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HGFA Airwaves
August 2011

Greetings!

Welcome to the August 2011 edition of the HGFA Airwaves Newsletter.
If you have any articles that you would like to see sent to the HGFA members then please email them to newsletter@hgfa.asn.au

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President's Airwaves Report

In this month's Airwaves I raise the following matters:-

- CASA Audit
- Introduction of a web based incident/accident reporting system "IRIS"
- 2011 AGM and election of the next Committee

CASA Audit

The symbiotic relationship that exists between HGFA and CASA is to our mutual advantage and one that needs to be treated with respect to ensure that there exists a high level of trust. CASA has responsibilities to the Law and its representatives which are shared by HGFA which also has responsibilities to its members and the public.

Recently, representatives of CASA held a week long audit at the HGFA Melbourne office and held a mirror up to us as an organisation. Whilst any forensic scrutiny of an organisation or for that matter an individual can be stressful, I believe the HGFA can benefit from the report, notwithstanding

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that it shows the organisation is deficient in some important areas.

Whilst the report has not been handed down yet, an exit summary was given to both the operations manager, John Oliff and I. It revealed that the organisation has some immediate work to do in one area where a Safety Alert was issued and 14 RCA (recommend corrective action) items, which must be addressed.

Broadly, these matters deal with oversight of the Instructors, Chief Instructors and systems that are employed by the HGFA to ensure the safe operations of our sports.

Over the last few years when the political wing of the HGFA has been in turmoil, in some cases there has been a lack of scrutiny. Fortunately for the most part our members have enjoyed safe operations perhaps influenced by a supportive club environment or dedicated Instructors or volunteers.

As an Organisation seeking the autonomy that trust delivers, HGFA must not just rely on its members saying they'll do the right thing, all pilots must act in that manner.

To that end over the next 12 months a system of field audits, self audits, instructor conferences and an expectation of improvement of the documentation of training and the issue of licenses will be implemented.

IRIS (Integrated Risk Information System)

Our existing paper based accident/incident reporting system is to be replaced on a 12 month trial basis with IRIS which will be accessed through the HGFA web site.

Any system is only as good as the information that is input and the management of that information.

Members are encouraged to report anything that they consider is relevant to the safe operations of our sports. This system will become the repository of data which can then be analysed to watch for trends or specific issues. I encourage all members to familiarise themselves with this system when it comes on line (in a couple of weeks)

2011 Election

The date for nominations has closed and I understand there are 15 nominations, 4 of which are currently serving on the committee and some who have previously been on the committee. No doubt you may be surprised when you see the names of some of the nominees, but before you cast your vote please consider that these people will be guiding the peak body of your sport for the next two years.

The credibility of the management of the HGFA has been questioned over that last few years, not unexpectedly when you consider the way changes to the committee were made as a result of the Special General Meeting in '09 and the 3 different Ops managers we've had since then. Bureaucracies (such as CASA) love stability in organisations because they are generally predictable and reliable. Stability is good for the organisation itself and its members because it provides consistency. I believe with our current Ops manager and a committee with a good mix of previous committee members and new ones the HGFA will be well served.

Whilst it is likely that all nominees will have an "agenda" it is incumbent upon all members to ensure that their chosen nominees are nominating for the betterment of the sport and are not hell bent on an agenda of destruction, self-gratification or advancement, persecution or victimisation.

To that end I would like to see the nominees put forward their platform and not just hand out motherhood statements. They should expect to answer questions like "do you intend to change the State fees structure from the current system?" remembering that an action to divert all funds to the central HGFA committee caused the last disintegration of the administration.

Some say, a disproportionate amount of time has been spent by the committee and staff over the last two years, in endeavouring to resolve disputes between members over matters of personal difference or financial interests. Perhaps, time that some of these members demand, is taken from more important matters that would generally benefit the whole membership. It appears members who scream for independence and autonomy somehow seem to expect the full attention and resources of the HGFA when it suits them or when situations don't turn out like they expect.



