VATNZ QUARTERLY REPORT Q2 2023

Executive Summary

Highlight for the quarter was the winter cross the ditch event held in June in association with VATPAC. There was a record number of aircraft movements recorded with a high level of participation from outside the local divisions. The cross the ditch events have been running for a long time now and its pleasing to see their popularity continuing to increase. Thanks to the events and planning staff on both sides of the Tasman who make this happen.

Overall aircraft movements for the period were in line with the first quarter. There was reduction in ATC hours but no real trend is evident when comparing data from the last 2 years.

The new discord policy came into effect in April and since its introduction, moderation on the discord server has been almost unnecessary. A pleasing trend and long may it continue.

Administrative Report

Membership
Membership increased during the quarter from 759 to 776.
The number of active members, that is members who have connected to the network in the last 90 days decreased to 215.
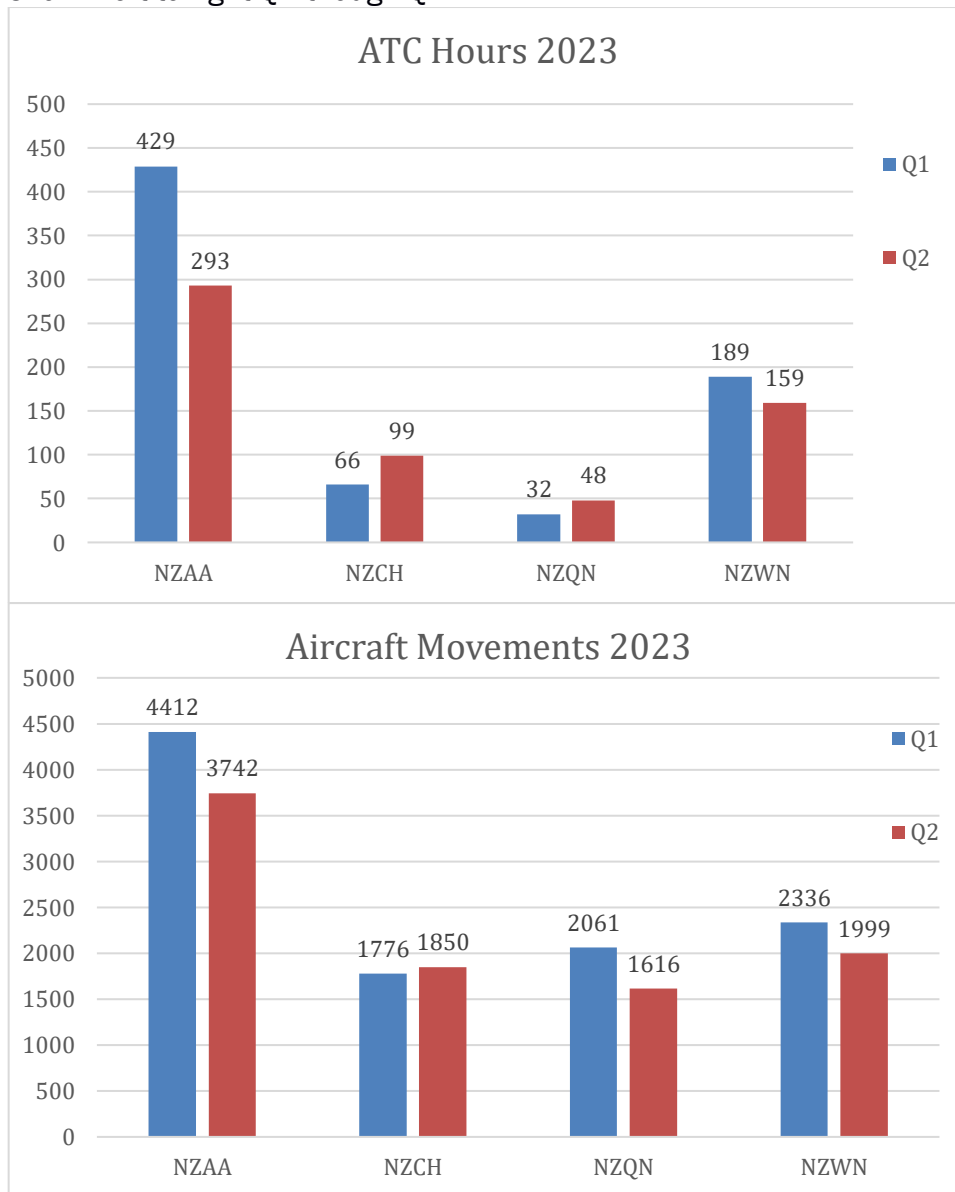.

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Operational Report

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

Operations report

Project Update

The Operations Department has had a good quarter with the release of our SOPs project and subsequent updates of the vatSys and Euroscope Datasets.

Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)
In April we finally released our new SOPs to the public, currently this contains brand new and improved content for:

- All NZZO Airspace – (Pacific & Oceanic)
- Enroute Airspace
- NZAA, NZWN, NZQN
- NZCH (90% complete)
- Controller Skills
- In-depth guide to contributing to the project – open source.

Our goal is to bring all content to the new platform, but this will take time as almost every aspect of the current SOPs are being improved or reworked entirely. The community should expect a roll-out of content over time, updates will be provided through the appropriate channels.

