



RAAA soaring to new heights with new appointments.

The Regional Aviation Association of Australia (RAAA) has elected a new Chairman in Mr Malcolm Sharp, owner of Sharp Airlines in Victoria at their AGM last week. Mr Sharp takes over from Rex Airlines Director Mr Jim Davis, who held the position for 7 years and did not re-contest the role. The RAAA also announced at the AGM the appointment of Mr Steven Campbell as the new CEO, a position that came vacant after current CEO Mike Higgins decided to retire.

Mr Sharp brings an incredible amount of aviation and business acumen with him to the RAAA. "I'm very proud to take over as Chairman of the RAAA, an organisation I have been part of for 15 years, I'd like to thank both Jim and Mike for the invaluable contribution to the association ensuring it has maintained its reputation in the industry as well as in Canberra," Mr Sharp said.

"The last year has been an incredible disruption to our industry and we need a strong voice in Canberra to make sure the government continues its support for regional aviation, it has been the difference for many aviation companies.

"I'm also very excited to have Steve Campbell come on board, not only does he bring an incredible breadth of aviation experience, but his last 7 years working in a number of government roles, including recently as the Deputy Prime Minister's Senior Aviation Adviser, gives us an all-round candidate as CEO.

"I believe that with the vision we have for the organisation going forward, we have the right people in place to take the RAAA into the next phase and be a go to voice for the industry in Canberra," Mr Sharp said.

Mr Campbell said, "this is a great opportunity to be involved within the industry again for me, bringing together my practical experience but more importantly for the RAAA, my experience at many levels within the government. I have built strong relationships within the government and will be able to draw on them to ensure aviation gets the voice it deserves.

"I've also had roles at CASA and importantly have a valuable insight to the flight operation regulations, which will commence late next year. It is essential CASA gets the implementation right, our industry cannot afford otherwise, and I am keen to ensure the RAAA will be involved in working with the regulator to ensure there is a smooth transition.

"I'm also looking forward to teaming up with Mal and the Board whom I have worked with on many occasions in the past, this time, on the same side of the table." Mr Campbell said.

Mr Sharp is encouraging all aviation organisations to consider joining the RAAA if they have not already.

"This is probably the most important time for our industry to come together as a single voice, one that is well respected and can provide the government with industry led solutions. The RAAA has many levels of membership so visit our website at www.raaa.com.au to see what will suit your organisation." Mr Sharp said.

Mr Sharp has commenced his role and Mr Campbell will commence after the Christmas break.

The RAAA has approximately 100 members who employ over 10,000 people, many in regional areas. On an annual basis, the RAAA's AOC members jointly turnover more than \$1.5b, carry well in excess of 2 million passengers and move over 23 million kilograms of freight.

Ends.

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