

RAANZ President's Report AGM 2014.

Having been appointed to the position of President earlier in the year after 30 years of microlighting it is my pleasure to provide this report for 2014.

The executive committee has remained stable over the past year and have participated actively dealing with many topics. I thank members of the executive for their contributions.

This AGM will see almost all of the current executive retiring after their three year terms but they are eligible for re-election. It is important that we do have experience within your executive while at the same time allowing for the introduction of new members with new ideas.

The executive debate is mainly carried out via the RAANZ electronic forum. This means of communication and debate, whilst cost effective when you have members spread from Southland to Northland, does lose a bit of the personal touch and is not necessarily everyone's favourite. To counter this a mid year face-to-face meeting was held during June in Christchurch. Costs for this event were kept minimal with conference facilities donated, out of town members being billeted, accommodation donated and some private aircraft transport used in place of commercial flights.

Immediately prior to this AGM another face-to-face meeting was held.

It is intended that the electronic means of discussion will remain as our mainstay; the face-to-face meetings will continue to be held on a regular basis.

RAANZ is and will continue to be a club based Incorporated society with the main aim of "promoting and fostering the flying recreational aircraft" To assist with this RAANZ has significant delegated authority from CAA under rule Part 149. This delegated authority involves significant personal responsibility and I would like to thank; CEO - Evan Gardiner, Administrator - Stuart Parker, Technical Officer – Colin Alexander, Operational Officer – Bill Penman and Helicopter Officer - Bradley Yorke for their work over the past year and putting their reputations on the line to ensure the membership continue to enjoy the sport as cost effectively and with the less restrictions as possible. Very recently the North Island continuation of the successful South Island roadshow was started. I would like to thank Colin and Bill for their presentation and Stuart for the administration of these events.

I would also like to thank those active members out in the field who day in day out promote the sport and ensure operations are carried out in a safe and compliant manner. The groundwork done at a local level is essential to the operation of RAANZ. Clubs are generally the entry point for people entering and progressing through the aviation environment.

The importance of this entry point cannot be over emphasised and clubs must be aware of their responsibility in this entry, mentoring and monitoring process. New participants in any aviation sector must be made fully aware of the responsibilities and privileges that go with entry.

I attended the annual Fly-in held in Feilding earlier in the year. It is extremely pleasing to witness the camaraderie and activity during this very popular event. Start booking and planning your trip to next year's event to be held at Waipukurau March 7-8. This event demonstrates that the sport is in good heart but work is always needed to maintain that. Thanks to those clubs that host this event. There is considerable work involved and I am always impressed with the local logistical skills and enthusiasm demonstrated. The Cri-CCri is looking forward to it's trip north.

We have maintained an active association with CAA during the year with a Memorandum of Understanding meeting held in Wellington in July. RAANZ continues to work with CAA to ensure

the sport remains safe and as affordable as possible. I have always said that we do have one of the best Microlight operating legislative frameworks in the world and it is essential that we are proactive in maintaining it, nipping problems in the bud before the Director of CAA receives any bad press.

e are competing with many other organisations for the discretionary spend which over the last few years for a lot of people has become less and less. An advertising campaign over the last year or so has maintained membership which has been a worthy achievement.

We are also faced with a membership that is ageing and with a significant shortfall in new younger members coming on board. It may be worthy in General Business to discuss these matters.

Thank you.

Rodger Ward