

ASAC and FAI VP Presidents Report – AGM 2022

Our honorary president/patron, Peter Lloyd passed away in August at the ripe old age of 101.75. Peter served ASAC, FAI and the Royal Federation of Aero Clubs for many decades.

At the Safeskiies conference in late September at Parliament House in Canberra, Richard McCooey and I did a farewell tribute to Peter before all the Safeskiies delegates and guests. A good send-off.

ASAC, and members were well presented at the conference, which went ahead despite the government declaring a public holiday, with only one week's notice, limiting the conference to one day. The second day was done by webinars, over the past month.

I am pleased to report ASAC is solvent and the financial outlook for the coming year is positive but headwinds due to the rapidly rising travel costs.

The dreaded virus is still around, but we now seem to have adopted to managing it like any other health issue. Overseas, most countries are getting back to "normal", except for China.

FAI

The FAI General Conference (GC) was held in late October by zoom.

Some highlights: -

The FAI budget was approved. Increases to FAI membership fees were approved, to be phased in over 3 years.

FAI Code of Conduct and FAI Discipline Codes were approved.

Graeme Windsor was re-elected to the Executive Board of the FAI for another 2 years. FAI President, David Monks was re-elected for another 2 years.

The FAI is still recovering from the pandemic induced issues and some poor management in the recent past. The operating costs have been cut significantly as part of the strategy to get the FAI back to financial health.

Ukraine is not financial with FAI at present. FAI Statutes do not allow for waiving of fees. Some delegates offered financial assistance. I have been emailing back and forth the FAI Sec General but some questions have remained unanswered, as the Sec. General is in discussions with the Ukraine NAC, when contact is possible between power outages. I feel ASAC along with other countries could assist, but when the war will end, nobody knows.

There was also a meeting of the General Sports Commission of FAI following the GC. I was re-elected to CASI for another 2 years.

The next FAI General Conference is in Dayton Ohio in 2023. Bids are open for the 2024 which maybe China will bid for assuming it has opened up

CASA

There has been quite a bit of activity with CASA over the past year. Technical working groups (TWGs) have been very stop/start with CASA timelines and priorities changing frequently. One has to have a high degree of patience in dealing with CASA, as some CASA staff want to be very prescriptive and controlling. With Manuals of Standards and Part 149 "self-administration, this could lead to CASA (sport office) management by proxy.

Getting CASA Instruments can be a nightmare. A relatively simple one for the Aerobatic Club took about 4 months and another one for an airspace Instrument for skydiving, has taken over 2 years and counting, i.e, not done yet.

In August, at the invitation of the CASA Board including GEO Pip Spence, myself, and 5 general aviation professionals, met for dinner in Canberra. It was a great opportunity to meet and talk openly about a broad range of issues, good bad and problematic. I hope some long term good positive outcomes can be achieved in the CASA relationship with industry.

It would appear CASA is bogged down, especially the legal people, with trying to make Part 91 work.

Meetings of the various aviation industry groups has been difficult this year due, it appears, to the financial and operational pressures impacting stakeholders. It has limited the ability to attend meetings and provide time to tasks.

Some situations in the past year and reading the Constitution as it is written led me to believe some changes to the ASAC Constitution would serve ASAC much better.

For consideration: -

1. Change to title of Executive Officer to Secretary General. This is the title as used by NACs around the world. Rule 5.1
2. Add the word appointed to elected for the all the executive roles, as it is with the president. Rule 3.2 and 3.3
3. The Chairman, Technical Committee Rule 3.5 could be simplified.

I propose the Executive examine the possible changes and report to the Board any

changes at the mid-year meeting,

ASAC agreed to have a review panel examine some issues and penalties on two individuals emanating from the WWGC in 2020. The review was at the request of Gliding Australia. The panel has issued a final report. Hopefully this report ends all the issues surrounding the WWGC.

Due to the unexpected extent of the work by the panel I would like to recommend ASAC award the members of the panel a recognition or acknowledgement.

ASAC has been issuing sporting licenses to members who are not members of an ASAC affiliated organisation. The individual concerned are indoor skydiving participants. Though indoor skydiving is an FAI event, there is not an affiliated organisation in Australia. This needs discussion for the long term.

Finally, I would like to thank Ruth, Graeme and Ray for their assistance and counsel throughout the year.

Grahame Hill

President

1st Dec, 2022

