



## Executive Summary

### MAAA STANDARDISED ADMINISTRATION

#### DISCUSSION PAPER

The objective of this discussion paper is to arrive at a position where there is one organisation in New South Wales which has the ability to genuinely represent and administer aeromodelling activities for all disciplines and all MAAA members and can legitimately act as a reference point for members of the public, Government agencies, national and international like organisations.

Three separate Ordinary Members established in New South Wales do not augment the MAAA Strategic plan agreed to by all Council members in 2013. The existence of three separate organisations has an identifiable impact on the administration function of the MAAA Secretariat, affiliate members, government agencies, prospective members and members of the public and is not consistent with the MAAA strategic direction.

The current establishment is permitted in accordance with the MAAA Statement of Rules. The situation came about many years ago when radio controlled model aircraft first came onto the aeromodelling scene. The resultant split created a huge amount of animosity and distrust, in particular of the radio organisation. Those feelings are still harboured today, notwithstanding administrators of each Ordinary Member have changed.

All other States/Territories have one Ordinary member representing all aeromodellers; Members of all disciplines appear to work in harmony, the larger clubs and disciplines providing assistance to the smaller ones. Support is provided on the basis of need and not the number of members.

There are advantages and disadvantages for all three disciplines if one body administered all particularly for the smaller organisations, Free Flight and Control Line. Disadvantages mainly relate to the perceived loss of independence and financial control.

Research indicates the number of Free Flight and Control Line members is slowly diminishing. This trend can only be reversed if all three disciplines work in unison and promote each other's activities. It is also a recognised fact that a number of radio clubs are dissatisfied with the administration of Aeromodellers NSW and have opted to join one of the other associations. This situation has led to the inability of those members/clubs to receive total service from their Ordinary Member.

A solution to the issue has been put forward by Aeromodellers NSW; however as this placed all control in the hands of that organisation, it was rejected by the other two disciplines.

Council members have several options including: doing nothing to maintain the status quo: changing the MAAA Statement of Rules to provide for only one Ordinary member representing each State or Territory: calling for nominations from all parties: and last but not least, working towards establishing a completely independent body to represent all.

# **IN CONFIDENCE**

## **MAAA STANDARDISED ADMINISTRATION**

### **DISCUSSION PAPER**

#### **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

The MAAA is the largest aeromodelling association in Australia and is recognised as such by Federal and State authorities. The MAAA has been appointed by CASA as a Recognised Aviation Administrative Organisation. It is recognised by the general populous to be the major model aeronautical body in Australia.

The organisation's history goes back over many years; other organisations have come and gone, however the MAAA survived due to its organisation structure and dedication of members.

To be in a position to continue to represent the majority of aeromodellers in Australia, the association must keep abreast with modern thinking and practices. It must present itself to the general public and government authority as a modern progressive organisation. To assist in achieving this, the MAAA must be in a position to present uniformed administration practices in each State. Different rules and practices in different states will only lead to confusion and present an image of a disjointed, dysfunctional organisation.

The diverse administration system in New South Wales has led to periodic antagonistic cooperation between the three member groups, a poaching of members and at times a denigration of individual members. From an MAAA perspective, this situation of not presenting a unified organisation within New South Wales, reflects on its professionalism as the leading aeromodelling organisation in Australia.

#### **2.0 OBJECTIVE**

To have one organisation in New South Wales that can genuinely represent and administer aeromodelling activities for all disciplines and all MAAA members and can legitimately act as a reference point for members of the public, Government agencies, national and international like organisations.

### 3.0 BACKGROUND

The MAAA's organisational structure can be likened to that of the Australian governmental system in that the central organisation (the MAAA) is constituted of representatives from each of six states and two territories. In accordance with the Statement of Rules (Constitution) the eight representatives are referred to as Ordinary Members.

Each state and territory with the exception of New South Wales is represented by one ordinary member. The ordinary member represents all member aeromodellers within the state or territory notwithstanding the member's preference of discipline.

New South Wales, in accordance with Rule 6.4, is represented by three ordinary members, one from each discipline namely Free Flight, Control Line and Radio Control; this situation has existed for many years.

At MAAA Council meetings each ordinary member (State) with the exception of New South Wales has three votes; the three ordinary members in New South Wales have one vote each.

