

Honourable Company of Air Pilots (NZ Region)



Issue 1: August 2023

AWARDS

The Trophies & Awards Committee in London has advised the NZ Region that the following awards for 2023 have been endorsed.

The Jean Batten Memorial Trophy:

WGCDR (Rtd) Gordon Ragg

The Alan Cobham Memorial Award:

Rev. Dr. Richard Waugh

REGIONAL NEWSLETTER

At its latest executive committee meeting, the members agreed that we should attempt to be more transparent to the wider membership of the NZ Region of Air Pilots. It is our intent, therefore, to periodically promulgate a newsletter which outlines recent activities and forecasts upcoming events.

Your Executive Committee

At the recent AGM the following members were confirmed for another year:

Chair: Capt Allan Boyce

Deputy Chair: Mr Bill Bennett

Secretary: WGCDR (Rtd) Ron Thacker

Treasurer: Capt Barry Mitchell

Technical Director: Capt Mike Zaystoff

Member: Mr Brett Nicholls

Member: Capt John Gemmell

Member: Mr Ben Chamberlain

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

2022/23 was a far better year for New Zealand than the previous two years. The Government has finally come to the view that lockdowns were a two-edged sword, and are probably not very effective now for NZ, given the high proportion of vaccinated population. Activities almost returned to normal, with meetings, commemorations and an enjoyable and fruitful Masters Visit occurring. The highlight of the year was the Official Visit of Captain Robin Keegan and Eileen from 27th Nov - 4th Dec. This was a time of heightened activity for the NZ Region with visits to a number of government agencies in Wellington.



This year's visits were all very positive, and have given us many leads for research in the New Year. As we have been unable to visit anybody for some time, it was good to be able to have face to face meetings, and get a feeling for the agencies concerns and resources focus. A cocktail function in Wellington was similarly received very positively. Other activities during the visit included the second Sir Keith Park Memorial Lecture at the refurbished Museum of Transport and Technology (MOTAT), a formal dinner at the Northern Club, and a jump seat ride for the Master in a Q300 commanded by Liveryman Mike Zaytsoff. The RNZAF /Air Pilots Sword for Operational Excellence was presented by the Master and the Base Commander RNZAF Auckland GPCAPT Mike Cannon at our Dinner.

Official Commemorations where the NZ Region was represented included the 86th birthday of the RNZAF in Wellington in March, a Beat Retreat Ceremony at RNZAF Base Auckland also in March, and last year, the Bomber Command Memorial Function at MOTAT, the Battle of Britain Wreath Laying at the Domain, and the 43rd Anniversary of the Mt Erebus Crash which was held at the Orakei Marae at dawn. Some of our technical work is ongoing and very frustrating. The Ministry of Transport team handling the *Enabling Drone Integration* proposals on which we made a submission has been silent for most of the year, and are no longer communicating with us (or anybody else, it seems).

In November, after eight years and significant modifications, the Civil Aviation Authority Bill was suddenly given a second reading in Parliament under Urgency (Number 15 of 24 Bills read under Urgency). Apparently, it was sent back to the Parliamentary Select Committee for more modification, and then passed again under Urgency after a third reading.

On a happier note, our Technical Director is continuing to facilitate a series of interesting Technical Webinars, with increasing attendance each month. We now have a final agreement with the Walsh Memorial Scout Trust to provide financial assistance for instructor re-categorisation, whereby the NZ Region offers a scholarship through the Walsh Scout Camp. The winner is chosen by the leadership of the Walsh Memorial Scout Flying School to receive a \$3,000 scholarship in recognition of their exceptional abilities as a Flight Instructor. This year the award went to Amit Dhiman, who is a B Cat and wants to become an A Cat. We are also communicating with our Workforce Development Council (Ringa Hora) with a view to jointly offering financial assistance to Instrument Rating candidates. We are making very slow progress however.



During the year, your Committee voted to continue our membership of the NZ Aviation Federation. At the AGM of the Federation, Liveryman Bob Henderson representing Gliding NZ was elected President, and Richard Small from RNZAC, Vice President. In February the Federation Council attended an enjoyable farewell dinner to the outgoing and long serving President Ian Andrews. The Council has subsequently voted to make the dinner an annual occasion.

NOTES FROM THE TECHNICAL DIRECTOR

The Technical Director, Mike Zaystoff, has established a series of Professional Development Webinars which bring in respected authorities from the international aviation community to present on topical matters. Examples from the last year include:

- Charles Thornberry from Navblue, Airbus's Software Development subsidiary. He talked about how Airbus is constantly improving the software on their aircraft in response to current safety trends.



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- Malcolm Brenner, an American NTSB accident investigator with 25+ years of experience, spoke on a wide variety of accidents.
- David Anderson from Australia's branch of the Flight Safety Foundation discussed the importance of safety audits to prevent accidents from happening.
- Henry Poerborianto from Indonesia's accident investigation organization talked about an accident he investigated when an NZ-made PAC P-750 suffered CFIT in Indonesia's part of the Island of New Guinea.
- Denis Cadoux, an accident investigator with Airbus Industrie, discussed how Airbus assists in the accident investigation process.

In the interests of ensuring free and frank discussion, the webinars are not recorded. This provides 'Chatham House' protection to presenters and attendees. Mike emails reminders in advance of each webinar – you are encouraged to join these.

THE ENGINE IS THE HEART OF AN AIRPLANE, BUT THE PILOT IS ITS SOUL.” – ANONYMOUS