



## VATNZ QUARTERLY REPORT Q1 2022

### Executive Summary

Q1 saw some staff changes. Gary Parata joined the board as Training Director. Gary brings a wealth of real world knowledge to the role. We also appointed a deputy Training Director with Fenton Loveday returning to the training team. The deputy role was seen as an important development to ensure continuity of training should someone need to step aside.

The division also has a new Events Director with Mikey Robinson taking on the role. The events role has traditionally been the most publicly critiqued role so has some interesting challenges.

For the first time in quite a while we saw a decrease in ATC activity, while aircraft movements had a small increase when compared to 2021. Compared to Q4 of 2021 there was an overall decrease in activity. ATC hours were down by 52% and aircraft movements by 5%.

This seems to be a normal trend with summer and the country having covid restrictions lifted.

### Administrative Report

#### Membership

Membership increased during the quarter from 758 to 759.

The number of active members, that is members who have connected to the network in the last 90 days decreased to 251.

### Community Engagement

James Ford-Hathaway reports that while Discord does seem to be the preferred interaction platform there is still only a small number of members that engage socially.

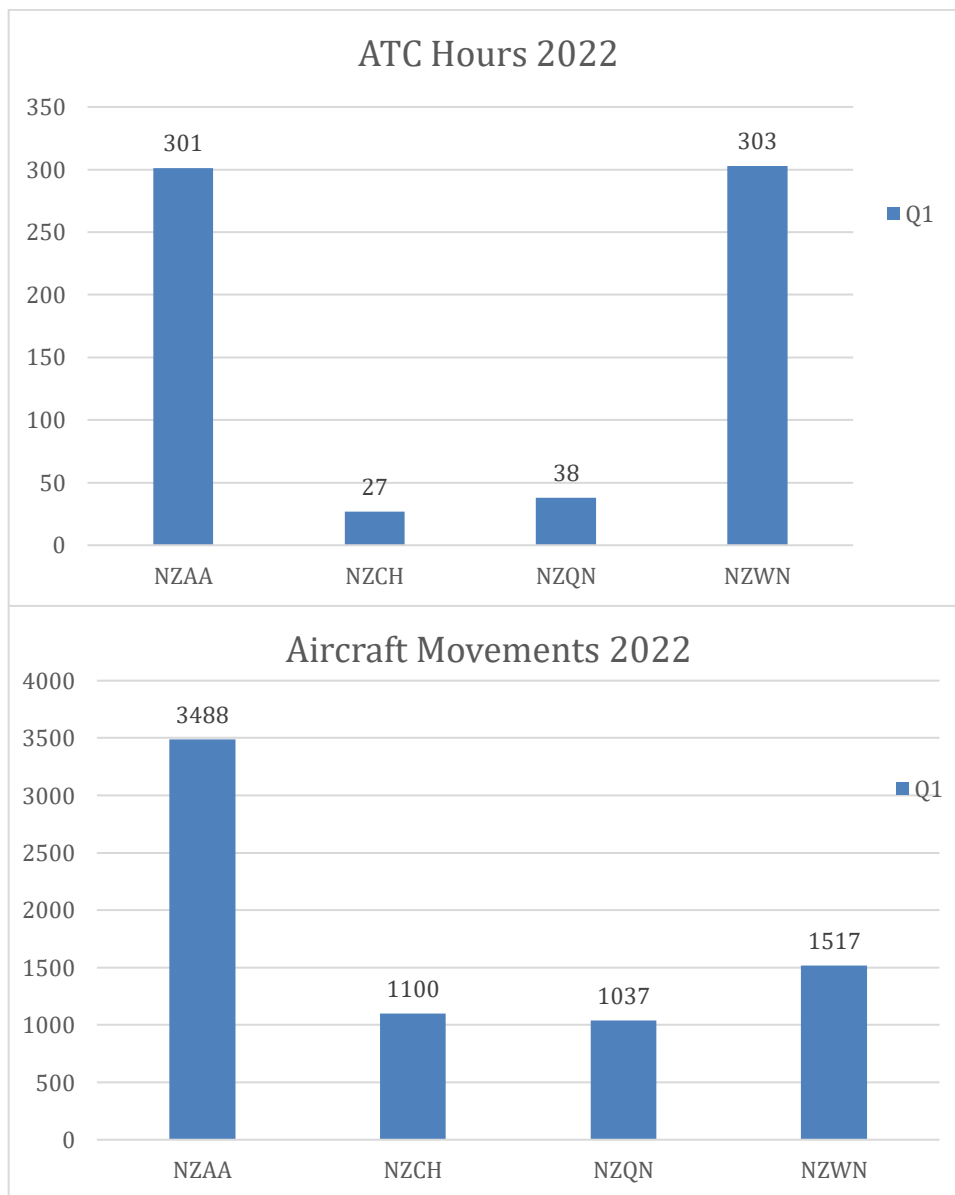
James will be running a survey during April to see what people use as their main source of information to see if improvements can be made in engaging with the membership.

