



BULLETIN 01

OCTOBER
2026

F3A WORLD CUP / NZ MASTERS / NZ TEAM RANKING EVENT

Hosted by the NZRCAA at the Hamilton Model Aero Club, Waikato

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Welcome to the first bulletin for the 2027 New Zealand Masters and F3A World Cup. In late February, pilots from around New Zealand and overseas will gather at the Hamilton Model Aero Club to fly the current FAI schedules, contest a round of the F3A World Cup and settle the 2027 New Zealand team rankings.

This bulletin covers the essentials. Further bulletins will follow as entries come in and the remaining details are confirmed.

**DATES****25 to 28 Feb 2027**

Practice from 24 Feb

**VENUE****Hamilton MAC**

Waikato, North Island

**HEADLINE CLASS****F3A World Cup**

P27 rounds, F27 finals

**INTERNATIONALS****Free entry**

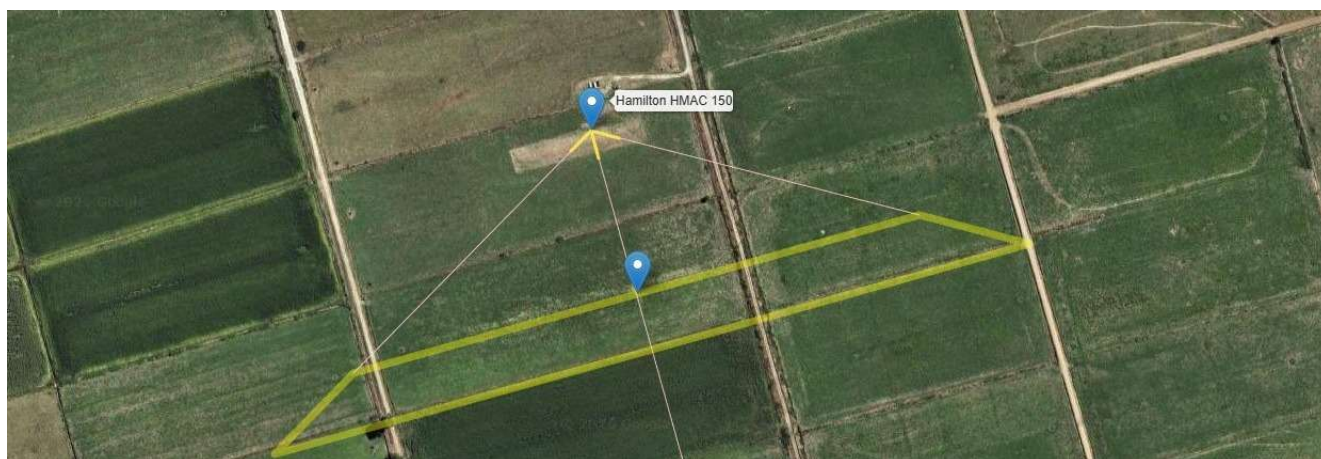
Help with travel and stays

**LOCATION**

Hamilton Model Aero Club
Waikato, New Zealand

The Hamilton Model Aero Club (HMAC) is based in the Waikato, in the heart of New Zealand's North Island. With around 80 members, the club covers the full spread of aeromodelling: radio control, control line, free flight and helicopters. HMAC is affiliated to the New Zealand Model Aircraft Association (Model Flying New Zealand), the national governing body for model flying, which is in turn affiliated to the FAI through the Royal New Zealand Aero Club.

The club has a strong record as a host. Its field has staged club, national and international competitions, and HMAC members have represented New Zealand at FAI World Championships and at international events such as the Tucson Aerobatic Shootout. The site hosted the very successful 2024 Trans Tasman and the 2025 and 2026 New Zealand Masters, so returning pilots will find a proven venue and a team that knows how to run a contest. Club website: hamiltonmac.org.nz

**THE FIELD****120 m grass runway****ORIENTATION****East west, facing due south****FLIGHT BOX****Outlined in yellow above**

**3**

COMPETITION DAYS

**4 + 2**

P27 ROUNDS + F27

**5**

CLASSES ON OFFER

**\$0**ENTRY FOR
INTERNATIONALS

GETTING TO HAMILTON

Hamilton is easy to reach by air and by road. Most international visitors will fly into Auckland and drive south, while pilots from some Australian cities can fly straight into Hamilton.



