

RAANZ Operations Officer Report 2020/2021.

It is my pleasure to present the Operational report for 2020/2021.

First and foremost my thanks go to all the ATOs and Instructors out in the field who provide the backbone of our organisation with their dedication to Instructing, checking, mentoring and promoting the sport in a positive manner.

Thanks to the members of the RAANZ Executive team for their work and support throughout the year especially to our tireless Administrator, Stuart, who has worked above and beyond keeping the squeaky wheels oiled and rolling.

Thanks also to all the Recreational Aviators for your active participation. Without participation by the members there would be no sport. Every member is valuable. It does not matter whether you have a Plastic Fantastic and are travelling the length of the country on a regular basis or are just getting the Quicksilver out for a few circuits on those stunning evenings.

The range of aircraft that are available to the Recreational Aviator in NZ and where we are able to go with them is simply amazing. I believe we still have the best operating framework for our type of aircraft anywhere in the world. It is a privilege not a right and must always be treated with the utmost of respect.

We must continuously remind ourselves that while we can obtain immense satisfaction from our sport it is still aviation and as such can create havoc in the blink of an eye.

We have had a recent fatality and our thoughts and condolences go to those associated with this tragic event.

We have also had an extremely serious accident involving a training aircraft.

There have also been four significant accidents involving Aircraft on departure.

We continue to have a very good working relationship with CAA and these above mentioned events have created considerable and continuing dialogue.

Over the past year we have conducted 8 Roadshows throughout the country. These focused on Aircraft compliance, Aircraft maintenance and a Human factor presentation on Information processing. Attendance at these was very good and presentations well received.

Tied in with the roadshows was an audit of logbook compliance with a focus on ab initio training. Results were generally very good however there were some examples of non compliance with our procedures manual. These have been addressed with those concerned.

It has been noted by some outside observers of our sport that our Procedures Manual is a good straightforward document. We just have to make sure we comply with it.

Our procedures are always under the spotlight and are reviewed and amended when necessary. These procedures have been developed over time and are designed to be as simple as possible while still being fit for purpose and complying with appropriate requirements.

Please do not try and cut any corners or miss any steps out. Take your time to ensure all boxes that need to be ticked are ticked. This is not just a pen mark on a form. It is for ensuring that competence and compliance has been achieved for the particular task or requirement.

Airmanship has developed over a hundred years as a result of millions of hours of flight experience and must be treated with the utmost respect. If you think you have a brave new way of doing things you are probably wrong.

The recent acquisition of SACs assets will provide an opportunity to review and blend together documentation and procedures that are truly first class. This will take a period of time, effort and will certainly involve a wider group than just the Executive members. The merging of SAC and RAANZ will create a group that will have significant influence on NZ's aviation world.

The increase in numbers will involve more presence and work from the Exec around the countryside in the form of Audits (A CAA requirement), Roadshows, Instructor Seminars and generally feeling the pulse of the sport.

Please remember first and foremost we are recreational aviators. There is no pressure on us to push any boundaries or fly aircraft close to or beyond their limits. We are not on a war footing.

Enjoy your flying but do not relax completely. Keep it simple, plan ahead, do things you know will be ok not things that you think will be ok, use checklists and be ready for the unexpected.

Regards,

Rodger Ward.

Operations Officer RAANZ.