

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.

2009 AGM Two thirds of GNZ's affiliated member organisations were represented at this year's AGM weekend in Wellington, mid June.

Philip Plane (Omarama) gave an interesting presentation on flight following by GPS tracker, revealing just how cost-effective SPOT can be – I reckon every committed cross-country pilot should have one.

Rob Sherlock (Canterbury) enjoyed the close attention of many clubs when he presented his glideTime system developed for electronic capture of flying activity. Canterbury GC has been using Rob's system with great success for some months now, and President Kevin Bethwaite is very happy for other clubs to adopt it.

Tim Bromhead (Piako) presented his web based system for logging airspace clearances (or denials) – something the Airspace Committee has been advocating for a while. This will be accessible from the GNZ web site. I'm sure there will be more on this to come from the Airspace Committee before the next season gets under way.

The actual AGM on the Sunday morning saw Tom Davies (Wellington) re-elected, so your Executive Committee is unchanged for the coming year. Also unchanged, were the affiliation fees, except that the 50% concession scheme for junior members was dropped – so we just have the 100% scheme now.

What *has* changed though is the GNZ constitution (Rules of Incorporation). Tom Davies had put a huge effort into bringing the constitution into the 21st century. The proposed changes were unanimously adopted. But, as one or two delegates expressed concern at not having had enough time to consider them, the details will remain on the GNZ web site for a while at <http://www.glidering.co.nz/GNZ/AGM/> The Executive invites any suggestions for further change by way of remit at next year's AGM.

NATIONAL OPERATIONS OFFICER Mike Dekker (Marlborough) has taken over as Doug Hamilton's successor. Mike is a long-time and very experienced gliding instructor and cross-country pilot, with an engineer's questioning approach as to how we do things. An organisation like GNZ needs to "continuously improve", and your Executive feels that Mike will be just the man to drive the operational aspects of that – witness his recent work on our Advisory Circulars. Speaking of which, Mike has written a new one on accident & incident reporting, AC 2-08, with an associated new OPS 10 reporting form. Download these from the GNZ web site.

One early task for Mike is to find out just how many of our listed instructors (almost 300) are currently active. Early indications are that only about 60% of them are still generously giving their time in the back seat.

NATIONAL PUBLICITY COORDINATOR While on the subject of new faces, I am very pleased to say that Nick Reekie (Canterbury) has stepped up to take over from Steve Tollestrup. Actually, Steve has very graciously agreed to carry on in the background to directly assist Nick until he finds his feet and develops his own network of contacts. Crazy Nick has some great promo ideas and will be looking for support from you – watch out!

GNZ's RECREATIONAL ORGANISATION CERTIFICATE Our CAR Part 149 Certificate expired in mid July. However, all is not lost – CAA has renewed it for another five years! Mind you, it took rather a lot of work to ensure that happened, as our formal Exposition (required by the rules) had fallen a bit behind our current practices. We also took the opportunity to make some improvements here and there to our MOAP, which is closely linked to the Exposition, and to our AC on Quality Management. The MOAP changes have little effect on day to day operations, except that the back-seat passenger rating has been moved from the QGP syllabus to the advanced training syllabus.

The revised documents, including a list of the MOAP changes, are downloadable from the GNZ web site. Clubs will receive hard copies of the new MOAP, Exposition and Constitution, shortly.

DRAFT STRATEGIC PLAN A new plan has been drafted – this was circulated to clubs a couple of weeks before the AGM and can be downloaded from the link given above. This is intended to guide

the development of the sport of gliding in New Zealand over the next five years. It sets a general path, outlining objectives and strategies to achieve those objectives. Key actions to be taken over the next year or so are set out in the Annual Plan. In replacing the previous plan, it records the major milestones achieved during the period of that plan, which was written five years ago. It takes into account the weekend planning session held at Matamata in April 2006, where many of you were present, and the various Presidents' Forums held since then.

You are invited to study this draft document and make any suggestions to the Executive that would help to improve the quality of the typical gliding experience that clubs provide and/or to grow participation in our sport.

GNZ FORMS I'm afraid it has to be said – many clubs are not good at ensuring their members use current GNZ forms. You'd be amazed at the relics that still turn up (eventually), having been sent to an out of date address. Clubs, please do your members a favour – check the current status of forms at <http://www.gliding.co.nz/moap> Print off a **small** stock for your checkers van, and bin the old ones.

Max Stevens GNZ Executive Officer