

President's Report

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

28 July, 2017

This is the fifth year of operation of Indoor Aviation and I can only repeat what I said in my last report, "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."

Despite the fact that we now have more flying days available throughout the year than ever before, we continue to have a good turn up at every flying session, even in winter, and it is common that there are 6 – 8 planes in the air at once, not including the small multicopters that buzz about in the corners. At least at Waverley the free flight folks have a secluded retreat to ply their gentler trade. Current membership stands at 47 (6 up on the same time last year) without any effort to publicise or market our activities and it has been felt prudent to not make any effort in that direction. We deliberately declined an offer to publicise our activities on the Flying Show on Channel 31 Community Television for that reason as it was felt that current numbers are about right to maximise the enjoyment of all.

The continued success of the Boronia site is a matter for great satisfaction and special thanks to Lew Rodman for his stewardship of that and the people who support him there. Having two distinct locations (one of which has two separate flying halls and the other a very large triple court) is a unique advantage. The addition of the additional days to the Waverley calendar last year has proved popular. Mid-week is generally not as busy as Fridays and is an opportunity for a more relaxed experience.

In regard to Waverley, I would like to record our gratitude again to Shane and staff at the Waverley Falcons BB centre for their great support and assistance. The constant friendly support and the willingness to occasionally 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. This year we are going to enter the AMSA National Men's Shed Awards in the category of "Unusual shed activity" and also hopefully submit some photos of the John Bird trophy for the 2018 Men's Shed Calendar.

As we are all aware, the strength of Indoor Aviation is 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.

I am particularly grateful to the Committee and individual members who happily take on

necessary tasks. We have an established philosophy of keeping the formal activities simple and just do enough to meet Incorporation regulations and this has again worked very well. Yet again in practice for me this has meant doing almost nothing. The committee and 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.

It would be unreasonable to single out individual people by name in my view as everyone has played a significant part.

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