

An interesting 18 months for the current Board, 2 Special General Meeting applications, 3 Board member resignations, 1 Board member sacked (no I did not voluntarily step down to pursue other interests) and 1 Board member sidelined.

In the 20 years I have been with the HGFA this is unprecedented. There is always dissent, some members unhappy with one thing or another, that's the natural democratic course of a large body of people but I have never seen so many members bewildered, dissatisfied and angry.

I was elected to this Board in April 2008. At the May 2008 Board meeting I declared my agenda to see **online memberships renewals** introduced and for the **Soaring magazine to be reviewed**, jobs long overdue and neglected.

At the June 2008 Board meeting I moved for the Board to invest \$24,000 to extend our existing membership system to incorporate a commercially available web based online system. The system was to be fully deployed by Dec 2008, the rollout to be project managed by the CEO. The Board agreed unanimously.

In Dec the project was delayed and the revised deployment date was Feb 2009. It is now Aug 2009 and both the CEO and Board are declining to comment on why it has been delayed or when the system will be fully deployed. **Our \$24,000 invested in 2008 has been spent and as yet no value realised.**

The Soaring magazine is a major line item in the HGFA accounts. We currently spend in excess of \$90,000 annually as our contribution to the magazine. The GFA pay an equal amount.

In Feb 2009 I presented an extensive review of the magazine to the Board. The review defined the existing costs and presented costings for multiple alternatives for producing the magazine. These alternatives included considering outsourcing, adding an eBased publication and moving to full colour printing whilst reducing the frequency of issues. In summary the review recommended options that would reduce HGFA annual costs by **\$40,000** whilst significantly improving the quality and presentation of the printed magazine – see www.alpineinfotech.com.au/HGFA/SoaringReview.pdf.

The Board have refused to allow the review to be published in Soaring for members to consider and offer feedback.

The Next Board

The membership now has the opportunity to elect a new Board. Perhaps the chat on the hill or the plethora of direct letters, emails and articles in Soaring have stirred you to take an interest and cast your vote to help form the Board that will guide the HGFA for the next 2 years, I hope so otherwise you will be implicitly voting to support the **attitudes** of the existing Executive Board. I carefully use the word attitudes rather than policies. The policy of engaging with CASA is not a choice, it is a necessity. The policy of a secure financial position is plain common sense, it is the path towards it that is contentious. The attitude of suspending an instructor before proven "guilty", the attitude of denying certain documents to members until pressured, the attitude of it's our money we'll keep the change are attitudes that need changing.

Please cast you vote, cast your vote to elect a new Board that genuinely behaves transparently, that respects the opinions and desires of the membership. Cast your vote for a Board that will really listen and respond to the State Associations and other interest groups so that a funding system can be defined that is supported by all the groups involved,. Cast your vote for a Board that is not ashamed to publish its strategic plan. Cast your vote for a Board that wants to provide and maintain two way forums so that all members can freely debate topics that affect us all, even if they don't agree with the Board. Cast your vote to elect a Board that will conduct disciplinary tribunals in the manner we could all support.

If these items seem relevant to you then the current Board Executive attitude must be changed – vote, it will be your Board.

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