

MAAA SECRETARY'S REPORT TO THE 2019 ANNUAL COUNCIL CONFERENCE

ANNEX B

1.0 Introduction

Led by the MAAA President, the Executive has successfully dealt with issues presented during the year in a totally professional, considered and impartial manner.

There has been a dramatic increase in communications between individual members seeking assistance from the MAAA Secretary over the last 12 months which have been managed through the transition period from the previous Secretary to myself. As Secretary of the MAAA I have continued the open nature of the association in discussing pertinent issues directly with members. While this practise will continue it is vitally important for all State Associations to continue to engage with their membership directly to demonstrate each State Associations commitment to their members.

2.0 Management

Positions on the MAAA Executive have been fully filled and unchanged for the 2018-19 year. The Executive have held 8 executive meeting separate to the Conference Executive meetings throughout the 2018/19 year. Technology communication continues with the daily use of Skype and most recently Zoom. The use of the Zoom platform will reduce the Teleconference expenses for the association.

3.0 Communication

The day-to-day management of the Association has been conducted largely by email, Skype, text and telephone. Minutes from the monthly MAAA Executive meetings are distributed electronically as are Conference Agendas and Minutes. Dropbox is used to store large electronic files.

Currently, the monthly Executive meetings are conducted through HotAir Conferencing which gives the Executive full control over the meeting with regard to recordings and timing. This also allows easy and fast access arrangements to other teleconference meetings which arise. Field Purchase, Insurance meetings, CASA and Club training on the membership system, have all been facilitated through teleconferencing.

4.0 MAAA Secretary Communication Statistics

Emailed received – 5621 since 1st June 2018.

Weekend and Public Holidays days worked - 26 days

Annual Leave days taken – 4

Days in Lieu taken - 3

While attending the CIAM meeting in April, I took the opportunity to meet with the BMFA Executives. The visit was immensely beneficial for continued communication around aeromodelling. I spent 6-hours with the team, among other from BMFA (BMFA Head Office in Peterborough/National Field):

- Ian Pallister (Chairman)
- Dave Phipps (Chief Executive)
- Paul Tallett (Marketing and PR)

Some in-depth discussions on some specific points:

- Membership numbers for BMFA are around 35000 and approximately 900 clubs.
- Membership fee are approximately the same (BMFA slightly higher)
- They have two membership renewal ways with direct BMFA (clubs opt in) and also some clubs renew straight.
- They took on board the entire process we have been through with CASA and will pursuing this given the replication of the CASA Drone Accreditation/Reg process currently upon them;
- Discussed area approvals process we have with CASA;

- Our ability to operate with heights etc pretty much replicate what BMFA currently have. BMFA does not have greater exemptions than MAAA;
- The BMFA magazine has a very high level of engagement from the trade sector for advertising etc
- Large events (Western Park etc) are generally run by a major member or group of members.
- Discussed their member recruitment processes. They don't necessarily have a primary focus on juniors as they believe that if they can instil a little passion for aeromodelling they will become members later in life when they have the time and money. BMFA still promote cadets programs etc but do not use it as a measure of performance for new recruitment.
- A possible replacement of the chuck gliders was identified and I plan to continue to communicate along these lines we have. Will organise some pricing for consideration.
- BMFA have asked and as the MAAA representative also committed to ongoing communication.

5.0 Activities

5.1 Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) – Safety Forum

In June 2018 the MAAA President and Secretary attended the two-day CASA Safety Forum in Melbourne and presented on behalf of the MAAA Membership:

- o ORGANISATIONAL SAFETY DEVELOPMENTS IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS
- o EMERGING SAFETY ISSUES AND TRENDS
- o SAFETY PROMOTIONS

5.2 Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) - General

In 2016/17 the MAAA President and Secretary attended numerous CASA meetings, the President has also reported on these. Working with the CASA RPAS Section seems to be moving well after a few 'ground rules' were established with the CASA Officers involved and a marked improvement in the timely issuing of Permits and Area Approvals has been witnessed.

The introduction of CASR Regulation Part 149 has now been signed in draft form and movement to the introduction has commenced. The President and both Secretaries will attend a CASA Workshop on Safety Management Systems in Melbourne in June 2018 as part of the introduction into Part 149. MAAA is third in line to move into Part 149.

In October 2017 CASA with very short notice, introduced a Directive 96/17 which had the potential to severely restrict MAAA members operations. An exemption against the Directive was negotiated and this exemption has since been renewed as EX 18-52 available from the MAAA website, Manual of Procedures.

