

Gliding New Zealand Newsletter – March 2018 – Issue 1

Hello from Gliding New Zealand

Welcome to the first of our monthly emails to you, the members of our gliding community.

Last year, over half of our members took part in the Sport New Zealand Voice of the Participants survey. That was a fantastic result, and members who attended the AGM in Wellington last June had the results summarised for them. Where enough members completed the surveys, your club committees also received reports about your own club. It would be fair to say that the results were mixed. Our members are happy with some things, and other areas can be improved. Later in the year members from most clubs got together with some of the GNZ people at three 'Building Our Future Workshops' to brainstorm insights about our sport, which led to a number of strategies to help support you and your clubs in meeting your needs. Recently we got together with Hamish McEwan from Sport New Zealand to review this work.

The most telling comment is that it is evident that GNZ has been concentrating on our regulatory and executive roles, at the expense of spending time on the people who make up our clubs. This is why we are now communicating directly with you, and we aim to do this more often in the future. Brian Sharpe from the Wellington Gliding Club is heading our new 'Members Development Committee' which will replace 'Promotions', reflecting our new focus on our existing and future members. We will also be re-writing our strategic plan over the next two months, to ensure that you the members are central to our efforts and goals. We will let you know when it is finished and on the GNZ website.

In the meantime we are delighted to welcome the quite extraordinary number of new and returning members who have signed up since the beginning of the new season. We would like to think conversations prompted by our membership work may have contributed to this gain.

In other matters, we recently spent a few hours meeting with the good folk at CAA. Although it doesn't mean we always get what we ask for, CAA view us as an exemplar for Part 149 Sport Organisations and that means we are well listened to. Currently we are working on the legalities of microlight certificate pilots being able to aerotow in microlights, and our good relationship with CAA is making this discussion quite fruitful.

Congratulations to Keith Essex, both on his recent success in achieving NZ residency, and on his world record 500km flight flown on 16 February out of Omarama. He also surpassed the United States national records for 300km and 500km in this flight.

Finally, this Newsletter is intended to be as much a forum for our Members as it is to be a source of GNZ news. So in this vein please don't hesitate to send suggestions for content or questions you would like answered to glidingcommunity@gmail.com

Kia kaha

Karen Morgan President