

## **President's Report**

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

**6 August, 2021**

This is the ninth successful year of operation of Indoor Aviation – but as for 2020 it has been significantly affected by Covid 19.

When the President's report for 2020 was prepared in early August last year flying had been completely suspended since the 21 March lockdown. We had to cancel the annual John Bird Memorial Trophy. We had organised a regular weekly link up using Zoom on Friday mornings and we had 9-12 people on most days taking part. Although noted at the time, "It is no substitute for the real thing, but it gives people a chance to keep in touch with one another and share their building projects and back garden test flights."

Since that time things had returned to some semblance of normality and we have had an extended period of regular flying in 2021 with less restrictions, although in Melbourne we are getting used to shut downs at short notice! We have had to postpone the AGM and John Bird trophy to 20 August and have fingers crossed. It has been a very difficult time for staff at all 4 venues and I would like to acknowledge how helpful they have been in accommodating us and record my appreciation for the way in which they have offered support to Ian, Lew, Laurie and Graham in making these venues a wonderful place for us to enjoy our hobby.

As noted in the Secretary's report, we lost two highly experienced and extremely well regarded members through this year in Wes Hoffman and Martin Hopper, but overall numbers are up significantly. We currently have 72 total members and 4 separate, widely dispersed flying sites with increased days so there is plenty of opportunity to get together and fly. Just as a matter of interest if we had not had closures due to Covid, we would have had 102 flying days in 2021.

It is a pleasure to attend, catch up, and fly in a relaxing and rewarding experience. I can only reiterate my remarks from last year. Indoor Aviation is marked by the way in which members take responsibility when something needs doing and I would like to take the opportunity to thank everyone who contributes to our success. Formal roles have stayed fairly constant but markedly, if someone is not available for any reason, someone else always steps in to cover. I would wish however to acknowledge the continuing and consistent support from Ian Jemmeson and Laurie Clark. The roles of Secretary and Treasurer are vital - but often not seen by members. The amount of work involved, and the diligence with which those roles are fulfilled, are essential to the smooth running of the group. Together with Ian and Laurie, Lew and Graham have taken on the responsibility of being the people in charge of the 4 flying sites and I really appreciate the way in which everything runs so smoothly. I also want to thank Michael Skuse for his excellent stewardship of our morning tea requirements at Waverley when he took over from Gary O'Mahony.

John Julian  
President

The full report has been added to the web site.