



NEW ZEALAND SOCIETY
OF AIR SAFETY INVESTIGATORS

NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2022

President's Preamble

Ladies and Gentlemen

I remarked in the last newsletter that the light at the end of the tunnel turned out to be the Omicron Express coming the other way. And how – describing the result as a major train wreck is probably an understatement! No choice but to grin (yeah, right!) and bear it, as the saying goes. And, just to add to the happy mix, we're already feeling the flow-on effects of the potential World War III brewing in Europe.

Enough gloom and doom – we now have the confirmed ISASI seminar in Brisbane to look forward to. It has been set up both as an in-person and interactive live-streamed event from Tuesday 30 August to Thursday 1 September. The venue is the Pullman & Mercure Hotel in King George Square; at this stage the hotel reservation details have yet to be posted, likewise information on any associated activities. The registration fee levels are still being discussed between ASASI and the ISASI seminar convenor, and will be posted when finalised.

The Call for Papers and relevant information is published on the ISASI website www.isasi.org/ with a deadline date of 20 April, with acceptances notified to submitters by 30 May. Keep an eye on the website for progressive updates on the seminar.

There's not much general news this time, but there are some pleasing updates in the Membership section. Both Mike and Wayne have their input below, and no doubt Mike will be reporting on his excellent series of professional development webinars.

I see that the NZSASI introductory remarks on the NZSASI page of the new ASASI website (<https://asasi.org/nzsasi/>) are now a little dated, so I will be attending to that in the very near future. If anyone has a suggestion for content to add to our page, please let's have it and we'll get it up there.

VP's Views

Hello friends

I'm happy to report our monthly webinar series is going well. We've averaged 20 participants over the first 3 webinars when our expectations were for about 10. We had a scare in February when our guest speaker had to cancel at the last minute. Thankfully our fellow member Matt Harris suggested Eric West from the USA's FAA as a replacement. Thanks again to Matt for helping us out with that. On that note, please keep sending us your suggestions for guest speakers. We have speakers for April and October lined up but the months in between are currently vacant.

Next month on Wednesday April 13 at 10am our guest speaker will be Captain Robert Sumwalt, the former Chair of the USA's National Transportation Safety Board. As he led the world's premier

accident investigation organization for several years, I'm expecting that webinar could be quite popular. Our Zoom cap on attendees is 100 which breaks down to 40 NZSASI members and 40 HCAP members, with room for 20 guests. So if you would like to invite a guest, please register them with me early. I'm happy to report the organization we partner with for this webinar series, the Hon. Co. of Air Pilots (HCAP), has said they will pay for a one-off increase to the 100 attendees cap if it looks like we may exceed that number. There is an addition you can purchase to Zoom that allows you to do that. If you could kindly register your guests early I will be able to track if it looks like it will be necessary to purchase that addition or not.

Some members have asked if these sessions are being recorded. I'm sorry to say that currently they are not. The logic behind that is Zoom unfortunately shows everyone exactly how many people are in attendance, including the guest speaker. We of course thank the guest speaker for sharing their insight and wisdom with us. But another good way to show a guest speaker they are valued is by the number of people that turned up to see what they had to say. My concern is if we record the presentations then the number of people attending may drop, because they can watch it later. I just think as a guest speaker it hurts to have only 3 or 4 people show up. I'm not sure if telling them people will watch it later makes up for that. I have personally given a few presentations before to a mostly empty room and I find it's difficult to get over that. To the best of my knowledge, with our Zoom setup, there is no way to stop it from displaying how many people are in the audience. In the future if we can hide that number from being visible, then recording the presentations for distribution later on is something we could pursue. I am open to hearing what other members think on this issue.

That's all for now. Thanks for your time.

Mike

Sec/Treas Section

Wayne is currently on a very busy deployment, but reports that he has nothing to report this time. He does, however, ask that members keep their contact detail up to date – the process is described in the membership section below.

Membership

Firstly, a warm welcome to our two newest members, Claire Walton and Evan Lee. Claire has joined as a Student Member, currently studying extramurally at Massey University, and having recently completed a fixed-term internship with TAIC. Evan was an ASASI member, but his working with Air New Zealand in Auckland meant that it was more convenient to be affiliated with NZSASI. That process involved only a few keyboard strokes in the ISASI membership database.

Also recently returned to the fold is Glen MacWilliam of Waikato Regional Airport Ltd; Glen has reinstated his membership after just over a year's lapse..

Upgraded from Associate to Full Member is Siobhan Mandich, safety investigator with CAA. She may be surprised by this (that was the idea!), but I noticed her Associate status while checking the online member list. I mentioned in the last newsletter that NZSASI would now fund member upgrades, so that's what we've done. I submitted the form on her behalf and certified that she had long-since met the full membership criteria.

Last but not least, we also have in our midst Enriqueta (aka Henrietta) Zambonini who joined TAIC late last year. This was as a result of some chance meetings at an ISASI Council meeting in 2018 and

at the 2019 ISASI seminar in The Hague. Enriqueta is currently Vice-President of the Latin-American society, and will retain that role for the time being. Enriqueta was previously employed by the *Junta de Seguridad en el Transporte* in Buenos Aires, as an accident investigator. She is no stranger to New Zealand, having spent some of her younger years in Ashburton.

