



Paul Kearney

Deputy Aviation Manager

Paul Kearney recently joined Aspeq as the Deputy Aviation Manager, bringing over 30 years of industry expertise and a deep-rooted passion for aviation. Paul's career has been defined by his commitment to high standards in flight instruction and examination, making him a valued asset to Aspeq's mission of delivering secure, high-stakes flight exams for aspiring pilots.

● Early Passion & Career in Aviation

Paul's fascination with aviation began in childhood, and his journey into the industry was a natural progression. Inspired by frequent trips to the airport, he set his sights on becoming a pilot. While initially aiming for a commercial flying career, Paul discovered a love for teaching during his early training years and embraced flight instruction as his calling. His dedication to adapting his teaching style to meet diverse learning needs has been central to his success.

In 2005, Paul achieved the prestigious Category A Flight Instructor status, joining a select group of senior instructors dedicated to upholding New Zealand's aviation standards. His expertise was recognised with the 2008 Director of Civil Aviation Authority's Instructor Award, a milestone in a career committed to aviation safety.

● Leadership & Mentorship

For the past 25 years, Paul has been a key figure at Massey University's School of Aviation, where he rose to the position of Chief Flight Instructor. Leading a team of 25 instructors and examiners, he guided hundreds of students towards successful careers, helping them develop the skills to meet the industry's demanding standards. Paul's contributions were further recognised in 2017 when he received the Captain Vujcich Memorial Award for his exceptional work in flight instruction.

Throughout his time at Massey, Paul remained actively involved as a part-time flight examiner with Aspeq, a role that allowed him to maintain close ties with the organisation and its examination standards.

● A New Chapter at Aspeq

Paul's transition to Aspeq as Deputy Aviation Manager represents an exciting opportunity to extend his impact across the aviation industry. In this role, he works alongside Aspeq's Aviation Manager, Gordon Alexander, to manage a skilled team of flight examiners. Paul collaborates closely with the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) to ensure that Aspeq's processes align with evolving industry standards.

A committed leader, Paul aims to empower his team by fostering an environment of trust, respect, and support. His approach centres on recognising the strengths of each team member and empowering them to achieve their best.

● Shaping the Future of Aviation

Paul's vision for aviation goes beyond his immediate role. At Massey, he introduced initiatives such as electronic flight bags, replacing traditional reference materials with digital solutions that improve efficiency and safety. He is excited to continue this work at Aspeq, contributing to innovations that enhance industry standards.

Outside of work, Paul enjoys spending time on his 15-acre property in Feilding, where he, his wife Melissa, and granddaughter Olive are replanting native forest. This personal project reflects his commitment to long-term impact and growth, values he brings to his role at Aspeq.