



PFIGA Annual General Meeting

20th September 2018

President's Report 2017-18

Overview

With a new president and new secretary, 2017-18 is probably best described a period of review and consolidation for PFIGA. Noting the association's financial position coming out of 2016-17, my focus as president over the previous year has been on ensuring that PFIGA remained financially viable across 17-18 by minimising expenditure while ensuring that the association retained the existing membership base.

Representation to government

I believe PFIGA maintained its reputation with the differing government entities as a professional representative body for the guiding sector and valued stakeholder over 2017-18, particularly so in NSW and Victoria, and for me personally, 2017-18 was a year where I found myself working to develop a network of contacts across various departments.

In relation to establishing some sort of licensing, accreditation or permit to undertake guided fishing in NSW or Victoria, I think it's reasonable to report from my conversations that there are some officers in NSW Fisheries that are open to considering a permit for guides and recognise and acknowledge that permits or accreditation of guides has been successful tool in managing fisheries in other countries. I've found Victorian based officers to be open to ideas, and generally pragmatic in approach, but they tend to cite the Victorian government's red tape reduction agenda as a reason not to introduce permits for guiding. I see advocacy for the introduction of some form of licensing, accreditation or permit to undertake guided fishing as a priority activity for PFIGA, and I'll continue to try and positively influence across all areas of government on this issue.

On a positive, in 17-18 NSW Fisheries issued a call for Expressions of Interest (Eoi) for appointments to a NSW Charter Fishing Working Group. Membership of the Working Group was originally intended to be open only to holders of NSW Charter Fishing licences, but following my lodgement of an Eoi which made a case for inclusion of a PFIGA representative on the Working Group, I've been informally



notified that I will appointed as PFIGA representative on the Working Group to represent non charter license holders.

Recruitment

Recruitment Officer Mick Pottage received a steady stream of inquiries in relation to PFIGA membership over 17-18, and did a great job in making himself available and responding to those inquiries. I thank Mick for his work in supporting PFIGA over 2017-18. Things are looking quite positive in terms of membership growth for 2018-19, and I thank Mick for his efforts.

In looking at how to retain and build membership, I reached out to many members (current and lapsed) in 17-18 and inquired as to what their expectations were of PFIGA, and what reason(s) they might have for not renewing membership. Cost of membership, taking into account that guiding was often not their primary source of income, was a common theme.

Secretary Wayne Cooke and I had several discussions as to the merits of a changed PFIGA membership fee structure for 2018-19. A revised membership fee model has been developed and is set out in the secretary's report for 2017-18. The changed membership fee looks likely to have a very positive impact on our membership base for 18-19.

MoU with RFA

PFIGA entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Recreational Fishing Alliance of NSW Inc (RFANSW) in 2017-18. The MoU recognises RFANSW as a peak representative body for rec fishers in NSW; the MoU also acknowledges PFIGA's role as the peak representative body representing recreational fishing guides and instructors in Australia.

Branding and Social Media

Maintaining the PFIGA 'brand' is an important part of maintaining our reputation as a professional representative body I believe that social media is likely PFIGA's most cost effective tool and accessible tool in looking to maintain and build PFIGA's 'brand awareness'.

I undertook some monitoring of the PFIGA Facebook page and the PFIGA website over 17-18, and I can report that:



- the PFIGA Facebook currently has approx. 2370 followers, but the reach of individual posts made on the page seems quite low;
- analytics indicate relatively low traffic to the PFIGA website, and short visits when the site is reached.

To maintain the PFIGA brand, I'll be proposing that PFIGA:

- Invests in a new logo design for the association
- Develop a new website,
- Continue to promote PFIGA and our members via the Facebook page, and investigate other social media options such as Twitter.

Donation by McTAB

I'd like to acknowledge and thank McTAB (David Taylor) for their support over 17-18, and particularly thank McTAB for their unsolicited donation of \$2,500 to PFIGA in 17-18. I'd also like to make note that I understand that this is the twentieth year that David Taylor and McTAB have worked closely with PFIGA and supported members with their insurance requirements.

Closing

In closing, I'd like to thank the current executive – Wayne Cooke and David Taylor, and Mick Pottage as recruitment officer, for all their support across 17-18, and acknowledge the hard work and effort by Melanie and Steve's in leading PFIGA over the preceding years.

Brett Richards



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Secretary's Report 17-18

Refresh of PFIGA Rules to Constitution

The appointment of the new executive at the beginning of 2017-18 created a timely opportunity for a review of the PFIGA Rules.

The executive reviewed the existing PFIGA Rules and then researched the obligations of incorporated associations in NSW, and recognised that changes that had been made to the association laws which had come into effect on 1 September 2016, including amendments made to the Associations Incorporation Act 2009 and a new Regulation. Information in relations to the changes is published by Fair Trading NSW here:

<https://www.fairtrading.nsw.gov.au/about-fair-trading/legislation-and-publications/changes-to-legislation/changes-to-association-incorporation-laws>

The changes to the relevant legislation and regulation had not been reflected in the PGPA Rules, and it was realised there was some urgency to update the PFIGA Rules to ensure compliance.

Noting that NSW Fair Trading had developed a model constitution for use by associations that included provisions addressing the changes to the relevant laws, and updates to a number of other provisions, the executive determined that the most effective strategy to align PFIGA's governing rules with legislative requirements would be to develop a Constitution for PFIGA based on the model developed by Fair Trading NSW. A summary of the changes between the model constitution released September 2016 model and earlier models is published here:

https://www.fairtrading.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0007/371797/Summary_of_changes_to_the_model_constitution.pdf

The drafting of a new constitution for PFIGA has been completed, and the proposed constitution materially aligns in practice with the previous PFIGA Rules that have been in effect, with most changes relating to responsibilities in relation to record keeping, and recognition of modern communication methods.

Adoption of the draft constitution will be put to the vote at this 2018-19 AGM.



Public Officer

It was identified over 2017-18 that PFIGA's Public Officer was no longer a member of the Association.

Noting that associations have obligations under the NSW Associations Incorporation Act 2009, including a requirement to appoint a public officer that must reside in NSW, the executive appointed the Secretary to the role of Public Officer.

It was also identified that PFIGA may be liable for some additional fees in relation to the requirement to lodge an annual summary of financial affairs. The additional fees are of relatively low value (< \$50) and will not significantly impact on PFIGA's financial position.

Membership

The number of financial members remained generally static across 17-18, with only one new member joining (Robbie Riches).

Some former members that had become non-financial remained interested in PFIGA, and discussion with former and current members indicating that the cost of membership fees were a concern for many.

Noting the concern, the executive has developed a revised fee structure for membership for 18-19 going forward, which is outlined as follows:

- Annual Membership fee of \$150,
or
- Annual membership fee for three years of \$250.

So as to better align the payment of membership fees with typical cash-flows of members, invoices for membership will be issued on the 1st of July of the financial year, with payment due not later than 31st December of the same year.

The proposed pricing structure has been well received, and the executive anticipates that we will see a number of former members re-join the association in 2018-19. We also welcome Peter Smee and David Copperthwaite as new members for 2018-19.

Adoption of the membership fee structure will be put to the vote at this 2018-19 AGM.

Wayne Cooke