



VATSIM Oceania

Quarterly Report to the Executive Committee Q4 2009

The final quarter of 2009 has seen a lot of personnel changes throughout VATSIM Oceania. We have a new Regional Director and two new Division Directors. These changes are:

- Mark Richards – Appointed to Regional Director
- Shannon Wells – Appointed to Division Director – VATPAC
- Nick Johnston – Appointed to Division Director – VATNZ

I would like to thank Rob Hooley for his work as the VATPAC Division Director for the past eight years and has been instrumental in moving the Division forward from strength to strength. Rob is taking a well earned break and enjoying time online flying and controlling and getting back to doing what we all love!

Whilst thanking people, I would like to thank Terry Scanlan for the superb job he has done for so many years as the Regional Director of VATSIM Oceania. Terry has served a number of times as Executive Committee Chair and has been involved in almost every facet of VATSIM there is. He has represented the views of the members of the Oceania Region to ensure that we had a voice! Terry now moves to the VATSIM Board of Governors as the Vice President – Operations and I have no doubt he will continue his good work there.

Most of my work in the past quarter has been involved in final drafts and recommendations to the VATSIM Board of Governors of the VATSIM Global Ratings Policy v2.0 and this has involved several online meetings in addition to many daily emails and drafts flying all around the world. The nature of our organisation sees these sorts of changes take a lot longer than any of us would like because of the geographical boundaries and time zone differences that all members of the Executive Committee. It was thrilling for us to see this come to fruition and the new GRP2 announced to the members in late December and effective from 1st January 2010. My thanks to the others members of the EC for their work on this.

Representatives of each VATOCE Division have been continuing to work with VATSIM USA on the Oceanic Partnership which will eventually see a common Oceanic Endorsement for members of all three divisions able to provide Oceanic ATC services in all three divisions, which will hopefully see more Controllers certified to open the Oceania Stations of Auckland Radio, San Francisco Radio, Brisbane Radio, Nadi Radio, Tahiti Radio etc. Work is progressing on this slowly and it is planned that this should be finalised no later than the end of the first quarter of 2010, hopefully sooner!

The Region continues to work with VATSIM Europe to establish a **South Pacific vACC Pacific Sud** to promote ATC and Flying around the Pacific. It has been particularly important to work with VATSIM Europe due to several areas in the Pacific being under French rule and being French speaking. Work continues to progress on this under the leadership of Jackson Harding, VATPAC's Deputy Division Director, and it is planned that this should be finalised no later than the end of the second quarter of 2010, if not before!

Work will begin in early 2010 to ensure that all members of VATSIM Oceania are assigned to either VATPAC or VATNZ as a high percentage of the members are not assigned to a Division. This will ensure that a Division looks after them and provides for a clear direction for all members of the Division. It will also ensure that any member being dealt with but the Conflict Resolution processes of VATSIM have their matters dealt with more expediently.

Of significant achievement this quarter has been the approval of a trial of Information Regions (UIRs) using FSS to provide Enroute control services covering continental Australia. This initiative has seen ATC services available for more pilots flying across Australia. The trial ends on 28 February 2010 and it is hoped that a case can be made to the VATSIM BoG to have this as a permanent arrangement.

2010 will be a busy year in VATSIM Oceania with a number of new initiatives planned to promote flying and controlling in our part of the VATSIM world.

Mark Richards
Regional Director
10 January 2010



VATPAC Quarter 4 Report

The last 3 months in VATPAC has continued to see positive levels of traffic, with the WorldFlight event in November being the highlight.

We have had several staff movements during this quarter.

- Steve Ollis (Director of IT)
- Steve Cotterill (Director of Pilot Services)
- Dave Neil (Director of Events and Communications)
- Luke Bruce-Smith (Training)

I would like to congratulate them on their new roles, and look forward to seeing what work the staff can do over 2010.

However, with new staff means that we have lost some staff. This quarter saw the departure of Andrew Carr, Sean Harrison and Neil Brown from the staff ranks. I thank for their great work over several years, and look forward to seeing them online through over avenues.

The issues which plagued our website in the previous quarter have been subsided, primarily due the efforts by the IT department, in particular, Steve Ollis. The website is due some updates, and plans are underway to make the website more dynamic over 2010.

In this quarter, VATPAC undertook a survey of its members, attracting over 200 responses. The survey was seeking to get the opinions of members as to what they like / dislike about being online, what they believe could be done to improve the service that VATPAC provides as well as general questions about what software they use when on the network. The results of this survey are viewable at <http://vatpac.org/forums/showthread.php?p=81937#post81937> and will be used to formulate strategic plans for 2010 and beyond.

