



# HGFA AGM MINUTES 2010

## Hang Gliding Federation of Australia – Annual General Meeting – Minutes

9 October, 2010 from 9:30 am to 12:30pm

### Attendees

Rob Woodward – HGFA Vice President  
Greg Lowry – HGFA Treasurer  
Martin Halford – HGFA Secretary (Minute Taker)  
Brian Webb – HGFA Committee  
Chris Drake – HGFA Committee  
Benn Kovco – HGFA Committee  
John Twomey – HGFA Acting Operations Manager  
Trene Randles – HGFA Office Manager  
Jos Weemaes – Pico Club  
Andrew McCarthy – Pico Club  
Ricky Clarke – Pico Club  
Kelvin Glare – Southern Microlight Club  
John Olliff – Dynasoarers  
Phil Campbell – VHPA  
Anthony Meechan – WVHGC

### Apologies

Ken Jelleff – Southern Microlight Club  
Mark Howard – Southern Microlight Club

### Approval of Minutes

The minutes were read from the August meeting and approved.

*Motion: To accept the minutes of the AGM 2009 as true and accurate. Moved: MH; Second: CD; CARRIED*

### President's Report

Rob Woodward presented the President's Report in the absence of Alex Jones, who had resigned as President of the HGFA for personal reasons approximately three (3) week prior to the AGM.

The HGFA is currently seeking a replacement Committee member to fill Alex's position on the Committee. The previous 12 months had seen many accomplishments, not least of which being the rewriting of the Operations Manual and the addressing of outstanding CASA audit requirements.

The HGFA also went through an extensive recruitment process to employ a new Operations Manager. Unfortunately, due to a personal tragedy, Mark Campbell, the newly hired Operations Manager, had to resign his position. The HGFA is now again seeking a new Operations Manager. Thanks to John Twomey for stepping into the position as an interim measure – his efforts are appreciated.

The HGFA is currently facing a number of issues. The minority groups have concerns with funding from a legal perspective. This needs to be addresses this forthcoming year as soon as possible. The WA Weight-shift Microlights have expressed a desire to move en masse to the RAAus.



### **Treasurer's Report**

John Twomey, who had fulfilled the role as Treasurer until taking on the role of Interim Operations Manager, presented the Treasurer's Report. (See separate document)

A couple of main points:

- There were some issues with how accounts were reported. Changes have been made to enable better understanding of fees, expenditures, etc.
- The Membership fees have been reduced, as per the SGM commitment. This meant that there was approx a \$70K reduction in income as a result of reimbursed fees (i.e. rebate). However, the HGFA managed a \$148K profit (surplus after expenses) after giving \$70K back. This was mainly achieved through cost savings and expense reductions in other area – principally insurance premiums.

### **Financial Report**

The Financials were tabled and discussed. (see separate document).

The HGFA Committee have not moved to raise the membership fees and John Twomey stated that he does not think that we should. John went on to say that, this financial year is the year to see what happens.

John Twomey discussed insurance coverage. The previous broker was charging \$80K brokerage fee, whereas OAMPS is now charging a \$40K brokerage fee and the base insurance costs are unchanged. There has therefore been \$40K saving obtained.

Rob Woodward noted that, of other big expenditure items, Soaring Australia is probably the only major one that can be significantly reduced. This is an agenda item for the Committee to consider at the post-AGM Committee meeting.

*The audit reports were signed by Rob Woodward (Vice President) and Greg Lowry (Treasurer).*

### **Insurance Report**

The Insurance Report was tabled and discussed. (see separate document).

Rob Woodward has arranged to meet Bill Galka to establish personal contact.

Kelvin Glare of the Southern Microlight Club stated that, in his opinion, the HGFA Waiver (i.e. the waiver signed by passengers prior to a WSML flight) was 'useless' and recommended that the HGFA adopt the SMC Waiver. John Twomey commented that the current solicitors had expressed an opinion to the HGFA that the current waiver was 'very good'. A detailed discussion regarding waivers took place.

