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Gliding is an exciting and dynamic sport with no barriers to gender, age or physical capabilities. One of the sporting aspects is competitions. The New Zealand Gliding movement currently runs three regional contest events yearly:

One in the South Island
One in the Northern half of the North Island
One for the Central Districts covering the central New Zealand

The Central Districts contest has in past years been held at Waipukurau, Masterton, Greytown and Fielding. It attracts pilots to its normally great soaring conditions, friendly locals and local attractions for the families, crew and supporters who accompany the pilots. In recent years, up to 42 gliders have attended the event. These people naturally support the local business community.

The tasks are set daily after consideration of the weather reports to suit the expected flying conditions. Points are given for distance and speed with winners getting daily prizes. Three classes can enter:

Open
Racing / Standard
Sports

with all aircraft handicapped to ensure fair results within the different classes.

This year, Gliding Hawkes Bay and Waipukurau hosted and ran the Central Districts Championships from Waipukurau in February. A good sized field attended despite the weather. Details of the contest and results can be found at
https://www.soaringspot.com/en_gb/2026-central-districts-gliding-championships-waipukurau-2026/

Gliding Hawkes Bay and Waipukurau also has a local 33.3km triangle of Bridge Pa - Maraekakaho - Paki Paki - Bridge Pa which has been completed at up to 202.5km/h.

So what are you waiting for? To learn more about the weather and the “air pockets” you fly through in powered aircraft, come and join the gliding club.

Further details about the club and learning to glide are on the gliding club website at http://www.glidinghbw.co.nz/