

MAAA Vice President Report
MAAA Council Conference
19 May 2023
Melbourne Victoria

Dear Council Delegates,

I humbly submit my report on my activities as MAAA Vice President for the last 12 months.

There is no "position description" for Vice-President – or at least there is not a particularly detailed description in the MAAA Statement of Rules. Rightly or wrongly, this provides the Vice President with a good degree of flexibility to contribute to the management of the MAAA based on areas of need, personal skills and areas of interest. As such, during the past 12 months I believe I have made maximum use of my skills and resources for the benefit of the MAAA.

Over the last 12 months I have attempted to bolster the resources of the MAAA in areas of need or priority, supported my fellow executive members during periods of heightened workloads, taken on rolls where there is a need for my particular expertise, and generally provided support to the President.

The scope and volume of matters that come before the MAAA Executive for consideration, determination, action or response can be easily underestimated. I think it would be fair to say that Tim, Gary, Rhyll and myself probably speak multiple times on most days. As someone who spends my professional life recording time in 6 minute increments I hesitate to acknowledge the number of hours we spend on MAAA business but my guess would be that it easily accounts for 10 to 20 hours per week – I hope the effort is worth it.

I will let others judge the values of my contributions over the last 12 months but notable time has been spent during the last 12 months on issues such as:

1. Recruitment of our current MAAA Secretary (including adopting a completely new independent recruitment process);
2. Nurturing our relationship with significant stakeholders including CASA;
3. Supporting the transformation of the MAAA into a responsive high performing organisation;
4. Ensuring that we can obtain insurance for our members.

The recruitment of Rhyll as our secretary is a highlight. I think everyone who has had dealings with Rhyll will attest to Rhyll's patience, dedication, resilience, and professionalism. The move to an independent professional administrator has transformed the role of the MAAA Secretary and provides outstanding service and value to our MAAA Members.

I would particularly like to acknowledge Gary Pope and David Rose as the fellow recruitment panel members. Likewise, the contribution of Hellen Ryan (our external HR Advisor) should also be acknowledged. It was the skills and insight of these people that undoubtedly resulted in such a great hire. I have no doubt that with ongoing support and encouragement Rhyll will continue to go from strength to strength and become even more valuable to the MAAA.

I am pleased to say that our relationship with CASA is strong and due to the efforts of Tim and I we have ensured that we have multiple points of contact at various levels in the organisation. Tim

and I have implemented regular high-level meetings with the senior leadership team of the RPAS group. This has enabled us to put some distance between the regular "day to day" dealings and allowed for objective and strategic discussions. A positive outcome of this has been the "cheat sheet" provided by CASA for the expectations around area approvals – this has clarified much of the ambiguous information previously being circulated.

Another area of focus has been the transformation of the MAAA into a more responsive organisation. I think much needs to be done to improve the management of the organisation and the provisions of services to our members. This will require some serious soul searching by members of Council. I look forward to facilitating a frank conversation on what we need to change to make sure we have the resources to meet the needs of our members for the next couple of decades.

I would like to thank my fellow executive members for their camaraderie over the last 12 months. I'm clearly a big fan of Rhyll. But I would also like to particularly acknowledge Gary Pope's contribution to executive discussions. It's a massive understatement to say that Gary is a "safe set of hands" when it comes to the finances. He brings perspective, balance and focus to the executive.


I'm sure that Tim Nolan and I have spent far more time discussing MAAA issues over the last 12 months than either of us would have thought possible. Whilst we are a long way from solving all the problems of the world Tim's hard work and dedication to the cause of aeromodelling in Australia cannot be overstated.

I cannot signoff without acknowledging some of the challenges of the last 12 months – notably the contrived and spurious complaints made against me in the leadup to this year's Council Conference and my candidacy for re-election as MAAA Vice President.

Whilst I had hoped that these matters would be declared frivolous and vexation by now, the ongoing manipulation of the MAAA's member protection policy by the complainant is shameless and inexcusable. The fact that the complainant has refused to provide any details to substantiate the allegations for over two months is unacceptable. Council needs to address this issue to ensure that no one else is subject to this abuse of process in the future.

That said, I should also acknowledge the thankless role taken on by David Rose, Michael Rutledge and Tony Sheppard. They have done an admirable job taking substandard documentation and trying to provide a robust and fair process. I would like to thank them for their time and effort expended on trying to resolve this matter as fairly as possible.

Warmest Regards



Michael Hobson AUS66640

MAAA Vice President

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