

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 EDOUARD Hearty congratulations to Edouard Devenoges for receiving the FAI Paul Tissandier Diploma. Edouard is our very respected Awards officer. By the time you read this, Edouard and Marianne will be just about due to attend the FAI General Conference in Rotterdam where the award will be presented. (See article elsewhere this issue.)

AGM AWARDS While on the subject of awards, the Executive would particularly like to congratulate Gavin Wills for receiving GNZ's most prestigious award, the Angus Rose Bowl, in recognition of his outstanding service to gliding over a very long time. Also, Steve Wallace's magnificent efforts on a number of fronts in more recent times earned him the Friendship Cup. Congratulations, Steve.

WEBMASTER We are indebted to Hadleigh Bognuda for giving the GNZ web site a facelift and new menu structure while changing it over to a more user-friendly Content Management System about 18 months ago. However, Hadleigh's growing business commitments mean that he has less and less time for further GNZ web stuff so he has handed the reins over to Tim Bromhead. Welcome to this role, Tim – we look forward to working with you. Meanwhile, we haven't let Hadleigh escape altogether – he is now a trustee of the GNZ Umbrella Trust!

NEW ROO FOR THE SOUTH ISLAND After four years as Southern Regional Operation Officer, Jerry O'Neill has passed the baton to a fellow Canterbury member, Graham Erikson. When Jerry originally took on the job, he agreed to do two years – the fact that he did it for four attests to his dedication to gliding (as if we needed that!). The Executive really appreciated the professional manner in which Jerry carried out the quite diverse role of ROO and the competencies that he brought to it. Welcome Graham, you have some big shoes to fill!

MARKETING Brian Sharpe, President of the Wellington Gliding Club, has volunteered to take up the newly established role of Promotions & Marketing Manager. Brian observes that glider pilots are but a miniscule % of the general population so it follows that the target market of those members of the public with a predisposition towards learning to fly a glider is correspondingly small. While public awareness of our sport is a necessary prerequisite to signing up, by no means does one lead to the other, and the chances of success should substantially improve if we can identify and focus our marketing activities on those who may already be predisposed to glider flying.

Brian's is now developing a representative profile of existing flying members, so stand by for your invitation to take part in an on-line survey soon. Brian has already embarked on a series of visits to clubs to discuss their visitor and trial flight programmes, with a view to developing a Best Practice Guide aimed at helping clubs to attract trial-flight participants and to match their experience to expectations.

GNZ STRATEGIC PLAN 2015-2020 We have just refreshed the GNZ Strategic Plan in the light of the most recent planning sessions, particularly the desire to achieve a mind-shift in clubs towards cross-country flying. But it's not just about cross-country. The Plan lists four "initiative" areas with key performance indicators (KPIs):

- Develop a cross-country coaching system and train coaches
- Provide better tools for basic flight instruction
- Profile participants to identify a target market, develop best practices for a gain in new members
- Youth soaring development

For all the detail, have a look at the Strategic Plan

<http://gliding.co.nz/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/GNZ-Strategic-Plan-2015-20v3.pdf>

SPORT NZ INVESTMENT After 10 plus years of more or less fixed \$\$ from Sport GNZ in support of gliding, Sport NZ is now in the process of moving to a contestable model. The \$-pie is no bigger, which means we have to work hard to convince Sport NZ that we can deliver on a "value proposition" in order to attract investment. We will know in December how we fared in competition with all the other National Sporting organisations (NSO). If we get the funding we've asked for, we will be well placed to "walk the talk" on our Strategic Plan.

ANTI-MATCH-FIXING & SPORTS BETTING Bureaucratic intrusion seems to be a way of life these days, the latest being that we now have to have a firm policy on “Anti-Match-Fixing & Sports Betting”, or we’ll lose our Sport NZ funding. Fortunately, Sport NZ has provided a model policy for NSOs to adapt. GNZ’s version is in the form of a new Advisory Circular, AC 1-06, downloadable from our web site. Part of the deal is that certain people (like NZ Team pilots) now have to go to the Sport NZ web site every three years to do a short test on the subject. Expect more publicity/education on this over coming months.

AIRSPACE CHANGES Extensive changes to the Waikato/Rotorua/Taupo airspace are afoot, with the CAA having invited submissions. The GNZ Airspace Committee, led by the northern area rep, Russell Thorne, with input from Tim Bromhead, Trevor Terry, Trevor Mollard and others, has been working very hard to protect what we have and to achieve some significant improvements. Let’s hope all the effort they’ve put in bears fruit!

AIRWORTHINESS Martyn Cook, our National Airworthiness Officer, reports that all glider engineer approval holders on the register have now completed a course of home study at a depth relevant to their rating. There have been a few retirements, but this initiative has gone down well with most engineers. It certainly has with CAA. On the back of this, Martyn has also persuaded CAA to accept his proposal to simplify the way Airworthiness Directives are recorded in glider logbooks, which will be a big time saver for our engineers.

The Executive wishes to thank the retiring glider engineers for their efforts over the years on behalf of glider owners, both club and private, particularly those who have provided their services for little or no reward.

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 > News > Executive News.

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