



VATNZ QUARTERLY REPORT Q1 2021

Executive Summary

Q1 has seen further growth for the division. An increase in aircraft movements, ATC hours and membership.

There have been changes with staff on the VATNZ board which has brought new ideas, and initiatives. Stepping down as Events Director was Eric Coufmann. Eric was our longest serving Events Director in the division and we owe Eric a lot for his hard work, and commitment to the division and its membership.

Mark Richards has re-joined the board as Deputy Director, Alex Dent joins as Events Director, and Tom Kilpatrick joins as Controller Operations Director.

The knowledge and experience within the board will allow the division to grow and adapt as necessary for the benefit of our members.

Administrative Report

Membership

Membership increased from 662 to 667 during the quarter. The number of active members, that is members who have connected to the network in the last 90 days remained pretty static at 286.

Network Activity

Aircraft movements and ATC hours online increased when compared to Q1 2020.

Aircraft movements were up from 4680 to 6927 and ATC hours increased from 828 to 1088.

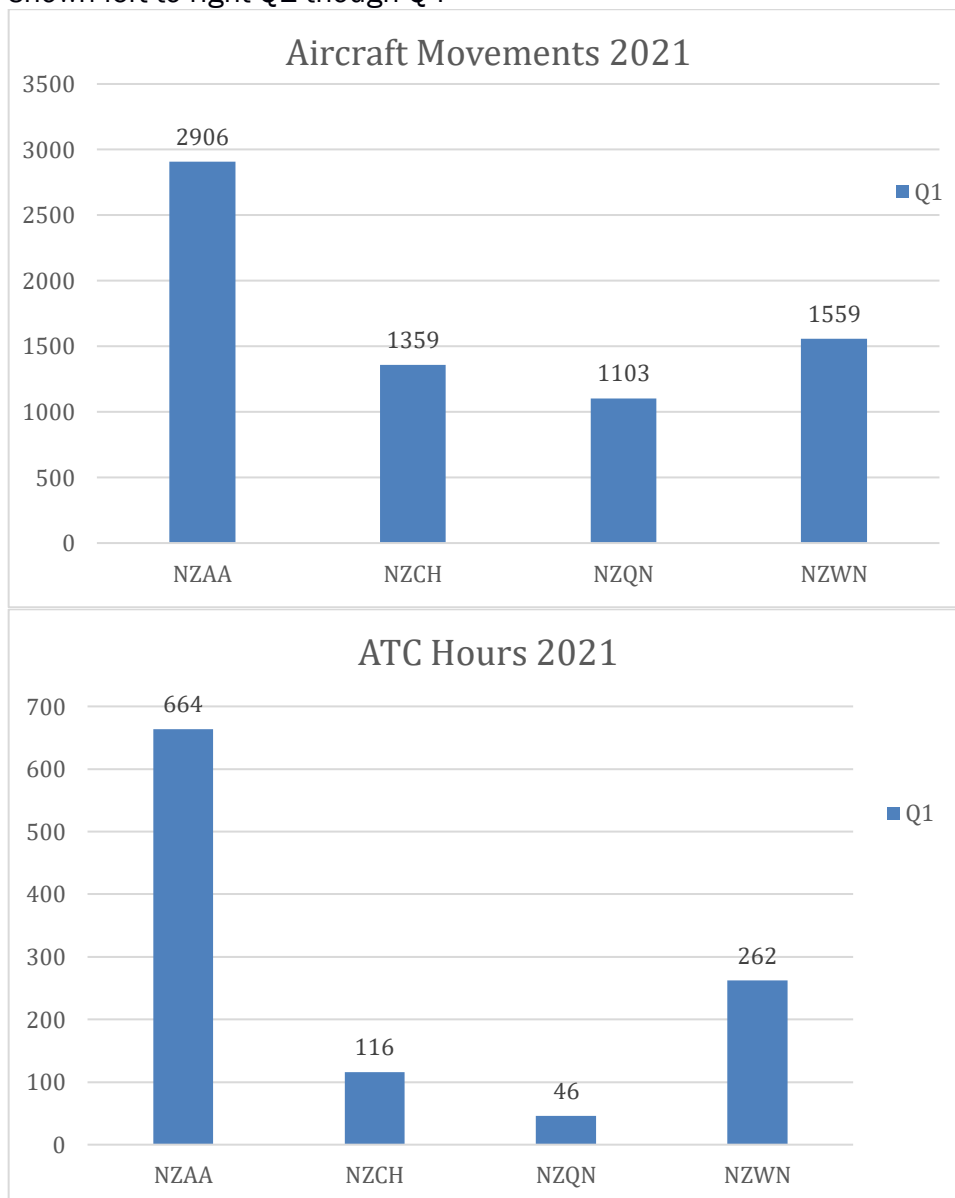


VATNZ QUARTERLY REPORT Q1 2021

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





VATNZ QUARTERLY REPORT Q1 2021

Operations report

The start of 2021 has been very busy for the VATNZ Operations Department with the progression of core outputs, in addition to the initiation of other projects. The Operations Department underwent a leadership change early in the year, having now found a consistent rhythm.

Airspace

Since the beginning of the year only a handful of changes have been made to VATNZ's airspace. Changes include the introduction of Ohakea Approach in the central North Island, and some minor changes to position frequencies; further aligning them with their real-world counterparts. The past quarter has also seen Queenstown lose its' Procedural Aerodrome status; for which new Standard Operating Procedures were released.

Other changes include the removal of multiple NDB stations, with more removals anticipated for the second and third quarters of this year.

This quarter we authorised the exclusive usage of various Military Operating Areas (MOAs) by the Virtual Royal New Zealand Air Force, who recently gained their VSOA accreditation. The Operations Department looks forward to working further with the vRNZAF in the future.

Data

Perhaps the most significant output of the Operations Department is our Controller Client data. In the past quarter we released the New Zealand Dataset for vatSys, which required a monumental effort by multiple parties to produce. The overall reception of the vatSys client has been incredibly positive, with around eighty percent of our Controllers using the new Client.

