



PFIGA Annual General Meeting

8th September 2022

**President's Report
Secretary's Report
2021-22**

First and foremost, I would like to thank you, the members of PFIGA. You have made a commitment to the only formal body representing the guiding and charter fishing industry in Australia. Your membership sets you apart as someone who not only works hard to help clients achieve their fishing goals, but also cares about your professional reputation and your commitment to continuous improvement. I personally appreciate the financial and administrative effort it takes for you to be a member of our association. Post COVID, our industry is now in hot demand but not much has changed in terms of the thin margins and long hours required to make ends meet and so every spare hour and penny counts!

Secondly, I would like to extend many thanks to our current executive members. In particular I wish to recognise the tireless efforts of Brett Richards, who is no longer guiding, but who continues to dedicate his time to our volunteer Not-For-Profit organisation. David Taylor also continues to support the association in his long standing role as Treasurer and for this we must all be thankful. If you have the capacity to lend our association a hand in the years ahead to help maintain the operations of PFIGA, then I encourage you to do so!

Maintaining the operations of PFIGA has been the focus in my first year as President. It is difficult to find the time to do much more at times as a full-time small business owner and Guide! During the last year we have seen the introduction of online membership applications, with good uptake, resulting in four new members. I extend a warm welcome to Grant Hilder, Michael Shanahan, Murray Stewart and Chris Jordan who have joined in the last year.

Adding to this work is the recent update to our fee structure and membership arrangements for multi-guide operations, and creation of a new 'sage' guide membership class for members who are no longer guiding but want to continue to participate in the life of our organisation and also provide support and mentoring to

the membership. It is past guides, like Brett Richards, who come to mind when I think of those who deserve the formal recognition as a sage guide in our association. The collective industry knowledge of such individuals is of profound value to our group. Most of us won't actively guide our entire lives, but for those who wish to maintain a meaningful connection with the PFIGA and our current and retired guides, this 'sage guide' membership category provides this recognition.

If re-elected in the year ahead, I look forward to continuing the maintenance of operations as well as planning for a Fishing Guides & Instructors Industry Development Workshop sometime late 2023 or 2024. I anticipate this will be a small group event with perhaps 5-10 attendees given that PFIGA is not a large group and not everyone will be available or have the resources to attend.

I have had a brief discussion with fellow PFIGA member, Antony Boliiancu of Goulburn Valley Fly Fishing and the hope is that the event will be hosted by them and run at Alexandra, VIC as the location. At this stage, I am proposing a 1–2-day professional development and peer to peer knowledge exchange along with 1-2 days of fishing related professional development. PFIGA does not have the resources to pay for the event and it is not up to Antony or any other PFIGA member to foot the bill for other members, and so this workshop must be run as full cost recovery borne by attending members. However, I will ensure that the workshop is organised and conducted in a manner so that it is entirely business related and can therefore be written off as business expense. We will discuss the above matters in detail at the AGM and I welcome your input out of session if you can't make it to the AGM.

In closing, I wish you all the best in your endeavours in the year ahead and look forward to discussing all things charter, guide and instructor related in much more detail at the PFIGA get together to be held late 2023 or 2024.

Kind regards

Nathan Johnston

President

Kiel Jones

Secretary