

Annual General Meeting August 2017 - President's Report to the Members

This year has been another busy year. I'm really proud of the huge effort put in by all of the Executive Team in managing some significant issues. Thanks to Vice-President, Peter Cesco, who has been a great support to me, Dave Shorter (Treasurer), Rob Hanbury and latterly Andrew Simpson (Chair Airworthiness Department) Drew McKinnie (Chair Operations Panel), Greg Schmidt (Chair Sports Committee), Ian Caldwell (Chair Marketing and Development), Junior member Nick Mather.

They are all dedicated and hard-working members,

From the GFA Board perspective, we are continuing to work with Terry Cubley as our Executive Officer. Terry works hard to support the Board, and the Executive, and attends external stakeholder meetings on our behalf. He also coordinates the GFA Secretariat and assists with member queries.

In June we reissued our member survey and the results of that survey will be presented tonight. We will use this information to direct our energies in the next 24 months.

I am determined that our Strategic Plan will be a living document to guide us and will not simply gather dust.

Airworthiness:

CTO Dennis Stacey assists our AW department and was kept busy this year with the World Comps and a large number of glider imports. I thank the RTOs who continue to maintain our high standards in Airworthiness.

VP Peter Cesco has been working with the RTOs to organise refresher and Form 2 courses in every state, and is also working hard to manage the GFA simulator project – something inspired by member input at the 2015 Member survey. This year we have co-opted several Approved Maintenance Organisations to run specialised courses for members.

Operations:

The Operations Panel continues to be supported by Chris Thorpe as Executive Manager Operations. I thank the entire Operations Panel for the work they do in supporting the members, clubs, and the GFA in the upkeep of our Manual of Standard Procedures - Part 2 (Operations). Thanks also to the Airspace, Aerodromes and Avionics Committee, who look after these vital areas, and our members who represent our views on Regional Airspace Procedures and Advisory Committee (RAPAC).

We have made great progress with updating the Operational documents with Basic Gliding Knowledge 2016 launched 12 months ago at last year's AGM. Version 2 will be produced in coming months based on feedback received. The Glider Pilot Training Record has now been released and is already being used by a number of clubs. It will be an important element of Soaring into the Future training as we move to Standardisation. The updated Instructor Handbook is taking a little longer than expected but I am assured that it is coming soon and will be worth the wait.

We have in principle agreement for GFA to maintain aircraft that are used solely for towing – another cost and time saving, and of course CASA recently passed legislation to fill the gap left after part 61 was enacted so that GFA now issue tug pilot ratings.

CASA:

I continue to meet with the Self-Administering Sport Aviation Organisations Team, including the Associate Director of Aviation, and the GFA attends the CASA forums, such as the Regional Aviation Safety Forum, National Airspace Forum and Sport Aviation Safety Forums, as well as attending training, and meeting with CASA officers to further the interests of gliding in Australia.

This year CASA and AAFC representatives again attended our Operations and Airworthiness Annual meetings in June and this was found to be mutually beneficial.

Part 149 regulation is continues to slowly progress.

Our membership of ASAC (Air Sports Australia Confederation) is an important part of the lobbying process. In addition to our membership to the Federation Aeronautique Internationale (FAI), ASAC has a strong advocacy role for sport aviation in Australia, both through CASA and Air Services AUSTRALIA.

Safety

Our SMS culture is rapidly gaining acceptance and I applaud members Bruce Taylor and Tom Holt who recently wrote Mea Culpa articles describing how things had gone wrong for them. As we embrace this openness we will reduce repeat accidents and improve our culture of learning. Stuart Fergusson continues to lead his team enthusiastically.

Sports

This year saw the Gliding Club of Victoria host the World Gliding Championships in January. The weather was a disappointment with many low blue days. The event was very successful with a large number of pilots attending.

We look forward to the WWGC at Lake Keepit in 2019 with the Pre-worlds in 2018.

Membership:

Our Marketing and Development Team, led by Ian Caldwell (Chair of Marketing and Development) has been working on innovating the way we communicate with our members and our 'future members'. There are a number of initiatives outlined in his report. Special thanks to Sean for our fantastic magazine!

Our new Soaring into the Future initiative is being launched tonight and we urge all members and clubs to embrace the changes that we are introducing.

In essence; Standardise, Modernise, Prioritise.

IT:

Members will know that we now use the Salesforce program, which is flexible and open to many new functions, such as our member portal, SOAR - Safety Operations and Airworthiness

Reporting system, our bulk emails, the GFA Forum, Presidents Forum, Women in Gliding Forum, and the Mande-news.

We now have a standard document template and going forward are working to update all of our documents into this format.

Office:

I sincerely thank our dedicated Office staff: Tanya Loriot, Carol Baran, Cathy Cassar and Fiona Northey who are always ready to assist with questions and requests for information and remain cheerful at all times.

As I move away from my role as President I am really excited about the opportunities ahead. With correct implementation S2F has the potential to create huge benefits for all members as we move to develop clear pathways for progression, standardise training, reduce churn, modernise and improve club facilities and hence grow membership.

I take this opportunity to thank everyone for their support as I wore the President's hat and whilst I know that not everyone agrees with everything that I did I hope that I did more good than bad.

As they say;

The reasonable man adapts himself to the world; the unreasonable man persists in trying to adapt the world to himself. Therefore, all progress depends on the unreasonable man.

So I leave with the hope that I was not too unreasonable.

Mandy Temple signing off
President GFA