

Zane Laing

Zane's uncle is well-known Queenstown pilot Jason Laing, who was awarded the Helicopter Association International's Pilot of the Year 2016.

The 17-year-old has had countless flights with his uncle, so it's no wonder he's interested in aviation.

A member of the Alexandra Flying Club, Zane says his parents have been very supportive too.

Zane is keen on aviation as a career.

"I'm not sure about the flying side of it but maybe the mechanical or engineering side of it is the direction I might head."

Bright Horizons

The nine Young Eagles had an action packed programme in Taumaranui.

At the Flying NZ presentation dinner, where the scholarships were formally presented, the audience was also treated to short videos the Young Eagles put together.

Flying NZ president, Rob George, spent a lot of time with the group.

"In my day there wasn't such a thing as Young Eagles, so if kids got through the system, it was almost by accident, or it's because they had a parent or someone who was actively involved."

He says the programme gives young people an opportunity to see what jobs are available in the wider aviation sector and what they need to do to get there.

"When we do the Young Eagles conference in April they'll see everything from Avsec dog handling, through to fire rescue, engineering, jets, helicopters, Airways – pretty much the whole gamut.

"You meet some good people along the way. You can pick up the phone and say to someone, 'I want you to fly your top-dresser plane because I want you to show the kids the Cresco, and talk to them about the life of a top-dressing pilot'. And they just arrive, no charge, they just turn up and show the kids."

Sky Davies summed up the benefits of the weekend.

"We've met a lot of people who can show us where our careers could go. It's also great being able to socialise with other aviators."

Nola Pickard Memorial Trophy

Liam Sutherland took away the Nola Pickard Memorial Trophy, including a \$150 flight voucher. This trophy is awarded to the top Young Eagle based on their results in the champs' preflight and defect competitions, as well as the Young Eagles' own general aviation knowledge exam.

The Ross MacPherson Memorial Scholarship is only one of three types of scholarships Flying NZ offers young aspiring aviators. Applications for all scholarships for the 2018 calendar year are expected to open in October. Contact your local aero club, or execsec@flyingnz.co.nz, and register your interest in applying for a scholarship when the applications open. ■

Young Eagles from left to right: Zane Laing (inset). Back row – Lucy Laby, James Bassett, Liam Sutherland, Daniel Just. Front row – Sarah Avery, Sky Davies, Cody Bell.

Flying Heli-Neighbourly

Complaints to the CAA are rising about noise around heliports.

If the physical characteristics – such as lighting – of a landing area are suitable, and the pilot or their ground crew has made a thorough safety assessment of the area, a helicopter can land anywhere.

The chosen landing site has to be a spot where the helicopter can hover clear of obstructions, and with an area suitable for touchdown and lift-off, clear of non-essential people, and vehicles.

Unless the helicopter is performance class 1, the approach and take-off paths have to be able to accommodate an autorotative landing that won't cause a hazard to people or property on the ground.

As for noise, the Civil Aviation Act 1990 actually prevents anyone taking an action for nuisance against a helicopter operator if that noise (or vibration) occurs during takeoff or landing.

But if a helicopter is using a favoured area for takeoffs and landings, it pays the operator to be mindful of any potential noise problem for nearby landowners. As the Helicopter Association International says, "It is the key to improving public perception and fostering public acceptance of helicopters".

Considerate flying includes avoiding high energy manoeuvres which cause 'blade slap', such as rapid roll rates, and pitch change.

It means flying smoothly, avoiding prolonged hovering, flying a steep takeoff and descent profile, and flying as high as is practical.

For specific advice on how to fly so noise is abated, and on how to run a Fly Neighbourly programme, including responding effectively to complaints, go to the CAA web site, www.caa.govt.nz, "Public Info > Links > International Organisations". ■

