

FSA endorses FSA

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Now I hope this doesn't get too confusing, but there are now two organisations in the flight sim community with the abbreviation of FSA. Flight Simulation Australia (FSA) welcomes and endorses the creation of Flight Simulation Association (FSA).

***Flight Simulation Association (FSA)** is a relatively new organisation, established by two key organisers of the successful US FSExpo. It aims to be a "launching pad" for those new to the hobby, while offering experienced simmers additional ways to connect and engage within the community. The long-term mission of Flight Simulation Association is to build an organisation that is community-driven by content creators, and developers whose aim is to keep the hobby growing. Their intent is not to offer a forum, web store, news, articles etc. as they recognise there is already a plethora of outlets to that provide these resources. Instead, their goal is to point new members to those sites and help connect them to the passionate flight sim community.*

Similar aspirations

These aspirations have been those of Flight Simulation Australia (formally Aussie Star Flight Simulation) for some time. At the *Oz Flight Sim Expo* in Newcastle in 2018, I presented a paper entitled *Re-imagining the flight simulation community*. In the presentation, I outlined the feasibility of forming Flight Simulation Association Australia (FSAA). The proposal was to mobilise simmers into a collective force and create opportunities to meet and share their learning and experiences, both on and off-line.

By registering with the FSAA, simmers would have the opportunity to record their levels of involvement and expertise, along with their regional locations. With such a database, members could easily identify other simmers in their neighbourhoods whom they had previously not known existed. Hence, regional communities, or chapters, of simmers could be formed, meet regularly and collectively advance their involvement in and passion for flight simulation. Group activities could be reported to the FSAA secretariat for inclusion on the Association's website thus promoting the 're-imagined community' at a mega-level.

Unfortunately, insufficient traction was gained at the conference to proceed further with the formation of an Australian association of flight simmers.

The idea of the database was retained however. With the dropping of the word 'Association' the Aussie Star Flight Simulation website was morphed into Flight Simulation Australia (FSA) and a page is now dedicated to a register of cockpit builders. Current thinking is to expand the database to include all flight simmers. The hope still exists that with an expansion of registrations, regional groups will become a reality.

This aspiration is echoed with the US Flight Simulation association which aims to, "centralize and link to great content...make connections with content creators, high-quality developers, and even other nearby simmers". They go on to say they wish to "... grow Flight Simulation Association into a true organization that can help advocate for and grow our community".

They have begun well with their site, providing guides with on an extensive range of topics aimed at deepening the knowledge of simmers. These have been produced by experienced flight simmers, reviewed by developers and include videos and tips from content creators.

Access to these resources is via a free account with the option of purchasing a membership for a nominal amount. The fees collected will grow FSA into a true organisation that can help advocate for and grow the flight sim community.

I share the aspirations of Flight Simulation Association, evidenced by the current direction and intent of Flight Simulation Australia. I endorse its mission and stated values and the initiative and drive of Evan and Phil to form such an Association. I commend the FAA (The US one) to you, in the hope that it becomes a truly international organisation, with individual and local simmers at its heart.

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