

President's Report

Indoor Aviation – Special Interest Group of the Australian Men's Shed

29 July, 2016

This is the fourth year of operation of Indoor Aviation and we can now say that things are settled into a routine that is uniquely satisfactory in model aviation in Australia. The vision of a formally constituted and insured group that would provide an adequate and accessible flying location for traditional small indoor machines has been very effectively realised. That it is matched by a relaxed and friendly atmosphere makes it all the better. I think everyone can agree that we have the right balance of formality and fun.

We have a good turn up at every flying session even on the coldest days and it is getting to the stage where there are frequently 6 or more planes in the air at once, not including the small multicopters that buzz about in the corners. Altogether a most satisfying outcome. Current membership stands at 41 without any effort to publicise or market our activities and it has been felt prudent to not make any effort in that direction. Current numbers seem about right to maximise the enjoyment of all.

The significant progression over the last 12 months has been the continued success of the Boronia site. Having two distinct locations (one of which has two separate flying halls and the other a very large triple court) is a unique advantage. We have also added some additional mid-month days to the Waverley calendar. Not only do these two factors allow more flying days but also they make it much easier for those in the NW suburbs to attend. We all owe a great debt of gratitude to Lew Rodman and his associates for arranging the use of the Knox Basketball venue. Many thanks to Lew and his group.

In regard to Waverley, I would like to record our gratitude again to Shane and staff at the Waverly Falcons BB centre for their great support and assistance. The constant friendly support and the willingness to remove wall panels to retrieve wayward flying objects are very much appreciated.

We have continued with the practice of donating a sum of \$200 to both venues as an Ad Hoc donation to help defray any costs they may incur by our presence during flying. Both managements have said that it was not necessary but have thanked us for the donations and said that they were very much appreciated.

All of this does not happen automatically but is the result of a great deal of generosity of spirit and goodwill among members. One of the great pleasures of Indoor Aviation is that we all look forward to coming. It is both enjoyable and satisfying and I think we can honestly say that we achieve the objectives of the Australian Men's Shed organisation in an exemplary fashion – even if it is probably not what most other Men's Shed members would think of as normal activity.

The great secret is of course the way in which members take responsibility when something needs doing and I would like to take the opportunity to formally thank everyone who contributes to our success.

Firstly the Committee. I have followed in Ian's guiding footsteps and adopted the principle of keeping the formal activities simple and just do enough to meet Incorporation regulations and

this has again worked very well. In practice for me this has meant doing almost nothing. The committee members just quietly do what needs to be done and things run smoothly. Others look after the sign-on sheets, morning tea and the like. My thanks to all of you for making the President's role a sinecure.

I will not mention people by name as everyone has played a significant part — but I would like to make one exception.

Roger Gibbs will be returning to his native shores soon and we wish him all the very best. Laurie has picked up the reigns of financial management. Roger has been the custodian of our financial affairs and other things, but above all was instrumental in the creation of the John Bird memorial trophy. This was won this year most ably by David Anderson and it is the third year it has been contested. Roger donated the trophy cup and the winner's keepsake cups in memory of our friend and colleague John Bird, who was of course the driving force behind the founding of Indoor Aviation. Most people will know that Roger is an accomplished indoor free flight modeller — everyone knows that he is a genuine gentleman and will be sorely missed. We wish him well on his return to England.

Formal Matters.

1) As with other years we do not know what the figure for our AMSA insurance will be until we get the bill in March. As in previous years however we will be well covered with our funds at bank.

2) Under the requirement of Section 30 of the act governing incorporated bodies we are required to submit a copy of our end of year accounts to Consumer Affairs for their records. This will be completed by the Secretary following the AGM using the online submission process.

3) As an incorporated body we have the need to meet the requirements of our constitution at all times so need to be constantly aware of the system of application and acceptance for membership.

As a final note, may I express my appreciation to all the members who have continued to come along and enjoy the flying and fellowship of our group in the best of spirit and with a generous outlook. It makes the sessions a joy to look forward to.

John Julian

President