



Training towards your Private Pilot's Licence



Welcome to the Rotorua Aero Club, our focus is on providing a relaxed and friendly atmosphere for aviation enthusiasts to come together and socialise with like-minded members and aviators who are active in the local aviation community.

Get a Pilot's License (PPL)

If you only want to fly privately, or as a hobby, this is the license for you. A Private Pilot's license allows you to take passengers in an airplane, anywhere in the country for your own purposes.

Age

You may be any age to begin training, however you must be 16 to go solo and 17 to be issued a Private Pilot License.

Medical

You need to have a minimum of a Drivers DL9 medical certificate or a CAA class 2 medical to fly solo. A regular Fit and healthy person should pass without problem.

Exams

- Flight Radio Telephony
- Human Factors
- Meteorology
- Aircraft Technical Knowledge and Principles of Flight
- Navigation
- Law

These are external examinations which are multi-choice, requiring a 70% pass rate. NCEA credits can be issued for achievements such as passing exams and first solo. The level of difficulty of the exams is equivalent to Year 11 or 12 of high school. The exams are taken on a regular ongoing basis in Rotorua and the exams cost \$92 per sitting.

Flight Time

You must complete at least 50 hours total flight training with an organisation like the Rotorua Aero Club. The minimum hour requirements are as follows:

- 15 hours dual instruction
- 15 hours solo flight
- 5 hours instrument flight
- 10 hours cross-country navigation training
- 5 hours Terrain and Weather Awareness Dual Instruction

On completion of the PPL flight training Syllabus, you must pass a practical flight test which will include all normal and emergency in-flight manoeuvres. This flight test is proving you can accurately control an aircraft without assistance in any scenario, while demonstrating Airmanship and compliance with Civil Aviation Rules.

Restrictions

A Private Pilot licence is like a driver's licence in the way that you are almost unrestricted for personal use, but you cannot fly commercially, or, for hire or reward – A commercial licence (CPL) is required for this.

Are There Any Other Requirements?

You must undergo the CAA Fit and Proper Person assessment process. Under New Zealand law, all applicants for a pilot's license must demonstrate that they have an acceptable respect for the law. Minor criminal convictions and traffic offences should not be a problem, but if you have something more serious in your past it may be a good idea to undergo this check prior to spending money on flight training. The check is carried out in complete confidence by the CAA. Prior to license issue you must be assessed as competent in spoken English and obtain an English Language Proficiency credit. At the conclusion of your flight training, you are required to pass a practical flight test in an aeroplane with a CAA authorised flight examiner, a bit like a driver licence test but with wings.

What is the Rotorua Aero club.

When the first Rotorua Aero Club formed in c1930, members were responsible for constructing a landing strip on land that was part of the State Forestry block. Rotorua Aero club later initiated an amalgamation with others in the Bay of Plenty. Rotorua and Bay of Plenty Aero Club was duly formed in 1938 with Mayor T. Jackson as its president, at this time Mr. S.J. Blackmore, of Hamilton, had agreed to act as an instructor, he also owned the aircraft, a Sports Avian, which was used until the club were able to purchase one. They then set about planning an Air Pageant for Easter even though the club did not own any aeroplanes yet. About the same time Rotorua Airways Ltd. was formed with mostly Aero Club members, some 20 men were listed as the owners. It was however a short-lived venture and they amalgamated with the Waikato Airways company in September of 1930, but had ceased business by March 1934. (Stafford, 1983)

Pilot training began and it was acknowledged that Blackmore had trained 'a record number'. (Rotorua Morning Post, 1941). Their first fully qualified pilot was Mr Basil Smith (New Zealand Herald, 1939)

In 1935 Stan Blackmore, (Previously of Hamilton Airways Ltd c1929 and Waikato Aviation c.1930) applied for permission to conduct his business from the Municipal Aerodrome. He was granted one year's full use for free because he was a licenced instructor. Stan Blackmore, known locally as 'Blackie', was also the first to make a mercy flight picking up a seriously ill person and flying the person to the Rotorua Hospital. Waikato Aviation was changed to Blackmores Air Services Ltd. in 1947 and operated in Rotorua until 1977. Blackmore's was sold to James Aviation in 1951 after Stan Blackmore retired. (Daily Post, 1983)

Flight training at Rotorua Aero club

When you are ready for your first lesson, contact Wayne at rac@flyingrotorua.nz and book yourself in for a lesson. A lesson usually consists of a 30-minute briefing followed by a 45-minute flight and a short debrief. You should allow an hour and a half for each lesson. You can fly Fridays and Sundays at present, subject to weather. As you progress through the training program you will pick up training reference material to study at home. You will also need a New Zealand pilot logbook.

How Much Does It Cost?

Flying lessons are paid according to the amount of time the aircraft engine is running, as recorded by an air switch meter in the aircraft. If you are a member our current aircraft rate for a C172 is \$300/hr and \$85/hr for an instructor. If you choose not to become a member, then there is 20% surcharge on flight costs. Membership costs \$160/ year and we welcome new members. As Rotorua is a controlled aerodrome, all aircraft landing here must pay a landing fee (for the owner of the airfield – your friendly local council) and airways fee (for air traffic control). So, for your average dual training flight (Including preflight, briefing & debrief) you can expect to pay:

Instructor Time – 0.7 hours @ \$85/hour = \$59.50

Aircraft time - 0.7 hours @ \$300/hour = \$210.00

Airways fee - \$10.00

Landing fee - \$16.10

Total cost - \$295.60 average per flight.

Summary.

The total overall cost to get a PPL will vary depending on your progress through the exams and flight training program. From experience, we estimate the total cost for most people is about **\$25,000**.

Some will do it for slightly less than that figure, some will enjoy the scenery more along the way and do it for slightly more.

This estimate is based on 60 hours total time. This is usually achieved by our students. Please remember that flying is competency based, total cost may vary. All the above prices are subject to change without notice and include GST.

Estimated Cost for Private Pilot's Licence:

Approx 60 Hours Flight Time, Incl. Instructor Time, airways, and landing fees. \$25,000

PPL Flight Test Fee \$500

6 Exams \$564

English Proficiency Test \$135.50

Logbook \$50

Waypoints PPL Books \$331

CAA Licence issue fee \$231

Total. \$25,900 Approx



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