

MODEL AERONAUTICAL
ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA INC.
Newsletter
NO. 6/2007

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Vale Theo Merrifield

MAAA Vice President

Born July 1933, Theo passed away following a brief illness on 19 November 2007.

Theo Merrifield was a member of the first group of West Australian aeromodellers to join MAAA in 1961. In subsequent years he took a keen interest in Nationals, both as a competitor and as a member of the WA Nationals organising committees.

Theo first joined the MAAA Council as AWA President in 1993 and attended every meeting since. In 1997 a subcommittee was set up to review the structure of the MAAA. Theo, as part of this committee, made a significant contribution to the report which was accepted by Council, the outcome being the effective structure that we have now. One of the changes agreed to was that the Vice President's position became an elected one. In the following year, Theo stood for the position and was elected unopposed, as he was at subsequent elections.

The Vice President's position can be one which is very nominal unless the President is away, but of course that was not Theo's approach. He only spoke when he had something to say, and when he did speak it was worth paying careful attention. He accepted the responsibility of developing a number of policies and procedures. These included offering to organise a subcommittee dealing with the role and responsibilities of Special Interest Groups and resolving how World Championship teams should be selected. This activity was spread over three years and reached a successful conclusion.

Despite being MAAA Vice President, Theo remained as the AWA nominee on the very important Land Tribunal which allocates MAAA loan funds for flying field purchases and development. Theo always spoke on these matters with the wisdom that reflected his long association with aeromodelling in Australia.

Theo was nominated for MAAA Life Membership in recognition of his contribution to the Association and was considered worthy of this nomination. The MAAA has a rule which does not allow members of Council or the Executive to be elected as Life Members while they are still in Office except under exceptional circumstances. As soon as Council became aware of Theo's illness, they unanimously voted for Life Membership. At a period when Theo seemed to be recovering, the MAAA President was able to talk to him on the phone and congratulate him on the achievement. He was very pleased that he had been recognised.

The many messages of support when it became known Theo was so ill reflect the respect with which he was held throughout Australia. He was a 'great guy' who contributed significantly to aeromodelling in Australia, including nearly 15 years on Council and 9 as Vice President. Theo will be greatly missed by his friends and colleagues.

Manual of Procedures

The Manual of Procedures is a "live" document and is continually being updated. Please check the MAAA web site from time to time to ensure that you are aware of the latest editions of the documents.

Club Committees are recommended to pay particular attention to previously released MOP022 and are encouraged to use the document to do a risk analysis of their operations.

The 61st Nationals

The 61st Nationals will be held in Perth, West Australia over the period 27 December 2007 to 4 January 2008. Details can be found on the MAAA web site or at www.aeromodellerswa.info/nationals/index.html

Team Trials

All MAAA affiliate members are eligible to represent Australia at World and Continental Championships. Team trials for places in the teams are organised by National Special Interest Groups (NSIGs) or MAAA Technical Subcommittees. Interested members should make contact with the relevant NSIG or Subcommittee Chairman for information. Your State Association Secretary has contact details for NSIGs. The MAAA web site has links to NSIGs and also details of up-coming events and team trials, on the "Championships and Other Competitions" page.

2008 CL World Champ Team Trials

Due to the NSW State Champs being cancelled because of weather, trials have been rescheduled for 26-27-28 January 2008, at Kelso Park, Milperra NSW.

F1 Trans Tasman & Team Trials

Multi Team Trials for F1A, F1B & F1C will be held as part of the WA Nationals and at Easter 2008 in Narrandera NSW on 21-24 March. The Southern Cross Cup F1A will be held on 25 March, F1B & C on 26 March. 27 March will be a reserve day. VFFS

State & W/C Team Trials event is planned for 25, 26, 27 of April 2008 at Mc Mahon's Field Springhurst Victoria.

Congratulations to the Australian World Championship Team

Well done to the F3A Aerobatic team of Bill Bloodworth, Steve Coram, Adam Crossman and team manager Will Crossman who recently competed in Ezeiza-Argentina. Will kept a daily report on the event including pictures streaming back to Australia. Special congratulations also go to the supporters and helpers of the team on a job well done.

