Rans S-10 Sakota, Titan Tornado, Avid, Alpi Pioneer, Cessna 180, Taylor Mono Plane, Pawnee and the list goes on.

Stratford is now your only Shell AVGAS supplier in Taranaki. The next closest Shell supplies are a choice between Wanganui, Te Kuiti, Taumararui or Taihape. The other option is New Plymouth if you don't mind the Airways and landing fees, something you won't have to consider at Stratford. We also have Shell Jet-A1. We do ask that you stop your engine on the grass and pull your plane to the pump. Helicopters should hover only as close as you really need to the pump.

Someone is usually around the aerodrome on most days although we all work for a living so are not permanently open. Our clubrooms include coffee and tea facilities and if you're very lucky the bar might be open at the end of a hard days flying.

Summer conditions in Stratford are excellent for aviation. Taranaki itself is great to fly around and if you can, a trip over and around the mountain will be one of those magical moments. Flying down and around the coast is also a hoot. The waterfront in New Plymouth is worth a look and the friendly controllers will try to give you what you request if able. Bring a hat and your sunglasses though because some days are very hot.

In winter we fly when we can as Stratford and the aerodrome do drain well although there is the odd soft patch. Give us a call and we will let you know where it is. You must stay aware of conditions as severe carb icing can occur here during winter. We don't let the cold put us off though and enjoy quite a lot of winter flying as the weather permits.

We also get a variety of visitors popping in such as the Airforce, Rescue helicopter, a range of Warbirds, and even the odd Australian.

We have a selection of runways, the main vector being 27/09 with cross vector being 16/34. It's not uncommon to have all three windsocks doing their own thing so just pick the strongest one. (The two 27/09 based windsocks are the most reliable.) If you're not sure then use 27/09 which has plenty of length. We advise once airborne to lower the nose and pick up speed, then continue climbing as you may sometimes experience some turbulence or windshear.

Lastly, Stratford is surrounded by power pylons on all sides so good situational awareness is a must. They're nothing to be afraid of although some might find this daunting on seeing them. We do ask that you do not over-fly the power station.

We even have our name on the Roof NZSD. If you want to contact us we can be found on the aero club number 06 765 6628 or I am more than happy to answer your queries directly. Phone Nick on 0275 611 518. The Stratford Aero Club website is [http://home.clear.net.nz/pages/millar/sd\\_aerodrome.htm](http://home.clear.net.nz/pages/millar/sd_aerodrome.htm)



We offer a complete line of Revolutionary Aircraft Coatings for:

**Fabric • Metal  
Composite • Wood**

Our High Performance Catalysed Coatings are **Waterborne**

Our STC Approved Aircraft Fabric Covering process is **People-Safe**

Our **Safe-to-use** products are EPA compliant, Non-hazardous and Non-flammable



Contact Mark Rollinson at  
**Stewart Systems New Zealand**  
45 Gunns Rd, RD8, Waimate 7978  
Phone: 03 689 1121  
Email: [sales@stewartsystems.co.nz](mailto:sales@stewartsystems.co.nz)  
[www.stewartsystems.co.nz](http://www.stewartsystems.co.nz)



**Aviation Technology Specialists**

NZ Distributor for:

- TL Elektronik** - Top of the line digital instrumentation and EFIS/EMS.
- ASL Camguard** - Advanced engine oil supplement rated "Top oil choice" by Aviation Consumer 2008 Gear of the year
- The Cobra by UmeVoice** - The World's best noise cancelling technology
- Miracle Antenna** - Power regulation and antenna technology
- Falcon Headsets** - Affordable ANR and PNR

For your aviation solution and pricing contact:  
Ryan Southam on 027 318 7934 or a/h (03) 208 4567  
email: [info@criticalangle.co.nz](mailto:info@criticalangle.co.nz) [www.criticalangle.co.nz](http://www.criticalangle.co.nz)



**High performance Constant Speed Electric Propellers for Rotax engines. Made and supported right here in NZ.**

Airmaster Propellers Ltd  
P: (09) 836 0065  
E: [sales@propellor.com](mailto:sales@propellor.com)  
[www.propellor.com](http://www.propellor.com)