All AIRAC update changelogs are now being hosted on the SOPs site, any rush revisions are still being announced on discord.
We do not have analytics setup for the project yet, however we hope to have this done by next quarter and will have numbers to share at a later date.

Dataset Update
Our datasets have had 2 AIRAC updates and 1 revision release. 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.

The procedure checker in our Sector File Generator app has continued to help iron out any abnormal entries in the data we receive and has helped ensure that no errors are present in our dataset. Special thanks to our Airspace Manager (Tom) for compiling the datasets in such a timely manner.

We continue to await the release of vatSys server which will enable many new features within vatSys, including the ability to run sweatbox sessions, which is currently not possible.

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We will continue to work with the developer and training department to ensure a smooth transition to the new software when it becomes available.

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 in Q3.

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

Finishing Statement

We are thrilled to have the SOPs out in the wild and hope the community is enjoying the new content. we will focus the next quarter on QOL improvements within our controller clients and will continue to roll out more SOPs to the community.

We are still looking for one member to join the team, members are encouraged to email an EOI to Operations@vatnz.net

Air Traffic Control Training

Staff Members

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

Holders of the I1 and I3 ratings that are inactive in the training department are usually re-graded to their previous controller rating (section 3.3 of the VATNZ Mentor/Instructor Policy and the VATSIM CoR applies). Two inactive I3s are affected, so their intentions will be ascertained before re-grades are applied.

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Students

Theory courses: 3 internal and visiting controller students are currently enrolled in theory courses across the syllabus. During the quarter, 13

students were declared abandoned due to no progress through the theory training.

Practical courses: 33 internal and visiting controller students are currently making their way through practical training across the syllabus.

Congratulations to the following for their new VATSIM ratings in the period:

Cameron Moffatt S2

Michael Tompkins S1

Paige Newport S1

Jake Wigston S1

Caio Diehl S1

In addition, Pascal Seeler from VATSIM-GERMANY qualified as a VC-ENR controller with us. Well done to you all.

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 also. The facility is there to be used. Besides, it's what Airways do (OJT– on-the-job training, what the Aussies call OTS – over-the-shoulder – training).

Activities

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

A continued thanks to Fenton Loveday, Deputy Training Director, for these continued enhancements.

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 in the coming weeks. Two significant proposals are the introduction of a three-hour time limit to theory examinations and a 48-hour "cooling-off" period between theory examination attempts.

As the current website does not allow these limits to be coded into the process automatically, the proposal is that students are passed to the Training Director for a knowledge check if the restrictions are not observed.

Coursewares are undergoing an audit and refresh process, with about 95% of this work completed. Not included in this work is the ATC Phraseology Manual, as this is a separate development tied in with Operations Department refresh projects. The remaining major work lies in the visiting controller material and additional questions for the theory examination question banks.

The VATSIM Global Ratings Policy (through the VATNZ Board and Operations Director) remain the authority to which the Training Department aligns. However, the new proposed GCAP to replace the GRP is on the horizon. The Training Department courseware refreshment project has this in mind, and when the GCAP day finally comes will only require cosmetic changes (e.g., to course titles and other administrative trivia).

Closing

There remains a lot to do behind the scenes, but we are all continuing to work hard on

continuous improvements. It's an exciting and fertile time in the department.

Events Report

The Events department has had a quieter quarter, with only Cross the Ditch occurring. This event was one of our busiest yet, with more than 300 aircraft movements in and out of our airports. Controller turnout has improved; however, we still lack controller numbers.

Night Shift

Night Shift has been running well, with significantly increased attendance once we added it to the global calendar. The event has transitioned to a more cyclic format with specific types of events, catering to the different types of flying. These include:

• Christchurch Control! – Open NZZC event. All positions and routes are open.

• Discover! – A focus on a particular place or theme.

• Fly in! – GA event on a particular field.

• Freight Run! – Freight routing between AA, CH, and PM.

• Friday Night Ops! – More niche events with lower expected turnouts or which may not appeal to the general audience.

• Region! – Focus on a region.

• Route! – Sequential hops around VATNZ Airspace.

• Speed Run! – Routing between AA, CH, QN, and WN – The big four.

• xx Ops! – Themed on a particular type of operations.

• Non-Normal! – A move away from the big four with any of the other formats.

More types will be developed as and when needed.

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Cross the Ditch

In conjunction with VATPAC, we had the biggest Cross the Ditch ever. With routes cycling between NZ airports and YSSY, we had 783 total movements. Barring some controllers who gave reasons, all controllers showed up for their positions. This time the more significant issue was the overall lack of controllers, with us struggling to fill all the positions at all the times we needed to.

First Wings

The planned First Wings event for VATNZ did not run this quarter due to issues with the planning.

World Flight

With the release of the world flight route for 2023, VATNZ's sole contribution will be a short section of oceanic airspace between Wilkins Runway and Union Glacier.

Staff Members

Currently, the Events Department has three members, including the Events Director. One of these members is part of another department. We have dropped the event team members' requirement to hold an S3 controller rating to help find more applicants. We will continue to seek new members to join the team throughout 2023.

Finishing Statement

The Events department has had a busy Q2 for 2023. We are looking to create some more fun events for 2023; however, we continue to need the support of the controllers and pilots to make this happen.

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: 7 July 2023