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Victorian Flagmarshalling Team, PO Box 5140, Frankston South VIC 3199



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Abbreviated History of the Victorian Flagmarshalling Team Inc

(summary of information provided by Rae Begg)

Although the VADC (Victorian Amateur Drivers Club) had historically provided flag marshals for CAMS Victorian motor racing circuits, most of the flagmarshals were not members of VADC but from other clubs, such as car clubs, not necessarily affiliated to CAMS. Most of those flagmarshals were only interested in flagging and around 1985, they were informed that to be covered by CAMS insurance, they had to be a member of a CAMS affiliated club before they could become officials.

There had been much talk about becoming a separate club, especially as a similar club had recently been formed in South Australia. During 1985/86 numerous meetings were held to try to work out how flagmarshals in Victoria could become their own entity, including one where representatives from CAMS, the VADC, Benalla Auto Club, Calder Park Raceway, the current Chief Flagmarshal (VADC) and flagmarshals were all in attendance. Following this meeting a special meeting of all flagmarshals was held, the purpose of which was to discuss the possible formation of an independent flag marshalling association in Victoria, or whether to remain as a sub-committee of the VADC.

Two presentations generated extensive discussion about possible advantages and disadvantages for both cases. At the conclusion of discussions a motion was put:

“That the members present vote on the formation of the Victorian Flag Marshalling Team Association as an independent body”.

The motion was seconded and carried. A vote by ballot was then taken and the motion was carried unanimously.

A Steering Committee was then elected to set up a meeting of all flag marshals to elect a formal committee and establish the Victorian Flag Marshalling Team Association (the word Association was later dropped.)

A lot of work was done before the inaugural meeting with many people involved in negotiations with promoters and further planning. This inaugural meeting was held on 30th July 1986 chaired by the late Neil Thompson and the inaugural committee was elected as follows:

<i>President:</i>	<i>Roger Chirnside</i>
<i>Vice President:</i>	<i>Keith Alexander</i>
<i>Secretary:</i>	<i>Mike Stansbury</i>
<i>Treasurer:</i>	<i>Barry Petersen</i>
<i>General Committee:</i>	<i>Paul Renn – Grade 2 representative</i>
	<i>Lance Jenner – Grade 3 representative</i>



Victorian Flagmarshalling Team – 30 years old

A very successful evening was held on Saturday 4 June 2016 to celebrate 30 years of the Victorian Flagmarshalling Team – 1986-2016. The venue was the Beach Hotel in Beaconsfield Parade, Albert Park where members, past and present, the Patron and Sponsors all met for an evening of reminiscing, with a few presentations and speeches taking place during the evening. A slideshow showing members at events over the years ran continuously throughout the evening and with decorations, a bit of finger food and drinks added to the mix, the party atmosphere made for a very enjoyable evening for all those who attended (list at the end of the magazine).





Our Patron & Sponsors – having their say



George Hetrel – Patron



Ian Tate – Sponsor VHRR



Margaret & Jon Dymond – Sponsor Penrite

Presentations to 30 year members:



Alan Krahe



Robert "Chooka" Farrell



Damian Petrie



Mike & Gloria Shallcross



Roger Chirnside



Ray & Rae Begg

Life Memberships were also presented to:

Rae & Ray Begg

Damian Petrie

Gloria & Mike Shallcross

adding to the list of existing Life Members:

Keith Alexander
Robert Farrell
Terry O'Callaghan
Barry Petersen [dec]

Paul Cansdale
Sue Jochheim
Kevin Redman
Neil Thompson [dec]

Roger Chirnside
Alan Krahe
Eric Rigg



Congratulations!

Please pass on to all of your Officials, our congratulations on the VFT reaching 30 Years of Service to motor sport. From all of your friends at SAMROA over here in Adelaide.

Paul Bonnett, SAMROA Secretary

Editor's note: The VFT would like to thank SAMROA for their kind and thoughtful wishes – very much appreciated.

30 Years VFT Celebration.

4 June 2016.

What a good night to celebrate 30 years of VFT and well done to the people that put in the work to make the event happen.

The weather on the night was not the best but at least it was Flagging indoors rather than flagging trackside as we do for our club events, this was very pleasing. How great it was to catch up with members from early days and talk about how we used to commit to attend meetings and rough it for the weekend and have so much fun. So be it a beer or 2 ?

To see the photo slide show run all night on the screen and admire the tracks and people from the past and how easy it was. No politics just getting the job done as a volunteer. As I talked to members through the night it was disappointing to hear that some have stepped aside from being active trackside, because of decisions made trackside at events and criticism of the volunteer CAMS official.

As volunteers, it is my understanding that we should discuss our actions, we should think how it may have been done better and maybe give a pat on the back for making any decision at all so we as part of a Team improve and be happy in our roles for CAMS.

The VFT should congratulate all its members from 5, 10, 15 and up to 30 years membership and well done to the club.

The "Famous Hat" was not seen all night.

What a great cake, what a good night.