5.3 Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) – Drone Registration and Accreditation (TWG)

MAAA was invited to be on the Technical Working Group (TWG) for the proposed Drone Registration and Accreditation Scheme. Notification for inclusion was late however the Secretary attended the TWG sessions with other RPA industrial representatives. The MAAA representation against the key items (over 160 items) was drafted and presented to the TWG. Further to these items the MAAA President and Secretary persisted with further discussions to protect/exempt 1. MAAA Club locations, 2. MAAA Member Flying Locations and 3. Anywhere within Australia.

MAAA lobbied and requested a meeting with the Director of Aviation Safety (Director of CASA) with communication being copied to the Dept Prime Minister Michael McCormack. The MAAA was granted a meeting with the 3 head positions under the DAS Mr Shane Carmody, being Chris Monahan, Tony Stanton and Luke Gumley. The MAAA Secretary attended this meeting on the 25th March during which all aspects of the MAAA proficiency operations, historical performance and transparent relationship with CASA were discussed.

At the TWG Meeting on 28th March, the first 2 requests of the MAAA noted above had been communicated to the TWG and were included for the exemption of MAAA Clubs and Flying sites. Currently the list of sites is being drafted by State Associations.

Note: AMAS were represented at the TWG by the AMAS Secretary. During initial consultation, the AMAS Secretary indicated to the TWG that he accepted that all his members would need to register and accredit. Following the negotiated outcome that MAAA achieved through appropriate communication and investment in the protection of flexibility for our members, the AMAS Secretary demanded the same exemption.

5.4 QUT High School and Outback Challenge

Queensland University of Technology in conjunction with DATA 61, Northrop Grumman, Boeing, Queensland Government, CASA etc hold the QUT Outback Challenge and Medical Delivery competition from 24-28 September 2018 at the MAAA Dalby club. I have been a volunteer judge in this initiative for high schools for 5 years and on approval from the MAAA Executive I continued this as an MAAA representative. The High School challenge (Monday-Wed) saw over 255 high school teams compete in the medical delivery challenge. This initiative actually sees school students assisted by MAAA members with aeromodelling to achieve the medical delivery tasks.

Wed-Friday of the event see's competitors from all over the world competing in the Outback challenge which also include several MAAA members from around the country competing for a \$50,000 prize.

MAAA involvement in the QUT initiative was noted by CASA and other bodies and serves to further enhance the exposure of the association within the Aviation and RPAS arena.

5.5 ASAA Nationals

ASAA held their 2018 National in Victoria from 16-18 November 2018. The MAAA as sponsor for the event visited the event during which the high participation was noted. Event coordination was very high however there were low spectator numbers during the visit. Pilots from nearly ALL states were present during the event and awards were noted with the MAAA credentials. Significant exposure of the MAAA brand was observed during the event in videos and online media.

5.6 2018 Drone Nationals

AUFPV held the 2018 Drone Nationals in Fremantle WA. This event was publicised nationally as the Drone nationals and entrants were selected from specific states for inclusion in event. While the event organisers did not intent to hold the event as a Public Event, the location and other sponsors associated with the event certainly expected the event to be a public event with exposure. The association missed an opportunity to raise the image of Drone Racing (F9U) within the public domain. Very few spectators were noted during the event and moving forward if sponsorship is provided additional focus is needed on public engagement. Note the 2019 Nationals is being proposed in Canberra and the opportunity may be timely for the MAAA under the right circumstances.

Moving forward based on events attended on behalf of the MAAA, I would suggest that a requirement be that a club /state representative be present at the event to promote membership and guidance to spectators as needed.

NOTE: that drone racing was featured in the INVICTUS Games in 2018 for the first time, a trend that the MAAA hope continues into the future.

5.7 2018 SFI Conference

November 2018 saw that the SFI Conference was held in Adelaide. The SFI minutes have been circulated and loaded to the Dropbox file for the conference. Specific outcomes and decisions were noted.

5.8 2018 Masters Games – Alice Springs

The Alice Springs Master Games saw the inclusion of Aeromodelling and MAAA for the first time. Gliding, old-timer and IMAC events were held during the Masters games at the MAAA Club in Alice Springs. Significant exposure within the NT Government area was noted and acknowledged during the event and an expansion to include control-line is proposed for the next Master Games.

