# Black Sands @ NZTE 2026

## Te Kowhai Airpark, November 6th – 8th, 2026

# INFORMATION PACK

***About The Fly In:***

Black Sands Fly – In 2026 is organised by the Waikato Chapter of the Sport Aircraft Association. It is open to anyone interested in recreational aircraft, be it custom-builts, microlights, gyro copters, gliding, model aircraft, vintage and warbird or factory-built GA aircraft (and any others we've missed!).

The aims of the Fly – In are pretty simple:

1. Have fun
2. Meet other people with similar ideas
3. Promote safe sport flying and encourage good airmanship
4. Have fun!

SAA Waikato appreciate the support and assistance of Te Kowhai Airpark Ltd in hosting this event.

**HIGHLIGHTS THIS YEAR:**

- **Beach Flying Workshop: Fly Away to Gibsons Beach. Briefing 1:30PM Saturday, Main Hangar**

We want this weekend to be enjoyable for everyone, and we have intentionally kept it informal and friendly. We would encourage you to take part in some of the aviation activities we have planned, and local flying in this area is a great way to see some spectacular scenery.

**NOTE:**

**In order to keep the informal atmosphere, and to reduce the complexity of organisation, we will not be having any formal display flying over the weekend. For the same reasons this event has not been advertised to the general public.**
**We ask participants not to engage in low level aerobatics, displays or beat ups. Such activities are illegal, endanger the public and spoil the goodwill we have built up which enables this event to proceed. Please show your best airmanship over the weekend. Normal airfield rules apply, which permit practice aerobatics under normal area and height limitations, however, please be considerate of the neighbouring township.**

**IMPORTANT: The parking arrangements are different from previous years – please see operational info page.**

***Cost:***

We are not charging registration at all for this event.
Landing fees apply - single charge for all weekend flying.

***Weekend Timetable:***

**Friday 6th November:**

Afternoon:
Early arrivals and set up of site
Overnight camping permitted.

BBQ dinner Te Kowhai Hangar B

**Saturday 7th November**

Morning:
Arrivals, local flying

**12:15PM** Lunch in Main Hangar

**1:30 PM** Briefing for Beach Flying activity (main hangar)

Beach Flying and Raglan departures follow

**3:01 PM** Low tide at Gibson's Beach

**6:00 PM approx.** Dinner and drinks at Hamilton Workingmen's Club 45 Commerce Street, Frankton. (see notes)

**Sunday 8th November**

Morning:
Light breakfast (Cereals etc) available in the Flight lounge kitchen area

Departures any time

Site Pack - down

## *Flying Activities:*

We encourage visitors to explore the area as there is some spectacular scenery within 30 minutes flying time of the airfield. Ask one of the locals if you want ideas. We may arrange an “air Rally” activity if there is sufficient interest. Raglan Airfield currently has limited parking, so group fly-aways will have some restrictions.

## *Beach Flying:*

On Saturday afternoon we will hold a beach flying workshop and fly away to Gibson’s Beach, approx. 8NM north of the Raglan harbour mouth. This is a wide, safe and deserted beach which is an ideal location to introduce pilots to beach flying considerations. Briefing will be held at xxx in the main hangar, with departures following. Average flight time from Te Kowhai to Gibson’s Beach is 15-25 minutes. Low tide at the beach is 3:01 pm. The beach is a spectacular photo location (not accessible by road) and has mussel beds for those adventurous enough to collect shellfish. Beach flying is entirely at participants own risk (check your insurance) and is subject to suitable beach and weather conditions.

## *Accommodation:*

Visitors wishing to stay overnight are welcome to camp on the airfield, either beside your aircraft or in the green space south of the rows of hangars. Motor homes and Caravans are also welcome to park in that area. There is a unisex toilet and shower facility in the back of the western half-round hangar.

Hotel and Motel accommodation is available in Te Rapa and Hamilton City, which is approx. 20 minutes’ drive away from the airfield. Taxis and Uber are available or arrange a ride with one of the locals.

## *Food:*

The SAA Waikato Formation Barbecue team (Smoke on – go…) will be serving burgers, sausages, salads etc for lunch on Saturday. We also hope to have a coffee cart and ice cream vendor too. Prices will be advised on the day.

**Note we intend to have EFTPOS available, but we recommend bringing some cash as a backup.**

**Saturday evening – Dinner at Hamilton Workingmen’s Club.** 45 Commerce Street, Frankton
6PM – If you need a ride from the airfield, we will arrange this – details will be on a noticeboard in the main hangar.
Pay on arrival.

