
FLEET AIR ARM ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

FEDERAL COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Federal Council Meeting
26th October 2024 at 1105
Held at the FAA Museum HMAS Albatross, Nowra**

Agenda Item 1: WELCOME

The President welcomed all delegates and observers, present and on Zoom.

Agenda Item 2: REGISTRATION OF DELEGATES & ATTENDEES

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE

<i>President</i>	M. Campbell
<i>Vice President</i>	Apology (P. Carey)
<i>Secretary</i>	T. Hetherington
<i>Treasurer</i>	J. Caldwell
<i>Webmaster</i>	M. Peake
<i>Membership Database Manager</i>	P. Norris

DIVISION DELEGATES

NSW	<i>Vice President</i>	K. Boundy
	<i>Secretary</i>	R. Martin
	<i>Treasurer</i>	R. Batchelor
ACT	<i>President</i>	B. Tunnah
	<i>Secretary</i>	G. Sydney
VIC	<i>President</i>	C. Fealy
	<i>Secretary</i>	M. Smith
QLD	<i>President</i>	S. Huxtable (via Zoom)
	<i>Delegate</i>	P. Norris
SA	<i>President</i>	J. Siebert
	<i>Secretary</i>	R. Harrison
TAS	<i>Vice President</i>	J. Schofield
	<i>Secretary</i>	G. Nicholas
WA	<i>President</i>	M. Keogh
	<i>Immediate Past President</i>	G. Kelson

MEMBERS

Commodore Anthony Savage RAN NSW Div, Andrew Whittaker NSW Div, Fred Dawson NSW Div, Ray Murrell QLD Div (via Zoom), and Margaret Maher ACT Div (via Zoom)

Agenda Item 3: APOLOGIES

Phil Carey Vice President Nat. Exec. and President NSW Division, Ian Warren NSW, Denis Mulvihill NSW.

Agenda Item 4: REMEMBRANCE OF DEPARTED SHIPMATES

The Secretary read from a list of 31 former FAA members who are known to have passed away since the last FCM. A minute's silence was observed for those departed shipmates.

Agenda Item 4a: OPENING REMARKS BY NATIONAL PRESIDENT & GUEST SPEAKER

Opening Remarks

The President reflected on the passing of those members over the last year and noted that the Association has been unable to recruit new members to counter those losses through the passing of older members and due to resignations.

He believes in the worth of the Association and its aims and objectives, and stated that it merits sustaining. Both the senior military historians of the University of NSW and the Australian War Memorial have stated that the FAAAA website provides an excellent point of reference. He complimented Marcus Peake in his role as Webmaster.

The President stated that the Association's National Executive was nearly at the point of dissolution in mid 2024, but that has now been narrowly avoided. The Association still has issues to deal with if it is to remain viable and he encourages each Division to engage with their members both administratively and socially.

Mark referred to the current management and operation of the FAA Museum and the Association's continuing attempts to support and advise the Museum's senior managers.

The immediate and pressing issue for the Association is the impending resignations of both the 'Slipstream' and 'FlyBy' editors, and while not insurmountable, the President asked members to consider the option of engaging a paid professional Slipstream editor.

In conclusion he alluded to the Motion before the FCM on the major changes proposed for the website, and the fact that Marcus Peake will continue as Webmaster.

The President thanked and congratulated the National Executive office holders who are stepping down, and similarly, he acknowledged the continuing service of the other National Executive members. He stated that Commodore Anthony Savage RAN has offered his services as National Vice President, explained Anthony's role within the Defence Capability and Sustainment Group (CASG), and invited him to talk about that important activity.

Guest Speaker

Commodore Anthony Savage introduced himself as a long-term FAA Association member, albeit as an 'ordinary member,' coupled with his 34 years' service in the RAN and FAA. His position within CASG is as Director General - Navy Aviation, Aircrew Training and Commons.

During Anthony's address he focussed on these main areas of interest that come within his sphere of responsibility:

- Sustainment of the current MH-60R Seahawk fleet has been in place for the past 13 years.
- Acquisition of an additional 12 Seahawks, due in 2026, for the Improved Embarked Logistics Helicopter Program, plus 1 Seahawk to replace the loss of an MH-60R in October 2021. The logistics aircraft are MH-60Rs and are fitted for, but not with, sonar.
- Uncrewed Aerial Systems (822X Squadron) which is operating a platform on loan from Army until Navy's future requirements are established.
- Operation of the EC135 (723 Squadron) for Navy and Army rotary-wing aircrew training.
- Acquisition and delivery of five H135 helicopters to support essential training for Army aircrew and address a critical requirement to meet the training and proficiency needs of the Army's aircrew while the UH-60M Black Hawk helicopter is introduced.
- Introduction of a 'whole of Defence' aviation rescue helicopter service.
- Chief of Navy's top three priorities are nuclear submarines, the future frigates and the MH-60R helicopter.
- Asia Pacific Aerospace in Brisbane is expanding their contract to overhaul the MH-60R engines to include the engines for Army's Apache and Blackhawk battlefield helicopters.
- There are currently six Romeo flights at sea, less than is desirable, and the constraining factor is shortages in the maintenance sailor workforce.
- The FAA is collaborating with the USN in the Capability Assurance Program, to manage not only obsolescence but to ensure that the systems onboard the MH-60R remain contemporary against emerging threats.
- All ADF aviation technical training is about to fall under Commodore Savage's regime and revised contracts will aim to increase the throughput and quality of air technical training.

Commodore Savage took questions from the floor on a range of topics including embarked flights, ship and flight manning, overall fleet availability, location for AT training either at Wagga Wagga or Nowra, delays in OFT course commencement for newly graduated Naval aviators, and future UAS platforms for Army, Navy and Air Force based on lessons coming out of the Middle East and Ukraine battlespaces.

