

	<b>MEETING</b>	<b>Yachting Australia Federal Assembly Meeting</b>	
	<b>DATE</b>	<b>Friday 29 May 2009</b>	
	<b>TIME</b>	<b>1000</b>	
	<b>VENUE</b>	<b>Royal Sydney Yacht Squadron, Peel Street, Kirribilli, Sydney</b>	
	<b>AGENDA</b>	<b>MINUTE</b>	<b>ACTIONS</b>
<b>A</b>	<b>ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES</b>		
	<p>Andrew Plympton President</p> <p>Adrienne Cahalan</p> <p>David Gotze</p> <p>Karyn Gojnich</p> <p>Nick Hutton</p> <p>David Kellett</p> <p>Rupert Leslie</p> <p>Wally Rantanen</p> <p>David Tillett ISAF Delegate</p> <p>Roger Hickman YNSW Delegate</p> <p>Adrian Steer YNSW Observer</p> <p>Geoff Davidson YNSW Observer</p> <p>Mat Owen YACT Delegate</p> <p>Graham Cunningham YV Delegate</p> <p>Ross Kilborn YV Observer</p> <p>Garry Langford YT Delegate</p> <p>Bob Silberberg YT Observer</p> <p>Bob Heywood YSA Delegate</p> <p>John McQueen YWA Delegate</p> <p>Tony Claydon YWA Observer</p> <p>Gary Martin YNT Delegate</p> <p>Denis Cook YQ Delegate</p> <p><i>In attendance:</i></p> <p>Phil Jones CEO</p> <p>Alastair Snell General Manager</p> <p>Glen Stanaway Sport Services Manager</p> <p>Chris Kameen Participation and Training Manager</p> <p>Francesca Freich Executive Assistant</p> <p><i>Apologies:</i></p>	<p>The President opened the meeting and welcomed all those attending.</p> <p>In opening the meeting the President commented that Yachting Australia had many competing demands being placed on it from various stakeholders in the same way MYAs were being pressured by Clubs and their stakeholders to meet expectations. The President commented that the current sporting environment faced many challenges and yachting would not be immune. It was important that all involved sought to protect the interests of the sport into the future. The Government established Crawford Review may advocate significant change, the current global financial crisis will impact the sport, our volunteers are stretched and difficulties were being experienced by all in their efforts to secure the services of capable people. The meeting noted that Yachting Australia was well served internationally particularly in the Olympic sailing arena however, pressure was mounting on the sport to better meet the expectations of the IOC and its key partners. The President highlighted the need to achieve greater alignment in our collective efforts and commented that we all need to grow our revenue base and staff structures in order to better cope with the demands of the future.</p>	
<b>B</b>	<b>MINUTES OF LAST MEETING</b>		
	To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 17 Oct 2008 – attached	The minutes of the Federal Assembly meeting held on 17 October 2008 were accepted as a true and correct record.	

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<b>C MATTERS ARISING</b>			
		To consider any matters arising not appearing on the agenda	It was noted that all matters arising from the October meeting were addressed by items already in the agenda.
<b>1 MYA Presentations</b>			
		To receive a 5 minute presentation from each MYA on recent key activities in their state/territory, planned future priorities and any key issues for the sport from an MYA perspective	<p>Each MYA was then invited to comment on activities in their respective state/territory and their future priorities and issues for the sport from their perspective. They each made the following comments:</p> <p><b>South Australia</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New Executive Officer has been appointed</li> <li>• Currently struggling with financial position</li> <li>• Seeking to better identify club expectations of YSA</li> <li>• Results in the high performance area have been positive</li> <li>• Youth Squad program is progressing strongly</li> <li>• SA is hosting 11 national championships in 2009/2010</li> <li>• Sailability and Special Olympics activities advancing progressively</li> <li>• Positive feedback on the recent Etchell Nationals held in SA</li> <li>• Have identified need to review YSA's Constitution and Strategic Plan</li> <li>• Currently experiencing issues with clubs not being very forthcoming paying club fees and providing participation numbers</li> </ul> <p><b>Queensland</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Youth Squad Program has progressed positively</li> <li>• Board is currently reviewing their Strategic Plan with desire to better align it with Yachting Australia's plan</li> <li>• One of YQ's major goals is to improve the disclosure of further information about their member's expectations of YQ.</li> </ul> <p><b>Tasmania</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• State is heavily reliant on volunteer effort</li> <li>• Major focus on Youth level activity and Team Racing since these are areas Yachting Tasmania know they can advance positively</li> <li>• Reinvigorated relationship with the Tasmanian Institute of Sport with the number of supported athletes in the Squad increasing from 6 to 10</li> <li>• Yachting Tasmania Awards to be initiated this year with intention to align them with national successes</li> <li>• Fleet of new Pacers being purchased</li> <li>• Constitution changed to enable introduction of the banding system with intention to let clubs choose between a per capita approach and the club fee based membership in the near future</li> <li>• Yachting Tasmania is open to the discussions regarding Yachting Australia's structure and has a keen interest in improving the delivery of training activities</li> </ul>

