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## **NS14 ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA**

### **NATIONAL EXECUTIVE MEETING – May 2010**

Via email from 1 May to 13 May 2010

#### **AGENDA**

1. Attendance and Apologies
2. Correspondence
3. President's Report
  - (a) Membership of the Executive
  - (b) Internet Forum
  - (c) Upgrade of the Internet
  - (d) Promotion of the Class: assistance to Victoria
  - (e) Next Council meeting
4. Treasurer's Report
5. Measurer's Report
  - (a) Sail measurement
  - (b) Amendments to accommodate MGs
6. Registrar's Report
7. Bulletin Editor's Report: 2010 Yearbook
8. Other business



## **Item 1: Attendance and apologies**

Bill Kerrigan, President, [kerrigan@inet.net.au](mailto:kerrigan@inet.net.au)  
David Aylward, NSW President, [david.aylward@tribecaip.com.au](mailto:david.aylward@tribecaip.com.au)  
Darren Eggins, Tasmania President, [deggins@netspace.net.au](mailto:deggins@netspace.net.au)  
David Bentley, NS14 Bulletin: [bentleydrps@bigpond.com](mailto:bentleydrps@bigpond.com)  
David Gordon, representing SA, [d.gordon@flinders.edu.au](mailto:d.gordon@flinders.edu.au)  
Also guest observers in the meeting:  
Paul Dillon, Victoria contact, [pkcadillon@optusnet.com.au](mailto:pkcadillon@optusnet.com.au)  
Adrian Adams, Web manager, [adrian@jaba.com.au](mailto:adrian@jaba.com.au)

### Apologies

Kathryn Burdon, South Australia President, [kathrynburdon@internode.on.net](mailto:kathrynburdon@internode.on.net)  
National Secretary/Treasurer: Michael Hitchens, [michael.hitchens@cyberone.com.au](mailto:michael.hitchens@cyberone.com.au)  
National Measurer: David Johnson, [dij@optusnet.com.au](mailto:dij@optusnet.com.au)  
National Registrar: Mike Tait, [tait\\_fam@bigpond.net.au](mailto:tait_fam@bigpond.net.au)

## **Item 2: Correspondence**

Letter to Adrian Adams about upgrading the website (attached)

## **Item 3: President's Report**

### (a) Membership of the Executive

The Executive consists for the National and State Presidents (or the appointed representatives of each State), the National Secretary/Treasurer, the National Measurer, the National Registrar and the Bulletin Editor.

Given the growing importance of the website and plans to upgrade it as a national communication tool, I would appreciate views on whether there would likely be support for a Constitutional amendment to add an appointed Web Master to the Executive.

### (b) Internet Forum

As you all know the forum was closed for a few weeks recently because of inappropriate use and content. There were a couple of posts that should not have been there and there was a lot of behind the scenes work to sort things. This all seems to have settled now but may as yet not be fully resolved. We are keeping a close eye on things. There are conditions that everyone agrees to in join the discussions and these were not adhered to. We have placed an annoying intermediate page to remind people of their obligations. There are 2 moderators at the moment and we may add 2 more. The Forum was set up in a FREE public domain that allowed us to have something NS14 customised. Things can be moderated easily but the whole would have been lost if it was closed down.



We have the option of taking something into the website for NS14 members only but its complicated and expensive- It will possibly be looked at as part of the website review.

This however wont solve the thoughtless comments that sometimes appear.

At the moment a post gets 60-80 hits in 2 days so it is a good way of getting info around and having a free discussion.

People can choose to read them at their leisure rather than emails getting lost in the pile of things we get, if they came in at the rate the Forum gets posts.

If we relied on email this would not be the case, but this is an approach we should consider, especially if there are more problems with the Forum

(c) Upgrade of the Internet

As indicated under Correspondence, I have recently written to Adrian Adams and asked for a quote for work that would allow the appointment in each State of website content up-loaders. These persons would be required to meet the instructions of the Web Master to ensure integrity of the site.

I expect to be able to report progress at our next meeting.

COMMENTS FROM ADRIAN ADAMS .....

