

The Victorian Flagmarshalling Team

News

P/P 100005100



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News and information

March 2018

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George Hetrel – Club Patron

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



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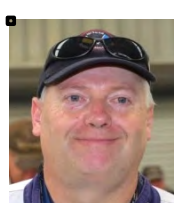
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Grade 4/5 Rep
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grade4@vicflag.org.au

2018 VFT Training Committee



Training Officer
Michael Poole



Arthur
Cooksley



Natalie
Daish



William
Gaff



Glenn
Rochester



Tony
van den
Dungen

2018 VFT Induction Team (TBA)

To Be Finalised

Disclaimer: Readers are reminded that opinions expressed in the Victorian Flagmarshalling Team News are not necessarily those of the Editor, VFT or its officers. Articles are published in good faith and no responsibility will be accepted. Readers are also reminded that certain parts of the magazine are protected by copyright.

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VFT Life Members

Keith Alexander
Ray Begg
Rae Begg
Paul Cansdale
Roger Chirnside
Robert Farrell
Sue Jochheim
Alan Krahe
Mike Murphy
Terry O'Callaghan
Damian Petrie
Kevin Redman
Eric Rigg
Gloria Shallcross
Mike Shallcross
Barry Petersen [dec]
Neil Thompson [dec]

New Members

Welcome to our new members:
Steven Becker [returning],
Stephen Fall,
Giovanna Mawson,
John Mulholland,
Peter Laurie,
Jessica Leonard and
Vivek Prahbaker.

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This month's cover picture shows award winners at the VFT AGM in February 2018.

Reminder – General Meeting – Thursday 5 April 2018

Don't forget to come along to the next general meeting and support the club – details as follows:

- MG Car Club rooms
Unit 53 & 54
Eastern Business Centre
41-49 Norcal Road
Nunawading
- Time: 8:00pm



A Word or Two

At the recent Annual General Meeting on 8 February 2018 it was somewhat disappointing to note the lack of expressions of interest concerning members wishing to fulfil roles on the various committees and sub committees of our club. This display of apathy seems to have reached plague proportions resulting in virtually nobody being interested with the future running of the club. Our team is no different from many others inasmuch as we have a select group who constantly strive to criticise and find fault with the efforts of those who wish to see the team go forward.



There are still jobs available, such as the Training Committee and, just as importantly, the Induction Team. These positions are not onerous. Even two or three people who think they could help would make a difference. So – how about it? Give it some thought. Support your club.

For a number of years, the club has included a Grade 3/3A and a Grade 4/5 representative. These people are charged with the job of dealing with members' concerns or points of view, and either satisfactorily resolving any issues that may arise, or tabling them at a Committee meeting for further discussion. Unfortunately, over the years, it has become patently obvious that members are not availing themselves of the opportunity of talking to their grade representative.

Our club's Committee has a new look for season 2018, with several new faces and major changes. We welcome Paul Meade back on committee once again as the Grade 3/3A Rep and Zoe Butteriss as Grade 4/5 Rep, also Michael Poole has stepped into the position of Training Officer. Changes include David Thornbury occupying the Treasurer's role and Mark Thompson becoming Vice President. I thank all these people for their commitment and I look forward to a productive year. I know I can count on members support for this new Committee.

Roger Chirnside
President
Victorian Flagmarshalling Team, Inc.

The AGM and Presentations



*Karen Legg
Noel Barr Club Person of the Year*



*John Clarke – Neil Thompson Memorial
Award for most attendances*



*Greg Hardy –
Stillwell Motor Group
Encouragement Award*



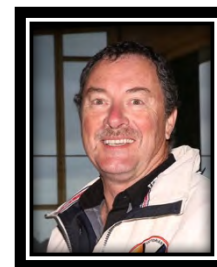
Matt Cornford – President's Award

Other awards for whom recipients were not present:
Barry Petersen Memorial Award for Flagmarshal of the Year – Don Johnson
Patron's Award – Nevil Thatcher



Flag One Reporting

Firstly, I would like to thank the new Committee for appointing me as Chief Flagmarshal for another year. It is certainly an honour and a privilege to oversee the trackside operations of such a dedicated team who continue to be the benchmark that others aspire to reach.



By the time this edition of the magazine is published, we will have blown off the cobwebs with the first of our calendared meetings; being the VSCRC1 Sandown meeting, and possibly the Island Classic. In compiling the respective names and placement lists for these meetings, I was delighted to see so many new trainees commencing their first days, as well as trainees who commenced in 2017 and were returning to complete their training. I would encourage all of our members to make our trainees feel welcome, and provide them with the training, support and camaraderie that we all appreciated when we first joined the team.

March is shaping up as one of our busier months, with the VSCRC1 and Island Classic meetings lining up with the AGP and, for those travelling to Adelaide, the Adelaide 500. It is also looking to be a fairly warm month, so the new polo shirts are sure to be a feature at the flagpoints. The warm weather also reminds us of the need to keep hydration levels up, and to slip, slop, slap. For those still looking to purchase one of the polo shirts, Jason Carroll will be taking orders and should have a number of shirts at each meeting available for purchase. A big thanks go to Jason for his tireless efforts in getting the polo shirt program off the ground.

Looking further ahead, the registrations for the Phillip Island 400 (V8's) will be coming out shortly, and I would like to remind all those who submit their registrations on the Supercars volunteers website to also email me of your attendance and numbers of days you can attend.

Many thanks go to those super-organised members who have emailed me with their meeting attendances for virtually the whole year. I think that at this stage, it is a toss-up between Justin Parrant and Lloyd Owen for the title of "Mr Organised". I would dearly love to learn the secret, but as they say "you can't teach an old dog new tricks".

I look forward to catching up with everyone at our next race meeting. As per usual arrangements, please email, phone or text me to the contacts below.

To get your name onto a list, members can:

- Email me at chief@vicflag.org.au,
- Call or text me on 0406036714, or
- Add your name to the lists available at each meeting.

Catch you at the track,

Arthur Cooksley
Chief Flagmarshal
Victorian Flagmarshalling Team



Grade 3/3A Report

Well another year is about to get underway and I've decided to put my hand up again to sit on the Committee as your Grade 3 rep. As we haven't had any events yet, I have nothing to report but what I would like to say is that I'm here to take any of your concerns, positive comments or suggestions forward. Just remember to keep your eyes on the calendar and get your names on the lists early to help the chiefs out with supplying numbers to the promoters.



Also, please be aware that if you do try and call or email and I don't respond to you straight away, I'm in a very bad area for mobile calls and Wi-Fi. I promise, I'm not screening calls.

See you at the track.

Paul Meade
Grade 3 Rep
0425 882 387

A few words from Garry Rogers

The Victorian Flagmarshalling Team,

To all you guys and girls I have meaning to drop you a line for so long to commend you all on your energy and efforts that you put into motorsport for the betterment of the teams, drivers and the public, without you people none of this activity will occur and I often feel a little guilty that I cannot do more with attending the after race get together and similar that you have throughout the year.

Best wishes to you all and do not hesitate to visit our pits at any stage, introduce yourselves and say hello.

Garry Rogers,

Garry Rogers Motorsport

From the Editor

Many thanks to all contributors to this magazine.

Please remember articles for the May edition are due 24th April – magazine@vicflag.org.au - Joy Chirnside



Photos in this magazine appear courtesy of Revved Photography, