

# Marlborough Express

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Ridge to lose its special zone rules P5 | Honey of a job comes to an end P5

## Family taking land claim to court

Cathie Bell

A family which owned farmland taken by the Government to build RNZAF Base Woodbourne have gone to court to stop the land being included in a Treaty of Waitangi settlement.

The Te Tau Ihu Claims Settlement Bill would transfer ownership of Woodbourne air base to Ngati Apa, Ngati Kuia, and Rangitane o Wairau. However, part of the land was acquired by the Government

The Government was disputing the family had a valid claim to the land, Mr Fairhall said.

But the Government did recognise its prior ownership of land in that area because it had offered the family part of the golf course under the Public Works Act in 2010 when that land was declared surplus, he said.

In its submission to the select committee, the Fairhall family said that nine members of the family had future offer-back rights

under the Public Works Act to a substantial part of

## Flights of fancy



**Friendly fliers:** Blenheim man Craig Anderson, president of the Marlborough Aero Club and organiser of Healthy Bastards Bush Pilot Championships, and sponsor Dave Baldwin of the Bulls Flying Doctor Service, share a laugh after a fun day of flying at Omaka on Saturday.

Photo: EMMA ALLEN/FAIRFAX NZ

INSIDE

More pictures from the Healthy Bastards Bush Pilot Championships, P10

## Tributes flow for trailblazer

## TODAY



NEWS

3

### Open arms

After a successful event last year, Waikawa Marae in Picton is encouraging people from all walks of life to share in their Waitangi Day celebrations on Thursday.



NEWS

3

### High combat

Council's community and finance committee is set to consider a proposed draft policy on the sale of legal highs, but some in the community say it doesn't go far enough.

# Snapshots

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**Great day out:** Tess Midgley and her twins Hugh, left, and Grace, were out and about enjoying the bush pilot champs. Photo: EMMA ALLEN/FAIRFAX NZ

## Bush pilots' flying skills delight crowd



**Up we go:** Kaiapoi's Deane Philip taking off in a Zenith CH701 in the short takeoff and landing category.

Photo: EMMA ALLEN/FAIRFAX NZ





**In sight:** A plane comes in to land at the Healthy Bastards Bush Pilot Championships at Omaka Aerodrome on Saturday.  
Photo: EMMA ALLEN/FAIRFAX NZ

Grey skies didn't stop pilots from all over New Zealand enjoying the second annual Healthy Bastards Bush Pilot Championships on Saturday.

Sixty-seven small aircraft took part in the event, which attracted hundreds of spectators to Blenheim's Omaka air field.

A group of five men had prime seating, as their fold-out chairs lined the fence closest to the landing strip.

Masterton's Ron Williams was one of them.

Mr Williams said they had been there since the gates opened. "We will hang out here all day."

"It's great fun."

The group of friends travel to air shows all around New Zealand; four of them held private pilot licences, and had long loved planes. Marlborough Aero Club president Craig Anderson said he was happy with the event.

"The day was a roaring success."

Twenty of the planes were from Marlborough, and the rest had come from around the country.

"We had some from Queenstown, Invercargill, Auckland and everywhere in between," he said.

"The weather was great, the pilots had a great time and everyone is raving about it."

The competition involved planes taking off and landing in the shortest possible distances as well as precision landing.



**Careful now:** Marlborough Aero Club's chief flying instructor Travers Tennant directing the takeoff of Blenheim man Bruce Gibson in a Piper PA180-160.  
Photo: EMMA ALLEN/FAIRFAX NZ

**Flying fans:** Brid Morris, Jeff Griffith, Alister Harvey, at back, Kerry Blundell and Ron Williams travelled to Blenheim especially to watch the bush pilot champs on Saturday.  
Photo: CHLOE WINTER/FAIRFAX NZ



**Down to Earth:** Pilot Innes Bint of Marlborough returns after flying in the short takeoff and landing category in a Piper PA18-160.  
Photo: EMMA ALLEN/FAIRFAX NZ

**All the action:** The crowd take in the action at the Healthy Bastards Bush Pilot Championships at Omaka air field on Saturday.  
Photo: EMMA ALLEN/FAIRFAX NZ