FEDERAL ASSEMBLY  
MEETING MINUTES  
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**Northern Territory**

- Change to membership program was defeated by the Darwin Sailing Club
- Gove Yacht Club are now back involved
- Revamp of constitution is pending
- NT Institute of Sport sailing program being established
- New coach boat has been purchased
- High Performance coach to be appointed to further enhance and support youth sailing in NT

**Victoria**

- ISAF World Cup Series to be held in Melbourne at Sandringham Yacht Club with \$550,000 provided via Melbourne Major Events
- MSV has appointed YV as providers for Powerboat training which is seen as a great opportunity as the State moves to compulsory licensing
- Funding secured for the Sailability program
- Tier 1 status achieved for sailing at the Victorian Institute of Sport
- ASF project has already raised \$40,000 for the Tackers program
- Coaching Committee has been revamped
- A coaching partnership booklet, developed with the support of Sarah Blank, has been produced. YV happy for the booklet to be used by other MYAs
- Boatshed initiative has been very positive with challenge remaining to convert numbers through (over 3000 to date) to clubs
- Recent feedback has been sought from members with participation and improved communication being identified as a major priority

**NSW**

- Strongly support for the Yachting Australia led high performance and youth sailing initiatives
- Success at the recent NSWIS Awards
- Participation numbers in the dinghy area increasing
- Experiencing issues with yachts
- Currently having ongoing management discussions with Yachting Australia

**ACT**

- Good participation and growth in fleets although membership numbers have only slightly improved
- Banding system has been introduced and received very positively
- Training is a key focus
- Immigration Bridge proposal to build a walkway over Lake Burley Griffin has presented a major danger to the sport in ACT
- High performance program interest over the next two years

**Western Australia**

- New Strategic Plan being developed

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organisation is running on budget with a 10K surplus</li> <li>• Board nominations are pending with strong interest</li> <li>• High performance program is progressing positively with renegotiations for a new four-year agreement underway</li> <li>• Ongoing discussions being held with WA2011 with YWA likely to play a key role in race management training</li> <li>• Membership numbers are continuing to grow</li> <li>• Training is being delivered successfully to the national standard</li> <li>• Government funding has been secured for the next 2 years</li> </ul> <p>The President then commented on Yachting Australia's involvement with ISAF. It was noted that a key challenge for the sport is to remain relevant to the IOC and it was therefore important to strengthen our position. The President commented that Yachting Australia is held in high regard at ISAF level and it is very positive that Australia will host a leg of the World Cup Series, the 2011 Worlds, is a strong candidate to host the 2011 ISAF Annual Meetings and has key personnel in key positions.</p>	
<b>2 Structural Issues</b>				
	(a)	To receive an update on the implementation of the "Strengthening Sailing" Report recommendations and discuss desired future actions	The meeting received a report on the current status of the implementation of the recommendations of the Strengthening Sailing Review. It was noted that a vast majority of the recommendations were in hand with decisions regarding structure pending the outcome of discussions in item 2(b) on the organization's future structure.	
	(b)	To receive feedback from the MYAs on the "Future Structure of Yachting Australia" paper circulated on 5 May and discuss desired future actions	<p>The President reminded the meeting of the background to the Strengthening Sailing Review and commented on some of the issues that the Yachting Australia Board had been grappling with in recent months. He commented that Yachting Australia and the respective MYA strategic plans differed and currently did not align. The Yachting Australia Board had expressed a desire for national programs to be delivered consistently in order to enable the sport as a whole to develop and flourish.</p> <p>David Gotze commented that the current constitutional and delivery model has inherent conflicts and can also inhibit the future good of the sport. He remarked that continued inconsistent delivery of national policies and programs was damaging the sport and perhaps we collectively needed to accept that national and local issues may need to be tackled quite differently in the future if the sport is to remain relevant. It was suggested that breaking some constitutional established barriers may allow more open communication and therefore service delivery may be more effective.</p> <p>Brief discussion was then held on the feedback received from MYAs to date with the general view that decisions on the future structure of the organization could not be finalized until Yachting Australia's core business focus was resolved and a new strategic plan developed. It was noted that the main emphasis for the Board's lay in the development of a future strategy and before finalization it was important MYAs provided input. It was also noted that the ongoing conversations with both Yachting NSW and Yachting Queensland will offer useful information that may help define the future support</p>	