VATPAC is pleased to have received approval from BoG, for a two month trial of FSS positions over continental Australia. Similar in style to EuroControl, the YMMM_FSS and YBBB_FSS "supersectors" will be responsible for controlling airspace about FL245. VATPAC is excited that they have been authorised to trial this, and look forward to seeing the results of this over the months of January and February.

Shannon Wells
Division Director



VATSIM New Zealand

Quarterly Report to the Regional Director

Q4 2009

The final quarter of 2009 has been a period of change and growth within VATNZ. There have been a number of personnel changes on the VATNZ board and the incoming staff have begun putting their stamp on the division's operations.

Despite the inevitable disruptions due to a change of leadership, VATNZ remains in a strong condition.

Controller activity remains healthy, while division flight hours are very strong. This is in part due to the division hosting its largest ever VATSIM event, drawing record numbers of participants from across the VATSIM world.

Membership growth has continued, with a number of new controllers joining the division's ranks, and morale among staff and non-staff members alike is good.

Staff Changes

Division Director

Following Mark Richards' promotion to Regional Director – Oceania, a new Division Director was selected by the VATNZ Board and Founders. Nick Johnston had previously held the position of IT Director and assumed the role of Division Director from the beginning of Q4.

Deputy Division Director

Jason Epps-Eades resigned from the position of Deputy Division Director at the start of the quarter. No replacement has been selected, however this will be a matter for the board to consider early in 2010.

ATC Training Director / Pilot Training Director

The position of Training Director was disestablished and replaced with two new board positions focussed separately on ATC and Pilot training.

The former Training Director, Leon Gibbs, was appointed Pilot Training Director. As well as his previous VATNZ board experience, Leon is a real-world flight instructor. His new role will focus on providing training materials, opportunities and support to help improve the calibre of pilots in the division.

David Walsh was appointed ATC Training Director. Prior to transferring to VATNZ in late 2008, David was a staff member at VATSIM's ZLA division and was part of the ATC training team. In addition he is a real-world tower controller based at Hamilton (NZHN).

Training

The division's Training department has already seen significant benefit from the new Training Director structure. The addition of a second board-level training director has increased the level of activity and enabled each training director to focus more specifically on their area of responsibility. David has worked well with the existing training team and together they have made great progress in taking the division's training efforts forwards.

Among the changes to the department this quarter:

- Significant review and expansion of the training syllabi and testing regimes using the division's Moodle-based training site.
- Reorganisation and more formalised training request and reporting process.
- Development of training scenarios for Sweatbox and Euroscope-based controller training. There is now an ongoing programme of development of new scenarios based around different controller positions throughout the VATNZ airspace.
- Implementation of a Pilot Feedback form to allow pilots to submit feedback on the controllers they encounter whilst flying in VATNZ airspace. Specific feedback can be taken up with the controller in question if necessary, but this tool is also proving useful in identifying general areas of ATC skill/behaviour that require greater focus in the training process.
- Numerous new articles published in both the ATC and Pilot sides of the training department.

Under the new leadership team, training at VATNZ looks destined to go from strength to strength in the new year.

Events

The division's regular Sunday Night Ops events have continued throughout this quarter. These have been a staple of VATNZ life for the past two years and continue to be by far the busiest time of the week in VATNZ airspace, however attendance has plateaued in recent months. The Board have discussed steps to keep the SNOs vital and engaging for the division members. These include an effort to plan and publicise upcoming event themes ahead of time as there is a clear correlation between the amount of forward publicity and the turnout for the event. Also, in 2010 it is planned that the SNOs will be interspersed with a number of larger events which will help to provide a greater variety of event type and scale to challenge and interest the division's pilots and controllers.

December 6 2009 saw the staging of the inaugural Cross The Ditch event. This was a joint Trans-Tasman event hosted in conjunction with the neighbouring VATPAC division. The event ran over sixteen hours, specifically timed to allow pilots in any part of the world to attend. This was particularly successful in bringing new pilots from Europe and the Americas to Oceanic airspace – often for the first time – and the event resulted in a record turnout for any event staged in VATNZ airspace. There were over 130 flights booked ahead of time, and despite the relatively small size of the division, VATNZ was able to provide complete multi-level coverage across its airspace for the length of the event.

It is anticipated that Cross the Ditch will be held every six months in the future. In the meantime, the division will be looking to find more opportunities to organise joint events with VATPAC.

