

# Launching the Aircraft Engineering Association of NZ

## A refocusing and rebranding of the AIA Engineering Division

from Don McCracken, Deputy Chair AIA Engineering Division and General Manager, The Vintage Aviator Ltd.

*One of the events planned for the Aviation Industry Conference Week in Blenheim at the end of July is the launch of the Aircraft Engineering Association of New Zealand. Don McCracken explains the focus and challenges of this group as it works to support and advocate for aviation Engineers in New Zealand.*



and information sharing. Membership to AEANZ will be as it has been under AIA membership for organisations and companies. However, individuals who are not companies will also be eligible for membership under the following grades:

- **LAME/ADE** - Licenced Aircraft Maintenance Engineer or Aeronautical Design Engineer.

- **AME** - Aircraft Maintenance Engineer or technician (non-licenced).

- **Trainee** - An engineering trainee, currently employed by a maintenance provider who is under an industry training provider contract. for example ATTTO, NMTI.

- **Student** - Any engineering student currently enrolled with an industry training provider university or other tertiary education provider, with the intention of joining the industry as a maintenance or design engineer trainee, to complete their qualifications.

Several members of the Society of Licenced Aircraft Engineers and Technologists have been approached regarding amalgamation with AEANZ and it is hoped that SLAET members will merge with AEANZ as one organisation representing aircraft engineers in New Zealand.

### Challenges for Engineers

There are a range of challenges which engineers must focus on today. Some of these come from being in the aviation sector such as the relentless pressure on

cost and the obsession aviation has with paper work. Other pressures come from providing engineering services such as the degree and level of control that must and should be exercised. Changes to Rule Parts have not always been implemented as smoothly or as consistently as needed. We're all at the leading edge of technology change and this on its own creates some pretty interesting opportunities. However at the moment we lack a strong and unified voice. It is too easy to think you are in this on your own when in fact peer and mentoring support can be provided.

### AEANZ Representation

AEANZ intends to still vigorously represent the interests of the commercial engineering industry. The change means that it can broaden and widen its horizons to include the issues that individual engineers must address. Recently there have been a number of local meetings of engineers held. Once the general levels of concern were broken through it was interesting to see how much commonality there is between all aspects of what is a very diverse sector of the industry.

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### For more information

If you are interested in becoming a member of AEANZ or would like further information, please feel free to contact David Watson on 04 472 2707 or email david.watson@aia.org.nz



**OVER THE** past twenty four months, the function and purpose of the AIA's engineering division and the value it adds to its members has been a serious discussion point at many engineering meetings. Many members have requested a forum for more effective communication between members and a desire for a collective voice when dealing with the regulator. This has prompted a refocus and rebranding to create the Aircraft Engineering Association of New Zealand, or AEANZ (pronunciation A-enz). At our last AIA council meeting, approval in principal was given to the new brand as an agenda item for ratification at the next AGM on Monday 27 July in Blenheim at the Aviation Industry Conference Week.

AEANZ will act as an individual entity, and be responsible for its own future, but remain under the umbrella of the AIA as a division. Communication in the past has been hampered by the lack of a satisfactory medium as well as inadequate funding to provide administration support and advocacy for engineers.

### A Focus on Membership

AEANZ focus will initially be on increasing membership, thus strengthening the voice of engineering. As membership and funding increases, additional member benefits such as an AEANZ website would provide a forum for communication

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