

# RV Aircraft Australia (RVAA)

**Minutes of the Establishment Meeting. Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> March. 2022**

**Meeting Opening 10.00am**

**Introduction Welcome** by President Echuca Aero Club. SAAA Representative: Outline of Journey towards RVAA – Alan Carlisle OAM

**Introduce Flight Youth Engineering**, Ashley Miller explained that Flight Youth Engineering was a charity put together by three RV owners to promote aviation studies to secondary school students Australia wide. Currently two RV12's are being built by school groups. Daniel Strydom 16yrs spoke on his personal experience of being mentored in the building of the RV12is. Richard Raymond spoke of his experience mentoring the young people in their building journey. The meeting supported Flight Youth Engineering in building RV12's. Members donated \$2,800 over the weekend. Chair expressed his opinion that the RVAA should continue to support schools into the future as they build the RV12's, meeting concurred.

**Present:** Alan Carlisle, Suzanne Carlisle, Richard Raymond, Doug McCullough, Wendy Featherston, Brian Featherston, Tim Ellerton, Michelle Ellerton, Andrew Duncan, Brian Ham (SAAA), Warren Canning, Stanley Lewis, Andrew Bourne, Bruce Whittington, Brent Fellows, Ashley Miller, Ross Woodward, Stuart Michael, Noah Michael, Lyndon Tretheway, Simon Turner, Peter Winter, Brian Walker, Kevin White, Eddie Seve, Mal Kains, Gary Storey, Martin Smits, John Siebert, Robert Sharples, Bernie Werninghaus, Michael Beach, Paul Atkinson, Mark Krieger, Nigel Thomas, Steve Bartless, Magnus Badger, Tom Byrne, Greg Blakey, Jim Barry,, Bill Buttrose, Greg Blades, Mark, Davis, Terry Daff, Peter Edney, James Hart, Michael Hart, Philip Keen, Roger Lenne, John Lyle, Steven Lenne, Steve Musgrave, Don Muir, Bill Mitton, Clinton McKenzie, Geoff Manuel, Ken Muston, Jason Merritt, Steven Nelson, Kym Roach, David Zemel, Joe Ovenden, Rob Rickards & Sian Rickards.

**Apologies:** Ben Morgan (AOPA) Cliff Princehorn, Andrew Hogarth, Kym Gleggett, Shane Finney, Martin Ford, Milan Zaklan, Blair Rowan, Bob Main, Tony Stevenson, Jo Johansen, Peter McBain, Michael Allen, Paul Jennings, Leonie Furze, Glen McNamara, Robert Crass, Steve Pegler, Paul McVitty, Corne Grobbelaar, John Brumpton. RAAUS

Moved Ken Muston, seconded Tim Ellerton, that the apologies be accepted. Carried.

1. **Election of Chairman:** Meeting nominated Alan Carlisle to take the Chair.
2. **Motion of intent to form an Association named RV Aircraft Australia (also known as RVAA)**

Moved: Lou Merritt

Seconded: Andrew Bourne

Discussion – Nil. Motion put and carried unanimously

3. **Motion of intent to Incorporate RV Aircraft Australia.**

**Moved:** Doug McCullough

**Seconded:** Warren Canning

**Discussion:** Question was asked from the floor in which state will the application be made?  
Chair replied Queensland

**Motion put and carried unanimously**

4. **Adoption of articles of rules for Association named RV Aircraft Australia Inc:**

Discussion. Nil

Moved that the Articles as circulated be accepted as the Articles of Association

Moved: Ken Muston                      Seconded: Andrew Bourne

Discussion. Nil

Motion put and carried unanimously.

5. **Election of Office Bearers:**

President: Nominations. Moved Andrew Bourne, seconded Ken Muston, "That Alan Carlisle be nominated President."

**Elected unopposed.**

Vice President: Nominations: Moved Alan Carlisle, seconded John Siebert, "That John Brumpton be nominated Vice President."

Elected unopposed.

Secretary (requirement under Qld Associations Incorporation Act that the Secretary must be resident of Qld): Nominations. Moved Lou Merritt, seconded Ken Muston, "That Ashley Miller (Qld) be nominated for secretary."

Elected unopposed.

Treasurer: Nominations: Moved Andrew Bourne, seconded Lou Merritt, "That Richard Raymond be nominated for treasurer."

Elected unopposed.

Committee Members: Nominations. Moved Rob Rickards, seconded Mark Krieger, "That Doug McCullough, Tim Ellerton and Robert Sharples be nominated as Committee members."

Elected unopposed.

State Representatives:

Qld- Tim Ellerton, Doug McCullough

NSW & ACT, --

Vic- Robert Sharples

Tas --

SA - John Brumpton

WA ---

NT—

6. **Associations Fees:** Moved Alan Carlisle, seconded Ashley Miler, “that the Association Fees be set at \$30.00pa.”

