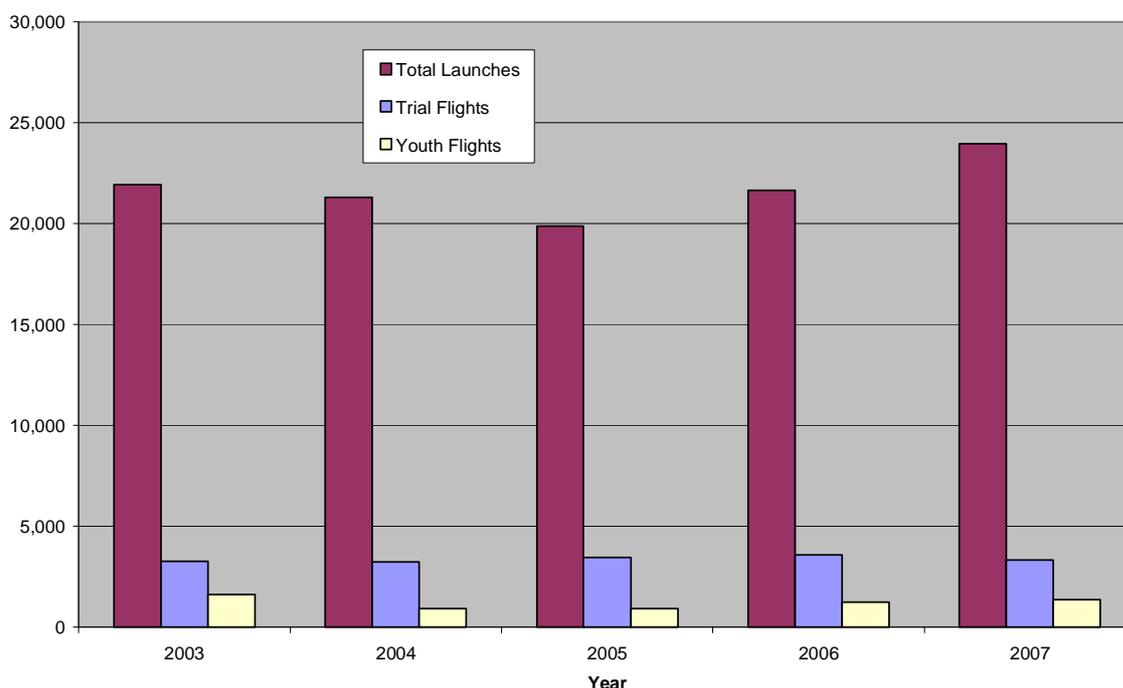


GLIDING NEW ZEALAND NEWS

This column is intended to give readers an ongoing insight into the activities of the GNZ Executive and its Committees. Rather than a detailed report on matters currently under consideration, here are some recent items of significance.

Operations – Club **launch statistics** for the last half of 2007 are now in. Collectively we managed almost 24,000 launches for the 2007 calendar year, nearly 10% up on 2006, which in turn was 9% up on 2005. Trial flights seem to be fairly static at around 15% of launches each year, give or take a bit. Youth flights are slowly on the increase, thanks to the emergent YG model.

Trial & Youth Flights vs Total



Unfortunately, we are still on the lookout for a **Central Region ROO**. Also our **Awards Officer**, Nick Wisnewski, has a growing family to look after so he has decided to retire from the position with effect from the AGM in June – thank you Nick for a great job over several years. So we are now looking for someone with a sound knowledge of the FAI Sporting Code and a bent towards the detail required for badge and record claims – if this sounds like you, please be in touch.

Our National Operations Officer, Doug Hamilton, is busy writing another set of **QGP examination papers**, so if you are a budding QGP you may not be able to rely on asking your mates about the old exam questions!

Racing – Well the **FAI World GP Gliding Championship** (GP07 for short) at Omarama and the **NZ Air Games** at Wanaka are all over now. The Executive wishes to thank all those willing volunteers who made them happen. It is pleasing to report that funding through Flying NZ (RNZAC) enabled these events to proceed without any impact on the GNZ budget. In return for all the volunteer effort, gliding got a huge publicity boost and I believe the way is now paved for steadily increasing public interest in our sport.

The first of the new format **World Air Games (WAG)** will be held in Turin, Italy, next year. The gliding content is expected to be a Grand Prix event with pilots from Europe. It may surprise you to learn that the Christchurch City Council, working with Flying NZ, is actively considering a bid for the second WAG, in 2011. I attended an initial stakeholders meeting in February and I can tell you the CCC is deadly serious about it. Their enthusiasm is based on the success of the technology used at the NZ Air Games that proved it is feasible to hold the actual sporting events at multiple venues throughout the country with one central venue as a focus point for public attendance. At a central city venue there can be large screen displays of events that don't necessarily have to be live, so that an effective entertainment package can be presented, possibly along with other supporting activities.