AUCKLAND AIRPORT

1.5 hours

Approximate drive south to Hamilton from Auckland Airport, most of it on the Waikato Expressway.



HAMILTON AIRPORT

30 minutes

From the contest site, with direct inbound Jetstar flights from some Australian airports.



INTERNATIONAL PILOTS

ACCOMMODATION AND TRANSPORT

International pilots are very welcome, and we want to make the trip to New Zealand as easy and affordable as possible. Local pilots can help with airport pickups, getting to and from the field each day, and accommodation, including staying with local pilots.

Let us know your plans early, even if they are not yet final, and we will help you sort out the rest.

Get in touch and we will help you out.



FAI LICENCES

Every pilot entered in the F3A World Cup class must hold a current FAI sporting licence. If yours has lapsed, or you do not have one yet, get it sorted now.

Kiwis: apply through [Flying New Zealand FAI Licences](#). The fee is \$30 NZD and processing takes a few days, so please do not leave it until the last minute.

Internationals: apply through your own national aero club or airsport federation in the usual way.



NZ TEAM RANKING

The 2027 NZ Masters is the ranking event for New Zealand F3A pilots this year.

If you have your sights on representing New Zealand, this is the contest to fly. Results from Hamilton will set the 2027 national rankings.



CLASSES

Five classes are planned, with the F3A World Cup as the headline event and national classes running alongside it on all three competition days.

CLASS	FORMAT
 F3A World Cup	Four preliminary rounds of the P27 schedule, followed by two rounds of the F27 finals schedule. The exact format of the F3A world cup is yet to be determined. All pilots will fly both P27 and F27.
 F3A P Only	For New Zealand pilots who want to fly the P27 schedule (No F27 Schedule) without entering the World Cup.
 F3A Advanced (A25)	The FAI Advanced schedule, known in New Zealand as Masters.
 NZ Expert	New Zealand national class.
 NZ Clubman	New Zealand national class.



ENTRY FEES

Entry is free for international pilots in every class, our way of saying thank you for making the trip.

 INTERNATIONAL PILOTS FREE All classes	 NZ RESIDENTS \$100 F3A World Cup	 NZ RESIDENTS \$50 All other classes
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All fees in NZD.

PAYMENT



Entry fees are payable to the NZRCAA by direct credit before the event starts. Please use your name as the payment reference so we can match it to your entry.

Account name **RC AEROBATICS SIG**
Account number **38-9020-0855883-11**



EVENT PROGRAMME

The week is built around three competition days, with time beforehand to arrive, settle in and get some practice at the field.

MON TO WED 22 TO 24 FEB	 ARRIVALS International visitors arrive. Send us your flight details and we will arrange pickups where we can.
WEDNESDAY 24 FEB	 PRACTICE + CLASSIC PATTERN The field is open for practice. Fly as much as you like and get to know the site. In the afternoon Classic Pattern takes to the air. Full classic dress up, so dig out the flares and the aviator glasses.
THURSDAY 25 FEB	 PRACTICE + MEET AND GREET The field is open for practice during the day. In the evening, join us at the field for the meet and greet, with pizza and drinks.
FRIDAY 26 FEB	 COMPETITION DAY 1 F3A World Cup: P27 Rounds 1 and 2 Local classes: F3A P, Masters, Expert & Clubman.
SATURDAY 27 FEB	 COMPETITION DAY 2 F3A World Cup: P27 Rounds 3 and 4 Local classes: F3A P, Masters, Expert & Clubman.
SUNDAY 28 FEB	 COMPETITION DAY 3 FINALS F3A World Cup: F27 Rounds 5 and 6 Local classes: F3A P, Masters, Expert & Clubman.

The programme may change with the weather and the number of entries. Flight order and daily start times will be confirmed in a later bulletin.



ON SITE



CATERING

As in past years, the NZRCAA marquee will be on site for the whole event, with lunch available each day, so there is no need to leave the field.



MODEL STORAGE

Models can stay overnight in the NZRCAA marquee, so there is no need to take your wings off at the end of each day.



CAMPING

Planning to camp at the field? Please get in touch, as we need someone on site overnight for security. With enough interest, the mobile shower will be set up.



