



**From the
Director** //

Whether it's spraying crops of potatoes and brassica, or spreading fertiliser, this is a busy time of year for those involved in agricultural aviation.

Agricultural aviation involves many hazards at any time, but the risk increases in this busy season. When you get busy, it's really important to remind yourself about what you need to do to keep safe at work.

Knowing the area, or just being aware of the general hazards involved in agricultural aviation, is not enough – it's crucial to systematically identify and assess all the possible hazards of a job. You need to have a clear and realistic picture of the associated risks, as well as the current task. Carrying out a hazard identification exercise, and a reconnaissance flight, will enable you to develop a safe and reliable work plan.

Fly to the plan and if circumstances change, make sure the plan does too.

Make sure both you and your aircraft work within limits. For the aircraft, manage the loads properly and keep an eye on the prevailing conditions. Be aware of the effects of fatigue and if necessary, take a break. Keep hydrated.

This is the last issue of *Vector* for 2018 and the last bi-monthly issue. From next year, *Vector* will be published quarterly – less often, but of the same high quality. *Vector* is an extremely important part, but not the only part, of the Authority's safety promotion work. Reducing the frequency of this magazine will enable the team to put their boundless energy and well-honed skills into other activities to spread the aviation safety message.

Regards

Graeme Harris

HONOURING EXCELLENCE IN FLYING INSTRUCTION

Nominations are being called for the Greg Vujcich Memorial Award which recognises excellence in aviation instruction.

Greg was a much loved and respected Air New Zealand flight instructor who died suddenly in 2007.

The award recognises an individual or individuals who've made an exceptional contribution to flying instruction.

That may be due to a single act which significantly advanced instructional technique, or to excellence in instructional technique over a significant period of time.

Although the award is sponsored by the pilots' and air traffic controllers' union, NZALPA, your nominee doesn't have to be a member.

To nominate someone, email medical@nzalpa.org.nz. Or post your nomination to, Medical and Welfare Director, NZALPA, PO Box 53183, Auckland Airport 2150.

Nominations close 1 March 2019.

SAFETY MESSAGE

SECURE LOOSE ITEMS

Helicopter pilots and crews should make sure that all items in the cabin are securely stowed before take-off.

Check the ground around the helicopter for forgotten items and debris. Even if operating with all doors fitted, a loose object can escape through a window or vent.

A number of accidents and incidents have been caused by loose items exiting the helicopter and contacting the tail rotor. The result has been a complete loss of control in some cases.

Brief your passengers about the dangers of loose items in and around the helicopter.