

## President's Report

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

**20 July, 2022**

This is the 10<sup>th</sup> year of operation of Indoor Aviation and things are “more or less” back to normal after a turbulent 2-year Covid period. Flying was disrupted for much of 2020 and 2021 but for the latter part of 2021 and so far this year we have been able to operate without too much constraint within the Covid guidelines of the 4 venues.

As a matter of record, 98 total flying days were scheduled in 2020 (although we were not able to use all of them); this year we have 131 days in the flying calendar. In some weeks we have flying at all 4 sites. The staff at all 4 venues have been extremely welcoming and helpful and I would like to record my appreciation for the way in which they have offered friendly support to Ian, Lew, Laurie and Graham in making these venues an outstanding place for us to enjoy our hobby.

As a consequence of Covid restrictions, we had to cancel the annual John Bird Memorial Trophy in 2020 and 2021 but we were able this year to hold it again at Waverley on 24 June. Julie, John's wife, unfortunately was unable to attend due to illness but we were very pleased to have Laurie, John's brother, who presented the winning cup and also second and third place prizes generously donated by Colin Smith. The competition this year was a spot landing one with a cunning handicap system to equalise the chances for different types of model. Even free flight rubber models were eligible and one came close to winning. In the end however Peter Cossins took out first place with a landing 0.24m from the spot with his Trainstar. Lew Rodman was second with his Stick while Ron Van Bommel and Laurie Clarke had a fly off for third place with their Night Vapors which Ron won. My thanks to Lew and Ian for officiating and doing the distance measurements.

Given our age demographic, it is inevitable that we will lose members from time to time and the 2021/22 year was unfortunately notable for the passing of two highly respected and faithful IA participants. The extraordinarily talented Wes Hoffman, who twice won the John Bird Trophy, was farewelled at a memorial service on 12<sup>th</sup> April last year and John Gottschalk on 15<sup>th</sup> March this year. IA committee members were in attendance at both services.

As noted in previous President's reports, 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. In particular however I would wish 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. And as always, a big thanks to those who look after our morning tea requirements.

John Julian  
President

The full report has been added to the web site.