The President thanked Commodore Savage and announced that he will be available to answer more questions during the lunch break

Agenda Item 5: BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE 2023 FEDERAL COUNCIL MEETING

The President moved for acceptance of the Minutes of the 2023 FCM which was seconded by Mal Smith (Vic Div). CARRIED.

There was no business arising from the Minutes of the 2023 FCM.

Agenda Item 6: ANNUAL REPORTS

Item 6a. President

The President's Report is appended to these Minutes. Mark Campbell explained that he will be happy to remain as President for the 'next year or two.' He also commented that the ex-Navy Iroquois helicopter that was displayed near the Nowra Bridge has been condemned and assessed as

no longer suitable for display yet the Shoalhaven City Council Mayor and local Federal member are both keen to again have 894 on display in Nowra in some form. The President indicates that he will work with the Sea Power Centre Australia and CO Albatross to assess options for a future Navy exhibit in Nowra.

He moved that his report be accepted, which was seconded by John Siebert (SA Div).
The President's Report was CARRIED.

Item 6b. Secretary

The Secretary's Report and Correspondence Report are appended to these Minutes.

Terry Hetherington moved that his report be accepted, which was seconded by Chris Fealy (Vic Div).

The Secretary's Report was CARRIED.

Item 6c. Treasurer

The Treasurer's Report and Auditor's Independent Review are appended to these Minutes.

He pointed out that one amount of \$2,570 in the statement was erroneously stated as "Sales", when in fact it was Capitation Fees.

James Caldwell explained that the Association's bank no longer issues or accepts cheques.

Roger Harrison (SA Div) enquired about cheque payments from his Division, to which the Treasurer replied that the SA Treasurer has now set up an EFT facility to make and receive payments.

The President initiated discussion on the future non-use of cheques and all Divisions were requested to manage their accounts electronically, as cheques are ultimately being phased out.

Figures shown for 'Skyhawk' book royalties are held in trust for the FAA Museum, and royalties from the 'VAT Smith' book are being held for the benefit of FAA veterans in general.

Costs have remained stable, and the Treasurer will recommend that the Capitation Fees and 'Slipstream' Levy stay as they are. He advised that if 'Slipstream' continues to be issued in 'hard-copy', printing costs will be far higher per copy than at present. The former printer has closed his business.

Bruce Tunnah (ACT Div) asked what the respective balances in the Association's accounts were.

The figures were explained by the Treasurer, and they are reflected in the Auditor's Review.

The Treasurer noted that investment accounts have been managed to ensure the best possible interest returns for the Association.

Andrew Whittaker enquired whether the Association could accept sponsorships, to which the Treasurer explained that it would be unlikely, given the healthy bank account balances currently held.

James moved that his report be accepted, which was seconded by John Siebert (SA Div).

The Treasurer's Report was CARRIED.

Item 6d. Webmaster

The Webmaster's Report is appended to these Minutes.

The current website is relatively stable, but with 400 pages on the website, some links are broken but it remains readable and usable.

Marcus explained that relationships with the current web provider are unworkable and he will be moving a motion regarding the website later in the Agenda.

He announced that the next edition of 'FlyBy' on 1st November will be his final issue, but he is offering to continue his services as Webmaster.

The FCM delegates congratulated Marcus on his efforts with the website and 'FlyBy'.

Marcus Peake moved that his report be accepted, which was seconded by Roger Harrison (SA Div)

The Webmaster's Report was CARRIED.

Item 6e. Database Manager

The Database Manager's Report is appended to these Minutes.

Paul noted that of the 400 non-member subscribers to 'FlyBy', only 44 took on full membership when the newsletter became available only to members.

Paul has worked through the 1,070 Wall of Service plaques and he is recording service details of personnel on the Wall, with only 178 to be completed.

He updated the current membership figures, with a net decrease of six members, over the past year. And while it does not appear high, the losses were offset by the 44 members gained through 'FlyBy' subscription. The final figures are all recorded on the statistics sheet attached.

Paul Norris moved that his report be accepted, which was seconded by John Siebert (SA Div).

The Database Manager's Report was CARRIED.

Item 6f. Slipstream Editor.

The President asked for any further comments from Terry Hetherington re 'Slipstream'. Terry referred to his Secretary's Report and commented on the great support he had received during his recent illness from Marcus Peake, in preparing letters and submissions for distribution to the Divisions and other recipients. Moved that the Editor's Report be accepted, which was seconded by Roger Harrison.

The Slipstream Editor's Report was CARRIED.

Item 6g. Wall of Service

The Wall of Service Administrator's Report is appended to these Minutes.

The Wall of Service Administrator's Report was CARRIED.

Item 6h. FAA Museum Manager

The President noted that the Museum Manager's Report was submitted by CAPT Alastair Cooper RAN, Director of the Sea Power Centre. The report is appended to these Minutes. CAPT Cooper is willing to accept any questions from Delegates over the phone if required.

The President asked for any questions.

An Open Forum discussion ensued on the following points, with responses by the President:

- Any direct response from CN to the Association's letter of March 2024? – *Nothing that specifically addressed our concerns..*
- Was the proposition of a FAAM management board agreed? – *No.*
- FAAM opening hours stated on website are confusing and contradictory.
- Has Sea Power Centre's & Navy Heritage's manning establishment been increased? – *Yes, by up to 20 FTE.*
- Has a documented plan for the future of FAAM been issued by SPC(A)? – *No, DSPC(A) talks of a plan but none has yet been presented on paper.*
- Should we continue to push for a position on a FAAM 'consultative committee'? – *Yes*
- Will an MRH90 'Taipan' helicopter be displayed in FAAM? – *Unknown, but Army has two examples retained for heritage purposes.*
- Should the FAAAA website be offered to SPC(A) to manage? – *No, and it is anticipated that there would be great reluctance on their part.*
- What is the possibility of an FAA display to replace Iroquois 894 on the pole? – *The President is meeting soon with CO Albatross on this and other matters.*

A Motion to accept the FAAM Report was not put to the Delegates.

