

**MODEL AERONAUTICAL
ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA INC.**
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December 1999 - From the Federal Secretary

Max Starick Magazine Collection

In 1998, the MAAA Council approved the purchase of approximately 5000 aeromodelling magazines, some dating from the 1930s, collected by the late Max Starick. In 1999, the then RCAS[NSW] Secretary, Lloyd Dipple, offered to convert the magazines to CD-ROM format. Sadly, Lloyd died before he could start the task.

The VMAA has now proposed that the collection be offered to the State Library of Victoria which would catalogue them and make them available on request to readers. If a magazine is in poor condition, a micro-fiche will be made of it.

While ever the MAAA lacks its own library and librarian, the proposal seems to offer the best chance to preserve the magazines while allowing access.

36 MHz

I have had oral reports from Queensland, New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory of R/C car operators using the 36 MHz band. Such operation is contrary to the Class Licence for Radio Controlled models and should be reported to the Australian Communication Authority (ACA) when it is discovered. Because the car operator is within a few metres of his model, a signal from your transmitter will not interfere with his control. The reverse is not true. It is possible for the car transmitter to interfere with

the control of a model aircraft up to 4 km away. The MAAA will forward any information to the ACA if documentary evidence is provided.

It was also reported that the car operators are buying R/C equipment from the USA because it is cheaper than what can be purchased in Australia. Unfortunately, it will be on the 72 MHz band which is not permitted for the R/C of models in Australia. The operators risk confiscation of their equipment.

I have recommended before that you not purchase R/C equipment overseas because of the possibility of it being on a frequency not permitted in Australia. Further, servicing might be difficult to obtain. If you are going overseas, it is possible to buy equipment duty-free in Australia. If your retailer will not sell it duty free – some forms for Customs have to be completed – contact me and I will give you the name of someone who will.

You should know that the Class Licence permits the use of the 29 MHz band for the radio control of any type of model: car, aircraft, boat, submarine, robot etc. The use of the “odd” numbered channels of the 36 MHz band is permitted for watercraft and aircraft. The “even” numbered channels are for the exclusive use of aircraft.

Membership

Total membership for the year to 30th June 1999 was 9445, made up of 7150 seniors, 1163 juniors and 1132 pensioners. The largest club - primary members only, I do not have records of associate members of clubs - was in Queensland with 250 members. A NSW club with 204 members was second largest. The largest Victorian club with 173 members was fourth largest.

The MAAA membership year ends on the 30th June. You should have paid your fees on or before then. There is a belief that there is a month's grace. There is not; if after the 30th June, you have not re-joined and your model causes injury or damage to property, you will not have insurance cover.

GST.

I had a telephone call from the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) wanting addresses of model aircraft retailers. The ACCC had had reports that customers were being told that all modelling equipment will become dearer once the GST comes into force. They will be told that that is not necessarily the case; it is true that material that does not carry wholesale sales tax (all wood including balsa and some fuel) will become dearer but those which currently have 22% sales tax will cost less.

The MAAA, because its annual turnover exceeds \$100,000.00, will have to obtain an Australian Business Number and will have to charge GST on its membership fees. I have read that clubs/state associations which do not reach the magic figure will not have to register but will not be able to claim indirect tax inputs. They will not have to charge GST on their fees.

The Council is expected to consider how to apply the GST. It is possible that clubs will be asked to send two cheques with their affiliations – one payable to the State Association, the other to the MAAA. At the present time, rules are still being drafted.

The Internet and Advertising.

Many affiliated clubs have their own web pages on which they publish, among other things, their competition calendars for the year. A club asked if inclusion of the calendar constituted advertising a “Public Display” under CAO 95-21. The question was referred to CASA which replied as follows:

“The DELETED web site contains text that indicates the hours each day during which the club's airfield is open and then 'welcomes spectators and interested newcomers' does not constitute a 'model aircraft flying display'.

Subsection 5.1 of the CAO 95.21 prohibits the conduct of model aircraft flying displays unless certain conditions are satisfied. Among other things the provision requires that, at least 28 days before the display, a (CASA) authorised person has been notified in writing of:

1. the proposed flying events;
2. the location and dimensions of the display area; and
3. the arrangements for spectators.

CAO 95.21 defines a 'model aircraft flying display' to be:

'any organised display of flying by model aircraft performed before members of the public who have been invited by the organiser to witness that organised display.'

In my view the comments on the website do not suggest that the display to which the invitation applies is 'organised'. Although no definition of 'organised' is provided in the Order, it seems clear to me that the display must be more than the ad hoc operation of model aircraft by club members or guests. Support for this proposition is found in the Conditions (extracted above) that must be met before a model aircraft flying display can be conducted.

The 'Calendar and Events' page on the website makes reference to various special days. Examples of such days include 'helicopter day', 'biplane and warbirds day', 'race day' and ***** Unusual Model Day'. It may be the case that these events, depending

on their specific nature, (and how else they are promoted) do constitute model aircraft flying displays.”

The 2000 Council Conference

The Agenda for the 2000 MAAA Council Conference has been finalised. As well as the routine items of

- Confirming the Minutes of the 1999 Conference;
- receiving reports from the President, Secretary/Treasurer and the Chairperson of Sub committees;
- approving a budget and setting fees;
- elect a President and a Technical Secretary for a three-year term; and
- appointing members to specific positions;

the delegates have several other items to consider, including:

- a proposal to change the relationship of sub-committees and special interest groups;
- a proposal to introduce single trials to select teams for international events;
- recommendations on the organisation of the National Championships;
- recommendations on the qualifications for appointment as a Gas Turbine Inspector;
- recommendations on Guidelines for the MAAA Sponsorship of Aeromodelling Experts from overseas;
- a request to sponsor a visit late in 2000 by Chris Williams, a leading UK flier of scale gliders;
- the applicability of the Association's Public Liability Cover to public displays not approved by a state association;
- the value of the FAI to the MAAA and to clubs; and
- the ownership of copyright of MAAA publications.
- a requirement that that the owner/operator not inspect his own model;
- a review of several aspects of the MAAA Pilot Proficiency Scheme involving:
 - a re-formatting of the Trainee Pilots Log Book;
 - free issue of bronze and gold wings; and
 - requiring the gold wing test be supervised by two MAAA-approved Instructors.
- Specification of a thrust/weight ratio for models powered by gas turbine engines.
- A proposal to permit the use of electric winches in vintage glider;
- Changes to the R/C Aerobatics Promotion Scheme because of the change to the F3A R/C Aerobatics manoeuvre schedules.

The agenda, less those Annexes which are not held in electronic format, will be available on the MAAA web site soon after you read this. The available Annexes are marked with an asterisk in the list of Annexes.