Antagonism between the three ordinary members has persisted from at least 1975, and although the executive personalities have changed during this period, the deep seated differences are still there. This antagonism appears to be largely between the radio fraternity and the two other disciplines.

The following is an extract from John Marquette's history of MAAA and provides some insight into what was the cause of the split in associations:

*"It was the Who's Who of RC that assembled at my home at Dover Heights that June evening in 1975. John Marquette, Lysle Winley, John Lysaght, Barry Bowerman, Bill Maden, Allan Lyn, Dick Everett and myself were there. We were all dissatisfied with the NSWAA subcommittee system. The problem was that free flight, control line and radio control were each administered by a subcommittee of the NSW. Each subcommittee had one vote, even though RC had more active members than CL and FF combined. In those days RC flyers were new, enthusiastic and eager to do new things. All their endeavours seemed to be thwarted by FF and CL who tended to be conservative and resist any change with obstinacy bordering on stupidity so this meeting was inevitable, as was the result, the formation of RCAS with direct affiliation to the MAAA. Radio had come of age with it held its first meeting on August 20, 1974 at Gladesville RSL Club.*

Extract from Reply Ivor F

*It was CL and FF who wanted Incorporation and RC who didn't. The motion to incorporate was voted down by the RCAS members at a meeting organised at Merrylands High School hall. It took another 15years for incorporation to become a reality. At 1/1990 the three societies are still separate entities but the acrimony has almost disappeared.*

*The biggest bone of contention was the 'lavish' spending by RCAS of funds patiently gathered by FF and C/L.....*

To this day nothing has changed; the arguments are still the same, the antagonism still remains.

It seems the forefathers of the MAAA, rather than address and resolve the issues at the time, allowed the problem to exacerbate by making provisions for it in the Statement of Rules.

In an attempt to resolve the issue the topic was discussed at the 2015 Mid-Year Presidents conference. After substantial discussion, the following consensus was recorded:

*“Following considerable discussion on the matter a clear message came from the body of the meeting, that unless a mutual solution was found by the three groups in the near future to present a united NSW, then Council will take the necessary actions to achieve an outcome.*

## **4.0 DISCUSSION**

### **4.1 MAAA Strategic Plan**

In 2013 the MAAA Council adopted a 20 years Strategic Plan designed to prepare the MAAA for the ever changing environment of aeromodelling. The following Strategies were adopted unanimously by the then Council:

#### ***Administration***

*The MAAA will continue to review all administration practices to provide a highly professional and efficient administration structure which caters for current and future needs of the organisation, its members and other agencies.*

#### ***Communication***

*The MAAA will develop and implement a communication strategy that will deliver effective and timely communication between the MAAA, its members (affiliate and ordinary), the general public federal government authorities and relevant international bodies.*

#### ***Membership***

*The MAAA will develop and implement a membership management strategy aimed at attracting new and retaining current members by utilising the members' pool of knowledge and skills. The strategy will be sympathetic to member's needs and expectations and will be recognised by members as providing a positive service.*

### **4.2 MAAA Statement of Rules**

The legitimate administration of the MAAA is established in its Statement of Rules (Constitution). The following basic objectives are relevant to this discussion:

#### ***Objectives***

*2 Its function is to coordinate and control all aeromodelling related activities taking place in Australia through the medium of member bodies in each State and Territory. The basic objects of the Association are:-*

*2.2 To promote the development of aviation in Australia by, in particular, the promotion, protection, organisation and encouragement in every way of the building, flying and development of model aircraft and model aeronautics generally within and in conjunction with Australia.*

*2.4 To assert exclusive jurisdiction over all organised model aeronautical activities in Australia.*

*2.5 To act as promoters of national and international model aeronautical meetings, contests and exhibitions.*

*2.6 To provide Federal representation of its members to the Department of Transport and Communication and any other governmental or non-governmental body or organisation in Australia or overseas.*

*2.7 To produce, collect, publish and distribute information on or with respect to model aeronautics.*

## **6. ORDINARY MEMBERS**

*6.1 Ordinary Members shall be model aeronautical bodies duly constituted to represent a State or Territory of Australia.*

*6.2 Unless covered by Rule 6.4 there shall only be one Ordinary Member representing each State or Territory.*