Agenda Item 7: APPOINTMENT & ELECTION OF NATIONAL EXECUTIVE OFFICE BEARERS

The Secretary was given the Chair as Returning Officer, and as a matter of protocol, he sought agreement of the Federal Council to ratify Mark Campbell's return to the President's position until the 2025 FCM and Triennial Elections.

Proposed Bruce Tunnah (ACT Div) and seconded by Mike Keogh (WA Div).
CARRIED.

Item 7a. Vice President

A formal letter of resignation was received from Vice President Phil Carey and Divisions were canvassed for nominations to fill that role until the 2025 FCM. Commodore Anthony Savage RAN (NSW Div) was the sole nominee for Vice President and his nomination was put to the FCM.

Proposed by Terry Hetherington (NSW Div) & seconded by John Siebert (SA Div).
CARRIED.

Item 7b. National Secretary

The incumbent formally advised of his intention to resign earlier in the year, and Divisions were canvassed for nominations to fill that role until the 2025 FCM.

Andrew Whittaker (NSW Div) nominated and Ron Batchelor (NSW Div) seconded his nomination. Margaret Maher (ACT Div) nominated and Bruce Tunnah (ACT Div) seconded her nomination. A secret ballot was called for by the Returning Officer and the voting protocol was explained by him. A proposition from the floor was raised to invite the unsuccessful candidate to stand as Assistant Secretary, and following consultation with both candidates, this was agreed. Ballot papers were distributed and the President called for a pause in proceedings while counting of the votes took place. The Returning Officer reported that Andrew Whittaker was the successful nominee with 15 votes to six.

Further discussion followed on how the Assistant Secretary's position might be ratified by the FCM, and in the meantime Margaret Maher was invited, and accepted, that role.

Agenda Item 8: DISCUSSION PAPER – Key Risks to the Future of the FAAAA

The President invited Marcus Peake, author of the Discussion Paper to address the FCM. Marcus opened by stating that the issues raised have been the subject of many previous discussions, and the main issues are the difficulty of recruiting new members, and the inability to retain members. The trend in memberships is downwards by about 8% annually.

The input Marcus received when drafting the Paper focussed only on the problems with no real solutions being proffered. Marcus hopes that it can be resolved today.

Three main issues Marcus sees are:

1. No redundancy in our management governance system, highlighted by the Secretary's notice of resignation earlier in the year, without a potential replacement. Fortunately, that was resolved at the Eleventh Hour.
2. No prospect of continued production of 'Slipstream' magazine and 'FlyBy' e-newsletter. With no 'product' to offer the membership it is predictable that members will leave the Association in far larger numbers.
3. Diminishing membership numbers.

Marcus stated that solutions will only come from the National Executive and the Divisions working together to find those outcomes. Marcus handed back to the President to lead discussion and to listen to proposals from the Delegates.

The President indicated that he wished to address the 'Slipstream' and 'FlyBy' issue first, and Chris Fealy (VIC Div) suggested that the publications be combined into one single product, smaller in size and content, and issued exclusively on-line (soft copy). He further proposed that Divisions engage with their membership to encourage the uptake of soft copy, and only in exceptional cases, distribute hard copy versions to a much-reduced number of people.

George Sydney (ACT Div) proposed an alternative approach by publishing articles on the website regularly and eliminating the separate publication of 'Slipstream' & 'FlyBy'.

Dick Martin (NSW Div) expressed concern that NSW has 65 members who are not on-line and he fears that those members would be lost to the Division should to publication go exclusively soft copy.

Keith Boundy (NSW Div) reiterated Chris Fealy's suggestion of Divisions taking responsibility for printing and posting the publications to the members who have no on-line connectivity.

Marcus Peake then gave details of the number of members nationally without recorded email addresses, being 63, with 42 from NSW Division. It was pointed out that there may be some members who have not disclosed their email address, and others who may have a relative or friend able to provide them with online access.

Marcus continued by addressing the format, layout and size aspects of the new publication and stated that in seeking a new editor for the publications, it should be made clear that it will be the new editor's prerogative to determine those features.

Paul Norris (QLD Div) pointed out that if the new publication is to be released through the website, then it must go behind a firewall otherwise anybody will have 'free' access to it.

At this juncture the President requested Chris Fealy (VIC Div) to draft wording for a Motion to be put to the FCM later in the meeting.

Mark went on to express his main concern, that being how will the Association encourage and recruit nominees for the role of editor. Open discussion then dealt with option of payment for the editor's services, with Marcus Peake pointing out that the printing and mailing costs of the current hard copy magazines run to about \$2,000 per issue, a figure that could be assigned as payment for the editor of the online version.

Marcus summarised the three cornerstones for reviving the publications: 1. A clean-sheet approach for content, style and layout; 2. Issue in electronic format only, either on the website or standalone; and 3. Payment for the services of the editor.

General discussion ensued in all these aspects and Chris Fealy (VIC Div) read from his draft of the proposed Motion. The President then put the following Motion to the FCM:

Motion:

- a. That the FCM agrees to combine 'Slipstream' magazine and 'FlyBy' e-newsletter into a single publication to be issued quarterly.*
- b. That the FCM agrees that the publication will be issued to Divisions in electronic format only.*
- c. That the National Executive seeks the services of an editor for the publication, pay the editor up to \$3,000 per issue, with the National Executive retaining oversight for matters related to appropriate content.*
- d. That each Division shall take responsibility for the distribution of hard-copies to members lacking electronic access to online systems.*
- e. That each Division is requested to contribute an article, imagery, report or any other appropriate material for each quarterly issue.*

The Motion was CARRIED unanimously.

