

## **RVAA UPDATE APRIL 2022**

**Echuca:** The inaugural meeting at Echuca was a smash. Sixty-Three RV's plus other assorted aircraft and cars flew in or drove in for the weekend meeting. Two aircraft managed to escape after the lockdown in West Australia was lifted and flew in to join us. Well over one hundred people attended and we commenced the RV Aircraft Australia (RVAA) group.

The Elected Officials:

President: Alan Carlisle [alancarlise@optusnet.com.au](mailto:alancarlise@optusnet.com.au) 0403 323 973

Vice-President: John Brumpton [jbrumpt@gmail.com](mailto:jbrumpt@gmail.com) 0409 670 828

Secretary: Ashley Miller [apmillerservices@gmail.com](mailto:apmillerservices@gmail.com) 0437 852 444

Treasurer: Richard Raymond [crwrbr@gmail.com](mailto:crwrbr@gmail.com) 0401 852 296

Committee: Tim Ellerton [tellerto@bigpond.net.au](mailto:tellerto@bigpond.net.au) 0417 723 574

Doug McCullough [doug.mac1946@gmail.com](mailto:doug.mac1946@gmail.com) 0403 255 575

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Webmaster: Doug McCullough

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So, what's happening next? It was not as easy to open a bank account I expected, bank said we needed a ABN and ATO file number, after five hours of phone calls we convinced the bank they were a bunchy of dopes and bingo ten days later we now have Commonwealth Bank account, so forward and onward we can proceed.

If you didn't make Echuca one of our artistic members did and produced this youtube of the weekend have a look <https://youtu.be/ZCvhbo6DX2Q>

The application for membership including the BSB and account number for RVAA is now attached to the membership application form attached. Please fill it in and send it back.

**Birdsville fly away.** A reminder to all members the Birdsville flyaway commences the 1st of September through to the 8th of September. There are limited numbers due to the availability of accommodation. We won't be camping under the stars with a bunch of drunken yobbos staggering around us. We will be staying in ensuited cabins with a pub meal only metres away at Windorah. We currently have block booking at Windorah that we must let that booking go very shortly so if you intend to do Birdsville, please let me know now otherwise I will have to cancel the bookings that we currently have. See the attached suggested flight details. If you don't want to fly around for a few days and only want to go to the races, that's OK. Whatever you want to do, you must book and plan now. The fly away itinerary is only a suggestion and is open to amendment should people have a real desire to visit other places.

**Aerobatics.** Rob Crass [robcrass@hotmail.com](mailto:robcrass@hotmail.com) is keen to hear from anyone who might have an interest in aerobatics. Rob would like to know if you are flying aerobatics now or would be

interested in taking up aerobatics in the future. Ultimately wouldn't be great if we could hold our own Australian Aerobatic championships! please contact Rob.

**2023 South Australian meeting.** At the meeting of the RVAA it was decided annual meetings will be conducted in a clock wise rotation of Australia. That way everyone gets a chance to stay at home one year, poor old West Australian's must be Australia's most travelled aviators. Next year's meeting will be held in South Australia, probably Goolwa at a date to be advised.

**Agile Insurance:** Michael Dalton from Agile Insurance attended Echuca and outlined the excellent purpose-built insurance for RV owners. Michael also confirmed that Agile Insurance would pay the RVAA annual membership fees (\$30) from your insurance premium (this arrangement will become active next financial year, once the RVAA and Agile sort out the transfer arrangements, apologies for any delays at this time). Agile has produced a special quote page for RV owners at the following link, try it you will be suitably impressed <https://vansaircraftau.poweredbyagile.com.au/>

**Maintenance:** Plane Power Alternators. I have raised this issue once before, however seeing the Secretary and the Treasurer both had Plane Power failures recently (again for Ashley) I thought it worth mentioning again. My Plane Power Alternator failed at 250 hours, rear bearing spinning in the housing destroyed the housing, damaging bearing, rectifier and diodes. Plane Power replaced the alternator at no charge even though warranty had ceased some twelve months before. No problem, Plane Power were very supportive, however their alternators now seem to have a history of failure. I concede all mechanical devices have failure rates, however I now know of far too many low hour Plane Power alternators failing. In two cases the alternator was still working and producing 14 volts charges rates, however the regulator was allowing large and significant dirty spikes in excess of 15 volts. The spikes were so short a duration that the volt metre never actually caught the reading, however in both cases the VPX installed to protect the electronics caught the spike and tripped the power supply to the transponder and comms. One owner returned the VPX to USA to be inspected for faults only to be told there was nothing wrong with the VPX it was working fine. When he rang me for advice, I was fortunate enough to have seen the very same issue on our secretary's plane with the help of an oscilloscope, where the spiking was quite evident. Once the VPX identified the spike of 15+ volts it quickly tripped the circuit to protect the transponder and nav/com, something it was designed to do. Most frustrating for our RV owner, because he couldn't see the spike and could only see a measured 14.2 volts coming from the alternator. The spike is too quick to be seen on a volt meter. When selecting your alternator, I'd suggest it would be good advice to consider carefully which brand you chose. Vans Airforce has several blogs on the topic <https://vansairforce.net/community/showthread.php?t=138805&highlight=poll>  
<https://vansairforce.net/community/showthread.php?t=194490&highlight=survey>

**An Invitation by Ben Morgan of AOPA.** The RVAA has been invited to attend the most important forum detailed below. I unfortunately can't make the meeting; do we have some volunteers to attend and represent the RVAA at Bankstown at this political meeting. Could you please let me know if you could make the meeting and I'll let Ben Morgan know of our representation.

