

AGRICULTURAL AVIATION RECOGNISES OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE

The New Zealand Agricultural Aviation Association is pleased to confirm the winners of two awards presented at the Aviation Leadership Gala Awards Dinner in Hamilton on Tuesday 25 July.

'These awards recognise operational excellence and outstanding industry leadership in agricultural aviation,' said Alan Beck, Chairman of the NZ Agricultural Aviation Association (NZAAA).

This year's awards went to:

Brian Casey for his contribution to the development of the aerial top dressing industry in New Zealand. Brian is Chief Pilot of Phoenix Aviation in Gore and has 45 years flying experience. During this time, he has clocked up nearly 30,000 hours in the air and has spread around 400,000 tonnes of fertiliser. While enjoying the independence of flying, Brian has been a role model to company employees and the industry generally for his approach to safe flying, and is proud of his accident free flying record.

Jim Burtenshaw from CAA for his contribution to the Down to the Wire campaign. Jim is the Manager of the Safety Investigation Unit at the Civil Aviation Authority. Down to the Wire was developed by NZAAA to alert farmers to the risks posed to agricultural pilots by wires on farms and to encourage their removal. Jim was instrumental on the part of the regulator in encouraging the development of Down to the Wire and has worked closely with Worksafe to publish a wire safety notice.

'Both are thoroughly deserved recipients - it is great to be a part of an industry that can honour both its own and those outside the industry who bring significant positive benefits to us,' said Beck.

Presenting these awards was Alan Beck's last official duty as Chairman of the NZAAA. He has completed his term as Chairman and was replaced at the NZAAA AGM by Tony Michelle, Amuri Helicopters, Hanmer Springs.

For more information:

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Key facts about Aviation New Zealand

Aviation New Zealand exists to lead, inspire and grow the New Zealand aviation industry.

It was established in 1950 to encourage the safe growth of the aviation industry in New Zealand. In more recent years, it has also become involved in helping the international development of its members.

- o Aviation New Zealand has over 260 members and over 1500 on its database
- o Members include agricultural companies, air operators (fixed wing and rotary), aircraft designers and manufacturers, the UAV industry, airports, aviation trainers, emergency and medical services companies, helicopter companies, and parts manufacturers.

Key facts about aviation in New Zealand

An 'early adopter' in aviation terms – first international customer for Boeing; first pilot training school 1916; first airmail 1919; and quick appreciation of the suitability of aviation for agriculture, tourism and forestry.

Over 4500 aircraft in New Zealand, one per thousand people, give New Zealand one of the highest aircraft per capita ratios in the world.

The industry

- exports to over 100 countries on all continents including Antarctica - we have proven success
- companies are highly regarded internationally for their quality, responsiveness and practicality – this makes us different to many of our competitors
- decades of policy innovation in New Zealand support competition, safety and growth -our local business environment is much better than that in many countries we do business with
- 30m km² of safely managed airspace - our systems and processes are scalable

Aircraft fit-outs, new aircraft (including UAVs), GPS track and tracing systems, high precision processes (for example bait and fire fighting), composites, titanium powders, and aviation industry business and operational systems are just some of the exciting technologies and practices developing in New Zealand which set the scene for growth in the next 100 years.