

MAAA SECRETARY'S REPORT TO THE 2017 ANNUAL COUNCIL CONFERENCE

ANNEX B

Introduction

Led by the MAAA President, the Executive has successfully dealt with issues presented during the year in a totally professional, considered and impartial manner. Some of these issues have been sensitive and complex falling outside the normal scope and experience of the Executive. When this has occurred, a request for outside legal advice and guidance has been obtained.

Following the 2016 Membership Survey an increase in communications between individual members seeking assistance from the MAAA Secretary has been experienced over the last 12 months. While I am happy to talk with any member, in most cases the solutions could have been provided by the State Association or their Club.

Management

There were no major changes to the management structure in the last year.

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.

At the end of 2016 it was necessary to replace the main PC in the Secretary office, due to out of date equipment not compatible with current programs and systems causing frequent crashes or inability to 'boot up'. The MAAA Secretary office is now a paperless operation with the exception of a very small amount of inward correspondence.

Currently, the monthly Executive meetings are conducted through HotAir Conferencing which gives the Executive full control over the meeting with regard to recordings and timing. This also allows easy and fast access arrangements to other teleconference meetings which arise. Field Purchase, Insurance meetings, CASA and Club training on the membership system, have all been facilitated through teleconferencing.

Activities

Following the 2016 Council Conference I was asked by the Secretary General of FAI to represent them in Singapore at the two day RPAS Asia-Pacific Symposium, which I attended courtesy of FAI.

In June 2016 the MAAA President and Secretary attended a two day CASA Safety Forum in Sydney and presented an item titled '*MAAA Unmanned Aircraft and Safety Items*'. This presentation highlighted what aspects of safety are being provided in today's environment by MAAA as well as overseas Organisations similar to MAAA.

The MAAA President has given details in his report regarding the successful 2016 Luskintyre event, so all I would add is that members are urged to take part in the next event as it is well worthwhile. Having taken part in the flying at the event, it was pleasing to see and meet so many members also flying and enjoying themselves.

On behalf of a NSW Club, it was necessary to contact, in writing, ACMA, the CASA Acting Director and the Police in the club location. This was in relation to alleged wilful interference with model aircraft. (electronic 2.4GHz drone jamming) All Organisations were made aware of the MAAA concerns for the safety of model aircraft flying and an offer of assistance was extended by MAAA for safety in the future. The reply from CASA was that persons found to be causing interference with such devices would be in breach of section 24 of the Act and prosecution could be a consequence.

The Australian Model Flying Day was held in late October 2016, with clubs purchasing specially struck badges for the occasion, to raise funds for the Royal Flying Doctor Service. The response from this year's AMFD was down compared to the previous year with \$5,000 being raised and presented to the Royal Flying Doctor Service. Following a review of the AMFD the MAAA Executive decided to run the 'day' through the whole of

October 2017 with the view of attracting more clubs to participate. An item regarding the purchase of badges is included in the 2017 Conference agenda.

During the 2016/17 period an MAAA Disability Access and Equity Policy was produced as guidance and a tool for clubs. This was the result of a question raised by a member and required legal opinion and action.

A Senate Enquiry into RPAS/RPA Activity was established and as the terms of reference included sport and recreation, this then involved MAAA. This item was discussed at the 2016 President’s meeting and was considered to have the potential to erode current model flying conditions enjoyed by all modellers. As such it was decided at the meeting to request legal support in compiling a submission to the enquiry. The submission was prepared and lodged on time given that the window to do this made available by the Senate was short. Submissions from ANSW and ASAC in support of the MAAA stance were also lodged. ANSW and ASAC are to be thanked for this support. All submissions are available from the Public Forum website.

The Secretary attended the first Senate Public Hearing at Dalby QLD. The meeting consisted of a live display of RPA and RPAS machines at the Dalby Model Aero Club in the morning and a formal Senate questioning of selected interested parties in the afternoon. MAAA were not invited to provide replies at this hearing, but could be at a later date. During the day, the Secretary had the opportunity to talk to all the six Senators and to express the MAAA viewpoint.

There will be further Public Hearings at date to be fixed and the intention is for the Secretary to monitor and attend these hearings to build on the relationships with the Senators involved.

