



MINUTES
Model Aeronautical
Association of Australia
Annual Conference
May 16 & 17 2025
Sydney

NOTE: AGENDA ITEMS NOT ALWAYS DISCUSSED IN THE ORDER LISTED

Agenda Items:

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11. MAAA Elections & Appointments	11.1 Federal Registrar 11.2 CIAM Delegate 11.3 Confirmation of ASAC Delegate 11.4 Public Officer
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19. Strategic discussion	Strategic discussion on future of MAAA

1 Attendees:

1.1 Attendance List:

<u>Executive</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
Carl Bizon	President	May 16 & 17
Michael Hobson	Vice President	May 16 & 17
Gary Pope	Treasurer	May 16 & 17
Mitch Bannink	Safety Manager	May 16 & 17 – left prior to meeting finish
<u>Other</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
David Lewis	Federal Registrar	May 16 & 17
Rhyll McCormack	Federal Secretary	May 16 & 17

ORDINARY MEMBER	INDIVIDUAL:	POSITION:	ATTENDANCE:	VOTES HELD:
MASA	Sean Flaherty	Vice President	May 16 & 17	3
MAAQ	Aaron Garle	President	May 16 & 17	1
MAAQ	Craig Burkhardt	Vice President	May 16 & 17	1
MAAQ	Will Parker	Secretary	May 16 & 17	1
ACTAA	Alex Gibbs	Treasurer	May 16 & 17	3
ANSW	Mark Penno	President	May 16 & 17	1
ANSW	Steve Norrie	Treasurer	May 16 & 17	1
ANSW	Mark Purvis	Secretary	May 16 & 17	1
VMAA	Tony Wilson	President	May 16 & 17	1
VMAA	Mark Peterson	Treasurer	May 16 & 17	1
VMAA	Anton Kellor	Incoming Sec	May 16 & 17	1
TMAA	Mike Rutledge	President	May 16 & 17	1
TMAA	Tony Sheppard	Treasurer	May 16 & 17	2
ANT	Ray Younger	President	May 16 & 17	2
ANT	Greg Turnbull	Treasurer	May 16 & 17	1
NSWCLAS	Mike Comiskey	President	May 16 & 17	1
NSWFFS	Michael Towell	President	May 16 & 17	1
AWA	Peter Bryner	Secretary	May 16 & 17	2
AWA	Eric Bevan	Treasurer	May 16 & 17	1

Apologies: David Mifsud

1.2 Observers: Murray Howe, Gary Tansley, Roy Summersby

Conference opened 8pm Friday

2. Opening of conference	President welcome all in attendance, noting the new Ordinary Member committee members. It was confirmed that there were 26 votes combined on the Council. A simple majority would be used to pass motions unless otherwise required by the Statement of Rules
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3. 2025 Conference Procedures	<u>3.1 Conduct of meeting:</u> The meeting will be conducted in accordance with the Rules of Debate. Reports and attachments are available in the 2025 Conference Dropbox. All present were reminded to vote as a Council and not as a vested member of any Ordinary Member. <u>3.2 Declaration of conflict of interest:</u> Nil conflicts considered relevant <u>3.3 Voting proxies: NIL RECEIVED</u> All present were asked to clarify voting entitlements. See attendance list. <u>3.4 Recognition of deceased members:</u> Mr Ron Hickman (VARMS) AUS 77942 Ian Cole (SWAMPS) AUS84645 Lynton McPhail (LVMAC) AUS30205 Brian Green (P&DARCS) AUS5831 Geoff Jacob (CANBERRA) AUS7131 Ray Botten (CANBERRA) AUS6502 Robert Till (BELCONNEN) AUS34096 Lionel Mould (NAMADGI) AUS58601 Kelvin Barnes (ROCKHAMPTON) AUS12355 Colin Blake (SSME) AUS2013
4. Review and acceptance of 2024 Council Conference Minutes	A copy of the minutes were available at Conference. Minutes have previously been provided via email and are available in the Conference Dropbox. Motion: The 2024 Council Conference Minutes are accepted as a true and correct record. Moved: MAAA Exec. Second: TMAA. Motion passed unanimously
5. Actions from previous Council Conference	<u>5.1 Action:</u> MAAA Executive to create a set of principles on what MAAA owned land should achieve MAAA Exec will develop an overall review of currently owned properties that will include rent, insurance, lease and other relevant details. MAAA Exec will create a guide on what an MAAA owned field should offer to the membership as a minimum standard to help guide future purchase/retention of property. <u>Conference discussion:</u> The interest in new MAAA purchased sites has largely declined with no applications put forward in recent times. This is due to both increasing land costs and decreasing availability. The original pro forma for land purchase was not to invest funds but to secure flying sites. States confirmed there were no active searches for new MAAA land. ANSW may look at areas available in the norther area of the State at a future date. No further action will be taken until required.

