

Hi All,

I have been involved in the flying world for a number of years now. I first flew a hang glider in 1977 at age 15

but due to school and my parents hating the thought, my participation expired. I started Paragliding around 10 years

ago and around 4-5 years ago, added a motor to my repertoire. This is not to say I don't like free flying. Both disciplines I find enthralling.

I have been involved in the re-invigoration of the Sydney Paragliding & Hang Gliding Club, serving as it's Vice President

for around 4 years now. The structure, strength and membership of the club has grown and I look forward to handing over

my role to some fresh blood in April next year. To all those on the clubs current & recent committee's, thankyou for the effort you have put in.

For the past 2 years I have been on the board of the Pico Club and am currently it's President. (Poobah to those that know)

Grant Cassar has also been there with me and we have seen the club go through turmoil and transformation.

Over the last year Grant & I have been working hard to create a national PPG structure that gives the PPG community

recognition within the HGFA and by State Associations, while fitting an HGFA model that already exists for HG & PG.

This is not quite a done deal yet, but both of us believe it is not too far away.

I have always believed that participation and communication are the key to growth and development. One cannot properly

make decisions or pass judgement on something, unless one has been there, participated in and understands the processes

or parameters that control an area of governance. This is one of the reasons I got involved in the NSW State Association.

I currently serve as it's Vice President and have learnt a lot from the experience of people like Bruce Wynne & Ray Firth.

I have always been interested in doing what is best for pilots and if that is to the detriment of an administration, so be it.

Administrations are there to serve members... Not vice versa...

We have seen the HGFA go through its own turmoil in the past years, with some of the dust still settling...

I believe that we have an opportunity to re-invigorate the growth of the HGFA, to streamline some of its processes and

to enhance participation & returns for all members. Obviously for me, this will be another learning curve and I am not about to

make promises or commitments until I fully understand the processes and parameters. What I will attempt to do, is what's best

for HGFA pilots of all disciplines.

Regards to all,  
Brett Coupland.

