

# Black Sands Fly-In 2019

## A successful event - by Dave Homewood



It is very pleasing to report that this year's Black Sands Fly-In at Raglan was a success. This despite an array of dismal and ever changing forecasts all the week leading up to the event which all threatened rain and wind. Such forecasts may have kept people away, and of course weather further afield across the North Island also contributed to some not making it as planned, but the reality was for the Friday and Saturday of the event Raglan basked in warm sunshine with just a gentle northerly breeze. The weather was perfect in fact both days.

This is very satisfying because the past two years were severely impacted by inclement weather. The 2017 event was cancelled a few days beforehand, a good decision as the airfield was totally soaked in with rain and low cloud that weekend. And whilst 2018 did go ahead it too was marred by the weather gods, with high wind and showers coming up on the Saturday which meant only a small handful of aircraft - all Friday arrivals - actually attended.

But this year things were much improved for local flying and for many coming in from around the regions. Aircraft numbers were still lower than many years past due to showers or cloud around the hills in other parts, resulting in the contingents from the Bay of Plenty and the Taranaki who usually attend being unable to make it through. Regardless there were at least 26 aeroplanes on the field and lots more people than last year.

The fly-in was once again convened by the Waikato-Bay of Plenty Chapter of SAANZ, with the leading organisers being the chapter president Baz McGahan, chapter secretary Bruce Cooke, and chapter treasurer Gary Williams. They were ably assisted by numerous people in the setting up and running of the event, including Neil McHugh once again providing safety fencing and equipment, and Bruce Freemantle, Irena Leadbeater, Graham Colquhoun and Paul Parsons assisting Baz on kitchen duties for the meals.

The lunch on Saturday was well attended, and this was followed by a short presentation from CAA officials

Paul Moore and Dean Coetzee about the newly implemented subsidy grants that the government is offering to aircraft owners to assist with costs of installing the ADSB system.

Following their talk, Noel Bailey gave a briefing for the pilots who were game enough to attempt a beach landing just up the coast on the black sand of Gibsons Beach. Those of us who were to partake in this exciting activity - my first ever time landing on a beach! - set off around 2.00pm for this. I will cover this later in this issue in the Photospread.

The beach landing was the last planned activity of the Fly-In. By late Saturday afternoon all the aeroplanes had flown off home. Whilst many pilots usually like to stay the Saturday night, this year they all wished to avoid getting stuck at Raglan the next day. This was

because all the forecasts had been pointing to heavy rain hitting in the early hours of Sunday morning and setting in. But like the forecasts for the two previous days, again the predictions proved inaccurate. In fact for those of us who did stay there Saturday night (all of us travelled there by road rather than air) the dawn was surprisingly dry and not too bad. By mid-morning the rain finally did arrive though and with most people gone home the planned lunch was cancelled and everything was packed up and stowed in the various vehicles, ready to go.

So a dampener to end on, but Black Sands 2019 had been otherwise a great event with two days of perfect weather, lots of aeroplanes, a beach landing, and most importantly a great group of people.







**Opposite Page** - Top: Sundown on Raglan Aerodrome on the Friday evening of Black Sands Fly-In. Centre: The camp facilities that most Black Sands attendees use, the dining room seen here with bunk houses beyond this building. Bottom: A Black Sands scene. All photos Dave Homewood.

**This Page:** Clockwise From Top Left - Gavin Magill arrives in his Zenair (Dave Homewood); Bruce Freemantle and Irena Leadbetter dishing out the Saturday lunch (Dave Homewood); Paula Moore from CAA speaking (Gavin Magill photo); Relaxing in the dappled light (Gavin Magill photo); Gordon Lindsay takes off in his Corby Starlet (Dave Homewood); Scott Montague prepares for another flight his Starlet ZK-TNT (Dave Homewood); The stunning Chipmunk ZK-UAS catching the sunshine (Dave Homewood); RV-12 ZK-TFP arriving (Dave Homewood); Peter Nunn arriving in his RV-8 (Dave Homewood).







**More Scenes From Black Sands Fly-In 2019** - Clockwise From Top: David Wilkinson and Scott Montague rolling for a formation take off in the Corby Starlets (Photo Dave Homewood); Yakovlev Yak 52 ZK-TYS, flown in by Evan Yates (Photo Gavin Magill); Gary Williams, right, manning the registration tent (Photo Gavin Magill); Bruce Cooke in the hi viz and Warren Butler (Photo Gavin Magill); Maule MXT-7-180A ZK-RLT (Photo Gavin Magill); Sonex ZK-SXR (Photo Gavin Magill).

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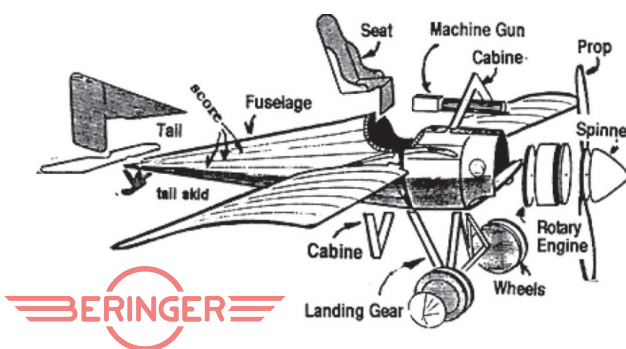
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