

# WASSI



Walsh Aviation Support Society Inc.

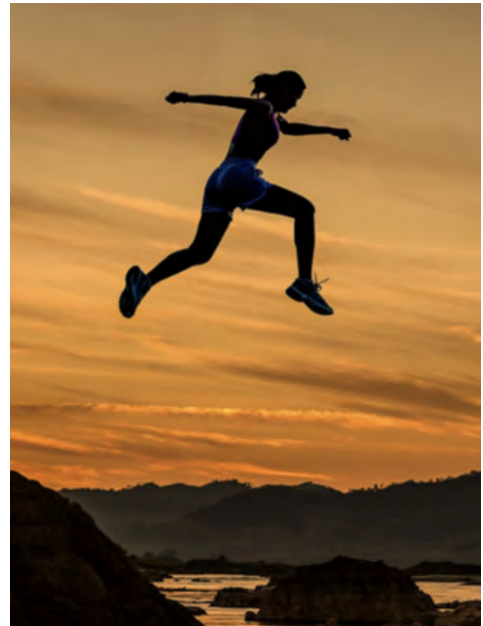
## Chairman's Report – January 2019

The purposes of the WASSI are to:

- **Raise and hold funds** to be used toward the purchase of a fleet of training aircraft and any supporting facilities and equipment that can be used by the Walsh Memorial Scout Flying School;
- **Acquire and maintain a fleet of training aircraft** and associated facilities and equipment;
- The **general and fiscal support and benefit of aviation** and aviation students; and,
- **Do anything necessary** or helpful to the above purposes.

## What an eventful and groundbreaking year!

We have taken a giant leap forward, and finally we can unleash your enthusiasm and efforts to continue the momentum.



## What have we achieved?

- \* In February we received a \$20,000 grant from the Lion Foundation.
- \* In June we received a \$50,000 donation from an anonymous benefactor.
- \* In June we purchased a PA38 Piper Tomahawk, ZK-FML.
- \* In June FML was insured by AVSURE for ground only – during restoration.
- \* Between June and December, we undertook the restoration and re-equipment of ZK-FML including the first retrofit of airbag seatbelts in New Zealand
- \* In September the WASSI was granted Charitable Status.

\* JEM Aviation in Blenheim completed the restoration of FML in late December.

\* In December the AVSURE for FML was increased to full cover.

\* A lease agreement for the use of FML by Wellington Aeroclub was negotiated and completed in early January. The draft agreement was considered, modified and sanctioned by the WASSI Committee.

\* See photos below.

## **The Finances**

\* Steadily during the year, we have received modest, valuable donations from WASSI members, sometimes by regular deposits, sometimes by one off contributions. These donations are enormously valuable and appreciated. Hopefully more will come.

\* To purchase and refurbish Piper Tomahawk ZK-FML cost a total of \$84,054.78 (GST exempt). This has been paid for by the generous donations we have received.

At the Inaugural Meeting of the WASSI, and again at our AGM in January 2018, I felt and shared your enthusiasm for this BHAG (Big Hairy Audacious Goal). I heard your enthusiastic suggestions of how and where we could generate funds for our cause and I feel sensitive that we have not yet begun acting on these suggestions.

Well, with the achievement of Charitable Status, we can now!

## **So, where to next?**

Now that we have Charitable Status, you can begin actively exploring other funding opportunities - all hands to the pump.

The committee have a number of leads that we are following up, and we welcome your enthusiasm, imagination and efforts to identify and progress others.

The committee are able to advise and discuss your suggestions. And we need to be kept apprised of your initiatives, as much as anything to ensure we don't trip over each other, but we really need you to do the "staff work" as much as possible.

While a journey of a thousand miles begins with baby steps, a giant leap is good too!

As Chairman I would like to thank you all for your support without it would not have been possible to achieve what we did

***Photos of FML.....***



1. FLM When purchased in June 2018.



2. Disassembly begins.



3. Fuselage stripped back to bare metal.



4. Yellow on the control surfaces.



5. The fuselage is primarily “Frozen White”, with bold panels of yellow.



6. Jay and his team remounting the fuselage onto the wings.



7. FML resplendent on a fantastic day for its first test flight. Jay and his team have done a fantastic job, under no small time pressure.