



Australian Waveski Surfing Association - Presidents Report 2003/2004

At the conclusion of the 2003 Australian Waveski Surfing Titles, Ulladulla, NSW, the elected committee of Brett Cronin, Peter Hurley, Travis Best and Tracey Drescher commenced their terms as office holders on behalf of the Australian Waveski Surfing Association.

Based on items recorded at the 2003 AGM, the charter for the 2003/04 committees operations were to address -

- Options regarding a national insurance policy for the sport in Australia.
- Ascertain the Incorporation Status of the Association, Assess and report back to members
- Plan and Co-ordinate the administration of the 2004 Australian Waveski Surfing Titles (Newcastle)

Subsequently, this report should be read in conjunction with the minutes recorded at the 2004 AGM, Newcastle.

HANDOVER OF ASSOCIATION RECORDS - The basic functioning of this committee was challenged at the outset. The committee simply inherited no information or records relative to the associations membership, Assets, Liabilities or financial situation. No operating bank account details were provided nor any information passed over which identified account signatories. The existence of a "Common Seal" could not be established. An association website was in existence at the time of transition over to the new committee and the content therein represented the full extent of any information the committee obtained. Quite simply, this 2003/2004 committee was tasked with administering an association on behalf of its members with nil funds and devoid of the basic elements under recognised guidelines required for a compliant incorporated association to function.

NATIONAL INSURANCE - As per the minutes of the 2003 AGM recorded at the Australian Titles, Ulladulla NSW, the committee pursued options towards nationalising insurance for all states under the banner of the Australian Association. Options were explored and pursued via Surfing Australia and obtaining separate quotations through Insurance Brokers/Agents for a national sporting body. This protracted process occurred over a number of months and paralysed our "uninsured" association whilst acknowledging the poor state of its financial affairs and lack of information about its own membership. Researching insurance through Surfing Australia also identified limitations in our associations capacity to set a firm waveski contest calendar for the forthcoming year across the country. Further limitations were apparent in terms of the total number of events that may be held under the Surfing Australia policy and their policy requirement towards a "fixed" contest calendar. Separate issues were then realised in simply identifying our own waveski membership across Australia and their representatives from each state (as not all states ran under parent state association banners). Disinterested and lethargic responses from Insurance brokers, exaggerated the frustrations experienced. The prospect of obtaining comprehensive Insurance for the 2004 Australian Waveski Titles event was also looking remote. In the interim, the association was contacted by representatives of the West Australian Waveski Association. Details of a national policy utilised by the WA association appeared to be adequate to run the Australian Titles under but also showed

sufficient scope to be extended to all state events across the country. The Insurer in this case was SportsCover. In the absence of any association funds, the actions the Committee then took are detailed as posted on the internet under the associations Waveskiers forum within Message 432 on 8 April 2004, the Entry Form for the 2004 Australian Titles and event program. It should be noted that despite repeated followup actions by the Treasurer, the association received nil responses from any insurance agents or brokers prior to the commencement of the 2004 Australian Titles event. In fact, only one insurance agent ever responded to the associations repeated requests (whilst the Australian Waveski Titles event was in progress). Ironically, the policy sourced by the agent was the same policy under SportsCover already in use by the Western Australian Association.



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By virtue of this arrangement, the association now possesses a database of financial members. Each member currently possesses an individual membership number. The scope of this insurance enables both social and competitive events to occur across the country whilst satisfying local council authority requirements.

INCORPORATION STATUS - Research into the incorporation status of the Australian Waveski Association ascertained the following -

1. The Australian Waveski Association is registered as an incorporated association with the Office Of Fair Trading, New South Wales.
2. The association has operated in default for several years in the following respects -
 - i) Nil returns of minuted Annual General Meetings detailing office holders of the association.
 - ii) Nil Constitutional amendments submitted to the relevant government body
 - iii) Nil audited financial records have been maintained or submitted
3. The status quo of the association has remained as "non-compliant" with the basic requirements of an incorporated association.

Accordingly, this current committee of the Australian Waveski Association finds itself in an irretrievable situation towards achieving compliancy status having no historical records to submit whilst possessing nil funds to meet payment of any fees to submit late returns (compounded over a number of years) to the relevant Office Of Fair Trading. A motion shall be proposed at the 2004 AGM, Newcastle to register a new association.

