



Gliding and General Aviating for NZQA Credits

Contributed by Jill McCaw

THERE IS great news for aviation minded young people. Thanks to the efforts of Vern Grant, CFI of Gliding Wairarapa and Senior Science teacher at Kuranui College in the Wairarapa, the Aviation, Tourism and Travel Training Organisation (ATTTO) and the New Zealand Qualification Authority (NZQA) it is now possible for young people to turn their aeronautical experiences into credits for their National Certificate of Educational Achievement (NCEA) qualifications.

The units are designed for school age students who may be interested in aviation as a career. Working through the Gateway Programme which provides vocational training through schools, young people can opt to do an Aviation placement. The programme is available in both power and glider units. This programme is not yet rolled out nationwide but aero and gliding clubs are working to have it ready. In the meantime it is possible for young people with flight training up to PPL in power planes and GPL in gliders to transfer that training to level 3 NCEA credits.

ATTTO have worked with the Christchurch Aero club to develop a programme which introduces young people to career paths available in aviation and teaches them about flight. Over a period of ten weeks students spend one day a week with their local aero or gliding club. In the trial programme last year with Christchurch Aero Club the students received a pack including a year's free membership, the first three flights of their PPL and a log book. These costs are not included in the school's programme but were offered at reduced rates by the aero club. The school covers the cost of the work books and assessments for the course.

The ten week programme is a structured programme of events including an introduction to the club and meeting with the instructors. As well as their three flights, airfield 'etiquette', how to wash aircraft and why, preflights, refuelling and visits with the mechanics at the aero club were included on the days spent at the club. Other days involved visits to the control tower, radar centre, Air New Zealand Maintenance and the Crash Fire unit. They talked to helicopter pilots and discussed helicopter training and were visited by an Airforce recruiter and an Air New Zealand commercial pilot.

Vern Grant says, "Gliding Wairarapa, with the assistance of Dave Evans, Aircraft Industry Training Advisor from ATTTO and the NZQA, constructed the (Unit standard) equivalent (of the flight training) program for gliding. All six standards are based on Gliding New Zealand's protocols for training. It is suspected that other aviation industries will follow, including helicopter and ballooning

enterprises. The whole concept of including this type of assessment for a sporting body in the nation's assessment framework is rather unique and is replicated, I think, only in Germany.

"Kuranui College in Greytown is now assessing against the six gliding standards. The college has been running the National Certificate in Aviation Level 2 course for several years now and

already some of the students have achieved 6 credits at level 4 on the framework for flying a glider to A certificate level. Level 4 on the framework is equivalent to first year tertiary study. I believe we are the first college to do this. All assessments on the framework need to be moderated and ATTTO have indicated that the CFI in any gliding club has the credentials to do this."

If young people are interested in the 10 week Aviation vocational course they should approach the Gateway Programme adviser at their school. Be aware that not all Aero or Gliding clubs in the country are prepared for or able to provide this programme yet. Hopefully if there is enough interest in an area then something can be arranged for your club. For information on turning flight training into NCEA credits, in the first instance see the ATTTO website ATTTO.org.nz and/or approach your CFI.

Gliding New Zealand is very excited about the potential this programme has to introduce interested and motivated students to our sport. As a parent of keen

aviators I personally am very excited by the way this programme and many other Gateway vocation programmes keep school meaningful and relevant to young people who may otherwise drift away from education. Having some NCEA credits in the bag for my solo glider pilot is a bonus.

I am Jill McCaw, editor and publisher of Gliding NZ's official journal SoaringNZ. For more information on the magazine or to learn more about gliding in New Zealand see the GNZ web site: www.gliding.co.nz



AVIATION CAREERS

- » Pilot – fixed wing/helicopter
- » Flight Attendant
- » Aircraft Mechanic
- » Flight Instructor
- » Avionics Engineer
- » Aircraft Manufacturer
- » Air Traffic Controller
- » Aviation Engineering
- » Aviation Maintenance
- » Ramp Operator
- » Aeronautical Engineer
- » Aeronautical Storekeeper
- » Airport Maintenance Worker
- » Airport Customer Services Officer
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- » International Air Express Worker
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WANT TO FIND OUT MORE?

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ATTTO - The Aviation, Tourism and Travel Training Organisation

Images from the ATTTO Aviation Gateway Careers Guide and Principles of Flight Student Manual for obtaining NZQA credits

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