



NEW ZEALAND SOCIETY  
OF AIR SAFETY INVESTIGATORS

## PRESIDENT' S NEWSLETTER

### SEPTEMBER 2021

Ladies and Gentlemen

You may recognise the format – a blast from the past, and probably the last (format, not newsletter). It's hard to believe that two months have slipped by since the society's biennial general meeting held at Rydges, Wellington on 9 July. Two eventful, and for many, difficult months, it has to be said.

The BGM was attended in person by 14 members (including three from Auckland), with eight joining by video link. The main outcome from the meeting was a change in the society's officers (or 'executive') – for once, we had volunteers for three of the positions, not the least of which is that of Secretary/Treasurer. That role has been a difficult one to fill (and keep filled) since June 2017. Mike Eastwood, who kindly (and bravely) put up his hand the morning after the 2019 BGM, found himself without a job during or shortly after the 2020 lockdown, when his employer sadly decided to close down its New Zealand flight training operation. Mike subsequently returned to the medical sector, in which he was previously qualified.

Our Wonder-Woman VP, Lou Child, picked up the Sec/Treas reins in addition to her VP role and got everything sorted in the lead-up to the BGM. Which, incidentally, she single-handedly organised as well. Our grateful thanks are due to Paul, Lou, and Mike for their input in the last two years of society governance.

Wayne Jones has stepped up for the Sec/Treas role, and we have Mike Zaytsoff as our new VP. Wayne is currently working through the banking issues (changing the account authorities) - dealing with a wunch of bankers (say it quickly a couple of times) is no easy task, as we have discovered!

I volunteered to keep on with the International Councillor role, but there were no nominations for President either in the lead-up to, or at the meeting. At the very last minute, I thought, bugger this, I could probably do another term, so put up my hand. I absolutely did not go to the meeting with that intention, though. Anyway, I look upon it as a 'caretaker' role, so we might look at a by-election for the position next year.

#### **The New Executive: VP**

Good day friends. As Alister mentioned, I've taken over the VP position from Lou Child. I'll start off by thanking her for her many contributions to the Society. Going forward, I definitely have big shoes to fill, to say the least.

In the discussion after the BGM, one of the most promising ideas for giving more value to our membership was a monthly professional development webinar. Those of you who are also members of the Royal Aeronautical Society will know that they run a monthly professional development

webinar on the last Thursday of the month. For now, I'm investigating webinar programs for our own professional development series so stand by for more information.

I'm currently a Dash 8-Q300 Captain with Air New Zealand (formerly Air Nelson) based in Auckland. Before that I worked for Jetstar Regional, based in Napier, also flying the Dash 8-Q300. Prior to that I worked for Air Canada Express, based in Vancouver, where I flew the Q400/300/100 variants of the Dash 8 and 900/200/100 variants of the Bombardier CRJ. Like all Air Canada Express pilots, I was part of the USA's ALPA union, and was able to partake in accident investigation training courses they put on for their members. My employment prior to that was flying a King Air 200 in air ambulance configuration to locations in Northern Canada and occasionally the Arctic. It was there that I began my Masters in Aeronautical Science. I completed that in 2013 with my thesis being about the use of public inquiries in the accident investigation process.

On the volunteer side, I'm currently the Technical Director for the NZ Region of the Honourable Company of Air Pilots (formerly GAPAN, or the Guild of Air Pilots and Navigators). I'm hoping to get the Hon. Co. and NZSASI to work together more, since both organizations believe in advocating for air safety from a non-political point of view. Once in a while I'm also a conductor on the trams at the MOTAT (Museum of Transport and Technology).

Wishing you as good a day as possible, under the COVID circumstances.

Mike

### **Sec/Treas**

As AB has noted above, I am the new NZSASI Sec/Treas. It's certainly been a bit of a learning curve so far, as I've never been much of a bean-counter. It's been a struggle coming to terms with tidying up all the finances - due mainly to the lack of customer service provided by the bank (not to mention trying to sort out tax return issues with the IRD...)

I'd like to also pass on my thanks to the previous Executive - particularly Lou, who has done an incredible amount of work on our behalf over the last few years.

AB wanted a brief bio for this newsletter, so here goes! I am currently a Flight Engineer on the mighty P-3K2 Orion, with around 5,200 flight hours - and hopefully a few more before they retire the Orion in a couple of years. I started my RNZAF career as an aircraft technician (more than) a few haircuts ago and remustered to my current aircrew role in 2009. I've been involved in flight safety for about 20 years now, starting as the 5 Squadron Unit Ground Safety Officer, then moving into Logistics/Technical Wing safety auditing, then becoming the 5 Squadron Unit Flight Safety Officer. I've completed my BAv, PGDipAv and MAV through Massey University, with my postgraduate study concentrating on air safety. I have been an associate member of NZSASI since 2000.

The next few years will be critical to the survival of NZSASI, so I encourage everyone to do their bit to keep the Society going. Our new VP (Mike) has some great ideas to promote ourselves, but if you have any thoughts on how NZSASI can be improved, please let us know!