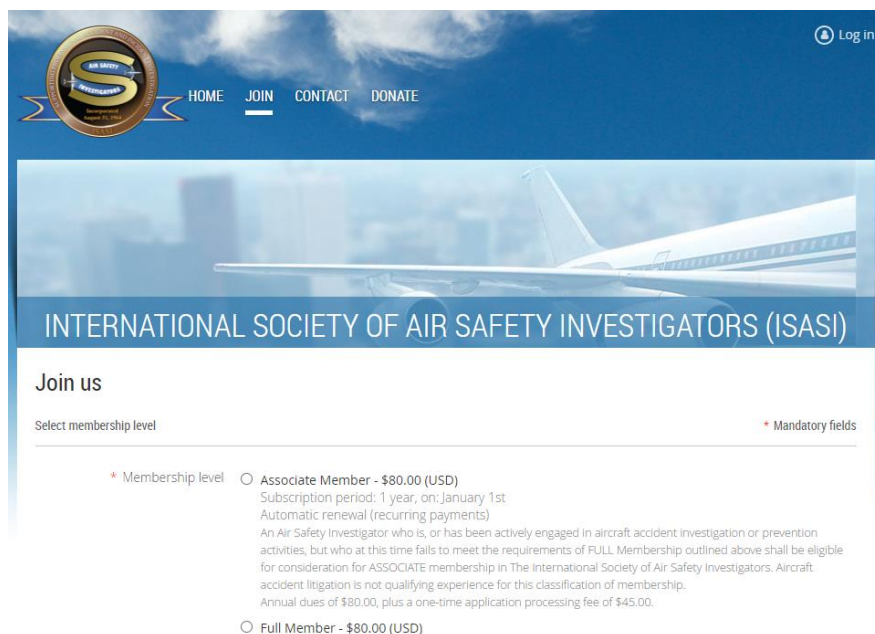
Always the downside, though. Rob Finch has told us that he will be leaving the RNZAF later this year, and since it will no longer have relevance, will not be renewing his ISASI membership. We will also farewell Matt Harris (physically, if not administratively) in mid-April. Matt is leaving CAA to take up a three-year contract with Airservices Australia in a Human Factors specialist role. Matt will remain affiliated with NZSASI, which softens the blow somewhat. No doubt we'll see him at the various Trans-Tasman seminars in the future.

Membership administration

Members can now edit their own details on the new(ish) website, <https://isasi.wildapricot.org/>; alternatively, if already working in the original ISASI website, www.isasi.org, just clicking on the scrolling banner:



will take you to the new site:



For those who have not yet logged in, the username is your email address, then click on the 'Forgot password' link. You will receive a random password by email almost immediately, and it can be edited at your leisure. Note that the email address needs to be the same as the one stored in the WA database, otherwise the system won't recognise you. If you do run into this problem, possibly because your email address was changed since your first joined ISASI, let me know, as I can look up (as a system administrator) the email address recorded in the system.

While logged into the system please also check and acknowledge the Privacy Policy under the Contact Details tab.

Annual dues payment can be made through the WA system, and this (by credit card) is now the preferred method – the payment link will be quite obvious once you've opened your personal details page. The system will automatically generate an invoice and send it to your stored email address each year at 0001 hours 1 January Eastern Standard Time, give or take a minute or two. There may be an earlier mailout, but I haven't confirmed that.

Further to Wayne's plea, if you do edit your contact details, please also notify Wayne so that he can keep our local records current.

With the ripening of the Wild Apricot, the previous method of logging into the ISASI is now no longer valid (it was membership number and first name) as access has been aligned with the WA system, i.e., the password you set up with WA is common to both sites.

Note that the home page of the WA site caters for new memberships only; upgrades and reinstatement forms are on the ISASI site, under the Memberships tab.

Another reminder for those members getting near the current life membership threshold (currently age 70, with at least the preceding 5 years paid membership) be ready to get your application in, as the criteria will change on 1 January 2024 to age 74 and 10 years continuous membership – plus a fee (a big one!).

President's Postscript

The most recent of Mike's excellent webinars was presented by Domenico Lombardo, an accident investigator with the Australian Department of Defence, on an accident involving a Royal Australian Navy Sea King in Indonesia. This was an absolutely riveting session, lasting nearly two hours – the planned time slot was one hour. I had seen a presentation by Rick Sellers on the same accident at our 2011 ANZSASI seminar here in Wellington, but Rick was necessarily constrained by the length of the timetabled sessions. Dom was able to flesh it out with greater detail, also with audience interaction. I could instantly relate to the components in question, having done a ground school course on the 'Jolly Green Giant' variant (I even got a famil flight as a bonus).

I confess that I had to get out and walk around for a bit afterwards, as the presentation evoked some still-raw (I hadn't realised) memories of similar investigations during my time in the business. Two burnt-out Sikorsky S-55 helicopters, a similarly-destroyed Iroquois, and at least four burnt ag aircraft. Lots of time on site trying to trace pre-impact engine and flight control continuity; all the usual hazards, although, thankfully, no carbon fibres. Plenty of magnesium-thorium ash to contend with. Back in the day, we used to get dispatched solo to some of these, something to be avoided at all costs these days.