		and management arrangements for the sport. The meeting was assured that Yachting Australia fully understood that evidence of the benefits of any change were essential.	
		Brief discussion was also held on how the variety of recreational boating interests could best be supported nationally and it was agreed the issue needed to be central in the discussions associated with the development of a new strategic plan.	
		All agreed that the discussion held today and the exchange via e-mail in recent weeks had been quite valuable in informing the debate.	
<b>3 Membership</b>			
(a)	To consider a paper from Yachting Victoria on the issues associated with Clubs affected by drought and other natural disasters	Yachting Victoria presented a paper regarding the impact of drought and other natural disaster on clubs and participation in the sport and the highlighted the need for Yachting Australia to develop a national policy on the immediate and longer term support that could be provided. The meeting acknowledged that the responsibility for support should be shared between the national and state level and the region affected. It was noted that the move to the category based fee system had removed the previous flexibility for Yachting Australia to assist and this now needed to be rectified.  Following brief discussion it was agreed that Yachting Australia should develop an adequate policy position for such circumstances and once drafted would circulate it to all MYAs for comment.	
(b)	To consider the Yachting Victoria proposal to establish a Gold Card level of the National Membership Scheme	Yachting Victoria presented a paper to the meeting outlining the benefits of introducing a Gold Card to the National Membership Scheme. The meeting noted that the intention of the Gold Card was purely to officially recognise the contribution that Commodores, key club volunteers and officials offer the sport. The Card had no added benefits associated with it but would increase the cost of production which need to be carefully monitored. After brief discussions the meeting agreed to support the proposal and resolved to introduce a Gold Card for the 2009/2010 year.	
(c)	To receive feedback from each MYA on the learning to date from the implementation of the banding fee based National Membership Scheme	Brief discussion was held on the banding system and on the previously agreed review of the categorization levels that would occur at least two years into the transition period. The Treasurer undertook to consider the impact of any changes to the banding level of a club and welcomed MYA input to that process.	
<b>4 Training</b>			
	To receive a presentation on the draft future business plan for Training	Chris Kameen, Participation and Training Manager, gave a presentation to update the meeting on the recent developments with the draft training business plan. In doing so, he outlined the key issues identified through the feedback received to date, features of the now proposed hybrid model and also the key features of current maritime focused COAG discussions. The meeting noted that the changes made to the Plan sought to address the concerns raised by MYAs but did not fully achieve the desired national consistency. It was noted that for those states that wished to adopt the national approach Yachting Australia would work closely with them to implement the changes. The President	

emphasised the Board's wish to protect Yachting Australia's brand and that their view is achieve this required a greater level of national control.

