

TF72—Victorian Committee Rep. Report (by Martin Borg)



TF72 - FLEET BASE VICTORIA

October 2011

TF72 OCTOBER COMMITTEE MEETING

On 15th of October a TF72 Committee meeting was held in Wagga Wagga. Physically present at the meeting were Russ French (president), Brian McCrowe (secretary and FBR FBWW), and Craig Laughton (Treasurer and Webmaster). Present via a conference call hookup were Rob Ritchie in W.A. (FBR FBP), Mike Brown in Sydney (FBR FBS and FBHC), Graham Donnell (Vice President) and Jim Warren in S.A. (FBR FBGW), David Peterson in A.C.T. (FBR FBC) and myself (FBR FBV). Absent was Jim Russell from QLD. (FBR FBB) who unfortunately had to work and Carl Linkenbagh (Editor) who was attending a wedding.

Some of the outcomes of that meeting follow.

CORRESPONDANCE

Letter from Dept. of Fair Trade acknowledging changes in the clubs public officer and address post 2011 AGM.

Logan City Model Boat club in Brisbane have sent an invite to TF72 to the opening of their new boat shed.

Letter from the Deputy Chief of Navy confirming attendance at Annual Regatta as reviewing officer.

ANNUAL REGATTA

Discussion undertaken on the creation of a brochure to place in some of the Canberra hobby shops and local websites to promote the event with the Canberra public.

Logistics were discussed: Need for FBRs to ascertain likely numbers of members and partners attending for catering purposes, erection of a fence to enable a member only area to keep public separated from models, a requirement to place an advertisement in the Canberra Times newspaper as part of the agreement with the local parks department to use the site,

discussion on the 'Wentworth Shield' to ensure it and permanent trophy's for the lucky recipient would be available for the event. Discussion also occurred on the Life member award which turned into discussion on Life member, executive and committee member badges which had arrived and were with the President for distribution.

TREASURY REPORT

The bank balances were provided.

A request for reimbursement for the cost of building the wharfing for the Wagga Carriers and Escorts weekend has been received and approved.

Those FBV members who attended that event can attest to what a hit the wharfing was at the Queens Birthday weekend event—the wharfing can be viewed in the pictures within the FBV members report for that weekend which can be found on the TF72 FBV Forum area on the TF72 website.

\$170.00 worth of merchandise has been sold since the August committee meeting. For anyone interested in seeing what the club has for sale (the club buys in bulk at reduced prices), the items are listed on the TF72 website. Some of the FBRs have some merchandise on hand within the fleet bases and a stocktake of these items was requested.

Note: a supply of crest motors is due shortly and will be found on the TF72 online shop.

PETTY CASH

A discussion occurred around the merits for a petty cash allowance for each Fleet Base. The Treasurer indicating he had undertaken a budget and determined \$100 could be allocated to each Fleet Base for petty cash.

The purpose for a small petty cash allowance being: to cover the cost of printing correspondence for those members who do not have email/

internet access (i.e. emails, Newsletters, Clear Lower Deck, All Ship-All Shore, Mission Reports), to cover costs in organizing venues/running days (i.e. Proposal documents, Flyers, etc).

Some discussion ensued around the need for guidelines on what the allowance could be used etc. such as the petty cash allowance would not be used to purchase 'capital items' such as gazebo's, trestle tables, banners, etc. as these items require full committee approval and would be covered once approved by the club.

The discussion then morphed into a discussion on the costs incurred by some Fleet Bases to utilize waterways for running days and if this should also be covered by petty cash or a budget. Some fleet bases indicating they are required to pay between \$15 and \$65 per running day to councils or Parks departments to utilize a waterway.

The secretary indicated that the subject of petty cash and waterway costs would be left open as it required further discussion, which was agreed upon.

To enable further discussion to occur based upon some actual data, the following would occur: The FBRs to look at the expenses incurred for last years running days for waterway charges and forward the information, the treasurer to look at formulating a budget for waterway expenses based upon membership numbers and fees. These pieces of information to be used in the further discussions on the subject.

Due to both FBS and FBHC having the same FBR and a number of FBHC members attending FBC running days, the expenses incurred last year would be a combined total. This was agreed upon.

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TF72 FLYERS

2,000 TF72 generic flyers are being produced to hand out to the public to promote the club at events/running days, etc.

