



PFIGA Annual General Meeting

26th September 2019

President's Report 2018-19

Overview

2018 - 19 is the second term for the current executive team, and I believe that we've achieved most of the objectives that we flagged some twelve months ago.

PFIGA's membership continues to grow, and through 2018 - 19 the association was in a sufficiently sound financial position to commit to the development of a new PFIGA logo (refer page header!) and a new website hosting arrangement. PFIGA now has a Constitution that meets relevant legislation and regulations for associations, we have membership fee structure that members (and potential members) appear to feel offers better value, and a more active social media presence.

Representation to government

I believe PFIGA maintained its reputation as a professional representative body for the guiding sector and valued stakeholder with the differing government entities over 2018 - 19, particularly so in NSW.

To build on these relationships in the future, I believe that PFIGA will need members to fill roles dedicated to government liaison in each state where we're seeking strong government engagement. PFIGA has had such roles in the past, but we do not currently having any members outside the executive taking on such a function

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 recently provided a short presentation to the NSW Charter Fishing Working Group at the invitation of NSW Fisheries. The Working Group was established to represent charter licence holders in NSW, and the purpose of my presentation was to seek a place on the Working Group to represent fishing guides that are not charter license holders (i.e. inland and shore based guides).

I'm yet to see the minutes of the meeting, but there appeared to support for a place on the Working Group for a non-charter licence holder representative, support for some form of formal authorisation issued by NSW DPI for professional guides that were not charter licence holders, and some interesting discussion around formally referring to 'Charter licence holders' as 'fishing guides' in the future.

Recruitment

Recruitment Officer Mick Pottage received a steady stream of inquiries in relation to PFIGA membership through the first half of 2018-19, until personal circumstances meant that Mick had to step back from the position.

Mick did a great job in making himself available and responding to membership inquiries, and this is reflected in the membership growth that PFIGA saw in 2018 - 19. I thank Mick for his work in supporting PFIGA over 2017 - 18 and 2018 - 19, and wish him the very best for the future

MoU with RFA

PFIGA's Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Recreational Fishing Alliance of NSW Inc (RFANSW) remains in effect. This MoU acknowledges PFIGA's role as the peak representative body representing recreational fishing guides and instructors in Australia. Consistent with the MoU, RFANSW have kept PFIGA informed on a number of matters over 2018 - 19, and I believe we should maintain this arrangement into the future.

Branding, Social Media and web presence

Maintaining the PFIGA 'brand' is an important part of maintaining our reputation as a professional representative body.

Since the last AGM we've had a new PFIGA logo design developed and completed by Jo Starling Creative. This contemporary logo design comes in a range of file formats and with a style guide providing instruction around the use of the design. The logo files and brief will be distributed to members in October 2019.



A new PFIGA website has been developed and will be launched in October 2019. The website is hosted by Square Space, who offer a cost effective platform through which additions / changes / modifications to the site far easier to apply than the previous site.

The web address for the new site is www.pfiga.org.au . Traffic to the old site www.fishinginstructors.org.au will be redirected to the new site from November 2019.

We regularly shared member's Facebook posts to PFIGA's Facebook page, and consequently the PFIGA Facebook page has seen far more posts than prior years. However, our number of followers has moved significantly in the past 12 months.

To maintain and promote the PFIGA brand, I'll be proposing that we continue to promote PFIGA and our members via the Facebook page, and - now that have a refreshed logo and website - invest an agreed amount of funding to promote the Facebook page.

Closing

In closing, I'd like to thank the executive – Wayne Cooke and David Taylor, and Mick Pottage as the retired recruitment officer, for all their support across 2018 - 19. What we've achieved is incremental, but I've proud of what we've done so far.

While I do intend to stand for re-election for the coming year, I can say that if elected, 2019 - 20 will be my final term as part of PFIGA's exec – new faces and fresh ideas are always needed, and I look forward to other PFIGA members stepping up to bat in the future!

Brett Richards
President



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Secretary's Report 2018-19

Refresh of PFIGA Rules to Constitution

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.

In 2018-19, PFIGA developed and adopted a Constitution that meets relevant legislation and regulations for associations.

NSW Associations Incorporation Act 2009

PFIGA's obligations under the NSW Associations Incorporation Act 2009 are in order.

Membership

The number of financial members grew in 2018-19, with four new provisional members and another paid membership for which we are awaiting a formal application.

A revised fee structure for membership adopted for 2018-19, and is outlined below:

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

Most members have elected to join for three years, and the model appears to have been successful. The executive also agreed to better align the payment of membership fees with typical cash-flows of members, with invoices for membership due for payment not later than 31st December of the same year.

Wayne Cooke
Secretary