

10th February 2012

To all NSW pilots via email

Site visiting fees no longer required

Dear NSW Pilot,

As a member of the NSW Hang Gliding and Paragliding Association, you are receiving this to inform you of some positive new arrangements for flying sites in NSW.

Pilots from NSW will no longer need to pay fees when visiting sites throughout NSW, providing that they are fee paying members of their own local club.

Some flying sites in NSW, like Stanwell Park and Mt Borah at Manilla, require visiting pilots to pay club/site fees before being permitted to fly there – this will no longer be the case as the guidelines have changed for the benefit of NSW pilots. However, as responsible pilots, we are still obliged to follow the different rules of each site. Common courtesies such as contacting and checking in with the local club, signing waivers (if applicable), following instructions and maybe signing a pilot register may be required by pilots visiting new sites.

You and your clubs are the stewards for all of our sites. Depending on the needs of the individual sites that the clubs care for, costs can be very high. Hence, some clubs have needed to levy membership fees/charges on visiting pilots so they (the clubs) can meet the costs of keeping sites open.

The NSWHPA and the clubs in NSW have come to an arrangement where NSWHPA will fund the costs of site access and site maintenance. In return, clubs will not charge visiting pilots for the privilege of visiting and flying their sites. The NSWHPA is able to fund this via income from membership fees, grants from the NSW Dept. of Sport and interest on deposits. The arrangement and budgets between NSWHPA and clubs will be reviewed every year to ensure that it is viable and providing benefit to NSW pilots and clubs.

As a result of the NSWHPA funding, it is hoped that the individual clubs will be able to reduce their membership fees. For the benefit of their local club, pilots will be required to continue their membership and support. It may also become inexpensive to join other clubs if membership fees can be reduced.

This arrangement is for the benefit of NSW pilots at NSW sites. Unfortunately, it does not extend to pilots visiting from interstate or overseas.

We wish you the best of flying,

Bruce Wynne
On behalf of the NSWHPA committee