Marcus Peake stated that he intends to email every member with a recorded email address in the first week of November to canvass nominations for a paid Editor. The President then turned his attention to another aspect of the Discussion Paper relating to a Marketing Manager for the Association. Chris Fealy (VIC Div) strongly supported the concept but there was no definitive outcome on the matter.

Agenda Item 9: SPECIAL RESOLUTIONS AND NOTICES OF MOTION

The President called on Marcus Peake to speak to his proposed Notice of Motion concerning the management of the Website, which had previously been circulated to all Divisions.

Motion:

That the Federal Council agrees to the expenditure of up to \$5,000 for provision of a new future proof website constructed by a new website provider.

Marcus spoke about the advantages of discarding the existing website and web provider, which will eliminate the many problems with the existing site and will provide an up-to-date and contemporary look and feel. He stated that a quote for \$4,000 had been received and to that he has added a buffer of \$500 to \$1,000.

The President was of the opinion that a cost of \$10,000 would be acceptable.

The Motion was CARRIED unanimously.

Agenda Item 10: CAPITATION FEES & SLIPSTREAM LEVY FOR 2025

The President referred to the National Treasurer’s comments in his verbal report to not increase either the Capitation Fee or ‘Slipstream’ levy. The President proposed that fee and levy remain ‘as is’ until such time as the matter of the continuation of ‘Slipstream’ is resolved.

Mal Smith (VIC Div) raised concerns with the possibility of a mass exodus of members should there be no further ‘Slipstream’, leaving the VIC Division without adequate funds to pay their Capitation Fees in July 2025. The National President and Vic Division President both agreed that it would be a matter to be resolved within the Division.

There being no further comment from Delegates, the Chairman declared that the Fees and Levy will remain unchanged, viz:

Capitation Fee -	\$7	
Slipstream Levy -	\$6 Hard Copy	} To be reviewed once the future of ‘Slipstream’ is resolved.
	\$3 Soft Copy }	

Agenda Item 11: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Item 11a. Life Membership Nomination

The Secretary explained that a recommendation had been received from WA Division nominating Mike Keogh for Life Membership. Mike was previously made aware of this nomination hence there was no need to maintain the usual confidentiality.

The Secretary sought to have the nomination voted on and ratified by this FCM, but it was rightly pointed out by Marcus Peake that neither the National Executive nor other Divisions have had a copy of the nomination to review, and that there is a prescribed policy for awarding Life Memberships. As a result, the Secretary withdrew his call for a vote and he undertook to distribute the nomination to the National Executive and all Divisions to consider ‘out of session’. An apology was extended to WA President, Mike Keogh, for any embarrassment or distress that this action may have caused him.

Item 11b. Motion of Thanks to Retiring National Executive Members

John Siebert (President SA Div) moved a vote of thanks to the retiring Secretary, to which the President added a similar motion to the retiring Vice President Phil Carey and to Marcus Peake for his many years producing monthly ‘FlyBy’ e-newsletters.

Item 11c. Display Iroquois at the Nowra Bridge

James Caldwell (National Treasurer) stated that with the installation of a new mayor and council for the City of Shoalhaven, there is renewed interest in having a ‘Navy Display’ of some sort where the former Iroquois was displayed. Keith Boundy (NSW Div) stated that he has spoken to CAPT Scott Palmer, CO Albatross, who indicated that the Iroquois was beyond repair.

The President called a halt to discussion by stating that the Director of the Sea Power Centre has been assigned to locate a replacement, and that he, President Mark Campbell, is dealing with the matter at the upper levels of Navy and Defence.

Agenda Item 12: MEETING CLOSURE AND SCHEDULING OF NEXT MEETING

The Chairman conveyed his thanks and appreciation to all Delegates, including those on Zoom, for their contributions and input to the meeting. The meeting was formally closed at 1436 AEDT.

The next Federal Council Meeting will be held on Saturday 18th October 2025. The meeting format, venue and commencement time will be determined by the National Executive and advice will be passed to Divisions by 30 June 2025.

Mark Campbell

**Mark Campbell
President**

Terry Hetherington

**Terry Hetherington
Secretary (outgoing)**

APPENDICES

- A. President’s Report
- B. Secretary’s Report and Correspondence Report
- C. Treasurer’s Report and Auditor’s Statement
- D. Webmaster’s Report
- E. Membership Database Manager’s Report
- F. Slipstream Editor’s Report
- G. Wall of Service Administrator’s Report
- H. FAA Museum Manager’s Report

**National President's Report
FAAAA Federal Council Meeting 2024**

I had the honour to be reappointed as National President on 24 May 2024 and while not much time has passed since the reappointment, there has been plenty of activity to keep the National Executive busy.

The major activities undertaken by me, have been to call on COMFAA, CDRE Matt Royals, to discuss improving the FAA and FAAAA relationship; I also attended the RAN Helicopter Flight Vietnam Reunion on 17 and 18 August 2024 at Old Bar NSW together with a detachment of the RAN Band who attended the Reunion and assisted with ceremonial for Vietnam Veterans Day; and I have also visited the Fleet Air Arm Museum (FAAM) to meet with the Director Sea Power Centre Australia, CAPT Alastair Cooper and many other interested parties in an attempt to breathe some life into the FAAM.

Beyond these activities, the difficulties to replace members of the FAAAA National Executive led us to raise a draft motion for this FCM for the Association to consider not having a National Executive. We have not had a President since the 2022 FCM until May this year, we have not had a permanent Slipstream Editor since 2022, and initially we were not besieged with volunteers to replace our National Secretary and Webmaster when they indicated that they would be standing down at this FCM. Happily, the motion to disband the National Executive has been withdrawn with several people nominating for positions, but there remain several issues that may still cause the Association much difficulty in the near term. A discussion paper on these issues is before us at this FCM. Thank you to all those who nominated for a position. Willingness to volunteer is vital to the FAAAA future.