Oceanic Partnership

Work on the Oceanic Partnership – the joint Pacific oceanic training and endorsement programme with VATNZ, VATPAC, and VATUSA – has been relatively slow going this quarter.

In large part this is due to the impact of the end-of-year season and the delays incurred as a result of personnel changes at the individual divisions.

VATNZ continues to strongly support this programme, and hopes to see it become operational early in the new year.

Membership

There were 24 new members who joined VATNZ and became active during this quarter.

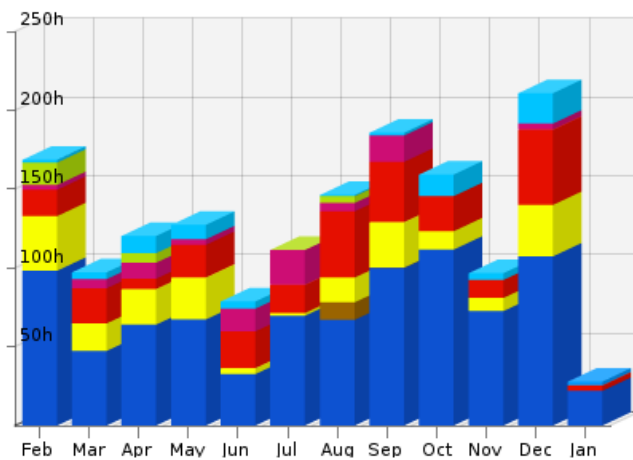
There were 21 VATNZ members who provided ATC in VATNZ airspace during the quarter.

There were 116 VATNZ members who flew in VATNZ airspace during the quarter.

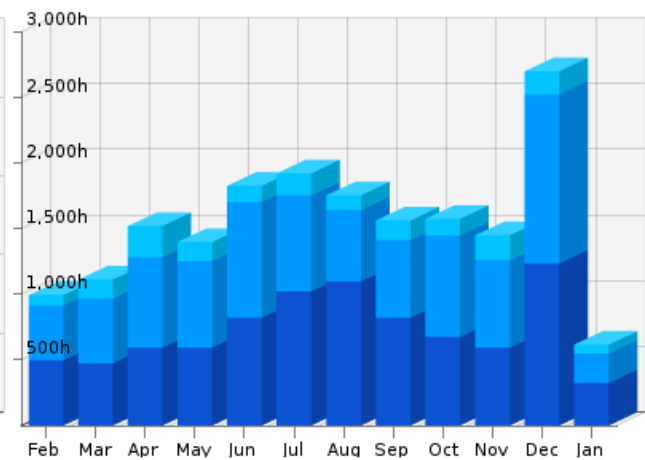
Activity

Flight and ATC activity have both remained strong during the quarter. The activity levels in December are particularly high as a result of the Cross the Ditch event and the ongoing Operation Deep Freeze flights that take place in VATNZ's airspace during the Antarctic summer.

VATNZ ATC Activity by Airspace



VATNZ Flight Activity by Category

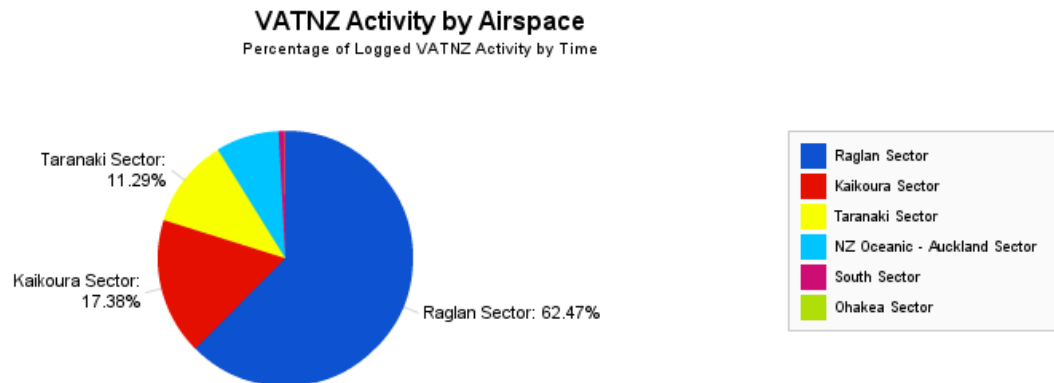


Airspace

As usual, the Raglan Sector (formerly Auckland Sector) has been the most frequently manned position. Again, Cross the Ditch has affected the controller spread as the four sectors which were manned as part of the event are heavily favoured.

