

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.

2011 AGM We were pleased to welcome representatives of all but six of GNZ's affiliated member organisations at this year's AGM weekend in Wellington, mid June.

There were the usual airworthiness and contest pilots' meetings on the Saturday morning. In the afternoon we had the President's Forum plus several interesting presentations. The highlight undoubtedly was "From Dream to Reality" by Jerry O'Neill and Warwick Bethwaite. We were enthralled to hear of Jerry's 1995 dream for a new site for the Canterbury Gliding Club, his purchase of the site 5 km south of Springfield in 2000, through to the recent development of two huge grass runways each 850m by 100m. The enthusiasm and drive behind this development, necessary to overcome the many obstacles to progress, was very clear. Canterbury now has a fantastic site, which will be their new home from October this year.

A good turnout of about 50 people enjoyed the cocktail party – guest speaker, Gerard Robertson of the Auckland GC and Air NZ, gave an interesting and amusing speech, which was very well received. The usual networking/socialising was likewise good fun!

At the AGM on the Sunday, the break-even budget, with its associated increases in affiliation fees was accepted without significant objection. It was observed that the key to holding or reducing affiliation fees is for clubs to increase membership. This could be facilitated by means of a GNZ marketing plan supported by clubs doing much better with regard to membership retention. A discussion took place on the merits of introducing other funding mechanisms, such as a levy on trial flights, annual airworthiness fees, and/or audit fees. Such mechanisms might be required in the event that remuneration becomes necessary for filling certain key GNZ positions. Delegates were invited to discuss alternative funding mechanisms within their clubs and to communicate their views to the Executive during the coming year.

As expected, Tom Davies was elected for another year, so the Executive remains as it was except that George Rogers stood down as Immediate Past President, having served a year in that role following an unbroken stretch of some 20 years on the Executive Committee. I am very pleased to report that George was presented with the Angus Rose Bowl, GNZ's highest honour awarded for outstanding services to the sport of gliding in New Zealand.

The GNZ Annual Report 2011 contains the reports of officers and committees, previous minutes, accounts, budget, remits etc. It is available on the GNZ web site home page, along with previous Annual reports – from the home page, navigate > About > Annual Reports.

NATIONAL OPERATIONS OFFICER I'm afraid we still have a need to identify and appoint a National Operations Officer. This role is crucial to meeting the requirements of our Civil Aviation Part 149 Certification.

Once again, all clubs are asked to consider candidates for the NOO role and to submit any ideas on candidates to me as soon as possible. Meanwhile, we are extremely fortunate that George Rogers continues to temporarily retain role; but this situation cannot continue for much longer.

NEW MEMBERS Excluding visiting foreign pilots, 41 new members have joined in the last 6 months – 25 in the North Island and 16 in the South Island; 6 are Juniors.

ARCHIVED GLIDING SAFETY ARTICLES For new members and old members alike, do check out the safety articles on our web site from time to time – from the home page, navigate >Training>Safety Information. There have been some additions recently, particular for racing pilots.

ADVISORY CIRCULARS Two new Advisory Circulars are on the GNZ web site:

- AC 1-04 Trial Flights provides advice on how to keep these legal – clubs should expect some scrutiny from CAA if the proposed Part 115 Adventure Aviation rule comes into being in its current form. All clubs should review their trial flight arrangements in light of this AC.
- AC 3-14 Acceptable Technical Data provides advice on the paperwork needed for glider repairs and modifications.

Also, two existing Advisory Circulars have been updated:

- AC 2-09 Manual of Glider Tow Pilot Training
- AC 3-04 Weak Links for Winch & Auto Launch.

DISTRICT PLANS Clubs are reminded of the importance of keeping abreast of their local council District Plan. These are updated on a 10-year cycle so you need to make sure that nothing adverse creeps up on you, and that any planning provisions enabling your operation are carried over.

STRATEGIC PLANNING As I mentioned in April's GNZ News, we had a very useful planning discussion in Tauranga last February, involving the Central North Island Clubs. At the AGM in June, Canterbury offered to host a similar session for South Island Clubs. This will be held on 21 August and I'd very much like to see all South Island clubs represented.

I always welcome your feedback – contact me if you want to discuss anything here, or indeed anything in previous editions of this column – from the home page, navigate > About > Executive News.

Nigel Davy GNZ President