**Carried unanimously**

7. **Payment of Accounts.** Moved Andrew Bourne, seconded Ashley Miller, “that signatures to the association’s accounts be President, Treasurer and Secretary.”

Motion Carried unanimously

Moved Andrew Bourne, seconded Ashley Miller, “that Carlisle be reimbursed for the following:

Stationary:	\$93.20
Mail:	\$567.60
Bus hire	\$To be determined approx. \$400

Carried unanimously

8. **Fly Aways:** How Many per year? Responsibility for arranging? Meeting agreed with the recommendations of Andrew Hogarth that we should look to undertake two fly aways per year. Committee to arrange

9. **Insurance.** RVAA Insurance Scheme. Michael Dalton addressed the meeting on the RV Insurance scheme and informed the meeting that Agile Insurance would pay all insurance holders annual membership fees. **Motion, Moved Alan Carlisle, seconded Richard Raymond, That the RVAA accept the Agile Insurance Affiliate Agreement.** (This will allow Agile Insurance to pay the \$30 annual membership for RVAA for every customer holder of Agile Insurance.). Carried unanimously

- 10. Formation of an Aerobatic wing.** Rob Crass 0417 079 990. Rob a covid apology. Chair read the following produced by Rob Crass for the meeting.

## **AEROBATICS AND THE RV**

I’m terribly sorry I couldn’t make it to the inaugural meeting of the RV Association of Australia, and trust the gathering is going as well as everybody is hoping.

I'd like to start by saying that the RV makes a great aerobatic aircraft, and if you aren't doing aerobatics in it yet, then you are missing out on a great deal of fun, learning, social times and the incredible satisfaction which aerobatics bring.

### **Why do aerobatics?**

You've probably built your RV, done your test hours, then flown it around a bit, gone on some trips and maybe wondered "what's next?"

You have a very capable aircraft and to not try aerobatics is to miss out on so much of which your creation can do. Knowing how to get into and out of manoeuvres is skill that will increase your confidence both in yourself and your RV.

You may be like me, having done aerobatics in the past and thought "I've done that, I get airsick". That was probably in Citabria or Aerobat, and it was frustrating having to spend so much time climbing to regain the altitude lost in the manoeuvres. Doing aerobatics was not on my list of reasons for buying my RV8, but when I did my first loop a whole new world opened up and my life changed. For the first time ever, I truly felt like a complete 3-dimensional pilot. Best of all, an RV can do a loop from level flight without losing altitude and handles so much better than those other trainers.

### **What type of aerobatics?**

There are three different types:

Recreational Aerobatics: Just going up for a fly and doing some loops and rolls, perhaps with friends on board. Just for fun.

Competition Aerobatics: For all the reasons you do recreational aerobatics, but now you're working to improve your game, a bit like golf. You join the local chapter of the Australian Aerobatic Club where you practice with other members, being coached and mentored, and it's a great social time. In competitions, you're judged and scored on how round your loops are, how straight your vertical lines are etc. and you fly your manoeuvres in a 1 km square "box". You've never seen an area as small as that when you first give it a go. There are several levels of difficulty and you progress through these as your proficiency increases and, like golf, you can take it as seriously as you want, or do it just for fun. The local AAC Chapters are welcoming and generous groups and I've enjoyed the Queensland Chapter so much I joined the committee and have just become president. This branch of aerobatics offers much, much more than simple recreational aeros – it gives them purpose.

Air Display Aerobatics: For air shows, with precision and showmanship like you'll see later with the Silver Sharks.

Recreational aeros are to please yourself, Competition is to please the judges, and Air Show performing is to please the crowd. However, no matter which one you do, you will always please yourself.

### **Can the RV do aerobatics?**

The answer is a YES for the RV 3,4,6,7,8 and 14,

And a NO for the 9, 10 and 12. Not ever.

My RV8, is pretty basic, fitted with a non-injected 160 Hp motor and fixed pitch cruise prop but it is competitive enough that I have outscored Pitts Specials and the purpose built Yak55. The main limitation on my success is me!

Although not necessary for entry-level aerobatics, I decided I wanted full inverted capability. The 8 was already fitted with a flop tube in the left tank, and:

- The carburettor was replaced with a Rotec Throttle body (<\$1000 AUD)
- A Raven inverted oil system (\$800 USD) was fitted.

Parachutes are not required in Australia, and in the lower competition levels there is not much inverted flight, so a regular harness is sufficient. There are no snap manoeuvres at these levels either.

### **Fear and Airsickness**

I still suffer from airsickness. Practice reduces this considerably and I don't get sick all the time or as quickly as I used to. The best way to help with this is to practice, eat properly and stay hydrated. I rate sickness on a scale of 1 – 10 and always stop before I get to a 3. My flights generally last for 0.6 hours.

