

MAAA SECRETARY'S REPORT TO THE 2020 ANNUAL COUNCIL CONFERENCE

ANNEX B

1.0 Introduction

Led by the MAAA President, the Executive has again successfully guided the Association through the year attending to the day to day operational requirements as necessary.

Communications from individual members seeking assistance from the MAAA Secretary has continued to grow over the last 12 months which have been managed as best as possible within timeframes allowing as fast response as possible. Some members are now being requested to direct their questions to their State Association a trend that this office will continue moving forward. Where possible and identified as the most efficient process, the Secretary's office has managed these enquiries to assist the Secretaries of the ordinary members.

The increase in the membership fee by Council at the 2019 MAAA Conference resulted in a large outpouring from the MAAA members with a surprising reaction. The majority of communication was in the positive, following the drafting of explanatory communications of the consideration made by council during it deliberating the 2019/20 Membership fee. The Secretary's office will continue the open nature of the association to our members and promotion of the broad range of services that the MAAA provides.

2.0 Management

Positions on the MAAA Executive have been fully filled and unchanged for the 2019-20 year. The Executive have held 8 executive meetings (as of 14th April 2020) and 1 Mid-year presidents meeting. Technology communication continue with the daily use of Skype and Zoom which has reduced the cost of Hot Ait Conferencing. The use of the Zoom platform will also be adopted for the 2020 MAAA Conference and will provide for a recording feature also.

3.0 Communication

The day-to-day management of the Association has been conducted largely by email, Skype, text and telephone. Minutes from the monthly MAAA Executive meetings are distributed electronically as are Conference Agendas and Minutes. Dropbox is used to store large electronic files and testing is also being finalised for the storage of electronic files and important documents at the Club, State and Federal level on the MAAA Membership system. This was identified by the Executive as a future proofing tool which can be implemented down to the Club level.

4.0 MAAA Secretary Communication Statistics

Emailed received – 19,927 since 1st June 2019.

Weekend and Public Holidays days worked (days in lieu accrued) - 19 days

Annual Leave days taken – 12

Days in Lieu taken – 14

As of January 1st, 2020, the MAAA President has requested the Secretary to confirm the number of Hours/day worked. This information will be retained on file for review as needed and to record the extra hours worked. To date, an additional 93.25 hours have been worked in the 2020 calendar year.

Significant planning and preparation had been invested into a large number of MAAA Club, State and World Cup events for the 2019/20 year. The COVID19 situation had resulted in the loss of so much invested time into events both flying and administration due to the restriction applied to social and sporting gatherings. It was with much regret that several Australian MAAA World Cup events had to be cancelled in addition to the MAAA 2020 Conference (traditional) in Sydney, 2020 CIAM Plenary meeting (postponed), ASAC meetings

and planned CASA Meetings. A number of these administration meetings were conducted on-line where possible and could be facilitated.

The 2021-year workload will increase as a result of the pause to aeromodelling this year. All World Championships (Cat 1 events) have been cancelled with the exception of Scale which will be postponed to 2021 and all World Cup (Cat 2 events) have been cancelled. The postponement of the 2020 CIAM meeting has meant that the presentation of the proposed 2023 Australian F3A World Championships could not be presented. The APA together with the Secretary were successful in having an early bid accepted for the 2023 World Championship for F3A. We are awaiting confirmation that this bid is agreed to be confirmed despite the CIAM Conference being postponed.

5.0 Activities

5.1 Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) - General

In 2019/20 the MAAA President and Secretary attended numerous CASA meetings, and this office has reported on important aspects associated with this. Of importance has been the ongoing review and approval of Area Approvals for clubs, SIGS and other flying sites.

Important Points:

1. Over 220 area approvals (5-year instruments) have now been issued for MAAA Clubs, SIGS and their flying sites. These area approvals have a wide-ranging height strongly dependant on the type of use, location and manned aircraft activity in the area;
2. Both Word and Excel versions of the accepted MAAA Risk Assessment Templates have been widely used;
3. Storage facilities within the MAAA Membership System will see the CASA instruments able to be stored on the storage tab for each club and at the club level. Expiry dates can be triggered in this way.

