

President's Report

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

22 July, 2018

We are now in the sixth year of operation of Indoor Aviation and we continue to enjoy an activity that is growing in popularity, judging by the numbers attending each flying session and the number of radio-controlled planes in the air at any one time. In addition, the more deliberate and sedate activities of the free flight boys continue at both locations.

As noted in previous reports, 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 realized. It seems universally agreed that we have the right balance of formality and fun. 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 rotary jobs that lurk in the corners. At least at Waverley the free flight folks have a secluded retreat to ply their gentler trade. Current membership stands at 48 (compared with 47 the same time last year) without any effort to publicize or market our activities and again it has been felt prudent to not make any effort in that direction. It is good to see new faces turning up and discovering the unique challenge and enjoyment of maneuvering an airborne object in a confined space with guaranteed calm weather conditions every flying day. The continued success of the Boronia site is a matter for great satisfaction and special thanks to Lew 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. As we did last year, we have included additional days into the original Waverley calendar and also managed to get a couple of bonus flying days in the school holiday periods which was not anticipated. Mid-week is still not generally as busy as Fridays but the difference is diminishing.

As always, 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 occasionally 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 AdHoc 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.

There is little doubt that we can say that we achieve the objectives of the Australian Men's Shed organization to provide a satisfying and socially supportive activity 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 entered the AMSA National Men's Shed Awards in the category of “Unusual shed activity” and it was sufficiently confusing for them that they made the award to another full-size aviation focused shed but called them the Indoor Aviation group!

Our modest fees and daily flying fee are more than enough to cover our expenses and we have been able this year to purchase three excellent 1S battery chargers in addition to our existing Internal Resistance meters so we have good technical support available at both Waverley and Boronia. We also funded the purchase of a batch of small electric powered free

flight planes for the 2017 John Bird trophy and a great deal of fun was had by all. Congratulations to Geoff who was the winner and a big thanks to Julie and Jeanette for attending and to Mark Christian of Micron Wings in Brisbane who sent down a bunch of interesting assembled prototype planes which were used as prizes.

As I have said in previous reports, 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 at both venues. Our established philosophy of keeping the formal activities simple and just do enough to meet Incorporation regulations and this has again worked very well. 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. We are not proposing to change our fees however and as in previous years 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

The full report has been added to the web site.