



NEW ZEALAND SOCIETY
OF AIR SAFETY INVESTIGATORS

2023 BGM

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Ladies and Gentlemen

Welcome to the BGM, whether you're here in person or at the other end of a two-way stream of electrons. First up, a big 'thank you' to TAIC for allowing us to hold the meeting in their premises, thus saving the society a considerable sum in venue hire.

Well, what started out as a 'caretaker' role for me morphed into a full two-year term as President; the time went by in a flash (it does that when you're old). It may have worked out for the better in any case, as we had two new appointees on the Executive. Two weeks out from this meeting, there was still no interest in the position from the membership (similarly, three days out).

Despite my past references to election response being somewhere between zero and bugger-all, in 2021 we had two candidates ready and willing to step into the roles of Vice-President and Secretary/Treasurer, i.e., Mike and Wayne respectively. Both have done a sterling job over the past term; Mike with his initiative of setting up the monthly webinars, and Wayne, particularly with his getting to grips with a wunch of bankers and the vagaries of the IRD. Both will, of course, present their reports during the meeting.

During my time back in the Pres role, I aimed to establish a tradition of quarterly newsletters, with the occasional 'in-betweeners'. I have to say that it was hard going to find words at times with little/no input from members, despite the standing invitation to pass on any news, no matter how insignificant it may seem. Anyway, there was the occasional good-news story to share – two of which were the society-sponsored upgrades of Siobhan Mandich and Peter Stevenson-Wright from Associate to Full Member – a surprise gift from the society in each case.

Note that there will be no June NZSASI newsletter – as I mentioned in the March edition, the Executive reports to the BGM will serve to bring members up to date. The next actual newsletter will be the September edition, although there may be the occasional update before then if the need arises.

As a member of the ISASI membership committee, I have administrator access to the ISASI Wild Apricot membership database, and note that we still have a few members in the Affiliate category. It is ISASI's intention to phase out this membership level – any new applications are processed as Associate, and Affiliate no longer appears on the list of 'Join now' options. My plan is to request ISASI to change all NZSASI Affiliate Members' status to Associate (and not charging the upgrade fee). I've been sounding out the committee chairman, and it appears we're of the same mind. More to follow in due course.

Our own membership numbers have improved somewhat since the 2021 BGM, at which the individual membership stood at 43. Today we have 48 individuals plus two Corporate Members, Airways New Zealand and RNZAF. I hold out little hope of the return of three former corporates to the fold, given the flow-on effects of COVID.

Since the 2021 BGM, we have welcomed the following new members: Harald Hendel, Dave Oliver, Claire Walton and Evan Lee (poached from ASASI); and welcomed back Tahlia Fisher, Glenn MacWilliam, Steve Walker and Peter Stevenson-Wright (PSW). Upgraded to Full Member during that period were Tahlia, Wayne Jones, Siobhan Mandich and PSW. Rob Finch was the only member we lost, due to a career change to a non-aviation field.

I have to report that the 2023 ANZSASI seminar was a great event, despite numbers being slightly down on previous seminars – there were 80 delegates all up, possibly something to do with the holding of the international seminar in the same area last year. Let's hope the numbers are back up for our own seminar next June! I noticed that Mike was signing up future webinar presenters, so the programme is well-subscribed for the foreseeable future.

Speaking of which, the Crowne Plaza Hotel contract has now been signed, and the first instalment of the deposit paid. An invitation 'advertisement' has been passed to the ASASI webmaster, and will appear on the ASASI website very soon. It will also be posted on the ISASI website, with progressive updates as time goes on (Call for Papers and registration details in particular). We hope to attract delegates and presenters from outside the region – in the recent past there have been examples of either category from the UK, Germany, USA, Japan and Canada.

As well as fulfilling the presidential role for the last two years, I've continued as NZ Councillor (since 2014) and have volunteered for one more term – that's **O-N-E**. That's unless someone else want the job, of course.

There has not been an 'in-person' International Council meeting since the 2019 seminar in The Hague – up to that time, there had been a Council meeting on the Sunday preceding each international seminar, as well as the spring meetings in the Washington/Dulles area on the first Friday of each May. The latter meetings followed the Mid-Atlantic Chapter dinner meetings on the Thursday night. During my time as NZ's observer in the ICAO Air Navigation Commission, I was able to attend five of the Dulles meetings at little expense to ISASI, as it was a reasonably short commute down from Montréal. Those days have gone, and I do not envisage attending any more in-person Council meetings – I had actually booked an el-cheapo fare from here for the 2020 ICM, but COVID put paid to that plan. That fare remained in credit after Air NZ cancelled its US flights, and I was able to use part of that credit to attend the ANZSASI seminar just past. I won't rabbit on about Council business, as all ICM minutes are posted on the ISASI website.

That about wraps up my term – last, final and ultimate term, that is – so all that remains is to thank my fellow Executeers and wish the new Executive well for the next two years. Thanks to all who have taken time out to attend our second hybrid BGM.

Kind regards

Alister Buckingham

Soon to be Immediate Past President

And, by the way, our golf team whipped the Aussies again and retained the trophy (despite some determined underarm tactics from the opposition). Well done Brucey, JC and crafty ring-ins!