Finally, I would like to again publicly thank the members of the National Executive. Phil, Terry, Jim, Marcus and Paul do great work and receive little thanks. Phil and Terry are standing down after many years of hard labour and Marcus will attempt to reduce his workload. On behalf of the organisation chaps, thank you and well done.

Mark Campbell
RADM, RAN (Rtd)
National President

10 October 2024

NATIONAL SECRETARY'S REPORT FCM 2024

2023-24 Federal Council Meeting and National Executive Meetings

- The 2023 FCM was conducted by ZOOM with Vice President Phil Carey acting as President.
- The position of President remained vacant until May 2024 when Mark Campbell was reinstalled into that role.
- RADM Anthony Dalton accepted the invitation to become National Patron of the Association.
- The 2023 FCM and National Executive Meeting of May 2024 mainly dealt with issues facing the long-term viability of the National Executive and the Association as an entity.
- The National Executive has campaigned tirelessly to recruit new blood into the positions that are being vacated at the 2024 FCM. Except for 'Slipstream' Editor and 'FlyBy' Editor, candidates for all other National Executive positions have stepped forward.

State Division Executives

- WA Division had their AGM in January when Mike Keogh was elected President and Mick Spahn was elected Secretary
- Tasmania Division held their AGM in February, and the President Michael Kus and Secretary Graham Nicholas retained their positions.
- NSW Division AGM was held in March. Keith Boundy was elected as Vice President while all other positions remained the same.
- The ACT Division executive has remained the same.
- Victoria, SA and Queensland executives remain unchanged, except Stephen Huxtable has assumed the QLD Secretary's role in addition to being President.

Commemorations and Celebrations

- Vietnam Veterans' Day at Old Bar. This annual event, organised by John Macartney was well attended by former RANHFV veterans, US Army and USN veterans and local National Service and ARA Vietnam veterans. The Old Bar Public School was the centre for the commemoration service, attended by all staff and the school's approximately 500 students. The RAN Band-Sydney attended as did an EC135 helicopter from 723 Squadron. FAAAA National President Mark Campbell took the salute at the marchpast.
- VAT Smith Book Launch. Over ninety people attended the launch on Friday 30 August, and the guest list included a veritable 'Who's Who' of Navy and Fleet Air Arm personalities, old and new. The publisher sold out of his stock and was taking mail orders as well. The author, Graham Lunn was on hand to sign the books purchased on the day.

Slipstream

- The Divisions' correspondents have been very forthcoming with material and photographs submitted for the 2023-2024 editions of 'Slipstream'.
- The September issue of 'Slipstream' was combined with the June issue in a bumper, full colour magazine. This was necessitated by my hospitalisation in June and July.
- I wish to thank James Caldwell and his staff for the use of his office and boardroom for the packing, stacking and mailing.
- Helpers have included Ron Batchelor, Dick Martin, Dennis Mulvihill and Fred Dawson as well as James's office staff.
- I took on the Editor's role as an interim measure at the end of 2022 and efforts to find a new volunteer editor have proved fruitless. The September 2024 issue was the last copy to be edited by me, and without a magazine in the future, the Association will lose a very important avenue for connecting with all its members.

FAA Museum

- Ms Jen Alder took over as FAAM manager just on a year ago and I have been able to meet with her on several occasions to discuss ways in which the Association can form a closer bond with the Museum. The Museum stands to benefit from royalties of the book sales of ‘The Skyhawk Years’ and as yet no funds have been expended by the Museum.
- The National Executive has engaged with the Director of the Sea Power Centre-Australia, CAPT Alastair Cooper, on an ongoing basis. Resulting from a letter addressed to the Chief of Navy, expressing the Association’s concerns on the overall operation of the FAA Museum, CAPT Cooper has been in frequent dialog with the FAAAA President and other National Executive members.

Concluding Remarks

- This is my final report to the Federal Council Meeting as I am standing down as of this meeting. I have withdrawn from executive positions in all of the organisations with which I have been involved, to focus more on my health and family commitments.
- My connection with the FAA Association of Australia goes back to 1988 when the fledgling NSW Division was incorporated, and I have had the opportunity to serve the Association in executive roles both with NSW Division and the National Executive since the early 1990’s.
- I was surprised and honoured to be afforded Life Membership in 2016 and to then be recognised with an Order of Australia medal for services to community history in 2020.
- It has been a privilege to work alongside the other National Executive members and I must acknowledge Marcus Peake in particular for assuming a great deal of the Secretarial role while I was absent between May to August with health issues.
- To all the friends that I have made over my time with the Association I say thank you and best wishes for a prosperous future.

This concludes my report.

Terry Hetherington OAM
NATIONAL SECRETARY

25 Oct 2024

CORRESPONDENCE REGISTER

During the period of this report, Oct 2023 to Oct 2024, multiple emails have been dispatched and received between the National Executive and all State Divisions.

Details of those emails are held on file by the Secretary, and it is considered unnecessary to record the entire Correspondence file in this report.

Letters of significant importance to the Association’s business dealings are tabulated below.

DATE	SENDER	IN
22 Nov 23	WA Dept Consumer Affairs	Acknowledgement of receipt of annual Associations Information Statement.
22 Dec 23	Jeff Dalgliesh	Advising of the passing of LEUT JACK SURIANO, Korean War Firefly observer.
23 Dec 23	Ms Louise Henderson	Advising of the passing of her father, LEUT KENCHOL BARRATT.
23 Dec 23	Jeff Dalgliesh	Advising of the passing of CAPT THEO BURDORF, former CO of VC851 Sqn.
16 Apr 24	CDRE Anthony Savage	Expressing his willingness to accept a position on the National Executive.

