

**MODEL AERONAUTICAL
ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA INC.**
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January 1999 - From the Federal Secretary

The MAAA Executive

By decision of a MAAA Special Council Conference held in October 1997, the person elected in 1998 to be Vice-President would serve only a one year term. The next Vice-President would serve a full three-year term. Similarly, the President and Technical Secretary would serve an initial two-year term. The intent of the Council was to avoid replacement of all the members of the Executive committee at the one time. The position of Vice-President will therefore be declared vacant at the MAAA Council Conference in February - which could well be over even as you read this. Ron de Chastel, Vice-President for the past year has decided not to stand for re-election although permitted to do so under the Association's Rules. Only one nomination for the position was received by the due date, that of Theo Merrifield, the current President of Aeromodellers of Western Australia. On that basis, Theo will be appointed MAAA Vice President. The members of the Executive will then be resident in New South Wales, Western Australia and Victoria.

I thank Ron de Chastel for his work as a member of the Executive during his term as Vice President.

Airspace

The mills of the Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) grind on. The December 1998/January 1999 issue of RFP Update, a bi-monthly publication of CASA advising

of progress on the projects making up the Regulatory Framework Program (RFP), reports that the Rule on Part 101 (dealing with, among other things, model aircraft) will be re-drafted by June 1999 (the first draft was distributed in August 1998) and that a further Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) will be issued in August 1999. A Summary of Responses will be issued in November 1999 with the Rule to become effective in January 2000.

With respect to the draft Part 149, similar information is provided. However, CASA has failed to date to satisfy the majority of members of the Australian Sport Aviation Confederation (ASAC). The obstacles to progress are CASA's willingness to approve more than one body to supervise any one airport and the withdrawal from organisations such as the Australian Gliding Federation, the Australian Hang Gliding Federation etc of funding previously given to them to carry out functions delegated by CASA. Once Part 149 comes into force, all Approved Administration Organisations will be required to fund the delegated supervisory responsibilities.

The MAAA position has been that any supervision by an Approved Administration Organisation that is required by CASA should be commensurate with the level of risk and therefore that any current CASA responsibility that is likely to be devolved should not cause a significant increase in MAAA costs.

Insurance I

The Association's current broker has obtained quotes for the existing three types of insurance cover - Public Liability, Director's Liability and Personal Accident - with no increase in premium on a per member basis. The already mentioned Council conference is to consider them. At least one State Association opposes the personal accident cover. Such cover is offered by both our USA and United Kingdom (UK) counterparts, the Academy of Model Aeronautics and the British Model Flying Association. New Zealand has no need; its Government provides what is in effect personal accident insurance.

The personal accident cover, if accepted by the Council, will be placed with a different Underwriter than it was in 1998. The new Underwriter has deleted any upper age limit (previously eighty years). I hope that I am still able to fly models at age 80.

Insurance II

You might remember that the public liability insurance cover had an excess of \$1000.00 with the member against whom a claim was made paying the first \$250.00 and the MAAA the balance of the \$1000.00. Since the 1st March 1998 to the date of writing, the Association's contribution to the settlement of three claims has been \$1723.00. The

claims involved damage to a fence, to a car and to a model aircraft standing in the pits but not being operated.

National Championships

Much will probably be written about the 52nd Nationals held in and around Toowoomba. It cannot be denied that there were problems but, in my opinion, most if not all stemmed from the weather. The fact is that it rained for nearly four days of the seven devoted to the Championships. The loss of a planned venue - the Oakey Army Airfield - for the same period of time would not have had such an impact had not the rain made an alternative flying field unsuitable in the opinion of some although not all fliers who were to use it. The quick action on the part of the Army to re-instate the use of the base once the predicament became known to it deserves our gratitude. Despite the rain, all events were completed although a reduced number of rounds were flown in some events.

More than 350 MAAA members entered nearly 1000 events at the Nationals. In 1998, the US AMA, which has at least twenty times our membership, had just over 1300 of its members enter its National Championships.

Rule Clarifications

Perhaps there was a greater desire to win being felt at these nationals but there were more protests, threatened and actual, involving R/C Old Timer, Free Flight, Control Line Combat and Scale, than ever I can remember. That involving Old Timer sought to clarify the method of scoring if, because of changed weather conditions - specifically models disappearing into cloud - the maximum duration of a round or rounds has to be reduced during a contest. In free flight, the use of a take-off board led to a protest and the interpretation of a rule regarding the determination of the age of a vintage model has been questioned. The advice of the relevant Subcommittees will be sought. The entry of the same model in Stand-off scale and F4C scale has also been referred.

R/C Frequencies

Some three years ago, the MAAA R/C Frequency Subcommittee recommended that mobile telephones not be operated within 9 metres of R/C models and transmitters. Two UK magazines, albeit with the same publisher, have recently reported that computer transmitters had had their memories cleared by mobile telephones near by. The MAAA R/C Frequency Subcommittee has been tasked with investigating the reported effect. Two of the clubs hosting events at the Toowoomba nationals required mobile telephones to be turned off when at the field. If you want to avoid any possibility of problems, it

could be a club rule worth copying. However, do not ban them from the field, just have them turned off. One could be needed to call for assistance one day.

World Championships

In 1999, World Championships will be held as follows:

<u>EVENT</u>	<u>VENUE</u>	<u>DATES</u>
F1A, F1B, F1C	Israel (Negev)	25th - 31st August
F3A	USA (Pensacola)	11th - 19th September
F3B	South Africa (Rustenburg)	4th - 11th September
F3C	Poland (Deblin)	12th - 21st August
F3D	Sweden (Norrkoping)	9th - 14th July

At the date of writing, a trial to complete the selection of the F3A team has yet to be held. If you would like to attend a World Championships as a supporter, please let me know as soon as possible so that I can send you details.

The 1999 Council Conference

As anticipated, many more proposals for agenda items were received before the closing date. To those listed in Newsletter 6/98 should be added:

- introducing a half-yearly membership fee;
- introducing a new class of membership to reflect "user pays";
- that any employee of the MAAA be employed on a casual basis;
- amending the requirement on voting for a motion to be passed;
- that AUS numbers (MAAA membership numbers) be transferable to family members;
- that members must affiliate through the State Body of their state of residence;
- that a Club must affiliate to the State Body of the State in which its flying field is located;
- that the MAAA will recognise and deal with only one body in each state;
- that all State Bodies receive equal time to speak at the MAAA Council conference;
- that a person may hold only one elected Executive position;
- that all delegates make a "declaration of interest"; and
- that, under specified circumstances, a special interest group may carry out the duties of a subcommittee;

plus several more. The agenda, less its Annexes, can be viewed on the MAAA web site.