Airspace Summary

A summary of the recorded controller activity in VATNZ airspace broken down by airspace.



#	Airspace	Name	Sessions	Time Online	%
1	NZCH-R_CTR	Raglan Sector	244	291h 40m	62.47
2	NZCH-K_CTR	Kaikoura Sector	99	81h 10m	17.38
3	NZCH-T_CTR	Taranaki Sector	36	52h 44m	11.29
4	NZZO_FSS	NZ Oceanic - Auckland Sector	18	37h 18m	7.99
5	NZCH-S_CTR	South Island - South Sector	2	3h 52m	0.83
6	NZOH_CTR	Ohakea Sector	1	9m	0.03
6	airspaces		400	466h 55m	

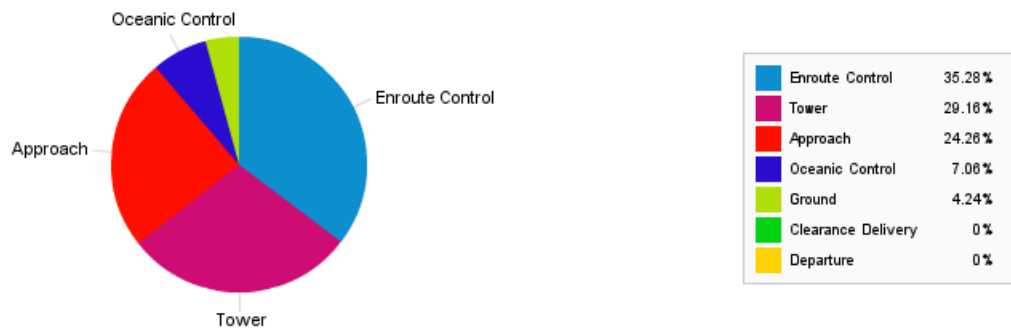
Position Type

Enroute Control remains the most frequently staffed position type. However, partly due to the Cross the Ditch effect, and more particularly due to the increase in the number of tower and approach controllers within the division ranks, activity is far more evenly distributed across those three position types. Compare this to Q4 2008 where Enroute Control represented nearly 50% of controller hours.

Position Type Summary - Q4 2009

A summary of the position types that have recorded activity in VATNZ airspace.

VATNZ Activity by Position Type
Percentage of Logged VATNZ Activity by Time



#	Type	Sessions	Time Online	%
1	Enroute Control (CTR)	149	164h 44m	35.28
2	Tower (TWR)	133	136h 08m	29.16
3	Approach (APP)	91	113h 17m	24.26
4	Oceanic Control (FSS)	16	32h 58m	7.06
5	Ground (GND)	11	19h 47m	4.24
7	position types	400	466h 55m	

Flights

The majority of flights continue to involve the three main New Zealand airports. This is exacerbated during the quarter by the fact that those three airports were the VATNZ airports for the Cross the Ditch event.

Auckland and Christchurch alone make up nearly half of all flight movements for the period.

The main airports in Tonga and Samoa feature prominently this quarter in 4th and 5th places respectively, receiving over 450 flights between them. This is most likely due to increased activity in the region following the Samoan Tsunami.



- **Note:** Flight Activity is only included if the flight passes through VATNZ airspace.
- **Note:** Flight Time Rankings are based upon flight time that occurs within VATNZ airspace; not total flight time.

#	Airport	Flights	% of All Flights	Average Duration	Arrivals	Arr/Dep Ratio	Departures	Internal	Int/Ext Ratio	External
1	NZAA	1304	28.19	3h 24m	701		603	645		659
2	NZCH	880	19.02	3h 02m	465		415	593		287
3	NZWN	459	9.92	1h 49m	195		264	341		118
4	NSTU	255	5.51	4h 07m	119		136	133		122
5	NSFA	204	4.41	4h 30m	95		109	111		93
6	NZQN	150	3.24	1h 53m	57		93	126		24
7	NZHN	78	1.69	1h 03m	42		36	71		7
8	NCRG	76	1.64	3h 23m	38		38	51		25
9	NZDN	72	1.56	1h 46m	34		38	65		7
10	NZWB	63	1.36	1h 06m	32		31	62		1

Summary

Q4 2009 has been another successful one for VATNZ. Despite a number of staff and structural changes, activity levels and member satisfaction has continued to grow. With the ongoing evolution of the division's training regime, and a newfound ambition driving the events programme, VATNZ is in a strong and healthy position heading into the new decade.

Nick Johnston,
DIVISION DIRECTOR

10th January 2010