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22 Apr 24	Jeff Dalgliesh	Advising of the passing of LEUT CYRIL DAKIN, Korean War Sea Fury pilot.
07 May 24	Vice President Phil Carey	Interpretation of the FAAAA Constitution concerning vacancies in office holders' positions.
14 May 24	Chief of Staff to CN	Response to letter to CN regarding the operations of the FAA Museum.
24 May 24	CAPT Alistair Cooper Director Sea Power Centre-Australia	Proposing dates for meeting with FAAAA following up on letter to CN.
16 June 24	SA Division	Congratulating RADM Anthony Dalton on his appointment as FAAAA Patron.
26 June 24	AustBrokers Insurance	Proposals for renewal of not-for-profit body insurance policies for 2024-25.
06 July 24	Jeff Dalgliesh	Advising of the passing of CAPT ANTHONY ECCLESTON.
08 July 24	National Secretary Terry Hetherington	Notice of intention to resign as National Secretary & Slipstream Editor at the 2024 FCM.
14 Aug 24	WA Division Secretary Mick Spahn	Nomination of WA member for recognition of service to the WA Division.
02 Sep 24	CAPT Alistair Cooper Director Sea Power Centre-Australia	Acknowledgement of Heritage assessment review for the acquisition of an MRH90 helicopter
10 Sep 24	National Secretary Terry Hetherington	Requesting latest address & contact details for five members.

DATE	RECIPIENT	OUT
10 Nov 23	Ms Jen Alder FAAM Manager	Advice on allocation of book royalties "The Skyhawk Years".
10 Nov 23	Ms Jen Alder FAAM Manager	Recognising her appointment as FAA Museum Manager & Senior Curator.
22 Nov 23	Jeff Dalgliesh et al	Advising the passing of CMDR Donald Debus, former CO of HS817 Sqn.
11 Feb 24	Alliance of Defence Service Organisations	Advising FAAAA executive positions for ADSO records.
25 Feb 24	John Macartney et al	Advising the passing of CPOATW(O) Peter RUHL, a member of RANHFV, Contingent 3.
07 Mar 24	Chief of Navy	Expressing concern at the state of the FAA Museum and proposing FAAAA support.
22 May	VADM Tim Barrett et al	Summary by Marcus Peake of the meeting with CAPT Alastair Cooper Director Sea Power Centre-Australia
16 May 24	RADM Mark Campbell	Advising that his offer to return as FAAAA National President is agreed by the National Executive.
22 May 24	All Division Presidents	Advising of RADM Mark Campbell's acceptance to return as FAAAA National President.
22 May 24	All Division Presidents	Minutes of National Executive meeting held 14 May 2024.
24 May 24	All Division Presidents	Advising of the appointment of RADM Anthony Dalton as the FAAAA Patron.
16 June 24	RADM Anthony Dalton	Congratulating RADM Anthony Dalton on his appointment as FAAAA Patron.
01 Sep 24	CAPT Alastair Cooper Director Sea Power Centre-Australia	Heritage assessment review for the acquisition of an MRH90 helicopter for display in FAAM.
10 Sep 24	FAAAA members	Requesting latest address & contact details for five members.

Treasurer's Report FCM 2024 **Period 01/07/2023 to 30/06/2024**

It is with pleasure I provide the current annual report of the financial position of the Fleet Air Arm Association of Australia.

Please note that the report we receive from our accountant is now titled the "Auditor's Independent Review" rather than Audit Report.

This year has been a reasonably routine year whereby we have increased our fixed deposit holdings with a result of \$1,380 interest earned for the year. However, as we have several decisions to make in respect to the future of the Association at this meeting we have held off on:

1. ~~Renewal of our annual insurance policy, due July gone.~~

(Secretary's Note: Insurance was renewed on 1st July)

2. Re-investment of one of our fixed deposits.

However, the above issues shall be actioned on Monday next, following confirmation of "Business as Usual"

Payment of Fees

A major issue has arisen in respect to the payment of 'Slipstream' and Capitation Fees, in that our bank, Australian Military Bank, no longer supports dealing by cheque. We therefore need to decide to either continue with AMB and utilise EFT payments or alternatively change banks, noting however that there is a strong push with some of the major banks also to cease trading with cheques. The national accounts are all managed by way of EFT transactions.

A couple of 'Slipstream' payments are in arrears.

A couple of Capitation fees are in arrears.

Treasurers, please check deposit account number when forwarding fees by EFT.

Whilst the cost of 'Slipstream', if continued, is yet to be determined, it is my recommendation that the current 'Slipstream' fees remain as is with No increase.

General Account

Notwithstanding the drop off in numbers, the General Account is holding its own.

It is my recommendation that the Capitation fees remain as is with No increase.

Fixed Deposit

FAAAA holds three (3) Fixed Deposit Accounts at present, Interest rate currently, two at 4.8%, one (1) at 5.1%.

General Comments

1. Generally, payments are being received in a timely manner, THANK YOU.

2. Included in our general account is approx. \$4,000 being held from Royalties received from the sales of the A4 book, plus another \$600 yet to be invoiced to Avonmore for the use of the Fleet Air Arm Museum.

3. Also due is \$1,085 in royalties from VAT Smith book sales to be used for the benefits of FAA veterans more generally.

