



‘Educating the brightest minds for the boldest challenges’

It’s an ambitious undertaking, but Lea Vesic, the inaugural director of RMIT University’s new Aviation Academy, told *RAAA News* she is up for the challenge. ‘I am loving the job,’ she says. ‘I feel like I’m in the right place’. *RAAA News* talked to Vesic on the eve of the formal opening of the Academy in February about her background, her philosophy and how the Academy will be different to other aviation institutions.

Vesic has had an aviation-focused career. She spent a brief time working with the RAAA when Mike Higgins was CEO and was senior aviation advisor to the then Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Transport, the Hon. Michael McCormack. She was the first female chair of the Canberra branch of the Royal Aeronautical Society, is a past-president of the Women in Aviation, International (WAI) Australian chapter, and currently a director on the board of Aviation/Aerospace Australia. She also holds a commercial aeroplane licence, a multi-engine command instrument rating, and is undertaking flight instructor accreditation.

The vision for the Academy is multifold. ‘Australian aviation underpins the economy and builds social cohesion’ Vesic says, ‘but as an industry, we’re not very good at selling ourselves to the rest of the community’. Moreover, ‘aviation has been a unique club, and we’ve got to move beyond’ that type of thinking. The Academy plans to build on RMIT’s academic strengths across disciplines ‘to broaden what it means to be in aviation – to bring together a diversity of skill sets and technologies’ and to ‘add an aviation lens to the various fields of study at the university’.

In this issue

‘Educating the brightest minds for the boldest challenges’

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New member profiles

Introducing Brooks Airways and Corsaire, new WA-based RAAA members.

Cybersecurity and aviation

Tim Taylor of Aviation IT explains why the aviation industry needs to be especially vigilant.

New members directory

Welcome to four new organisations.

From the Vice chair



Adrienne Fleming

RAAA Vice Chair
Head of Flight Operations,
Tristar Aviation

As one of your two RAAA vice chairs, I'm filling in for our chairman as he, in the CEO's words, is 'busy committing aviation'. The year does seem to have begun with a vengeance. There's been no quiet January ease-in time, either for the RAAA or for industry, it seems.

The Avalon Airshow is coming up, and the board is looking forward to meeting as many of you as possible there, and to discuss what the Association can do for you. There's a special networking event on Friday 3 March from 10:30–12:00 at the air show. The RAAA connects members from all sectors of the industry – not just regional airlines, but airports, engineering and maintenance, flying training and a wide range of aviation-associated and support businesses – with the common goal of promoting regional aviation. It will be wonderful after the enforced isolation of COVID to being everyone together at a big event like Avalon, and we look forward to seeing you there.

I guess there is one positive flowing from COVID: the fact that with international travel not possible, many Australians took the opportunity to travel and see their own backyard, resulting in a greater regional focus. Hopefully that impetus may continue, along with a greater awareness of regional identity.

In his column Steve talks about the events we have coming up, beginning with our first 2023 roadshow in June on the Sunshine Coast. We are delighted that Tim Jordan, Bonza's CEO, will be speaking at the roadshow. By then, Bonza will have been operating for six months, so it will be interesting to hear his observations on how their regionally focused business model is faring. Bonza hopes to create a new market by servicing regions and places that previously haven't enjoyed such a service, and I wish it every success.

The Sunshine Coast roadshow is on 22-23 June, and the Canberra one is 13-14 September. I know calendars are filling very quickly, so please 'save the dates'.

Until Avalon, stay safe

Adrienne

2023 RAAA events

Roadshows

June

Sunshine Coast
22-23 June

September

Canberra
13-14 September

www.raaa.com.au

2023 Aviation events

Avalon International Airshow and
Aerospace & Defence Exposition

28 February-5 March 2023

[Avalon Airshow](#)

MRO Australasia

17–18 May 2023
Sofitel Brisbane Central
[MRO Australasia](#)

2024 RAAA events

RAAA biennial convention

19-21 March 2024
RACV Royal Pines Resort
Gold Coast

From the CEO



Steve Campbell
RAAA CEO

After a successful 2022, we're gearing up to make 2023 even better, with two roadshows in the planning, and continuing our advocacy on behalf of members' behalf across a range of issues. We're looking at two roadshows this year: the first in June on the Sunshine Coast, and the second in September in Canberra. For the Canberra roadshow, we're planning an evening function to be held at Parliament House, and I look forward to welcoming members to this imposing venue.

We will also be gearing up for the convention to be held in March 2024 at the RACV Royal Pines Resort on the Gold Coast. We have had extremely positive feedback on the roadshows, so plan on alternating a 'roadshow year' with a 'convention year', as we know members value the opportunity the convention provides to network as a group.