Most of us begin aerobatic training with apprehension, which is normal. Get a good instructor, *you can work with*, one who will gently take you through your training to build up your understanding, resilience confidence and skills, and then go and practice. Nowadays I find that if I don't do some aros, I feel that a flight isn't complete.

### **Are Aerobatics Safe?**

There are 2 risks...

- The wings fall off
- You hit the ground

The first solution is easy: Don't fly too fast and don't pull too hard. Get proper training and work with a club. Maintain and inspect your aircraft properly, maybe getting a second set of eyes to look over it.

If you don't fly low, you won't hit the ground. Get proper training. I compete down to 1500 ft, but I train at 4000 ft. Only when I can reliably fly the sequence do I fly at lower levels to get used to the different picture and then only when it's nearly competition time.

### **How do you start?**

1. Get some proper training and an Aerobatic Rating on your licence. DO NOT TEACH YOURSELF OR GET A MATE TO SHOW YOU. Training costs around \$5000 for a quality program with approximately 10 hours flying plus briefings, but this can be reduced considerably if you use your own aircraft and train with a partner to split the instructor costs.
2. Join your local AAC (Australian Aerobatic Club) chapter and practice.
3. Don't forget to talk to your insurance company.

### **An RV Category in competitions?**

The Australian Aerobatic Club National President is excited to have RVs join local chapters and has told me that if there was significant interest, an RV class may be formed for state and national championships. Get in touch with your local AAC Chapter, and we can make this happen. There is a Yak 52 class at international levels and an RV class is inevitable.

### **Info**

If you'd like to know more, Google "Australian Aerobatic Club" and get in touch with your local chapter. You'll be very welcome at their club practice days.

Or scan one of the QR codes on the walls around the hangar.

You can contact me, Rob Crass, on 0417 079 990.

Aerobatics are fun, safe, social and make you a better pilot. Your local chapter will welcome you with open arms.

Thank-you.

### **11. List of Goal and objectives for development including:-**

RVAA merchandise clothing

Invitation of Guest speakers to future Meetings including Vans Aircraft representative (Vans himself), Avionics companies, Ozrunways / AvPlan, CASA, and more suggestions?

RVAA custom travel to Oshkosh

Compilation of List of RV owners prepared to offer building support

Compilation list of RV owners prepared to demonstrate RV model flight characteristics

Coordination and consolidation of shipping utilising economy of scale by use of shipping containers

### **12. Volunteers:**

**Webmaster:** Volunteer sort to construct and manage a RVAA Website. Doug McCullough volunteered.

### **13. General Business:**

**Flight Youth Engineering:** Ashley Miller seeking support from all RV owners to support the charity Flight Youth Engineering (FYE). A charity co-ordinating the introduction of Aviation studies into secondary schools Australia wide. Where Year 11 and 12 students build a RV12 and then learn to fly the RV12 as part of their STEM syllabus. Request that RVAA membership fees incorporate a voluntary donation request with the RVAA fee invoices

seeking \$ contribution for FYE. To be followed up.

- 14. Motion, moved Alan Carlisle, Seconded Warren Canning “That RVAA apply to SAAA to form an RV Chapter and that chapter be open to all RVAA members regardless of their financial affiliation with SAAA.”**

Discussion: Nil

**Motion carried unanimously**

- 15. Creation of a Resource List:** Michael Allen: One of the really useful resources RV owners could have is a register of Australian based agents/suppliers of all things RV. I don't mean kits and mainline gear, but lights, tyres, brake pads, hardware, consumables etc.

As all our aircraft are metal and follow the same design approach – so this could be both a very focused but detailed list.

To minimise the work involved, I was thinking of the following:

- a Word (or Excel) type document which could be edited by members in the member page of the website;
- each entry would describe the range of supplies/services available, location, contact details, contact person and the and details of the member making the recommendation (name, date and contact details);
- the document should be accessible by members logging into it (so we can track users); and
- it would be a positive endorsement sight only – no bagging poorly performing companies or individuals (we don't want the issues arising with that). It will solely focus on recommended suppliers not ones to avoid.

My understanding is this software is available to achieve these outcomes and the whole thing should be self-administering. Committee to follow up.

16. The meeting passed a vote of thanks to Alan & Suzanne Carlisle for their work in bringing the RVAA into reality and the work for the weekend.

**Meeting closed: 12.05pm**

**Next Meeting to be held in South Australia Goolwa at a date and time to be determined.**

**The group was then delighted to see the Silver Sharks undertake practise formation aerobatics after the meeting**

Ashley Miller  
Hon Secretary

Alan Carlisle  
President.