

MODEL AERONAUTICAL  
ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA INC.  
**Newsletter**  
NO.3/2001

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June 2001;

Hello, my name is Ivan Chiselett and as Chris Greenwood advised in the February Newsletter I have taken over the position as M.A.A.A. Secretary.

Firstly I must apologise for the delay in getting this Newsletter out. As you would appreciate, there was considerable work involved with the change over and it has taken quite a while to catch up to the point where I could sit down and write.

Firstly, I must thank Chris for the patience he has shown me over the past months as I try to fill his shoes. As many of you will know, this will be an extremely difficult task.

Chris was M.A.A.A. Secretary for some 16 years. He has overseen great changes and growth in our organisation over those years and all modellers owe him a big thank you for his great contribution to modelling. I, as a previous State Secretary, know the enormous amount of assistance he has given me over the time an I am sure all other State Executives have received the same assistance. Thank you Chris.

The M.A.A.A. Council at its meeting this year unanimously voted for Chris to become a Life Member of the M.A.A.A. , and honor well deserved.

Well, a bit about myself. I was born in 1946 and raised in the small Victorian town of Merbein where, like many other town in the 50's there was a very strong Control Line flying culture. Like many of us, I cut my teeth on control line models and spent many great times at the local park with many other kids.

I was a member of the Air Training Corps and though that organisation flew full size gliders. I graduated as a Civil Engineer in 1967 and have worked in various aspects of engineering including construction, open cut mining, bridge design and finishing up my engineering career as a traffic design engineer.

I was, for the past nine years, V.M.A.A. Secretary which took up a considerable amount of time but resulted in many friends being made around the State. It also gave me an appreciation of the commitment required to take on the M.A.A.A. Secretary's job.

My major interest in modelling is scale, although I do not compete regularly due primarily to lack of time and probably more importantly, a lack of building skills, although I try hard. I tend to build large scale models as enjoy the design and engineering involved. My latest project, in partnership with my 20 year old son, is a 100" Avro Vulcan. Not turbine powered, just a Super Tiger 4500 pusher in the rear.

Also joining the M.A.A.A. Executive this year is Treasurer Ian Gillespie. I will let Ian introduce himself;

Born in Brisbane 1941 and educated at Brisbane Grammar School. My education is many and varied and achieved a Degree in Marketing some years after finishing school.

For the last 21 years of my life I had my own business in the office equipment industry with a payroll of 21 people. During that time I became a member of the Aust Institute of Company directors and in 1997 sold my business to my Principals, stayed on for 2 years as State Manager then retired in 1999.

Retirement is a busy occupation. Besides being the Treasurer of MAAA, I am also the Treasurer of MAAQ, and the financial controller for the Chenrezig Institute a buddist institution located in the foothills of the North Coast of Brisbane. (I am not a buddist).

My modelling career goes back to when I was about 10 – 11 years old, flying control line models and free flight sail planes. Like many others, I dropped out of the sport only to take it up again some 14 years ago.

My interest is in scale models. Mostly I have built large ones, generally 1/5, 1/6 scale and I prefer petrol engines of the Zenoah brand. Largest models built include a 9 ft Mosquito, a 13ft Halifax and a 13ft B17. Current models include a 12 ft Beech D18 with twin Zenoah's, a ¼ scale Ryan plus a couple of smaller aircraft.

The only model on the board at present is a ¼ scale Grumman Tiger being built from scratch. It will be a replica of the full size aircraft I have a part share in. Due to building a new home this has not seen any progress for some months. Hopefully will be completed in the next 9 months.

Well now that the introductions are done, down to business.

### **Insurance.**

As we all know the past few months have seen massive upheavals in the insurance industry with the collapse of HIH.

Unfortunately our third party policy was with HIH. Following the collapse, the Executive took immediate action and secured another policy to replace the HIH one. Unfortunately the new policy, which covers us from March to June 30, cost us an additional \$21,030.

On top of this, at the 2001 Council, HIH submitted a quote for the third party policy for the 2001/02 year. The Council based the fees for the 2001/02 on this quote and instigated a search for a lower premium through other companies. Then the collapse overtook us.

The search for a lower premium in the new environment proved fruitless. The lowest quote we were able to obtain was \$2-00 per member higher than the HIH quote on which the 2001/02 fees were based.

Therefore, the HIH collapse has cost the M.A.A.A. about \$41,000. Not a good way to start the year. As the fees had been set and widely publicised, as well as some members having paid them, it was considered that they were not able to be changed.

It is extremely fortunate that the association has sufficient funds to cover for such unexpected eventualities and enable it to "trade" through.

The quote for the 2001/02 year has been accepted but as to what will happen to the quotes for the 2002/03 in this current climate of insurance "re-evaluation" is any one's guess. I think it would be safe to say that lower premiums are not a possibility and these will have to be considered in the fees for 2002/03.

During a recent visit by the M.A.A.A. Insurance broker I took the opportunity to obtain clarification as to the policies covering M.A.A.A. members.

As most would know, for this current year, all State Associations are covered by a Combined Public and Products Liability policy. In addition, all State Associations, with the exception of M.A.S. N.S.W., are also covered by a Personal Accident policy and a Director's & Officers policy. Some individual clubs in M.A.S. N.S.W. have independently obtained the Directors cover. As noted in Newsletter No. 2 all State Associations have agreed to adopt the Director's & Officers policy for the 2001/02 year.

I believe that the majority of modellers think that if they are unlucky enough to cause serious injuries to a fellow modeller or member of the general public that he/she will be

"compensated" by the Combined Public and Products Liability policy, the "third party" policy. I discovered that this is not necessarily correct.

My understanding of how this policy works is that it is designed to cover the pilot/owner of the aircraft that caused the damage for action against them by the person whom sustained the damage/injury. For major claims, the matter is likely to be determined in a court of law. The court makes a determination as to who is at fault and will then, if fault/negligence has been proven, make an award considering the amount of negligence. If no fault/negligence, ie it was a complete accident, has been proven, then it is quite possible that the person sustaining the injuries will receive nothing.

If the person sustaining the injuries is a member of one of the State Associations that have the personal accident policy, then they will be covered by this policy irrespective of fault or negligence. The policy includes, 80% of non Medicare Medical Expenses to a maximum of \$4,000 each claim, subject to an excess of \$50 each claim, salary maintenance (80% of net wage to a maximum of \$500 per week), 80% of dental expenses to a maximum of \$2000 each claim subject to an excess of \$50 each claim, together with amounts set for serious injury/disability. One advantage of the Personal Accident policy is that payments can be arranged quite quickly as there is no need to wait for a court to make a determination in the case of a serious claim.

The Directors & Officers policy cover is designed to protect Club and Association Officials against legal action arising out of the responsibilities as a Club/Association Official. This policy has been recently extended to cover Nationals Championship Organising Committees and Contest Directors.

### **World Championships**

There is much action on the World Championship competition scene this year with Australia fielding teams in Helicopter, Glider, Free Flight, Aerobatics and Pylon Racing. Our congratulations to all those who have made the Australian Teams we hope that all goes well at the competitions and you all do well.

It should be noted that the World Pylon Championships are being held in Bundaberg at the start of August. So if you are in the area why not go and give our team some support.

Ivan Chiselett