VATNZ also continues to support the EuroScope client; where the majority of our Controller training takes place. In the past quarter our EuroScope data has undergone a significant update, bringing the data further into line with the New Zealand AIP. As stated in the ATC Training Department's report, a EuroScope to vatSys Course is being produced to introduce Controllers to the vatSys client and its' significantly different controlling methodology. The Training and Operations Departments continue to work closely together to further enable our Controllers and their development.

The Operations Department has initiated a streamlining project for our Data, working to eliminate the significant overhead involved in producing our Datasets. Peter Story, the Head of AIS from VATPAC, has been working with us to create a centralised airspace



VATNZ QUARTERLY REPORT Q1 2021

processing client and database. This serves as a central editing and export repository for both the vatSys and EuroScope clients, simplifying the workflow for producing an AIRAC release. This project will also vastly enhance the quality and quantity of data that is provided to our Controllers, allowing for a more streamlined experience within our FIR.

Other Projects

In the past three months, the Operations Department has also initiated other projects aimed at enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of our Division. With the assistance of our IT Director, we have implemented a Feedback System. This allows us to track, audit and action feedback from across the Division. This also allows for greater awareness amongst the Board of the issues occurring within the Division. So far this has worked incredibly well, with some fantastic feedback pertaining to our Controllers.

The Department has also initiated a project aimed at formalising the release of NOTAMs within our Division. This project is aiming to increase the awareness of any changes within our FIR by having a centralised NOTAM system; which then exports the data to a variety of sources, including our Controller Clients. This project is still in its' infancy, with no ETA at this stage.

Conclusion

Overall, it has been a very busy first quarter for the Operations Department, with some very significant outputs. The New Zealand Airspace has some significant changes occurring this year, so no doubt the tempo will only grow from here. We will continue to work with the rest of the VATNZ Board, our Members, and the rest of the VATSIM community to further enable and enhance our region, making New Zealand a great place to fly.