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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





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### Operations Report

The start of the year has allowed the Operations Department to re-evaluate some of our projects, in addition to growing the team – allowing for a renewed focus on our outputs.

#### Operations Team

Unfortunately, we have had Ollie Holmwood step down from the Operations Team, due to real-world commitments. While we are sad to see him go, we wish him all the best with his new study.

We have also welcomed three new members to the Operations Team – Alex Cutforth, Levi Daniel, and Connor Sumner. These three will be instrumental in progressing our projects, covering a wide range of skills – it's great to have them on the Team.

#### Airspace

Our airspace has had minor changes so far this year – with only slight position and procedural changes. This will change in the upcoming quarter, with significant changes occurring, including –

- The withdrawal of various NDBs. This influences a multitude of other aerodromes, with significant changes in procedures.
- A change in the nomenclature of RNAV-based approach procedures. This brings the real-world in line with ICAO PANS OPs and will be replicated in our procedures and SOPs.

#### Data

There have been minimal significant changes in our Airspace data since the last report. The main changes have been focused on data upkeep, feature improvements or bug fixes.

#### Projects

The Gate Allocation Tool, in addition to the Sector File Updating Tool, are still in the exploratory phase of development. We are hoping to progress this in the upcoming quarter, with the help of the new members of our team.



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The Pacific Refresh Project is well into development, with significant progress made both in planning and development –

- The positions and airspace design for French Polynesia and the Pacific Islands has been completed,
- SOPs have been drafted and peer-reviewed by Pilots and personnel who know the region well,
- The Sector File Generator has been modified to allow for the export and manipulation of the upcoming Pacific Dataset
  - All procedures for French Polynesia have been entered and checked.
- The new Dataset has been created, with the French Polynesia area being complete.

### **Conclusion**

So far, the year is off to a tremendous start, with a renewed focus on our projects and outputs. With the addition of new team members, we are hoping to continue with our current outputs with a renewed efficiency, in addition to churning out some new projects.



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### Air Traffic Control Training

#### 1. Staff Members

- 1.1 Currently, the Training Department consists of seven active mentors (three of whom are instructors) and four inactive mentors (three of whom are instructors).
- 1.2 Two staff members resigned, and three were appointed during the period, including a former mentor rejoining the department after time away.

<i><b>Position/Other roles</b></i>	<i><b>Name</b></i>	<i><b>Training appointment</b></i>	<i><b>Training approvals</b></i>	<i><b>Active in dept</b></i>
Training Director	Gary Parata	Senior Instructor	S1 S2 S2(P) S3 C1 O	Yes
Asst Training Director	Fenton Loveday	Instructor	S1 S2 S2(P) S3 C1 O	Yes
CE Director	James Ford-Hathaway	Instructor	S1 S2 S2(P) S3 C1 O	Yes
Events Director	Mikey Robinson	Mentor	S1 S2 S2(P) S3 C1 O	Yes
	Josh Clark	Mentor	S1 S2	Yes
	Tom Lyall	Mentor	S1 S2	Yes
	Tom Gregory	Mentor	S1 S2	Yes
Division Director	Andrew Moseley	Senior Instructor	S1 S2 S2(P) S3 C1 O	No
Dep DD/SUP	Mark Richards	Senior Instructor	S1 S2 S2(P) S3 C1 O	No
	Andrew Norris	Senior Instructor	S1 S2 S2(P) S3 C1	No
Operations Director	Tom Kilpatrick	Mentor	S1 S2 S2(P) S3 C1	No

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### 2. General

#### 2.1 Introduction of the S1 Tower Trainee rating

- 2.1.1 Consistent poor performance has been noted among some of the recent new S2 appointments post-assessment.
- 2.1.2 The inability of Tower Controller trainees to practice on the network under supervision before the S2 assessment is cited as one reason. Another is the inability to require controllers to undertake continuation training post-assessment.
- 2.1.3 The introduction of the S1 intermediate qualification is seen as redressing controller standards. Coursewares are being amended to incorporate the new rating, and a draft policy document will be ready for Board sign-off by the end of March 2022.
- 2.1.4 The S1 will theoretically allow trainees to connect to the network in any DEL, GND, or TWR position in VATNZ and VATPAC. Therefore, policy will be that the appointment enables connection to the network under the direct supervision of a mentor and will include the ability of an S1 to connect solo. The policy will determine where and how an S1 can connect. However, mentors will be given considerable flexibility in deciding where and when their students may connect. It is envisaged that only NZAA, NZWN and NZCH will be approved for S1 training.
- 2.1.5 Shorter training times to the first ATC rating and a decreased observer hours requirement are two advantages for students.
- 2.1.6 The VATNZ S1 course is being designed under the VATSIM GRP, not the proposed GCAP, although the latter was considered whilst building the syllabus. For example, under the GRP, the S1 does not require a practical assessment. It does under the draft GCAP, so VATNZ is incorporating it too. Other differences are noted.
- 2.1.7 A finite lifetime of 90 days is envisaged, by which time S1 holders are expected to be ready for S2 assessment at the very latest.
- 2.1.8 A tentative date for going live is March 31<sup>st</sup>. However, much work remains in realigning the course material and constructing the S1 and S2 theory tests.

