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## VATNZ QUARTERLY REPORT Q2-2024

### Executive Summary

Last quarter, Andrew Moseley wrote his final report as the Division Director. On behalf of the Board and members of VATNZ, I acknowledge the many years of dedication and hard work that Andrew has put into VATNZ as Division Director and in many other roles before that. Ironically, Andrew replaced me as Division Director when I was appointed Regional Director more years ago than I even want to remember. It's been many years since I wrote a Divisional Quarterly Report! Andrew has left me a hard act to follow.

On 15 June 2024, the most highly supported "Cross the Ditch" event to date, and VATNZ was fortunate that this winter's focus was on Auckland Airport, which had waves of flights between Auckland, Brisbane, Sydney, and Melbourne. The twice-yearly all-day event jointly hosted by VATNZ and VATPAC continues to grow in popularity with the VATSIM community worldwide, with pilots from all regions participating. I thank the Controllers from both Divisions for their long hours behind the scope and the hundreds of pilots who flew during the event.

### Administrative Report

#### Membership

At the end of the quarter, VATNZ's total membership had grown to 1118 members, up from 1075 members at the end of Q1. This increase in membership is a testament to VATNZ's growing popularity.

It's encouraging to note that the number of members who have connected to the network in the last 90 days has increased to 400, up from 306 in Q1. This growth in engagement is a positive sign for VATNZ's future.

#### Board Direction

The Board met in May to set a direction as we enter the next phase of leadership. Following that meeting, it was determined that, for now, we will not fill the Deputy Division Director role that I vacated while we build the strength of the departments.

Both the IT/Web and Community Engagement teams will grow to build capacity, with a focus on social media, and provide succession planning. Nick and James will work out the finer details in the coming weeks and call for expressions of interest from the membership.

Mark Richards  
Division Director  
10 July 2024



# **VATNZ Training Department Quarterly Report Q2 2024**

Prepared by  
Gary Parata  
Training Director

**Version:** 1.0  
**Effective:** 2 July 2024  
**Authority:** Training Director

## 1. Document Control

VATNZ Training Department Report Q2 2024 Version 1.0		
Date	Version	Description
2 July 2024	1.0	Initial production of the Document
	1.1	

### 1.1 Change Process

- 1.1.1 Amendment proposals are made by contacting the Training Director at [atctraining@vatnz.net](mailto:atctraining@vatnz.net).

## 2. Document Overview

- 2.1 This Document reports on the activities within the Training Department for the second quarter of 2024.

### 3. Staff Members

- 3.1 Currently, the Training Department consists of seven active mentors. Five are VATSIM instructors (I1) or senior instructors (I3).
- 3.2 The department had one resignation during the period.
- 3.3 In the coming weeks, a call for expressions of interest to fill the vacancy and two more new positions will be made.

### 4. Students

- 4.1 Theory courses: 22 internal students and visiting applicants are enrolled in theory courses across the syllabus. A further 14 students have completed theory requirements and are awaiting mentor assignments.
- 4.2 Practical courses: 39 internal and visiting applicant students are undertaking practical training across the syllabus.
- 4.3 The following ratings were achieved during the period:

S1	6
S2	1
S2 (Procedural Approach)	0
S3	0
C1	0
C1 (Oceanic)	1

## 5. General

### 5.1 Rules and Policy

- 5.1.1 The cumbersome VATNZ S1 policy, particularly cl 6.2.2 (not to be confused with 6.2.2 below), remains under review as part of the broader proposed VATNZ ATC training policy.
- 5.1.2 Visiting Controllers: From 1 June 2024, only S3s and higher can apply as “visiting applicants.” There are no envisaged issues for VATNZ.

### 5.2 Activities

- 5.2.1 Sweatbox training files continue to be updated and married to specific training and assessment exercises concurrent with the training refresh project and continued thanks to Fenton Loveday, Deputy Training Director, who is managing this process.
- 5.2.2 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 before December 2024.
- 5.2.3 The next big project is scheduled to begin in Q3 2024 – migrating the courseware to a .xml platform using Python, similar to the SOP migration project. The administrative functions of the department are not part of this upgrade.

## **6. Closing**

As always, there remains a lot to do, but we continue to work hard on improvements.

Gary Parata

TRAINING DIRECTOR



# VATNZ Events Department Q2 2024 Report

**Version:** 1.0  
**Effective:** 1 July 2024  
**Authority:** Events Director



## 1. Events Update

The Events department has had a busy quarter with several major events. Generally, these have run well, with good turnouts from pilots.

