



ROYAL NEWCASTLE AERO CLUB

Windsock Tales – #34



RNAC Newsletter for Members – October 2021

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John Tate

RNAC President

Hello Members,

We are all aware "in any phase of flight" near enough is not good enough. Regarding the current COVID-19 pandemic, I suggest to each of us this criterion is what RNAC should apply as and when a return to normal operation begins and proceeds.

Many questions remain without clear answers at this moment, should RNAC insist on full vaccination of anyone who seeks to be in our presence e.g.: aircraft hirers, maintenance providers, students, members and so on.

I thank all staff, who I understand have each achieved or are close to being fully vaccinated. My request of the Board is to apply the same rigor and diligence we try to achieve as pilots to the manner in which RNAC deals with the strong desire to get going again balanced with our community responsibilities. Anything towards a cavalier approach is not good enough.

The Board has been dealing with the constraints and demands generated by the presence of Covid in our midst, members can expect an email in respect of arrangements for the AGM very soon.



Glen Thomson

RNAC Head of Operations / Chief Pilot

Hi Members

To commence with, I hope you and your families are well.

Over the last 18 months it has been difficult for everyone after being in and out lockdown. We have been impacted by Covid-19 for the last 24 months and have been grounded for the last two months; it's had a massive impact on the instructors, staff, and students throughout the aviation industry. But there appears there may be a light at the end of tunnel once the NSW government removes the lockdown restrictions and a firm date has been put into place. We are hoping that we will be returning to full flight operations around mid-October. Our instructors are committed to training high quality, highly skilled, capable, and safe pilots, as many of us have not flown for some months or even longer you may wish to do some pilot recency training with one of our instructors please just call the office to arrange. Just remember CASR Part 61 — Recency of Flight Experience

RNAC has commenced developing safety plans for the recommencement of flying training operations.

Follow the attached link from CASA outlaying COVID-19 advice for the industry which is very helpful.

<https://www.casa.gov.au/about-us/covid-19-advice-industry>

RNAC Operational Update:

When I started at RNAC I said that I intended to return the RNAC flying school to operational environment where a student could complete any endorsement. This enables a pilot to progress from a private pilot to a commercial pilot with the below ratings where the student is prepared for their future aviation career or other personal flying goals.

I am pleased to say I have achieved this goal and now RNAC has the CASA approval to conduct Multi Engine/Single Engine Command or Private Instrument ratings. We have also developed a new Private Pilots theory course that was scheduled to commence prior to the lockdown but now will be commencing early November.

So Safe flying, Glen.





Doug Brooks

RNAC Club Captain

Greetings Members

Just like last year Covid has thrown a few challenges our way. I hope everyone is staying healthy.

This year the club days have been troubled with bad weather and COVID lockdown. Despite all of that we have managed to put on some great club days for members to come along and enjoy. We have had some good times with everyone enjoying whatever challenges we have thrown at them.

We managed to get through two club championship rounds as well as a few fun days. Hopefully we will be able to get in at least one or two more rounds when the lockdown is lifted before the year's end.

I would like to thank everyone who comes along every month, no matter the weather, and help with the setup of the field and with cooking the BBQ after the flying is completed. Special thanks to our fearless instructors who give us their time and support our club days throughout the year.

The club days are for members to come along and enjoy flying with other members, learn new skills, and fine-tune some of the important skills that we have learned previously (for some of us many years ago).



Hopefully the lockdown will be lifted for next month's club day as we are all looking forward to getting back into the air again. I hope to see you all on the third Sunday of the month when club days resume. All members are welcome, new, and old, no matter your skill level, from students through to professional pilots.

Regards

Club Captain

Doug Brooks





Richard Morrissey

RNAC Director

Hello Members,

Just a quick update on some current projects I've been involved with and are happening at the Club right now...

Jack Fahey Office Building

- The carpet has been replaced as well as an upgrade to the air conditioning unit.
- External paint of the Main Office Building will commence early October 2021.

