



VATSIM Oceania

Quarterly Report

Q3 2014 (July to September)

Quarter Three has seen the good work of the Divisions in the Region continue. There has been a steady flow of traffic and many hours of controlling throughout the Region. Naturally, the majority of this has been in the two most populous areas, Australia and New Zealand.

Evenings in both VATPAC and VATNZ airspace continue to be the most serviced by ATC but pleasing to see is a steady increase in ATC services on weekends.

I've been busy in my role as Executive Committee Chairman completing duties across the whole Network.

Events

VATPAC continues to be very active with events on several evenings each week. Full details of the very active events team are included in the VATPAC Division Director's report below.

VATNZ Sunday Night Ops is the main focus for VATNZ with steady streams of traffic up and down the country participating.

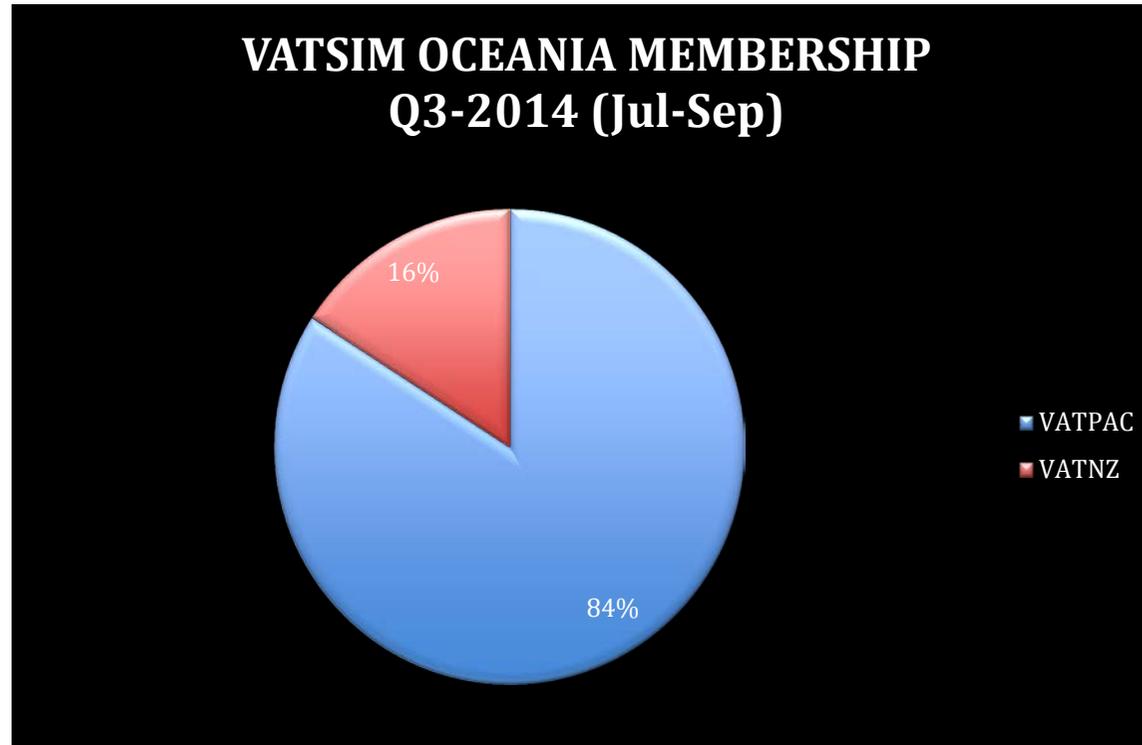
Staffing

VATPAC saw Callum Strawbridge step down as 'Newbie Ambassador'. His replacement and that of Stephen Cotterill as Operations Director are currently being sought.

