

2026 MAAA Federal Secretary Report

The last 12 months have continued to see changes and improvements in the way the MAAA operates, particularly in the areas of approvals and administration.

One of the most significant developments this year has been the implementation of the NAIPS portal for NOTAM processing. What was once often a complicated and time-consuming process has now become significantly quicker and easier to manage, which has been a welcome improvement for both the MAAA and our clubs.

Area Approvals have also kept everyone extremely busy over the past twelve months and have been one of the most time-intensive tasks undertaken. I would like to sincerely thank the clubs and State bodies for their patience while we worked our way through the large volume of applications, supporting documents and follow-up requirements. While the initial process has involved a substantial amount of work for everyone involved, the positive news is that renewals should become much simpler moving forward, provided there are no material changes to the way flying operations are conducted at a site.

As always with the MAAA, there is constantly something new to learn. Over the last year I have spent a great deal of time looking through VTC charts, reviewing risk assessments and learning more about the operational side of clubs across Australia. While I am certainly no expert, the process has given me a much deeper understanding of our clubs, their locations and the many different ways they operate.

For those clubs who – for whatever reason – are not able to come under the Area Approval process, the MAAA will continue to assist by submitting applications directly to CASA where required.

I have continued to work on Wingspan, achieving the goal set this time last year of producing quarterly editions. It is something I genuinely enjoy compiling and it has been fantastic to see more content coming through from clubs and members around the country this year. I would strongly encourage clubs to continue sending through articles, event reports and photos that may be of interest to the broader aeromodelling community, as the more content received, the better Wingspan becomes as a reflection of what is happening across Australia.

The Club Activity Program (CAP) has also continued to be a fantastic initiative, not only helping provide content for Wingspan, but also showcasing the enthusiasm and effort clubs are putting into promoting aeromodelling in all its forms. It has been great to see clubs applying for funding to run events, open days and community activities designed to encourage participation and engagement within the hobby. The MAAA has again been proud to support many worthwhile initiatives over the past 12 months.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Michael, who has been part of the Executive since my first day and is now moving on. I have very much appreciated all of his assistance, over the past few years.

Finally, I would like to thank each member of the Executive, the States and the Clubs for their ongoing help and support throughout the last 12 months. It is very much appreciated.

Thank you.