Regards **A. Steuart VFT**



Early days.....



Rod Gorfine & ???



????



Robert Sheather & Kevin Whitehead



Julie Johnson, Gin Fuller,
Mike Stansbury & Noel Gelling



Ray Begg, Peter Husband,
????? & Andrew Stuchberry



Russell Begg, Di Sloley,
????? & Roger Sloley



????
????? and Andrew Pappas



Roger Chirnside &
Barry Petersen



Ron Fuller, ??? Bruce??
John Arnoldt & Toby Keogh



Over the years.....





Reproduction of the VFT's first ever newsletter

VICTORIAN FLAGMARSHALLING TEAM ASSOCIATION INC.

Newsletter

August 1986

Association address for all correspondence (except newsletter items)

66 Lower Heidelberg Road

IVANHOE

Editorial

Yes folks it has now happened, the Victorian Flag Marshalling Team Inc. is now up and running and we hope with the full support of all members and those with a genuine interest in improving the standard of flagmarshalling in Victoria.

A certain driver of a certain Blue, Red and White Commodore was heard in a passing comment some time ago, it was in other states you need all the mirrors (rear vision) you can get. But in Victoria you could drive without mirrors if you wanted to. I think a comment of this nature gives rise to the claim that our standard is high, but let's not rest on our laurels, (she might get sore) the standard can be improved and we should all strive to better ourselves to really substantiate that certain driver's comment.

Anyway 'nough said on that subject. We are a going concern as those present at our inaugural meeting will know there is a positive committee with a positive outlook to the future.

All committee members have made a commitment to team development and will give their best effort. But this effort will be wasted without your support. If you have a problem or you believe you are getting a "raw" deal, speak up, tell someone on the committee, backbiting rumours and innuendoes almost put flagging out of business as we know it, that is out of club level into the hands of promoters and organisers. It must never be allowed to develop to that "almost" situation again.

As I said before, enough "rubarb" from me. But as Editor, I write the editorial and as a flaggee of some years standing I felt something needed to be said.

This newsletter I hope will keep you informed during the "off" months between meetings.

All special notices, flagging dates and where, possible social get-togethers etc. will all be listed plus any items of interest which come up. However if you want to have your say in print then do so. All contributions will be gratefully received and will not be subject to censorship, however profanities, insults and general rudeness will not be published.

This newsletter will again hit the word-processor in October around the 15th or 16th so if you have any articles to contribute please give me at the closest race meeting (A.G.P. also) to that date or post to my home at:

"Wintamist"
7 Garden St.,
Cockatoo. Vic. 3781

So until next time,

Good flagging.

Paul.



..2..

Your Elected Committee

PRESIDENT - Roger Chirnside - Phone No. 437-1809
VICE PRESIDENT &
PUBLIC OFFICER - Keith Alexander - Phone No. 579-5010
SECRETARY - Mike Stansbury - Phone No. 437-1809
TREASURER - Barry Petersen - Phone No. 786-0369

COMMITTEE

- Paul Renn - Phone No. 059 688874
- Lance Jenner - Phone No.
CHIEF
FLAGMARSHALL - Alan Krahe - Phone No. 723-4644

(P.S. Alan has been elected as an Honorary Life Member to the Association in recognition of his many years of service to flagging.)

In addition to the above committee, three other positions have also been filled. Barry Petersen will continue as Assistant Chief and Chief at Calder. Peter Husband and Russell Begg have been appointed as "Assistant Chief Flagmarshalls-in-Training", a role which they will fill admirably. Rod Gorphine has been appointed Training Officer and will be responsible for looking after Driver Evaluations and new recruits.

Membership

At the first committee meeting it was agreed that an interim period be set so that it allows flagmarshalls who have yet to join the Association, time to evaluate and consider. This period is fixed to February 18th, 1987 (A.G.M. date). After that any non-members will no longer be regarded as active flag marshalls. They will be excluded from team lists to promoters, and the enforcement of this provision will be discussed with C.A.M.S. Also any non-financed members will be taken off the mailing list after this date - NO MORE NEWSLETTERS.

New Recruits

All new recruits who come into the time will be allowed an adjustment period to see if flagging is really their "bag". This period of time will be at the training committee's discretion, however early membership will be encouraged.

The Future

Meetings of the committee will be held monthly unless special meetings are required. General Meetings will be held on a bi-monthly basis, alternating with the newsletter. Future meeting dates for all members will be advised as soon as confirmed. However, make a note of these dates as tentative General Meetings, 16th September, 19th November and 18th February 1987 - A.G.M.

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Indemnity Forms

The issue of signing Indemnity Forms at Calder is one which is causing concern to both ourselves and the fire marshalls. The committee has endorsed discussions with the senior fire marshalls to work out a combined strategy for tackling the problem. As news becomes available we will keep you informed.

Flagging Dates (as at August 22nd and subject to cancellation or re-arrangement).