	<u>Action:</u> MAAA Exec to create an update to Council structure that will include clear definitions of Council, Executive, Executive Council and the roles, responsibilities and expectations of all levels. Update to be provided to Council. MAAA Exec will undertake a review on the Statement of Rules with MH to provide a draft to Council. <u>Conference discussion:</u> Action item to be incorporated into discussion of MAAA structure on Saturday. <u>5.2 Action:</u> MAAA Executive will investigate costs of setting up a charitable Organisation. General consensus to revisit set-up requirements and benefit analysis at a later date. <u>Conference discussion:</u> AWA confirmed interest in establishing a charitable arm of the MAAA that might benefit from aeromodelling bequests. A clear structure and objective required. Action: MAAA Exec will investigate setting up a charitable arm and the requirements of such.
6. Nominations	<u>6.1 Treasurer term 2025-2028</u> Single nomination received from Gary Pope MAAA Secretary confirms nomination was received on the correct form within the accepted timeframe. Nomination form in the Dropbox. <u>Conference discussion:</u> Gary left the Conference room for Council to discuss the nomination. His nomination was unanimously appointed. <u>6.2 Safety Manager term 2025-2028</u> Single nomination received from Mitch Bannink MAAA Secretary confirms nomination was received on the correct form within the accepted timeframe. Nomination can be found in the Dropbox. Note: Nomination was withdrawn prior to discussion. Mitch confirmed he would not be taking the FY2025 honorarium. Position was declared vacant. Nominations were opened to the floor. Nil received. The Safety Manager position remains vacant. The MAAA thanks Mitch Bannink for his time and knowledge while in the Safety Manager role.
7. Insurance	Details provided in the 2025 MAAA Conference Dropbox, noting the renewal documents were received in entirety on May 16. <u>Conference discussion:</u> A brief overview on the DNO claim was provided. Confirmation that insurance premiums overall have decreased. There have been no changes in any insurance terms and conditions. No changes in any excess amounts. States were reminded that individual property insurance remained the responsibility of clubs.
8. MAAA Reports	Reports will be loaded into the 2025 MAAA Conference Dropbox as received. <u>8.1 Registrar Presentation:</u> Dave Lewis presentation.

	MAAA thanks Dave Lewis for his work over the past year and detailed presentation.
9. Club Assistance Scheme	CAS FY2026 Recommendations from independent CAS review team: Craig Burkhardt, Eric Bevan and Ray Younger. Approved project list provided. Individual applications available for viewing in the Conference Dropbox. <u>Conference discussion:</u> MAAQ updated contribution list. It was noted that there were fewer applications than previous years. A total of 18 projects were received. 3 projects were ineligible for funding. CAS project remains well received by clubs and is an important way for the MAAA to both support and encourage clubs to provide quality facilities for members. Motion: The CAS funding applications as presented are approved: Moved: MAAA Exec. Seconded: ANSW. Motion passed unanimously.
10. Financial Reports & budget	<u>Financial Reports & budget:</u> <u>10.1 Setting FY2026 budget:</u> The FY26 Budget was presented by the Treasurer on behalf of the MAAA Executive. <u>Conference discussion:</u> The MAAA has a sound business model. The tabled FY26 Budget reflected a continuation of the existing fundamentals - solid but slightly declining Membership revenue, good interest income from significant cash reserves and a good focus on cost management. The net result was a budgeted FY26 surplus of \$54k. Fresh updates on Insurance and CAS costs tabled in the meeting increased the FY26 Surplus to \$99k. The updated FY26 Budget was discussed. Consensus - the MAAA needs to close the gap between income and expenses. Carl asked the Council to consider what MAAA funds should be used for. Suggestions included: ▪ Development of a National MAAA field similar to the American Muncie site. ▪ Purchase of additional MAAA owned fields with the aim of having 90% of members within 200 km of a Federal/State field. ▪ Focus on marketing to attract new members – how to achieve this? ▪ Focus on retaining existing members – how to achieve this? ▪ Reduction in fees to reduce gap between income and expenses. Motion: The MAAA budget is accepted with a reduction in MAAA Membership fees to \$80 for Senior members and \$15 for Junior members. Moved: MAAA Exec. Seconded: TMAA. Vote taken. 4 against. Motion passed. Note: Fee reduction reduces the FY 26 Budget to a surplus of \$2,134. <u>10.2 Appointment of Auditor</u> Motion: The MAAA will engage Peter King as Auditor for the FY2026 year. Moved:

