

Poor Governance we can't afford

In light of the recent resignations of Sharon and Hadrian from the GTC committee, I want to express to the committee both my disappointment with this happening in the first place and secondly that we must improve to avoid this happening again.

With the many major decisions we have to make at present, we cannot fail at the committee table on decision making and we must respect the committee's decisions following what I hope is both robust and factual debates.

I make the following observations from my past 2 years as both a member of the executive and committee person:

1. We do not follow the rules of the meeting as set out in 3.8.3 of the constitution where at times we do not provide adequate notice – minimum 48 hours which is to be given by the Secretary. This includes specifying general nature of the business as per 3.8.4
2. Given that we only have an agenda from a text message sent by Rob usually on the day of the meeting, this does not comply with point 1. Secondly given that there is no agenda, members of committee are unable to be prepared prior to the meeting due to the late notice. Thirdly, a standard agenda where there are set standards of reading previous minutes and approving these does not occur. Lastly time allocation to debate is poor allowing other matters to drift to the next meeting – a timeframe of between 4-6 weeks.
3. AGM notice of motions/resolutions that were approved on 28/9/15 now have to be filed with the NSW Fair Trading department 28 days after the resolution was voted on. Has this been done?
4. Now that Hadrian has resigned we have a vacant position for Vice President, a key executive position for the committee.
5. Roles and responsibilities. Whilst I understand that the committee was very much split on the re-surfacing decision of courts 10 & 11, we must adhere to the process. We can discuss further and later the logic and master plan issues behind the decision, however there is a need for due process with the constitution stating:
 - a. 3.5.1 (a) – the President is responsible for upholding the rules of the association at all times and to ensure that all bona fide decisions of properly constituted meetings are implemented.
 - b. 3.5.2 (a-d) states the role of the secretary and what they need to do for general meetings.

In summary we have to get back to the basics in conducting a meeting. Good governance could have avoided the situation we now face, as there is always a structured process to making good decisions. We also need as a committee to put in the hard yards, meaning that if anyone puts up a motion, idea etc. it must be based on facts including costing's, so that we can avoid previous poor decision making, such as placing 3 grass courts next to 2 hard courts, allowing previous operators to have a free run on lease/license options etc.