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Look at the background of each nominee and endeavour to get a committee made up of a variety of skills, flight disciplines and experience. I believe that will ensure good governance for the future of HGFA.

Regards

Rob Woodward
HGFA President

Operations Manager's Notes

Election

The following HGFA members have nominated for the HGFA Committee of management. Each nominee wrote their own self appraisal and what they may contribute to the HGFA; these will be available on the HGFA web site in the next day or so.

Peter Allen	Alex Jones
Grant Cassar	Rob Lithgow
Brett Coupland	Greg Lowry
Paul Cox	Mark Mitsos
Chris Fogg	Sun Nickerson
Matt fox	Lee Scott
Alexandre Grieve	John Twomey
	Brian Webb

Ballot papers and a reply paid envelope will be sent to all eligible HGFA members during the last week in August. The ballot paper will have voting instructions included and a reminder that votes need to be received in the HGFA office no later than 30th September.

Audit

During the last week in July, Lee Ungermann and Rob Glenn from the Sports Aviation section of CASA undertook a corporate audit of the HGFA. These are regular audits by the regulator to ensure the HGFA is managing our self administration compliance standards. The audit assesses HGFA current practices and standards in relation to the Operations Manual and other HGFA procedures.

The audit was thorough and well conducted. On the positive side, it raised issues that will require immediate attention and development of new processes to ensure compliance to regulations. From an operational perspective, auditing is a fresh set of eyes looking at a range of processes and highlighting where resources should be applied to strengthen an organisation.

Millicent

Mid way through August, Millicent clocks up 2 years of service to the HGFA. Millicent underpins the member service side of our office work and is the number one person members generally discuss currency and card issues with. Millicent is brilliant looking after the HGFA member's data base and on behalf of all HGFA members I thank her very much for 2 years work and hope for many more.

Operations manual CASA Approval

HGFA submitted an Operations Manual amendment to CASA late June. I understand Lee Ungermann is progressing well with the Operations Manual. I do expect some further amendment or changes may be required before final CASA approval.

Oxygen

The HGFA Committee has agreed to form a sub-committee to approve an oxygen supply system for use by HGFA pilots complying with CAO95.8 and flight above 10,000 feet. As the requirements for oxygen varies from country to country the HGFA cannot adopt an overseas standard for use in Australia. As a result the approval process compliant to the CAO will be risk based and in the first instance focus on Mountain High equipment.

The subcommittee will comprise of 4 members, preferably with experience using oxygen systems and ideally Mountain High equipment. If you are interested assisting with the risk assessment, please email me with a brief outline of your experience and contact details.

Regards,

John Olliff, HGFA Operations Manager

General News

HGFA Elections

Committee elections will be held by a reply paid postal ballot during September 2011.

HGFA members wanting to stand for election to the HGFA Committee of Management must submit their nomination to the HGFA Office before the 1st August to be eligible for election. Members self nominate by sending a brief resume to the HGFA Office. There are nine positions on the HGFA Committee and elected members are required to be available for meetings and take on other roles and responsibilities to ensure competent governance of the HGFA. Aspiring members should be able to commit up to 3 hours per week for their 2 year term (and maybe a bit more for office bearers).

Ballot papers will be sent out late August and voting will finish 30th September.

Results will be announced at the AGM 22nd and 23rd October.

Accidents & Incidents

HGFA pilots,

Many of you will already be aware of the tragic events of the recent Paragliding World Championships in Piedrahita, Spain where 2 fatalities occurred on the 2nd task of the event. The resulting decision from CIVL to temporarily suspend Competition Class paragliders from flying in Category 1 events effectively ended the event.

CIVL's decision included a 'strong recommendation' for FAI Cat 2 events to also apply the suspension however the final decision to do so was left with the event organisers and the sponsoring NAC. The HGFA Management Committee has had feedback from the Competitions Committee, Safety Operations Committee and Australian competition organisers regarding CIVL's decisions and taken into consideration the position many other nations have taken and decided to follow CIVL's 'strong recommendation' and temporarily suspend competition class gliders from FAI Cat 2 events in Australia.