Bellman Hangar

- Replacement of several roof sheets on the Bellman Hangar has started as well as repair and replacement of flashing – this work is targeted to prevent ongoing leaks in roof and protect structural steel work on the corners of the hangar.

Equipment Shed

- An order has been placed for an equipment shed in Hangar A Row on the western side of the airfield.
- This will provide a dedicated area for the tractor, slasher, and other grounds equipment.
- It will also facilitate removal of the two old garden sheds near the Bellman Hangar.

Yanda Hut and Demountable Buildings

- Planning is underway to remove the demountable building as well as the Yanda hut.
- This will eliminate an asbestos hazard as well as ongoing maintenance liabilities and improve aesthetics.

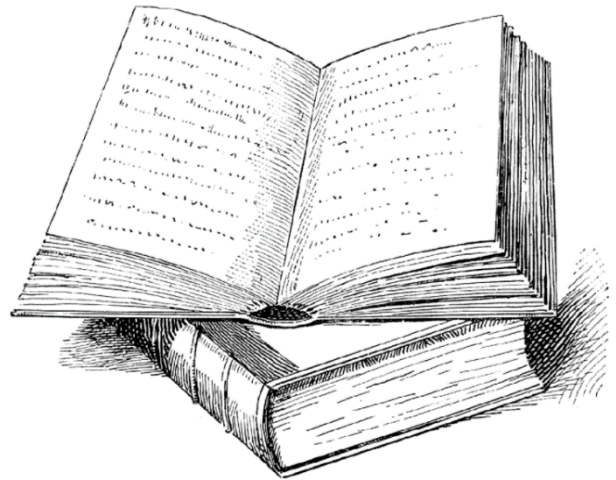


RNAC Articles of Association Amendments

As reported in Windsock Tales #33, the Board is currently undertaking a project to amend several clauses within our current articles. This came about, primarily due to Member feedback regarding the postal limitations associated with the Club's current voting processes.

Windsock Tales #33 Reported...

- Multiple review sessions by the Advisory Team have been undertaken, January → March.
- Consultation with the Club's solicitor, Terry Morgan has taken place, April.
- Initial draft amendments reviewed and a second visit to the solicitor has been scheduled, April → May.



Further to the Above...

- Second visit to the Club's solicitor with multiple phone calls, → May.
- Further meetings of the Advisory Team, Peter Meguyer, Neil Cromarty, and Trevor Bright.
- Further reports to the RNAC Board, → June.

I would hope Members can appreciate that the 1929 legal terminology and the 2021 legal interpretation of this document has created significant difficulties in providing a satisfactory outcome. As a result, with the very best intentions from all parties, the updated, original document fell very short of what we had hoped to be a relatively simple update.

As a direct development of the progress stated above, it's become very clear that the Club's Memorandum and Articles of Association need to be overhauled from start to finish. The RNAC Board, via strong recommendation, has now embarked on this task.

Further progress...

- June, the decision to overhaul the Club's Articles from start to finish was made.
- July, via high recommendation, RNAC engage Fed Co-op to overhaul the document.

Below, an example of what we are dealing with...

CURRENT OBJECT → *Clause 3 (d) To undertake and exercise control of all competitions, sporting events and trials in connection with aeronautics in the state of New South Wales.*

Recommendation → Unachievable: **Delete.**

CURRENT OBJECT → *Clause 3 (f) To establish, promote, or assist in establishing or promoting, and to subscribe to, amalgamate with or become a member of any other company, association, or club whose objects are similar or in part similar to the objects of this Club, or the establishment or promotion of which may be beneficial to this Club. Provided that this Club shall not amalgamate with any other company, association, or club unless they or it shall prohibit the distribution of their or its income and property among their or its members to an extent as least as great as is imposed on the Club under or by virtue of Clause 5 hereof. Provided that no subscription or other money or money's worth be paid to any other such company, association of the Club out of the funds of the club, except bonafide in furtherance of the objects of this Club.*

Recommendation → New wording: **To support aeronautical clubs and associations with similar objects.**

The above examples are just a sample of what is being considered and, of course may change between now and the final recommended document. The current Memorandum contains 26 objects written in a similar way that all require careful consideration.