*Thanks for your letter and email regarding the NS14 website. There are several issues raised and I have provided answers below.*

**Re: Webmaster on the National Executive ...** *I have no problems with this initiative and I think it is a good move considering the role the website plays within the organisation. I am happy to personally continue my role as webmaster or support a newly appointed person.*

**Re: Upgrading the website ...** *This is a difficult question to answer within the framework you have provided. The allocation of \$2500 will not be enough for JABA to upgrade the site to a fully functional content managed website with state based permissions allowing for local content updates. It is also not the kind of work we can do in parts ... Either the site is completely changed to a database driven CMS site or it remains as a static site that requires manual editing via a competent web developer using Dreamweaver or other HTML software.*

*To answer your question directly, we could only suggest using those funds to pay for a professional maintenance contract with JABA to update content as required. This would allow for faster updates and more thorough site checks than the current system that is done on a voluntary basis. Even then the budget is still tight considering our standard maintenance contract is based on 10 hours per month at a discounted rate of \$100 per hour for a period of 12 months. A budget of \$4,800 per year would buy 4 hours per month for updates. I currently spend around 8 hours per month on this work. A maintenance contract with JABA provides priority treatment for all work requests and allows me to spread the workload using my staff and technical department.*



Alternatively, to build a new CMS website would normally cost around \$10k - \$12k. We offered to do this several years ago for a discounted price of \$5000, but this offer was rejected. Since then the site has grown considerably and our internal costs have increased and we (JABA) are no longer in a position to match this offer. The best we could do now is \$6k - \$7k plus acknowledgement as a NS14 sponsor. We could organise a time effective CMS training session during the next nationals in ACT. If this option is taken it would be important to engage state based representatives that are prepared to regularly update content.

Finally, we can simply continue as we have done over the past two years with manual updates done by volunteers. I would be more than happy to pass on the Forum moderation duties to others and this would reduce my overall time spent on the site. The other time saving move is to transfer the "Boats For Sale" section to a new section on the Forum and allow boat sellers to manage their own listings directly. The "Boats for Sale" is the most time consuming aspect of the site at the moment.

**Re: Website content issues** ... It would be good if the site had more updated information relating to each state. Very little is updated on most states except NSW and in the case of Tasmania they still use a satellite site to promote NS14's. This is counter productive and would work better if we allowed Scott Wilke from Tasmania the same kind of editing access that Tim Dunstan has for NSW on the official site. This would require a genuine effort to work together with an agreed set of production rules that keeps the standard of the website maintained. There are some risks associated with this choice ... An obvious example relates the management of images and in particular the use of J-Query pop up images. Tim Dunstan does not appear to understand how this works and as such has not updated any of these images.

The other area that needs attention is the use of sponsors logos on the base of each page and within the right hand columns. The site was designed to feature national ongoing sponsored links at the base and local sponsors on the right. No real direction has been provided to me about this usage.

**Re: Stats for NS14 Website** ... Attached is a JPG of the summary of stats over the past 12 months. As you can see the site continues to grow in terms of traffic with over 4 million hits from 109,703 visits in 12 months. March 2010 peaked with over 13,000 visits in one month. The website has also increased it's Google ranking and now displays many subsections as part of a search result.

.....  
.....  
Hope this helps.

Kind regards

Adrian

Adrian Adams  
Director / Creative  
Mobile: 0417 806 147



Adrian Adams has been doing a wonderful job with the website. It is out public face Nationally and Internationally.

I think this is one of our biggest issues.- What do we want now and in the future I would like to be able to set something up so that it will work seamlessly in 3-5 years time and longer and particularly if and when Adrian has had enough.

I think it should have Archival capabilities.

Contact info

Updates from National

minutes of state executive meetings

Long term advertising of events

Viewing/Storage of pictures, videos

Archival storage

All this means that a year book just becomes a compilation of information received, and is distributed in the web as a download----BUT we need to get the club and state info regularly (even for the yearbook we have now). and this isn't happening It is up to us ( the Executive)to work out what we want and need , and then look at what can be done.

I really would like some comments on this for the next Executive Meeting.

(d) Promotion of the Class: assistance to Victoria

At the last meeting, it was agreed that “consistent with the strategic plan, proposals to promote the class be submitted to the President by members of the Executive in time for consideration by the Executive at its next meeting in May 2010.” No proposals have been received to date.

