



NEW ZEALAND SOCIETY
OF AIR SAFETY INVESTIGATORS

NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2022

President's Preamble

Ladies and Gentlemen

Welcome to winter! It brings to mind a quote from Ezra Pound – a pistake on a 13th century round 'Sumer is icumen in, lhude sing cuccu... etc':

Winter is icumen in
Lhude sing Goddamm
Raineth drop and staineth slop
And how the wind doth ramm

And yes, we've had all that in spades so far in Wellington. More to come, apparently!

Not a great deal to report this quarter, but there are a few snippets in later sections, including a brief summary of the Council meeting in the early hours of 30 April.

I wasn't going to mention the C-word, but it has managed to get loose in our ranks, affecting some members only lightly, but for others it has been a real trauma. I attended the Federation of Rail Organisations of NZ (FRONZ) conference over QB weekend, and the little bugger climbed aboard several of us during that event. A scratchy throat on the following Wednesday morning was the first inkling I had, along with an email to say that some attendees had since tested positive, and Mr RAT confirmed the bad news. Fortunately, it didn't develop into anything worse than a bit of a cold.

On to better things, like the ISASI seminar in Brisbane, 30 Aug to 1 Sep inclusive. As of 24 June, there were 65 confirmed in-person delegates, including four from TAIC. Still a way to go, so at least we should crack 100 easily enough. I don't doubt that there will be at least a couple of hundred 'virtual' attendees as well. Apart from a welcome reception on the Tuesday night and the awards dinner on the Thursday, there are no other social events (or tutorials) associated with the seminar. Such is life in the Covid lane. Check out the ISASAI website for current details, including the 'early-bird' cut-off date.

I mentioned in the March missive that the NZSASI details on the ASASI website were a little dated – that has since been attended to. Please let us know if there is any other information that members would like to see posted on that site (<https://asasi.org/nzsasi/>), or if there's any news (good or otherwise) that is worth sharing via the newsletter.

VP's Views

From AB - no report received from Mike, but the April, May and June monthly webinars have been excellent, and no doubt Mike will be issuing a reminder for the next one, scheduled for 10:00 am on Wednesday 13 July. The audience size to date has not been overwhelming, so if you can, please take time out to join these webinars – the presentations are truly worth watching.

Sec/Treas Section

As AB noted, it has been relatively quiet. We had an Executive Committee meeting on 31 May, with little of note to report to the membership. I also submitted a tax return at the end of the financial year – I haven't heard anything back from the IRD, which I'm taking as a good omen.

As far as NZSASI finances go, the book-keeping has been made a little easier by the fact that there hasn't been much happening and the changes to the way membership fees are paid. As a quick breakdown:

Income: \$14.71 (interest)

Expenses: Executive Expenses: \$2048.98 (cost of BGM)

Operating Expenses: \$30.30 (bank fees) & \$84.00 (postage)

Balance: -(\$2148.57)

Assets: Opening balance: \$31420.75 (Current Savings Accounts)

Closing balance: \$29272.18

There have subsequently been a few minor expenses – Zoom hosting fee (shared with HCAP) for the webinars and membership upgrade subsidies.

I had another run-in with the BNZ this week as well - they cut my access off to the accounts until I fronted up at a Branch with proof of identity & address. I have now (begrudgingly) done this, so hopefully that's the end of it, although I think I said that a few months ago as well! On this, see the related remark in the President's Postscript.

Membership

No new members to welcome this time, but some good news from another source, the 2021 New Zealand Aeronautical Trusts and RAeS New Zealand Division Awards. It was pleasing to see the names of two of our members featuring in the RAeS NZ Division's April newsletter. To quote extracts from that missive:

The annual Awards promote excellence in aviation in New Zealand and the Pacific through prestigious recognition of achievement to deserving individuals and organisations.