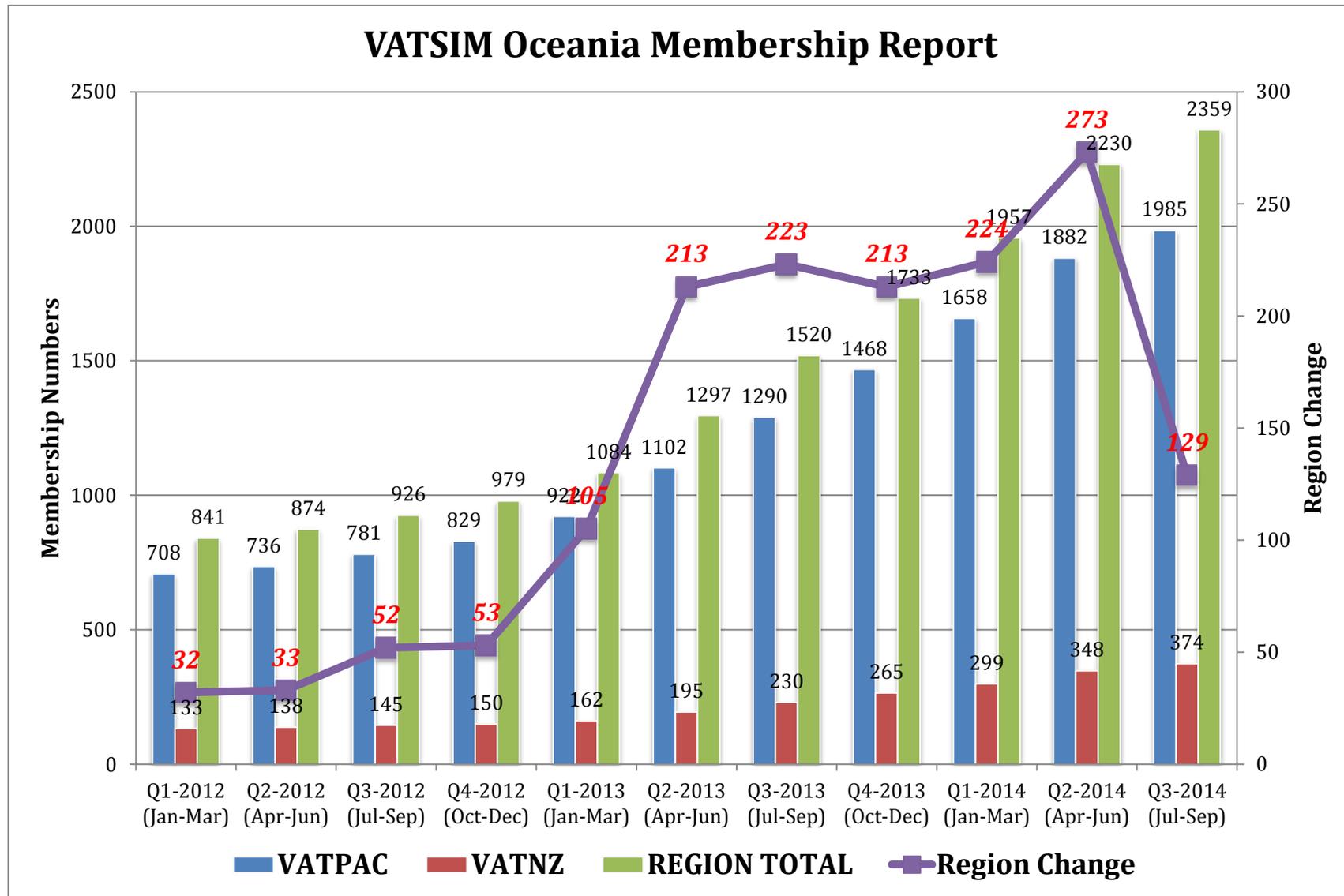
VATNZ has struggled with a significant number of inactive staff members and I am working with the Board to assist to restructure the board and get some growth back into the Division.

Membership

At the end of the Quarter, VATSIM Oceania has 2,359 members assigned to the region, seeing an increase of 129 members over Q2. Our membership continues to trend upwards which is a pleasing trend.



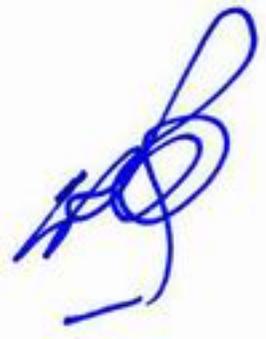
1,985 (84%) of the Region's members are VATPAC members with the remaining 374 (16%) in VATNZ, these percentages remaining unchanged since Q2.



Conflict Resolution

During the Quarter, the Regional Conflict Resolution Panel did not hear in cases.

Thanks to the hard working Division staff teams for their efforts this quarter.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Mark Richards', is positioned above the typed name.

Mark Richards
Regional Director
1 October 2014



VATPAC Quarterly Report Jul-Sep 2014

STAFFING

Mr Callum Strawbridge stepped down as Newbie Ambassador.