*Action: Kel Glare to send John Twomey a copy of the current SMC Waiver. John Twomey to investigate and advise the Committee.*

### **Safety And Operations Committee Report**

The Safety and Operations Committee Report, sent by Helen McKerral was tabled and discussed. (see separate document).

Rob Woodward noted that the SOC appears to have met once in the previous 12 month period. He stated that the SOC is a pivotal HGFA Sub-Committee and needs to be encouraged and meetings formalized (i.e. at least a couple meetings per year), and the SOC needs to include a representative from all disciplines.

Brian Webb stated that the HGFA needs to reaffirm the status of the SOC and provide assistance and direction. The HGFA needs to reconsider its previous focus on cost cutting (e.g. reduced physical meetings).



### **Pico Club Report**

Jos Weemaes presented and tabled the Pico Club Report. (see separate document).

Some main points of discussion were:

- Jos had issues with State Associations Reporting Template and suggested that the HGFA revisit it.
- Jos has concerns over the legality of disbursing funds via state levies.

### **SAHGA Report**

The SAHGA report was read by Rob Woodward and tabled. (see separate document).

### **VHPA Report**

The VHPA report was presented by Phil Campbell. The main achievement of the VHPA over the previous 12 months were:

- Site improvements to Gundowring (\$10K) and Spion (\$37K). Spion works are still in progress.
- The Winkipop Site is to be included in the Parks Victoria Management Plan.
- A submission to CASA to have the Mentone and Red Bluff sites re-opened were unfortunately rejected.

Currently the VHPA is in the process of adding Emergency Markers to a large number of sites (launches and landing zones) in Victoria. This is a system setup by 000. The markers are rationalized reference and direction locators. They provide emergency services with detailed references to information on where the marker is located and how to get to it. The latter is often a serious issue when attempting to direct emergency services to the location of a pilot accident.

### **Southern Microlight Report**

The SMC Report was presented and tabled by Kelvin Glare. (see separate document).

Main points of interest were:

- SMC currently has approximately 45 members, of which 42 are HGFA and the few remainder are RAAus members.
- The SMC meet regularly to exchange information.
- The SMC make regular inspections of wings, motors, etc.
- The SMC provide members with lectures from visiting experts (e.g. Bureau of Meteorology).
- The SMC have a passenger waiver that is 'state of the art'.
- The SMC is looking to create a club hanger.
- The SMC appear at various air shows to help promote the sport.
- Kel was asked if there was any significant financial benefit for SMC pilots to be members of the HGFA compared with RAAus. Kel stated that, aside from some pilots flying both HG and WSML, the main reasons WSML chose the HGFA over RAAus was personal preference.

### **Soaring Australia Report**

The Soaring Australia Report was presented by Brian Webb. The main point of note is that Soaring Australia is a significant cost to the HGFA and the Committee has been considering various options to reduce this cost while still meeting the expectations of members. Soaring Australia is an agenda item for the post-AGM Committee meeting. A list of suggested options was received from Suzy Gneist (current Soaring Australia Editor) and this was tabled (see separate email).

### **QHGA Report**

The QHGA Report was read and tabled. (see separate document).



### **HGAWA Report**

The HGAWA Report was read and tabled. (see separate document). Main point of note is the new HGAWA constitution which is now based on the WA Associations Model Rules.

### **ACTHPA Report**

The ACTHPA Report was read and tabled. (see separate document).

### **Missing Reports**

The following Affiliated Associations did not provide reports.

- THGPA
- NQHGA
- NSWHGPA

*Action: MH to communicate with States that did not submit reports and request that they do so within one(1) month of the HGFA AGM (i.e. 10-Nov-2010).*

### **Vote of Thanks to Alex Jones**

The HGFA AGM would like to thank Alex Jones for his efforts, accomplishments and contribution to the HGFA during his time as President, and during his time as an instigator of the SGM. Alex's contribution is greatly appreciated by the HGFA during, what were, difficult circumstances. (Proposed by Brian Webb).

### **Next Meeting**

The next Annual General Meeting of the HGFA will be on **8<sup>th</sup> October, 2011** at a place yet to be determined.

### **Meeting Close**

Rob Woodward closed the meeting at 12:30pm.