**MAY DAY EVENT - SENATOR REX PATRICK**

**THE FUTURE OF AUSTRALIAN GENERAL AVIATION**

Hosted by the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association of Australia

Sunday, 1st May 2022: Commencing 11:00am – Bankstown Airport NSW.

**Attention Australian Aviation Industry Participants,**

I warmly invite you all to attend my MAY DAY EVENT hosted by the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association of Australia, kicking off from 11am on Sunday 1st May 2022, at:

AOPA Australia Headquarters  
Hangar 120, 10 Stinson Crescent  
Bankstown Airport NSW 2200  
Australia.

General aviation is in crisis and is but a shadow of the aviation industry it once was. The Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) is largely responsible for what has been a death by a thousand cuts.

Over the past 20 years the Parliament has held inquiry after inquiry, with the feedback from industry remaining consistent throughout. Despite the unified pleas for change, CASA have wrought havoc on the aviation industry, forcing a never-ending parade of regulatory change that has destroyed businesses, reduced industry competitiveness, and dramatically undermined the sustainability of small to medium sized aviation.

The Parliament reacted to the decline when it passed the Civil Aviation Amendment Bill 2019. This Bill sought to ensure that in developing and promulgating aviation safety standards, CASA must consider the economic and cost impacts on individuals, businesses, and the community.

Sadly, little seems to have changed.

The Parliamentary 'nutcracker' doesn't seem to have cracked the over-regulation walnut, so it is now time to reach for the Sledgehammer.

Having worked tirelessly with industry and having watched things go from a cautionary PAN PAN to an outright emergency MAYDAY, I am ready to answer the call on Sunday 1st May, where I will propose a powerful sledgehammer that can be used to finally sort things out so that general aviation may recover and thrive.

Come take part on Sunday 1st May (from 11am). I am very much looking forward to meeting as many of you as possible, with a lunch-time BBQ and refreshments for participants.

Sincerely,

**REX PATRICK**  
**South Australian Senator**

**BENJAMIN MORGAN**

**Chief Executive, AOPA Australia**

Mobile: 0415 577 724

Email: [ben.morgan@aopa.com.au](mailto:ben.morgan@aopa.com.au)

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**REGISTER YOUR ATTENDANCE**

To assist with event catering and equipment hire, participants are encouraged to register their attendance, by emailing: [ben.morgan@aopa.com.au](mailto:ben.morgan@aopa.com.au)

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**EVENT DATE AND LOCATION**

Commencing 11am, Sunday 1st May 2022 - AOPA Australia Headquarters (FalconAir Hangar)  
Hangar 120, 10 Stinson Crescent, Bankstown Airport NSW 22200, Australia.

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**WHO SHOULD ATTEND THIS EVENT**

- Recreational, Sport, General Aviation and Commercial Aircraft Owners
- Recreational, Private and Commercial Pilots
- Flight Training Businesses, Charter Operators, Maintenance Businesses
- Aviation Industry Associations, Peak Bodies, AeroClubs & Flying Groups
- Aviation Industry Supporters

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**INVITED INDUSTRY ASSOCIATIONS**

- Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association of Australia
- Aircraft Maintenance Repair Overhaul Business Association
- Australian Licensed Aircraft Engineers Association of Australia
- Australian Federation of Air Pilots
- Sport Aircraft Association of Australia
- Australian Beechcraft Society
- Cessna 182 Association
- Australian Mooney Pilots Association
- Australian Piper Society
- Lancair Owner Builders Organisation
- **Australian RV Aircraft Association**
- AngelFlight Australia

- Wagga City Aero Club
- Central Coast Aero Club
- NSW Sport Aircraft Club

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#### **INVITED MEDIA**

- ABC Television
- ABC Radio National
- Channel 9 News
- Channel 7 News
- The Australian
- The Australian Financial Review
- Australian Flying Magazine
- Australian Aviation

#### **Sponsors:**

Punkin Head Covers: I'd like to thank Dianne McNamara 0429 938 426 of Punkin Head Covers [di@punkinheadair.com.au](mailto:di@punkinheadair.com.au) for coming to Echuca and offering our members a special price on covers. We had 63 aircraft attend and Dianne took over 30 orders. Dianne is a great sport and backs her products 100%.

FlyLEDS: Paul McVitty was an apology for our Echuca meeting; however Paul has graciously offered RV owners a discount for the next month or two for his excellent LED lighting systems for RV's. I personally know of his products and wish that I had known before I spent over three times the price to get LEDS from the USA. His landing lights and strobes make my \$1,000+ lights look inferior. Check out Paul's website and give him a ring <https://flyleds.com/contact-us/>