	MAAA Exec: Seconded: AWA. Motion passed unanimously.
11. MAAA Elections and Appointment	<u>11.1 Nomination of Federal Registrar:</u> Position held by David Lewis. No change. <u>11.2 Nomination of CIAM Delegate:</u> Position held by Joe Finocchiaro . No change. <u>11.3 Confirmation of ASAC Delegate:</u> ASAC delegate: MAAA President. No change. ASAC Alternate: MAAA Vice President. No change <u>11.4 Public Officer role:</u> As noted during the April Exec meeting, current MAAA Public Officer David Mifsud wishes to be removed from the role by July 1. South Australian resident Neil Tank has agreed to take on the role. Motion: John Neil Tank of 9 Kings Hill Circuit Onkaparainga Hills in South Australia is appointed as the MAAA's new public officer. Moved: MAAA Exec. Seconded: AWA. Motion passed unanimously. Action: Rhyll to contact SA Gov and update Public Officer details.
12. MAAA Awards	<u>12.1 Hall of Fame nominations:</u> 1 nomination received. Please see your folders for details. As per the MAAA Statement of Rules, the details of the HOF nomination will not be recorded in the minutes. A 75% vote for the nomination by secret ballot is required for induction to the Hall of Fame. Conference note: The 2025 nomination was successful. <u>12.2 Life Membership: NIL RECEIVED</u> <u>12.2 MAAA Merit:</u> Motion: VMAA nomination received for: Roger Chapman AUS36819. Please see your folder for details. Moved: VMAA. Seconded: MAAA Exec. Motion passed unanimously.

13. Major Events	Call to the floor for major events. *2026 CL World Championship to be held in Perth. Approved prior to Conference. 13.1 Request from CLAMF via VMAA: See documentation provided. Overview: The Control Line Aircraft Modellers of Frankston (CLAMF) are seeking financial support to host the Control Line Nationals in November 2025. This prestigious event provides the Victorian control line community with a valuable opportunity to showcase the sport and attract modellers from all parts of Australia. The Victorian Model Aeronautical Association (VMAA) fully supports the event being held at the CLAMF field, recognizing its significance in promoting aeromodelling and fostering participation in the sport. CLAMF is requesting MAAA support of \$3333 Motion: The Control Line National event will receive \$3333 in support of the running of their 2025 event. Moved: MAAA Exec. Seconded: ANSW. Motion passed unanimously. Note: CLAS was reminded that all funds are paid on receipt of a tax invoice made out to the MAAA. 13.2 F5B World Championship Note: Funding for this event will likely be spent in the FY2027 year. Event organisers are looking for the in-principal support of Council to proceed with planning. See documentation provided. <u>Conference discussion:</u> Consensus on the need to promote aeromodelling at all levels while balancing that with cost benefit to membership. Event organisers will be required to provide updated details throughout the process. Motion: The F5B World Championship bid has the in-principal support of the MAAA with an estimated contribution of \$15,000. Moved: MAAA Exec. Seconded: MAAQ. Motion passed unanimously.
14. Upcoming meetings:	14.1 Special Council Finance meeting: Date to be advised once auditor reports completed 14.2 Date of 2026 Council Conference: 2026 Conference will be held in Sydney on 15,16 & 17.
15. Area Approvals	<u>Conference discussion:</u> MAAA Blanket Approval process seems to be progressing well. Approx 10 instruments to date. Long term benefit to clubs will be enormous, reducing administration pressure and time. It was agreed that AVCRM would remain active for discussion at the 2026 conference. Permanent NOTAMs: MAAA has applied for a registration to issue NOTAMs on behalf of Clubs

