

# NANDTB NEWS

The National Aerospace NDT Board held its latest meeting at the DSTO facilities at Fisherman's Bend in Melbourne. The generous hospitality of Peter Virtue and the DSTO provided excellent meeting facilities for the chairman, Ron Quirk and eleven other members, guests and observers.

Ron reported on the meeting held with CASA to formulate a MOU between it and the Board. One outcome was the need to pursue the incorporation of the Board. Among the benefits would be that it made it easier to implement the MOU with CASA. He also reported on the development of a second MOU, this one with the AINDT. As the Board matures it is establishing itself as a recognised entity within the aerospace industry and these agreements are an important part of that process. Brian Tydeman was tasked to review the documents to ensure they met the Board's aims and requirements.

Other Board business included a discussion and progress with its strategic plan. The direction and intention of the document was generally agreed to set the direction for the Board. The recent issue of a 2008 version of NAS 410-2008 and prEN4179-2008 resulted again in a misalignment between them and AS 3669. The NAS 410 and prEN4179 have been restructured into more coherent documents. The UK NANDTB has responded to the changes in prEN4179, and EN473, by revising the PCN/Aero certification to reflect the changes and to require Outside Agencies to implement the prEN4179. It also required that any newly drafted written practices should conform to this revision immediately, and all existing written practices should conform to this revision within a transition period of six months ending 01 April 2009. Clearly, these changes will have an effect on the content of AS3669. However, the effects of recent changes to the Standards Australia business model for producing and revising Australian standards documents are yet to be seen. The NANDTB continues to be engaged with the European Forum of Boards. It was represented at its last meeting in June.

Jed Murray who had been the RAAF observer since the Board's beginnings in 2006, was moving on to another post within the Air Force and announced his replacement to be Jeff Lowden. The RAAF is a major player in aerospace NDT training and applications in Australia, and it is important that the Board continues to benefit through its participation as an observer. Whilst congratulating Jed on his new appointment, the Board is looking forward to benefiting from Jeff's experience and continuing this relationship.

Keith Johnston from CASA reported that the replacement Airworthiness Bulletins for CAO 108.8 and 108.10 have been forwarded to the Airworthiness Engineering Branch and he was awaiting their comments. The existing CAOs can not be cancelled until the AWBs are issued. There was also an AWB providing guidance for the correct application of colour contrast dye penetrant which was recently published on their web site. The continuing use of CASA Maintenance Authorities in the context of AS 3669 was raised with Keith and he reported that CASA is developing a procedure around this. The Board offered its comments.

Whilst the Board is pleased to have Keith Johnston rejoin as the CASA observer, the circumstances of this move are most unfortunate. In mid July Trevor Robinson who is the regular CASA observer was involved in a very serious traffic accident. During his routine ride home on his motor bike, he was struck by another vehicle. Such was the severity of his injuries that he was moved to the Prince of Wales Hospital spinal management unit in Sydney once his condition stabilised. His recovery and rehabilitation is progressing under the care of hospital staff and specialists, but it will be some months yet before he can return to the work of the Board. Whilst his active contribution will be greatly missed, the Board is again fortunate that Keith can effortlessly step in to this role.