

A NEW OPPORTUNITY FOR THE HELICOPTER COMMUNITY

The NZ Helicopter Association (NZHA) was formed during 2009 to champion issues relating to the helicopter community and to give strength of numbers to provide the necessary political clout. To get things moving at the start of 2010 the Association wants to meet and talk with you, the helicopter operators, owners and pilots about the issues as you see them so that it can effectively advocate on your behalf.

There are a number of issues that were identified when the Association was set up but we are aware that there are others, as well as different local and regional issues around the country. The Association is keen to hear these and work out a strategy to address these for you.

Where is your future?

What is the biggest threat to the future of your operation? As a private pilot or a commercial operator, have you thought about this? What would be your answer? What would you do about addressing these threats?

What are the big local issues in the area that you operate?

What other things do you think are limiting the use or enjoyment of helicopters?

Now you have the chance to have your say and influence NZHA on how, where, when and to whom it should focus its attention. How - by running a series of participatory workshops designed to collect, rank and report information on issues affecting or likely to affect the operation of helicopters in NZ, as reported by pilots, owners and operators in the helicopter community. With that information we can then develop strategies and action plans that actually mean something and that will bring direct benefits to you. These workshops will chart the way ahead for helicopters in NZ and so it is essential you have your input.

When is the first workshop?

- Date:** Tuesday Feb 16th
- Location:** Queenstown
- Venue:** Copthorne Hotel and Resort (Same venue as the SMS Seminar on 17/18 Feb)
- Time:** 7pm – 9.30pm
- Who can attend:** Any one with an interest in the future of the use of helicopters in NZ.
- RSVP:** It would help if you could contact Bob Feasey at AIA (bob.feasey@aia.org.nz) or ph 04 472 2707 by Friday 12th Feb to indicate your attendance. An indication of numbers attending would assist with planning for the evening.

The workshop costs you nothing and doesn't interrupt your work day. Tea and coffee will be provided. It needs your input to make it successful.

Participatory workshops – what are they?

The name may sound fancy but what it effectively means is an opportunity to those attending the workshop to 'participate' in discussion with the very people who make up the industry. Individual pilots, owners and operators can evaluate their own situation, and consider options for the future of their operations and the industry. Information brought together from the workshops will then be used by NZHA to guide the support they provide to the industry, using the strength in numbers approach.

NZAAA ran very successful workshops like this in 1999, and again in 2000 and 2001. The 1999 workshop was designed to meet the following objectives:

- To identify common strengths, weaknesses, and issues across the agricultural aviation industry
- To explore possible options for addressing these issues
- To identify key sources of information which are important to the industry, and the accessibility of that information
- To identify options for the future of businesses in the industry

The result was a strategic plan that is still used today.

The Participatory workshop method involves some new ways of doing things and allows people to contribute in ways they find best suits them. And it works.

Contact one of the NZHA Executive or John Maber, Executive Officer NZAAA for more information.

NZHA Executive Contact details

Toby Clarke
07 377 8805 or 021 687 907

Louisa Patterson
03 442 2233 or 021 337 888

Larry Bennett
09 426 8287 or 021 929 964

Blair Chapman
03 302 8401 or 027 437 5824

John Sinclair
03 578 9684 or 027 314 2151

Richard Hayes
03 249 7167 or 0274 314 686

David Beck
06 764 7073 or 0274 502 562

Lloyd Matheson
03 2497167

Qwilton Biel
09 534 4803 or 027 493 5655

Peter Garden
03 443 8289 or 027 452 0575

or
John Maber 07 8298 121 or 0274 909 341
Executive Officer
NZAAA
www.nzaaa.co.nz
jmaber@gmail.com