



**New South Wales Hang Gliding and Paragliding Association Inc.**

**President's Report**

**September 2022-2023 Year**

**Michael Stott**

**On behalf of NSWHPA Committee of Management ("CoM")**

## NSWHPA President's Annual Report for 2023

### Introduction

Ladies and gentlemen, I am honoured to commence the 2023 Annual General Meeting of the NSWHPA. For the record, the minutes from the 2022 AGM have been meticulously reviewed and endorsed as accurate by the incumbent committee.

### Annual Overview

This year, while we remained unaffected by the pandemic, we encountered significant challenges due to inclement weather, notably the flooding events spanning from September 2022 to July 2023. As of July end, our membership comprised 981 male and 68 female members, aggregating to 1049. However, by September 25, this figure regrettably declined to 740, inclusive of 46 female members.

Year	Full Members		Total	Student Members		Total
	Male	Female		Male	Female	
2018			1074			
2019	996	55	1051	135	26	161
2020	928	52	980	102	23	125
2021	1012	58	1070	129	26	155
2022 (Sept)	1118	79	1197			
2023 23 July	981	68	1049			
2023 (25 Sept)	694	46	740			

Our membership distribution includes 235 Hang Gliders, 777 Paragliders, and a noteworthy 164 Powered Paragliders. It's imperative to highlight the escalated insurance premiums faced by our members this year. Nevertheless, our members have demonstrated commendable resilience and commitment, with substantial investments in skill enhancement, equipment upgrades and event participation.

### Club Initiatives

The NSWHPA has consistently extended both administrative and financial backing to 13 distinguished clubs across NSW. These clubs have been instrumental in site management, orchestrating training modules, and hosting pivotal events, thereby refining the expertise of their pilots, and providing invaluable support to the Certified Flying Instructors.

## **Innovations & Milestones**

- Launch of the revamped NSWHPA website, now equipped with QR code functionality.
- Introduction of our eNewsletter initiative and augmented social media outreach.
- Monthly interactive Zoom sessions featuring industry expert guest speakers.
- Comprehensive information kits tailored for club members.
- A fourfold increase in financial support for pilot training and clinics since 2021, amounting to an approximate \$44k.
- A noteworthy doubling of financial assistance for site development and access since 2021, totalling \$36k.
- Unwavering support for an array of events and competitions, encompassing State of Origin, Barraba, Pico Club Fly-in, Forbes, and Wings out West.
- Initiatives to bolster female participation in our sport.
- Introduction of state-of-the-art porosity meters, towing winches, and a Hang Gliding flight simulator.
- Seamless integration of QR codes for club sites and the endorsement of the Go for Goal event.
- We can add more to this massive reduction on northern rivers yearly club fee.

## **Projects Underway**

- Curating a comprehensive syllabus and training materials for Tow operator courses.
- An ongoing review to identify potential upgrades for our weather stations.
- Sustained alliance with the Ausrasp forecasting platform.

## **Committee Acknowledgment**

Our esteemed committee members have been the linchpin in the NSWHPA's endeavours. I extend my profound gratitude to:

- Mr. Michael Stott: President & Club Liaison
- Mr. Tim Sabre: Vice President, Marketing & Communications, Club Liaison
- Mr. Matt Haes: Treasurer, Special Projects, Grants, Club Liaison
- Mr. Peter Garrone: Secretary & Club Liaison (who resigned owing to health concerns)
- Mr. Phillip De La Hunty: SAFA Liaison Officer
- Ms. Cath McMillan: Female Pilot Liaison
- Mr. John Harriott, Mr. Ralf Gittfried, and Mr. Scott Cairns: Committee members & Club Liaisons

## **Governance & Organisational Culture**

The NSWHPA remains steadfast in its accountability to SAFA, the Department of Fair Trading, and our esteemed members, ensuring transparency in operational and financial reporting. Our official website serves as a repository, providing unhindered access to pivotal documents, encompassing policies, guidelines and AGM minutes. We are committed to fostering a culture of promptness and responsiveness, ensuring timely feedback to our members and clubs.

## **Concluding Remarks**

I wish to convey my sincere appreciation to SAFA and the Office of Sport for their unwavering support. I also extend my deepest gratitude to the dedicated NSWHPA Committee members for their relentless efforts throughout the year. I encourage our members to actively engage with the NSWHPA, sharing insights and proposals. We remain accessible at [Exec@nswhpa.org](mailto:Exec@nswhpa.org)

Warm regards

Michael Stott  
President, NSWHPA