#### 2.2 Activities

- 2.2.1 Sweatbox training files are being updated and married up to specific training and assessment exercises concurrent with the training refresh project. A PseudoPilot guide is also under development.



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- 2.2.2 Work is soon to begin on a search for a learning management system fit for purpose. The current system is outdated and outmoded and sees VATNZ lagging significantly behind our closest partners, VATPAC and VATUSA.
- 2.2.3 A review of the Mentor/Instructor policy and the instructor/mentor training materials will soon commence.
- 2.2.4 All courseware is undergoing an audit and refresh process.
- 2.2.5 Audit of Mentor/Instructor policy is underway.
- 2.2.6 Audit of Duties of TD/ATD is underway.
- 2.2.7

### 3. Training statistics

3.1 The following members gained new ATC appointments in the quarter:

Ben Marling	Oceanic
Gary Parata	Oceanic
Samantha Wilson	Tower
Tom Lyall	Oceanic
Gary Parata	Senior Instructor
Oliver Bromley	Tower
Michael Malone	Tower
Blake Tibbitts	Oceanic

In addition, 15 students are undergoing active mentoring, and 11 students are enrolled in theory courses.

Tom Lyall was appointed as a mentor during the period, and Tom Gregory returned to the department after some time away.



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### 4. Summary

- 4.1 It's been a busy time behind the scenes, and this work will continue well into Q2 and Q3. However, we believe a sound platform to launch new initiatives has been set.
- 4.2 Thanks to the training team for their resilience during this time – without you we wouldn't be able to function.

Gary Parata

Training Director

### Events Report

#### 5. Staff Members

- 5.1 Currently, as it stands, The Events Department consists of a team of 1, with MR being the sole member.
- 5.2 In Q2 the Events Department may look to expand, possibly welcoming new members to make an "Events Team"

<i><b>Position</b></i>	<i><b>Name</b></i>	<i><b>Initials</b></i>	<i><b>Join Date</b></i>
Events Director	Mikey Robinson	MR	2 Jan 2022

#### 6. Events

##### 6.1 Night Shift and Non-Normal Night Shift

- 6.1.1 The Events Department has re-introduced Night Shift on every Saturday of each month.
- 6.1.2 Non-Normal Night Shift has moved to the last Saturday of each month, replacing Night Shift for that week.
- 6.1.3 A Community review will take place at the end of each quarter to review the traffic levels and to see what changes could improve the experience.



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### 6.2 Region Revival Series

- 6.2.1 The VATNZ Region Revival Series was created to be a regular monthly event which explores each of New Zealand's regions. This event was created to introduce some variety to the calendar while exploring almost every airport in the country over the course of a year.
- 6.2.2 Each region has its own unique landmarks and challenges which are highlighted in the event briefing.
- 6.2.3 This also gives our controllers an opportunity to control position they have not controlled before.

### 6.3 Anzac Parade

- 6.3.1 As of the March 15<sup>th</sup> planning is well underway with VATPAC events team to coordinate Anzac Parade, this is so far going ahead as planned on the 25<sup>th</sup> of April.
- 6.3.2 MR Has undertaken the rostering for VATNZ controllers for this event.
- 6.3.3 The ED is working closely with the OD to create standard documents that can be used for SOPs and Controller Briefings.

### 6.4 Other Events

- 6.4.1 A Virtual Air show is being planned and is scheduled to involve the vRNZAF as well as some overseas VSOA's
- 6.4.2 The Events Department looks to broaden its horizon in Q2, and looks to create more community focused events, outside of the VATSIM Network, possibly involving podcasts from real pilots and other events in a non-network environment.

## 7. Conclusion

- 7.1 The Events Department is tracking well for Q1 and has introduced many new ideas to the community which have been received well. Under MR's new management there is lots of learning to be had and confidence will continue to build in Q2.
- 7.2 A Community survey is planned to be issued to the community when Q2 Commences to gauge the enjoyment and feedback from the Q1 Period, this will also serve as an opportunity for the community to suggest new ideas for Q2 to allow ample planning for larger events
- 7.3 To summarise; A solid start to the year for the ED with the change of ownership done at haste to allow events to be consistently run alongside a



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busy life schedule. MR looks forward to Q2 and is excited to share some new ideas with the community.

### 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: 2 April 2022

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