

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



TF72 - FLEET BASE VICTORIA

August 2011

TF72 COMMITTEE MEETING

Last weekend (Saturday 13th August) a TF72 Committee meeting was held in Wagga Wagga. Physically present at the meeting were Russ French, Brian McCrowe, Carl Linkenbath, Craig Laughton and myself. Present via a conference call hookup were Rob Ritchie in W.A., Mike Brown in Sydney, Graham Donnell and Jim Warren in S.A. and David Peterson in A.C.T. Absent was Jim Russell from QLD. who unfortunately had to work.

Some of the outcomes of that meeting follow.

MISSION REPORTS

New process has now been introduced to speed up the time it takes for Mission Reports to appear on the website.

All Mission Report write-ups and photos are to be sent to Carl Linkenbath (Magazine Editor) who will place them all in a consistent format and forward them to Craig Laughton (Webmaster) in a format that allows Craig to load them onto the Website with minimal delays.

Only time a delay should occur for loading onto the website, is when an event occurs close to when the TF72 Magazine is due for release and the mission report will be delayed until after the Magazine release to allow for the contents to be included in the Magazine.

The forum will be utilized to post an initial (brief—no details) account that an event has occurred and include

some photos. Event details will be held for the mission reports and be aimed at the general public rather than members.

Details of running and sailing days will be placed on the forum as usual.

CONSTITUTION CHANGES

There will be a second vote on the proposed constitutional changes and will be conducted in conjunction with the Annual Regatta.

Based on the constitution, 75% of all financial members need to have voted in the affirmative for the changes to be passed.

The postal votes will be sent out after September as those members who have not paid their membership fees by then will not be financial and eligible to vote as per the constitution.

Pre-paid envelopes are being explored to make the voting process easier for members.

I urge all of you to participate in this process.

WHY? Under the existing TF72 constitution, whilst Fleet Base reps may raise items on behalf of their members, only the exec committee can vote on these items. One of the constitutional changes proposed, is to provide Fleet Base reps with the right to vote on

these matters as well and therefore represent your views.

Some of the other changes

are:- the introduction of a public officer, minimum number of committee members, changes to how committee members are nominated and elected.

MEMBERSHIP NUMBERS

There will be an introduction of membership numbers to assist with the administrative process and in particular tracking past members rejoining.

For members, the numbering will commence at 20 and be allocated in alphabetical order through the bridge card of financial members.

The initial numbers will be used to identify exec/committee members who will have 2 numbers. Their membership number based on the alphabetical numbering which will be a permanent number, and a 2nd number which will be like a billet number on a ship and theirs whilst holding the exec/committee position i.e. Russ French will have a permanent number of say 105 and also 001 as he is currently in the position of President. Next election if he is no longer the President, he would only have the 105 number.

MEMBERSHIP FEES

There currently is a \$40 full fee and \$25 sailing member fee. The difference being the \$40 full membership paid for the annual regatta attendance.

The \$40 fee has been abolished and there is only a \$25 fee. Annual regatta

Special points of interest:

- COMMITTEE MEETING
- MEMBERSHIP FEE CHANGES
- UPDATE ON ANNUAL REGATTA
- INTRODUCTION OF LIFE MEMBERSHIP
- FBV UPDATE

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Attendance fees will now be paid separately by those attending.

WEBSITE

There has been a lot of discussion from some of the fleet bases requesting the ability to update the website directly.

The updating of the website requires programming knowledge and therefore not a viable option.

The website modules are:

- Website
- Forum
- Online Shop
- Tiki

The online shop is soon to be launched and will be available to members only. It will have photos of items available for purchase from the club and the ability for you to purchase those items online.

Tiki is a new module that has recently been launched for the exec/committee, and allows them to chat online rather than fill up their email inbox's when a topic arises, update and track changes to documents, blogs, diaries, etc.

The events calendar will be made available for committee members to update and all running days and events need to be included to ensure coverage with insurance.

FLEET BASE'S

There was a discussion held around consistency of the current Fleet Base names. An example being FB Brisbane has members in Townsville, FB Gulf Waters which is in S.A. is sometimes confused with Gulf Waters in QLD by some members and the public.

The decision was to leave the FB names as they currently are until membership expands in those areas of

concern.

FB Hunter Central will be looked after by the FB Greater Sydney committee representative until a FB Central rep is found.

ANNUAL REGATTA 2011

ACT government approval and a run permit have been obtained.

Options are being sourced for the Saturday night get-together as well as an accommodation shortlist to be sent out to members to assist with logistics of attending.

There will be no raffle conducted this year in conjunction with the regatta, as the experience in previous years has been "less than ideal".

The numbers of people attending the annual regatta will be required by mid November to assist with planning arrangements.

Investigations will be undertaken to get an article in "Navy News" on the annual regatta and attendance of some navy personnel is likely this year with the regatta being held in Canberra.

TF72 FLIERS

The existing TF72 fliers (approx half A5 size) that have been photocopied numerous times over the years, will be revamped and printed.

- FB names will be included
- Website details included
- Details on TF72
- Some pictures included

These are used at events and running days to hand out to the general public.

TF72 BUSINESS CARDS

New cards will be available by the

ADFA event.

TRANSPORT

The item of club funded transport (i.e. Hiace van or trailer) to transport models to major events was raised.

This was voted upon at the AGM and again that decision was upheld and all members are responsible for transporting their own models.

All members need to be treated equally and therefore the provision of transport for Sydney members to attend events in Newcastle, Canberra or Wagga was not appropriate unless all FB's were afforded the same.

This item is a bit of a mine field including insurance (both the hired transport and model) and is not necessarily practical i.e. depending on model size you may not be able to fit more than 4 models into a van and you still have to transport the owners of the models.