Progress continues...

- Early-September, Draft-1 document received.
- Mid-September, Draft-2 document received.
- Multiple Zoom meetings have taken place by the Advisory Team.
- RNAC Board, Advisory Team and Fed Co-op are currently working through the latest draft.
- Draft-3 expected this week.



This task is monumental and significant for all Members.

A total RNAC Board commitment...

Collectively, the Board of RNAC is determined to maintain the historical *meaning, core values and intent* of the original document. At the same time, update the document to a 2021 legal and constitutional standard with the addition of some needed and very overdue changes.

So, what happens next...?

The following are the remaining steps anticipated to complete this project...

- The Advisory Team, Fed Co-op, and the RNAC Board need to refine the document to a point of agreement.
- The document will need to be legally checked by the Club's solicitor.
- Final amendments if needed agreed to and applied to the final constitution.
- A formal board resolution will be created.
- RNAC Membership will be notified of the resolution, provided with all the detail regarding the resolution and encouraged to participate in the vote.

Please note → Special resolutions can only be determined via an Annual General Meeting or Extraordinary General Meeting of the Club.

Special resolutions need 75% support of the vote to be adopted.

As you can see, the Board really does need to get it right before the special resolution is put to the Membership. It is also important that as a Club Member, you take this opportunity to vote and be part of this very important and historic development.

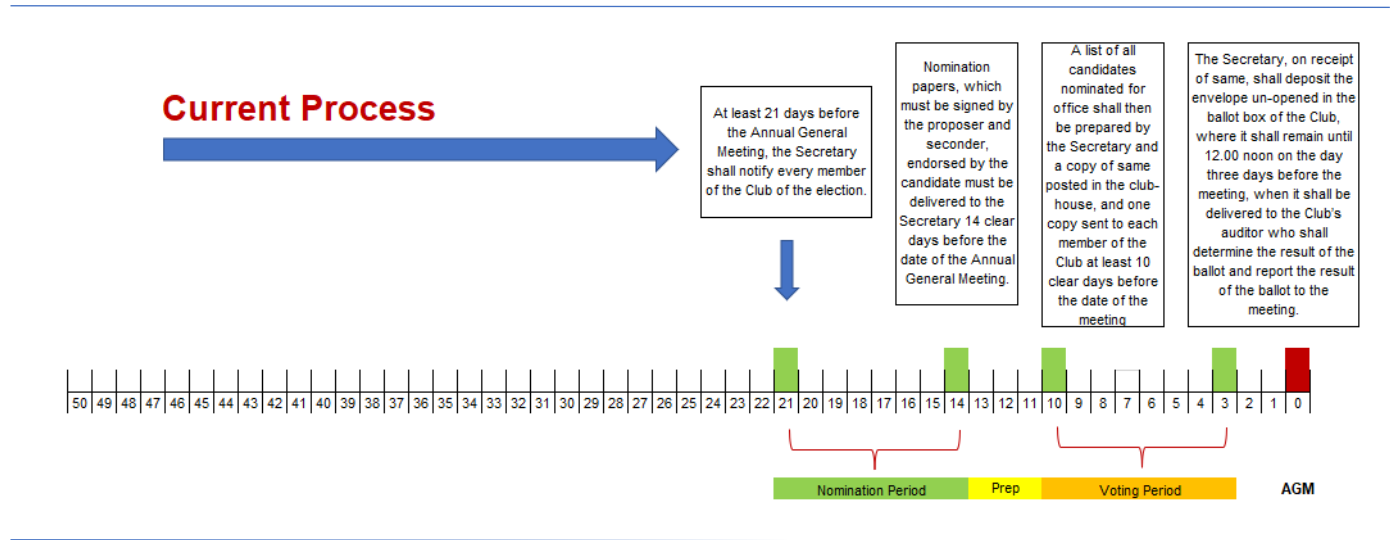
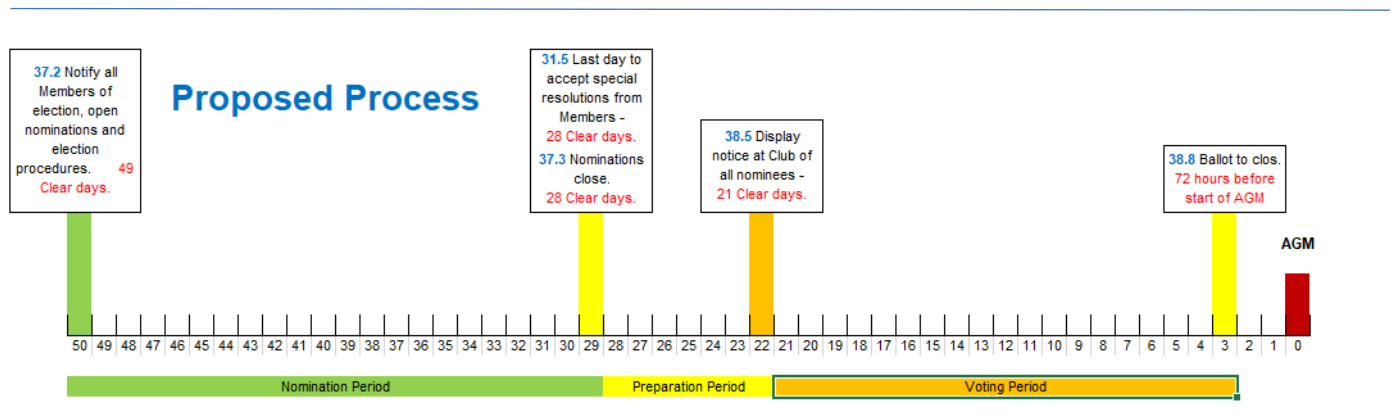