*6.3 Any model aeronautical body claiming to represent a State or Territory of Australia may apply to the Council for membership of the Association.*

*6.4 If a State Body does not exist, up to three specific groups, vis Free Flight, Control Line and Radio Control may become Ordinary Members of the Association directly.*

*6.5 If no application for Ordinary Membership is received from a State or Territory, the Federal Secretary shall cause advertisements to be inserted in newspapers and any model aeronautical publications circulating in that State or Territory calling for applications from any model aeronautical body within that State or Territory.*

*6.6 If more than one application for Ordinary Membership is received from a State or Territory, the Executive Committee shall endeavour to amalgamate the bodies concerned, and if such endeavour fails, the Executive Committee shall refer the applications to the Council for determination.*

### **4.3 Definition Of Aeromodellers – Extract From Past MAAA Document**

The following definitions have been obtained from past MAAA documents and google searches:

- Definition of Aeromodeller  
*a person who builds and flies model airplanes <there are aeromodellers all over the country and potential users of the techniques described will find the modelers are always willing to help – Peter Miller Geographical Magazine, March 1985*
- *The hobby of building and flying model aircraft*
- *a person who builds and flies model airplanes*

All definitions/descriptions of an aeromodellers indicate the activity relates to the building and flying of model aircraft, none describe how the model aircraft is propelled or controlled. The only difference between Free Flight Control Line and Radio is the manner by which the model is

controlled. All members who fly these disciplines are included in the definition of aeromodellers.

An objective of the MAAA is to coordinate and control all aeromodelling related activities, this statement in the Statement of Rules, also does not refer to how the model aircraft is propelled or controlled.

Although initially, aeromodelling may have consisted only of Control Line and Free Flight models, the advent of radio has seen many other disciplines develop, some of these being: gas turbine, helicopters, IMAC to name a few. The term aeromodellers covers all of these disciplines.

#### **4.4 Current Situation In Other States**

All other states and territories have one organisation representing all disciplines of aeromodelling. The processes employed in these states present a united front to its members, the public and government organisations.

Although some states do not have a free flight fraternity for various reasons not relevant to this discussion, most have a control line representation. From an MAAA perspective, there is no indication the Free Flight or Control line organisations are treated any differently than any other member group or club of the respective association. Both disciplines receive the same privileges, support and promotion notwithstanding how small the individual group representation is. There appears to be no animosity between disciplines.

#### **4.5 National Special Interest Groups**

The MAAA rules provide for the establishment of special interest groups to represent the view of members who participate in a particular discipline of aeromodelling. With the introduction of radio controlled aircraft, the opportunities for expanding the hobby have increased exponentially and along with this have the number of special interest groups. The membership of a National Special Interest Group can include affiliate members across Australia.

As indicated earlier the description of aeromodellers does not include the manner by which the model is propelled or controlled. The only difference between Free Flight, Control Line and Radio is the manner by which the model is controlled. All members who fly these disciplines are included in the definition of aeromodellers and in fact could all be classed in today's climate as Special Interest Groups.

*33.1 National Special Interest Groups are bodies established for the purpose of encouraging particular facets of aeromodelling.*

*33.2 The members of the National Special Interest Groups will be Affiliate Members, Life Members, Honorary or Associate Members of the Association who are separately affiliated to Ordinary Members.*

*33.3 .....*

33.4 *National Special Interest Groups may be offered financial support only at the discretion of the Council. Other forms of support and assistance may be provided at any time at the discretion of the Executive Committee.*

33.5 .....

33.6 .....

33.7 *A National Special Interest Group is a body established with interstate membership for the purposes of encouraging a particular facet of aeromodelling throughout Australia. A National Special Interest Group may apply to the M.A.A.A. for official recognition.*

#### **4.7 Problems Encountered By MAAA Administration**

In accordance with the Strategic Plan, the objective of the MAAA administration is to examine practices and procedures that prevent standardised administration practices and to ensure standard communication processes are not hindered by organisation bureaucracy.