A committee comprising George Rogers (chair), Ross Gaddes, Trevor Terry, Ian Finlayson and Tony Passmore has selected the **NZ reps for the 2008 World Gliding Championships**. Their recommendations were accepted by the Executive – Ben Flewett and Dane Dickinson in the Standard Class and Vaughan Ruddick in the Club Class will fly at Rieti (Italy) in July 2008. Ross Drake will fly in the 15m Class at Lüsse (Germany) in August 2008. Sue Wild will be Team Manager for the Italian mob. Some funding has been made available from the GNZ World Championship Income Fund and it is expected that the Pryde and Roake trusts will also contribute. Well done, guys – and good luck!

Airspace – Those who glide out of Matamata and Drury will be keenly aware of the **Waikato problem** where the Airspace Committee has been battling a somewhat arbitrary Airways proposal to lower controlled airspace over a wide area. Well, the latest news is that the battle has been lost but the loss of uncontrolled airspace has been mitigated to some extent by the introduction of two new GAAs. Matamata GAA (NZG 254) will be activated by notification to ATC, and Karapiro GAA (NZG 255) will be active by ATC approval. Both will give access to 6,500 ft. The airspace changes come into effect on 20 November 2008. For full details go to this link http://www.caa.govt.nz/airspace/airspace_review.htm

Promotion – Steve Tollestrup reports that, like everyone he received the news of Trevor Atkins' death with deep sadness. He says Trevor and he worked very closely and regularly together, almost on a weekly basis, liaising on media and promotion as well as bouncing ideas off each other. Trevor was the person who originally approached Steve about taking on GNZ publicity. "We both shared a common North American camaraderie. On top of his huge ongoing effort in running the GNZ web site, Trevor leaves a huge gap in the promotional efforts of GNZ and I want to acknowledge his contribution to my work and the success of GNZ publicity", says Steve. Amen to that.

Steve also reports that he has had some success with promoting gliding through **BSport FM**, a national sport broadcast network formed by the amalgamation of Radio Pacific and Trackside that has a charter committed to wide sport coverage beyond rugby and cricket etc. Currently, it has an audience reach of 90-100,000. The promotion was gifted to GNZ pro bono with the only costs being prizes and a few DJ flight experiences. Interviews have included Roy Edwards, Caroline Evers-Swindell, Ritchie McCaw and Steve himself. On-air giveaways of trial flights have been donated by various clubs and five provided by the GNZ publicity budget for club reimbursement.

As part of the promotional plan, Steve has started to produce material and displays for clubs and GNZ events. These include indoor 'pop-up banners for trade shows, conferences and club celebrations and outside banners. Special thanks to John McCaw for the excellent photos. The "strap line" – **Higher, faster, further – Gliding New Zealand**

Website – George Wills (Glide Omarama) and Dennis Cook (Piako) have stepped in short-term to assist GNZ with continuation of the web site. This is “work in progress” at the moment, so stand by.

FAI stuff – Ben Flewett has agreed to take on the role of our **alternate delegate to the FAI**, to give us some back-up in the IGC forum. Our prime delegate, Ross Macintyre, with Ben recently attended the IGC meeting in Rome. Ross will be reporting on that meeting next issue, but highlights included Bob Henderson’s re-election as **IGC President** and the award of the **Lilienthal Medal** to Derek Piggott. The FAI created this medal in 1938 – it is awarded for a particularly remarkable performance in gliding, or eminent services to the sport of gliding over a long period of time. You might be interested to know that past NZ recipients of the Lilienthal Medal have been Dick Georgeson, Ray Lynskey, Terry Delore and John Roake. Ross says there is one issue that needs to be brought to the attention of those pilots needing an **FAI Sporting Licence** for participation in World events and/or claiming World records etc. The FAI has considerably tightened up the control of Sporting Licences, via a new centralised database. Applications should still be made to RNZAC (see MOAP page 1-7-2), but more information is now required for the FAI database – first name, last name, gender, date of birth, place of birth, nationality, address, zip code, city, and country of residence. Note that *the licence issued by RNZAC is not valid until it appears on the FAI database!*

Admin Stuff – Our President, George Rogers, has been re-elected as our representative on the **NZ Aviation Federation (NZAF)** and continues as its Vice President – I wonder how many GNZ members realise just how hard working our George is! One of the benefits of GNZ being a founder member of NZAF is the annual receipt of a share of the dividends flowing from Aviation Services Ltd (ASL). ASL has a delegation from the CAA to run all of the pilot and engineer exams and tests on its behalf – it is half owned by NZAF and half by the Aviation Industries Association. It makes quite a bit of dosh out of doing similar things for the Ozzies as well. This year our “divvy” was \$3,000, which your Executive decided should be split between the **Instructor Development Fund** (\$1,750) and a donation to Youth Glide Omarama (\$1,250). In proposing the latter, President George observed that “personnel from **Youth Glide Omarama** provided valuable on-ground assistance in the running of the World GP Gliding Championships at Omarama and the NZ Air Games that followed at Wanaka. This involved grid marshalling and launching assistance at both events and mature and informative manning of GNZ’s publicity display over the two days at Wanaka” – well done guys!

Finally, please mark your diary for the **GNZ AGM** that will be held in Wellington 14-15 June 2008. If you have any ideas or wants for the Saturday programme, please let me know.

Max Stevens GNZ Executive Officer