

President's Report

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

11 July, 2023

This is the 11th year of operation of Indoor Aviation and the past year has been “business as usual” after the disruptions of Covid in 2020 and 2021.

67 flying days were scheduled in the last half of 2022 and 56 in the first half 2023 and, as previously, 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 excellent support to Ian, Lew, Laurie and Graham in making these venues an outstanding place for us to enjoy our hobby. The formal management body at Mullum has recently changed but it appears as though many of the existing friendly staff remain and we anticipate that things will continue as before. Shane Palmer, the site manager, has left Waverley after many years and I would like to record our appreciation for the exceptional level of support we had at Waverley through his extremely helpful assistance.

The annual John Bird Memorial Trophy for 2022 was held at Waverley on 24 June and this year it will be on Friday, 25th August – again at Waverley. Julie, John's wife, may be unable to attend but we will have confirmation closer to the date. The competition this year is planned to be a trimming contest based on the maximum flight time of a simple timed electric powered glider. Each contestant will be issued with an identical plane on the morning of the competition and will have up till 10:30 to sort it out. It is planned to have 20 models available on a first in - best dressed basis.

As noted in previous reports, it is inevitable that we will lose members from time to time given our age profile but some new recruits have insured that overall numbers have remained essentially the same as last year.

As I have said 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. This year Ian is stepping down from some of his responsibilities as we split the Secretarial role into two functions and I would like to thank Michael Best for accepting the responsibility of managing the Membership register. Peter Zambory will continue to manage the issuing of membership labels in his excellent efficient way. I would also like to acknowledge Bruce Gillard who is formally stepping down from the Committee but will continue to provide his invaluable support at Waverley as required. Together with Ian and Laurie, Lew and Graham continue with 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.