## *Landing Fees:*

Te Kowhai Airpark Ltd will be charging only a single landing fee for each aircraft over the whole weekend, regardless of number of landings. This will be charged through the normal processes. If you are charged for more landings in error, please contact the airfield company.

## *Elections:*

Saturday is election day – If you haven’t placed an early vote, there is a voting station in Te Kowhai village. Just ask if you need a ride there.

## *Driving In:*

You are more than welcome to drive in. If using Satnav or ordering a taxi / Uber, ”Te Kowhai Airpark” is found in Google and Apple maps. It is located on State Highway 39 (Limmer Road) which exits the SH1 Waikato Expressway at the Koura Drive interchange (from the North, follow the branch leading to Horotiu / City Centre). Be warned that the road from the expressway to the airfield is an 80km/h speed limit which is heavily enforced by traffic police!
The airfield is 10-20 minutes’ drive from Te Rapa and the Base shopping centre.

## *Insurance:*

We strongly recommend that all aircraft carry a minimum of 3rd party insurance. Organisers will take all care but all participants attend at their own risk and responsible for their own airmanship.

## *Cancellation:*

Cancellation of the entire weekend will only happen in the event of significant adverse weather. This will be notified by a notice on the SAA web page and Facebook page before the evening of Wednesday4th November. The programme may change and some activities may be cancelled if conditions are not suitable.

## *For More Information:*

Please contact Bruce Cooke 0211122364, avianzkcke@gmail.com

Further information will also be posted on the SAA Web Page www.saa.org.nz as it comes to hand.

**Te Kowhai Airfield AIP Page:**
https://www.aip.net.nz/assets/AIP/Aerodrome-Charts/Te-Kowhai-NZTE/NZTE.pdf

# *Airfield Operations* *- Very important – please read!*

Normal unattended airfield joining procedures will apply. **AIP data is your primary reference.** Please ensure your AIP and charts are up to date. Check weather and NOTAMS.

**IMPORTANT! – Airpark construction is continuing on site, and works may infringe on the operational area, including displaced thresholds and / or amended taxiways. CHECK NOTAMS for any special information.**

We expect a large number of arrivals ranging between high performance custombuilts, microlights and rotorcraft. Please maintain a careful lookout and make allowance for contrasting aircraft performance. Please keep radio calls precise and succinct, exhibit your best airmanship.

The airfield is located between the Waipa and Waikato Rivers just northwest of Hamilton City. Te Kowhai Village is immediately to the north. It is sometimes difficult to identify the field, however the 4 long hangar blocks (2 parallel rows of 2) are quite distinctive and are visible from a long distance in most directions. Te Rapa Dairy Factory (approx. 3 NM east of the field) is another nearby landmark that will help you find the airfield.

We suggest making position report radio calls abeam Whatawhata Township to the south, Ngaruawahia township to the North, the Waikato expressway to the east or the ridge of hills to the west.

Note that all circuits are flown to the south of the runway.

Climb out off a runway 23 departure should be curved to the south to avoid a noise-sensitive area on the extended centreline.

Displaced thresholds are in place on both runway 05 and 23. Expect some turbulence / sink on finals for 23 in westerly wind conditions.

**The airfield is within the Blacksands CFZ** *(Use "**Te Kowhai Traffic**" in the vicinity of the airfield).* Note that nearby Raglan is on the same frequency and has the same runway vectors, so please make it clear which airfield you are operating at!
Marshalls will be monitoring traffic on **123.75** and providing parking instructions as required. You are responsible for terminating and filing your own flight plans and Sarwatch.

