

## **GNZ News September 2017**

I am chuffed to advise that GNZ members have received two more Paul Tissandier diplomas from FAI. Congratulations to Tom Davies (Wellington) and Gavin Wills (Omarama). These diplomas will be presented at GNZ events over the next couple of months.

Mark Tingey from Tauranga will be representing New Zealand at the Sailplane Grand Prix final in Vitacura, Chile between 13 – 20 January 2018. Mark won his place in this international event by coming second in the qualifying races in Australia last December. Good luck Mark!

I am also pleased to advise that our Operations team is fully manned again, as David Hirst has agreed to become the central area's regional operations officer, working with Steve Care.

GNZ also has a new medical adviser, Dr Tom Milliken of Queenstown. This is another GNZ voluntary role, and we thank Dr Milligan for agreeing to assist us upon the retirement of Dr David Powell. If you are having medical issues and your GP wants to talk to someone with aviation medical experience, Dr Milliken's contact details are on the website under contacts.

We have had a busy few months at Gliding New Zealand (GNZ). In June we had a very pleasing turnout at our Annual Conference and AGM weekend. We had a broad range of speakers on many aspects of our sport. If you haven't been to our 'get together' weekend in recent years or at all, think about joining us next winter in Wellington. We found the afternoon's sessions to be very positive, and it was very thought provoking to hear the results of the major survey undertaken earlier this year.

Since then, some of you have been taking part in Brian Sharpe's sessions on 'Building our Future'; thank you for participating. We have received a lot of really fantastic ideas on development, which Brian Sharpe will be getting out to the Clubs who attended the workshops over the next while. These include ways in which GNZ can help better support Clubs, a response prompted by some of the survey commentary that referenced GNZ with a call to see more promotional activity and greater inclusivity over all levels of our sport.

Our efforts and thoughts are also going into a modernisation of our training system. As I have written previously, there is an approved trial underway at the Wellington Club this summer. I am really looking forward to the results. Another initiative that is being well received is Brian Savage's *taskPilot* software, which you can read about elsewhere in this magazine. This will be of interest to even the newest members as you will be able to set yourself small challenges from your early solo days. The South Island is also going to have its turn at learning about coaching this summer. There will be a course over a weekend at Springfield, most likely in January 2018. If you are interested in attending, please let me know (my email is [morganjones@xtra.co.nz](mailto:morganjones@xtra.co.nz)).

All of these development Initiatives will be woven into a refreshed version of our Strategic Plan to be released at our next AGM.

However, some of the survey comments also clarified for me that many of you don't know exactly what GNZ does for you and your club. My apologies for this, as having been in the sport for so long and being so deeply involved at this level, I have not remembered that we have scores of new members who haven't learned much about GNZ.

GNZ is the means by which our sport can operate – it really is that simple. CAA controls all non-military flying in New Zealand, and has delegated to GNZ the authority to regulate all glider flying in a manner which is consistent with CAA Rules. It would be fair to say that we are constrained by the CAA rules at times, and seeking changes is expensive and often frustrating, but without this “Part 149” rule under which we are the sole gliding organisation, it is likely that none of us would be gliding at all. The ‘delegation’ referred to is a very real thing, in that the Director of the CAA has delegated some of his legal powers to me personally, to allow GNZ to issue QGPs and appoint instructors. CAA also allows glider engineering to be done by people appointed by GNZ. We set our own operating rules and procedures, as detailed in the Part 149 Exposition, manual of approved procedures (MOAP) and associated Advisory Circulars (ACs). These documents are on our website, and the latter are a mine of fantastic information, just the thing for a wet afternoon's reading.

All of the clubs are members of the GNZ incorporated society, and your club's delegates have voted in a group of five people as an Executive Committee to organise and manage things for you all. The ‘things’ include CAA relations, seeking rule changes, airspace matters, issuing badges and ratings, overseeing and helping with engineering and operational matters, quality control, coaching, marketing and to an extent, communication. We have two key contractors: Max Stevens is the Executive Officer, and is the main interface with member clubs and individual pilots, and Laurie Kirkham takes care of our finances. We have a wide range of volunteers and slightly paid volunteers taking care of most of the other jobs, and as a group we are also all involved in running our own clubs.

The key thing with gliding is that it is a partnership – we at GNZ are in partnership with your clubs to run the sport.

Finally, I need to bring to your awareness a couple of ‘phishing’ attempts, whereby some nasty people have attempted to con money out of a soaring centre, and GNZ itself using fake emails and texts. In both cases, the organisation had good internal controls in place, particularly the requirement for two signatures (electronic or otherwise) which stymied the attacks. Please ensure that your club is protected and your hard earned money stays in your accounts.

Have fun and take care this spring and summer.