ATC TRAINING

As of 12 Oct, the following stats are accurate for training between June - September 2014.

Q3) Core Ratings)

Total assessment requests: 15

TWR

Total assessment requests: 10

Total competent assessments: 4

Total still in progress: 4

Total terminated: 2

TMA

Total assessment requests: 7

Total competent assessments: 6

Total still in progress: 1

Total terminated: 0

ENR

Total assessment requests: 3

Total competent assessments: 2

Total still in progress: 1

Total terminated: 0

TWR Course

The new TWR course is still in progress with expected release in Q1 2015.

PROC TWR Course

VATPAC now offers an endorsement for the many procedural towers in our airspace. This endorsement is available as an optional component between S2 and S3. I am saddened to say but somewhat not surprised to say that so far the course has had zero enrolments. This is expected given the stupid restrictions placed on this endorsement by VATSIM which state that an S3 controller can man a procedural tower even though they receive zero training in its procedures.

OPERATIONS

The Director of Operations Mr Steve Cotterill has been on extended leave of absence due to ill health. Several attempts to contact him have been unsuccessful. The Deputy Director Mr Arjun

Murthy has been administering the Operations portfolio in the interim. An advertisement has been placed on the VATPAC forums and applicants will be interviewed early in Q4.

Activity Q3

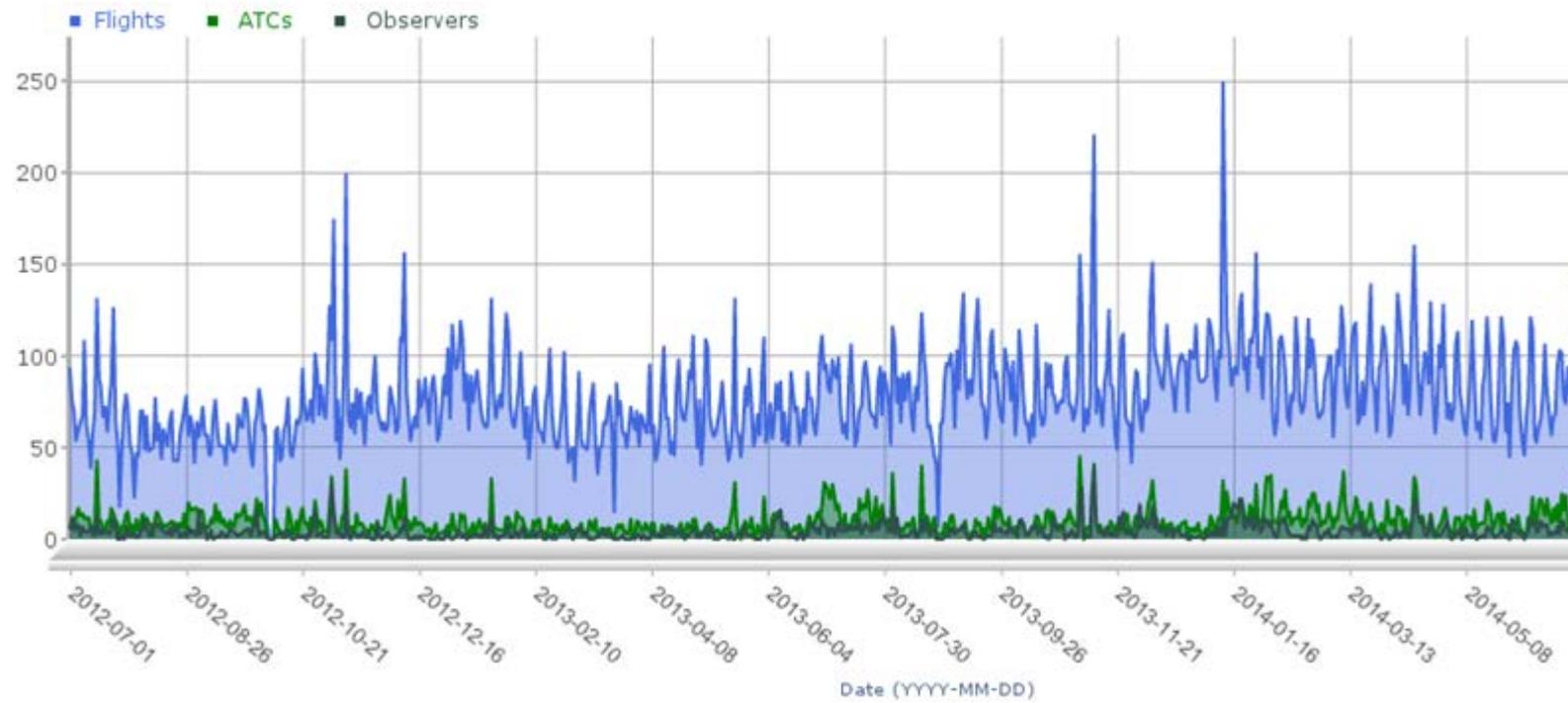
Last Quarter (Pilots)