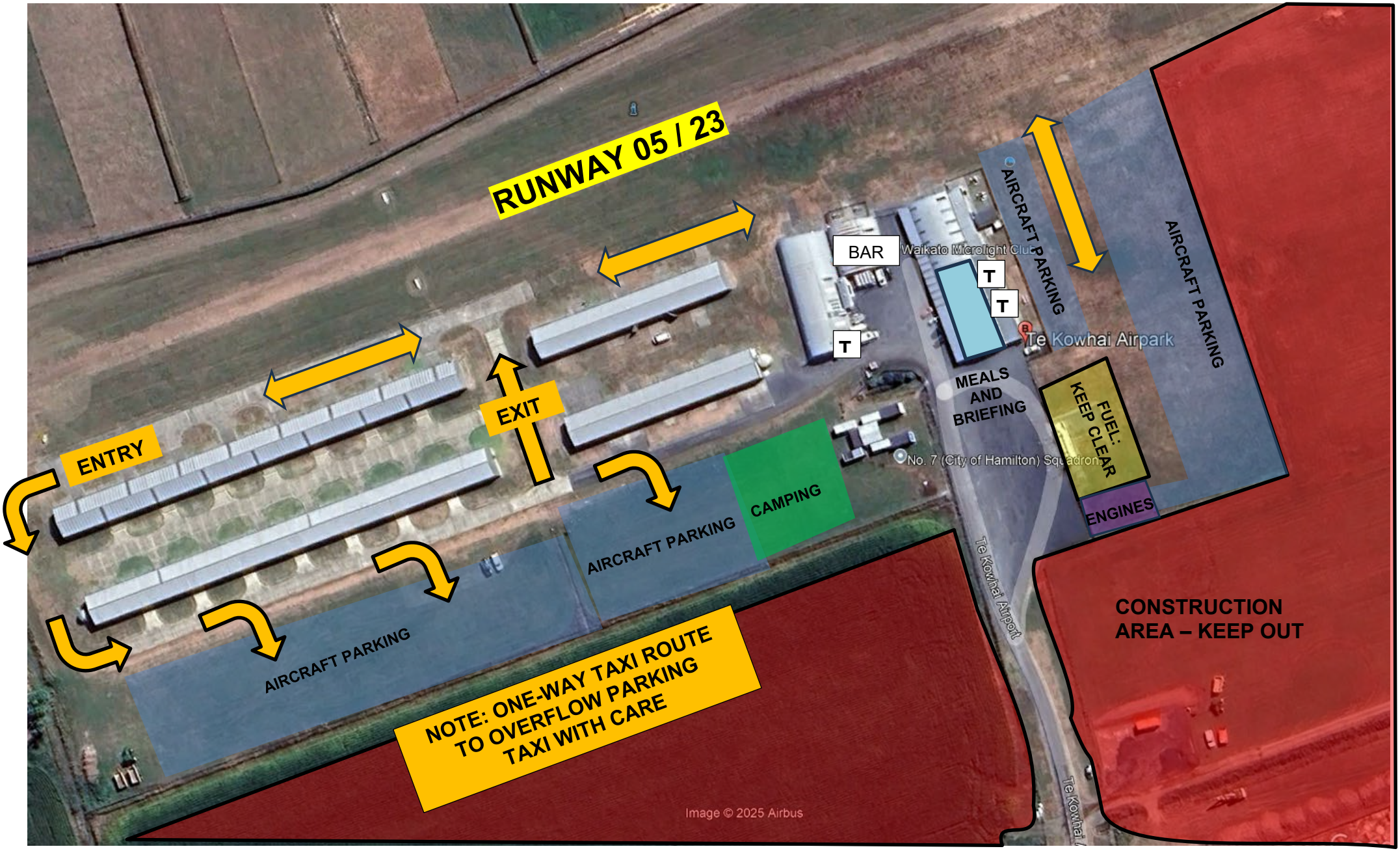
See the attached layout diagram for parking layout. Marshals (with Hi-Viz Jackets) will direct parking as required at peak times please follow their instructions or advise if unable to comply. **Obstacles in or near the movement area may be marked with cones.** Fixed wing aircraft please park as close together as is practical. If necessary, stop and some assistance will be available to push your aircraft into position.

Due to Airpark construction, the main grass apron area is limited. Overflow parking areas will be behind the main hangars – access is by a one -way taxi loop due to restricted visibility in places. The grass in this area will be mown and the surface is generally firm and smooth, but taxi with care as it is not normally used for aircraft operations. Larger aircraft should contact the marshalls and advise of any special requirements.

When parking, be aware of your prop wash, especially as there are lightweight microlights parked in the area. Aircraft must carry out a "Mag dead-cut" check on shutdown.
When taxiing, be aware of pedestrians, and move no faster than walking pace only.

**Fuel – Air BP Avgas 100 is available on the field with Swipe card. Please do not block access to the fuelling area.**

**PLEASE PRINT THIS PAGE AND KEEP IT WITH YOUR AIP FOR REFERENCE**


RUNWAY 05 / 23
ENTRY
EXIT
BAR
Waikato Microlight Club
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AIRCRAFT PARKING
AIRCRAFT PARKING
Te Kowhai Airpark
MEALS AND BRIEFING
No. 7 (City of Hamilton) Squadron
FUEL: KEEP CLEAR
ENGINES
CAMPING
AIRCRAFT PARKING
AIRCRAFT PARKING
Te Kowhai Airport
CONSTRUCTION AREA – KEEP OUT
NOTE: ONE-WAY TAXI ROUTE TO OVERFLOW PARKING TAXI WITH CARE
Image © 2025 Airbus

T = TOILETS