MAAA Insurance

During November an MAAA 'Summary of Insurance Cover 2007/08' brochure was released to all Associations for their members. This complimentary brochure was produced by the MAAA Insurance Brokers, Willis Australia, and outlines, in general, the benefits of the Public Liability and Personal Accident policies. Should more detailed information on these policies be required please contact the MAAA Secretary.

Overseas Visitor Insurance

MOP042 - Policy for Visitor Insurance at Flying Fields has recently been amended to assist and guide clubs who have overseas visitors wishing to fly from their facilities while holidaying in Australia. Such Visitors will hold MAAA Honorary Membership providing the requirements within MOP042 are met. Clubs are reminded to make themselves familiar with these requirements and ensure the details are passed to the MAAA Secretary/Registrar so the Honorary Membership Card can be issued.

MAAA 2008 Federal Council Conference

The 2008 Council Conference is scheduled to be held over the weekend of 24-25 May 2008 at The Old Woolstore Apartment Hotel, Hobart. Items for the agenda and Subcommittee Chairman reports are to be submitted to the MAAA Secretary no later than **Friday 7 March 2008**.

Nominations for MAAA Executive Positions

Under Rule 29, nominations are called for the positions of MAAA Vice President & MAAA Treasurer.

Nominees must provide:

- A written nomination for the position sought, signed by two Affiliate Members of the Association
- Written consent (which may be endorsed on the nomination)
- Curriculum vitae

This information must be received by the Federal Secretary no later than **Friday 29 February 2008**. Please note that the term of office is three years.

World Championship Events Calendar

| 2008 | |
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| EVENT | Information |
| F2A, F2B, F2C, F2D | France – Landres Dates: 28/07/2008 - 04/08/2008 Website : http://www.f2cmbl.org |
| F3J | Turkey – Istanbul Dates: 01/08/2008 - 10/08/2008 Website: http://www.soarist.com |
| F4B, F4C | Poland - Wloclawek Dates: 11 – 20 July 2008 |
| F5B, F5D | Ukraine |
| F3A Trans Tasman | Australia |
| F3A Asia-Oceanic | Chinese Taipei No dates announced |
| F3C Asia-Oceanic | Philippines- Cebu Dates: May 25 – 30 2008 |
| 2009 | |
| EVENT | Awarded to |
| F1A, F1B, F1C | Croatia |
| F1E | Germany |
| F3A | Portugal (Tentative) |
| F3B | Ukraine (Tentative) |
| F3C | USA |
| 2010 | |
| EVENT | Bids From |
| F2A, F2B, F2C, F2D | Hungary (Firm), Serbia & Montenegro (Firm) |
| F3J | Czech Republic, Hungary, France (Tentative) |
| F4B, F4C | Poland (Firm), Czech Republic (Firm) |
| F5B, F5D | USA (Tentative) |
| Space Models | Poland, Serbia |
| F3A Asia-Oceanic | Offers Invited |
| F3C Asia-Oceanic | Offers Invited |

MAAA Badges and Decals For Sale

The MAAA Secretary has a selection of badges and decals for sale.

MAAA:

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| Metal Badge 25 X 25mm | \$3-00 |
| Cloth patch 70mm diameter | \$2-00 |
| Decal Sheet 130 X 240mm (2 large & 2 small stickers) | \$3-50 |
| Replacement Gold Wings | \$6-00 |
| Cloth Gold Wings | \$2-50 |
| Replacement Bronze Wings | \$6-00 |

There is also a VERY limited stock of FAI cloth patches and decals. These are of the old FAI logo.

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|-------------------------------|--------|
| FAI Cloth patch 80mm diameter | \$3-00 |
| FAI Decal 100mm diameter | \$2-00 |

To obtain any of the above, please send a cheque or Money Order for the total amount of your order plus \$1-00 for postage to the MAAA Secretary.