The Awards recognise outstanding achievements, innovation and excellence in the aviation community. The awards are open to the New Zealand and Southwest Pacific aviation communities, and include people of all ages. Some awards are specifically aimed at young people entering the industry to act as encouragement to them as they begin their careers. Others are for outstanding contributions to the aviation industry over long periods. Award nominations are rigorously reviewed by the Award's Committee to maintain very high standards and recognise recipients' achievements.

Sir Geoffrey Roberts Award – Claire Walton

This award is open to any young person, a New Zealand citizen, who has the firm intention of following a career in civil aviation in New Zealand. At the time of selection, the candidate could be in training in preparation for taking up such a career or could be gaining experience in civil aviation overseas. The award consists of a silver medal, a certificate and a monetary amount.

Claire Walton is a Walsh Memorial Scout Flying School graduate, her aviation journey has been as a commercial pilot with duties as a flight instructor in both New Zealand and Shijiazhuang, China, and seven years as a line pilot at Sushi Air in West Papua, Indonesia. Claire commenced duties with Jetstar, but COVID 19 intervened and she chose a new path in aviation. In July 2020, Claire commenced full time study for a Bachelor of Aviation Management and quickly realised that aviation is far broader than just the view from the cockpit, with many exciting challenges ahead, where she has the potential to play a significant part in the New Zealand aviation community.

Meritorious Service Award – Dave Brown

The Meritorious Service Award is made by the Council of the Society and recognises long term contributions and practical achievements in all sections of aerospace in New Zealand. The award takes the form of a certificate, a citation and a silver medal.

Working around the demands of a career as an airline transport pilot, Dave Brown has developed an exceptional reputation for the dedication he brings to the diverse role as Chief Flying Instructor with Warbirds New Zealand, where he trains and checks pilots to keep Warbird aircraft flying. He also qualifies pilots to fly display routines at air shows in New Zealand. As a qualified test pilot with his own aerobatic displays, his readiness to make himself available to review and approve displays and pilots, and ensure they are safe to fly, forms a vital component to our New Zealand airshow and Warbird movement. He is a committed and respected member of the classic aircraft and air show community and New Zealand Air Show Association, which has contributed to the safety conduct of air shows in New Zealand since it was founded in 2010. As a founding Board member, he has contributed much to the industry in general, from his responsibilities as Chief Flying Instructor Warbirds New Zealand, through to being generous with his time, advice and levels of experience to those who can benefit from it.

Congratulations, Claire and Dave!

As an administrator on the ISASI membership website, I see a small but steady influx of new membership applications – this would average about three a week. Total membership currently stands at 1358 (all categories) with some renewals still outstanding even at this late stage. It was reported at the September 2019 Council meeting that the total was 1223 individual and 134 corporate members. There doesn't seem to be much difference between those totals, so I'm a little dubious about the numbers, especially in light of Bob MacIntosh's remarks below.

A reminder for those who have not yet logged into the ISASI (Wild Apricot) membership site <https://isasi.wildapricot.org/>, please do so at the earliest opportunity to ensure that your contact details are up to date and that you have acknowledged the privacy policy. This is also now the portal for paying your dues, thereby relieving the Sec/Treas of this burden – especially chasing up slow payers. Again, a plea on behalf of Wayne – if you do change your details on the website, please also notify Wayne for our local records.

ISASI Council

The Council Zoomed in at 0030 hours NZST on 30 April (0830 29 April EDT) for what turned out not to be the short meeting promised (0330 by the time I headed bedwards). Mike tuned in as an observer but had to bail early, having already had a long day at work.

Treasurer Bob MacIntosh reported as follows:

The year-end ISASI financial accounting review ... provides some welcome news. In summary, following a difficult year in 2020 with the postponed International Seminar, our current year ISASI financial balance sheet indicates the return to a positive financial condition. The obvious influencing factor was the successful 2021 virtual International Seminar. Note the figures below:

Dues Income	\$70,485	
Seminar Fees	\$32,326	
Sponsorship Income	\$52,807	
Total income	\$158,527	
Total Expenses	\$134,756	(... and) –

To comment further on the effects of the pandemic, our Total Income in 2019 was \$255,771. In 2020 our Total Income was reduced to \$99,611. There was also a near 50% drop in Dues Income during 2020 to \$72,918. This current year the Dues Income has slipped to \$70,485. This trend is a continuing financial challenge because less dues revenue (and membership) has a related negative effect on the attendant Sponsorship income for our International Seminar program.