4. Please note that the \$2,570 referred to as *Sales* is part Capitation Fees.

James Caldwell

National Treasurer FAAAAA

19 Oct 2024

WEBMASTER'S REPORT FOR FEDERAL COUNCIL MEETING OF OCTOBER 2024

1. During the past year the website has remained stable and has required no significant remedial work.
2. The site still has a large number of errors arising from its rebuild in 2020/21. These are predominantly broken links to many of the pages it contains; significant formatting problems in the original HTML pages, and duplication of thousands of photographs which the Website Provider somehow managed to achieve during that rebuild.
3. About half of the history pages have now been converted to the new high-resolution PDF documents, rather than embedded "native" HTML pages. These have many advantages including fixing link and formatting problems, but conversion to PDF is a slow process which the webmaster has not adequately addressed during the year due to other commitments.
4. Of greater concern is the relationship with our Website Provider. This broke down a couple of years ago when the rebuild work was not completed to a satisfactory standard, and when the Provider mis-quoted for an additional feature we required. Things have gone from bad to worse to the point where they will now not quote for work, but will simply charge a significant hourly fee on completion of whatever task we require according to their timing. Clearly this is not acceptable, but they have refused to engage in any meaningful negotiation.
5. Advice from various third-party sources indicate that the Provider allegedly employs about half the workforce they used to, with clients leaving for other website hosting companies.
6. The Webmaster believes that the time has come to seek an alternative provider as our annual contract is due in January 2025. Further, it may be the best time to have the new Provider construct a new website that looks to the future and is cheaper to maintain. The last time the Association paid for a new website was 2015, as the 2020/21 reconstruction was funded entirely by GoFundMe contributions. A proposal for this course of action is presented in a separate Motion paper for consideration of the FCM.
7. It is also worth noting that, now the Webmaster has relinquished responsibility for 'FlyBy' magazine, he will have more time to devote to the website upkeep and maintenance.

Marcus Peake
Webmaster, FAAAA.
08 October 2024.

National Membership Database Manager's Report for 2024 Federal Council Meeting

General

Activities in the past year have once again generally mirrored that reported in previous years, involving updating member records to reflect the current membership status following payment of subs and changes to address details etc. when advised by Division Executives, raising membership records for new members (reduced again from last year, see details below), and once again cancelling records for those that we have lost (see also below for details). I have also continued with emailing out the access links for the softcopy 'Slipstream' and it has been good to see the continuing increase in softcopy numbers (see attached Stats Report), although this may well be offset by the cloud hanging over the future of 'Slipstream', and updating the Australia Post sort codes for the hardcopy mailing labels.

I have also been slowly updating the records of those members who have purchased a Wall of Service plaque to include details of the information provided on each plaque, i.e. Surname, initials, rank, official number, dates of service and plaque location on the Wall. There are approximately 1070 plaques on the wall and I have about 178 names still to process, but not all of those will have been FAAAA members and most probably quite a few of those remaining will also not be FAAAA members.

I once again take this opportunity to thank Division Secretaries and Treasurers for your continued support in providing membership updates.

Membership Statistics

As I indicated above, this past year has again continued the decline in membership numbers, with a net decrease of 5 members and the total membership going from 743 members as of 13th Oct 2023 to 738 members as of 13th Oct 2024 (date this report was prepared). We have also had 1 member transfer between Divisions (from NSW to QLD).

During the period covered by this report we gained 79 new members, including 2 who became members through purchase of 'Wall of Service' plaques (down from 5 last year), 9 Associate members (up from 5 last year) and 8 previous members who have come back on-board (9). However, of those 79 new members, 44 were what we previously called 'Non-Members' who were provided with copies of 'FlyBy' even though they were not members of the FAAAA. When the decision was made in late 2023 to restrict access to 'FlyBy' to only financial members, there were 400 'Non-Members' recorded on the database as of 31st Oct 2023, and whilst a reasonable number of them would not have been eligible to join the FAAAA, only 44 elected to become financial members. Whether they and other members will renew for 2025 and beyond if 'Slipstream' and 'FlyBy' are no longer available will remain to be seen.

The continuing downward trend in our memberships is further compounded by the loss of 62 members (up from 43 last year) who either resigned their membership (11, with 2 stating ill health as the reason, one moving into aged care and 8 giving no reason), one Honorary member whose membership lapsed when posted from the position of COMFAA, and 50 members who chose not to renew for 2024 resulting in their membership being cancelled by their respective Divisions (up from 36 last year).

On a sadder, but unfortunately more prevalent note, we again lost 22 members who "Crossed the Bar", but at least this was less than last year's 31. I have also been advised of a further 7 former members who "Crossed the Bar" in the past twelve months, including a foundation member of the QLD Division in Florence 'Flossie' Nugent.

The attached Statistical Report provides a breakdown of the overall membership and for each Division for the period since the last FCM. What is not reflected though in the membership stats is that since the start of June this year, I have only processed 9 membership applications, 4 of which were from previous members (with 2 rejoining after realising that they had forgotten to renew at the

start of the year and were therefore ‘extinguished’ at the end of May), and one who purchased a Wall of Service plaque.

Future Activities

With the end of the calendar year fast approaching, there will be the usual updating of membership records as advice is received of members paying their 2025 subs, and hopefully raising of new member records and a lesser number of record deletions. We can but hope.

Paul Norris

FAAAA National Membership Database Manager

Attachment:

FAAAA Membership Statistical Report for Period 13th October 2023 to 13th October 2024



Fleet Air Arm Association of Australia

MEMBERSHIP STATISTICAL REPORT FOR PERIOD 13 OCTOBER 2023 TO 13 OCTOBER 2024

	ALL	NSW	ACT	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	QLD	
Current:	738	341	70	72	21	31	70	133	Current
Previous:	743	354	72	72	16	36	71	122	Previous
Difference:	-5	-13	-2	0	5	-5	-1	11	Difference
New Members:	79	30	7	6	5	2	8	21	New Members
Extinguished:	62	29	8	4	0	6	6	9	Extinguished
Deceased:	22 (7)	13 (3)	1	2	0	1	3 (1)	2 (3)	Deceased
Transfer In/Out	1	0/1	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	1/0	Transfer In/Out
Associate:	41	16	1	11	1	0	3	8	Associate
Honorary:	6	0	0	3	0	0	3	0	Honorary
Life Members:	30	9	0	2	0	5	9	5	Life Members
SS Hard %:	38.7%	43.8%	11.6%	35.4%	38.1%	45.2%	50.0%	34.1%	SS Hard %
SS Soft %:	61.3%	56.2%	88.4%	64.6%	61.9%	54.8%	50.0%	65.9%	SS Soft %

Legend:

- Current:** Total number of members who are up to date financially or are Honorary, Lifetime or Perpetual Life Members (latter NSW Div only) as at the end date of the period covered by this report.
- Previous:** Total number of members of all classifications and status as at the start date of the period covered by this report.
- New Members:** Total number of new members of all classifications who joined during the period covered by this report.
- Extinguished:** Previous members whose membership was cancelled upon advice from Divisions due to either resignation or non payment of membership subscriptions during the period covered by this report.
- Deceased:** Members who have "Crossed the Bar" during the period covered by this report. Numbers in parentheses are previous members who have been reported as having "Crossed the Bar" during the same period.