The Management Committee would like to note that such a decision is not taken lightly and is TEMPORARY in nature as the situation is expected to evolve rapidly and will be acted on as new information comes to hand. The next Cat 2 paragliding event in Australia is the Canungra Cup in October. The Competitions Committee will hold a meeting for all pilots during the Canungra Cup to more fully discuss as a group what the best direction is for Australia - ideally such a discussion would have happened prior to any alteration of the competition format but going against a recommendation from CIVL would create a level of risk the HGFA cannot afford.

Let's keep the discussion going around what we all want from our sport.

HGFA Management Committee

Air Worthiness & Defect Reports

Airwaves provide all HGFA members and aircraft owners with links to equipment manufacturers such as engines and propellers, airframes, gliders and ancillary equipment.

It is our aim to compile a comprehensive list of manufactures whether they are trikes, hang gliders or paragliders, please email me with other relevant links to upload on to this site.

It is also recommended pilots check these links regularly for Airworthiness Directives and reports.

Aircraft

Airborne Australia:
<http://www.airborne.com.au/pages/directive.php>
Moyes: <http://www.moyes.com.au/technical-advisory.html>
Revo website: <http://www.evolutiontrikes.com/index.htm>

Engines

Rotax <wal@bertfloodimports.com.au> ,

Propellers

Warp Drive <http://www.warpdriveprops.com/>
Bolly <http://www.bollyaviation.com.au/>

Upcoming Events & Competitions



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* [Online Cross Country Comps](#) : Anytime!

Paragliding competitions registration can be done online at:
<http://ozparaglidingcomps.com/>

* [Milbrulong Fly-in 2011](#) - 15-18 September

* [Mt. Beauty Fly-in](#) - 18-20 November

Microlight Events

* [WM Pilots, please advise]

[PPG and Trike Members are encouraged to submit graphics similar to the ones shown above!]

Please send details of other events to: newsletter@hgfa.asn.au

Event Organisers (Visiting Pilot Memberships)

Some of the online VPM forms have been submitted with incorrect credit card details. Event organisers should be responsible for ensuring a pilots membership form is submitted correctly. For pilots turning up to an organised event without HGFA membership, the online VPM form should be submitted by the event organiser after sighting and confirming the pilot's credit card details.

The current online VPM form is a short term solution while we put in place an automated system where credit card authorisations will happen automatically. In the interim it would be appreciated if event organisers could assist in making sure the VPM's are processed correctly. Please note that the HGFA waiver (the three page paper form) is part of the online VPM process - if a pilot has submitted the VPM form then they have also accepted the waiver.

The Online VPM process is accessed via the HGFA website at http://hgfa.asn.au/HGFA/overseas_pilots.htm. Any questions or comments regarding the process can be directed to benn.kovco@hgfa.asn.au

- Benn Kovco, HGFA Committee

"The Lee Side Thermal"

"The Lee Side Thermal" is a collection of random stuff that may be (or may not be) of interest to pilots...

Gliders just hanging around the world - The Canberra Times

<http://www.canberratimes.com.au/news/local/news/general/gliders-just-hanging-around-the-world/2245086.aspx>

If you have anything ideas for the "The Lee Side Thermal" then please email newsletter@hgfa.asn.au

About 'Airwaves'

'Airwaves' is the e-newsletter of the Hang Gliding Federation of Australia. It is scheduled to be sent out monthly but actual delivery dates may vary depending on events and circumstances.

Airwaves is intended to provide HGFA Members with an insight into the monthly activities of the Board and communicate pertinent notices in-between the printed magazine editions.

If anyone has any suggestions or comments about 'Airwaves' then please send them through to: newsletter@hgfa.asn.au.

That's all Folks!!!

Questions and or feedback regarding HGFA Operations or Management are welcome! Please feel free to email the HGFA Committee (committee@hgfa.asn.au).

Sincerely,

The HGFA