The split administration practices in New South Wales have presented a number of difficulties in the administration process for the Secretary, Government Agencies and MAAA Affiliate members. Some of these problems are outlined below:

- An unintended result of the split has been the mixing of categories within the Free Flight and Control Line organisations. A number of radio clubs and affiliate members have opted not to join the Radio Ordinary Member for a number of reasons including, cheaper membership fees and dissatisfaction with the administration processes.
- Although accepting membership from the radio discipline, the control line and free flight fraternity have not been in a position to provide adequate service to their radio members such as: flight training, instructor appointments, heavy model inspections, display procedures and communications in respect to radio requirements.
- Due to the above situation, affiliate members bypass the ordinary members and contact MAAA Secretary direct for appropriate information. For a number of reasons, these members do not approach the Radio Ordinary Member. When some have approached this body they have been refused assistance.
- There is an identifiable mistrust of the Aeromodellers NSW management, albeit these reasons date back many years. It is unfortunate the age demographics of both Free Flight and Control Line is such that many were around when the initial problems arose and still carry the scars of the past.
- There is a requirement for the MAAA Executive to approve the appointment of heavy model and gas turbine inspectors. There is also a requirement for the Ordinary Member to make recommendations to the Executive in respect to such appointments. Due to the fact free flight and control line organisation executives do not regularly participate in these activities, integrity of the recommendation is questioned. The MAAA Executive is not confident the applications are given due diligence and scrutinized effectively. It must be remembered, once an Inspector is appointed, they are available to all MAAA affiliate members, not just one organisation.
- When sorting memberships received from NSW, the time of processing doubles as two sort processes must be conducted.

- Notwithstanding Radio members are members of either Free Flight or Control Line, their individual activities are not promoted by the respective Ordinary Member. For example, the regularly produced Free Flight newsletter rarely contains information in respect to the activities of the radio members.
- The individual Ordinary Members do not promote and at times do not support the activities of the other disciplines. Little consultation takes place when organising MAAA National competitions.
- Each Ordinary Member works independently of each other and they do not keep abreast of general MAAA administrative rules and procedures relating to other disciplines. For example, processes and procedures required by CASA in respect to public displays and risk assessments have been in operation for a number of years; a recent application from Free Flight indicated a lack of understanding of procedures. This lack of understanding casts doubts on the integrity of display applications presented through this Ordinary Member.
- A radio glider club has reported difficulties with airspace, but because they are affiliated with CLAS they are unable to get any assistance or support.
- Previous dealings with CASA regarding locations of model fields in NSW and specifically the Sydney basin, created confusion within CASA in attempting to deal with three separate organisations.
- Payment requests from CASA for approvals have been invoiced to the wrong organisation.
- Replying to CASA requires clarification as to which NSW organisation is being dealt with, in particular in the case of airspace incursions.
- Lack of administrative assistance to member clubs. The following is an extract from an email received by the MAAA Vice President:
 

*“...now we are not affiliated with MASNSW and do not expect any help from them. Our affiliation is through CLAS and I don't expect any help from them either.”*
- Clubs expressing a desire to join interstate Ordinary Members due to a perceived lack of support from the Ordinary Members in New South Wales.
- People leaving NSW organisations and at times the MAAA because the organisation could not fulfill the requirements for the member.
- Several examples where some clubs in NSW are made up of members from the three organisations. This makes for very frustrating times when sorting out complaints. Members subject to or involved in the complaint find themselves in a position whereby they have to communicate directly with the Federal Secretary as no support is forthcoming from the Ordinary member.
- The refusal of radio instructors to test and issue wings to members of another Ordinary Member.

## 4.8 Why Change

The MAAA is pursuing this initiative for a number of reasons.

- **MAAA Strategic Plan**

The Strategic Plan unanimously approved by the MAAA Council in 2013 provided for the examination of all administrative processes to ensure the MAAA is equipped to manage aeromodelling in the future.

*“The MAAA will continue to review all administration practices to provide a highly professional and efficient administration structure which caters for current and future needs of the organisation, its members and other agencies”.*

The three separate Ordinary Members existing in New South Wales presents administration problems for the MAAA Secretariat, Government organisations, Affiliate members and members of the public. This current situation does not fit with the Strategic Direction of the MAAA and does not assist in taking the MAAA or aeromodelling forward. The current New South Wales organisation structure does not cater for our future and in fact is a hindrance.

- **Demographics survey indicates a preference for one body**

Members’ feedback indicates the current organisation structure does not suit today’s means of communication. Facebook, Twitter and other social media are dictating information is required instantly. The MAAA Secretary’s direct contact with members is increasing as they want instant answers. To satisfy their needs, they are bypassing state Ordinary Members. Many have expressed the view the current structure does not adequately suit their needs and suggest the current structure should be replaced with a direct membership model. If this path is not the desired path of Ordinary Members, then all must improve communication and administrative practices. The current situation existing in New South Wales does not fit either model.

- **Consistent approach adopted in all states**

To ensure the administration of the MAAA is maintained at the high level, members expect standardised practices will be adopted in each state and territory. All affiliate members, no matter where they reside, should receive the same level of service from the Ordinary member. Clubs in New South Wales, who are not members of the Ordinary Member responsible for their discipline, are disadvantaged as they do not receive the same service as similar clubs who are members of the like discipline. These clubs and affiliated members consistently bypass their Ordinary Member and communicate directly with the MAAA Secretary.

- **Public have one reference point for all**

Currently in New South Wales there is not one particular body representing, or in a position to promote, all aeromodelling disciplines. The question must be asked, *“Where or who do members of the public and prospective members go in New South to find out about aeromodelling in general”?*

The current situation does not present a good public image, nor does it instill public confidence in the current administration processes. There is no cross pollination of disciplines, the three Ordinary Members act as independent bodies and do not promote each other’s activities. This is particularly noticeable between the Free Flight and Radio fraternity. All other Ordinary Members provide a one stop shop service; enquiries in

respect to any aeromodelling discipline are directed to the Ordinary member who is in a position to provide the required information.

- **Government Departments, CASA etc. only deal with one**  
Government Departments, in particular CASA, experience similar problems. When applications for permits etc. are received, CASA assumes the Ordinary Member recommending the application is involved in the same discipline as the club/member making the application. Applications are processed on the strength of this. When advised this is not always the case, CASA has advised if they were aware, a more stringent scrutiny of the application would have occurred. On occasions, invoices for payments to CASA have been forwarded to the wrong Ordinary Member.
- **Council Conferences**  
A major complaint from affiliate members and rival organisations relate to the cost of membership fees. Members are calling for a more efficient and leaner organisation. One option to achieve this is to establish a Board of Directors consisting of the Presidents of each Ordinary member, a structure similar to the mid-year meeting. This structure cannot be achieved whilst the current situation in New South Wales exists.
- **The system is not broken**  
Many free flight and control line members honestly believe that the system is not broken and consequently does not need to be fixed. From their perspective they may be right, however from an MAAA perspective the current system does nothing to ensure the future existence of these bodies. The disciplines may remain whilst these members are involved, however as demographic information suggests, when these members no longer participate there will not be anyone to take their place. The organisations will die.  
As one of the Free Flight members stated, *“The primary aim of that organisation was the furtherance, promotion and protection of the aeromodelling hobby”* He is correct in what he says, however this does not currently appear to be occurring in the free flight and control line organisations.

#### 4.9 Advantages and Disadvantages of Unification.

##### Advantages

- Increased access to flying sites  
Currently in New South Wales, the radio fraternity has the largest membership and the greatest number of flying sites. In the event the three Ordinary members agree to one single administrative body, the prospect of increasing the number of flying sites for all is greatly enhanced as all sites would be seen as aeromodelling sites and not individual discipline sites.
- Greater opportunity to improve flying sites  
The establishment a central administrative body will eventually lead to a central pool of funds capable of being used across the entire aeromodelling scene.
- Smaller groups will benefit by being members of a larger organisation.
  - Control Line members of the LARCS (Model Aeronautical Association Queensland, MAAQ) club benefitted financially by being members of the one Ordinary Member. Although totaling 13 members, in excess of \$30,000 has been recently spent to improve control line facilities.

