

RAANZ CEO AGM Report 2021

To look for some inspiration, I read last year's AGM report from the CEO. It began thus: "Certainly 2020 will indeed be a year to remember.....unfortunately for all the wrong reasons." Sadly, I am sure that we will all agree that not much has changed - and the future 12 months appears to be heading even deeper into the unknown.

But, like most other organisations RAANZ have continued to function and we have tried our best to deal with the issues as they are presented to us. And...there were some reasonably important issues that needed our attention.

- The biggie certainly, was the opportunity to bring the two part 149 organisations of RAANZ and SAC - into the one organisation. It would be fair to say that historically RAANZ and the Redman family have always enjoyed a good relationship and over the years we have worked together over many issues in the interest of our sport of microlight flying. It would also be fair to acknowledge that we have had informal discussions several times over those many years about the prospect of merging our two organisations. Previously, there had never appeared to be a strong enough need to take that next step to formalise what we needed to do, to actually make that happen. This year though, there were other factors to add to the mix - and when they were all put together it allowed a mutually beneficial proposition to be considered - and then subsequently agreed to by both organisations.
- As one of those few old codgers lucky enough to have been around at the very beginning of this 'microlight movement' - I think I am well placed to acknowledge the huge part the Redman family have played in the evolving of those early microlight pilots flying their class one aircraft to the high tech/high performance aircraft we can fly today. Under this new umbrella of just the one organisation, I suggest we have now become the pre-eminent 'recreational' aviating group in NZ. On behalf of this organisation and all aviators we are very appreciative at the part the Redman family have played in this..... well revolution is what it is! So a big thank you to Sally and Barry and Dave. I think some acclamation would be appropriate.
- There may possibly be a few aviators out there that wonder what this new 'thing' is all about - and if this change to one organisation was really necessary. There are a number of reasons for this change - and I don't doubt that some of these reasons may be 'arguable', depending on your point of view. But perhaps the most important point which is not arguable - is that the cost of aviating continues to climb. As an example, RAANZ spent approximately \$17,000.00 over the last 12 months just in expenses to CAA alone. SAC probably spent a similar amount. The series of 'Road Shows' we have held recently have cost another \$30,000 or so, so it is easy to see why RAANZ made a loss this year. Simplistically, we could cut those two costs in half and it could be argued that having just one organisation representing our sport

makes a lot of sense on monetary values alone. Of course, there are many other potential advantages to have everyone in the same organisation and I am sure that these will become apparent to us all over time.

- Of course, with our membership going up, so does the work load increase - especially for some of our senior people. In my opinion, we are going to need to recognise this and give some thought to how we can make their contribution less demanding and hopefully more fulfilling with just some minor differences in the way we do things. Certainly, as the CEO I do acknowledge all the work the executive team put into our organisation throughout the year and I do appreciate that.
- You may recall that at this time last year the 'On Condition' program that our technical guys had worked so hard on, only had a 'provisional' approval from CAA. Earlier this year after further negotiations we were pleased to have confirmation from CAA that this exemption will run through to the time when RAANZ is due it's next 5 yearly Re-Entry Audit. At this time presumably CAA will have reassessed what happens next. We had hoped to progress this status to the more 'final' promulgation of a rule change - but this was not to be. However, I think we can all be confident that the processes that are now in place seem to be working very well - so many thanks to Stan and Colin for their input in making that happen.

Well that is all from me.....just fly safely. I would like to move this report be tabled