The President then invited comments from each MYAs on their respective position:

**Queensland**

- YQ is keen to advance arrangements under the new approach and are having ongoing discussions with Yachting Australia with the aim of entering into some form of management agreement
- Questioned the data on GISBS

**NSW**

- Education and training programs are seen as the key to increase participation in the sport
- YNSW's intention is to engage fully with the new model as they see it being able to provide a higher training standard than is currently possible
- YNSW understand that it may mean losing some income but in return the approach is able to provide a better and more satisfactory service to their clubs and members.
- YNSW will now be able to invest time and resources into the development of those activities and issues the national program doesn't cater for.

**Victoria**

- Absolute support for the national approach, but still having reservations over some of the operational changes and the proposed business model in particular.
- Keen to seek further discussions with Yachting Australia to address those issues.

**Western Australia**

- Have the view that national standards doesn't need to mean national delivery.
- Concern that the financial return from training will get lost for the MYA.
- IT is a priority – view that improvement of user friendliness of the system would make a huge impact on the usage by YATCs

**Tasmania**

- Understand the need for consistent national brand management but necessary resources to deliver the expected national standards aren't available in Tasmania.
- Concern that the new model won't cover all schemes delivered in the state and would like to seek further discussions over the next 12 months with Yachting Australia to address these issues.

**ACT**

- Endorsed WA's point of view with need for investment into the IT platform to make it more user friendly

			<p><b>South Australia</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Acknowledge numbers are low in SA and were currently reviewing how they should resource the program properly</li> </ul> <p>The meeting was made aware that the Board had set a deadline of 30 September for MYAs to formally commit to which approach that wish to pursue for the 2009/2010 year.</p>	
<b>5</b>	<b>Rule 46 &amp; 55 Compliance</b>			
	To consider a paper on the concerns previously expressed by MYAs on the lack of compliance to Rule 46 & 55		<p>Glen Stanaway, Sport Services Manager, joined the meeting and advised that at the recent MYA Executive Officer's meeting it was brought to Yachting Australia's attention that there was a general lack of compliance to both rules 46 and 55. The MYA EOs had requested that Yachting Australia write to all affiliated yacht clubs addressing the issues surrounding rules 46 &amp; 55 as it was agreed a national approach was required.</p> <p>After brief discussion the President sought the Federal Assembly's support for Yachting Australia to send out a letter highlighting the importance of compliance to the two rules. It was agreed Yachting Australia would forward a draft to the MYAs for comment first with the letter reminding clubs of their key responsibilities.</p>	
<b>6</b>	<b>Strategic Plan</b>			
	To receive a presentation on the draft 2009-2013 Yachting Australia Strategic Plan		<p>The Chief Executive gave a brief presentation on steps taken to develop the 2005-2009 Strategic Plan. The meeting noted that a timetable for the development of the 2009-2013 Plan was required and the Federal Assembly's input to the plan would be greatly appreciated over the coming few months. Graham Cunningham offered his assistance and the President welcomed the input.</p>	
<b>7</b>	<b>2009/2010 Budget</b>			
	To receive the draft 2009/2010 Budget		<p>The Treasurer advised that considerable work has been undertaken on the Budget for the 2009/10 year and following its finalization would be distributed to all MYAs for adoption via a circular resolution in the next 2 to 3 weeks. The question was raised about the impact of the planned management actions in NSW and Queensland and the Treasurer assured the meeting that the expenditure effect was expected to be zero at worst. The meeting noted that explanatory notes to help better understand the budget calculations would be distributed.</p>	
<b>D</b>	<b>OTHER BUSINESS</b>			
			<p><b>Member Protection Policy</b> - YNSW sought Yachting Australia's support to address future complaints under the Membership Protection Policy. YNSW noted that whilst it wasn't a major priority it was not ideal that issues be handled by a staff member as it was leading to conflicts. The Board resolved to review the current Policy in order to assess how such pressures could be alleviated.</p>	
<b>E</b>	<b>NEXT MEETING</b>			
			<p>The meeting noted that the next Federal Assembly meeting is scheduled for 16 October</p>	

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			2009 to coincide with the 2009 Yachting Awards	
<b>CLOSE OF MEETING</b>				
			With no further business the president closed the meeting at 3.15pm.	

# FEDERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING MINUTES 29-05-09