

Executive Summary

This quarter has been marked by a continuation of our business-as-usual functions, which has unfortunately been slowed down by a lack of resource.

Staffing Changes

This quarter saw Chris Bannock appointed as our new Events Director. Chris brings a vast array of domain knowledge, as well as a strong vision for the future of the Events Team. Our Deputy Division Director and Events Manager have been assisting Chris in coming up to speed, and I look forward to seeing the Events department develop under his leadership.

I want to thank Cam and Oliver – our Deputy Division Director and Events Manager, respectively, for picking up additional responsibilities whilst the appointments process was underway.

Membership

The membership of the Division currently stands at 1,139 members – composed of 361 active and 777 inactive members. This unfortunately marks a continued decline in membership, which is attributed to accounts becoming inactive after the all-time highs experienced during COVID. I intend to have discussions with our IT Director on our monitoring of divisional/regional transfers and account activity – providing us with additional statistics on the source of the drain.

Ongoing Work Streams

The Board is continuing work on the workstreams kicked off in Q1 – noting that the progress has been slower due to staff members having competing priorities. There will be further reporting on the progress of these work items in the Q3 report.

An initial draft of the new Divisional Policy is nearing completion, which will be promulgated to the Board and Senior Staff in the coming weeks. The policy will then be submitted for community consultation.

Tom Kilpatrick

Division Director

Deputy Division Director

Discord Refresh

In the Q1 2026 Boarding Meeting Minutes, I outlined to the Board the proposal for a Discord refresh. I am excited to share that this is up for consultation with the Board and if accepted, will be implemented over Q3. Do you have any suggestions? While I can't guarantee the implementation, I am interested in how we can create a more inclusive, modern, community focused Discord server for our members. Send me an email or use the VATNZ Feedback System with notification to the Division Deputy Director.

Instagram Creation - @vatsim_new_zealand

In Q2, I announced the launch of the VATNZ Instagram account. Thank you to those that have followed. If Instagram is your preferred social media, please consider following!

Screenshot Competition

This quarter saw the continuation of the VATNZ Screenshot Competition. Thanks a lot to everyone who took the time to send in their entries. This month's quality was amazing, and it's great to see how creative and hard-working everyone is. On average per month, there are 15 entries and growing every month. Interested in taking part? Ensure you are a VATNZ member, and [join our Discord community](#).

Community Survey

A key initiative currently underway is the development of a community survey. This survey is designed to gather meaningful feedback from members, better understand their experiences, and identify areas for improvement across the division. The insights gained will help guide future decisions and ensure we remain aligned with community expectations.

At time of writing, there are 24 entries. Shortly the survey will close so the data can be presented to the Board for analysis. If you have not done so already, [please complete the survey here](#).

Looking Ahead

Overall, Q2 for me has been focused on engagement, and continuing to establish foundations for future work. If you have any ideas that you think could benefit the wider VATNZ community, please get in touch with me either via email using cam.tyson@vatnz.net or vatnz.net/feedback.

Cam Tyson

Deputy Division Director

Operations Department

Q2 for the Operations Department has seen both the maintenance of the Controller Datasets, but also some work being progressed on new tooling designed to enhance our controller and pilot's experience in VATNZ.

Standard Operating Procedures

Unfortunately, no major changes in this area. We will continue to look to review what gaps remain and prioritise the implementation of anything missing over the course of this year.

Controller Datasets

Cycles 2604 and 2606 were completed this quarter with continued changes to many aerodromes in NZZC. Work done in previous quarters has helped make the process more streamlined with a simpler and faster workflow. There are still a few more opportunities for improvements which continue to be worked through.

Many thanks to our provider, Aeropath for continued access to the ANR data package ahead of its release.

Tooling Development

This quarter saw the release of the VATNZ VatSys Plugin which automates the inclusion of Extended Services information into the Controller Information. This data flows through to VATSIM Radar and allows users to easily see what areas of the FIR are currently controlled.

Alongside this work is also progressing on additional plugin functionality (to be confirmed if it will be rolled into the VATNZ VatSys Plugin or be a secondary plugin) which brings a bunch of quality-of-life features and makes VatSys operate in a way more similar to EuroScope with the ability to move maps with the mouse and also set headings and speeds on aircraft tags. While we have no current plans to remove EuroScope support, these changes allow controllers more option in which they decide to use. This new functionality should be made available soon in an upcoming AIRAC.

We are also still working through with the VATNZ Technology department to deploy the first release of the new VATNZ Booking Discord bot which would replace the current channel-based request system. More information will be released once this is deployed.

Thanks to Adam for driving a lot of these improvements and bringing the new ideas to the table.

Staff Members

This quarter we welcomed Campbell Lythe-Brown to the Operations Team to help bolster our development capabilities. With the increase in software development related portions of the Operations Department, it is important to ensure we have enough coverage to allow future support.

Name	Position
Operations Director	Richard Bywater
Airspace Manager	Vacant
Operations Team Members	Connor Sumner
	James Stuart
	Adam Baikie
	Campbell Lythe-Brown

Closing Statement

Real-life commitments continue to reduce the amount of time I have available however the team have been doing a great job to continue chipping away at outstanding items. My many thanks to them for their contributions to VATNZ.

Members wishing to seek further details about our projects or anything in this report can visit the NOTAM channel in Discord or connect with us directly at: operations@vatnz.net.