<u>Flights</u> ▾	<u>Dom Flights</u>	<u>Int Flights</u>	<u>Movements</u>	<u>Dom Hours</u>	<u>Int Hours</u>
21885	14944	6941	36829	21705.31	27655.55

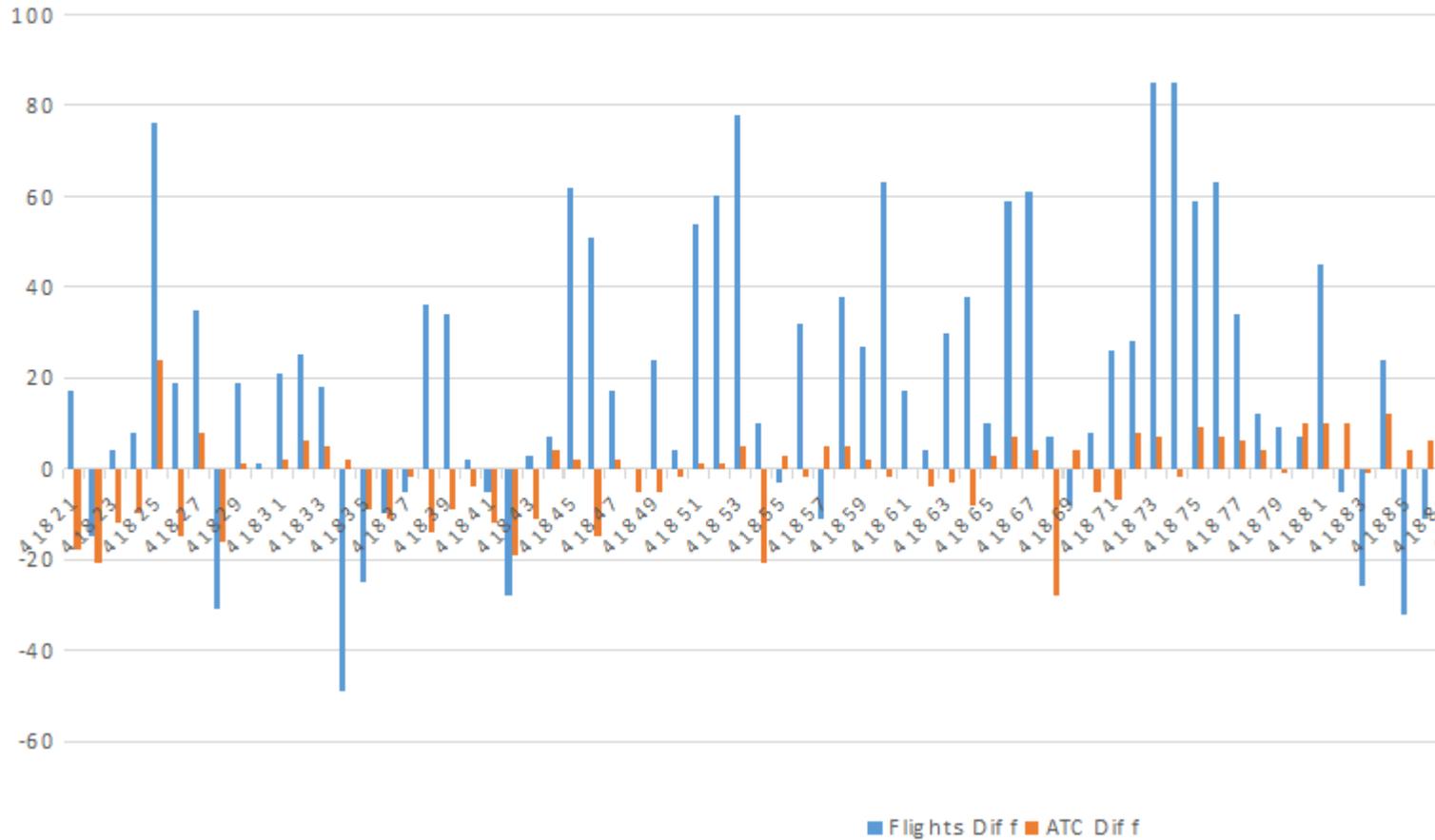
*Note: Dom = Domestic, Int = International