August 30th-31st	- Winton
September 13th-14th	- Sandown - Castrol 500
" 20th-21st	- Winton - Six Hour
October 5th	- Bathurst - If your going
October 11th-12th	- Winton - State Races (11 am Start)
" 18th-19th	- Calder
" 25th-26th	- Adelaide - Aust. Grand Prix.
November 15th-16th	- Winton (Question Mark on this one)
" 29th-30th	- Calder
December 6th	- Driver Evaluation - Calder

...3.. (Cont'd)

Please where possible make yourself available for every meeting you can.

We realise that most people cannot get to every meeting and others for various reasons can only make it on one day. All that's fine but make the effort. Every race meeting needs flaggies not just the "biggies" at Calder and Sandown. If your having problems being available, talk to the Chiefs, I'm sure something can be worked out.

However most importantly:

RING EITHER ALAN OR BARRY AND LET THEM KNOW IF YOU'RE GOING, AT LEAST THE WEEK BEFORE. IF YOU DON'T AND YOU SHOW UP OUT OF THE PERVERBIAL BLUE DON'T EXPECT THE TOP CORNERS. - seems reasonable.

"Behind The Guardrail" - by Bin 'dere, dun 'dat.

Like any group of individuals our team has its share of characters. So this little segment will allow us all to share some of the "lighter and embarrassing" moments of flagging and motor sport.

If you want to put someone in go ahead do it, anonymity of the contributor will be assured, however please give an accurate description of the event or individual concerned so we can all give them "heaps" next time we see them.

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Anyway this editions opening tit-bit concerns a much travelled individual who whilst in a European country for a famous 24 hour race (not Belgium), ate a little too much of the local bread (so he says), anyway the chain reaction of the bread, a drive through the Alps and various liquid refreshments were all too much for the lower guttural region, because whilst stopped at a local post office (that's what he said), a sudden urge to talk about natural gas overcome him and in the ensuing discussions apparently succeeded in almost clearing out the post office of people not letters. However some stamps were seen to be curling on the letters. Ah! the strength of all and as they say the truth is stranger than fiction.

A Letter From The President

Now that all the ill feeling and inuendo has finally been laid to rest, it is time to get on with the job of flagging , the job we do best. Politicians argue, not enthusiasts.

The ever present question of insurance is becoming more than just a problem. Officials are being told to sign papers, or they will not be allowed to officiate. One wonders how many people sign with the "it won't happen to me" attitude. An acceptable solution is going to have to be found and quickly, otherwise motorsport will be the loser with experienced personnel unwilling to risk their lives. It's alright for someone from afar to decide, but it's the people who are in the thick of things that should have the maximum protection and peace of mine.

Roger Chirnside.

PRESIDENT



Presentation by the then Chief Flagmarshal, Roger Chirnside to Alan Krahe and Robert "Chooka" Farrell at Winton in 2002 for 40 years of marshalling



Then and now!



And through the years.....20th Anniversary:





And other events:





More from the 30th Anniversary night





Those who attended the 30 year celebration:

First Name	Surname	First Name	Surname
Rebecca	Armstrong	Kreston	Mahoney
Simon	Baston	Ray	Malviste
Rae	Begg	Garry	McArdle
Ray	Begg	Paul	Meade
Zoe	Butteriss	Darren	Millett
Joy	Chirnside	Richard	Millott
Roger	Chirnside	Terry	O'Callaghan
Arthur	Cooksley	Tim	Oh
Jenny	Creet	Mario	Pacifici
Harold	Dreher	Sharon	Pacifici
Jon	Dymond	Paula	Petersen
Margaret	Dymond	Damien	Petrie
Merril	Edward	Thelma	Petrie
Robert	Farrell	John	Pollard
Anthony	Filippousis	Michael	Rasmussen
Sarah	Filippousis	Julie	Redman
Trevor	Franks	Kevin	Redman
Paul	Freeman	Eric	Rigg
William	Gaff	Caroline	Rochester
Noel	Gelling	Glenn	Rochester
Rhonda	Gelling	Shane	Rogers
Warren	Gordon + Paula	Doug	Salan
John	Grist	Robert	Salan + Larissa
John	Haywood	Tanya	Salan
George	Hetrel	Gloria	Shallcross
Pat	Hetrel	Mike	Shallcross
Judy	Hill	Lyn	Stansbury
Brayden	Hogan	Mike	Stansbury
Ian	Hogan	Alan	Steuart
Lisa	Howard	Di	Sweet
Christine	Humphries	Paul	Sweet
David	Humphries	Dorothy	Tate
Robin	Hutton	Ian	Tate
Karl	Jochheim	Kaye	Thatcher + Judy
Sue	Jochheim	Ray	Thatcher
Geoff	Kay	Mark	Thompson
Paul	Kelly	David	Thornbury
Alan	Krahe	Paul	Van Leeuwen
Julio	LaMonica	Colleen	Walker
Daryl	Lindsay	Paul	Warren
Judy	Lindsay	Jenny	Watson
Brian	Mackey	John	Watson
John	Mahoney	Kevin	Watson



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