

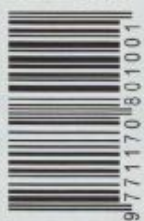
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Airshow Season Begins

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**Whitianga Warbirds & Wheels
Classics of the Sky at Tauranga
Just Aircraft SuperStol arrives in NZ**

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contributed by Geoff van Asch with images by Gavin Conroy

Bush Pilot Champs at Omaka

THE second annual Healthy Bastards Bush Pilot Champs was held at Omaka on 1st February. Sponsored by Dr Dave Baldwin, hence the name, the event enjoyed a considerable increase in the amount of flying hardware from last year. 67 entrants participated, with pilots and aircraft coming from as far afield as Pukekohe, Invercargill and most places in between.

James and Thomas, my 8 and 10 year old sons were very excited about the thought of watching aircraft taking off and landing all day, pleading to attend for days in advance. So the 3 boys (that being myself included) negotiated our leave pass and were released from home for the day.

It wasn't the usual hot and dry day in Marlborough, there being a breeze from the south east and hardly any sun at Omaka. But that didn't stop some 400 odd spectators having a magic day.

First up was the precision landing competition requiring both mains firmly down as close to the line as possible. Landing short wasn't an option as touching before the line meant disqualification. Big wheels and excess horsepower weren't necessarily helpful for this purpose, meaning that this was a competition open to anyone. It was simply about good old fashioned airmanship and riding that glide slope (which we were all taught) to the spot on the ground. The aircraft line-up included the normal bush pilots' steeds, there being a variety of Cubs, C180s, etc., but there was also a Tiger Moth, a Minicab, a Stinson 108 (it won last year), and many other types. The eventual winner was Richard Coop in Cessna 180 RWC, achieving a result of 0.2, i.e. 20 centimetres over the line.

Halfway through the day, the wind turned to the north east and the crowd were entertained on a different vector by Bruce Brownlee in a Cessna 195 and Bill Reid in



the Avro Anson – with none other than Dr. Dave in the co-pilot seat. Then it was on to the short take-off and landing competition.

The STOL competition was divided into three classes, being Microlight (<1325 lb), Light Touring (1326 – 2550 lb), and Heavy (> 2250 lb). We saw all sorts of styles to yank an aircraft off the ground and place it back on again in the shortest possible combined length. Some techniques worked, some didn't, and some were easier than others to watch, but all were entertaining. The winners of each class (in combined metres) were:

Microlight: Deane Philip
Zenith CH701 JUG.
Take-off 16.3m
Landing 27.1m
Combined 43.4m

Light Touring: Nigel Griffith
PA18-160 BOY.
Take-off 26.6m
Landing 23.6m
Combined 50.2m

Heavy: John Richards
C180 BKG.
Take-off 48.3m
Landing 44.9m
Combined 93.2m

All whom competed performed exceptionally well. There were no incidents and plenty of examples of great airmanship. This competition is growing and will continue to do so, so mark your calendar for the third Healthy Bastards Bush Pilot Champs, scheduled for early February 2015. We'll see you there. Hopefully I will have completed my Murphy Rebel by then and shall partake in more of the fun...

Captions:

1. Winner of the Microlight class Deane Philip flying his Zenith CH701.
2. Piper Pacer about to make a precision landing followed by an Omaka based Tiger Moth.
3. Winner of the light touring class Nigel Griffith flying Super Cub BOY.
4. Super Cub BRQ was one of several flying on the day.



Gavin Corroy

Super Cub ZK-BTX launches during the STOL part of the competition.



Andrew Whelan got involved in this turbine Fletcher.



Sponsor Dr. Dave Baldwin was treated to a surprise flight in Bill Reid's magnificent Avro Anson.



Willy Sage flew this Sounds Air Cessna Caravan and beat some of the Cessna 180 competitors.

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