- Control Line members of Model Aero Sport S.A. (MASA) regularly receive funding for trophies for competitions and championships; they also have full access to MASA resources.
- Negotiations with Government Agencies, local Councils and other organisations have a greater impact when the parties negotiating have the strength of numbers.
- CLAS/NSWFFS are not large enough to use their numbers to influence if required.
- Opportunity for Control Line and Free Flight to extend longevity  
It is a recognised fact the membership of both Free Flight and Control Line is decreasing and the age parameters of members is increasing. If this trend continues, the ability for both these organisation to continue to financially operate will be greatly diminished. On the other hand, it is also recognised members joining to fly radio controlled models is increasing. Although the age parameters at this point of time are the same, there are a greater number of younger members joining the radio fraternity than free flight and control line. This continuation of radio membership guarantees financial stability of aeromodelling and can assist in stalling the demise of the Free Flight and Control Line disciplines. The exposure of new members to all aeromodelling activities through one united organisation can only be good.
- Reduced administration costs  
Administration costs can quite obviously be reduced for all organisation if all were administered under by the one organisation.
  - The introduction of the MAAA membership system enables one registrar to process memberships for the three disciplines.
  - The number of individual transactions to the MAAA Treasurer can be reduced
  - Honorariums currently paid can be substantially reduced.
  - Newsletter costs can be reduced by the establishment of one newsletter containing information relating to all disciplines.
  - One web site can service all three disciplines and provide relevant information across the aeromodelling spectrum.
- One reference point for all aeromodelling activities  
The establishment of one organisation in New South Wales representing all disciplines will facilitate:
  - Public and prospective members to find out more about the aeromodelling scene in New South Wales.
  - Each discipline to jointly promote individual events.
  - Improved services and contact with government agencies and other organisations.
  - One reference point for all activities by the MAAA Secretary.
  - One reference point for all affiliate members.

### **Disadvantages/Fears**

- Loss of independence  
One of the major arguments put forward is that each organisation will lose its independence to organise their own activities including financial affairs.
- Smaller organisations will be subsumed by larger organization.

The smaller organisations, Free Flight and Control line believe that they will lose their voice due to their smaller numbers and will be subsumed by the radio discipline. This will lead to a lack of voice and voting power.

- Loss of voice at MAAA Council Conferences  
At present each Ordinary New South Wales member has one vote at Council Conferences. There is a fear that the individual vote at Council conferences will be lost and all representation will be by those involved in the radio discipline; points of view from the Free Flight and Control Line members will be ignored.
- Limited funds for smaller organisations  
As the radio discipline is the largest group and thus would be the main contributors financially, a fear exists that very little money will be made available for other disciplines.
- Distrust of Aeromodellers New South Wales Executive motives.
- No chance of reaching agreement on contentious issues.
- Very strong differences of opinion have been evident for some time. The simplified administration clearly would be unworkable.
- Control Line, Free Flight and Radio members are poles apart in views and objectives.
- It is unlikely neither NSWFFS nor CLAS would be able to successfully levy any fees on their members.
- The resources, revenue earning capacity and relevance of NSWFFS and CLASA would be significantly impaired.
- The system is not broken and consequently there is no need for change.

#### **4.10 NSW Proposal**

As part of the ongoing negotiation between the three Ordinary members Aeromodellers NSW placed a proposition on the table consisting of the following:

- *NSWFFS & CLAS member clubs become MAS member clubs.*
- *MAS collect fees from NSW Clubs.*
- *MAS incurs costs on behalf of NSW Clubs.*
- *NSWFFS & CLAS continue and become the FF NSIG (not correct for FF – AFFS has that role).*
- *NSWFFS & CLAS keeps existing Assets (cash, land, etc.).*
- *NSWFFS & CLAS can organise Nats, earn Nat's Revenues (less cost of badges, patches, etc.) Incur Nat's costs. May get subsidy from MAS say \$250. Also, if NSW was holding the Nats then each group would obtain a share of the MAAA Nationals grant (\$11000.00 divided by 3)*
- *The change from MAS to Aeromodellers NSW will take effect in February this year.*
- *Fees currently charged are ;*
  - *MAS \$40.*

- NSWFFS \$30.
- CLAS \$25.
- *One needs to add the fee to MAAA to get the total fee per annum.*
- *MAS mentioned that they hope to reduce their own running costs and so perhaps reduce their own fees.*

This proposition was rejected and the following alternative proposal was presented:

*An alternate approach was suggested in the meeting;*

- *Leave the current structure as is.*
- *Reps from NSWFFS, CLAS & MAS meet, discuss & agree their vote on MAAA Annual Meeting issues before the annual meeting.*
- *Reps to agree to no disharmony at the annual meeting.*

#### **4.11 Council Options**

Two options are available to the Council in an attempt to resolve the situation:

- 1) Do nothing  
Doing nothing and allowing the current situation to continue will take the MAAA back to where it was 30 plus years ago. Leaving the situation as it is, does not fit and in fact will hinder the future direction of the MAAA, in particular in New South Wales.
- 2) Change the constitution to allow only one ordinary member in each state.  
The revoking of subsections 6.2 and 6.4 from the Statement of Rules will provide for only one Ordinary member in each state or territory.

