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# Airwaves



**HGFA Airwaves**  
December 2010

## **Greetings!**

Welcome to the December 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](mailto:newsletter@hgfa.asn.au)

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## Craig Worth - Vale



The HGFA is very sad to advise that Craig Worth passed away on Saturday 27 November after a long battle with cancer.

Craig had a very long history with the HGFA and acted as the organisation's Operations\General Manager for many years. His contribution to the association, to its pilots and the sports of hang gliding, paragliding and weight-shift microlighting were

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substantial and too numerous to mention in a few short paragraphs.

However, suffice to say, if it were not for Craig's efforts during his involvement with the sport, we would not be enjoying the relative freedoms of flying HG and PG in Australia that we do today!

Craig was passionate about the HGFA and the sport in general. After a number of years away from the Operations Manager's role, he stepped back into the position late last year, working through until July this year, to help the new Committee through the recent period of transition.

His contribution to the HGFA is very much appreciated and he will be sadly missed by all who knew him.

## President's Report



Fellow pilots, The last year has been somewhat tumultuous as far as the management of HGFA has been concerned. Just over twelve months has seen the complete change of the Committee, four different Operations Managers, two Presidents (and a partridge in a pear tree).

What has remained consistent is, what I believe is the core strength of our organisation, i.e. the individual pilots and their attitude to their chosen form of aviation. This attitude of mentoring new pilots and using peer pressure to influence pilots to make the right (safe) decisions at our flying sites has helped keep our accident/incident rate from increasing. Remember; every time you clip in ask the question "have I considered everything I need to in order ensure that I have given myself the best possible chance of committing aviation safely"?

As the current Committee seeks to address the many and varied demands on it by members and statutory authorities we are often confronted with markedly different expectations and trying to balance these is a real art form.

During this period the Committee has met twice (physically) and had numerous regular (usually weekly) webinars to discuss matters arising. Committee members have individually attended meetings with CASA staff, ASAC meetings and Forums run by CASA for RAO's. Many volunteer hours have been consumed in dealing with matters that on the surface would have little relevance to the Pilot on site. I can assure you however that if these matters aren't dealt with they could have a profound impact on pilots' enjoyment of the sport. The issues relating to VHF radios & transponders come to mind.

Notwithstanding the demands on time that volunteering brings with I am always amazed at the depth of talent and goodwill there is amongst the pilot community to contribute. Thank you for that!

I would like to make special mention in this issue of "Airwaves" of the contribution of Craig Worth who passed away recently. Craig has been around the sport in many capacities over the last 30 years. He is the guy that stepped in to the Operations Manager's position after the departure of Chris Fogg and with his past experience helped to steady the ship. Craig's attitude, depth of knowledge & understanding of the Pilot's "psyche" was invaluable to the Committee. He was a genuinely good bloke and he will be missed by all who knew him. My sincere sympathy and condolences go to Suzie and his family.

2011 will bring new challenges and some "old" business carried over from 2010. I believe we will be in apposition to have a new Operations Manager commencing in January who will be pivotal in implementing the improvements and changes required to keep HGFA relevant as a representative organisation.

Key objectives for 2011 will be:

- Finalise the Operations Manual;
- Formalise the Memorandum of Understanding with RAAus regarding Trike operations;
- Undertake Facility audits;
- Review of Soaring Australia;
- Determination of funding arrangements for different disciplines within HGFA.

2011 will also bring an election of members to the Committee (yes already) so please

give serious consideration to who is representing you, what they are doing and how well they are doing it before you nominate or vote!

In the remainder of my term I will endeavour to communicate with as many clubs, schools and pilots across Australia seeking feedback on what things are important to you.

I trust you will have a safe Christmas, enjoy your flying safely and treasure your family.

Kind Regards  
Rob Woodward  
President HGFA

## CASA Transponder White Paper



In October 2010, CASA published a Discussion Paper (DP 1006AS) with the title "CASA's Plan for Communication, Navigation and Surveillance Equipage in this decade".

The general thrust of the DP is the recommendation that all aircraft operating with Australian airspace be fitted with ADS-B Transponders over the coming decade.

The HGFA is obviously very alarmed and concerned with the content of this DP since, if it were adopted as regulatory policy, it would effectively render the flying disciplines represented by the HGFA as untenable within Australia. The HGFA have formally responded to CASA regarding this DP (see links below).

The Australian Sport Aviation Confederation (ASAC) and the other Recreational Aviation Organisations (RAOs), such as the GFA; are also strongly opposed to the recommendations proposed in DP 1006AS and have responded to CASA accordingly.

The HGFA is continuing to work with ASAC and the other RAO's to challenge the recommendations proposed in DP 1006AS. In addition, the HGFA is strongly proposing that CASA begin investigating the use of low cost, low power, GPS based, air-to-air alerting devices (i.e. FLARMS) as a viable alternative.

If you are interested in finding out more, then please go to the following links:

- [CASA Discussion Paper \(DP 1006AS\)](#)
- [HGFA Response to DP 1006AS](#)
- [ASAC Response to DP 1006AS](#)

All pilots would benefit with familiarising themselves with the above documents.

The HGFA will continue to advise members as discussions proceed.

## Incident Reporting Database (IRIS)



IRIS is a web-based system which allows HGFA pilots to submit accident incident report occurrences, at any time, from any location. IRIS allows you to report all types of occurrences easily, whether it is a near miss, accident or a variation from normal procedures. This closed loop system facilitates improved safety through awareness, educate and communication.

