

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.

AGM WEEKEND Wellington 14-15 June. Just over two thirds of our 31 constituent clubs and other affiliates were represented, plus nearly all GNZ officers and committee chairs.

Useful and relevant discussions were had at the Airworthiness and pilots meetings in the morning, followed by the Presidents' Forum after lunch.

Tom Shields and Roger Read followed with inspiring presentations on Youth Glide, which were supported by Vern Grant's description of the school scheme that Gliding Wairarapa has successfully developed. Delegates were very interested to hear that these groups are working with the Aviation, Tourism, & Travel Training Organisation (ATTTO) to develop gliding unit standards with a view to offering NZCEA credits towards the National Certificate in Aviation Level 2, as early as next year.

Next, we heard what the RCCNZ will do for us if we switch on our 406 MHz rescue beacon, and a bit about the pros & cons of the increasingly popular SPOT devices (ELTs they are not). This was followed by Roy Edwards' excellent presentation on the emergency plans used at the Matamata and Omarama Soaring Centres when a known accident occurs or a glider is overdue – plans honed by experience, fortunately/unfortunately.

George Wills gave us a rundown on the exciting new developments to the GNZ web site, scheduled to be up and running in a couple of months. IGC President, Bob Henderson, rounded up the afternoon with a briefing on FAI Gliding initiatives, including a snappy video on the World Air Games to be held in Italy next year.

Our guest speaker at the cocktail party, Sue Truman, gave us a "Birds Eye View" of her remarkable aviation career. An outstanding achiever, Sue started gliding at Ohakea when she was 16; graduated as an engineer from Auckland University, then got a PhD in materials engineering; was one of the first two female airline pilots for Air NZ, flying Friendships then Bristol Freighters and Argosies for SafeAir. She left NZ in 1987 to join British Aerospace and held a number of senior positions including Project Director for the Jetstream 41, VP Flight Operations and Flight Test, and President Worldwide Customer Support. Her last job there was Managing Director of Flight Training. Sue took early retirement and returned to New Zealand in 2006.

Sue's talk was highly entertaining – if you weren't there, you missed a treat! Moves are afoot to have Sue talk to Youth Glide groups – they will find her inspiring.

ANNUAL REPORT BOOKLET This year we saved significant cost by posting the hard-copy Annual Report booklet to key people only, rather than to all club members. However, if you would like a printed copy, just send me an email request. The booklet is also downloadable from the GNZ web site.

GNZ ANNUAL AWARDS Congratulations to this year's awards winners, who are:

Angus Rose Bowl	Trevor Atkins (posthumously)
Friendship Cup	Sue Wild
CWF Hamilton Trophy	Steve Care
Air NZ Soaring Award	Brett Hunter
Air NZ Cross Country Award – Sports Class	Richard McCaw
Air NZ Cross Country Award – Open Class	Dane Dickinson
Buckland Soaring Award – North Island	Tony Passmore
Buckland Soaring Award – South Island	Tony Passmore
Rothmans Gold Cup	No challengers

ELECTIONS George Rogers has been elected for another term as GNZ President. With Ross Biggar and Gavin Wills standing down, we also have a couple of new faces on the Executive. Welcome to our new Vice President, Nigel Davy; and to Executive member, Mike Dekker.

OPERATIONS Doug Hamilton has indicated his intention to stand down from the role of NOO next year, so we need to identify someone to replace him. Ideally the appointee will be very experienced

and a currently approved instructor trainer. If you have thoughts on who may be available please talk to Doug, George Rogers or myself.

RACING The SRC will shortly be seeking feedback from competition pilots and clubs regarding proposals to revise the international team selection criteria. This will be followed by an email vote and recommendations to the Executive.

AIRSPACE The Airspace Committee is keen for clubs to keep it aware of local issues. It will help the committee's negotiating position immensely if all activations of your local GAAs are logged. A club log that also caters for recording individual clearances and denials of clearance is recommended. In due course a web based recording system for national use may be established.

Meanwhile, to minimise opportunities for others to put us on the back foot it would be useful to ensure that:

- Visiting pilots are clearly briefed on airspace they will operate in, that they know standard terms and practices and that their English is of an acceptable standard for airspace communications.
- We promote the sharing of airspace on a reasonable basis. We should avoid behaving in a way that might be interpreted as unreasonably restricting other users which would cause them or CAA/Airways to seek further reductions in our access to airspace.

PROMOTION At the AGM, President George noted that during the past year about half of our clubs grew in membership while the other half declined. It was very pleasing to note that junior members increased significantly. Steve Tollestrup, our National Publicity Coordinator, noted that new entrants to the sport were growing by about 15% per annum so that even a modest reduction in the leakage rate could make a significant difference to net membership.

In the coming year, "Trojan cards" and more pop-up displays will be developed for use by clubs, and Steve will shortly be floating ideas for the annual promotional blitz. We also need to promote greater use of the 0800 GLIDING number, as usage has dropped off by nearly half in the past year.

NEW AWARDS OFFICER Edouard Devenoges is now the GNZ Awards Officer. Ed's contact address is gnzawards@xtra.co.nz 40 Eversham Road, Mt Maunganui 3116.

Max Stevens GNZ Executive Officer