



# The Australian Society Of Air Safety Investigators

## Reflections on 2022

Ladies and Gentlemen

Well it looks like we've made it through another year; and what a year it was.

Undoubtedly, our primary highlight was the fact that, as a team, we planned, prepared and successfully carried off the **ISASI 2022** Seminar in Brisbane despite the pandemic. It's worth recalling that the long lead times associated with conducting a seminar like this led to serious early doubts and high levels of uncertainty related to delegate attendance and, of course, the financial risk for ASASI. It's well behind us now but we draw satisfaction from the fact that 240 delegates attended in person and 113 attended virtually. Despite high travel costs, health concerns and politics, our audience was truly international and we hosted delegates from Europe, New Zealand, Oceania, North and South America, Asia, Africa and the Middle East.

Success doesn't just happen, and many worthy civilian and Defence Force individuals contributed to the outcome that we all enjoyed. Two of our members, in particular, deserve a special 'shout out' acknowledgement though. Most of us would have observed **David Adkins**, locked in his 'tech cave', throwing switches, patching video and coaching virtual speakers in the dark art of Zoom communication for the whole seminar. Another worthy member, **Rob Chopin**, did most of his work behind the scenes as the seminar paper committee chairman. His continuous vetting and follow up activities across multiple time zones could well qualify him as a champion sheepdog in a parallel universe. Our speakers were first class, our sponsors were first rate in their generosity and our session moderators managed the on-time performance of each session like clockwork. It was pleasing to also note that the anonymous international panel, judged the **Best Paper** for the 2022 Seminar ('*From see and avoid to detect and avoid: Learnings from a mid-air collision investigation*') was delivered by **Dr. Nathalie Boston and Michael Dawes** of the ATSB.

In addition to ISASI 2022, we had a good number of new members join ASASI. In particular this growing number of **Student** members joining us is a positive sign towards our future. If the stars ultimately align in 2023, this should permit our **ASASI Mentoring Program** (that was scheduled to begin in 2020) to be dusted off and re-scheduled. More on this in the New Year. How good too was it, to finally award the Flight Safety Foundation sponsored **Macarthur Job Scholarship** of 2020 to **Matthew Harris** and the 2021 scholarship to **Madeline Higgins**. Our future is looking good, and Mac would have surely looked down and been quite pleased to see what his name is now associated with.

Success was not just limited to the students either. It was great to see a very deserving ASASI member, **Captain Deborah Lawrie A.M.**, inducted into the Australian Aviation Hall of Fame. She joins a famous band of aviators that have been pivotal to the success of Australian aviation.

Deb's citation read:

*Captain Lawrie has been involved with aviation for over 50 years, commencing her flying training at age of 16 and becoming the first female airline pilot for a major airline in Australia. She is regarded as a trailblazer and Standard Bearer by all those women who have followed her lead.*

From an administrative perspective we transitioned to a new membership platform (Wild Apricot) with online payment mechanisms that have streamlined the workload for the international office and our own hard working Secretary Treasurer **Paul Mayes**.

On the communication front, we are seeking the services of a volunteer **ASASI Newsletter** editor for 2023. This person will have access to a Canva professional account and be responsible for the quarterly newsletter which will accept contributions from all ASASI members and stakeholders on subjects that are educational, diverse, stimulating, nostalgic and hopefully contain a touch of good humour. Please form an orderly queue to apply.

Our next big thing is the resumption of the **ANZSASI** seminar program. In 2023, which will be held at the Novotel, Gold Coast between 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> June. Seminar registration and a call for papers has already commenced and further information is available on the ASASI website at <https://asasi.org/event/anzsasi-seminar-2023/> . If you can remember back that far, you will recall that these friendly Trans-Tasman seminars have always provided a great forum of ideas, innovation and a touch of friendly rivalry! Just don't mention the Rugby or our Kiwi cousins will go into auto gloat!

Speaking of things Aotearoan, all ASASI members have been formally invited by NZSASI to participate in their monthly professional development webinar program. NZSASI recently commenced this excellent program in conjunction with the pilots' guild (**The Honourable Company of Air Pilots**). It occurs on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of every month at 10am NZ Time. Connection details and topics will be provided to ASASI members by email, about a week before each scheduled webinar. The investment of an hour or so is well worth it.

The remaining item for 2022 is to, on behalf of the ASASI Executive, wish all of our ASASI members, their families, our generous sponsors, all of our academic supporters, and all the civilian and military agencies that we rely on to say 'yes' to our frequent requests for support, a very happy Christmas and a safe and healthy New Year. We'll come back even stronger in 2023.

Best wishes

John Guselli  
President ASASI

December 2022