

MEDIA ADVISORY



18 November 2022

RAAA extends Mal Sharp as Chair and includes new Honorary Members

After it's Annual General Meeting yesterday the 17th of November, the new RAAA Board elected unopposed, Mr Mal Sharp of Sharp Airlines as the Chair of the RAAA for 2023. Mr Mark Wardrop of Chartair/Air Link and Ms Adrienne Fleming (Tristar Aviation) were elected as Vice-Chairs.

RAAA CEO Mr Steve Campbell said that the organisation was incredibly fortunate to have such vast experience on our Board which will strengthen the experience available to the membership.

"We are incredibly well represented on the Board from large regional airlines through to large charter companies and flying schools. This is also mixed with maintenance providers/trainers and fuel companies.

"There are not many areas of the regional aviation industry that our Board does not cover and I look forward to working with them in 2023 on very important aviation policy such as our shortage of engineers and pilots, Mr Campbell stated.

At the AGM, the membership also voted in favour of electing 4 new Honorary Members who either have given exceptional service to regional aviation or to the Association. It has been many years since the RAAA last elected a new Honorary Members and this year the organisation felt there were 4 very worthy people. New Honorary Members are:

- **Mr Anthony (Tony) Mathews** – formerly Southern Airlines, RFDS, Dep Chair Airservices Australia, Chair of the Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA)
- **Mr Roger Leach** - 45 year (to date) Australian aviation career veteran, Roger has established a multitude of operations including Air North. He has grown aviation operations which today turn over in excess of \$120m and employ more than 350 Territorians.
- **Mr John Hardy** - John Hardy AO is an Australian aviator and businessman who founded Air North in 1978 and Hardy Aviation in 1991. He was Administrator of the Northern Territory from November 2014 until October 2017.
- **Mr Stan Quinlivan** - Stan is the CEO/Owner of Skippers Aviation based in Perth. Stan has been a stalwart of regional aviation in WA and has received numerous government gongs for his services to aviation. Stan has been instrumental in managing Skippers throughout the decades and through some of aviation's most difficult times.

These 4 add to the current list of Max Hazleton, Steve Padgett, John MacKnight and John Rowarth.

Mal Sharp said it was time to look at those in our industry who have provided such incredible service to our industry and continue to do so.

"I admire the tenacity of each new Honorary Member very well and I am honoured that we are now able to tip our hats to them and acknowledge their service to our industry.

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“Without people like them it is hard to see what our regional aviation industry would look like today. They have trail blazed through the toughest conditions for aviation and business and continue to work each day on improving services for regional communities.

“It is also important that our members get to see and hear about these people and understand the experience that the RAAA has in our industry, we can all learn from such legends of our industry”, Mr Sharp said.

Mr Campbell said that the RAAA has strengthened its advocacy with government and raised its profile through future looking policy in “Towards Net Zero” and Advanced Air Mobility Vehicles and their impacts for regional aviation.

“I look forward to continuing this work next year and working closely with government on our critical shortage of engineers and pilots, which is having a massive impact on regional aviation.

“We are still working through numerous changes to regulations by CASA with more still to come, industry have had an incredible amount of work to do in the last few years and it’s important that the regulator understands this workload and how it is affecting smaller aviation companies, Mr Campbell said.

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The RAAA represents aviation across Australia. It has over 100 members and its Air Operator Certificate (AOC) holding members directly employ over 2,500 Australians, many in regional areas. On an annual basis, the RAAA’s AOC members jointly turn over more than \$1.5 billion, carry well in excess of 2 million passengers and move over 23 million kilograms of freight. Our Regional Airport members also provide and manage critical infrastructure across Australian.

Serving regional aviation, and through it, the people and businesses of regional Australia
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