Last Quarter (ATC)

<u>ATC</u>	<u>ATC Hours</u>	<u>CTR/FSS (hrs)</u>	<u>APP (hrs)</u>	<u>TWR (hrs)</u>	<u>GND (hrs)</u>	<u>DEL (hrs)</u>	<u>OBS</u>	<u>OBS Hours</u>
2992	5153.46	1739.68	1538.92	1770.00	101.65	15.50	1224	1413.43



Q3 Comparison (Difference) 2013-2014



EVENTS

July saw the re-establishment of some of our regular events due to some great effort from Russell. VFR Ops, World Discovery, and Coast-to-Coast cruise are now firmly embedded in the Events schedule. July also saw another instalment of RealOps Sydney, facilitated by David Zhong. A very successful event and the Events Team acknowledge the time and effort put into facilitating the event by David.

August was mostly devoted to the first round of Nab the Pax. A massive effort from the IT Director went into preparing and testing the code for this event, and it was much enjoyed and appreciated by the participants. The event was designed to be lengthy, and mostly as a war of attrition, but the teams stuck to their task and the winning team was decided by just a couple of minutes. Feedback from participants was honest and positive as we had requested, and the feedback will be taken into account for the planning of the next round, tentatively scheduled for December. The Eastern Extremities tour continues to run each month. Participation is light, but those who do participate regularly are enjoying the concept. Regionals and Twins also made an appearance this month with excellent patronage from Canberra to Lord Howe Island.

September played host to Departure Slotmania Avalon. This presented an extra challenge as real world procedures were replicated including no DEL/GND/TWR services in the evening. Feedback received was that the event was chaotic, but fun. Exactly as the Events team intended 😊 Iron Mic Tasmania was encouraged during the school holidays, the attempt was unsuccessful.

Upcoming Events:

October is traditionally an intentionally quiet month for events. This is by design and is intended to increase participation in WorldFlight. The Eastern Extremities Tour is the only non standard event planned for October.

November is all about WorldFlight. For the first time, WorldFlight will depart on the weekend, which is expected to sit favourably with the general membership. The Director of Events will be onsite at WFHQ for the entire event and is also co-ordinating the roster for VATPAC members who have requested to do ATC onsite during the week.

December: The planning for December events has not yet taken place due to the Director of Events being a bit overworked in his day job over the last couple of months.

Other matters:

Newbie Ambassador

Callum Strawbridge's role as the VATPAC Newbie Ambassador has ended. Due to his commitments to finishing year 12, he is unable to dedicate the required time to the role. The process to recruit a new person to the role will be discussed at the upcoming VATPAC Board meeting.

Deputy Director of Events

Trent Hopkinson is currently in New Zealand for personal reasons. He is expected to return within a couple of weeks.

Communications Role

A need has been identified for a role dedicated to the communications portfolio. The current Director of Events and Communications is being kept extremely busy with events and with social media options growing by the day, we are not currently utilizing these communications opportunities. There is also a desperate need for web-page building skills within the Events team. How the role will work will be decided at the upcoming Board meeting but it is expected the new

role will report to either VATPAC2 or VATPAC5.

VATPAC Conference

There is some doubt as to whether or not the conference will go ahead in January. There are a couple of reasons for this. Firstly, the number of children who have registered has raised legal concerns about responsibility and the possible need for working with children permits. Secondly, it is proving difficult to persuade some people to present when they become aware of the large percentage of attendees that are very young. Further discussion on the topic is expected at the Board meeting.

PILOT TRAINING

For Pilot Training it has been slower than expected. We had high expectations of completing P2 and P3 by now. We have been looking at a number of Free cloud exam software and have been talking to ATC Training about these to see if there is any appetite for migration way from Moodle to a new, more user friendly, system. The Director of Pilot Training has used his real world contacts to start getting great material around the P2+3 exams. We also want to start getting these courses more interactive. We do not wish to get people to install software on PC for exams so we are still trying to figure out a better way to do that, however, for the learning component, we are trying to get real world commercial pilots to do “bits” for learning. We think that it would be fantastic to hear “ hi this is XYZ from Virgin and today I’d like to talk to you about” and get them to demonstrate via screencast the topic assigned to them.