5.9 Avalon Airshow – VMAA

The MAAA Secretary attended the VMAA Display at the Avalon Airshow for 3 days. The VMAA prepare a very good Static display and interact very well with the public. During the event, 1000 MAAA Chuck gliders

were given to junior in the first 2 days. Additional exposure of the VMAA and MAAA could be achieved at the 2021 events and initial canvassing of some key personnel (RPAS/CASA/PBA) acknowledged high level support for a flying component also. I would encourage the MAAA Council to consider and support a significant increased effort towards this event (not contrary to the VMAA display currently) to compliment and obtain greater exposure for the MAAA and VMAA.

6.0 Insurance

The current broker, V Insurance Group, has continued to provide good service during the year and has responded promptly to questions and requests for information from the Secretary. As part of their service, the *Summary of Insurance Cover 2018/19* brochure was updated, and this along with the Certificate of Currency, Letter of Confirmation and other MAAA Insurance Policies, is continued to be made available on the MAAA web site. The Letter of Confirmation is amended regularly during the year as needed by our membership. In the 2015/16 period, a Property Insurance was negotiated which incorporated an automatic \$10,000 cover for all MAAA clubs, and the availability of 'top up' cover at very reasonable rates for clubs who required additional cover. There are many clubs who requested and received the additional cover in addition to a large number of clubs who have benefited from this policy cover. It is important for the State Associations to recognise that claims under this policy were not proportional to the additional top-ups established by clubs. This will have a significant impact on the viability of this policy for the 2019/20 insurance quotes.

In the 2018/19 period a number of insurance claims have been made as reflected in the 2018/19 Insurance renewal proposal. A large insurance claim is currently in process in Queensland, the outcome of which may not be known until towards the end of the 2019/20 year given the involvement of Lawyers acting on behalf of the Underwriters.

At the time of preparing this report, the Secretary is not in receipt of the first stage of insurance proposals for the 2019/20 year.

Details of all Insurance renewal covers for 2019/20 will be provided in Annex F once received. (Insurance policy period is from 31 May 2019 to 31 May 2020)

7.0 Summary of Incidents and Accidents Reported in the Period to March 30 2018

Total Number 2017/18	Total Number 2018/19	Type of Model	Damage or Injury
1		Rotary Wing	Personal Injury - Claim
	1	Rotary Wing	Private Property - Claim
	1	Rotary Wing	Personal Injury – No Claim
3	3	I/C Fixed Wing	Personal Injury
	3	Electric Fixed wing	Personal Injury
	1	Electric Fixed wing	Death
1		Free Flight	Personal Injury
1	1	I/C Fixed Wing	Private property – no damage or injury
6	3	I/C Fixed Wing	Property Damage Vehicles - Claim
	1	Electric Fixed Wing	Property Damage Vehicles - Claim
	1	Turbine	Private Property – No damage
	1	Glider	Personal Injury
Total 12	Total 16		

As can be seen, there have been an increase in incidents reported but a low number of claims. Safety Matters items in the MAAA eMagazine 'Wingspan' have been continued to repeat the safety message. It is important that all ordinary members continue to monitor incident and accidents within their state also. This action item forms part of the Expectations under the MAAA CASA Deed of Agreement which has been reviewed and communicated to council for discussion during the MAAA 2019 Conference.

Full details and summary of Incidents reported during the year and corrective outcomes can be viewed in the monthly MAAA Executive Meeting Minutes.

8.0 Air Sports Australia Confederation (ASAC) – FAI Australian NAC

The FAI Database for participating members continues to be active for any competitors in FAI Cat 1 & 2 events or FAI Records. Members competing in international competition Cat 1 & 2, must ensure their details are recorded on the data base. This is achieved by completing the FAI Database Form sent to all competitors, and returning the form to the Federal Secretary. The details are entered on a draft database spreadsheet and forwarded to ASAC (NAC) for uploading and approval on the FAI website.

We have updated the master files with competitor email addresses. This action will provide flexibility for competitors to review and update their details directly.

9.0 World & Continental Championships

During 2018 Australia was represented in the following World Championships:

- 2018 F4 Scale World Championship - (Switzerland)
- 2018 F5B Electric Glider Multitask - (Japan)
- 2018 F3U Drone Racing World Championship - (China)
- 2018 F2 Control Line World Championship - (France)
- 2018 F3J Glider World Championship – (Romania)

Congratulations to everyone who competed.

10.0 Nationals

NSWFFS organised and ran the 71th MAAA Nationals at West Wyalong, NSW. Details can be found in the NSWFF report provided by NSWFFS.

