VATNZ QUARTERLY REPORT Q1 2023

Executive Summary

A positive start to the year for the division. When compared to Q1 in 2022 ATC hours online increased 7% and aircraft movements increased by 33%. Some of this can be attributed to events that occurred in the quarter.

Administrative Report

Membership

Membership increased during the quarter from 771 to 774.
The number of active members, that is members who have connected to the network in the last 90 days decreased to 216.
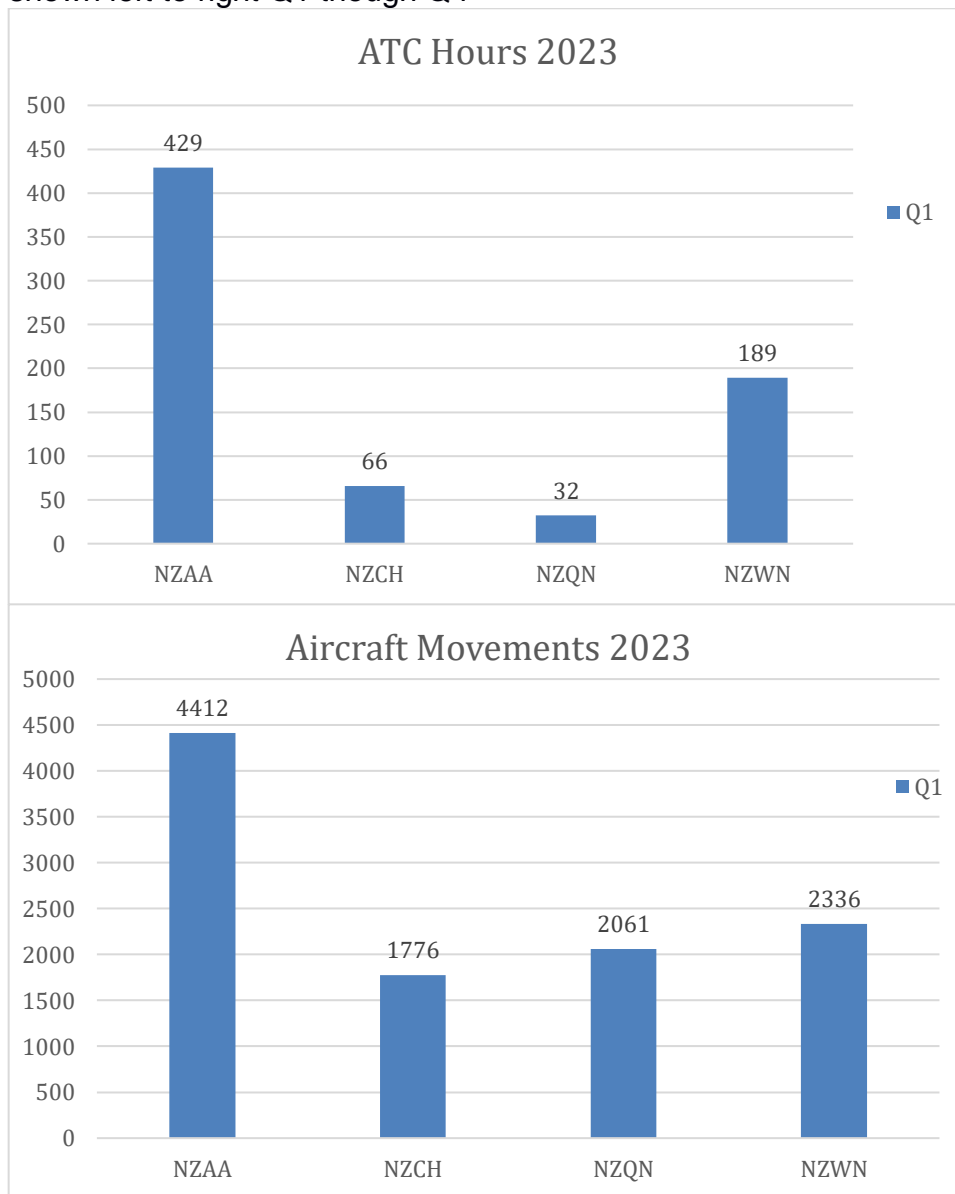
Community Engagement

During the quarter the VATNZ Discord policy was reviewed and completely rewritten. A revised draft policy was released early March for community input, and after evaluating the feedback the new policy came into effect 1 April 2023

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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

Project Update

The Operations Department has had a good start to 2023 with our project output being steady, with smaller projects being completed or maintained.

Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)

As reported in our Q4'22 report the SOP refresh project is still in progress and is coming along nicely, most of the content has been completed and our contributors are working to enhance the site with new features while also developing new content pages. We intend this project to go live in Q1 2023.

Dataset Update

Our datasets have stayed more or less the same since Q4'22 with a few AIRAC releases and a handful of revisions, the procedure checker within the sector file generator app has been most helpful in improving automation in our dataset update processes. We continue to work with our providers to provide the most up to date data for our dataset users.

Staff Members

The Operations Department has welcomed one new member to the team in Q1 2023, Richard Bywater has joined us. Other members remain the same however Connor Sumner has also continued to climb the ranks in the training department as an Instructor (I1). We are looking for 1 extra member to join the team.

The team consists of:

Mikey Robinson Operations Director

Tom Kilpatrick Operations Team (Airspace Manager)

Connor Sumner Operations Team/Training Team

Richard Bywater Operations Team

Finishing Statement

Overall the operations department has had a steady start to 2023 and we continue to improve our current products while introducing new projects to the division.

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Air Traffic Control Training

Staff Members

Currently, the Training Department consists of seven active mentors. Five are VATSIM instructors (I1) or senior instructors (I3). More mentors and mentor-to-instructor upgrades are contemplated in the coming weeks.

In addition, there are five inactive mentors; three are instructors (I1) or senior instructors (I3).

Holders of the I1 and I3 ratings that are not active in the training department usually are re-graded to their previous controller rating (section 3.3 of the VATNZ Mentor/Instructor Policy and the VATSIM CoR applies). Three of our inactive I3s are affected, so their intentions will be ascertained before any re-grades are applied.

Students

Theory courses: there are 17 internal and visiting controller students currently enrolled in theory courses across the syllabus.

Practical courses: there are 34 internal and visiting controller students currently making their way through practical training across the syllabus.

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

Fenton Loveday I3

James-Ford Hathaway I3

Tom Lyall I1

Connor Sumner I1

James Stuart S2

Charles Budoy S2

In addition, Ben Marling and Levi Daniel were appointed to the Mentor staff in the department. Congratulations to you all.

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General

Introduction of the S1 Tower Trainee rating - update

The S1 Tower Trainee training scheme has been running for nearly 12 months, with continuous refinements and improvements applied throughout the time.

With increasing experience, we have been able to set a new prerequisite for enrolment in the course – 50 hours connected to the VATSIM network as a pilot, over a minimum of three months, unless candidates can demonstrate appropriate equivalent experience (e.g., equivalent experience on a similar network, or real-world experience. The previous requirement for 10 hours of meaningful observation is moved to a new "observation component" which is undertaken after the theory exam and before practical training.

Activities

Sweatbox training files are being updated and married to specific training and assessment exercises concurrent with the training refresh project. A PseudoPilot guide is also under development. 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 there are too many separate policy statements scattered across multiple documents.

Some, such as the Mentor/Instructor policy contain very outdated material, while others are buried on the website. One single policy will be presented to the Board in the coming weeks, covering all material.

Coursewares are undergoing an audit and refresh process, with about 85% 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.

No attempt has been made to align the coursewares and existing and updated training policies with the proposed VATSIM GCAP. However, a close watch is being made on developments in this area. The VATSIM Global Ratings Policy (through the VATNZ Board and Operations Director) remain the authority to which the Training Department aligns.

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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 busy quarter with quite a few major events. Generally, these have run well, with good turnouts from pilots. However, a consistent theme between these events is several controllers failing to arrive for their rostered period without notice.

Night Shift
Night Shift has been running well, with significantly increased attendance once it was added to the global calendar.

24 hours of VATSIM
VATNZ hosted the departure airport of Auckland for the first leg of the new 24 Hours of VATSIM event in March. The event was one of our busiest, with over 60 departures in two hours.

Staff Members
Currently, the Events Department has three members, including the Events Director. One of these members is part of another department. A request for applicants to join the Events Department was fielded to the division with negligible results. We will continue to seek new members to join the team throughout 2023.

Finishing Statement
The Events department has had a busy Q1 for 2023. We are looking to create some more fun events for 2023; however, we will 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: 5 April 2022