



# NAAG

Northern Adventure Aviation Group

## Dargaville Trip August 2009

**T**his has been an interesting week with a couple of firsts. On Tuesday and Wednesday of last week, 60 instructors met at the Kingsgate Hotel, Hamilton, for a refresher course.

*Not something you see every day!  
Anton Meier's new Sport Cruiser  
appropriately registered ZK-LSA.*



When I arrived, to my surprise, in the lobby was a fully assembled Sport Cruiser jammed into the foyer entrance! None other than **Anton Meier** would attempt such a feat. We were told that getting it through the 1.8 metre door proved quite a challenge! Now let's see that done with the wings on.

*Approaching Auckland City through  
Mechanics Bay.*



Friday 21 August had 9 aircraft from the NAAG descending on Dargaville. Part of the intended route was to fly along the water front past the Sky Tower then over the Harbour Bridge before returning to North Head and tracking up the coast via the Whenuapai transit lane.

*Sky Tower & Central City viewed from  
the Harbour Bridge.*



Four of us were flying in loose formation and as we passed Maraetai we were joined by **Gavin Lee** in his Europa. With the five of us together we were able to enjoy the spectacular views as we flew along the city water front. The day was just perfect allowing time to get some really good shots



of the Sky Tower and city skyline. Once over the Harbour Bridge the constraints of air space made our passage somewhat limited but there was room to get as far as Avondale before needing to return the way we had come. The Harbour Bridge looks surprisingly smaller from the air. With our deviation complete it was off to North Head where we over flew the canons that had once guarded the harbour entrance.

Whangaparoa and Orewa filled our view as we slipped along the coast to the north. Making our way via Kaipara Flats and Spring Hill Airfields we were soon crossing Ruawai with just a few miles to run up the river to our destination. On the ground at Dargaville in 1 hour 8 minutes was pretty good going considering it included the scenic tour of the water front. Within 20 minutes the remainder of our group were all on the ground.

**W**e were treated to some entertainment with the arrival of **Graeme Weck's** Murphy Rebel. Graeme found that when you bring an Amphibian Captain with you as a passenger the first thing he wants to do is direct you to an area with the most water!

*Graeme's Murphy Rebel stuck firm in the bog. With shovel and helpers, ZK-WEC is soon back on hard ground.*

Graeme soon found himself bogged as he attempted to park. With the aid of a shovel, rope and a number of willing helpers we soon had ZK-WEC back on firm ground

Part of the days plan was to visit my friend's **Kevin and Pat Godfrey** who have a wonderful collection of vintage vehicles. Arriving in two separate vehicles, Kevin brought

### Interested in Advertising here?

From the next issue we will offer advertising space to help offset the costs that are associated with producing this quality newsletter. If you feel your business could benefit from some increased exposure then this may be the low cost solution you are looking for. I currently send copies to 110 flying pilots, supporting fans and clubs. We know this is being disseminated further as each month I get requests to add new people to the list. There are also a number in both Australia and the USA on the list too. Weather permitting there could be up to 4 newsletters per month but you should expect to see a minimum of 2 per month. The newsletter will continue as an easy reading account of the travels of the NAAG and should appeal to a wide audience who regularly travel in New Zealand

From as little as \$10.00 per month and a minimum 6 month term this would have to be some of the best well spent advertising anywhere to a targeted audience.

If you would like to take space in our newsletter you should contact me, Cliff McChesney, or Bob Byal at the address at the end of this newsletter.





# N.A.A.G.

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his Model A to transport us into town and several of the team were fortunate enough to secure a ride. Dargaville CFI, **Murray Foster** was also kind enough to loan us his car to help transport our growing party into town. We collected food en-route and took this to Kevin's place. After lunch we were treated to an array of immaculately restored vehicles. Among them, an assortment of Austin A 30 and 35's.

*Where's the engine Kevin?*

These cars were from an era where you could open the bonnet and see something you could fix! Not today, unless you have a computer, replacement module and specialised tools.

*Oh, there it is... way down there!*

**F**rom there it was into a second shed where there was a further collection of motorcycles; a 1950's Honda moped; other mopeds; and a bunch of moto antiques; a pristine Triumph model dating back to 1918!

*Line up of motorcycles from yesteryear, 1918 Triumph 2<sup>nd</sup> from left. First used by a music teacher in Scotland.*

Kevin has made a fantastic job of his restorations with each of the motorcycles taking approximately a year to complete. All these he has done in his spare time, as by day he works in his mower and chainsaw business that has been in the family for a number of years. With the guys having completed drooling over the collection it was time to make our way back to the airfield. With 15 of us in 9 aircraft several shuttle trips were required.



**1918 240cc  
BABY TRIUMPH**  
NEW PRICE \$62-10-0  
FIRST 500 IN COUNTRY WITH  
LAST 1000 IN COUNTRY  
1st 5000 cc. 1000 cc. 1000 cc.  
A 1000 cc. 1000 cc.  
BROUGHT TO NEW ZEALAND IN 1920  
WE NEVER BEEN IN A SPARE PART  
REPAIRS!



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*Graeme Styles checks out Kevin's daily driver & restored 1929 Ford Model A two door sedan with 14,000 clicks on the odo.*

At the invitation of **Brian Millett**, who was unable to make it on the day, we planned a stop off at **Spring Hill Airfield**. A group of radio control modelers were out enjoying the settled weather. Many of these models are hard to tell from the real counterpart unless in the case of this Augusta they are landed in long grass. With the improvement in battery technology and greater motor power electric models have also become popular.

With the day advancing on and a need to get underway we said our farewells and started the final leg of the journey home. Several splitting off to Ardmore, Matamata and Waihi Beach. There was just EHG, CSC, SJS and I heading home to Thames.

*Alistair McLachlan seen here inspecting a restored BSA Bantam. And below, it seems that Honda have been making motorcycles for many years seen here in this refined moped.*

Once again we had enjoyed a fantastic day out and would like to express our thanks to Kevin and Pat Godfrey for their hospitality. Thanks also to Murray Foster for the use of the car.



## Cliff McChesney

ZK-KFC



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**N.A.A.G.**  
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*The popular helicopter an Augusta 109A  
lifting off the Spring Hill airstrip*



*Electric helicopters are now possible for the  
RC aviator*



*Waiwera looking across to Whangaporoa  
Peninsular*

