



**ROYAL  
AERONAUTICAL  
SOCIETY**  
New Zealand Division

New Zealand  
Aeronautical Trust Limited



## **Special Recognition Award – 2024**

This Special Recognition Award recognises significant achievement that has supported the betterment of aviation by an individual or a team from within the New Zealand aerospace community. The Award takes the form of an engraved plaque, a certificate and a citation.

The award for 2024 goes to the CAA's Vector Magazine, represented by its editor Pen Mackay and Brendan McKeown from the Safety Promotion Team.

Having survived the cull of physical magazines and publications across the world, as digital media replaces paper, the Vector magazine reached its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2023. Vector connects the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) with over 15,000 people and multiple touchpoints across the NZ Aviation Industry.

Pen Mackay has been with the team more than 10 years as a senior writer, and for the last four years as editor of Vector. Her exacting communication style has enabled both Vector and the Good Aviation Practice (GAP) booklets to engage and speak to so many across the NZ aerospace community.

Brendan McKeown works alongside Pen and has been with the team for more than six years where he manages the GAP booklets, while Pen manages Vector.

These disciplines are a team effort, where each contribute to both, and this nomination is in recognition of the Vector Team, past and present, who support them both, internally and external to CAA to deliver a unique product.

The NZ aviation community has created a high demand for Vector and the GAP booklets, because they communicate effectively to a broad audience and offer real value in the awareness and maintenance of aviation safety.

The concept has been that if just one person reads something about a situation, which makes them think twice when encountering a similar situation, and they come back from it safely, then the publications and the Safety Promotion Team have made an outstanding contribution to NZ aviation safety.

It would be difficult to track how many times over those 50 years someone has had a heightened level of safety awareness from what they read, which prevented an accident. In many cases there may not be a conscious link to something read years ago, or to the improved knowledge and practice of the instructor who taught those people.

So, for every one of those 'maybe I shouldn't do this' thoughts, for every unsafe situation that never even occurred, for every life saved and for those futures spent with their loved ones, the Vector Magazine Team, fronted by Pen Mackay and Brendan McKeown, are worthy recipients of the Special Recognition Award for 2024.

Presented this day in Wellington the 1<sup>st</sup> of November 2024

Recommended for this award by Rebecca Langton, Flight Test Engineer, and Alaska White, Chief Advisor Human Factors, Civil Aviation Authority.