VATNZ QUARTERLY REPORT Q3 2023

Executive Summary

A stable quarter for the division. The gradual decline in ATC has stabilised, although the current trend would indicate a potential reduction in the annual ATC hours is on the cards for the year depending on how much ATC coverage is recorded in Q4.

Aircraft movements have remained consistent throughout the year with between 9000 and 10,000 being recorded at the major airports each quarter.

Membership increased during the quarter from 766 to 776.
The number of active members, that is members who have connected to the network in the last 90 days decreased to 210.

Events Update

The Events department has had a very quiet quarter, with no major events occurring. Nightshift has been running well, with 557 movements during the events this quarter. Controller turnout has improved; however, we still lack controller numbers.

Staff Members

Currently, the Events Department has four members, with Oliver Gregory joining us. One of these members is part of another department. While we are not currently seeking new applicants, applications are still open.
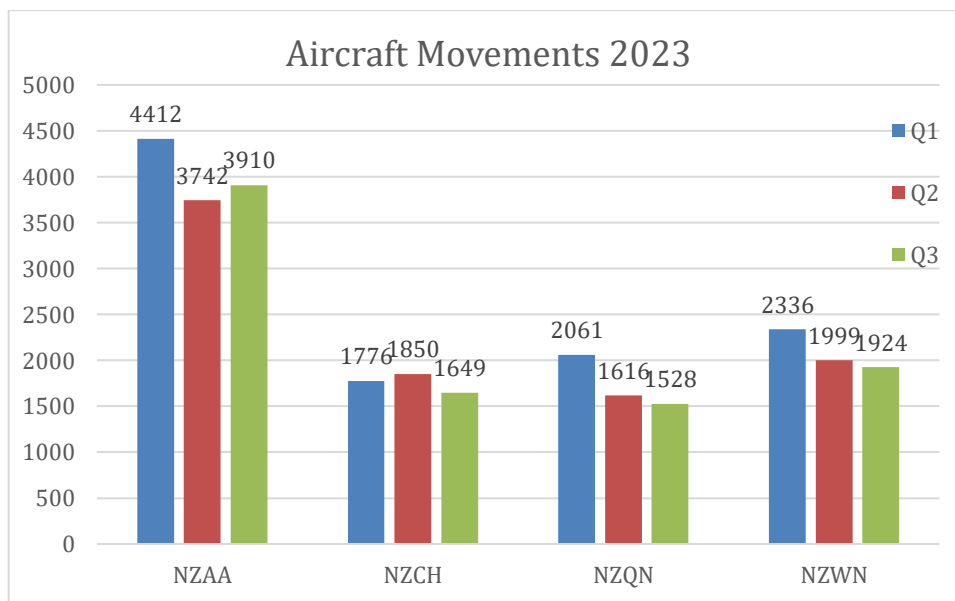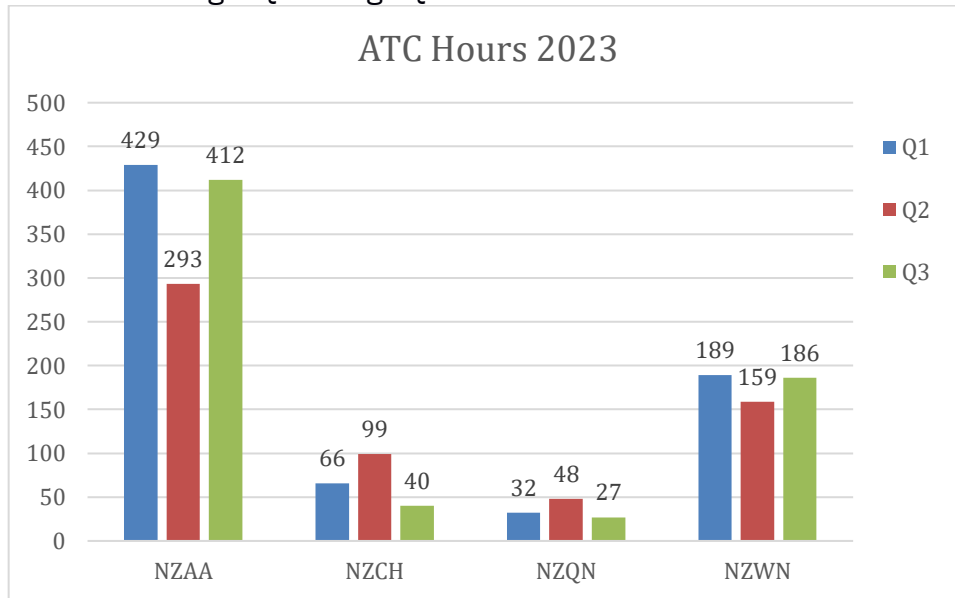
Finishing Statement

The Events department has had a busy Q3 for 2023. We have three confirmed major events in Q4 2023, 24 hours of VATSIM, First Wings, and Cross the Ditch, and are looking forward to delivering these to the community.

