



AIRCRAFT OWNERS AND PILOTS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

ACN 004 274 588 | Incorporated as a Company Limited by Guarantee | Est. 1949

2017 Director Nominees

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CATHERINE FITZSIMONS, BA, MBA, GAID, CPL

An aviation professional and qualified flight instructor (aeroplane) with a passion for teaching and learning, and a deeply rooted sensitivity for the importance of systems, processes and the right culture to ensure safe and compliant enjoyment of aviation.

An experienced CEO and General Manager with domestic and international track record of identifying change opportunities and leading commercial turnarounds in consumer health/FMCG and nutrition businesses with multi-national companies.

An experienced Non-Executive Director (NFP and industry boards) and highly practiced leader and chair of cross-functional executive boards/senior management teams, able to bring focus, clarity, efficiency and energy to board and leadership teams.

CURRENT EMPLOYMENT

WARDAIR Flight Training, Bathurst NSW

Chief Flight Instructor and Chief Pilot (HOO) / Owner and operator / Director

EXECUTIVE EXPERIENCE

2013-2015 CURTIS AVIATION Pty Ltd, Camden NSW

Flight Instructor

2012-2013 NOVARIS CONSUMER HEALTH

CEO General Manager ANZ and South Africa

NON-EXECUTIVE EXPERIENCE

CURRENT – NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR WOMEN IN OPERATIONS (NAWO)

Director (Since 2013)

AUSTRALIAN WOMENS PILOTS ASSOCIATION (AWPA)

Director and NSW State President (Appointed 2015)

STELLA AVIATION Pty Ltd

Director (Since November 2016)

BATHURST BUSINESS CHAMBER

Committee Member (Since December 2016)

AUSTRALIAN PILOTS LICENSE HELD

COMMERCIAL PILOTS LICENSE & FLIGHT INSTRUCTOR RATING

Since 2010

JOHN GLYNN, Dip Law, SAB

I first joined AOPA Australia during the mid 1980's after purchasing my first aircraft. I have remained a member since and have subsequently had interest in three (3) aircraft. Presently I have an interest in a Cirrus SR20 which is based at Tamworth Airport, NSW.

As well as being an owner of an aircraft, I have for the past 30 years been a lawyer, specialising in aviation law. Over that time, I have acted for many aircraft owners, pilots and engineers in all legal matters, involving the aviation industry. I have run numerous cases against the CAA/CASA on behalf of clients in the Administrative Appeals Tribunal, Federal Court and Federal Court of Appeal.

I have obtained a special and intimate insight into many of the problems face by AOPA Australia members in dealing with the regulator and generally in respect to the operation of aircraft.

I have also had direct experience in the aviation industry, having been involved in several flying operations, including a small regional airline in Wagga Wagga during the 1980's. As well, I was an RAAF Reserve Legal Officer from 1980 to 1994.

I believe that I can add a great deal, if elected to the AOPA Australia Board, particularly with respect to my legal knowledge, but also my passion in ensuring that members have the right to fly responsibly, with minimal interference from government and reducing the ever-increasing cost burden of aircraft ownership and operation.

CURRENT EMPLOYMENT

STACKS LAW

Special Counsel Aviation (Since 2015)

EXECUTIVE EXPERIENCE

MBG LAWYERS

Founder / Legal Practitioner Director (Since 1994)

FRIEDLIEB GLYNN BYRNE

Partner / Lawyer (from 1981 to 1994)

AUSTRALIAN PILOTS LICENSE HELD

PRIVATE PILOTS LICENSE

Since 1980

AIRCRAFT OWNED & OPERATED

CIRRUS SR20 – VH SFC

Since 2013

AMINTA HENESSY, OAM

The reason I wish to be on the Board of AOPA is that for the first time in many years I have been impressed with the activity of Ben Morgan and his drive, vision and above all creativity to turn around General Aviation. There has been a large increase in membership of AOPA which means there is more money to take the fight to the regulators who have for the past many years done their best to put General Aviation out of Business. I wish this demise to be turned around. I wish Australia to get back to the aviation activity and vision that was so obvious when I first came to this country. Australia allowed me to realise my childhood dream now I wish to put back and help.

