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# Airwaves



## HGFA Airwaves

October 2011

### Greetings!

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

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## President's Notes

This is my last report as President of the HGFA during my present incumbency and whilst I will be viewing the progress of our parent body with interest and may provide comment, I'll just be an "Ex" President.

This most recent period on the executive has proved challenging for all the members as we have had to deal with historical and emerging issues (probably similar to all other life on the planet) and I believe we have had some success but mostly it's a work in progress.

I have always maintained that our strength is in our diversity and the capacity of individual members to contribute to the betterment and safety of our collective forms of aviation. Whilst the HGFA Executive can and must provide an over arching guidance and administration of our sports and those issues that demand a national perspective eg ratings and insurance it must be said that the general membership must be engaged in that discussion and opinions sought to contribute to our body of wisdom.

Indeed the current Executive has engaged members who we believe have the skills, time and enthusiasm to provide resources in the form of rating workbooks, IT and operation manual updates. Other members have been able to contribute by being members on a Tribunal to adjudicate disciplinary matters.

Individual members contribute every day when they are at sites by providing guidance to fellow pilots and indeed ensuring that they, themselves operate within their safety parameters.

## HGFA



[HGFA Website](http://www.soring.com.au)

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## Moyes

The Executive as part of a recent initiative has held two State/Regional webinars where those present can discuss matters directly with the Executive and other State/Regional committee members. The intention is for these to become a regular opportunity for information exchange between the various levels of governance.

The environment in which we operate is ever changing and I say that in the literal sense as well as the bureaucratic sense. We should be prepared for by turbulence in the air and we should anticipate that the legislative environment will become increasingly interested in our capacity to self manage. In two words it's all about "Risk assessment" .

We are required to know what the risks are, what is their likelihood and what our plan of action is to minimise those risks. In so doing the authorities have a capacity to ensure we are managing our sports to an acceptable level by measuring us against our own standards. Our environment has evolved past the blunt instrument of assessment ie "How many fatalities this year"? to the preferable one of knowing what the issues are and how to avoid the fatalities.

Instrumental to the development of the sports and the safety of new pilots is the training system and those who teach others, our Flight Instructors and Chief Flight Instructors. It could be argued that in the past the systems that were in place in the form of documentation and practice (the checks and balances) have eroded to a state which though it may not have produced serious outcomes to date, fails to satisfy modern audit requirements. All instructors have been reminded of the standards required and indeed the HGFA executive must prove that it is capable of providing effective self-management of our sports.

A national Instructors conference will be held in the first quarter of next year and all Instructors will need to attend to continue teaching. This conference should be treated as a great opportunity to get together to discuss matters pertaining to teaching and the current structure/syllabus/techniques etc. If Instructors collectively feel that there are current requirements that are no longer relevant or have new ideas then the Executive would look to that group to provide "expert" opinion in shaping new requirements.

Finally, I would like to thank all members who have contributed in their own way in promoting our sports, finding new sites, volunteering for a committee, running a comp, helping a new pilot (or an old one) , driving for pick ups, writing stories for Skysailor or just plain flying. Good on ya!!!

Regards

Rob Woodward  
HGFA President

## HGFA Election Results

The 2011 HGFA Committee election closed 30th September and votes were counted Monday 3rd October by the HGFA office staff, there were 469 returned ballots which were then rechecked and verified by Mr John Twomey.

The election results are tallied as below and the new HGFA Committee is highlighted in red. All current members of the HGFA Committee standing for re-election were re-elected.

The new Committee will be declared at the HGFA AGM 22nd October and new members will be required for the purpose of a HGFA Committee meeting after the AGM including the following day October 23rd.

The AGM and subsequent Committee meeting will be held at the Holiday Inn, Tullamarine Airport. All attendees are required make their own travel arrangements to Tullamarine (please retain invoices for reimbursement) however the HGFA office will book the required accommodation at the Holiday Inn (if required). Please advise the HGFA office asap your arrival date and accommodation needs.

The results will be published on the HGFA website asap.

On behalf of the HGFA I would like to thank all un-successful nominees for applying for election and hope they may continue their interest in governance and the future of the HGFA.

### Results

<b>Name</b>	<b>Count</b>
Webb, Brian *	350
JONES, Alex*	285
NICKERSON, Sun*	258
SCOTT, Lee	254



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### State Associations

[ACT](#)

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[Tas](#)

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[VIC](#)

LOWRY, Greg *	249
TWOMEY, John *	248
ALLEN, Peter	248
COUPLAND, Brett	214
FOX, Matt	161
CASSAR, Grant	159
GRIEVE, Alexandre	144
LITHGOW, Rob	131
MITOSOS, Mark	130
COX, Paul	91
FOGG, Chris	81

\* Returning Committee members

### Note re Closing date for Nominations

Nominees Fogg, Mitsos & Cox raised concerns about the cut off timing for nominations ie whether it was 31st July or 1st August, due to what they considered was confusing information supplied by HGFA regarding the cut-off date. Nominations lodged up to 11.59pm on the 1st August were deemed acceptable so as to not disadvantage any nominees who may have interpreted the cut off time as "by the first of August." The Committee by accepting John Olliff's interpretation as being 23:59, 1st August ensured no nominee was disadvantaged. No nominations were received after that time.

However to ensure the new Committee doesn't spend countless hours arguing over this issue it was decided to seek an opinion from Legal counsel in this regard. We are happy to advise that the opinion confirmed our view. An alternative would be to redo the whole process at a considerable expense to the membership and rather than waste members funds to achieve the same result, the committee have taken the legal ruling and the new committee will be welcomed next weekend.

All of the 15 eligible people who nominated for the 11/13 committee were placed on the voting form and had an equal opportunity to be elected. It was indeed encouraging to see so many nominees, such that the membership had a choice of who could best represent them, strike a blow for democracy!

The membership has voted and we're sure all members will wish those elected well, wanting them to succeed in the challenging business of running the HGFA executive committee for the benefit of all members.

- The HGFA 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](mailto: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](#)

\* [Paragliding Competitions Forum](#)

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](mailto: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](http://hgfa.asn.au/HGFA/overseas_pilots.htm). Any questions or comments regarding the process can be directed to [benn.kovco@hgfa.asn.au](mailto:benn.kovco@hgfa.asn.au)

- Benn Kovco, HGFA Committee

## **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](mailto: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](mailto:committee@hgfa.asn.au)).

**Sincerely,**

The HGFA