

## MAAA Federal Secretary Report

### **Introduction:**

What a whirlwind the last (almost) 12 months have been.

I took on the role of Federal Secretary in July last year, and to say I have been on a steep learning curve would be an understatement. I remember when I first started I had a little notebook purely to record all the acronyms use – I am comfortable now when members start talking about NACs, NSIGs, CIAM and the myriad of others that I know what the conversation is about.

Given the MAAA's role tends to be dealing with Ordinary Members, not the individual, it is amazing how many emails come into the Federal Secretary inbox. Around 40 emails arrive each day, equating to more than 14,000 a year. It is a far more than I would have guessed, but the emails have helped me learn a lot about the day-to-day questions. I'd like to quickly thank the MAAA Exec for being so patient with my millions of questions about the who, what, where, when and why for different subjects. Also thanks to Joe Finnochiaro, Dave Lewis and Greg Petherick, all of whom patiently answered questions on a just about weekly basis.

### **Communication:**

I know one of the complaints from Ordinary Members has been a lack of timely communication response. The entire Exec is working hard to overcome this, but it should be noted most have full time commitments elsewhere so sometimes a same day response is just not achievable.

Receiving minutes from meetings was flagged as an issue early – I do not believe any meeting minutes this last year have taken more than two weeks to be received by Council. Likewise, the minutes from this Council meeting will be out early June at the latest.

We have started a secretary's calendar, so that each State secretary can see deadlines looming, meetings scheduled etc. Moving forward this will hopefully help everyone streamline process.

Tim has also started a communication email direct to individuals which has been well received. Following each email there is always a flurry of notes into the secretary inbox commenting on things discussed.

Also on communication, we have begun collating member stories and will publish these on the website as we go along. With Wingspan no longer in publication, member stories will hopefully meet the needs of those looking for something to read over a cup of tea.

### **Upcoming events:**

The following upcoming events are scheduled:

- F3E / F3D Championships, Netherland, August.
- F3B Championships, Denmark, July.
- F3A Championships, Australia, August.
- F5J Championships, Bulgaria, August
- F1 Championships, France, August
- F4 Championships, Romania, 2024

### **Meetings:**

The following is a list of meetings held in the last 10 months, with each requiring agendas, recordings, minutes etc. It also requires time from each team member, so thanks to those who fit the MAAA into their busy schedules.

Exec:

- July
- August
- September
- October
- November
- December
- Jan
- Feb
- March
- April
- May

Council:

- August
- September
- November
- March
- April

On top of these there has been approximately 20 meetings on Member Jungle, Insurance, AVCRM and a range of other issues.

### **Management structure / Rules:**

As a newcomer to the MAAA I have a unique perspective on the way the organisation is run – I have no ties to an Ordinary Member and no vested interest in promoting a particular discipline.

In my other role, which is similar to this but dealing with farmers in Victoria, we have a Board made up of 16 people; trying to reach a decision is a challenge at the best of times. So with a Council of 26 the challenges are far greater. When you further take into consideration the Statement of Rules – which states that a minimum notice of 3 weeks for Council meetings is required – the dealing with unforeseen issues is a huge challenge. I know a discussion on the structure of the MAAA is taking place under General Business, so I would ask you to keep this in mind when discussing potential changes. All of you make up the MAAA, often criticized for lack of action/response, but bound by rules which effectively make emergency meetings impossible.

Thank you for the last 12 months.