Early in 2017 the MAAA Executive were made aware of a sensitive situation not experienced before in MAAA requiring investigation and careful handling. This situation also required legal advice and guidance. This is flagged here for Council as it will be discussed in a Delegates only session at the Conference.

Currently as the President reported, MAAA is in negotiations with Freedom Drone Racing on a possible partnership. It is in the initial stages yet and at the last meeting, FDR were asked to submit a business case for MAAA consideration.

Following discussions with the Management of Little Ripper Life Saving a Partnership between MAAA and Little Ripper Life Saving is being established. The partnership will be formalised in writing with LR advertising within the MAAA social media and creating avenues for MAAA members to become pilots for the LR Life Saving operation. Full details will be published when the partnership is confirmed in writing.

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 2016/17* brochure was produced, and this along with the Certificate of Currency, Letter of Confirmation and other MAAA Insurance Policies, was made available on the MAAA web site. The Letter of Confirmation is amended regularly during the year. In the 2015/16 period, a Property Insurance was negotiated. This insurance provided 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 received the additional cover.

In the 2016/17 period a large number of claims amounting to considerable sums of money over and above the premium have been made on the Property Policy. This situation was foreseen by MAAA during the initial negotiations, however, with this knowledge the Underwriters were willing to proceed with the cover. At the time of writing this report, the 2017/18 renewal documents have yet to be received, however I am of the understanding that there may be large changes in the Property Insurance for Council to consider.

Details of all Insurance renewal covers for 2017/18 will be provided when received in Annex F. (Insurance policy period is from 31 May 2016 to 31 May 2017)

Summary of Incidents and Accidents Reported in the Period to March 30 2017

Total Number 2015/16	Type Of Model	Damage or Injury
1	On looker	Personal Injury
3	I/C Fixed Wing	Personal Injury
1	I/C Fixed Wing	Public Amusement area – no damage or injury
1	I/C Fixed Wing	Private property – no damage or injury

1	I/C Fixed Wing	Property Damage - Claim
Total 7		

As can be seen, there have been very few incidents reported and a low number of claims, which have prompted an item regarding incidents and reporting to be included in the MAAA eMagazine 'Wingspan'.

During the 2016/17 year a new electronic Incident and Investigation reporting system was built into the MAAA website. When used, both State and MAAA Secretaries automatically receive the report as well as a copy going to the report author. This system also allows the MAAA Secretary to retrieve a total overall list of reports on a spread sheet which can be used for compliance with CASA reporting.

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

Air Sports Australia Confederation (ASAC) – FAI Australian NAC

The FAI Database for participating members is now active for any competitors in FAI Cat 1 & 2 events or FAI Records. Members competing in international competition 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 for uploading and approval on the FAI website.

Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA)

In 2016/17 the MAAA President and Secretary attended numerous CASA meetings, the President has also reported on these. Working with the CASA RPAS Section seems to be moving well after a few 'ground rules' were established with the CASA Officers involved and a marked improvement in the timely issuing of Permits and Area Approvals has been witnessed.

The introduction of CASR Regulation Part149 seems to have stalled again with no up-to-date information being received. (I doubt that after 18 years attempting to get Part 149 up and running by CASA and Industry that I will see it introduced in my time as MAAA Secretary)

World & Continental Championships, World Air Games

During 2016 Australia was represented in the following World Championships:

- 2016 FID Indoor Free Flight World Championship - (Slovenia)
- 2016 F2 Control Line World Championship - (Australia)
- 2016 F3J Gliding World Championship - (Netherlands)
- 2016 F3F Gliding World Championship - (Denmark)
- 2016 F4C Scale World Championship - (Romania)
- 2016 F5B&D Electric Pylon and Gliding World Championship - (Italy)
- 2016 F3A Aerobatic Asia Oceanic Championship – (Chinese Taipei)

Congratulations to everyone who competed, including Roy Summersby who placed third in the F1C World Cup series.

Nationals

VMAA are coordinated a split Nationals which was conducted by the NSIGs and SIGs at various location around Australia. Control Line will run the finals of their events later this year due to previous postponements.

Conclusion

In conclusion, I would like to thank the MAAA members, State Associations, State Secretaries, Registrars and the members of the MAAA Executive for their cooperation and valued assistance during the year.

Kevin Dodd
MAAA Secretary