

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.

TISSANDIER FOR YVONNE Hearty congratulations to Yvonne Loader for receiving the Paul Tissandier Diploma. By the time you read this, Yvonne will have returned from the FAI General Conference in Kuala Lumpur where it was presented to her. (See article elsewhere this issue.)

MT COOK AIRSPACE This will be old news by now, but I'm very happy to say that the Director reversed the earlier CAA decision to make the Mt Cook airspace Class C above FL245 and it will remain uncontrolled. It's been hard work, but the outcome was worth it – so go forth and use it to whatever height you feel like! Don't be put off by the official charts – these were printed already and the change back to the status quo has since been promulgated by Notam etc.

2013 LAUNCH STATS Jan-Jun saw just over 10,000 launches, which was 3% up on the same period last year, but still 5% down on the average for the previous 5 years. Perhaps more interesting is the fact that although the total number of dual & solo flights in club gliders was much the same as in the previous year, youth flights were a much greater proportion (24% as compared to 14%). Trial flights were up 22%, and private-owner flights were static.

CAA AUDIT CAA audited GNZ at the office of the Executive Officer in September. Three findings of non-compliance were raised, largely semantic in nature and were closed off by minor amendments to the GNZ Exposition. Our Part 149 Certificate is due for renewal next year, and we don't anticipate any problems.

MEMBERSHIP RETENTION Those of you lucky enough to attend the GNZ conference and AGM weekend in June will recall Steve Wallace's excellent presentation. The answer to declining membership is **retention** rather than recruitment – the simple fact is, if we can halve the leavers, membership will increase by 40% over the next ten years. People leave because they get bored. Cross-country pilots stay because they are not bored, and clubs with a cross-country culture are the most successful.

So how do we achieve a mind-shift towards cross-country flying? In a recent planning session, the Executive listed several initiatives, the main ones being:

- Create a facility for simply tracking pilots' goal achievements.
- Promote more active participation in the OLC.
- Build a formal structure to coach pilots along a pathway from novice cross-country through intermediate and advanced to elite, similar to our Aussie cousins.

Watch this space!

YOUTH GLIDE (YGNZ) - GNZ RELATIONSHIP Youth Glide recently became an Incorporated Society in order to facilitate better access to sponsorship funding and to promote various initiatives aimed at glider pilots under 25. This change in status from a simple committee of GNZ to an entity in its own right provided the opportunity for the Executive to grant Associate Membership to YGNZ.

UMBRELLA TRUST UPDATE Gifting has now been finalised for all of the former GNZ-related trusts and all funds deposited in full to the GNZUT account, bring the total to over \$730k. The Loans Fund has a further \$175k out in loans to clubs, which will be transferred to the GNZUT over the next few years as principal payments come in.

A GNZUT page on the GNZ web site will be developed to facilitate the funds application process.

OPERATIONS STUFF A lot of effort has been going on behind the scenes to update and improve our pilot study notes and QGP exams. New Human Factors stuff is on the GNZ web site, thanks to Jonathan Pote, and a team led by David Hirst has completed a new set of exam papers for all QGP subjects. These new papers are currently under review by NOO, Steve Care, and David is now reviewing the existing QGP papers with a view to GNZ having two complete sets.

Fresh in his new role of NOO, Steve Care has been hard at work reviewing the MOAP in his area of responsibility. He has tweaked the A, B and QGP certificate syllabi, adding some elements and placing things in a more logical order.

AIRWORTHINESS STUFF Martyn Cook has also been hard at work in his portfolio, developing a scheme for distance-learning modules for engineers, including study guides and examinations. He has recently written two new Advisory Circulars for engineers, one on compass swings and one on weight & balance.

Of particular interest to private-owners will be Martyn's efforts to get the Annual Review of Airworthiness (ARA) inspection extended out to two years. This involves a petition to the Director of Civil Aviation for a rule exemption – early indications are that it will be successful, leading to cost/time savings for about 75% of the gliders on the NZ register. A second petition has been submitted to provide a fix for an anomaly in the CAA rules relating to the signing of duplicate inspections after disturbance of control systems.

MOAP CHANGES There have been three MOAP amendments in the last six months. The main changes to be aware of are:

- The definition of 'flying member' has been amended to allow six instructional flights in the preceding 6 months, tying in with the recently updated AC 1-04 Trial Flights.
- Changes to A, B and QGP syllabi (mentioned above).
- Tow pilot requirements now include an advanced microlight pilot certificate as an alternative to a Part 61 pilot licence if a microlight is used for towing. Paragraphs on towing with microlight aeroplanes have also been inserted.

ON LINE FILLABLE FORMS Several GNZ forms have been made fillable on line. On the web site you can now fill, save and print the following for signature. (Blank versions can still be printed for manual completion as before):

- OPS 04 Badge application
- OPS 07 Instructor application
- OPS 10 Incident report
- OPS 15 Audit report
- TECH 19A Release to service
- TECH 28 Defect report
- ADMIN 06 Visiting Foreign Pilot Registration

Some other forms will be converted to fillable in due course.

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.

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