



CYBER MOTH AUGUST 2026

Hi Everyone,

With sadness, we record the passing of the club's co-founder Bob McGarry. Bob was a Life Member of the club and was best known to most of us for his aircraft engine work. He had a long career that began in the RNZAF in 1956 then with mentor Arch Finch at Rotorua. Among other engine shop positions, he was with Fieldair in Palmerston North, and managed the engine shop of Airwork in Christchurch.

However, we in the club remember him the most for his overhaul and maintenance of Gipsy Major engines at his West Melton workshop. Many of the engines in our fleet of Tiger Moths have connections to him today. He famously rebuilt a rare Simmonds Spartan in the 1990s after 50 years of storage. A lot of the parts required reverse engineering. It flew again in 2008 and is now on display in the Ashburton Aviation Museum where it will no doubt be a lasting legacy of Bob's dedication to aircraft engineering. We remember Bob with fondness and in years gone by he was a regular part of our fly-in activities.

The best way for members to follow the stories of Bob's accomplishments is to go online, as there is an excellent interview with him about his career on the **Wings Over New Zealand Show Forum podcast no.326**.

We pass on our condolences to his family and friends. The annual spring fly in location of Taumarunui was chosen by Bob, Loretta and the small group of initial club members as the best place to hold the first club fly in and we will think of him when there this October. We hope to hold a remembrance for Bob in the old Taringamotu Hall during the weekend

A memorial service will be held at Lamb and Hayward Funeral Home, Christchurch at 10.30am on the **22nd August**. Please check the **Lamb and Hayward Funeral Directors website** for the obituary and details.

TAUMARUNUI FLY IN 16th - 18th October

So now the 57th Taumarunui Spring Fly-In is around the corner on the 16th - 18th October 2026, the weekend before Labour Weekend.

To make it easier than ever, we now have a registration form to complete on the club website under **EVENTS**.

Go to: **Tiger Moth Club of NZ**

Click on the **three menu bars** at top right

Click on **Events**

Click on **Taumarunui Fly-In** below the photo of Tigers

Scroll down to the link for the form and click it.

Pre-planning is vital with the numbers that we have attending these days and for the expectations of our members. Catering for the dinner is always a main task and we ask you to please help us with this by registering on the website asap of your intention to attend.



And here's a "heads up" of **things to come****BUT not live yet:**

The TMCNZ website (www.tigermothclub.co.nz) will soon include a **MEMBERS ONLY** section. It is currently under development and will eventually have **COMPETITION FORMS and information** to help us organize club activities. Please use this (**once we get it launched**) to register for competitions as we are moving away from "on-the-day" entries. Further information about this and the weekend planning will follow in another bulletin as we get closer. Password access will be required for the **Members Only section** so we will have details later about that also.

Just for now, there is nothing in this section that hasn't been sent to members already. This is just a notice letting you know of what will be coming soon so it doesn't come as a surprise when it's needed.

TRAINING FORUM

This year at Taumarunui we will be launching the first of our series of Training Seminars on the Friday. The training will be based around the promotion and preservation of good knowledge and operation of the Tiger Moth and will feature key presenters with extensive experience with these aircraft. Subjects covered will include engineering and the machine, ground handling, operating a Tiger, good decision making and mentoring. It is a $\frac{3}{4}$ day course that will start sharp at 10:30 am so we would anticipate there will also be arrivals at Taumarunui on Thursday as we did for the formation flying courses.

The basics of operating a machine whose design goes back to the 1920s include elements of airmanship and engineering that are less than emphasized in today's General Aviation training. But even well-known factors must be revisited to be kept in practice. Knowledge and good culture are inclined to wane over time. We aim to dust off the club's excellent training articles and reinforce their messages. As a designed spin-off, the course aims to assist new instructors to be in touch with time-proven knowledge of the Tiger Moth operationally. Further details of the day and advertising will follow soon in another bulletin.

RAY DEERNESS AWARDS

These awards for literary articles and photography are on the table at Taumarunui. Get your entries planned and ready. They're a great part of the club's tapestry.



TIGER CAMP 2027

Traditionally our annual AGM and fly-in are held on the second weekend in March. However, with the Otago Aero Club (the oldest in NZ) celebrating its centenary at Taieri over Waitangi Weekend 2027, the Tiger Moth Club Committee has decided to bring our event forward by one month and combine it with this significant aviation milestone.

This provides a great opportunity for members to participate in both events. However, accommodation throughout much of the South Island is **already in high demand for February 2027**.

To assist members, we have secured a limited number of rooms with the providers listed below until **1 November 2026**. If you are planning to attend Tiger Camp 2027, please contact the accommodation provider **directly** and make your booking as soon as possible. When booking, **please mention that you are part of the Tiger Moth Club. Please note that these providers will show as fully booked online.**

Important: Any rooms not reserved by 1 November 2026 will be released back to the public.

To register for Tiger Camp please click here: [Tiger Camp 2027](#)

Planned route and accommodation for Tiger Camp 2027 (airfield in brackets):

- Wednesday 3 February 2027: Blenheim (Omaka) - Commodore Court Motel
- Thursday 4 February 2027: Oamaru - Mariner Suites
- Friday 5 February 2027: Mosgiel (Taieri) - options are at the bottom of this page [The Event — Otago Aero Club Centenary](#), **please say you're part of the Otago Aero Club centenary event**. I recommend Mogiel Regency Motel.
- Saturday 6 February 2027: Mosgiel (Taieri) - options are at the bottom of this page [The Event — Otago Aero Club Centenary](#), **please say you're part of the Otago Aero Club centenary event**. I recommend Mogiel Regency Motel.
- Sunday 7 February 2027: Gore (Mandeville) - Croydon Lodge
- Monday 8 February 2027: Mossburn - Wheels and Reels or Mossburn Country Park
email: Admin@mossburnhotel.co.nz
- Tuesday 9 February 2027: Mossburn - Wheels and Reels or Mossburn Country Park
email: Admin@mossburnhotel.co.nz
- Wednesday 10 February 2027: Alexandra - Alexandra Heights Motel
- Thursday 11 February 2027: Eyrewell (Forest Field) - Kokomuka Lodge (**email Amanda at tigermothclub@gmail.com to book this**)

If you are joining us at Rakitata Island for the AGM and fly in please arrange your own accommodation in Geraldine for Friday 12th and Saturday 13th February 2027.



Please note additional registration is required for the events at Taieri for the centenary of the Otago Aero Club. To register please go to this website: **Otago Aero Club Centenary** and click on '**Get Centenary tickets**'.

There are three events happening as part of the centenary celebrations which we are planning to be involved with, please ensure you register for each of these separately using the link above:

1. Friday night: Aircraft arrival and The Gathering
2. Saturday night: Gala Dinner
3. Sunday: A flyaway to Balclutha for lunch with the South Otago Aero Club. Please note that we will leave Balclutha after lunch and head to Mandeville for Sunday night (about 35 minutes direct in a Tiger Moth).

There will be a family open day on Saturday with all aircraft including visitors on display behind a secure fence for public viewing. Also space is available for those who prefer not to be displayed. The club will be asking for Tiger Moth histories that they can put on display. Due to the size of our group, the Otago Aero Club team would like us to have registered for these events by **1 November 2026**.

Get onto those accommodation bookings **now**, first in first served!

Watch for further Cyber Moth Bulletin updates and keep wishing for good weather!

And one last thing



Our esteemed Past President Jim Lawson recently celebrated his 96th Birthday by getting a speeding ticket in his Aston Martin!

We might start a Give A Little page to pay the fine. Go Jimmy!!