



NEW ZEALAND SOCIETY
OF AIR SAFETY INVESTIGATORS

NEWSLETTER

JULY 2025

Editorial Note

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As mentioned in the attached BGM minutes, this newsletter is the first under the new regime, with the intention of getting them back on to a quarterly basis. This is what would have been the June issue, but it was necessary to wait until after the BGM to collate the necessary information. Attached to the Minutes are the various Executive reports, which will serve to bring members up to date without the need for repetition in the body of the newsletter.

Presidents Preamble

Kia ora koutou e te whānau,

It's been a while since I wrote one of these. I must say it's nice to be back, both in the Society and as your President. Since I last wrote, I have been NZ's Air Attaché in Washington DC where I was able to catch up with the East Coast chapters of ISASI and the head office crew too. I then retired from the Service in 2022 and entertained myself running two teams of Census Collectors for the 2023 Census in Wellington and the Wairarapa. This Census was the first where we allowed collectors to cross the doorstep into households – a unique safety challenge that only required one real time emergency response from all the doors we knocked on. After Census and the passing of my lovely wife Jayne, I find myself working for another past-president Paul Breuilly and back in the Safety fold working on various safety initiatives for the NZDF. It's strange the way life can unfold.

I was pleased to be able to attend the ANZSASI conference in Sydney in June. Once again, an interesting set of presentations that got my curiosity fired up again. Although the accommodation was dislocated from the conference venue, it did not detract from the overall impact of the conference. I would thank to thank Alf and the Aussie team for a job well done. Your excellent committee is already ahead of the game with organising the next conference for 2026.

More recently the ADF swung by Defence House to brief us on the MRH90 fatal accident in the Whitsunday's, Northern Queensland. I was impressed to learn the Aussies have put into law that they will not assign blame in their investigations, this is a very mature approach that will preserve investigator's ability to get honest feedback during their interview processes. My other take away was the similarities to the NZDF's Anzac Day Iroquois accident investigation of which I was a part. A formation flight, in the dark on night vision devices, with a crew who were just deemed competent, in marginal weather conditions for a time on target where they were expected. The pre-conditions were almost identical. The Anzac Day crash had no inflight data or

radar. The data recorder on the MRH90 allow their investigation to quickly identify spatial disorientation as the main issue and although the flight was authorised and conducted within the rules, the flight was flown hard up against the edges of the permissible. The full report is available on DASA's website:

https://dasa.defence.gov.au/sites/default/files/6th%20Aviation%20Regiment_NHIndustries%20MRH-90%20Taipan_A40-040_Spatial%20Disorientation%20leading%20to%20CFIT%20copy.pdf

VP's Views

See the attached Vice-President's report.

Sec/Treas Section

Firstly, please accept my apologies for the late delivery of this Newsletter - it's been a busy time in the world of aviation safety! As alluded to by Graham, I was on the ADF team briefing the MRH90 accident report to personnel at Whenuapai, Wellington and Ohakea, as part of my current secondment to the DFSB in Canberra. These briefings were the final step of a lengthy investigation process. It has been interesting to be a part of the DFSB, observing and learning from a team of highly professional investigators.

The recent disaster involving Air India Flight 171 once again highlighted the difficult world that air safety investigators now have to operate in. It was disappointing to see the number of "aviation experts" (many of them self-proclaimed...) in the media, speculating and giving their opinions on what happened. Natash Heap from the University of Southern Queensland (who many of you will have met at previous ANZSASI conferences) wrote a very good piece about this [here](#).

Her concluding remarks remind everybody to respect the process: "No doubt pilots and aviation experts are speculating in private right now about the causes of this particular disaster. Cafés, pubs and crew rooms will be rife with discussions and opinions. It is human nature to want to know what happened. But to speculate in public won't assist the investigative process. Nor will it help the families of the victims, or the first responders and investigators themselves, get through this horrible time. Investigators need to work without external pressures to ensure accurate findings. Respecting this process maintains integrity and supports the many people who are currently experiencing unimaginable grief."

On a happier note, the ANZSASI conference held in Sydney in June was excellent and it was great to see a few Kiwi faces there. As usual, the presentations and the networking opportunities made it a very worthwhile event. Here are a few happy snaps taken during the conference:



TAIC Chief Commissioner David Clarke and Jim Burtenshaw (NZSASI)



Jim Burtenshaw (TAIC) presenting



Some of the delegates at the conference – spot the Kiwis 😊



Networking during a break in the presentations



Recipient of the Ron Chippendale Memorial Presentation Award, Major Mehdi Moussaoui from the DFSB, being presented the award by Wayne Jones (NZSASI Sec/Treas). The award recipient was selected by the ASASI organising committee (no inherent DFSB bias, I promise!)

ANZSASI 2026

The ANZSASI 2026 conference will be held in Wellington over the period 05-07 June 2026 at the [James Cook Hotel Grand Chancellor](#). The intent is to follow to usual format, with a welcome reception on the Friday evening, two full days of presentations on Saturday and Sunday, with a banquet dinner on the Saturday evening.

We have secured a delegate room rate for the conference, although there will be a limited number of rooms available at the discounted rate (so first in first serve!), details of which will be announced in due course.

The success of any conference greatly depends on the presentations, and I encourage all members to consider stepping up and presenting. Start thinking about topics now!

BGM

The BGM was held virtually on 19 June 2025 – thanks to those members that attended and provided their support to the Society. See the attached Secretary/Treasurer's report. Also, please ensure you respond to the electronic ballot on the proposed amendments to the NZSASI Constitution before 17 August 2025.

Membership

Included in the attached International Councillor's report.

President's Postscript

Thoughts:

Last week I volunteered to help with the RNZAF's School to Skies program that brings up to 40 Year 13 Wahine up to Whenuapai for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) exposure. The RNZAF has struggled to find female recruits for STEM based roles and has put its money where its mouth is to help increase interest in STEM and aviation. The civilian STEM sector is also involved in part of the program. Any program that encourages youth to join aviation is a good thing. I am left wondering how NZSASI can help in this regard. My thinking cap is on, and I encourage you to put yours on too – I believe we should be reaching out to youth. I don't want our Society to wither on the vine and without fresh talent coming in, that is what will happen. Ideas please.

Looking ahead:

The committee has secured the James Cook hotel in Wellington for the 2026 ANZSASI Seminar for the weekend of the Aussie King's Birthday on 5-7 June 2026. Looking up that date I have discovered that Queensland and Western Australia have different days off for King's Birthday – who knew (apart from Queenslanders and WA's)?

I am also looking forward to joining Mike Zaytsoff for our next online webinar. I often find it challenging to attend, due to work conflicts but I promise to do better, and I hope many of you can join us online too. Mike does an excellent job of keeping these going and remember if you have anything to share this is your platform too. So, until next time, take care of yourselves and your loved ones and be kind to each other.

Ngā mihi
Graham

Contacts

Graham Streatfield
President
gpstreatfield@hotmail.com

Mike Zaytsoff
Vice-President
zaytsoffm@gmail.com

Wayne Jones
Secretary/Treasurer
nzsasi.sec@gmail.com

Alister Buckingham
International Councillor
Member ISASI Membership Committee
alpha-bravo@xtra.co.nz