

2025 MAAA Federal Secretary Report

The last 12 months have seen a streamlining in the way the MAAA operates and some big changes made, the most notable being the MAAA Blanket Approval with CASA secured by Carl.

As usual with the MAAA, there is always something new to learn and the Blanket Approval has certainly seen me on a steep learning curve. Never before have I had to trawl through VTC charts, comb through risk assessments or ring Michael for help on legal definitions for terms such as Populous areas.

Despite the many phone calls back and forth, it has been a great experience to learn more about each individual club, where they are located and the ins and out of how they operate. I am far from knowledgeable on the subject, but I have a much deeper understanding of the MAAA clubs as a whole because of this process.

I would like to thank all of the Clubs that have already come under the Blanket, or are currently in the process of doing so. Many of you have had to provide the same documentation you only recently provided to CASA, but once we have these on-file the re-issue will only get easier. This time next year it will almost be a 24 hour turn around, so please be patient while this shape. We are looking at ways to further streamline the process from a club perspective but more details later.

For those clubs who – for whatever reason – are not able to come under the Blanket Approval the MAAA will continue to submit your applications direct to CASA.

Competition:

Following on from the Council's endorsement, the Control Line World Championships will be held in Perth in 2026. This Australian event will be a first for me and I am looking forward to watching it all unfold. I can only imagine the work that is already going on behind the scenes by Trevor and his team.

Wingspan and the Club Activity Program:

As you would be aware David Kennedy resigned from his position earlier this year, leaving very big shoes to fill. I offered to take on Wingspan and have thoroughly enjoyed putting together the first edition for 2025. Moving forward I intend for Wingspan to be released quarterly, provided enough content is received. It would be great if all Council could encourage clubs to submit anything that may be of interest to the broader aeromodelling group.

David – now me - was also charged with overseeing of the Club Activity Program (CAP), a fantastic initiative approved by Council in 2023. The CAP is designed to be a fuss free way for clubs to access help to run promotional events that will either attract new members or further engage the current. The MAAA have been proud to support many worthwhile events over the last 12 months, from Scale Rally's to Christmas dinners.

Looking ahead:

It would appear that many of the MAAA States are defying membership trends by sustaining similar membership numbers from last year to this. A few passionate club members is often all it takes to sustain momentum and enthusiasm. A great example of this has been the Lismore Club, who ran a wonderful children's program over the summer where they actively encouraged younger members of the community to come and build their own plane. It is programs like these that will hopefully increase aeromodelling into the future.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank each member of the Executive, the States and the Clubs for their on-going help and support. It is very much appreciated.

Thank you for the last 12 months