

Gliding New Zealand Newsletter – May 2018 – Issue 3

Hello from Gliding New Zealand. This is the 3rd of our monthly emails to you.

The conference/AGM weekend for Gliding New Zealand takes place in just under a month's time, 9/10 June 2018. The AGM itself is the formal part of the weekend, meeting our constitutional needs. We follow a pretty standard democratic process in GNZ. If someone wants to change things, a Club or the Executive Committee proposes a remit. This is published with our annual reports etc, which are available on our website from three weeks before the meeting

<http://gliding.co.nz/event/gliding-nz-conference-agm-2018/>

If a separate club 'seconds' the proposed remit, it is discussed, and voted on by the delegates sent by the clubs. Clubs have a variable number of votes, depending on size, and it more than half vote for a remit, it is passed and our rules or procedures are changed.

There are two remits for this year's AGM. The first was proposed by the Executive, and relates to the glider fee paid by all glider owners. This is an administrative fix, to relieve glider owners of paying where the glider is undergoing significant work, and the owner has advised CAA of this. It reflects our agreement with the change in CAA policy regarding aircraft that are not airworthy. We see no impediment to this being passed at the AGM. The second will be more interesting. Gliding Hutt Valley has proposed that the Soaring NZ magazine ceases to be compulsory. Historically, the magazines, Soaring NZ and Gliding Kiwi before it, have been compulsory for decades. As far as we can tell, there were two reasons for this.

- The first is that the magazine was 'the official voice of GNZ' and it had safety messages, articles about towing, human factors, training, accidents, clouds and weather, and paddock selection – stuff that people thought was important that all glider pilots read. Of course, both magazines also had lots of other articles, on clubs and competitions and events and overseas news and pictures of gliders and letters to the editor. At no point has GNZ controlled the contents.
- The second reason for compulsion was economic, due to the realisation that if there were not enough people prepared to subscribe, costs could not be covered and there would be no magazine. It would be tempting for each club to buy one copy and pass it around, thereby saving hundreds or thousands of dollars each year.

Remits in favour of keeping the magazine compulsory have been put forward numerous times in the past, the most recent being in 2012, where AGM delegates voted to keep it compulsory for a further five years.

Gliding Hutt Valley has pointed out that communication methods have changed, and we can get our messages out by the GNZ website, by Facebook and by email (as we are doing here). This is certainly true – but:

- We have been seeking a volunteer to provide material for the website for at least three years, and not one of our readers of the current magazine has volunteered to do this. It is evident to me that this will not change, unless perhaps this is a paid position.
- Facebook is quite a good way to get information out, to those who are followers, which is maybe half of us? Many of our clubs are doing a good job at this.
- Email also is effective, for those with current email addresses. In case you are wondering, most members have given us an email address, although if we swap permanently to this format the club secretaries will have to keep GNZ's database rather more up to date than just an annual tidy up in September. A regular email is one more job for the GNZ volunteers. Also, this is not pretty like the

magazine, not inspirational or aspirational – it just tells you what we've been up to. As you will know after three of these emails from us, it does not tell you much about what everyone else is doing.

- Maybe an on-line magazine – a e-zine? Someone has to write it, and work out how the costs will be covered. It is probable that there will still need to be a subscription, unless it becomes yet another thing to be covered by the affiliation fee?

Those are the anti-reasons. The other side is of course that the proponents expect that some members will save \$75 plus GST each per year, by not purchasing something that they do not value. Those who never open the magazine and those who find it full of 'Omarama, competitions and the elite' will be pleased if the remit passes.

This remit may pass or fail and we cannot predict which, so just in case, Executive members are thinking about life after Soaring NZ magazine.

- We are of course interested to know how many of you would subscribe to the magazine if it becomes voluntary and would be grateful if you could complete the attached very brief survey

<https://goo.gl/forms/kquihFgQjRBzY62>

- There are some 700 NZ-based subscribers now, about 50 of whom buy the magazine by choice, as they are not current flying members.
- If more than 100 choose to not take the magazine, we understand that it probably will not be available for anyone. The cost may go up per magazine, or a bigger loss will be made.

With this in mind, please let us know what you think – and also let your club committee know. They choose the delegate to attend the AGM and to vote on behalf of the club.

In other matters:

- There is a new threat to airspace in the Bay Sector which Airways considers to be 'minor' and which we see as a major problem with the potential for well used GAA's being made smaller. It is early days in this fight. We are still fighting changes that have effectively stopped gliders getting onto any Queenstown airspace for two summers. More on this in Trevor Mollard's report to the AGM.
- Max has recently reported to Sport NZ on our progress towards certain agreed goals for Youth flying and coaching. They fund us with \$15,000 per year.

Finally, a reminder please that we would appreciate you sending your club newsletters to Max Stevens max.stevens@scorch.co.nz for adding to the GNZ website so that others might see your club's activities. These can be accessed from the Home page or under the 'News' tab.

Get well soon to David Moody (Auckland Club, Northern ROO and Matamata Soaring Centre).

Kia kaha, Karen Morgan (President)