

## MAAA SECRETARY'S REPORT TO THE 2021 ANNUAL COUNCIL CONFERENCE

### 1.0 Introduction

Again, this last year led by the MAAA President Mr Neil Tank, the Executive has successfully guided the Association through the year attending to the day-to-day operational requirements as necessary. With the inclusion of the new MAAA Vice President Mr Tim Nolan several specific challenges primarily COVID-19 based were addressed and overcome.

Communications from individual members seeking assistance from the MAAA Secretary has continued to grow, however the beginning of 2021 to present date has seen all Ordinary State Secretaries actively actioning correspondence received directly from members

The Early Bird Discount approved by the Executive Council was very well received by the broader membership with 6972 members taking advantage of the Early Bird Discount offered for renewing members before 31<sup>st</sup> July. The Secretary's office will continue the open transparent nature of the association to our members and promotion of the broad range of services that the MAAA continues to provide.

### 2.0 Management

Positions on the MAAA Executive have been fully filled and unchanged for the 2020-21 year. Tim Nolan entered the MAAA Executive as the vice President this last year and I believe was surprised at the communication between the executive and the timing pressures associated with the role. The Executive have held 9 executive meetings (as of 5<sup>th</sup> May 2021) and 1 Mid-year presidents meeting. Technology communication continues with the daily use of Skype and Zoom which has reduced further negated the need for Hot Ait Conferencing and its associated costs. The use of the Zoom platform will continue to be utilised for the MAAA Executive Conference (may Conference) moving forward in an effort to increase efficiency and cost reductions. Consideration after the 2020 MAAA Conference has confirmed the continuation of a face-to-face Mid-year presidents meeting, however the 2020 Mid-year Presidents meeting was also held via Zoom.

### 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. The MAAA Membership system underwent a further development phase and there is now a storage process at each level of State and Club levels for important documents like Area Approvals etc as serves as a future proofing tool.

### 4.0 MAAA Secretary Communication Statistics

Emailed received – 22,011 since 1<sup>st</sup> June 2020.

Weekend and Public Holidays days worked (days in lieu accrued) – 17 days

Annual Leave days taken – 14

Days in Lieu taken – 5

As of March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021, an additional 80.25 hours have been worked in the 2021 calendar year excluding the commitments of the CIAM Australian NAC representations.

Significant planning and preparation had been invested into a large number of MAAA Club and State events for the 2020/21 year. The MAAA and APA were successful in the bid for the 2023 F3A World Championships which will be a significant boost to the MAAA Brand Internationally. The COVID19 situation had continued to result in the loss of so much invested time into events both flying and administration due to the ever changing restriction applied to social and sporting gatherings. It was with much regret that several Australian MAAA World Cup events had to be cancelled and some not even applied to FAI for the first time in decades. Furthermore the COVID-19 restrictions in 2020 demonstrated that the MAAA May conference can transition to a Zoom platform albeit without the ability of establishing face to face connections. Finalisation of the

recommendations is that the MAAA May conference will remain a Zoom based meeting format while the Mid-year Presidents meeting will be held at the most cost effective location (being a face-to-face meeting) moving forward.

## 5.0 Activities

### 5.1 Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) - General

In 2020/21 the MAAA President, Vice President and Secretary attended teleconference meetings with CASA, and this office has reported on important associated aspects as required. Of importance has been the ongoing review and approval of Area Approvals for clubs, SIGS and other flying sites.

Important Points:

1. Over 280 area approvals (5-year instruments) have now been issued for MAAA Clubs, SIGS and their flying sites. These area approvals have a wide-ranging height strongly dependant on the type of use, location and manned aircraft activity in the area. As we approach a number of AA's needing renewal the trend of added Risk Assessment considerations by clubs will be needed.
2. Both Word and Excel versions of the accepted MAAA Risk Assessment Templates have been widely used, together with the new application form now adopted;
3. Storage facilities within the MAAA Membership System is now seeing CASA instruments able to be stored on the storage tab for each club and at the club level. Expiry dates can be triggered in this way.