IRIS has been specifically tailored for use by HGFA members and will form an important part of our Safety Management System. IRIS allows safety occurrences to be addressed by the HGFA and for everyone to receive feedback on how to improve safety. By reporting all occurrences, the HGFA

becomes aware of issues, can follow up on them and report back to other pilots. By doing this our lessons learnt become everyone's lessons learnt. We can all help each other to improve the safety of our sport.

The HGFA is inviting interested people to participate in a test program of IRIS. This will involve you reporting your occurrences on IRIS over the coming six weeks. Your participation and feedback will assist in the implementation of IRIS across the entire HGFA.

To become involved or for further information contact Chris Drake (HGFA - [Chris.Drake@hgfa.asn.au](mailto:Chris.Drake@hgfa.asn.au)) or Sarah FitzGerald (ASN - [sfitzgerald@aerosafe.com.au](mailto:sfitzgerald@aerosafe.com.au)).

## Appointment of new Ops Manager - again...



The HGFA Committee has been busy working through the selection process for the new HGFA Operations Manager. Once again we have received many high quality applicants, which hasn't made the decision easy! The selection process is nearing its completion and the Committee anticipates making an announcement regarding this appointment in the very near future.

## Bright Open 2011 - Coaching and Competition Week



The Bright Open will run **February 5th - 12th 2011**.

The major goal of the week is to support and encourage intermediate pilots and those new to competition through the following initiatives:

- Each day will feature a lecture from very experienced pilots (Brian Webb, Andrew Horchner, Craig Collings, Geoff Wong, James Thompson and Mads Syndergaard) on various topics aimed at helping you fly with greater confidence for example:

- Weather and Forecasting tools
- Mental preparation
- Understanding scoring
- The value of goal setting
- Dealing with fear and making it work for you

- Providing a mentoring program to intermediate pilots and those new to competition. The idea is to assign a 'buddy' to assist pilots in any aspect of competition and their daily preparation in order to get the most from attending this and other competitions.

- A general focus on assisting pilots new to competition to get the most they can from each flying day.

For more information and to register for the week, please go to [www.brightopen.org](http://www.brightopen.org).

Kind regards,  
Benn Kovco  
Organiser 2011 Bright Open

## Clean Up Australia Day



**Submitted by Dawson Brown:** Right from when

I started flying about 18 years ago, I was, and am still to this day very impressed with how much your average hang glider and paraglider pilot cares about keeping our flying sites clear of litter. I've seen pilots going the extra mile to stop whilst driving up to launch on a lonely bush track to pick up trash that someone else has thoughtlessly left to rot on the side of the road. I've seen pilots sitting around waiting for the wind to come on, jump up, go to their car and return with a handful of trash bags, to then hand out the bags, and without any encouragement or coercion everyone is then traipsing around tidying up the rubbish that's been left lying around.

So, we obviously care about our environment, or maybe just our launch sites, and their immediate surrounds - still just as commendable. I don't know how much the general public realises that we do this. I'd imagine that even though we're the ones keeping our sites clean, we'd generally be the first to be assumed responsible if anyone in authority saw any amount of trash lying around. That's where Clean Up Australia Day comes in.

The Newcastle Hang Gliding Club has registered a Clean Up Australia Day site at one of our prime flying sites. We have a current project to source a banner with our club logo for just such events, and believe that by being visibly involved in Clean Up Australia Day, the locals near our sites will be more likely to recognise our group as a force for good, rather than an obscure annoyance.

The next Clean Up Australia day is not until **March 6, 2011**. As of November 20, 2010, our site is No 1 out of 673 Australia Wide for the number of volunteers. I encourage you to get your club involved in this great cause. If you are unable to attend, then you can always donate. I'll be encouraging all my workmates to donate, and you can do the same. If you prefer to donate, then feel free to sponsor our clean-up-site at <http://www.cleanupaustaliaday.org.au/Hickson+St+Launch+Site>.

## Upcoming PG Events & Competitions



- \* [Queensland Paragliding Championships](#) - Various
- \* [Mystic Cup \(Bright, Vic\)](#) - Various Dates from Nov 2010 to Mar 2011.
- \* [Weekend Warriors \(Manilla, NSW\)](#) : Various Dates
- \* [XC Open \(Manilla, NSW\)](#) : Jan 2011
- \* [Bright Open 2011 \(Vic\)](#) : Feb 5th - 12th 2011
- \* [State of Origin \(Manilla, NSW\)](#) : Easter 2011
- \* [Ozone Corryong Open](#) : Mar 2011
- \* [Online Cross Country Comps](#) : Anytime!

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

Please send details of other events to: [newsletter@hgfa.asn.au](mailto:newsletter@hgfa.asn.au)

## Upcoming HG Events & Competitions



- \* [Corryong Cup \(Corryong, Vic\)](#) - Jan 2011
- \* [Forbes Flatlands](#) - Jan 2011
- \* [Bogong Cup \(Vic\)](#) - Jan 2011
- \* [Wylie Classic](#) - 27th Feb to 5th March, 2011

Please send details of other events to: [newsletter@hgfa.asn.au](mailto: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.

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

## That's all Folks!!!

For further details or questions regarding HGFA Operations or Management please email the HGFA Committee ([committee@hgfa.asn.au](mailto:committee@hgfa.asn.au)).

**Sincerely,**

The HGFA

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