	to reduce delays via CASA.
16. MOP Ratification	The following MOPS were updated throughout the 2024/2025 year. All changes are found at the beginning of each document. MOP001: Accidents / Incidents Reporting and Actions Procedure MOP004: Model Aircraft Operations above 400 FT AGL MOP011: Allocation of MAAA Funds Policy and Procedure MOP015: Heavy Model inspection and operation procedure MOP019: Display Procedure MOP027: Award of Wings and Instructor rating Creation of new MOP: MOP067: MAAA Club Field Location assessment under CASA General Instrument Motion: The MAAA Council ratifies the changes made to the following MOPS: 01, 04, 011, 015, 019, 027 and the creation of the new MOP067. Moved: MAAA Exec. Seconded: AWA. Motion passed unanimously.
17. Member Jungle	Upgrading of current system to Member Jungle was agreed to by Council in 2022. Conference notes: No realistic pathway forward with Member Jungle. Program does not support the current MAAA organizational structure, but may work if this is revised. Project will remain on hold. The MAAA recognizes the hard work and time of David Lewis, David Kennedy and Mick Dallman regarding the Member Jungle Project.
18. General Business:	<u>18.1 ANSW Discussion topic: Mark Penno</u> Introductory Pilot Program run by the American Academy of Model Aeronautics prior to the meeting. Link below. https://www.modelaircraft.org/programs/introductory-pilot-program Motion withdrawn <u>18.2 AWA Instructor re-naming: Peter Bryner</u> AWA request MAAA rename the 'MAAA Instructor' to <i>MAAA Wings Certifier</i> or <i>MAAA Wings Assessor</i> in order to remove confusion regarding the role <u>Conference discussion:</u> AWA concerned confusion is caused by the term MAAA instructor - only an MAAA instructor can certify pilots, whereas anyone can technically instruct. Some States use the term "Club instructor" and MAAA Instructor. Suggestion terminology could be updated to trainer / assessor. Motion: The word MAAA instructor in the MOPs be updated to Wings Certified. Moved: AWA. Seconded: MAAQ. Motion lost. <u>18.3 ARBN Listing: MAAA Executive</u> <u>Conference discussion:</u> MAAA is obliged to register for an ARBN number. All members of Council are expected to

provide the details required for an ARBN listing.

Motion: The MAAA Exec will proceed with the MAAA ARBN registration. **Moved:** MAAA Exec.
Seconded: VMAA. Motion passed unanimously.

Action: Rhyll to proceed with ARBN registration

18.4 MAAA SFI Coordinator: VMAA

Documentation provided.

Conference discussion:

Council agreed a central SFI would be an asset, though unsure how many States would be able to nominate an individual to the role. States would need to nominate an SFI to the role.

Motion: The MAAA Council Conference will appoint one of the SFI as the MAAA SFI Coordinator and adopt a standing agenda item to make this appointment each year. **Moved:** VMAA.

Second: MAAA Exec. Motion passed unanimously.

Action: States will nominate one SFI as the SFI Coordinator.

18.5 R/C Solo Rating Requirements: VMAA

Documentation provided.

Conference discussion:

Concern raised that making Bronze Wings standard as per the motion would be a disadvantage to small clubs without an MAAA instructor, particularly those in regional communities.

Proposed motion:

MOP027 Section 4.1.1 re-write to: "The standard the MAAA required for Solo Fixed Wing is Bronze Wings for models with a dry mass (excluding fuel, but including all batteries if electric powered) of 2Kgs and under (Park Flyers). Silver Wings for models with a dry mass (excluding fuel, but including all batteries if electric powered) over 2Kgs (Club fields).