Photo | Royal Pines Resort. Image RACV

We were pleased with the response to the LAME policy paper, and especially with CASA's timely response to some of the proposed action items. CASA's [discussion paper on 'modular licences'](#) is out for consultation, so if you haven't commented, please do so ASAP. The consultation closes on 12 February.



Photo | Aircraft technicians. Image Shutterstock

An area of some concern for the industry is the lack of action on an aviation white paper. After nine months of the new government, we still have no terms of reference for the proposed white paper. Given the likely seismic changes facing industry (such as sustainable aviation fuel, towards net zero, uptake of advanced air mobility etc.), it is important the government lays out its plans so that industry knows where to invest. It seems there are a lot of players out there, many doing great things, but with little coordination of effort and little information.

In closing, I would like to highlight the conference coming up on 17-18 May in Brisbane: MRO Australasia. Sheridan Austin and I will be presenting on 17 May on the LAME policy paper, and the conference organisers, Aviation Week, are calling on industry for further speakers. It promises to be worthwhile, so if you are interested, please [go to their website](#) for more information and to register.

Hope to see you at Avalon,
Steve



The brightest minds ... cont.



Photo | Lea Vesic. Image supplied

She argues that aviation has suffered from being bundled in with STEM (as a science, technology, engineering and maths discipline), but part of the work she is doing is to carve aviation out as a separate entity, to incorporate the broad range of skill sets the whole aviation ecosystem needs. This includes fields as varied as business management, attracting post-grad students doing MBAs; post-grad researchers not only in applied science and technology, but also in applied commercialisation; aviation business security and IT; airport design; as well as traditional pilot training.

Above all the Academy will be industry-facing, partnering with industry to form a think-tank which will guide relevant programs and policy, and ensure 'that what we teach at university is relevant to industry needs'. Armed with these relevant skills, the brightest minds will be better adapted to meeting the bold challenges facing aviation, such as sustainability and rapidly evolving, disruptive technology.

Cybersecurity for aviation

Major Australian companies, Medibank and Optus, made headlines in late 2022 for all the wrong reasons. The two companies suffered cyberattacks accessing many thousands of customers' data, following which the customers' details and confidential information were released for sale online on the dark web. In the aviation sector, Tim Taylor, CEO of RAAA member, Aviation IT, says Air New Zealand was hacked in October last year, when cybercriminals managed to get through to 800 customers in a breach via credential stuffing (see Cybersecurity 101).

Taylor says smaller companies often say to him, 'We're a small business; why would anyone want to attack us?' He explains that 'the Mafia, the Russians, the Albanians, whichever – cybercriminals don't care. It's like a fisherman with a trawler – you cast your net, and pull in everything you catch, prize fish and small fish alike. It's the same principle with cyber trawling, just that it's zeros and ones.

Whatever they catch is fair game.'

A study of 3000 businesses in the UK, US and Germany in 2017 bears out Taylor's assertion that when it comes to cybercrime, size does not matter. The study found that 72 per cent of larger companies in the US reported at least one cyberattack per year, almost equivalent to smaller companies in the US, 68 per cent of which were affected.

Taylor says it's important for businesses to have a firewall to protect their systems. One business client rejected his advice, saying that they had a 'server in the cloud, and their data went through a firewall in the cloud'. However, Taylor says, 'Someone can hack your wi-fi, and use a Trojan virus to access your computer'.

'Firewalls offer unified threat protection', he says, 'with our remote monitoring, we'll know about the problem before you do, or at least the same time.' The Enterprise system Aviation IT uses monitors systems 24/7, scanning addresses and warns of any issues in real time.

Cybersecurity statistics 2019-22*



There were **153 million** new malware samples from March 2021 to February 2022 (AV-Test), a nearly **5% increase** on the previous year which saw **145.8 million**.



Almost **50% of business PCs** and **53% of consumer PCs** that got infected once **were re-infected** within the same year (2021 Webroot Threat Report)



In 2019, **93.6% of malware** observed was **polymorphic**, meaning it has the ability to constantly change its code to evade detection (2020 Webroot Threat Report)



86.2% of surveyed organizations were affected by a successful cyberattack (CyberEdge Group 2021 Cyberthreat Defense Report)



In **2007** malicious hackers were attacking computers and networks at a rate of **one attack every 39 seconds**. By **2020**, the rate was **one successful attack every 1.12 seconds** (The Internet Crime Complaint Center's 2020 report found that there were **465,177 reported incidents** that year.) (University of Maryland)

*from cybersecurity research company, Comparitech.com

Cybersecurity and aviation ... cont.

‘Cybersecurity should be paramount in aviation. Airlines’ intellectual property makes them different to everyone else – they need to be able to protect their customers, and their ticketing systems.’

‘The key thing is to have the right IT infrastructure. It doesn’t cost thousands: you need the right firewall, the right anti-virus, the right back-up solutions, and you need to store your passwords securely, not in an Excel spreadsheet’, Taylor explains. ‘And consider multi-factor authentication on your email’.