The MAAA Relationship with CASA has continued to grow with a high level of mutual professional respect. This relationship will continue to be nurtured with full transparency to ensure the most flexibility and recognition of the ongoing growth and future proofing the MAAA is undertaking.

During the 2019/20 year, the MAAA has successfully had it FPV Exemption (now also an instrument) extended for 3-years. It is IMPORTANT TO NOTE that the MAAA is again the ONLY association/recreational aeromodelling body in Australia with an Approved Exemption to CASR 101.073(2) for Beyond Visual Line of Sight.

Link:

[https://www.maaa.asn.au/images/pdfs/mops/CASA.AreaApp.0175 -
Approval for Part 101 and Direction for FPV - MAAA - August 2019.pdf](https://www.maaa.asn.au/images/pdfs/mops/CASA.AreaApp.0175-_Approval_for_Part_101_and_Direction_for_FPV_-_MAAA_-_August_2019.pdf)

This year the MAAA also prepared and had approved a Slope Soaring MOP. This has been prepared to provide a framework for large MAAA Slope Soaring events where significant height increases is needed and can be used as an ongoing procedure.

5.2 Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) – Drone Registration and Accreditation (TWG)

At this stage, I have received the advice that the Registration System for Recreational purposes has not been determined. Likely 2021, possibly 2022. Watch this space, however through the continued assistance of the State Secretaries the flying site database is growing and has a high level of integrity. Periodically this list is both updated with the new sites as notified by the State Secretaries and is also reviewed by Mark Lewis for future planning purposes. Any further information of the TWG on this matter will be provided to each State as it comes to hand.

5.3 ASAA Nationals

ASAA held their 2019 Nationals and Asia Pacific Championships in Dalby Qld. To say this event was massive would be an understatement. Over 80 competitors from Australia and 7 other countries were registered for the event over 5 days. Formally opened by the Dalby Mayor, exposure in all local media forms showcased aeromodelling to the region over the 5 days. The MAAA as sponsor for the event visited and met with the Mayor during the event. Significant exposure of the MAAA brand occurred during the event in videos and online media.

5.4 2020 SFI Conference

The SFI Conference was booked and organised for mid-March. For obvious reasons the SFI conference required to be postponed until after travel restrictions associated with COVID19.

6.0 Insurance

The current broker, V Insurance Group, has continued to provide good service during the year and has responded promptly to questions and requests for information from the Secretary. As part of their service, the *Summary of Insurance Cover 2019/20* brochure was updated, and this along with the Certificate of Currency, Letter of Confirmation and other MAAA Insurance Policies, is continued to be made available on the MAAA web site. The Letter of Confirmation is amended regularly during the year as needed by our membership.

In the 2015/16 period, a Property Insurance was negotiated which incorporated an automatic \$10,000 cover for all MAAA clubs, and the availability of 'top up' cover at very reasonable rates for clubs who required additional cover. There are many clubs who requested and have received the additional cover in addition to a large number of clubs who have benefited from this policy cover over the last 12 months (note any claims do not record in incidents/accidents recorded). It is important for the State Associations to recognise that claims under this policy were not proportional to the additional top-ups established by clubs. Note, this cover provides the first \$10,000 of cover to ALL clubs (326 in 2019/20 and expected to be approximately 335 in 2020) with the clubs needing to paid the excess (\$2500) under this policy only. This policy cover provides \$3,260,000 of cover to MAAA Clubs for infrastructure on-site. Clubs are then able to obtain a "top-up" for when they have more than \$10,000 of cover needed. Given the number of top-ups in place, and the value of money for this policy, this office recommends this continue as a benefit to the wider MAAA membership.

In the 2019/20 period a number of insurance claims have been made, but are down on the previous period. Following the 2019 Conference, this office undertook an in-depth education process with the insurers of the MAAA MOPs and wider operations of the MAAA. This included clubs, instructors, inspectors etc. AS a result of this time investment (benefit of a full-time Secretary) a significant reduction from the initial quotes tabled at the 2019 conference resulted.

At the time of preparing this report, the Secretary is not in receipt of the first stage of insurance proposals for the 2020/21 year.