The bids for the 2023 and 2024 ISASI seminars were presented by reps from the US Southeast Regional Chapter and ESASI respectively. Both were approved by Council, with the venues to be Nashville, Tennessee and Lisbon, Portugal. The video presentation for Lisbon was really something else!

An item from General Business: Frank Del Gandio proposed that the 'late fee' applicable to overdue renewals be abolished, the reason being that it historically had a negative effect – members more often just let their membership lapse rather than paying the additional amount. This was passed unanimously.

A full copy of the April meeting minutes will be posted on the ISASI website once approved at the next meeting, to be held at the same ungodly hour on 23 August.

President's Postscript

Looking ahead

The next significant item on the ISASI calendar is the ISASI election of officers. Both President Frank Del Gandio and Treasurer Bob MacIntosh are stepping down this time round – Frank mentioned at the Council meeting that the reason for his long tenure was the total lack of members' interest in standing for that position. There was one gentleman a few years ago, however, who made extensive enquiries about the job and seemed very enthusiastic until learning that it was a voluntary role. In stunned disbelief, he checked with Bob, Ron Schleede and others, who confirmed the situation and that they themselves were volunteers. Nothing further was heard from said potential nominee.

According to the general announcement everyone should have received, nominations were open from 20 April to 10 June; voting would take place between 15 June and 15 August. Unofficial advice so far is that only one nomination each for President and Vice-President was submitted, and that there is a likely Treasurer candidate (unconfirmed). That being the case, there will probably be no need for a ballot.

As already mentioned, the Brisbane seminar is the next item on the calendar; 'nuff said on that score. See you there, those who are going (or joining via Zoom)!

And on 3 September, the very next weekend after the seminar, NZSASI turns 35! Somehow our 30th slipped by unremarked (it was at the same time as the San Diego seminar), so should we note the occasion of our 'Coral Anniversary' in some fashion? Any suggestions from members would be welcome – no idea too outrageous!



And looking further ahead as mentioned in the March newsletter, the ANZSASI regional seminar will be held at the Novotel Surfers Paradise on our Queen's Birthday weekend 2023. At that seminar, we will need to announce the location and timing of the 2024 seminar – our turn, finally! The current executive will need to have identified and booked the venue beforehand, preferably as early in 2023 as practicable. The question remains as to where we will hold it – we had it in Wellington in 2011, 2017 and 2019; Christchurch in 2013; and Auckland in 2015. Given the cost of regional air travel, it would probably be best to share it among these three venues in future.

The timing of our 2023 BGM will need to be not later than a week or two after ANZSASI 2023, although this could be adjusted should circumstances dictate. One important agenda item will be the ratification of the new 'Executive' positions, the actual elections to be held (probably) in May.

Soon we will be sending around a draft amendment (well, quite a few in fact) to the NZSASI Constitution, which is due for a touch of modernising, among other things. As it stands, a Constitution amendment has to be circulated 60 days in advance of the closing of the ballot on that amendment. One of the proposed changes is to reduce that period to 30 days, as the Constitution was drafted in the days of 'snail mail' and that email is now the preferred distribution medium. This suggestion was adapted from an ICAO proposal along the same lines, for the distribution of State letters.

Another proposed change is to delete the reference to the Bank of New Zealand as NZSASI's bankers, in favour of 'a New Zealand-owned institution as selected from time to time by the Executive'. The service of the BNZ (i.e., National Australia Bank) in the last several years has been, to say the least, less than stellar (euphemism for an expression containing references to urine and poverty).

On that note, I have to report that I have nothing further to report.

All the best.

Kind regards
Alister Buckingham

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