Aviation IT can perform an IT health check on your business for a nominal fee, test your cybersecurity resilience and provide recommendations to make your operation more cybersecure.

In the *EY (Ernst and Young) Global Information Security Survey 2018–19*, Richard Watson, EY’s Asia-Pacific Cybersecurity Leader, said, ‘One thing that has changed for the better, partly because of some of those big cyberattacks we’ve seen at a global level, is a growing realisation that security is also about maintaining the continuity of business operations — and not only about the security of data and privacy.’



Contact Tim at Aviation IT about how Aviation IT can help make your business cybersecure. Email tim@aviationitservices.co.nz

Cybersecurity 101

Credential stuffing

Credential stuffing is where cyber attackers use lists of compromised user credentials to breach a system. The attack assumes that many people reuse usernames and passwords across multiple service, such as banking, social media etc. It is estimated that about 0.1 per cent of breached credentials attempted on another service will result in a successful login.

Firewall

A network security device used to keep intruders out. A firewall monitors traffic to or from your network, allowing or blocking traffic based on a defined set of security rules.

IP address

IP stands for internet protocol. An IP address is a series of numbers allocated to computers and pretty much anything connected to the internet, including websites. It works like a standard address, allowing users to find any system or device on the global network by specifying its location. See VPN.

Malware

Malware is **malicious software**: any software intentionally designed to cause disruption to a computer, server, client, or computer network, leak private information, gain unauthorised access to information or systems, deprive access to information, or which unknowingly

interferes with the user’s computer security and privacy.

- **Polymorphic malware** – malware which can change its code constantly to evade detection
- **Ransomware** A type of malicious software (malware) designed to block access to a computer system until a sum of money is paid.
- **Trojan horse** Another form of malware: a misleading computer program that looks innocent, but in fact allows the hacker into your system via a back door, allowing them to control your computer.

Phishing

Phishing is a type of cybersecurity attack during which malicious actors send messages that look like they are from a legitimate company or website. Phishing messages will usually contain a link that takes the user to a fake website that looks like the real thing. The user is then asked to enter personal information, such as their credit card number. This information is then used to steal the person’s identity or to make fraudulent charges on their credit card.

VPN

A virtual private network. A VPN is a method of connecting a series of computers and devices in a private encrypted network, with each user’s IP address being replaced by the VPN’s IP address. Users get internet anonymity, making it difficult for hackers to attack.



Welcome Brooks Airways

Stuart Brooks, managing director of the Brooks Group, which includes Brooks Airways, is following in his father's entrepreneurial footsteps. Brooks Hire, the mainstay of the Brooks Group, had its beginnings in 1979, when Doug Brooks bought two unserviceable air compressors on Bankcard. When he wasn't working his day job as a fitter, Doug repaired them and began hiring them out. Along the way he also qualified as a commercial pilot, and so had an interest in aviation, hiring out piston-engine aircraft and maintaining warbirds (the P51), with his partner Shane Gifford, under the banner of Formula Aviation.

Now under the Brooks Airways banner, the airline operates a fleet of seven B200 King Airs and six Learjet 35As, focusing on private charters, fly-in, fly-out (FIFO) for the resources industry in WA, carrying freight and medEvacs, through Medical Air. Medical Air does medEvacs domestically and internationally to repatriate sick or injured Australians, as well as medEvacs for the resources industry.



Photo | Stuart Brooks (in jacket) with the Brooks Airways team. Image supplied

The Learjets are fitted out with state-of-the-art medical equipment, so that they can function as a flying ICU, and are staffed by highly qualified flight doctors and nurses. The Learjets are also employed for specialised personnel charters and executive flights for resources companies.

Brooks Airways' charter workhorses – the King Airs – are perfectly suited to operating on smaller airstrips in remote locations, while the Learjets provide speed and a 4500 km range, with the capacity to fly anywhere in Australia without refuelling.

Stuart began in the family

business as an apprentice aircraft maintenance engineer. Brooks Airways has a dedicated maintenance facility and a team of licensed aviation engineers to maintain the fleet in-house. 'We're lucky to have a great team, who are all experts in their particular areas,' Stuart says.

'The COVID years were tough for Brooks Airways', Stuart says. 'We survived, and didn't have any redundancies of personnel, but our airline income basically went to zero, with little domestic support. It was a very testing time, but good management prior to the pandemic put us in a strong financial starting position, which kept us going.'

However, Stuart is optimistic about 2023. 'It's very exciting. We're expanding our fleet and medical capability to include larger aircraft with greater seating capacity, and building the Brooks Airways brand, positioning it as a major player in the market. Charter flights servicing the mining industry have increased, as well as flights to great WA tourist spots like Rottnest Island and Margaret River.'



