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## Quadbiking German man to attempt paragliding over Mt Cook



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**Mounting a journey:** German man Gerry Mayr, on an adventure tour of New Zealand on a quadbike, wants to power-paraglide over Aoraki Mt Cook tomorrow.

By **WILL HINE** in Wanaka

**A GERMAN** man touring New Zealand on a quadbike, and undertaking 40 sports in 40 days, has a lofty goal in mind for tomorrow — he wants to make a record-setting power-paragliding flight over Aoraki Mt Cook.

Already the holder of four Guinness world records, Gerry Mayr, 42, believed the flight could be a first. "I saw a picture of Mt Cook while I was in Germany, and thought, 'I have to do that.'"

He said the powered-paraglider flight could potentially be a dangerous one. "It's a two-stroke engine and if it fails... I have to land in a mountain area, which is not easy and not fun."

The fuel tank on Mr Mayr's paraglider can run for three hours, long

enough to last the flight, he hopes, which he plans to start at Fox Glacier.

Mr Mayr also suspected he may have set a speed record for the powered flight on Sunday, when he reached a ground speed of 125kmh.

The flight, verified off his GPS by independent observers at Wanaka Helicopters, was taken on a glider designed for much slower speeds.

"This thing's made for 40kmh, not 120," Mr Mayr said.

"I Googled it on the internet later and I think it could be a record."

Mr Mayr's record-setting, and the reason he is knocking around New Zealand, stems from his drive to tackle a different adventure every year.

"New Zealand is the whole world, divided into two islands. And it's the place to do sports. All the crazy people are here."

### GERRY MAYR'S GREATEST HITS

- ▶ Building a four-stroke dirtbike and driving it through Africa.
- ▶ Driving from Singapore to Germany on a quadbike in 14 days.
- ▶ Driving through Russia at minus 35degC on a quadbike.
- ▶ Guinness world record holder for longest journey on a quadbike, 13,519km.

The owner of a motorcycle shop in his home city of Konstanz, Mr Mayr chooses to get around on a quadbike because "you get more contact with nature and the people".

Towing a bright yellow trailer, which doubles as storage, a sleeping cabin and expedition headquarters, Mr Mayr has attracted the attention of the law a couple of times.

In one instance, three police cars escorted him off the road near

Auckland and asked what he was up to with a quadbike on the motorway. Once satisfied the vehicle was street-legal and certified by Land Transport New Zealand, the bemused cops let him go.

Assuming he survives the rest of his extreme activities, Mr Mayr plans to finish back in Auckland on January 19, where he will attempt an off-road half-marathon.

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