

Gliding New Zealand Newsletter – April 2018 – Issue 2

Hello from Gliding New Zealand.

Welcome to issue 2 of our monthly emails to you.

There's lots of news this month. Our Operations team is continuing its regular refreshment of 'volunteers'. New faces are Martyn Cook as National Operations Officer (NOO) and David Moody as Northern area Regionals Operations Officer (ROO). Together with David Hirst (Central ROO) and Graham Erikson (Southern ROO), they make a strong team. GNZ thanks Steve Care (outgoing NOO) and Peter Thorpe (outgoing Northern ROO) for their efforts over recent years; it has been appreciated. The Operations team are continuing the review of instructional tools, and we hear that the syllabus trial at Wellington is going very well. GNZ will approach a couple of other clubs to commence a similar trial in other areas, before any change is decided upon. If your club is keen to be a test site, please call me or Martyn (details on GNZ website). Also, here's a heads up to the Northern clubs that all of your audits are due this year. Please contact David Moody to schedule these to suit you both.

Did you know that the UK has in recent years allowed 14 year olds to fly solo – but they may not fly cross country until they are 16? This has channelled many British Juniors into aerobatics while they wait to be cleared for cross country flying. Here, the previously restrictive rules meant that few pilots have bothered with aerobatic ratings. A fair bit of work from Graham Erikson and Max Stevens a couple of years ago led to a significant rule change. Pilots can now fly aerobatics to lower levels, but there is a time critical transitional period of 2 years to 30 June 2018 to get recognition of your ratings to either perform or instruct aerobatics. See AC 2-06 on the GNZ website, and if you want to learn how to do aerobatics, email Martyn Cook noo@actrix.co.nz to get contact details for re-rated aerobatic instructors in your area.

We mentioned an issue with microlight certificated pilots towing gliders last month. CAA gave us until 30 April to “conduct a review of each individual's training and safety performance to satisfy both the GNZ Executive and the CAA that there is no immediate safety risk”. This review has now been submitted to CAA and we await a resolution to the perceived problem. Meanwhile, the four tow pilots affected have been permitted to continue towing.

We've been asked if it is still necessary to post original documents to Edouard Devenoges (Awards Officer) for issue of QGPs? After conferring with CAA, the answer is yes, as they may need to see the originals when they audit us. You can email a pdf of applications for Visiting Foreign Pilots to give Edouard a head start on issuing these, but please post the forms also. The same goes for Instructor Rating applications.

The Auckland Gliding Club has recently hosted a Youth Glide NZ minicamp, which has been very successful. Russell Thorne has reported that the weather was very co-operative, which made it easy to accommodate the weekend goals of the group. Jordan Kerr was pivotal in keeping it all together, while the group managed 101 flights including many firsts. Wellington pilots gained aerotow ratings, and the Auckland fleet was available for many first of type solos for the generally very experienced post solo group. Some local motor gliders were used for touring the nearby land-out sites. All the local club members were adaptable to the visiting pilots, who managed to be reasonably comfortable on temporary beds. Two visitors who had first soloed since the Omarama

camp were initiated in the traditional way, even volunteering for the ceremony. Overall, it was a very positive weekend.

We are planning the non-flying gliding weekend, AKA the AGM. It is held over 9/10 June in Wellington. This might be one for all the CFIs to attend (as well as anyone else – all welcome) as the syllabus development moves towards the 'live' phase.

Finally, we are pleased to advise that Aucklander Patrick Driessen has recently been selected to represent us all at the world championships in the Czech Republic this July/August. Patrick won the national title in Matamata in February.

Kia kaha Karen Morgan (President)