Tom Kilpatrick
Controller Operations Director



VATNZ QUARTERLY REPORT Q1 2021

Air Traffic Control Training

Staff Changes

- Tom Kilpatrick – Appointed Controller Operations Director
- James Ford-Hathaway – Appointed Instructor (I1)
- Bailey Pellow – Resigned Instructor (I1)
- Alex Dent – Appointed Mentor (TWR,TMA,ENR,/O)
- Fenton Loveday – Appointed Mentor (TWR,TMA,ENR,/O)
- John Leat – Appointed Trainee Mentor (TWR)
- Jordan Head – Appointed Trainee Mentor (TWR)
- Mikey Robinson – Appointed Mentor (TWR, TMA, ENR)

Commentary

The start of 2021 has been busy for the VATNZ ATC Training Department with new projects and demand for ATC Training being extremely high. Through Q1 2021, the ATC Training Department has welcomed six new mentor appointments, welcomed James Ford-Hathaway to the role of Instructor 1, and welcomed Tom Kilpatrick to the role on the VATNZ Board as Controller Operations Director. Furthermore, this quarter the ATC Training Department has seen 28+ controller trainees go through the training department with 12 of those trainees graduating this quarter. As always, the ATC Training Department is excited to see VATNZ controllers continue to expand and develop their ATC knowledge and skills.

Please join the VATNZ ATC Training Department in congratulating the following controller's trainee graduates who have completed a new rating or endorsement through Q1 2021.

- Alex Cutforth – S2 + Procedural Tower
- Alex Dent – Pacific Oceanic Endorsement (/O)
- Arav Andre – C1
- Blake Tibbits – C1
- Joseph Cremona – Procedural Tower
- Joshua Clark – S3
- Juyong Park – S2(VC)
- Sean Avery – C1
- Tom Lyall – S2
- William Chiu – S3
- Xavier Gibbons – S3



VATNZ QUARTERLY REPORT Q1 2021

Updates

In Q1 2021, interest in the released Tower, TMA, and Enroute Visiting Controller courses, and VATNZs Pacific Oceanic Agreement course continue to grow which was very promising. Updates to Queenstown procedures (removed from a procedural tower aerodrome) meant the ATC Training Department having to update the Procedural Tower course and moving the course to Nelson. This future-proofed the course as there are no current plans to remove Nelson as a controlled aerodrome (in the real-world) in the future.

Furthermore, Q1 saw the creation of a Euroscope – vatSys Conversion Course which will help controller trainees change over from Euroscope to vatSys if they wish. The ATC Training Department aims to have this completed by the start of Q3 2021. In Q3 2020, the ATC Training Department reported *"VATNZ controllers will be slowly migrating to vatSys"*. Upon review in Q1 2021, the ATC Training Department has decided that ALL training (except /O) will be conducted on Euroscope and then once the controller trainee has graduated, they will be converted over to using vatSys. The ATC Training Department continues to work with the Operations Director on this issue.

During Q1 2021 the ATC Training Department also created training material on the use of departure clearances (DCL) for use on vatSys after training has been completed. A DCL is the New Zealand version of a pre-departure clearance (PDC) where an IFR clearance is passed through the aircraft CPDLC system instead of traditional methods via VHF/HF radio. A DCL reduces frequency congestion, controller workload, and are intended to mitigate delivery/read back errors. This can be accessed [here](#). As the ATC Training Department won't be teaching this content to a trainee during their S2 training, it is important that all qualified controllers read over the DCL training material.

Furthermore, the Department has amended the Mentor/Instructing Policy with guidelines on the recognition of prior learning. This allows the fast track of students who have proven that they have real-world aviation experience. The trainees must satisfy the training department that they hold the necessary skills required to be fast-tracked (CPL + IR etc.).

Lastly, looking ahead into Q2, the VATNZ Training Department continues to work on standardised ATC training assessments, creating a set standard for mentors to follow (including but not limited to lesson plans, making ATC training courses easier to follow, TMA and enroute training manuals, and adding further information to enhance a controllers skill set).



VATNZ QUARTERLY REPORT Q1 2021

Conclusion

The ATC Training continues to thank the VATNZ community for their continued support and feedback. If you have any suggestions for the ATC Training Department please head over to www.vatnz.net/feedback and notify the Training Syllabus Director with any feedback you might have. Furthermore, you can use 'Controller Feedback' to file any controller feedback you might have. On behalf of the entire Training Team, have fun with your new ratings and remember our door is always open.

Rating	Completed	Terminated	In Progress	In Theory
Student 2	2	1	4	0
Student 3	3	1	4	1
Controller 1	3	0	6	0
Procedural Tower	2	0	0	0
Oceanic Endorsement	1	0	0	1
Visiting Controller	1	1	2	3
In Total	12	3	16	5

Cam Tyson

Director, Training Syllabus

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: 02 April 2021