The MAAA Relationship with CASA has continued to grow with a high level of mutual professional respect aiding in the navigation of some possible higher risk club situations. This relationship will continue to be nurtured with full transparency to ensure the most flexibility and recognition of the ongoing growth and future proofing the MAAA is undertaking.

### 5.4 2020-1 SFI Conference

The SFI Conference was held in the 2020-21 year following a postponed meeting earlier. The current SFI team has been expanded with NSWFF now incorporating a SFI for its members. SFI reports received have been saved in the conference material at Annex N.

## 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 2020/21* 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 for interested parties for club leases. As of the 5<sup>th</sup> May, we have been informed that ALL insurance policy terms will be available prior to the 15<sup>th</sup> May Conference date.

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 have been many clubs who requested and have received the additional cover in addition to a large number of clubs who have benefited from this policy cover over the last 12 months (note any claims do not record in incidents/accidents recorded).

It is important for the State Associations continue to recognise that claims under this policy were not proportional to the additional top-ups established by clubs. Note, this cover provides the first \$10,000 of cover to ALL clubs (340 in 2020/21 and expected to be approximately 345 in 2020) with the clubs needing to pay the excess (\$2500) under this policy only. This policy cover provides \$3,450,000 of cover to MAAA Clubs for infrastructure on-site. Clubs are then able to obtain a "top-up" for when they have more than \$10,000 of cover needed. Given the number of top-ups in place, and the value of money for this policy, this office recommends this continue as a benefit to the wider MAAA membership.

As a result of the flooding in 2021, several clubs have lodged claims for damage or loss and will obtain some (not all) full coverage of the loss/damage suffered. This single event has demonstrated the importance of this policy that the historical MAAA Council actions has provided for.

Details of all Insurance renewal covers for 2020/21 will be provided once received. (Insurance policy period is from 31 May 2021 to 31 May 2022)

## 7.0 Summary of Incidents and Accidents Reported in the Period to April 30 2021

Total Number 2017/18	Total Number 2018/19	Total Number 2019/20	Total Number 2020/21	Type of Model	Damage or Injury
1				Rotary Wing/drone	Personal Injury - Claim
	1	3	1	Rotary Wing/drone	Private Property - Claim
	1		1	Rotary Wing/drone	Personal Injury – No Claim
	3	4	6	Electric Fixed wing	Personal Injury – no claim
			1	Electric Fixed wing	Personal Injury –claim
	1			Electric Fixed wing	Death (not due to model aircraft)
			3	Electric Fixed wing	No Damage or claim
	1	1	1	Electric Fixed Wing	Property Damage Vehicles - Claim
1				Free Flight	Personal Injury
3	3	1	2	I/C Fixed Wing	Personal Injury and claim
		2	5	I/C Fixed Wing	Personal injury
1	1	1	2	I/C Fixed Wing	no damage or injury
6	3		2	I/C Fixed Wing	Property Damage Vehicles – Self Claim
	1			Turbine	Private Property – No damage
	1		1	Glider	Personal Injury
			1	C/L	Personal Injury
Total 12	Total 16	Total: 12	26		

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 in an attempt to remind members of remaining focused around our propellers. 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. Additional safety messages will be drafted, drawn and communicated to members.

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, however the inability of members to travel for Cat 1 and Cat 2 events has meant that the full list of actions to have teams travel has been hindered.

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 NSIGS

The Old Timer Discipline is now recognised as a NSIG.

NSIGS Reports received have been provided.

## 10.0 Affiliation invoices

To date this office has issued 278 invoices to the ordinary members for Membership renewals and renewal batch runs. I am buoyed by the promptness of the settling of invoices by the ordinary member Registrar and Treasurers and on behalf of the Executive, please communicate this appreciation to your committees.

Tyson Dodd  
MAAA Secretary