President’s Report

RAANZ – Annual General Meeting 2026

I am sorry that I am unable to join you in person for this year's AGM. I would have enjoyed the opportunity to catch up with members, but I hope this report gives you a sense of the year's progress and my appreciation for everyone who contributes to RAANZ.

It has been a good year for RAANZ, and I am pleased to report that the organisation is in a strong position, both financially and in terms of our membership.

First and foremost, I would like to thank our members for continuing to maintain high standards in the safe operation of their aircraft. Flight safety isn’t an accident. It comes from the decisions we make, the standards we uphold and the care we take every time we fly. Thank you for playing your part in keeping RAANZ flying safely.

Highlights and achievements

There have been several notable achievements over the past year.

Reintroducing the AGM alongside a national fly-in at Ashburton in 2025 was an important step. Bringing members together in this way provided a valuable opportunity to reconnect, share our passion for aviation and strengthen the sense of community within RAANZ.

The ATO Seminar held in Christchurch was another significant achievement, with 75% of all ATOs attending. This was an excellent use of RAANZ funds, bringing together the senior people working in the field who are responsible for getting people flying and helping them stay flying. The opportunity to share knowledge, experiences and perspectives is invaluable to our organisation.

The national AGM and fly-in at Feilding this year is another success worth celebrating, continuing the momentum of bringing our members together.

A special thank you to Stan Hyde and his team for the considerable work that went into organising this year’s AGM and national fly-in at Feilding. Bringing an event like this together takes a great deal of time and effort, and it is very much appreciated.

The direction of RAANZ

Through conversations with members around the country, it has become increasingly clear that there is a strong desire for RAANZ to continue building on its established sport aircraft background and to remain an autonomous organisation.

I believe this is an important part of our identity and something we should continue to value and protect.

With the ongoing increases in the cost of General Aviation flying, I can only see the importance of RAANZ’s position within the sport aircraft sector becoming stronger. We have an important role to play in providing an accessible and sustainable pathway for people to enjoy flying.

Strengthening our relationships within aviation

During the year, I had the opportunity to meet with the Director and Deputy Director of the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA), Kane Patena and Catherine MacGowan, as well as the Associate Minister of Transport for Aviation, James Meager.

These were very positive meetings and provided a valuable opportunity to share the unique position RAANZ holds within the wider aviation community. It was important to be able to explain who we are, what we represent and the contribution our organisation makes to aviation in New Zealand.

Maintaining these relationships and ensuring that the voice and interests of our members are understood at these levels is important for the ongoing strength and future direction of RAANZ.

Challenges and opportunities

While RAANZ is in a strong position, we cannot afford to become complacent.

The continued success of our organisation relies on everyone playing their part. We need to work together, support one another and recognise that the strength of RAANZ comes from the collective contribution of its members.

The workload on our volunteers, who are quite simply the backbone of our organisation, continues to increase each year. We need to be mindful of this and ensure that responsibilities are shared wherever possible. Without the commitment and dedication of volunteers, RAANZ would not be where it is today.

Exploring a third-party insurance scheme

During the year, I also explored the possibility of establishing a third-party insurance scheme that would provide cover for all RAANZ members.

The intention was to offer members an additional layer of protection through a collective arrangement. However, some members raised concerns about the proposed scheme being compulsory and the associated fee being included in everyone's annual membership.

Having listened to those concerns, we decided to put the proposal on hold rather than proceed without broader member support.

I believe it is important that we continue to explore opportunities that may benefit our members, while also listening to their views and recognising that any additional costs need to be carefully considered.

Acknowledgements

I would like to acknowledge and sincerely thank the people who contribute so much to keeping RAANZ operating successfully.

- **Stuart Parker, our Administrator**, for keeping the day-to-day affairs of the organisation in order and always being available to respond to members' queries.
- **Scott James, our CEO**, for representing RAANZ at the various meetings with affiliated aviation groups.

- **Rodger Ward, our Operations Officer**, for organising a very successful ATO Conference, monitoring flight safety and knowing when a timely and wise word is needed.

- **Peter Kempthorne, our Technical Officer**, for keeping a close eye on maintenance matters and assisting with the ongoing Permit to Fly updates.

- **Stan Hyde**, for his ongoing monitoring of our organisation and its members.

I would also like to thank my fellow Executive members for their commitment and work throughout the year.

In particular, thank you to **Samit Desai** for his work posting reels on our Facebook page and helping increase RAANZ's visibility; **Ray Ninow** for his work with examinations; **Bradley Yorke** for being on the same page and helping me keep sane; **Peter Kempthorne** for sharing his engineering expertise; and **Megan Alexinas** for bringing her knowledge and passion to the Executive.

Sadly, Megan has had to step down due to work commitments. I would like to acknowledge her contribution and thank her for the time and energy she has given to RAANZ.

Looking ahead

As we look towards the coming year, I believe RAANZ has plenty of reasons to be positive. We have a sound financial position, a solid membership base and a clear sense of what our members value.

Our challenge is to build on these strengths, continue to support our members, maintain the high standards of flight safety that we expect of ourselves and ensure that RAANZ remains a strong, independent voice for sport aviation in New Zealand.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to making this another successful year for RAANZ. It is through the combined efforts of our members, volunteers and executive that our organisation continues to thrive.

Russell Brodie

President, RAANZ