If option 2 is adopted the MAAA Council could:

- Call for applications from organisations to represent NSW aeromodelling in that state. The MAAA Executive and Council prior to selecting the successful applicant would need to be satisfied that the successful applicant can justly lead, fairly administer and represent all aeromodellers in New South Wales. This will not necessarily mean the organisation with the greatest number of members.
- Establish a new independent organisation as the Ordinary Member.
- Establish MAAA Special Interest Groups for Free Flight, Control Line and Radio Control.
- Establish direct entry for all States and elect one director from each state, to represent all.

#### **4.12 Desired Outcomes**

The desired outcome from an MAAA Executive perspective is to have an organisation in NSW which truly and equitably represents all aeromodellers in NSW: an organisation to which all New South Wales members can confidently relate and trust to equally represent their views both internally and externally of the MAAA. The organisation that fulfills this roles needs to be able to demonstrate this ability.

The organisation appointed as the Ordinary Member must be able and capable of truly representing the interests of all members.

## 5.0 CONCLUSION

The current situation existing in New South Wales does not augment the MAAA Strategic plan agreed to by all Council members in 2013. The existence of three separate organisations in New South Wales has an identifiable impact on the administrative function of the MAAA Secretariat, affiliate members, government agencies, prospective members and members of the public.

A change must be made to ensure the objectives of the MAAA are achieved now and well into the future. If members do not look to the future (and not back in the past), there is a possibility those minority disciplines will only exist in the memory of those who once participated in them.

It is apparent at this point of time, that there will not be an acceptance of any organisation which does not fairly represent all aeromodellers; there is an identifiable distrust of the Aeromodellers NSW administration by the other Ordinary Members and any plan which places those members in charge of all affiliate members will not be acceptable; albeit this mistrust and apprehension dates back many years.

As the Board of Management, the Council must make a decision in respect to whether the New South Wales situation remains stuck in the past or whether we all move forward to assure the longevity of all disciplines.

It is the Executive's recommendation that the Council must look forward, change the Constitution to allow only one Ordinary member representing each State and assist New South Wales members to resolve the situation. The process should not be stalled; a sunset clause must be placed on any decisions.

## RECOMMENDATION

The MAAA Executive recommends that:

- 1) The Statement of Rules is changed to allow for only one Ordinary member to represent the MAAA in each State or Territory.
- 2) The Executive be given the direction to select and make recommendations to the Council on the appointment of the Ordinary Member in New South Wales.
- 3) The current Ordinary member provide a business case to the Executive within 6 months covering but not limited to the following:
  - a. Why the organisation should be appointed the Ordinary member
  - b. The processes to be adopted to ensure all affiliate members and clubs receive equal benefits and representations both financially and administratively.
  - c. The processes to be adopted to promote jointly all aeromodelling activities in New South Wales.
  - d. The establishment and election of the Board of Management.
  - e. The processes to be employed to ensure all communications to and from the MAAA Secretariat are distributed to all members.
  - f. The fee structures for the organisation to ensure no affiliate members or clubs are unduly disadvantaged.
  - g. The structure of rules and complaint handling processes to be adopted.

- 4) If the Council considers that none of the current Ordinary Members meet then in accordance with the rules call for applications from other like organisations.
- 5) The structure of one Ordinary Member in each State is in place prior to the 2016 Council Conference.
- 6) Members from the three NSW Ordinary Members have access to direct MAAA membership entry.

J. Neil Tank  
President

# Attachments

-4-

I just mentioned in passing that I would like to extend the time between take off and crash and what should I do? He of course had the answer. I needed proportional radio control and he had just made his first run. Unfortunately he couldn't let me have one due to backlog of orders.