Cheers,  
Wayne

### **President**

For my part, I left the CAA in October 2019 to take up a contract with PASO as USOAP Adviser - I'm now in the second year of that six-month contract! What's USOAP? That's the ICAO Universal Safety Oversight Audit Programme. It's basically the same work I was doing at the CAA, but for nine different Pacific Island States. Keeps me off the streets (except when I'm walking the dogs).

The ISASI Council work goes on, but the only actual meetings we've had are two of the 'virtual' kind - one in February this year and the second in the last week of August - both run to Washington DC time, so a night shift back here. Just like the ISASI seminar just gone. The minutes of the February

meeting are now posted on the ISASI website, having been approved at the August meeting. The spring 2020 meeting (Washington/Dulles) was cancelled as was the one concurrent with the Montréal seminar that also didn't happen, thanks (not) to COVID.

### **Membership**

As reported at the BGM, our membership numbers have dropped to 43 (including seven Life Members), due in no small part to the C-word and its knock-on effects, with Mike Eastwood being a prime example. We lost several CAA members when CAA decided that it would no longer sponsor those who were not part of the Safety Investigation Unit, or whatever it's called this week. Perhaps when the industry gets back on its feet post-COVID, we might see a resurgence in membership. We can but hope.

At the August International Council meeting there was a call for a volunteer for a third member on the Membership Committee – so after a week or so of deafening silence, I put up one of my hands. The work involves, among other things, assessing the category of membership for applicants, so any new NZ applications can be sent direct to me for recommendation and forwarding (saves double handling). I had been doing this for NSZASI anyway since Russell Kennedy handed over the Sec/Treas reins (which he had picked up again when the previous incumbent stood down due to external commitments) to Mike Eastwood in 2019.

### **Seminars**

The ISASI seminar that was to have been held in Montréal a year ago morphed into a virtual seminar run from 31 August to 2 September. At least three of us signed up despite the night-shift hours (0030 to 0630 here, as it was geared to Eastern Daylight Time, UTC-4). All the proceedings were recorded and can still be accessed by the original registrants. For those who missed out on the seminar and would still like to view the presentations, you'll need to register (and pay) for the seminar. Registration details will remain 'live' on the ISASI website at least until the end of November.

The next international seminar will be held, COVID permitting, in Brisbane from 29 August to 2 September 2022. That may well become an online or hybrid event, depending on circumstances.

The ANZSASI regional seminar originally scheduled for June 2020 (on the Gold Coast) was postponed until November 2020, then again to June 2021, and finally to November 2021. And once again, it has had to be abandoned due to COVID travel restrictions. A timely call by ASASI, as the situation in NSW is still on a slippery slope to who-knows-what.

Undaunted by the four postponements of the regional seminar, ASASI have planned to hold it at the same venue in June 2023 (on our Queen's Birthday weekend). The Novotel Surfers Paradise agreed to hold over until then the substantial deposit paid by ASASI, which otherwise would have been lost in the event of an outright cancellation. I believe that deal took some smooth talking by Paul Mayes!

So, that puts any plans for an NZSASI-hosted seminar on hold until 2024; perhaps we can organise a scaled-down event of some kind to coincide with our 2023 BGM.

### **Future Newsletters**

As I mentioned at the beginning, this is the last newsletter in this format – check out the ASASI newsletter currently posted on the ISASI website; also Paul's one sent out not long before the BGM. NZSASI Newsletters have been issued at random intervals in the past (except in the 2017-19 reign when there was none) - perhaps it's time to go to a fixed schedule (e.g., quarterly) as have ASASI – or should we combine ours with ASASI's for convenience? I don't know if the picture of the flags on their page 1 is a hint or a coincidence.



### **ISASI Forum Magazine**

An interesting stat was detailed at the recent Council meeting – the magazine production costs per hard copy come to US\$6 and for overseas postage, US14, in round figures. For those who receive the quarterly copy by post, your US\$80 annual sub only just pays for the magazine. The e-copy option is available to anyone – if you wish to change from hard copy, simply email [isasi@erols.com](mailto:isasi@erols.com) with your request. With transport systems in disarray at present, there can be significant delays in receiving the hard copy.

### **Matt's Project**

One of our CAA members, Matt Harris, is a PhD student at the University of Southern Queensland. As part of his studies, Matt is conducting a survey, and by now you will have received the invitation to participate. It's entirely optional, of course, but Matt would be really appreciative of our support.

### **Contributions**

These newsletters can be a bit one-sided sometimes, so please, if you have any news to share about yourself or your organisation, pass it to the society executive at the email addresses below. Don't be shy!

### **The Finishing Bit**

Not much left to say! Let's look forward to an improvement in the Alert Level situation, and hope that some fool doesn't go and spoil it all for the rest of us – a few have already had a go! In the meantime, all the best, whatever your current circumstances.

Kind regards

Alister Buckingham  
President retread

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