



Presidents Report

Greetings to all.

As I write this the participants from the WA2008 Safari are just returning home, from initial reports it would seem as though it went extremely well and without major incident. When a safari goes well people will often attribute it to various elements such as the weather and the involvement of the participants etc, in most instances this is true, however to be successful a safari also requires much planning and preparation by the organisers. I am certain that the success of the WA2008 Safari is directly related to the level of effort that Keith Russell, Peter and Judith Gordon have put into this trip, I congratulate them on their success and I hope that they are proud of their efforts. I am sure that we will hear more about this safari.

I would now like to address a matter that I am sure will attract a level of comment and discussion, ABS membership types and fees. Following a review of the ABS constitution, ASIC requirements, taxation and legal implications, it has been decided that only three types of membership are available:

Honorary Life Membership (only available by committee appointment)
Single Membership
Family Membership

Voting rights are restricted to a single vote for each of the Honorary Life and Single Membership and two votes only to a family membership. An ABS Newsletter will be forwarded at each issue to each honorary, single and family membership.

Membership fees I have found are always a contentious issue, it seems strange to me that we spend significant amounts of money to have and enjoy our aircraft yet any mention an increase to membership fees incurs the wrath of the gods. Well as was said to me, "in for a penny, in for a pound". After lengthy discussions and a review of the costs associated with the running of the ABS and the production of the newsletter, it has been decided to increase the annual membership fees to \$200 for a single membership and \$230 for a family membership. Whoa lookout there goes the first stone, before casting any stones or comments please talk to a committee member to get an idea what it actually costs for the ABS to open its doors let alone function. Points to remember;

- 1: Membership fees have remained constant since the last increase in 2000/2001.
- 2: Costs have been continually increasing, particularly in regard to insurances.
- 3: Membership fees do not cover annual operating costs, particularly in relation to the costs of producing the ABS Newsletter.
- 4: The real cost of running the ABS would be much higher without the voluntary effort and expenses of committee and a small number of members.

A review of the ABS constitution has also highlighted the need for a number of small changes to the constitution; these will be released in due course and ratified at an Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) that will precede the ABS Annual General Meeting (AGM) on the 18th Oct in Mallacoota. Following this Newsletter you should receive a notice of EGM and AGM and a Proxy Form should you wish to pass on your vote to another person. Included is a nomination form should you wish to nominate yourself or another ABS member for a committee position, please talk to that person prior to submission so that they can consider the nomination and advise us of their acceptance or rejection of the nomination.

I do hope to see as many members as possible attending the AGM where I am sure there will be much discussion and story telling, I am particularly interested in why Keith Russell was observed rooting around rubbish bins during the recent WA2008 Safari, I do hope that someone can finish this story for me and ABS members.

Until next time, fly well.

Jock Folan, President