Executive Summary

This quarter has been somewhat of a status quo for the Division, where most key outputs have been maintained.

We unfortunately bid farewell to our Division Director, Mark Richards, who has made the decision to step down from the VATNZ Board. Mark has been a stalwart of the network over the past 30 years, having been involved at every level of the organisation, and making an incredible impact on the organisation and our hobby. The Division Director position will be advertised by VP APAC in due course.

The Division is currently in a transitional state, with a variety of positions currently sitting vacant. Alongside the Division Director position, the Community Engagement Portfolio is also currently sitting vacant.

Staffing Changes

The Deputy Division Director has assumed the Division Director responsibilities until a permanent appointment is made. There have been no other staff movements this quarter.

Membership

The membership of the Division currently stands at 1,210 members – composed of 398 active and 812 inactive members. This marks a 1% increase in total members, and a 5% increase in active members.

Kind Regards,

Tom Kilpatrick
Division Director, Acting
Deputy Division Director

Operations Department

Q3 has been a fairly quiet quarter for the Operations Department with 1 AIRAC cycle with no revisions completed within the quarter.

Standard Operating Procedures

This quarter we made 5 commits to the site primarily updates based on AIRAC cycle changes but also the new SOPs for Ohakea TMA and Aerodrome. As it stands there are currently 22 open issues, and 2 issues were closed or completed this quarter.

With the addition of Ohakea TMA SOPs onto the new site, this only leaves Antarctica and Flight Service Station SOPs remaining in the old location. Investigation will be done to work out best ways to incorporate those into the new site.

The community is encouraged to reach out the Operations Team if they wish to commit to the SOPs project.

Controller Datasets

Cycle 2504 and Cycle 2506 were completed this quarter. Cycle 2504 was standard, with a handful of changes made to our datasets. Cycle 2506 saw changes to Ohakea, Dunedin, and Kerikeri. Our vatSys dataset received over 1,000 code additions and 873 code deletions for these two cycles.

Cycle 2508 was completed this quarter. This cycle was very small with no aerodrome changes.

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

Staff Members

The Operations Team is currently running quite light and so we will need to investigate ways to invigorate the department either by bringing in more people or by looking at ways to streamline our current processes to make things faster and easier. Unfortunately, real-life commitments have meant that I have not had a chance to look into this as of right now but it is definitely something that will be done in the near future.

I encourage the community to help contribute to items like the SOPs project and provide feedback/ideas in order to help us be able to deliver enjoyment and (where practical) realism into flying in VATNZ Division airspace on the VATSIM network.

Training Department

Staff Members

Currently, the Training Department consists of nine productive mentors. Five are VATSIM Instructors (I1) or Senior Instructors (I3). One mentor is on leave until the end of 2025.

The department remains understaffed, with a critical shortage of at least three mentors. Consequently, the wait time to be assigned a mentor is around 12 to 15 weeks.

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

Student Activity & Ratings

Theory courses: 41 internal students and visiting applicants are enrolled in theory courses across the syllabus. A further 10 students have completed theory requirements and are awaiting mentor assignments.

Practical courses: 41 internal and visiting applicant students are undertaking practical training across the syllabus.

The following rating have been achieved over the past three months:

S1	1
S2	1
Tier 2 Endorsement – Procedural Tower	1
S3	0
C1	0
Tier 1 Endorsement – Oceanic	0

Policy

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

The division of training management into a director (responsible for policy and oversight) and a manager (responsible for operational matters) is working well.

The departmental Strategic Development Management Plan is still a work in progress, but many of the features that a plan of this nature requires have been identified and developed. Hopeful of a December 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. Nearly all the lessons are now included in the repo. Thanks to James Stuart and Fenton Loveday, who continue to drive this. The practical exam files with supporting documentation for S1, S2, S3, and C1 are now complete.

The project to upgrade the training materials 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 here are grateful.

Events Department

Q3 has been very quiet with the build up to three major events in Q4. We focused on our regular Christchurch Control events

Christchurch Control (Night Shift)

Christchurch Control has been running well, with good turnouts from both pilots and controllers. Unfortunately, staff time constraints limited the ability for many of the events to be posted to the VATSIM Events calendar which may have limited pilot numbers.

Date	06/07	13/07	20/07	03/08	10/08	17/08	24/08	07/09	14/09	21/09	Avg.
Movements	ND	66	73	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	23	54

ND denotes that no data is available, as the Event wasn't loaded into the VATSIM Global Events Calendar.

Staff Members

The Events Department is currently operating with three members, including the Events Director. Things have been rather stretched this quarter with all of us being rather busy. We will be looking to add a fourth member to the team in the next couple of quarters.

Future Plans

With three major events scheduled for Q4, things are ramping up for the end of the year. In October we have 24 hours of VATSIM: Leg 2 between Auckland and Christchurch. November brings World Flight, with us hosting the end of the first leg into Auckland, before they fly to Christchurch and on to Phoenix Airfield in Antarctica. This will be exceedingly busy with more than 200 aircraft expected for the first leg. We are finishing the year with Cross the Ditch in December; the summer edition is always busy though we may hope for a quieter one after World Flight.