CURRENT EMPLOYMENT

CLAMBACK & HENNESSY, Bankstown NSW

Co-Founder / Chief Pilot & Chief Flying Instructor (Since 1985)

AUSTRALIAN PILOTS LICENSE HELD

AIR TRANSPORT PILOTS LICENSE (Aeroplane)

Since 1980

COMMERCIAL PILOTS LICENSE

Since 1980

DOMINIC JAMES, B Sc (AVI)

I have always had a huge passion for general aviation and from a very young age I was single minded about becoming a commercial pilot. I commenced my flying career in 1994, completing an Aviation Science degree at the University of Newcastle and since then I have gained a fixed wing ATPL, a helicopter CPL and a UAV controller certificate.

During my career, I have worked in a wide range of roles and have flown commercially in 48 different aircraft and helicopters, ranging from Tiger Moth's to Jet Rangers and Citations - flying has and continues to be a passion.

I strongly believe that the Australian aviation industry is in urgent need of support and reform so that aircraft owners and pilots can freely go about their business without unnecessary restrictions. Presently there are too many limitations imposed by industry bureaucracies that negatively impact the activities of general aviation participants.

AOPA Australia's reform agenda aligns closely with my own long held views and I hope to support my industry going forward as a director of the association.

I wish for the Australian aviation industry in the years ahead to be innovative, inclusive and productive so that there is a constant rise in participation in all areas of aviation and that Australia becomes a world leader in as many aspects of aviation as possible.

CURRENT EMPLOYMENT

BLACK AVIATION CONSULTANCY, Sydney NSW

Co-Founder / Director (Since 2015)

AUSTRALIAN PILOTS LICENSE HELD

AIR TRANSPORT PILOTS LICENSE (Aeroplane)

Since 2002

COMMERCIAL PILOTS LICENSE (Helicopter)

Since 2011

UAV CERTIFICATE

Since 2016

MIKE SMITH

I bring to any project a wealth of senior management experience and technical expertise in both government and private industry. I have enjoyed an executive level career that has spanned some 20 years, managing and contributing to many innovative and highly successful technical, policy implementation and organisational restructuring projects. These have included complex and contentious issues requiring astute and sensitive leadership.

I am an internationally recognised aviation expert with over thirty years of experience in civil aviation, offering extensive experience in general and commercial aviation, with a substantial knowledge of corporate governance, regulatory processes and safety management systems.

My aviation qualifications include both Australian and United States FAA licenses encompassing a broad spectrum of activity, from aircraft maintenance, though to airline transport pilot, recreational and sports flying operations.

I have held senior positions with both Airservices Australia and the Civil Aviation Safety Authority, most recently the Deputy Director. I have led numerous complex programs including the introduction of Global Navigation Satellite Systems for en-route, non-precision and precision approach use, development and introduction of Safety Management Systems (SMS) and Australian Airspace Reform.

Since leaving the Australian Civil Service, I have been engaged as a senior consultant by airlines and aviation regulators around the world, predominantly advising clients in the areas of regulatory reform. ICAO USOAP and FAA ISAA compliance. I also run a flight school and aircraft maintenance business with my wife in Sacramento, California USA and actively fly our family Beechcraft Duchess and Cessna 172.

CURRENT EMPLOYMENT

WARDAIR Flight Training, Bathurst NSW

Chief Flight Instructor and Chief Pilot (HOO) / Owner and operator / Director

EXECUTIVE EXPERIENCE

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Flight Instructor

2012-2013 NOVARIS CONSUMER HEALTH

CEO General Manager ANZ and South Africa

NON-EXECUTIVE EXPERIENCE

CURRENT – NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR WOMEN IN OPERATIONS (NAWO)

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STELLA AVIATION Pty Ltd

Director (Since November 2016)

BATHURST BUSINESS CHAMBER

Committee Member (Since December 2016)

PHILLIP REISS, MAP

Flying for me has not been just a rewarding career, but has been an all-consuming part of my life. Pilots often speak of being passionate about aviation, an often over used word that can mean many things, for me aviation and in particular General Aviation has enabled me to travel the world, flying everything from the venerable Chipmunk trainer to the most sophisticated business jets.

I hold both Australian and US Airline Transport licences, Command IFR rating and held check and training approvals and test pilot approval. I have operated aircraft under the various iterations of Australian regulators from DCA through present CASA and under the US FAA. Flying professionally in both Australia and the US and worldwide was a major part of my life, not just a job. If that defines passionate, then yes I am passionate about aviation.