As many of you will have noted with recent traffic on the Forum, the Victorian Association is looking to get sailing back on track under Paul Dillon’s guidance.

I have informally approached Paul and asked if there is anything the National Association could do to assist.

PAUL DILLAN COMMENTS.....

*They will reform a limited Victorian Association and rejoin with the National association*

*There are 9 clubs sailing NS14s in Vic with 14+ boats*

*He has surveyed the sailors about their sailing preferences and the NS14 and whether they should reform the association, and they are looking at promotion of the class.*

*- In terms of the sailing calendar, it is still in construction but will have program in place by next season.*

*- They have someone who is happy to act as Victoria web master if the Website proposal goes ahead.*

**RECOMMENDATION:** *That the Executive approve funds of up to \$500 to assist re-establishment of the Victoria Association.*

*Moved: Bill Kerrigan*

*Seconded: David Bentley*



Fantastic effort from Paul Dillon. We will put together all the help and advice we can. Even though they have a little money, this will enable at least purchase of trophies , or social entertainment - as they all have to travel to get together.

I would like to thank Paul for the work he has done and for continuing to keep the NS14 tradition going in Victoria in the last few years. I look forward to working and hopefully sailing with him and the other Victorians.- Bill Kerrigan

(e) Next Council meeting

I expect to hold the next Council meeting in June. The primary business will be the election of President for the coming year- *See Constitution sec 5.5*

I will also be asking for State reports on the sailing season just past. These reports could be used in the next Yearbook, should we decide to publish again (see Item 7).

I will be putting forward the ACT Constitutional proposal for Electronic Compasses And conformation of a policy from the last executive meeting regarding collection of information.

Bill Kerrigan  
National President

#### **Item 4: Treasurer's Report**

The Term Deposit of \$11,004.88 has been rolled over for 5 months at 5.95%.

The operational account has an estimated balance of \$7,182.00 at 30 April 2010.

The accounts were kept in good order by Chris Gardner.

*RECOMMENDATION: That the Executive express its appreciation to Chris Gardner for his service as National Treasurer.*

*Moved: Michael Hitchens*

*Seconded: David Bentley*

#### **Item 5: Measurer's report**

(a) MGs as NSs

At the last meeting it was agreed that "a proposal be developed by the National Measurer in consultation with State measurers for a constitutional change to the rules that would allow MGs to sail as NS14s. The President to enter into discussions with the MG Association and report back to the Executive".

Bill has have spoken with David Johnson in the last few weeks but not specifically for this meeting.



He has started discussions about sail insignias with the MGs and has a proposal they are looking at.

They are looking at Bow extensions, particularly the new A12 which has a protrusion

### **Item 6: Registrar's Report**

Mike Tait has taken over as NSW registrar, and I asked him last week to stand in as National registrar for the time being.

He is looking at using some functions of the YA website to help with Registration and payment issues. This may help cross some of the issues we are having on our Website.

#### *6. National Members*

*ACT 12*

*SA 8*

*Tas 23*

*Qld 14*

*NSW 88---= 145 This is the information of capitation fees received.*

### **Item 7: Bulletin Editor Report**

The 2008/09 Yearbook has been published and distributed at a subsidised cost of \$2,437.70.

DAVID BENTLEY COMMENT.....

7. Dave will be looking for information for this years Year book.

He would like feedback on whether this should be an electronic copy or Paper.

he has made little progress on paid advertising to subsidize the book.

He suggested that it would possibly end up as an electronic copy for this reason

He would like more discussion on this.

More discussion needed for next Executive Meeting

I will congratulate David on the work he put into the splendid Yearbook

I will implore each state to seek information to be published in the next one.

Bill Kerrigan

Meeting Closed 13<sup>th</sup> May

### **Next Executive meeting 1<sup>st</sup> August (tentative)**

What do we want with Website?

Webmaster onto Executive

Measurers report, re MGs

Bulletin/Yearbook/ Archive

Victoria membership

Confirmation of Registrar, Bulletin Editor, Measurer and Sec/Treas.

Strategic Plan -ongoing