Slipstream Report for period September 2023 until September 2024

The Slipstream Editor's report is incorporated within the Secretary's report.

FLEET AIR ARM ASSOCIATION WALL of SERVICE ADMINISTRATOR. NATIONAL ANNUAL REPORT – 2024

In November 2022, the cost of a plaque was increased due to foundry costs. The pricing of plaque is \$200.00 for FAAA Members and \$250.00 for non-FAAA members, which includes their first year's membership into FAAAA.

Application submissions continue to vary in numbers and intervals.

The current status of Wall of Service plaques/applications is as follows: -

- a. The total number of plaques on the wall now stands at 1091,
- b. 24 plaques have been placed on the wall over the past 12 months 16 from Order 53 and nine due to adhesive failure,
- c. Order number 54 is open with six applications, and
- d. An updated list of all plaques mounted on the Wall of Service (dated 05 February 2024), is available for viewing on the FAAA of A website.

This concludes my report.

J. BALAZIC
WoS Administrator

10 October 2024

Fleet Air Arm Association of Australia General Meeting – 26 October 2024

Fleet Air Arm Museum Update

In 2023, the Sea Power Centre embarked on an ambitious programme of reforms across the Navy History and Heritage Network. 2024 saw the entire national network, including the FAAM, working hard on delivering the outcomes of these reforms, the results of which may not be seen in completion for more time to come. The undertaking to professionalise the management of the RAN Heritage Collections is a massive undertaking.

Deliverables expected to be achieved include:

- A complete audit of the full collection – this will involve identifying every object in the collection, assessing its significance and provenance, assessing its condition, administering treatment as required, accessioning objects that have not been properly documented, deaccessioning objects that are not relevant to the collection, cataloguing objects that have not been catalogued, and updating all catalogue entries and object files to ensure that best practice and legislative requirements are met fully.
- Establishment of a repository – this will involve identifying and securing a facility which is suitable for storage and treatment of the collection; identifying objects to be stored at the repository and relocating them there; putting a team in place at the repository to act as the hub of the curatorial network nationally.
- Refurbishment of the FAAM – this is a five-year project which will see the FAAM assessed for functionality, presentation, and best use of space. The first stage of this refurbishment will be the front end which is on track to be completed in 2025. This will see the entrance space relocated, and the current lobby space used for display purposes. The theatrette will be rebranded as the “VAT Smith Training Room” and will be used for school groups and RAN trainee offerings.
- Development of a formal volunteer programme – this will allow the professionalisation of the volunteer workforce. The goal is that this will allow our volunteers access to training and development and greater fulfilment in their roles.
- Tour programme – a formal tour programme is being developed for the FAAM which will involve better management of bookings, schedules, staffing and training.
- Acquisitions committee – a new committee is to be formed which will govern collection management, acquisitions, disposals, loans and policy development.

Staffing: In late 2023, two new staff joined the team – Jen Alder (FAAM Manager) and Penny Edwell (Creswell Manager). Both are experienced curators and are bringing a new perspective to the management of FAAM and the Creswell HLC. They are among a number of curators to join the RAN Heritage team at all sites, contributing to the above-mentioned programme of professionalisation and dedication to building and maintaining heritage sector best practice standards.

Opening hours: In 2024, the FAAM changed operating hours from Tuesday to Sunday 10-4 all year to opening only on Friday to Sunday 10-4 throughout the year and Tuesday to Sunday during school holidays. The museum is closed only on Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year’s Day. There has not been an unscheduled closure since this was instituted. This has had the effect of returning visitor numbers to about the same level prior to the withdrawal of the café by the Navy Anchorage and the subsequent period of unreliable opening hours. DSPCA comment – I am conscious of and share the desire for greater use of the FAAM. My intent is to aim for this in a deliberate manner. Firstly, I observe that the times the FAAM is open to the general public, the times when it is available for Defence or pre-booked groups, and the growth in visitor numbers are three related but different things. I will only expand the times we are open to the general public when I am confident the increase can be achieved sustainably. Till then, we are focussing our efforts on the times we

understand the demand to be greatest – Fridays, weekends and school holidays. We are aiming to encourage use of the FAAM by school groups as our number one priority. Maximising use of and value from the FAAM is an enduring task.

Acquisitions: A major acquisition for the FAAM in 2024 was a Schiebel S-100 Camcopter. This will go on display with the other drones and demonstrate the evolution of this technology. Work is underway to collect artefacts, documents, photos and interviews to tell the story of the MRH90 in RAN service, including either acquisition or loan of an airframe from Army.

Conservation:

- In late 2023/early 2024 a major undertaking to clean and treat the uniform collection was undertaken.
- The Fairey Gannet has been, and will continue to be, a major project for the technical team. In 2024 an assessment of the work required to be undertaken was completed and a plan for moving ahead with the aircraft is in development.

Iroquois 894: The helicopter on a stick was a major project for 2024. The FAAM technical team undertook an assessment of the airframe in conjunction with a large technology conservator, and were able to produce comprehensive reports regarding the feasibility of its restoration. It was decided that the airframe is beyond repair and will not be restored to its position by the highway.

CAPT Alastair Cooper RAN

Director-Sea Power Centre Australia
October 2024.