A lot of great ideas about how to progress forward. The issue for the Director of Pilot Training at the moment is progressing forward. As soon as the learning software is sorted out, that will help moving forward, we do not wish to start populating a system that is just going to have to be migrated.

AIRSPACE

The production of AIRAC 1405 was completed before time and included a significant number of updates to the procedural approaches and departures for the majority of the major airports located on the East Coast of Australia. Peter Storey assisted with the identification of the deltas that were identified between AirServices Australia data and that stored within the VATPAC sector file definitions.

The production of AIRAC1408 has been slightly delayed due to the need to incorporate a number of additional changes that ATC training and pilot training have been identified. These include all aspects of the sector definition files including the broader sector definitions as well as GEO objects located within the files. It is anticipated that the generation of AIRAC1408 will be completed by the end of November as well as the additional AIRAC updates that will be generated as a result of the AIRAC1408 delay.

Due to the level of patching that is required in the sector files, a more significant testing phase is required to ensure that all ATC Controller clients still properly identify the appropriate sectors and that the correct sectors are highlighted when selected.

OTHER MATTERS

Once again we are being vexed with the continual disruptive and general poor behaviour of a small minority of the (mostly) younger members of our community. Whilst small in number their effect is considerable. While some have been disciplined by removal of their access to the VATPAC Forums and /or TeamSpeak rooms and very occasionally sufficient evidence is garnered to bring a formal disciplinary hearing via the DCRM, there is no obvious visibility of these actions ever having taken place other than a member going “missing” for a period of time. The old truism that “Justice must not only be done, it must also be seen to be done” is very much applicable here. The VATPAC Board is of the unanimous view that managing this behaviour would be greatly simplified if details of suspensions and the like could be made public. We understand that some people have concerns about the potential privacy concerns of such a policy, a view that we do not subscribe to, but we accept that others may have a contrary position. We do not however see any impediment to publishing such details if they were to be de-identified. We believe such publication of de-identified cases would act as a significant reminder to all in the community that poor behaviour can have and indeed has significant consequences. Publication of such de-identified details is the norm in many professions (for example the medical profession). We ask that the Executive Committee examine the possibility of such a process.

A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in black ink. The signature is cursive and appears to read 'J. Harding'.

Jackson Harding
Director of Division

VATSIM New Zealand

Quarterly Report to the Regional Director

Q3 2014

The third quarter of 2014 has been a period of improving results for VATNZ.

Staff Changes

There have been no staff changes.

VATSIM VP Membership vs VATNZ

The VATSIM VP Membership – Jim Johnson – continues to unilaterally withhold CERT access from Deputy Division Director Leon Gibbs without any valid reason. (See VATNZ Quarterly Report – 2014 Q2 for more details.)

This situation continues to be an egregious abuse of Jim Johnson's position.

This situation continues to have a negative impact on day-to-day operations within the VATNZ division, and upon the regard in which the larger VATSIM Board are held.

Despite submissions from the Division Director and the Regional Director, this situation continues to have been ignored by the VATSIM Board.

VATNZ continues to hold no confidence in Jim Johnson's fitness to hold any VATSIM Board position.

Membership

There were 34 new members who joined VATNZ and become active during this quarter.

There were 13 VATNZ members who provided ATC in VATNZ airspace during the quarter.

There were 138 VATNZ members who flew in VATNZ airspace during the quarter.

Overall there were 138 VATNZ members who were active in VATNZ airspace during the quarter.

The percentage of people who join the division but never become active is lower than previous quarters but remains high (20 out of 54: 37%). Improving this conversion rate remains a chief challenge for the division as a whole.