WEATHER

Yes, there will be weather. February is usually our most settled month and the most reliable time of year for flying, but we live on a rock in the middle of the Pacific Ocean and conditions can change quickly. True to form, expect T shirt, shorts and jandals weather, with a westerly breeze often building through the afternoon. The New Zealand sun is fierce, so bring plenty of sunscreen and a hat.

**25°C**

Typical daytime high

**Westerly**

Afternoon breeze

**Sunscreen**

And plenty of it

**Jacket**

Bring one just in case

More detail: [Hamilton weather in February](#)



SOCIAL PROGRAMME

The NZ Masters has always been as much about the people as the flying, and past events have included plenty to do in the evenings. Full details will follow closer to the time, but here is what is shaping up so far.

**Aerodrome bar**

A return visit to sample some special brews.

**Dinner and live band**

A get together at a local venue.

**Boat Race Trophy**

Contested at some stage, of course.

For international visitors, we will look at arranging a popular tourist outing in the week before the competition, depending on who is arriving and when. There is no point coming all the way to New Zealand without seeing some of the sights, and Hobbiton and the Waitomo Caves are both within easy reach of Hamilton.

If you are keen to see some of the sights then let us know early as some of these attractions need advance booking.



CLASSIC PATTERN

Before the World Cup gets all serious and grown up, we are winding the clock back to when pattern planes had proper engines and pilots had proper hair. Wednesday afternoon belongs to Classic Pattern: nitro power, high rpm, glow fuel on the breeze and long, slow rolls that take their sweet time. No electric whine, no apologies. Bring your classic if you have one. If not, pull up a chair and heckle responsibly.

The dress code is strictly 1970s, and it will be enforced with enthusiasm. Flares, wide collars, aviator shades, shirts loud enough to be heard over a two stroke and moustaches of questionable legality are all encouraged. The best dressed pilot wins the bragging rights. So does the worst dressed pilot, depending on who is judging.

Coming from overseas? Leave the model at home and just pack the costume. We will have a classic fuelled up and waiting for you to fly. Fair warning: you bend it, you buy the next round.



WEDNESDAY 24 FEB | AFTERNOON

Dress code: 1970s. Internationals: bring the costume, we will supply the aeroplane.



JUDGING

The judging panel will be confirmed in a future bulletin. As at past events, pilots will be called on to help with judging, so every pilot, local and international, needs to be current on the schedules being flown and to have passed the F3A judging exam within the past 12 months, before flying starts. The exam is online, so please get it done well before February.



JUDGING EXAM

Complete it online: [NZ Judging Exam](#)



VOLUNTEERS

An event like this only happens with plenty of help, and we need as much as we can get from locals. Jobs range from putting up the marquee the weekend before, right through to flipping burgers on the day. Whatever time you can give, even a few hours, makes a real difference. If you are able to get involved, please get in touch.



HOW TO ENTER



REGISTRATION

Online registration will open shortly. Watch this space, and follow the event Facebook page for the announcement and other updates.

In the meantime, there are a few things you can do now: renew or apply for your FAI licence if you are flying the World Cup, complete the judging exam, and if you are coming from overseas, let us know so we can start helping with travel and accommodation.



MORE INFORMATION



Event videos on Facebook: [New Zealand F3A Masters & World Cup](#)



NZRCAA website: nzcraa.co.nz



SPONSORS

The 2027 NZ Masters would not happen without the generous backing of our sponsors. Please support the businesses that support our sport.



PLATINUM SPONSOR

Hangar One Kits

Hangar One Kits is a New Zealand company producing precision laser cut kits for radio control and free flight modellers. Owner Andreas Gabler, a lifelong aeromodeller and highly regarded scale builder, carries on a long line of Kiwi kit making, doing the CAD design and laser cutting himself. Every kit is cut to order from hand selected balsa and European plywood and shipped worldwide. The range covers scale, vintage, sport and glider designs, plus a Classic Pattern range that suits our Wednesday Classic event perfectly. Thank you, Andreas, for backing the 2027 NZ Masters.

Build the champion. Fly the legend. hangaronekits.com

Interested in sponsoring the 2027 NZ Masters? We would love to hear from you. Get in touch with Frazer or Hamish using the contact details below.



CONTACTS

For entries, travel and accommodation help, camping or volunteering, contact either of the organisers below.

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SEE YOU IN HAMILTON