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Operational Report

Region Activity
Our regions 4 major airports are used as a measure of activity. Each quarter is shown left to right Q1 though Q4

ATC Hours 2023

	NZAA	NZCH	NZQN	NZWN
Q1	429	66	32	189
Q2	293	99	48	159
Q3	412	40	27	186

Aircraft Movements 2023

	NZAA	NZCH	NZQN	NZWN
Q1	4412	1776	2061	2336
Q2	3742	1850	1616	1999
Q3	3910	1649	1528	1924

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Operations Report

Department Update

The Operations Department has had a good quarter with the continued support of our new SOPs project, Controller Client data and other smaller projects. The size of the Operations Team remains unchanged and workload is normal.

Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)

Since the release in April, the SOPs project has had a steady flow of new content added as well as current pages being revised with updated information. We are still working to add more content and encourage the division's community to contribute any helpful information to the project.

Since release, there has been 24 pull requests submitted, reviewed, and committed to the project site. This includes 2 new aerodrome pages, 5 page revisions/edits and 3 AIRAC additions. The remaining 14 PRs are miscellaneous additions to the project such as format changes, background data updates and broken or missing content identified after the initial release.

The department encourages anybody wanting to help out with this project to reach out to the team on discord or via email.

Note: Not every PR contains new content, some remedial work such as library bumps are required and are implemented as PRs.

Dataset Update

For Q3, our datasets have had 2 AIRAC updates and 0 revision releases, with the continued help of our provider, Aeropath, our community has been able to get the most up to date data as soon as it releases.

Between Q2 and Q3 our NZ Dataset has had 529 additions and 388 deletions.

We are still awaiting a date for the testing phase of vatSys server, as we have not received any version of the new client for testing at the time this report was published, we will advise the community of any changes with the availability of our current controller clients, vatSys and EuroScope.

Other Projects

Just recently the department was approached by a member of the community asking us to implement our airspace data to VATGlasses, a VATSIM mapping tool similar to VATSpy. We would like to advise that work is underway to implement our airspace to this project and an announcement will be made in due course when the data has been made available to the public, this gives VATSIM pilots another way to see who is online providing ATC within our FIR.

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Staff Members

No changes to the staff within the department, we still have one position to fill within the team, which we will attempt to fill at a later date, when workload permits.

Name	Position
Mikey Robinson	Operations Director
Tom Kilpatrick	Operations Team (Airspace Manager)
Connor Sumner	Operations Team
Richard Bywater	Operations Team
Vacant	Operations Team

Finishing Statement

We have had a productive quarter overall and we look forward to providing the best tools possible to our division, working with other departments to ensure a smooth transition to any new software.
We are still looking for one member to join the team, members are encouraged to email an EOI to Operations@vatnz.net

Training Report

Staff Members
Currently, the Training Department consists of seven active mentors. Five are VATSIM instructors (I1) or senior instructors (I3).

Students
Theory courses: 10 internal and visiting controller students are enrolled in theory courses across the syllabus. A further six students have completed theory requirements and are awaiting mentor assignments.

Practical courses: 39 internal and visiting controller students are undertaking practical training across the syllabus.
One S1 rating and one S2 rating were granted during the period.

General
S1 Tower Trainee rating - update
The S1 Tower Trainee training scheme has been running for over 12 months, with continuous refinements and improvements applied throughout the time. It's been great to see online mentoring, using the mentor or instructor callsign, becoming a thing in VATNZ. I'm keen to see this applied more with higher ratings. The facility is there to be used. Besides, it's what Airways does (OJT – on-the-job training, what the Aussies call OTS – over-the-shoulder – training).

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The cumbersome S1 policy, particularly cl 6.2.2, is under review. Confidence in the VATNZ S1 process has increased, so S1s will shortly be able to connect solo to any DEL or GND position without prior approval (except during major events).

Activities

Sweatbox training files are being updated and married to specific training and assessment exercises concurrent with the training refresh project—a continued thanks to Fenton Loveday, Deputy Training Director, who is managing this process.

A review of all ATC training policies is underway. The driver for this is that too many separate policy statements are scattered across multiple documents. Some, such as the Mentor/Instructor policy, contain outdated material, while others are buried on the website. One policy covering all material will be presented to the Board before December 2023. Re-codifying the methodology to comply with the new GCAP is included.

The courseware refreshment project is almost complete. The project is on hold while the ATC Training Policy and GCAP alignment processes take precedence

The VATSIM Global Ratings Policy (through the VATNZ Board and Operations Director) remains the authority with which the Training Department aligns. However, the new Global Controller Administration Policy to replace the GRP becomes effective in March 2024. The Training Department courseware refreshment project has this in mind. Worldwide implementation of the GCAP began on 14 September 2023. The Training Department will be ready to begin the implementation process (from a training perspective) sometime in December 2023 for Board consideration.

Closing

Behind the scenes, there remains a lot to do, but we are all continuing to work hard on continuous improvements. It's an exciting and fertile time in the department.

SIGNATURES & ENDORSEMENTS

By digitally signing below, the Region Staff Member authorizing this report hereby testifies to its truthfulness to the best of their knowledge and ability.

Andrew Moseley   Division Director   Date: 9/10/23