The MAAA Secretary met with the Bland Shire Council Economic Development Manager Jeff Stein during the event. Some key points:

- Bland Shire Council extreme amenable to future Nationals Events and providing prior planning and establishment of facilities with appropriate preparation.
- I met with several local business owners during the visit and communication and updates on progress seemed to be an issue. Businesses were reliant on competitor communication as customers.
- Accommodation options are wide ranging. A detailed accommodation register and information could assist in an increase in competitor numbers across all disciplines.
- Significant number of additional venues are available to the MAAA for future nationals to accommodate additional events.
 - Current facilities in addition you:
 - Showgrounds with new full toilet and shower facilities. Centre oval will be rolled and prepared for events such as Heli's, additional control-line if needed.
 - Airport upgrades are likely including new hangers, resurfaced runway, updated access to accommodate multiple entrances;
 - Football oval also available;
 - WW Model club will also be allocated resources from Bland Shire which would allow general flying;
 - All Council facilities could be utilised for longer periods to accommodate a Jamboree type of national's event.
 - The MAAA Secretary has suggested the development of an App which would allow for the following. Funding from Bland Shire Council may be able to obtained:
 - Accommodation lists and details;
 - Real-time program updates and push notifications to competitors when changes occur;
 - Push Notification to interested competitors when "sign-up" to particular events are to commence;
 - Real-time map/directions for competitors/spectators to events;
 - Photo uploads with Facebook real-time links;
 - Immediate result uploads with Facebook and Event Website update;

- Additional general/jamboree flying notifications;
- Addition of an emergency/incident reporting action (first-aid etc);
- Special offers from retailers/pubs/restaurants etc could be incorporated
- A dedicated media/results officer must be incorporated into future Nationals event.
 - This officer is to cover ALL disciplines
 - Provide up-to-date results
 - Provide photographs
 - Provide feeds to local media (newspaper, TV, Facebook, insta)

10.0 CASA Directive 96/17 – Area Approvals

Since June 2018 Area Approval applications for height extensions and clubs within 3NM of AD have been extremely active. 111 Area approvals have been approved since June 2018. Currently 9 area approvals are being finalised by the CASA RPAS team with notice from State Secretaries another 16 applications are underway.

Area Approval applications are becoming easier for associations with the documentation now familiar with the State Associations. An updated Risk Assessment Template will be provided during the MAAA Conference for consideration and adoption together with notice of updates to the MOP.

It is VITALLY important for State Associations to continue to communicate with their clubs and ensure that unless clubs have an area approval in place to do so, operations are limited to below 400 feet and not within 3NM of an AD.

Directive 96/17:

<https://www.maaa.asn.au/images/pdfs/mops/Direction-operation-of-certain--unmanned--aircraft.pdf>

As a result of this process, the MAAA Secretary has commenced conversion of the MAAA forms to live forms (fillable, printable, saveable in PFD form).

Each State President has been provided with access to their State Association Dropbox which contains the current lists of Area Approvals for their state. I am (with some assistance) currently formulating a database by which the MAAA Secretary will notify the Ordinary Member and club of a pending expiry date. While this is not necessarily currently the responsibility of the MAAA Secretary it is important to consider the consequences of a lapsed area approval for clubs.

(MAAA Secretary suggests that we add a module to the Membership system “Club Information” which will allow the upload of Area Approval. This could be further details to provide an expiry date and a 2-month trigger email to the club Secretary and MAAA Secretary – for consideration and approval of council).

11.0 Discussions with AEFA

Over the last 12 months the MAAA Secretary has had numerous discussions with the new President of AEFA. The discussions have been honest and transparent and has resulted in the organisation working with and within the MAAA MOP's for competitions and will continue to work with their host clubs for the future. Some historical issues have been acknowledged and AEFA and MAAA will continue to progress this relationship with a goal of AEFA becoming the MAAA NSIG.

12.0 Conclusion

Significant changes within the RPA space occurred since commencing this new role. I am excited by the future of Aeromodelling in Australia and buoyed by the positive responses I have received from the general membership following the exemptions received. I am proposing additional progression of the association documentation and transitioning to fillable documentation and updating the MAAA Website with a fresh layout and appropriate resource layout with less IT layout suggestions.

Depending on the decision of the future of the nationals, I would expect that as an organisation with all State Associations being included in the planning process attendee numbers, spectator numbers and new member numbers can be positively impacted.

I would like to thank the members of each ordinary member for showing me patience during the last 12 months while I transition into the role. There have been some significant changes within the RPAS space which has increased the workload exponentially during this period however as a team we have managed to progress and obtain a large number of area approvals and a number of achievements for our members and future proofing their sport for the future.

Tyson Dodd
MAAA Secretary