Richard Bywater

Operations Director

Training Department

Staff Members

Currently, the Training Department consists of five trainers, two of whom are senior managers in the department. A further two have flagged that they will need reduced workloads for the remainder of 2026. During the quarter one I1 and one Mentor resigned.

The department remains understaffed, with a critical shortage of at least five mentors. Consequently, the wait time to be assigned a mentor has increased to around 20 weeks.

There is a standing call for expressions of interest to train as mentors. The minimum qualification is an S3, but there are not enough S3 trainees graduating at this time (unchanged).

Students

Awaiting course registration approvals: 10 applicants are awaiting approvals for course registrations. Seven are S1 applicants, one is an S3 applicant, and there are two visiting applicants. No action is being taken on these applications currently due to the extreme lack of human resources currently afflicting the department.

- **Theory:** 24 internal students and visiting applicants are enrolled across the syllabus. A further 15 students have completed theory requirements and are awaiting mentor assignments.
- **Practical:** 24 internal and visiting applicant students are undertaking practical training across the syllabus. No students were purged from training during the period

The following ratings have been awarded during this reporting period:

Rating / Endorsement	Number Awarded
S1 (Developing Controller)	2
S2 (Aerodrome Controller)	1
S3 (Terminal Controller)	0
C1 (Enroute Controller)	0
Tier 2 Endorsement (Procedural Tower)	0
Tier 1 Endorsement (Oceanic)	1

Policy

The revised training policy is still a work in progress, with no estimated completion date currently.

The departmental Strategic Development Management Plan is still a work in progress, but many of the features required of a plan of this nature have been identified and developed. Hopeful of a late 2026 completion date.

The S1 training rating syllabus remains under review. The major finding of the review has been that S1s have worked towards the solo qualification rather than the S2. This has been identified as a major weakness in the concept. Accordingly, the department is no longer issuing solo aerodrome control privileges to S1s while the review continues. Once again, hopeful of a late 2026 completion date.

Activities

SweatBox training files are continually updated and aligned with specific training exercises concurrent with the training refresh project. The training files are being migrated into a GitHub repository. The new exam files and associated scripts are complete. Each practical exam conducted provides data for continuous improvement of these files and scripts. The latest syllabus, nearing completion in this regard, is the S3 training scenarios, which Fenton Loveday continues to drive.

The project to upgrade the training materials into a more modern format is on hold while all options are considered. The department's administrative functions are not part of this upgrade (no change).

We are working with our VATPAC friends to develop a differences course. This work is being led by them, for which we are grateful.

The annual review of the theory examinations has started and should be completed in late 2026.

A targeted survey for the Division's members is currently in draft.

Administrative tasks that can wait are currently on hold while the department's five staff members work to reduce the training backlog

Closing

There are 5 trainers on staff and 73 students enrolled or awaiting approval to enrol. Based on those numbers, the staff-to-student ratio is 14.6:1. Sadly, the department will not function on these numbers unless temporary restrictions on access to courses are enacted. Where and how this might be done is for a high-level discussion at the next Board meeting.

Thanks go once again to the trainers, who give up their valuable time to train our prospective controllers. It can feel thankless, but your work does not go unnoticed. A special mention once again to Fenton Loveday, whose support and knowledge have helped steer the department immeasurably.

Gary Parata

Training Director

Events Department

Note: This report is split due to the transition in leadership.

Incoming Director

As this quarter marks the beginning of my tenure as Events Director, the primary focus has been on becoming familiar with the role, understanding the department's current position, and identifying opportunities for future growth.

Over the coming months, I will be working closely with the Events Team to establish a clear strategy and roadmap for the department. This will include setting achievable goals, improving event planning processes, and identifying opportunities to increase community engagement through a diverse range of events.

One of my priorities is to collaborate with the team to develop a structured plan for the year ahead, ensuring we deliver consistent, enjoyable, and well-organised events that cater to members of all experience levels. I am looking forward to working alongside the department to build on the strong foundation already in place and continue improving the event experience across the network.

While there are no significant updates to report for this quarter due to the recent transition, I am excited about the opportunities ahead and look forward to providing more substantial progress in future quarterly reports.

Chris Bannock

Events Director

Outgoing Acting Director's Report

Q1 marked a period of transition for the VATNZ Events Department, with a strong focus on ensuring a smooth handover between Events Directors while maintaining a consistent programme of events for the community.

Once again, I would like to thank Tom L for his leadership in the Events Department. I would also like to welcome Chris B to the events team, and I look forward to seeing the direction he takes the department in. Throughout the quarter, the team continued to deliver a variety of event formats, including Night Shift events, one-off themed events, and regular community flying opportunities, providing pilots and controllers with a steady calendar of activities despite the leadership transition.

The quarter was largely dedicated to maintaining continuity, supporting the incoming Events Director, and laying the groundwork for future improvements to the events programme as the new leadership team settled into their roles.

Christchurch Control

Christchurch control has been running well, with reasonable turnouts from both pilots and controllers. Unfortunately, due to the transition period, this limited the ability for many of the events to be posted to the VATSIM Events calendar which may have limited pilot numbers and missing data for the table.

12 Apr	19 Apr	10 May	17 May	24 May	31 May	7 June	21 June	Average
102	77	53	56	139	107	95	38	83

Cam Tyson

Deputy Division Director (Acting Events)

IT Department

IT Department report not received for this quarter.