Details of all Insurance renewal covers for 2020/21 will be provided once received. (Insurance policy period is from 31 May 2020 to 31 May 2021)

7.0 Summary of Incidents and Accidents Reported in the Period to March 30 2020

Total Number 2017/18	Total Number 2018/19	Total Number 2019/20	Type of Model	Damage or Injury
1			Rotary Wing	Personal Injury - Claim
	1	3	Rotary Wing	Private Property - Claim
	1		Rotary Wing	Personal Injury – No Claim
3	3	1	I/C Fixed Wing	Personal Injury
	3	4	Electric Fixed wing	Personal Injury
	1		Electric Fixed wing	Death (not due to model aircraft)
1			Free Flight	Personal Injury

1	1	1	I/C Fixed Wing	Private property – no damage or injury
6	3		I/C Fixed Wing	Property Damage Vehicles - Claim
	1	1	Electric Fixed Wing	Property Damage Vehicles - Claim
	1		Turbine	Private Property – No damage
	1		Glider	Personal Injury
Total 12	Total 16	Total: 10		

As can be seen, there have been an increase in incidents reported but a low number of claims. Safety Matters items in the MAAA eMagazine 'Wingspan' have been continued to repeat the safety message. It is important that all ordinary members continue to monitor incident and accidents within their state also. This action item forms part of the Expectations under the MAAA CASA Deed of Agreement.

Full details and summary of Incidents reported during the year and corrective outcomes can be viewed in the monthly MAAA Executive Meeting Minutes.

8.0 Air Sports Australia Confederation (ASAC) – FAI Australian NAC

The FAI Database for participating members continues to be active for any competitors in FAI Cat 1 & 2 events or FAI Records. Members competing in international competition Cat 1 & 2, must ensure their details are recorded on the data base. This is achieved by completing the FAI Database Form sent to all competitors, and returning the form to the Federal Secretary. The details are entered on a draft database spreadsheet and forwarded to ASAC (NAC) for uploading and approval on the FAI website.

We have updated the master files with competitor email addresses. This action will provide flexibility for competitors to review and update their details directly.

9.0 CASA Directive 96/17 – Area Approvals

Since June 2018 Area Approval applications for height extensions and clubs within 3NM of AD have been extremely active. Over 220 Area approvals have been approved since June 2018. Currently 13 area approvals are being finalised by this office and the CASA RPAS team with notice from State Secretaries another 9 applications are underway.

It is VITALLY important for State Associations to continue to communicate with their clubs and ensure that unless clubs have an area approval in place to do so, operations are limited to below 400 feet and not within 3NM of an AD.

Directive 96/17:

<https://www.maaa.asn.au/images/pdfs/mops/Direction-operation-of-certain--unmanned--aircraft.pdf>

Each State President has been provided with access to their State Association Dropbox which contains the current lists of Area Approvals for their state.

10.0 NSIGS

AEFA was acknowledged as a MAAA NSIG in 2019.

Furthermore, Control Line now has a recognised NSIG.

The Old Timer Discipline is currently in the process of considering a NSIG.

NSIGS Reports received have been provided.

11.0 Affiliation invoices

To date this office has issued 349 invoices to the ordinary members for Membership renewals and renewal batch runs. I am buoyed by the promptness of the settling of invoices by the ordinary member Registrar and Treasurers and on behalf of the Executive, please pass this appreciation to your committees.

12.0 Conclusion

Workload continues to grow however once COVID19, Areas Approvals and the transition of a finalised Operations Manual (combined MOP's working document) has settled down I do look forward to some building and attending events in my down time.

While significant changes within the RPA will continue to occur over the short term, I do firmly believe that the entire MAAA Association is well placed to secure aeromodelling for our members without external influences. A small survey to previous members earlier this year was prepared and sent with some very enlightening results. The specific responses will be provided to the State Secretaries for consideration and formulation of guidance with each state's respective clubs.

I would like to thank the members of each ordinary member (and their families) the time you have dedicated for running each of your associations during the last 12 months. While the next 12-months will include some hurdles in the first half of the year however the hard decisions made during the COVID19 period and dedication to our hobby through this period will see a return to flying by numbers!

Tyson Dodd
MAAA Secretary