### 1.1 *Night Shift*

Night Shift has been running well. We have been investigating how we can continue to provide well-received events whilst also reducing the load on the team around the crunch times. So far, it appears that the “Christchurch Control” type events have had the best response from the community; we intend to investigate how we can build off this. We are currently trialling a month of events based around Wellington (NZWN).

### 1.2 *ANZAC Parade*

ANZAC Parade was a well-received event this year, occurring on the Monday following ANZAC Day, with a good turnout from both controllers and pilots.

### 1.3 *Cross the Ditch*

Cross the Ditch Winter 2024 was a well-received event between VATNZ and VATPAC. With a slight delay to allow for more planning time, it ran well with 330 flight bookings and 898 movements. The department intends to solicit further feedback from the division about the event in a more structured manner than has been done previously. Once again, we had issues with controllers committing to control and then failing to attend or having committed to something else that they gave precedence to.

## 2. Staff Members

Currently, the Events Department has three members, including the Events Director. These members are all part of other departments and/or have other significant commitments. A request for applicants to join the Events Department was fielded to the division with negligible results. We are currently looking for someone with experience in graphic design.

## 3. Finishing Statement

The Events department has had a busy Q2 for 2024. We are looking to create some more fun events for the rest of 2024; however, we will need the support of the controllers and pilots to make this happen.



# VATNZ Operations Department Q2 2024 Report

**Version:** 1.0  
**Effective:** 29 June 2024  
**Authority:** Operations Director

# 1. Department Update

The Operations Department has had a productive quarter, Q2 saw us produce the largest dataset update in quite some time – more details on this below.

A steady flow of SOPs updates were pushed through the pipeline this quarter, and we continue to work towards a full modernisation of current SOPs. A new project management system was also enacted, enabling easier tracking of contributions and open tasks, internal discussions are ongoing regarding the publicity of our projects, enabling the department to be more transparent with the community going forward.

Last quarter we submitted our proposal for the new Global Controller Administration Policy, which superseded the Global Ratings Policy. This proposal included changes to our some of our controller positions to align them with this policy.

At time of writing, we have not had a reply to our proposal and discussions are ongoing to reach an agreement on our proposal.

## 1.1 Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)

This quarter we moved over to a new project management platform, and reorganized the way we group tasks within the SOPs project, to enable easier tracking of issues, PRs and new contributions. There are currently 26 open issues and 18 commits have been made to the project in Q2.

Invercargill Tower was released alongside Cycle 2406 and CH TMA is in the first stage of review.

## 1.2 Controller Datasets

Cycle 2406 was an extremely large update, with over 59,000 lines of code altered, comparing that to our largest previous release, Cycle 2104, with just over 55,000 lines of code altered. To put this in perspective, Cycle 2406 release was approximately 7% larger than the Cycle 2104 release, and 586% larger than our last routine release, Cycle 2312.

Many thanks to our provider, Aeropath for access to the ANR data package ahead of it's release.

### 1.3 Project Management Platform

This quarter we changed our project management platform from Linear to GitHub Projects. GitHub provides a much simpler way to manage all our projects in one place rather than spread over 2 or 3 platforms. We successfully moved all tasks for the SOPs and controller client data over to GitHub, and have streamlined the way we move content through the review process and into production. Discussions are ongoing to make our progress on projects more transparent going forward, it is our intention to make our project boards public in the near future.

## 2. Staff Members

In Q2 we issued an expression of interest for a new member to join the department, if the position is filled it will help the team balance the current workload and boost productivity. We will update the division of any changes within the team through the usual channels.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>
<b>Mikey Robinson</b>	<b>Operations Director</b>
<b>Tom Kilpatrick</b>	<b>Operations Team (Airspace Manager)</b>
<b>Connor Sumner</b>	<b>Operations Team/Training Team</b>
<b>Richard Bywater</b>	<b>Operations Team</b>

### 3. Finishing Statement

A great quarter for the Operations Department, Cycle 2406 was a great test for the technology behind the dataset production and many thanks to the entire operations team for their continued work within the division.

*Members wishing to seek further details about our projects or anything aforementioned in this report can visit the notams channel in the [discord](#) or connect with us directly at: [operations@vatnz.net](mailto:operations@vatnz.net)*

Best Regards,  
Mikey

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