LIFE MEMBERSHIP

TF72 will introduce Life Membership into the club for those special members of the club who have provided many years of exceptional service to the club.

There is likely to be at most 1-2 members per annum who would be afforded the honor.

The award will be presented at the annual regatta each year if any suitable members are identified as being worthy of such an honor.

WENTWORTH SHIELD

The WENTWORTH SHIELD is presented at the annual regatta to the model judged as the most outstanding of the regatta.

Apart from the actual shield itself which is passed from one winner to the next, recipients are also presented with a keepsake trophy.

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It has been identified that some of the past recipients have not received their keepsake trophy and this will be investigated and rectified.

PROJECTILES

The topic of the use of projectiles (missiles, torpedoes, depth charges etc) was looked at a fresh.

The use of these items it was found, come under various laws and groups in various states (i.e. CASA, Dangerous Goods Regulations, WorkCare, Firearms Regulations, etc.)

It was found that when Councils were approached regarding the use of projectiles within their property, it was a resounding "NO" to their use on public land due to the risk assessment of potential risk to the public or wildlife.

Torpedoes are documented as predominantly using gas propulsion and being capable of travelling 60 feet under water.

Jim Russell in FB Brisbane has received a special licence under "Historical Re-enactment" through WorkCare to use projectiles in QLD only.

In Victoria the use of projectiles is an absolute minefield and even the Australian Rocketry Club is struggling to come to terms with the regulations and laws to gain approval for use—and that is their life blood!!!

And all of this does not even touch on the item of insurance implications.

It was therefore decided that as the percentage of TF72 members wanting to use projectiles is small and due to the above items, it was decided that the use of projectiles in any form would not be approved for any TF72 event.

Carl Linkenbath will meet with John Slater personally and discuss this mat-

ter with him, as he is currently acting as a distributor of some of the torpedo systems being sought for approval for use by some members and therefore actively vying for their use within the club.

ADFA 2011

The ADFA Open Day is set for the 27th.

Any member thinking of attending need to indicate their intention to FB Canberra immediately to assist with admin—refreshments will be brought out to the display this year rather than being in the mess.

WEBSITE / MAGAZINE ADVERTISING

Investigations are underway on the possibility of obtaining companies wishing to advertise in either the website or the magazine as a form of revenue raising for the club.

Float-a-boat here in Melbourne is one such company to be approached as they supply a number of items to members and now stock 1:72 figures.

It was decided that external companies would be charged for advertising, yet members who wish to advertise would not be charged.

There will be a new thread inserted in the forum on the website accessible by members only to list any manufacturers or companies that sell 1:72 items that members come across to assist other members who are looking to source the same items.

CLUB TRAILER

The club has on its books the asset of a club trailer, which is used for major events to carry marquee's, BBQ's etc for the event.

Whilst the trailer is in good condition, it needs some minor maintenance to keep it in good condition.

It was decided to spend up to \$500 on maintenance for items such as:

- Sandblasting the trailer
- Application of 2 pack color and epoxy
- New mud guards and flaps
- New sign writing

This maintenance will remove all rust and re paint the trailer.

The sign writing will be undertaken for the cost of materials only by TUMBA GRAPHICS. The sign writing itself will include a list of fleet bases on the back and TF72 contact / website details.

ADDITIONAL BITS.....

TF72 has a new mailing address.

TF72
P.O. Box 5651
WAGGA WAGGA
NSW 2650

The TF72 bank account has been changed. If you need the new bank account details to pay your membership fees etc., either contact Craig Laughton or myself and we can supply the new details to you.

Membership fees are now due and need to be paid by September 30th to ensure you remain financial and ensure you are not required to pay a joining fee again.

The next committee meeting is going to be organized in 2 months time. If you have any items you wish to have raised at the meeting, please let me know.

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OTHER BITS AND PIECES...

FBV NEWS

Now that there are a number of FBV members with working models, the time has come to setup a "home" for FBV to sail.

I am still investigating.

Discussions have been progressing with an existing model boat club to potentially use their facilities once a month for this purpose.

Though these facilities would be ideal for our purpose as a number of FBV

members are also members of that boat club and their facilities include refurbished club rooms with amongst other things—toilet facilities!, they potentially would only be available on a Saturday which is not suitable for a number of FBV members.

Initial discussions with some of the committee members was positive, but when the President/Commodore returned from leave and entered the discussions, they took on a different tone.

I am also investigating other options and waterways with approaches to other boat clubs and councils. One option being looked at is a body of water just under the city end of the Westgate bridge. If you know of any other waterways that we could use, let me know....

Hopefully in the not to distant future we will have a home to call our own once a month and sail, thereby becoming an official TF72 Fleet Base.

TF72 WEBSITE

The FBV page on the TF72 website has been updated.

There is now a new FORUM setup for each of the Fleet Bases. The FBV one can be found at:

<http://www.taskforce72.org/forum/viewforum.php?f=60>

This document and the other reports I have sent out have been loaded there for easy access.

There is now an online shop on the website with pictures of club items for sale and the function to purchase online. This is only available for TF72 members and when you see the prices you will know why its being kept in-house!

OTHER

If anyone comes across any interesting websites or info for parts or bits and pieces that may help other FBV members in their modelling, let me know and I will include the details in future FBV fliers for members.

If anyone has anything for sale, etc. Also let me know and I will include that as well.

If anyone attends any TF72 meets anywhere or is out sailing at a local boat club or completes a major component of a new/current model, take some pictures and drop me a line. I will either include in future FBV fliers or assist in putting together a separate "Members Report" flier similar to that I put out after the recent Wagga

Carriers and Escorts weekend.