



AVIATION HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA

RECORDING THE NATION'S AVIATION HERITAGE

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AHSA 2022 MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY REPORT

At the end of June our membership had grown from 235 to 240 over the financial year. However it is more instructive to report the figures at the later date in the year when the unfinancial members have been removed from the list and we have benefited from a last minute rush of members paying on the realisation they are about to be removed from the mailing list.

Membership increased to 256 from 245 in the 12 months to October 2022.
The actual number of paying members only increased by 7.

During this period we had 36 new members (8 of whom were honorary). This compares most favourably with the 15 new members last year. Honorary members this year not only includes the 6 guest speakers we had but also includes AIRCMD John Meier who has accepted our invitation to become a Patron of the AHSA. We also issued an honorary membership to Lucia Wallbank from UK who wrote a prize-winning paper for the Aviation Cultures conference that we support each year.

The method of referral of new members to the AHSA varied between: word of mouth, the web and social media. So I hope members can see that it most effective to "tell your friends about the AHSA".

It is sad to report we lost 20 members which is higher than previous years where our losses were about 15 approx. Most members who leave merely become unfinancial and don't advise us. Incredible bad luck saw both of our Patrons (Alan Patching and Keith Meggs) die on the same weekend. Also, other notable members who died during the year were Barry Pattison, Michael Wishart and Eric Allen. There may be others but sadly we are often not advised. They only appear on the list of non-payers and hence disappear without recognition or celebration. We like to receive a note from a resigning member or from a relative because then we are not sending constant annoying reminders. It also allows us to print an obituary in a timely manner.

One of the great rewards of being Membership Secretary is the conversations I sometimes have with new members, who outline their experience, sometimes frustrations but also their reasons for joining the AHSA. We hope we satisfy many of those reasons.

David Knight – Membership Secretary – AHSA Inc.