



West Auckland Airport, Parakai
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ADS-B Mobile App for Airports: Our 'Aimm' Airport Movement Monitoring system now has a Mobile App in test sites, that uses ADS-B data to give a radar-like view to the Airport Management. It is specific to each Airport, using Aimm's historical data and its knowledge of the local conditions, to separate local traffic from that transiting past.

The App will issue advance warning of arrivals for maintenance and apron staff in real-time... showing the actual situation rather than scheduled situation. This will allow them to clear the gate or runway when (but not before) it is needed, reducing their unproductive down-time.

Voice Data: ADS-B will be mandatory only for aircraft using controlled airspace and it will be years before every aircraft has it. Aimm's traditional voice or camera derived data will continue to be necessary to provide a practical monitoring service.

Wanganui NZWU on a cross country exercise for students: There is a large flying school at Wanganui that trains overseas students. The diesel-powered aircraft use an engine developed from the Mercedes Benz diesel as used in Merc's smaller diesel powered cars. Bryn Lockie, the engineer at West Auckland Airport, attended a training course in Germany in the early days of introduction of these engines... he says they have many good characteristics. They run on AvTur / Jet A1 which is readily available at even small airports due to its use by topdressing aircraft and heavy helicopters. Although the diesel engine is heavier, this is compensated by the extra fuel efficiency of a diesel engine requiring a lower fuel load, leaving the range unaffected. Apart from the reduced fuel quantity, Jet fuel is considerably cheaper than Avgas and the cost savings are worthwhile for aircraft that do high hours, like these training aircraft.



Diesel C172, NZWU visitors at West Auckland Airport

Helensville Aerodrome 19th July 1980: Before the Helensville Aerodrome moved to Parakai in 1984, it was located on Mill Rd in Helensville. One of the curved roof hangars (visible in the photo below) is still there and can be seen opposite the Skydiving Sausage butcher's sign in Mill Road at Helensville.



19th July 1980. Helensville Aerodrome just above the horse training track at the centre left of the photo running from Mill road to the river. Not long enough and no possibility of extending it. Soon after this the airfield was granted consents to move to Green Rd, Parakai and renamed as Parakai Airfield. The curved roof hangar at the top right of the airstrip remains in place, nearly opposite the 'parachuting sausage' sign.

Gyro work... When working on various types of aircraft, it helps to have the right gear. On Gyros, the teeter bolt is critical, being the only thing keeping the rotors in contact with the remainder of the aircraft. It has to be taken off at the specified intervals, checked and lubricated, and replaced. This is not just a \$1 bolt from the box at the local hardware, it is a crack tested critical aircraft part that is handled with respect, extracted and reinserted with care.



Gyro work Feb19... helps to have the good gear

Flights by West Auckland Airport's Aircraft: Murchison NZMR. After finding Murchison town easily enough, it took a bit longer to find the airfield. Several minutes flying around town and looking at the position of the river and bridge etc, eventually produced this view, on final for NZMR. A strip had been mowed on either side of the runway which is just one of the paddocks... not noticeably flatter or smoother than those around, but most welcome as we were ready for lunch and it is kind of the farmer to keep it available for the occasional visiting aviator. We parked up and walked into town for one of their famous pies and had a look at the very original General Store which has been in business for more than 100 years. It appears to stock a wider range of items than The Warehouse. From Baby shoes to an Anvil, it's all there.



On final for Murchison NZMR, the strip a little to the right of the sewage ponds behind the prop.



Confirmation that we had arrived at the right place

Inner Harbour, looking south over the CBD: Viaduct Harbour to the right, perhaps to be extended to provide shore bases for the next America's Cup. The Tecnam ZK-CDL was enjoying flying around on a nice clear winter's day with still air and visibility forever, it's great to just fly around and enjoy the sights on days like this... no need to actually go anywhere.



Aircraft for Sale: Murphy Rebel ZK-DKZ. David Horton is selling his Murphy Rebel, photo as below and many more photos available showing the very well-appointed interior. Contact David Horton, Email horton.ind@xtra.co.nz for more info.



Murphy Rebel ZK-DKZ

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