

## **President's Report**

Indoor Aviation – Special Interest Group of the Australian Men's Shed  
**25 August, 2024**

We are now in our 12<sup>th</sup> year of successful operation – hard to believe!

### **Flying days planned for 2024:**

- 33 flying days were initially booked at Waverley, 3 got moved and 3 got cancelled for a total of 30 scheduled.
- 16 flying days were booked at Boronia, anticipating closure of the site in October and all were used. As of the date of this report, we do not yet know the final status of an alternative option at the State Basketball Centre at Wantirna South.
- 69 flying days were initially booked at Mullum Mullum, 4 were added subsequently and 6 got cancelled for a total of 67 scheduled.
- 42 flying days were initially booked at Frankston, including some additional days added half way through the year. 8 days got cancelled resulting in a total of 34 scheduled.

That is a total of 147 flying days in 2024.

As in 2023, 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 John Bird trophy.**

The annual John Bird Memorial Trophy for 2023 was held at Waverley on Friday, 25<sup>th</sup> August and the 2024 competition on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> August – again at Waverley.

Julie, John's wife, and his brother Laurie were able to attend on both occasions.

The 2023 competition involved a trimming contest based on the maximum flight time of a simple timed electric powered glider. Each contestant was issued with an identical plane on the morning of the competition and had up till 10:30 to sort it out. Results were sometimes spectacular with models buzzing around in tight powered circles. It was won by David Benner with a time of 28.7 seconds. In addition, his second-best flight was 28.3 seconds. Talk about consistent. Second place went to Ron van Bommel with 17.1 seconds and third was Greg Egan at 14.5 seconds.

The 2024 competition was virtually identical except this time the model was a cheap Chinese basic rubber powered kit with some dubious engineering. That maestro of flight, Andrew Halstead managed three consistent flights of 22, 21.8 and 19 seconds well ahead of the second and third placegetters Peter McCarthy and Ian Miller who managed about 10 seconds.

### **Retirement of our Secretary.**

Ian Jemmeson has indicated that he will not stand again as Secretary at the AGM. It is with the greatest regret that I see him stand down. Ian was the second president after John Bird, and shortly after moved to the role of Secretary which he has acquitted with exceptional diligence since, in addition to managing the Waverley site. I would like to record my personal

gratitude to Ian for the professional way he has managed our various formal responsibilities, particularly the annual reporting to Consumer Affairs in addition to all the usual secretarial responsibilities that keep a club running seemingly effortlessly but which in fact require a great deal of diligent effort. To say that he has made the job of President almost effortless is no exaggeration.

On a positive note, we are delighted to see that Rick Miles has agreed to offer himself as Secretary going forward. His background and skills will be an excellent addition to the management of club affairs. Taken in addition to the role that Michael Best has taken on over the last year to manage the Membership register I think we are in excellent hands.

### **Final comments**

As I have said in previous President's reports, Indoor Aviation is marked by the way in which members readily and without asking 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 once again my personal appreciation for the 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 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.

Finally, I would also like to acknowledge Don Bladier who is formally stepping down from the Committee. Don is one of the foundation members of Indoor Aviation. His wise and sensible advice has always been appreciated.

John Julian  
President

The full report has been added to the web site.