The memories don't go away – they can accumulate like barnacles and weed on a ship's hull, and it doesn't take much of a scrape to expose them again. Similarly, you can travel around the country,

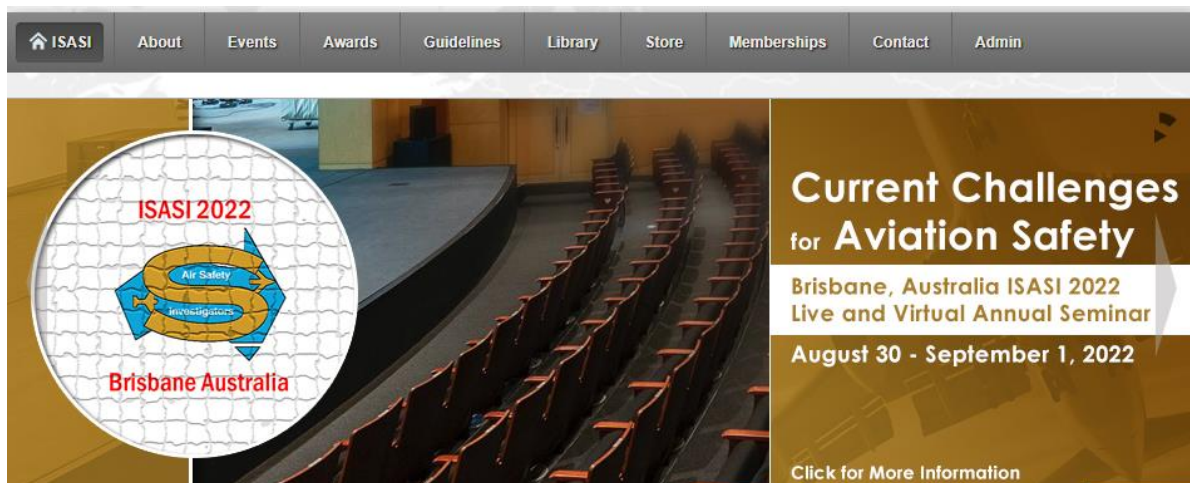
and just about everywhere you can say, “I did a crash site investigation up that hill, (or wherever)”. You can’t get away from it. That’s just one downside of the job, but on the other hand, the technical aspects can be quite rewarding. <<End of ramble!>>

Looking ahead

Webinars aside, the next significant item on the ISASI calendar is the International Council meeting on 29 April (starting at 0030 30 April here), which will be a Webex meeting. Attendees comprise officers of the parent society, committee chairpersons, and the various regional/national councillors; generally, there are a number of non-voting observers at these meetings – in which capacity Mike will be burning the midnight oil along with me.

Next up will be the election of ISASI officers. This will be held in the May-June time frame, and details will be notified to all members in due course. Several of the current Executive (including long-standing President, Frank del Gandio and Treasurer Bob MacIntosh) will be retiring this time round, so it will be interesting to see what nominations come up. Rob Carter (UK AAIB) is the current VP, just completing his first term and will probably stand again – if that is the case, I would highly recommend voting for him! Rob is also chairman of the membership committee, (of which I am one third).

As mentioned earlier, the long-awaited ISASI international seminar in Brisbane will be a hybrid event, with both personal attendance and video link. Such details as are known at present are published on the ISASI website – the banner on the home page is now the first one to display on opening, having relegated the New Membership one to second in the sequence. Keep an eye on that if you are considering going.



It’s a long haul then to our own elections – in pre-Covid times these normally would be finalised in May and formally ratified at our BGM or a special general meeting held in conjunction with the annual (not lately!) ANZSASI seminar. Having volunteered for this job at the last BGM, I am now committed to carrying on until the 2023 elections – and then that will be **it** for me. I will, however, continue with the ISASI membership committee for a while after that.

We will need to hold a BGM soon after the 2023 ANZSASI (Gold Coast, our Queen’s Birthday weekend) to get the new executive installed as well as attending to the usual BGM business. It would probably be easier to hold it here in NZ as we did last July; I think organising a ‘Zoomer’ while at the seminar might present a few challenges, not least the time frame for those back in NZ (Saturday evening on a long weekend? Naaah!).

There probably will be an 'infomercial' for the 2023 ANZSASI as a finale to the Brisbane seminar, and possibly one for the 2023 international seminar. We won't know where that might be until the Council meeting in April, when any bids will be assessed.

And a last assignment for the current Executive – we will need to have a venue at least tentatively booked early next year for the 2024 ANZSASI seminar, so it can be announced at the 2023 event. After that it will be up to the new Executive to pick it up and run with it.

And it's goodnight from me!

All the best.

Kind regards
Alister Buckingham

Rogues' Gallery

Your Executive (Mike and Wayne in their respective front offices; I'm at Pub Victoria in Montréal):



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