Website Changes

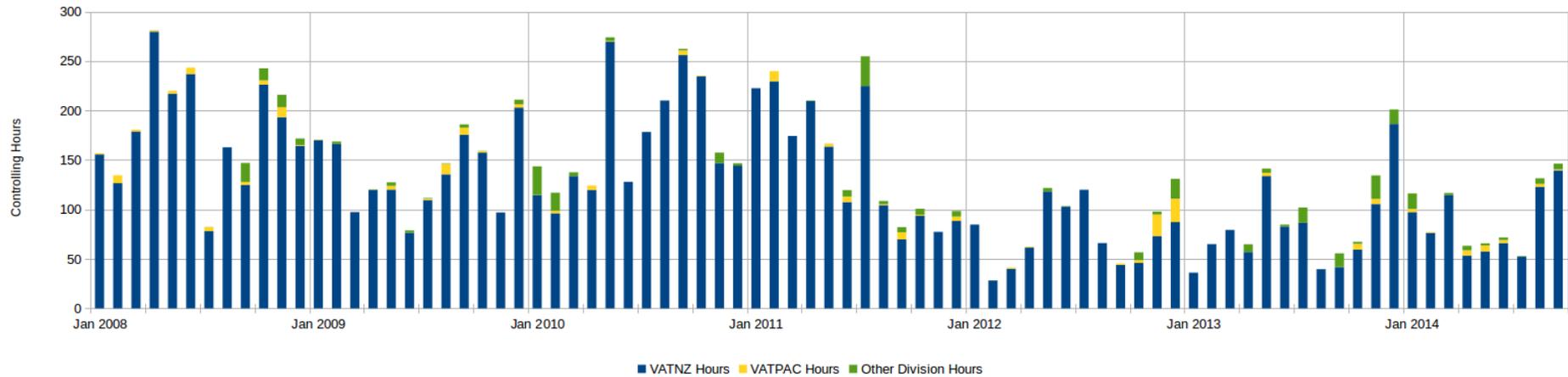
Following the launch of the new VATNZ website earlier in 2014, a number of new features have been added to the site this quarter:

- Improved Airport pages
- Improved Chart display
- Enhanced METAR Analysis and Display
- Integration of VATSIM Single Sign On

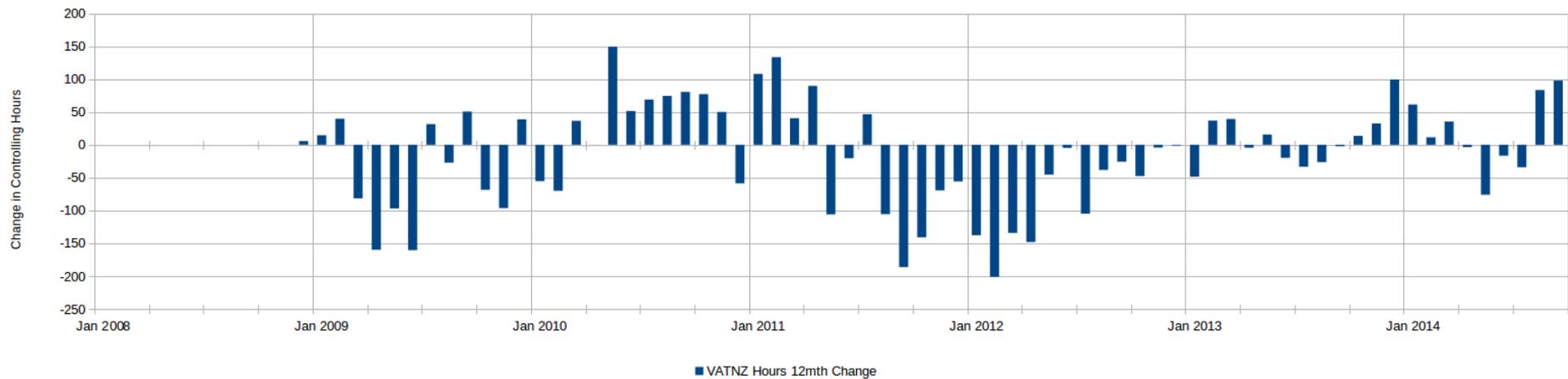
Controller Activity Hours

Controller Hours were up significantly compared with the previous quarter. While this is typical during the winter months, August and September were also notably higher than the same period last year.