Retiring from commercial flying I have continued to fly my own aircraft, a very much-upgraded Twin Comanche. After a career that has given me so many opportunities and so much pleasure, I wanted to put something back into Aviation, in particular General Aviation and so I joined the AOPA board, serving as President, I also support Angel flight, flying voluntary missions as often as possible. I am a team player and have supported the Presidents that have followed me. I see a new wave of enthusiasm for AOPA Advocacy and will continue to use my experience, background and knowledge of Australian and International operations (I am Vice President of IAOPA Pacific Region) and bring that enthusiasm and my work ethic to the board to support AOPA into the future.

EXECUTIVE EXPERIENCE

WESTFIELD CORPORATION

Chief Pilot and Director of Aviation
(Between 1981 to 1997)

NON-EXECUTIVE EXPERIENCE

AIRCRAFT OWNERS AND PILOTS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

President (Between 2009 and 2012)

AIRCRAFT OWNERS AND PILOTS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

Director (Between 2007 to present)

CHAIRMAN OF THE ABAA

(Between 1991 and 1997)

AWARDS

MASTER AIR PILOT CERTIFICATE

Guild of Air Pilots and Air Navigators

Awarded November 1991

AUSTRALIAN PILOTS LICENSE HELD

AIR TRANSPORT PILOTS LICENSE (Aeroplane)

Including Multi-Engine Jet

Since 1968

COMMAND INSTRUMENT RATING (Multi Engine)

Since 1965

AIRCRAFT OWNED & OPERATED

PIPER TWIN COMANCHE – VH-HPR

Since 2000

PHIL YATES

I have been a member of the AOPA for many years and probably like most of us have watched general aviation slipping backwards in this country over a long period of time. Ironically in other parts of the world the opposite seems to be the case. I go back to the days when the experience base of our regulator came from pilots who had flown in WWII. The regulator's name has changed many times but sadly the experience base has largely been depleted.

General Aviation now is burdened with complicated regulations that pilots struggle to comprehend and expenses which have seen many pilots simply throw their hands in the air and walk away. Further to this, commercial pressures have seen the demise of airports and many small flying schools have simply packed it all in and closed shop. I see this as something of a tragedy for the industry and private pilots in particular.

The trend needs to be reversed and very quickly before we have little or nothing left of our industry. Bankstown Airport for example was once an incredibly busy operation but nowadays is almost an aviation ghost town compared to what it once was. This is indeed very sad and the same thing is occurring all over Australia. We need to unite and start to re build our industry and this can only be done with the help of our regulator by listening to our concerns and acting on them. It is all too easy to point the finger at anyone in particular for the demise of general aviation but that in itself is not particularly productive and blame alone will not correct the situation. We need to be pro-active and collectively put strategies and programmes in place not only for ourselves but for up and coming pilots within our ranks, whether their interests be private flying only or a career in aviation. We want our flying schools back and we want aviation to be an affordable interest for all. It was never inexpensive but nowadays simply beyond the financial capabilities of so many who would otherwise have joined our ranks.

These are the areas of great concern to me and I believe the AOPA is the body that can hopefully get general aviation back on track and in growth mode once again. Of course this can only be achieved with the support of our regulator or we will be doomed. Those of us with high time experience in aviation need to lend a hand and put something back into the industry if we can. Certainly no one person can do it alone.

I have discussed at length all of these issues with our current Chief Executive Officer Ben Morgan and we agree on many of the strategies needed. I believe Ben is the right man in the right job and I would like the opportunity to work with him through all the issues with a view to getting general aviation back on its feet and affordable for pilots. Bureaucratic requirements, limitations and expensive impositions have nearly destroyed what once was a far stronger sector of Australian aviation.

To this end I offer my support and so am prepared to stand for a position on the board of the AOPA. The reversal of matters won't be an easy job but one that has to be acted upon very quickly if we are to go forward in growth mode. Ben Morgan has the fire in his belly so to speak, so let's give him all the support we can.

CURRENT EMPLOYMENT

University of New South Wales, Bankstown Airport NSW
Flight Instructor

AUSTRALIAN PILOTS LICENSE HELD

COMMERCIAL PILOTS LICENSE (Aeroplane)
Since 1974

AIR TRANSPORT PILOTS LICENSE

AIRCRAFT OWNED & OPERATED

PIPER TWIN COMANCHE
Since 2006

PIPER CHEROKEE 235
Since 2006