

Executive Report May 2022

It has been an interesting year working to form a cohesive leadership group. There have been a number of challenges along the way as happens with all associations, businesses and families. Some we see coming, some are come out of left field.

Our MAAA has not be immune from the challenges; Covid, the flooding and rain on the Eastern seaboard, the prolonged lockdown in the West and fires. It has certainly been a ride.

Some fields were submerged in flood waters. Some have had as much as 8 metres of water over them. Members have pull together to clean up after the flood, holding working bees, mowing, rebuilding benches and tables so that flight operations can resume.

As Covid restrictions are now relaxed it has been great to see photos and stories of our members out flying again, getting out and enjoying the comradery at the club flying field, seeing lockdown projects completed and taking flight. Nothing beats the trill of that first maiden with a new model.

During the year I have been involved with two Technical Working Groups (TWG's) with CASA. These groups where meeting up twice a week for four months and other meetings with various sub working groups. My role has been to advocate on behalf of all aeromodellers, to ensure that we continue to enjoy the privileges that we currently have. The other TWG has been to do with changes to Part 101 and other sections that impact on our flight and RPAS operations. Both of these groups have documents that are close to or completed the public consultation phases, and depending the political landscape, will find their way into legislations shortly.

The Government has deferred the implementation of Pilot Accreditation and RPAS Registration for another twelve months while they reassess the landscape and system requirements to manage the process of registration.

The pressure from the RPAS Sector is increasing and will not be letting up any time soon. These aircrafts are becoming more sophisticated and will start to appear in our airspace once they navigate the challenges politically and socially, of flying over more populated areas. These aircraft are already operating with Extended Visual Line of Sight (EVLOS) and Beyond Visual Line of Sight (BVLOS). This has implications for us and makes it more critical that we have all our flying fields mapped and recorded with CASA.

There have been a number of legislative changes to the CASA Regulations and these will have some impact on how and where we operate. Further details of these will be sent out from your State Associations as the MOPS and supporting material is completed.

The importance of having a valid Area Approval for your flying field will ensure we can continue to operate the types of models we are enjoying today. The conditions contained in your Area Approval must be complied with, as the permission granted has been integrated with other airspace users. As we do not have people on board and manned aircraft has an

absolute right of way and we must avoid all aircraft and land when they are sighted in our areas.

Your Executive have been managing the changes with the resignation of the Federal Secretary, in conjunction with the Council and we are restructuring the Executive to ensure that we can provide and improved levels of service to the Council, Clubs and all members.

A big thanks to Greg Petherick who stepped in to fill the role as acting Federal Secretary. He has been on a very steep learning curve. He has managed to keep our MAAA moving forward and juggled the many areas that come together to support our organisation.

The recruitment process is underway for the new Federal Secretary and we hope to have this completed by early June. We are also looking to create a Members Services position on the Executive with the carriage of managing communications and promotions etc in conjunction with marketing and communications activities.

With support from the Vice President and the Treasurer we have worked through Executive roles and functions. The general counsel from Michael and the numbers from Gary have provided us with a sound footing to deal with the challenges and leading our MAAA forward. Also, bringing Mitch Bannink on to fill the vacant Safety Manager role to assist with Area Approvals and Display permits has been most valuable.

We are celebrating 75 years of our MAAA this year, and at the Council Conference we will be looking to create some state and club events to celebrate this milestone. I look forward to getting to as many of them as I can with a model and to get some flying in and less administration.

In reflecting upon 75 years of our MAAA, it is made up of all members, young and old, current and past. No matter what models we fly we are all the same and we need to look out for each other. Of our senior members, I ask let us invest in the future to ensure those coming into aeromodelling will have a hobby and role models to follow and emulate.

This is a time to celebrate and take pride in who we are and what we do. Our MAAA is in a solid position to move forward and grow. We need to be looking to support our Clubs and every flying member. What are you doing as a club, or an individual member to help keep as many of your friends flying?

Our priorities for the next year will focus on firstly filling the Federal Secretary and the Member Services Position on the Executive.

Concurrently with your State Committee we will be bedding down the new membership system that will make updating your personal records, qualifications, and endorsements. It will ultimately have copies of your heavy model forms to make it easier to manage for those members flying heavy, giant and turbine models

If anyone has read the MOP's lately they are in need of a rewrite and updating to better reflect the technology that we have available to us. There will be a small working group

drawn together with knowledge of the various areas to be help in rewriting these. It is time to include the various forms and sizes of electric model operations.

Bedding down the new membership system

Federal secretary and Member services position on the council

Rewrite of the MOPS so they better reflect what we and how we function

Tim Nolan

MAAA President

6 May 2022