The Flyers will be in colour, double sided with a number of pictures. There will be an area for FBRs to include their own contact details for those members of the public wishing to talk further with a club member about TF72 or becoming a member.

I will let you all know when these Flyers become available.

WEBSITE

Some discussion occurred around the issue with the TF72 website and in particular the continued hacking that has caused the events page to be non operational.

A question was raised if the problem was larger than the events page as there had not been any mission reports loaded were 28/8. The webmaster didn't believe the issue extended beyond the events page but would investigate the mission reports page as well.

For the events page issue, it was decided until further notice, the running day section on the forum would be used to record any events/running days to be held to cover insurance requirements.

CONSTITUTION

Since the August committee meeting, there have been a lot of emails and drafts of the constitution distributed to committee members.

The October committee meeting addressed any further changes to the draft sent out by the Treasurer to the committee on 25/9.

It was raised that a change was required to the section on voting within the committee to ensure that 1 person 1 vote regardless of the number of

positions a person held. It was pointed out that this was already covered in the constitution in section 22 point 2.

It was stated that other than that it was thought all had agreed on the draft constitution as it stood.

I raised that the items already expressed in my emails were still of a concern to me and in its current form I would be voting against the constitution. A member of the exec stated that he had read those emails and agreed with a number of those points, he also queried why it was being rushed. It was pointed out that not all FBR positions were officially committee positions under the current constitution.

The meeting proceeded to go through the items remaining with concerns.

I raised that the inclusion of position descriptions for FBRs in the constitution should be removed and put into SOPs (standard operating procedures). A lot of the duties of an FBR were not contained in the position description and each time this was required to be altered, another vote was required and paying of a lodgment fee to fair trade. By placing them in SOPs and indicating in the constitution that these can be amended by a vote of the committee, these can be amended as the club evolves and the positions descriptions are clarified. It was asked if that meant that the exec positions should also be removed from the constitution and it was stated that these are legally required to be included in the constitution. It was queried that if the position descriptions were removed then the positions should also be removed and it was indicated that if that was to occur then the webmaster and editor positions should also be removed as committee positions as those positions did not have a position description in the constitution. It was

then summarized that the FBR positions would remain as committee positions and an inclusion of SOPs in the constitution with wording around them to say they can be amended by committee vote. This was agreed by all.

There was a lot of discussion around the inclusion of the words 'or delegate' in item 40 Custody of books where I thought it was superfluous as the wording already states the public officer can keep the books under their control which enables them to delegate. The majority thought the addition of the words 'or delegate' was okay and they will remain.

I queried why in this day and age of technology, the postal votes was extended from 5 to 7 days closing prior to an AGM/Special General Meeting. It was explained that postal/email votes need to be collected/printed and delivered to the meeting. Especially when the returning officer may need to depart home 1-2 days or more prior to the meeting to travel to where the meeting is.

I raised that in the beginning of the constitution in a number of areas the words "or nominee" had been removed. This meant that if the holders of the positions stated in the constitution were away (i.e. someone on a long cruise and the other sick for an extended period), no one could do those jobs. It was stated that it was confusing to understand which nominee was being referred to in the constitution at times (i.e. the person nominating to become a TF72 member or the nominee of the secretary/public officer who was acting on their behalf). It was decided to re-insert the words and amend it to 'or delegate'.

I queried why there was going to be a show of hands at the regatta on the constitution when it was the first Regatta to be held in Canberra and I

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didn't want the vote to detract from the occasion. Others felt it would not. I also queried if written ballots would be used rather than show of hands. It was stated that written ballots would be available and used if 5 members or more called for it to happen that way.

The use of Reply paid envelopes to assist in postal vote returns was investigated. It was found the cost was greater than putting stamps on envelopes themselves and this would be done for those members without email addresses who would be unable to complete email returns.

Discussion occurred around the communications for the constitution vote. It was stated that both copies of the constitution would be sent out (current and proposed), a letter from the President explaining why the need for the change and vote, Voting form and instructions on how to vote and by when. I asked if the letter from the president would explain the changes in the proposed constitution and it was stated that it would and that the proposed constitution would have all changes highlighted.

Discussion around who would create the SOP documents and it was suggested that the FBR for FBV would do this and I agreed.