The following Sunday, with my new propo system installed in my rebuilt Tiger Moth, I headed out to Minto where Bob had told me there were some guys who could land and take off without crashing.

As I drove up Pembroke Road I couldn't believe my eyes, there were two models in the air flying and both seemed to be under control. As I drove onto the field the motor of the highwing model stopped. It immediately turned back towards the field but it was a long way out. It was gliding well though very slowly when all of a sudden it seemed to fall out of the air. Whammo - instant kit. Still it had flown longer than all my flights combined. I pulled up just behind the guy flying the biplane who seemed to be making a final approach. I got out of the car, walked over to the pilot who had just landed and introduced myself.

"My name's Barry Bowerman," he said, "now move your bloody car out of the pits."

After this none too auspicious beginning Barry and I became great friends and with Dick Everett and others we went on to make the MARS Club, the most progressive, innovative and fun to belong to during those early years of RC.

It was the Who's Who of RC that assembled at my home at Dover Heights that June evening in 1975. John Marquette, Lyle Winley, John Lysaght, Barry Bowerman, Bill Marden, Alan Lynn, Dick Everett and myself were there. We were all dissatisfied

with the NSWAA subcommittee system. The problem was that free flight, control line and radio control were each administered by a sub committee of the NSWAA. Each sub committee had one vote, even though RC had more active members than CL or F/F combined. In those days RC flyers were new, enthusiastic and eager to do new things. All their endeavours seemed to be  
 \* thwarted by FF and CL who tended to be conservative and resist any change with obstinacy bordering on stupidity so this meeting was inevitable, as was the result, the formation of RCAS with direct affiliaton to the MAAA. Radio had come of age when it held its first meeting on August 20, 1974 at Gladesville RSL Club.

\* It was c/L & FF who wanted Incorporation and R/C who didn't. The ~~decision~~ <sup>motion</sup> to incorporate was voted down by the RCAS members at a meeting I organised at Merrylands High School hall. It took another 15 years for incorporation to become a reality. At 1/1990 the three societies are still separate entities but the acronym has almost disappeared. Does Ken want it revived by making comment

The biggest bone of contention was the 'lavish' spending by RCHS of funds patiently gathered by F/F & C/L. Two items at the time <sup>the rest by</sup> were payment of a dinner for committee members on the occasion of <sup>the</sup> Olsen (designated of the R/C LIPKOVAN) and the 'costly' printing of a set of internal rules which were to last only 3 months. RCHS justified the printing cost on grounds of aesthetics. F/F & C/L stated that a duplicate set ~~at~~ 1/10 the cost would have served the purpose equally well.

At that time there were something like \$5000 in the common fund. Most of the money had been steadily raised before R/C boomed. If one could all that F/F & C/L would get about \$1000, between them and RCHS would get the \$4000, if it were divided proportionately.

We were also a registered charity, and disposal of the money presented problems. A less selfless view finally prevailed and I supervised the winding up of the assets, with the money being paid direct to MAAA in the names of the 3 societies, & money to be spent on payment of fees in advance to MAAA. RCHS exhausted its share in the next nine months, C/L's share lasted 2 financial years and F/F's share meant we had no fees to pay for the next four years.

Once the money was gone, the biggest casus belli went back at: there was one fly in the ointment - \*BRAIN-DRAWERS claimed we owed them \$500 for back insurance. I had to implore the three societies to give me the \$170 each. Brain Drawers then demanded a further \$500. I told them there is no money, the Association was dissolved, and I as custodian was not prepared to deny the modelers' eyes. Brain-Drawers talked of suing me for the money, but after about two years stopped sending me letters of demand. The Chief Secretary's Department were ~~the~~ most perturbed at the disappearance of the money. They sent an officer to interview me and look at the books <sup>and</sup> I was very glad I had foreseen exactly what <sup>and</sup> had sent the money to Queensland. The Chief Secretary gave up too.

Another one of my "conservative ideas" was that we, as states, were not foolish in each having our own State Policy for insurance, and we should have a Federal policy. At this stage it was a battle not yet <sup>in</sup> and our policy was three layers of border's NSW agent, Brain-Drawers

J. W. G. V. M. 1