

Paul Cox

I wish to nominate for a position on the HGFA board . I first learnt to Paraglide at Thredbo in 1986 and have been a member of the HGFA for 20 years. Over the years I have been a committee member of many clubs and the NSWHPA State Association. In 2009 I achieved my Flight Instructor Rating and have been a Club Safety Officer for 10 years.

I am totally committed to the sport of paragliding. I love to teach students to fly and help pilots to develop their skills. Nothing makes me happier than seeing the joy on a pilots face when they catch their first thermal or experience their first high flight. The stories of achievement after a big day flying are great to hear back at the pub, or around the campfire, and there should be more of them.

This is a great sport that we all love. Let's cut the politics and think in terms of what's best for our members and best for the sport.

Two of the biggest problems facing the HGFA is compliance and retention. Without strong clubs to uphold the aims and objective of the HGFA, pilots ask themselves why should I pay this money to be a HGFA member? If no-one is checking my licence, if no-one is giving me guidance, if no club is looking after the sites I fly, and I have no means of being heard by the HGFA, then am I to pay my fees just for insurance? Too many pilots give up flying and choose another recreation because they are not being heard or mentored.

My focus would be on strong clubs that are built on procedural and organisational fairness, that give a voice to all members, and consistently focus on pilot development, safety at our sites and the simple joys of flying with friends. I would like to see pilots want to be part of their local club, enjoying the camaraderie of fellow pilots, and having a voice in the decisions made about their club and their sport . By improving members services at club level, clubs would be actively involved in attracting and retaining members.

The HGFA can do much more with its resources to support and guide clubs, eg:

- Similar to the GFA, appoint 'Club Development Officers'
- Set up reporting tools to research what members want from their club.
- Ensure that clubs fulfil basic requirements to continue affiliation with the HGFA.
- Guide clubs in governance where the need arises to ensure fairness, equality, and that club committees are acting in the best interest of their members.
- Supply information, support and resources for clubs to engage in pilot development, grant applications, site development/retention and maintaining low fees.

If pilots are happy in their clubs we will keep our pilots in the sport, continuing to achieve their ratings, and delivering great experiences. They will be the ambassadors for our sport, bringing new blood and increasing HGFA membership. Let's help our sport grow.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call.

Kind Regards,

Paul Cox,

Central Coast Paragliding  
www.ccpargliding.com.au  
(w) 4334 2222  
(m) 0421 072 897