Corsaire Aviation

Corsaire Aviation are also new Western Australia based RAAA members. Elyse Anderson, Corsaire general manager, spoke to *RAAA News* about the company's founding, its current operations and plans for future growth.

'Corsaire is the brainchild of Luke Wyllie, a keen aviator, who started his aviation career flying Cessna 210s, and quickly progressed to international ops in a Hawker BAE800. In 2014 he built a hangar at Jandakot and commenced fixed-wing and helicopter operations shortly thereafter.'

Tourism was a big part of Corsaire in the beginning – about 90 per cent of the operation, flying choppers to scenic parts of WA such as Margaret River and Rottnest Island, and fixed-wing fishing charter flights in the Cessna 210 to the Abrolhos Islands.

'When I started flying at Corsaire, we had one shed and three machines,' Anderson says.

About six years ago, Corsaire expanded by purchasing an adjoining maintenance facility at Jandakot and establishing a helicopter flight school. The maintenance facility currently employs 12 staff and focuses on maintaining Corsaire's growing rotary and fixed-wing fleet.

The flight school is now the preferred partner for the TAFE Vet-fee help and is a go-to for helicopter pilots statewide for their helicopter flight reviews.

Corsaire now has a very mixed portfolio, with tourism being overtaken by charter and



Photo | Corsaire Aviation's new livery. Image supplied

resource work, Anderson says. 'We have several helicopter and fixed-wing contracts supporting the mining, and oil and gas industries, as well as conducting heritage survey throughout the Gascoyne and Pilbara regions. The fixed wing fleet has grown to 5 Conquests, a Citation and we are hanging on tight to a couple of trusty 210s. The Conquest is the ideal machine for Western Australia, with a TAS of 300kts, a ceiling of 35,000ft, and very capable on short gravel strips. The Conquests are kept busy with FIFO work, investor trips to mines, and the odd freight flight.'

'During the COVID-19 pandemic, we serviced several contracts flying people in/out of mine sites to keep essential services going and keep people safe. One we were particularly proud of was a standby support agreement with the RFDS delivering vaccines and nursing staff to remote communities.'

In 2022 Corsaire collaborated with local West Australian artist, Taminga Connell from Kimberley Spirit, to create a unique and

meaningful livery for their helicopter fleet.

Taminga created an art series titled 'the Journey' which represents the unity and harmony of people from all different backgrounds and cultures. It has been a great way to unify our fleet as it continues to grow, and to honour the traditional owners of the land we are operating on. We are very proud of our connection with Western Australia - all 42 fulltime Corsaire employees are local to WA.

For Corsaire though, as with many regional aviation businesses, finding staff is an ongoing problem. 'The Conquest is complex machine to fly,' Anderson says. Getting pilots at the right stage of their flying career is tricky. 'Take them on too green, and you have a high training cost; take them on with too much experience, and they are only a short-term investment.'

Corsaire is continuing to grow and invest, Anderson says. 'We're very proud of our first-class facilities – we've just built a new hangar in Jandakot and have also expanded our bases in Dongara and Exmouth. We are excited to see what 2023 holds.'

Welcome to new members

We are happy to welcome the following companies and individuals as members of the RAAA and look forward to a long and productive association.

Ordinary members

Brooks Airways

Stuart Brooks, Managing Director Brooks Group



Brooks Airways is part of the Brooks Group, which comprises Brooks Access, Brooks Airways, Brooks Cranes, Brooks Equipment, Brooks Finance, Brooks Hire and Brooks Transport.

<https://brookshire.com.au/brooks-group>



(See the article page 6 {Summer 2022/23} of RAAA News)

Corsaire Aviation

Luke Wyllie, CEO



Corsaire Aviation offer small aircraft and helicopter charter from Perth to many destinations throughout WA and mainland Australia. They also create tourism opportunities for WA, as well as offering a safe, reliable service for the resources industry, on which Western Australia is so heavily dependent. Corsaire Aviation are proud to be the supplier of helicopters and aeroplanes to WA's oil and gas, mining, and tourism sectors from the Kimberley to the Great South, and everywhere in between.



www.corsaireaviation.com.au

(See the article page 7 {Summer 2022/23} of RAAA News)

Ribbit

Jeremy Wang, COO



A platform that makes it easy to start, manage, and operate a pilotless airline.

<https://www.flyribbit.com/>

RMIT Aviation Academy

Lea Vesic, Director



RMIT currently offers commercially facing products and services through our local flight schools based in Point Cook and Bendigo (Victoria), as well as established campuses in Vietnam, Singapore, and Hong Kong to support airline cadet flight training, vocational maintenance and skills training, as well as theory and management courses.

The Academy is due to open in late February 2023.



<https://www.rmit.edu.au/study-with-us/aviation>

(See the article page 1 {Summer 2022/23} of RAAA News)

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