

NATIONAL ROAD FREIGHTERS ASSOCIATION



380 Alexandra St Parkhurst Qld 4702
Email info.nrfa@gmail.com Web www.nrfa.com.au



March 2018 Newsletter

Dear Members, welcome to our first newsletter of 2018. We have had a dynamic start to the year with **our AGM being held this year in February (due to most people's work commitments it was changed to February each year).**

February 10th 2018 saw the 10th anniversary and AGM of the association celebrated at Toowoomba Qld. The return to Toowoomba was in recognition of where this great association began 10 years ago. The AGM and Saturday night dinner were held at the Toowoomba City Golf Club. And I'll take this opportunity to thank the Toowoomba City Golf Club for such a lovely setting and some fantastic food and service. If you're in Toowoomba and looking for a great meal/venue look no further.

The formal part of the gathering began with Co-founder and chair for the meeting Mick Pattel welcoming everyone. I will take this opportunity to say what a great turn out it was with very healthy numbers and lots of new faces, many old faces and a few who have returned after an absence, welcome back.

- ▶ The current President Tony Hopkins then gave his Presidents Address covering his and the associations movements and achievements since the last AGM.

The President then took questions for a short time.

Mick Pattel then had a talk covering such topics as 'Distance Mass Location' registration scheme and the negative affects this could have on our industry.

Primary Producer rego scheme and its impact on our industry was then spoken about. Mentioned as well was the high number of "farmers" using this scheme to gain an economic advantage from the transport industry.

Secretary George Birkbeck then read minutes from the last AGM.

Peter Whytcross delivered his treasurers report.

Andreas Blahous from the NHVR gave a talk and took questions on EWDs and Personal use exemption.

After a short break for "smoko" we heard from the state MPs that were kind enough to accept our official invitation to attend. It is important to note here that MPs from ALL PARTIES were invited, some chose not to attend. Many thanks to member for Scenic Rim Jon Krause, Member for Condamine Pat Weir, Steve Minnikin MP and Federal MP Bert Van Manen for attending.

We then heard Senator Pauline Hansen talk and had the opportunity as with our MPs to ask questions and to talk 1 on 1 during lunch break. A fantastic opportunity indeed.



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Mobile Ph: 0419600560

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Following lunch the sitting board stepped down and elections took place overseen by Mick Pattel.
President elect Tony Hopkins.
Vice President Gordo Mackinlay.
Secretary George Birkbeck
Treasurer Peter Whytcross.
Membership officer Terrie Bradley.

A full list of board members is below and along with their contact numbers and emails.

I would like to take this opportunity to recognise the outstanding efforts of our former Vice President and membership no 5 Ken Wilkie. Ken has been on board since the very early days of the NRFA as well as being a longtime champion of the trucking industry. I personally am thankful for my involvement with Ken and getting to know him, Ken worked diligently at putting this AGM together, and I think it was the best one I've been to so far, well done and thank you Ken.

The AGM was followed by our dinner and raffle. I would like to thank Brad Webb from Townsville for both his great speech and witty humor. Brad then ran the auction with great success raising over \$3,000 for the association, including a very generous and much appreciated donation from Brad of \$1,000.

Thanks goes to John Gilbert from the NHVR who is a great supporter of our association as well as our AGMs. John, true to form stayed on for the dinner and was keen to catch up with members for a chat. We really are thankful to have this access to the people that help shape our industry.

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Long standing member and Vice President Russ Martin was unable to attend but caught up with some of us Sunday morning for breakfast where he was 'served' with his life membership. Well done Russ and thank you.

If you've read this far thank you, please get involved with the association, the efforts you put in are paid back 10fold in the satisfaction of knowing you are making a difference, not to mention the great friendships you will develop.

Here's to another great year, safe travels, Gordo.

We now have new board members for the coming year and their input will be greatly appreciated thank you to all for coming on board.

Members please feel free to contact any of the board members if you have any concerns.

It was put to a vote that we increase our membership fees from \$100 per year to \$120 per year and this was for the sole reason to make it fair when someone joins mid-year a pro rata can then be charged for the following year as our memberships are due on the 1st of November each year. This was passed unanimously.

Don't forget if you are a financial member and haven't yet taken up our special fuel discount from Caltex please contact George Birkbeck 0414 015677 so he can put you in contact with Caltex.



National Road Freighters Association Inc.

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2018 Board

President: Tony Hopkins tony.h@hopkinsbros.com.au 0419 600560

V/President: Gordon Mackinlay mackinlaytransport@bigpond.com 0407 494582

Secretary: George Birkbeck glenmorehomestead@bigpond.com 0414 015677

Treasurer: Peter Whytcross pwt00@bigpond.com 0427 025591

Qld Delegate: Trevor Warner tbwarner@bigpond.com 0400 508758

Qld Delegate: Geoff Single debbie21@tpg.com.au 0438 791658

Qld Director: Melissa Armstrong
melissa@emeraldrefrigeratedlogistics.com 0412 798124

Qld Director: Col Symonds cl.symonds@bigpond.com 0428 255343

NSW Director: Gordo Mackinlay mackinlaytransport@bigpond.com 0407 494582

NSW Delegate: Rod Hannifey rod@truckright.com.au 0428 120560

Vic Delegate: Glynn Castanelli glyncas@live.com.au 0430 503580

Vic Delegate: Max Hutchins maxwellhutchins@gmail.com 0488 015294

Vic Director: Terry Washington twash1@bigpond.com 0407 403703

Vic Director: Hugh Campbell hughcampbell1964@gmail.com 04515 08077

NT Delegate: Peter Whytcross pwt00@bigpond.com 04270 25591

Membership: Terrie Bradley ajb@netsb.com 0477 391163

Policies: Mick Pattel kpattel2@bigpond.com 0429 413161

Media: Darryl Pedersen pedersentrans@hotmail.com 0458 450640

Contact: NRFA President Tony Hopkins

Mobile Ph: 0419600560