

From the WIA Board Table

Official News from the WIA Board of Directors.

Number 5

This Information is for Dissemination to all Radio Amateurs

July 2016

The July Board meeting was one of the busiest, with 15 items of business discussed. The major issues discussed are listed below.

For more information on any of these issues check the WIA web site www.wia.org.au or email the WIA Office.

nationaloffice@wia.org.au

Phil Wait WIA President



1 Membership Renewal Opt-Out

The WIA still requires members to renew their membership each year. Other organisations make this an automatic process, and non-renewal is by an opt-out process. The Board has decided to investigate and trial the introduction of an opt-out membership renewal system.

2. Coupon System for new Amateurs

At the 2015 AGM idea was floated to give all new radio amateurs a period of free WIA membership. After investigation it was considered the administration costs would be too high, and a better way would be to introduce a coupon system allowing free download of the digital edition of AR Magazine for a limited period. The Board decided to move ahead with the development of a coupon system for new radio amateurs, and others.

3. Young Australian's and Amateur Radio

The Board is very keen to progress the issues related to youth education in wireless technologies. The Board resolved to hold a STE(A)M summit later this year.

4. The Committee System

The Board is keen to strengthen the WIA committee system. The following structure was discussed.

1. Each Committee to consist of a responsible Director, and a Committee Leader. 2. Directors to have a reduced day to day involvement except in Committee's dealing with regulatory, financial and administrative issues. 3. Use of permanent committees that act together, or meet regularly, to effect on-going functions or tasks. 4. Use of Advisory groups on an ad-hoc basis to provide advice to the Board. 5. Use of Working groups to study and report on all aspects of a particular issue and make recommendations. 6. Use of Taskforces to work on a single, defined task or activity to be completed within a specified time frame.

5. Financial

The WIA's Financial position at 30th June was presented and discussed. The majority of the WIAs income occurs in the second half of the year, so the half-year results typically show a loss. It was decided that the Board would release interim financial results, with footnotes and explanations, when all financial data was entered by the office.

6. Governance

The Board is selecting suitable governance training courses for Directors.

7. Treasurer

As was the condition of his appointment, the WIAs temporary paid Treasurer finished up at the end of June in order to service his other customers.

The Board is obtaining assistance in producing a position description for a new voluntary Treasurer.

8. ACMA Issues

Two ACMA issues have caused a number of complaints to the WIA office. These are;

1. The ability for anyone to print amateur licenses from the ACMA database, and
2. Licence renewal issues where up to 80 people may be in the not-granted category and unaware that they are unlicensed.

The ACMA responded that an amateur licence is not a recognised identity document and cannot be used for that purpose. The licence renewal issues are being worked through.

9. Unauthorised use of the WIA membership Database – Confidential information

Discussion occurred about the potential for unauthorised use of the WIA membership database, which could contravene the WIA's privacy policy. The meeting believed that no current Board member is aware of any WIA owned confidential information being used in contravention of this policy.

10. Publications and a paper opt-out option for AR Magazine

The Board considered competitive quotations for the production of WIA publications.

At the 2015 AGM about 40% of members present indicated that they prefer the digital edition of AR Magazine, and do not want the paper copy. When specifically asked, most did not expect to receive a membership fee reduction. The board resolved to move ahead with the development of an optional paper edition opt-out for AR magazine. Members who still wish to receive the paper edition will not be affected.

