

RAAANZ Operations Officer Report 2019/2020

It is my pleasure to present the 2019/2020 RAAANZ Operations Officer report.

Activity through the year has been tempered to a certain degree by the impact of the ongoing Covid 19 pandemic, however it is fair to say that on a national level we have weathered the storm well with a forcing to spend money and time within the country.

There appears to be no lack of interest in recreational aviation.

It is no different of other forms of aviation where worst case scenarios are very bad.

There have been several fatalities throughout the year and our thoughts go to those affected by these tragic events.

It is always timely to remind members that we have the best regulatory Microlight operating framework in the world.

It is a privilege, not a right.

Our procedures have been refined over the years and are as simple as they can be without sacrificing the paramount importance of safety.

Please do not try and shortcut any system or rule.

Any deliberate non compliance by one could have a flow on adverse effect on the responsible majority.

Please keep the logbooks up to date and be sure to report any occurrence you believe to be out of the ordinary. By keeping the data up to date we can ascertain the true health of our sport. At times we might not like what we see but it does give us a chance to rectify things before they go badly wrong. By reporting you could well save the bacon of someone at the other end of the country if they are aware of your "near miss" or "just lucked in " event.

Achieving by good luck is not really achieving.

If you are unsure about any procedure or technique please put your hand up and ask. There are no dumb questions.

I would again like to thank all the Instructors for the work they are doing from one end of the country to the other.

Without this team of dedicated and very experienced aviators acting professionally in various local regions we would have nothing nationally.

Thanks also to Stuart, our administrator, who does so much work behind and in front of the scenes ensuring our paperwork is compliant and fielding numerous queries.

We also have a good working relationship with the regulator and look forward to working with them constructively in the future.

We are in the process of updating our written material and exam question database. This is a relatively slow process but progress is being made. At this stage it is being done on a volunteer basis but may need to be farmed out at some stage.

During the year we have made changes to our Procedures Manual to make the requirement for an Instructional Techniques course to be completed before the first issue of an Instructor Rating.

We have also clarified the privileges of a new Instructor to emphasise the fact that they are under the supervision of an ATO at all stages until they are upgraded.

We have seen over the last few years a rapid increase in technology that is available to “ help” the pilot. One can get a bell or whistle to alert you to almost every possible scenario.

In isolation one cannot argue against any of the tools available but when all are added together we get a minefield of information. This minefield of information has the ability to create an overload situation where the actual flying of the aircraft is overlooked.

Remember that we are generally flying in a single pilot environment where it is absolutely essential that we are at a very high level in the basic airmanship skills so they are done automatically which then allows time to gather other information that may assist.

Looking out the window is extremely important and must not be overlooked.

I believe Recreational aviation is in a healthy state and certainly on a local level will remain so.

Regards,

Rodger Ward.

RAANZ Operations Officer.