



John Castle President

Patron	..	..	Sir Edgar Tanner, Kt., C.B.E., E.D., M.P.
President	..	..	J. A. V. Castle
Honorary Secretary	..	..	A. T. Scotford
Honorary Treasurer	..	..	R. Hails
Chief Measurer	..	..	Bill Dobie
			18 Alma St., Glenelg, S.A. 5045



Tony Scotford, Hon. Secretary

COMMITTEE

E. Storr	D. C. Hardie	S. Tillet
P. Molony	G. Dawson	F. Hammond

LICENCED BUILDERS

A. J. Barclay	..	..	..	..	..	Patawalonga Marine Store, Nth. Glenelg, SA, 5045
M. Barrett	..	..	..	..	..	1/45 Bassett St. West, Mona Vale, NSW, 2103
D. Binks	..	..	..	..	..	29 Byre Ave., Somerton Park, SA, 5044
B. T. Kier	..	..	..	..	..	38 Bardia Ave., Seaford, Vic., 3198
H. G. Lang	..	..	..	..	..	.. Main St., Sorrento, Vic., 3943
G. Martini	..	..	..	..	..	238 Wilsons Rd., Whittington, Vic., 3219

FIREBALL'S HISTORY & DEVELOPMENT IN AUSTRALIA

At the same time as Dick Manson launched the first Australian Fireball early in 1963, in Sydney's Middle Harbour, Edwin Storr in Tasmania, together with a group of sailors, had started building six boats which were to become the start of the newly-formed National Association. Robin Simms helped Edwin Storr in providing the early drive.

Early in 1964 the Vick brothers convinced Sydney boat builder Eddie Brewer to take up the first Fireball building licence in Australia. The Vicks bought his first boat and many more followed, these first being sailed mainly at Bayview on Sydney's Pittwater, but later boats started appearing inland on Lake Keepit 350 miles North West of Sydney, thus starting the remarkable acceptance of the class in inland country areas of N.S.W. and Victoria, over the next three years.

John Castle took an immediate interest in the class and it was his driving force that led to the first Association meeting in Sydney in December, 1964. John became President, and still is, with Harry Vick (the Vick brothers father) taking on the position of Secretary.

In 1965 Tasmania relinquished its National status in favour of that formed in Sydney and during Easter of that year the first major championship was held at Bayview with eight boats competing, and the Vick brothers coming out on top. This went on through 1965 to result in 23 boats contesting the National Series at the end of the year at Sydney's Botany Bay, again with the Vicks winning. At the same time we had our first General Meeting with the administration remaining in the hands of the Castle/Vick combination.

1966 saw the class established in Victoria with its own State Association under the future National Champion Carl Scott. Frankston hosted the Nationals this year with boats from 3 states plus Papua New Guinea—34 boats in all—resulting in a new Champion by way of Peter Moore. This year also saw the first Australian Fireball venture abroad during which Robin Simms came a very creditable tenth in the first Fireball Worlds in England.

The Association continued to establish itself during 1967 with the Nationals in Hobart, a State Association being formed in N.S.W. and Rodney Hails taking over the Secretarial Socks.

The boom came in 1968 at the Bayview Nationals with 50 boats in attendance where a young Moth sailor John Hardie stunned the regulars with an effortless win. By then there were about 150 boats through 5 States with the beginnings of further groups appearing in Adelaide and Queensland. It was at this time that Sir Edgar Tanner consented to become Patron to the Class in Australia. A Constitution was drawn up during the year under the guidance of John Castle and new National Secretary David Wade.

This growth went on through to 1970 with builders being established and a healthy growth rate culminating in a Fireball population of 250. A State Association was formed in South Australia and the constitution was finally approved.

The year 1970 was a memorable one with the class achieving National Status and within months the growth rate had climbed so rapidly to make Fireball the largest International class in the country with a fleet of 430 boats. Thus by the end of 1972 Fireball's 9-year history in Australia should be celebrated with the registration of their 500th International Fireball.