



HGFA Airwaves
7 May 2013

INCREASE IN HGFA MEMBERSHIP FEE for SEPTEMBER 2013 TO 31 AUGUST 2014

The HGFA membership fee for 31/8/13 to 1/9/14 is \$314.00 plus payment of your State/Regional Levy.
An increase of \$44.00

The HGFA withdraws its previous offer to accept early payment of next years fees at this years prices.

The HGFA Fee increase for the year 31/8/13 to 1/9/14 is solely attributed to an increase in the level of HGFA Insurance necessary to satisfy the requirements of our operational environment.

HGFA records show the 2002-03 Aviation policy was for a \$10 M coverage; I think it was \$10 M two years earlier. It has been \$10 M for at least 11 years.

A \$20,000,000 insurance coverage requirement is being demanded across all levels of Government in the country. The Committee of Management has no choice but to provide it or otherwise our members would have commenced to lose their sites on public lands, which are most of our sites. The Schools would also lose access to most of their training sites.

This increase from \$10,000,000.00 to \$20,000,000.00 in coverage has resulted in an increase in our Aviation Insurance policy of 62%. which equates to \$44.00 per HGFA member which is the amount that the HGFA Fee has had to be increased to meet the unavoidable increase in Insurance costs.

The Victorian State Government now require it for all the VHPA sites in Victoria that are in National Parks and in State Forest (many 10's of sites) and Local Government is requiring it also. Most of Victoria's sites are leased from the State Government and the leases on these sites have lapsed and they need to be renewed which requires \$20 M Aviation and General Insurance coverage.

Queensland government at all levels have required it since late last year and they were placated in the interim and permitted existing leases and permits to continue until this latest insurance renewal on the promise the renewal would be for \$20 M coverage. Permits and leases that had lapsed in the last insurance period had to be renewed with an additional \$10 M of cover in each individual situation.

NSW government at all levels is now demanding \$20 M coverage as is WA and SA. The only state not heard from to date is Tas.

Most home insurance policies include \$20 M coverage and Car policies include \$30 M coverage.

Certificate of Currency and a copy of the policies are not yet available, negotiations and agreement on scope, value and cost of the new policies were only concluded, agreed and accepted Tuesday of last week ie 23/4/2013.

HGFA



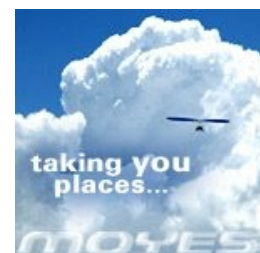
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State Associations

As is our practice a copy of the Insurance policies and their Certificate of Currency will be included on the HGFA website under Insurance when they are finalized; the agreed insurance cover is in place and is documented in dealings with our Broker and he with the Insurers Allianz.

[ACT](#)

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[Tas](#)

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Further background to this HGFA Fee increase.

The HGFA Membership Fee was reduced from \$350.00 in September 2009 to a HGFA membership fee of \$270.00 plus State/Regional levy which cost on average \$308.50. From September 2009 to 31 August 2013 the HGFA membership has not been increased. This was achieved by reducing costs operational costs where ever possible. A large part of these cost savings were achieved by employing better Insurance Brokers and finding alternative sources for our necessary Insurance policies at the same or reduced premiums every year up to 31 March 2013.

In the financial year 2011 to 2012 we made a small operating loss and the fee remained unchanged.

This financial year we are making a large operating loss of which most was incurred because throughout 2012 we were forced (had no option) to legally defend against a frivolous law suit which ended when the other party agreed to walk away but by that time it had cost HGFA approximately \$122,000.00 in legal costs. The other party sold their house to meet their legal costs and the HGFA had no likelihood of recovering its costs.

Cost Reduction Efforts

The HGFA CoM is continuing to pursue administrative cost reduction and to this end, fourteen months ago, it committing to the development of a new HGFA Airsports Information Management System (AIMS). This database is being developed using open source software and that choice has taken us out of the financial commitment to the propriety information system called IMIS with no further payment for that product and servicing. AIMS is now in operation in the HGFA Office where it is feeding back to the Developer needed refinements to its basic functionality and at the same time being refined to meet our requirements for on-line usage by the general membership, State/Regional Associations, Clubs, Instructors and SSO's. Trene Randles our Administration Manager is primarily moving this process with the Developer, with the support of the administrative staff, the Operations Manager and the HGFA Committee of Management (CoM)

The HGFA CoM anticipate the AIMS system will bring on-line functionality that will reduce some of our operational costs into the future.

John Twomey
Operations manager
HGFA

About 'Airwaves'

Airwaves is intended to communicate pertinent notices in-between the printed magazine editions.

If anyone has any suggestions or comments about 'Airwaves' then please send them through to: secretary@hgfa.asn.au.

Feedback

Questions and or feedback regarding HGFA Operations or Management are welcome! Please feel free to email the HGFA Committee (committee@hgfa.asn.au).

Sincerely,

The HGFA