VATNZ Controller Activity - Monthly Hours by Controller Division



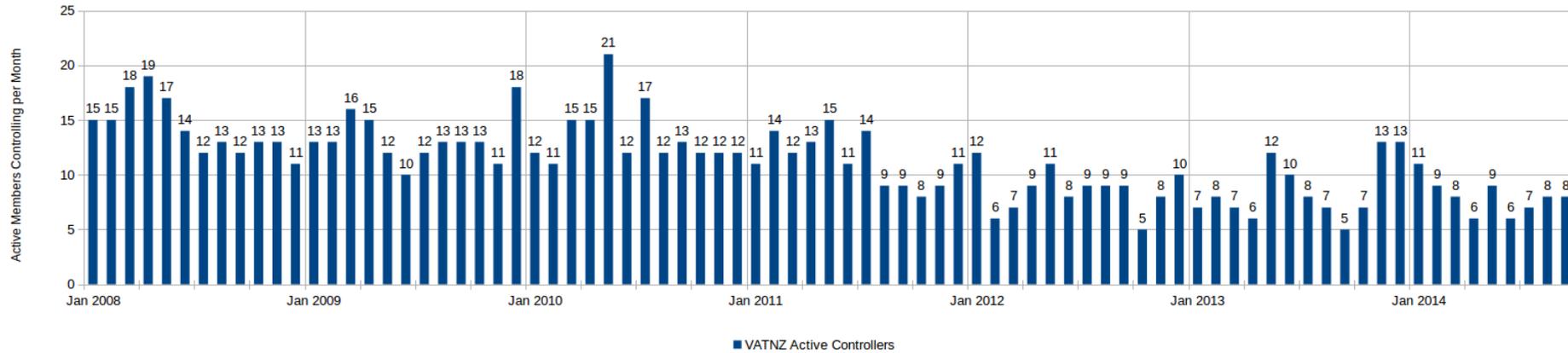
VATNZ Controller Activity - VATNZ Hours - Year on Year Change



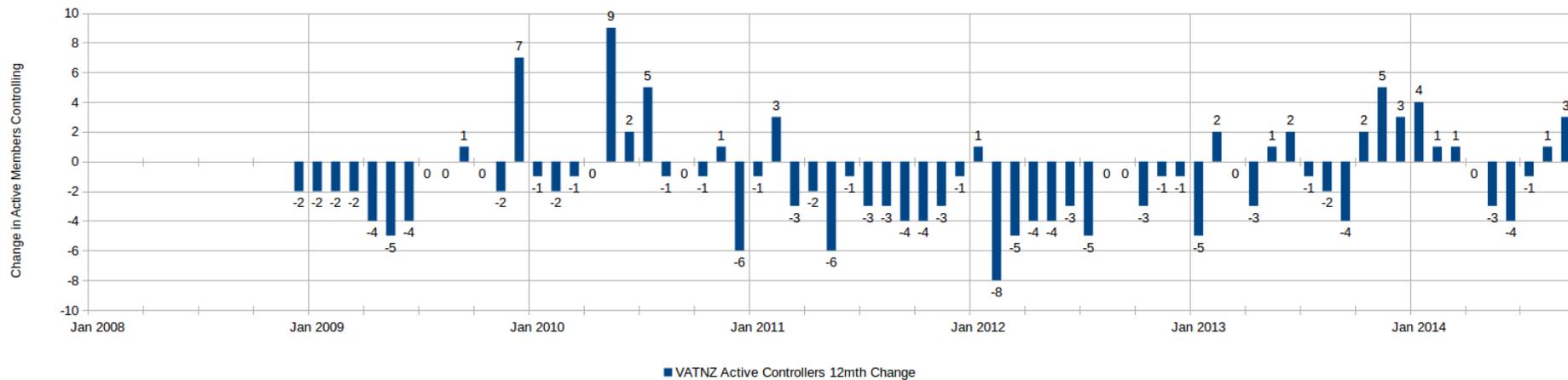
VATNZ Controller Count

VATNZ Active Controller numbers have remained relatively steady throughout 2014, although August and September represent year-on-year improvements.

VATNZ Members Active Controller Count



VATNZ Members Active Controller Count - Year on Year Change



Summary

Q3 has been a period of relative stability for VATNZ as a division. Flight and controller numbers and hours were largely improved against the same period last year. This is a reflection of the increased popularity of the Sunday Night Ops events over the winter months and the influx of a number of new trainee controllers. The summer months tend to result in reduced online participation amongst local members so the real test of any recovery of division activity will be the next two quarters.

The conflict between the Division Leadership and VATSIM's VP Membership continues, and will likely be brought to a head in the coming weeks as the completely unjustified six month ban on CERT access for the Deputy Division Director is due to reach its end.

The utter lack of response from the VATSIM Board over this matter speaks volumes.

Despite the lack of support from the VATSIM Board, activities within the division continue, and the new crop of controller trainees and new pilots, as well as initiatives such as the ongoing website enhancements, are positive steps in the process of growing the division and the awareness of VATSIM within the wider New Zealand and Pacific online community.

Nick Johnston,
DIVISION DIRECTOR

19th October 2014