2004 AUSTRALIAN WAVESKI TITLES -

i) Hosting - The hosting and administration of this contest witnessed a shift away from the previous hosting responsibilities of local club/state associations. For the first time, the event was hosted solely by the

association. However, the lead up to this event was seriously challenged by the above mentioned issues relative to insurance and funding. Until the above matters became resolved, the simple release of an entry form for the event became stagnated. The subsequent delay in publicly confirming the event, dates/venue and duration no doubt impacted upon prospective and actual entries received.

ii) Event Budget -Whilst the Insurance issue was partially resolved prior to the event, the contest administrators faced difficulties in having no available funds to meet any preliminary costs until entry fees were received. The Association was also required to collect affiliation fees from each member and in turn pass these on to the West Australian Association towards the cost of insurance already outlayed by that association. It should be noted the West Australian Association had renewed the insurance policy prior to the Australian Titles and members of that association were insured whether they attended the Australian Titles or not. Therefore, no further "affiliation" fees were required to be collected on their behalves. Given the small numbers of competitors attending the 2004 titles, it was becoming apparent the previously identified "break even" number of competitors was not going to be achieved and the association was potentially facing an unrecoverable loss at the end of the event. However, prior to the 2004 Australian Titles event, the Association was contacted seperately by an individual requesting to remain anonymous. That individual offered to underwrite anticipated expenses for the event and provided financial contributions to assist towards costs. This persons request to remain anonymous has been respected by the association to date.



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FINANCIAL POSITION - In the absence of any operating account details, the committee sought and obtained authorisation from respective club committees to utilise the bank accounts of the Peninsula & GoldCoast/Tweed Waveski clubs (i.e. club accounts which the Australian Association's Treasurer & Secretary were existing signatories for.)

Subsequent to these actions, the committee then became aware of the existence of a Commonwealth Bank account. In this respect a very old bank statement came into the association's possession which covered the period 23 Jan 1999 to 21 April 1999. The following details are reflected on this statement -

Account Name : Australian Waveski Surfing Association No 3;
A/C Number : (06 6153) 10004884;
Branch : Belmont, WA
Closing Balance (@ 21/4/99) : \$682.89 CR
* (Note monthly account fees and Gov't Tax at that time were \$2.30 per month)

Enquiries with the Commonwealth Bank ascertained that despite the account being dormant for a number of years it contained a current balance of an undisclosed sum ?. Attempts by the committee to access further details became frustrated by bureaucracy upon learning that the key signatory to the account was a deceased former member of the association. A request to produce a current certificate of incorporation

hampered the committees attempts to either remove or add signatories. Once again, the absence of historical records and the poor "incorporation" status of the association prevailed. Attempts to resurrect the committee access to this account will occur upon registering the association anew.

It should be noted, the separate financial contributions of the associations benefactor during 2004 also extended beyond underwriting the Australian Titles event. This arrangement saw remaining funds being available to assist national representatives attend future World Titles and to further assist with any future endeavours towards establishing a newly incorporated association.

Subsequently, the above aspects hold influence over the Treasurers report. However, it should be noted that as a result, the association has moved from a potential debt situation to a positive balance. It should be further noted that funds were also received from 2 manufacturers demonstrating their open support of the association. As this aspect relates to website administration costs further details are provided below.

ASSOCIATION WEBSITE (i.e. www.australianwaveskiassociation.com)

The committee undertook an initiative to continue promotion of Australian waveskiing on the world wide web. This initiative also sought to establish a notion of unity and reciprocal support towards commercialism in the sport amongst Australian based manufacturers. In this respect, a written proposal was distributed to all manufacturers and prior to the 2004 Australian Titles.

A concept was pitched to industry related manufacturers to perpetuate the existence of the website and continue maintaining the presence of their commercial logos and links to manufacturer websites on the home page of the Australian Association. Accordingly, equal financial contributions were sought towards domain name registration and website hosting costs totalling approximately \$480 over the ensuing 12 months. The individual contribution by each manufacturer was to be determined simply by how many wished to contribute. Whilst not all responded, there were 4 positive verbal responses and subsequent assurances received to the proposal (i.e. Blades Paddles, Wavemaster Australia, Get-Air/Board Bitz &



Dekka Waveskis). All had indicated their support of the association and accepted that costs @ \$120 each for 12 months was acceptable. During the Australian Titles event, a total of \$240 was received by the Association Treasurer from "Blades Paddles" and "Dekka Waveskis". Unfortunately, since that time and at the the time of writing this report, these commercial entities have remained the only two active contributors. In light of this lack of support across the wider industry, the \$240 provided in good faith by Dekka waveskis and Blades Paddles has not been utilised for the pupose intended for. Hence this amount remains available to be returned @ \$120 each or for the future committee to negotiate use of the monies as they see fit relevant to website adminstration and promotion.

In the interim, the website costs have been continued to be maintained by myself in a personal capacity and reimbursement is not sought for costs maintained to date. This arrangement shall continue until further advised.

CONCLUSION

My personal thanks go to my fellow committee members who despite the poor health and limited resources of the association have volunteered their time and personal energies towards the above endeavours and despite such facilitating, as a minimum, a national titles event being held during 2004.

Brett Cronin
President
Australain Waveski Association Inc.