Motion withdrawn.

18.6 MOP015 HMI Inspection & operations: VMAA

Documentation provided.

Conference discussion:

Concern that when MOPs are overly prescriptive they can become restrictive in certain circumstances.

Consensus that, in most situations, HMI Inspectors should be completing the outlined steps regardless of them being in the MOP.

Proposed motion:

MOP015 be amended to:

Prior to any engine start (where applicable) the Inspector is required to check the Radio Fail Safe has been set by completing the following:

With the engine not running:

Switch the TX off

Observe the throttle returns to idle

Observe the movable surfaces return to the "**Hold position**" (Meaning - they stay at their last position before signal loss or they are set to a natural fail-safe position which means flight controls return to neutral). Not in full deflection of any sort.

Switch TX back on; and

Observe model in full control of TX with the model returning to last TX Inputs.

	With engine running (1/4 throttle): Switch the TX off Observe the throttle returns to idle Observe the movable surfaces return to the “Hold position” (Meaning - they stay at their last position before signal loss or they are set to a natural fail-safe position which means flight controls return to neutral). Not in full deflection of any sort; Switch TX back on; and Observe model in full control of TX with the model returning to last TX Inputs Motion withdrawn 18.8 <u>MAAA Marketing & Direction:</u> Discussion throughout the Conference on the need for the MAAA to identify key elements of the membership, the most important being: Why do members join and why do they not re-join? Hard to identify how to attract new members without key information. MAAA needs to identify what members consider most important and use this to make informed decisions. General consensus that a strategic plan that identified the goals of the organisation would be of benefit, and could be used to create the basis of a targeted marketing plan. Action: Mark Penno (ANSW) will put together a marketing plan for the MAAA. 18.9 <u>Federal Secretary remuneration:</u> Federal Secretary Rhyll McCormack was asked to leave the room. Council discussed current remuneration for the Federal Secretary. After consideration, it was agreed to approve a pay increase of \$5000 per annum, effective from the next pay cycle. Rhyll rejoined the meeting following the decision.
19.	<u>Strategic discussion on future of MAAA</u> <u>Conference discussion:</u> The workshop explored the potential restructuring of MAAA’s membership model, focusing on transitioning to a direct affiliation model that removes the State-level administrative layer. Key discussion points included the inefficiencies and volunteer burden at the State level, with fees ranging from \$8–\$55 per member in addition to club and MAAA fees. The proposed model would see members affiliate directly with MAAA and clubs, streamlining services and improving administrative efficiency. States could retain a role in communication and asset management, with the option to contract services back to MAAA. Concerns were raised about losing local connections and minority group representation, but it was agreed that members would retain representative power and that the change would not involve a takeover of State assets unless this was desired by individual States. A phased opt-in approach was recommended, and it was noted that similar direct models are common in other sports. Further work is needed to define State functions, address State-specific needs, and develop clear local messaging. A 1–2 year implementation timeline was proposed. Although some smaller States expressed reservations, all agreed that Council should be open to considering a re-structured organisation. Action: States to consider what services they currently provide to members, and if offered the opportunity, what services they would like to pass on. Action: MAAA Exec (MH) will draft a re-structure proposal for consideration of Council.

	More detailed notes on this agenda item are available on request.
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Signed as a true and correct record pending ratification:

President: Carl Bizon



Date: 28/05/2025

POST CONFERENCE ACTION LIST

AGENDA ITEM	ACTION	WHO
5.2	Investigate setting up a charitable arm and the requirements of such.	MAAA Exec
11.4	Contact SA Gov and update Public Officer details.	Rhyll
18.3	Proceed with ARBN registration for MAAA	Rhyll
18.4	States will nominate one SFI as the SFI Coordinator	Ordinary Members (States)
18.8	ANSW will put together a marketing plan for the MAAA.	Mark Penno (ANSW)
18.9	States to consider what services they currently provide to members, and if offered the opportunity, what services they would like to pass on	Ordinary Members (States)
19	Draft MAAA re-structure proposal for consideration of Council.	MAAA Exec – first draft to be provided by MH