The outcome will plot the course of our club over decades to come.

Preview...

It is important to understand that this is a preview of what the Board is looking at. Changes may occur but I think on this one we are very close.

Below, is a look at the proposed new voting system. It will incorporate both postal and electronic voting. The comparison between what we have now, and what we propose is very clear...



As you can see, we propose a significant extension of time. The new process being more than double the current timeline.

I am also hopeful that preservation for our Tiger Moth, VH-RNI and slight changes to student membership will be added to the new constitution.

Should any Member have concerns or just enquiries, please contact our Business Manager Lyn, via the following email address... Lyn@rnac.com.au

I shall respond...



As a final note...

Being part of the Advisory Team from the beginning, I had a real expectation that this project would be relatively straight forward. I firmly believed that 3 or 4 meetings over several months would be ample time to put in place the required amendments to satisfy the Membership. January to April was my original plan. I was very, very wrong...!!!

This experience has proven that although our 1929 articles have served us very well for over 92 years, they are significantly out of date with current legal, and constitutional standards. This is just a statement of fact. Our Fed Co-op advisor shared with me that although he had updated countless constitutions and articles for other companies and corporations, the oldest dated back to the early 60's. RNAC has now blitzed that record...

Based on the statements above, I can only apologise for the delay. With the very best intentions of completing this task well before this year's AGM, that will not be the case. The 2021, RNAC AGM will need to follow the same rules and timelines as our current article dictate. I am very mindful this may be problematic for some and falls short of the expectations of many Members.

I sincerely hope Members can appreciate the difficulties, the time needed, and the determination within all parties, to get this document correct.

In closing, I can assure everyone, the Advisory Team, Fed Co-op, and the RNAC Board are all doing their very best to deliver a quality document.

Very kind regards, Trevor.



Trevor Bright

RNAC Vice President

PO Box 491

Rutherford NSW 2320

Phone: 02 4932 8888

Royal Newcastle Aero Club

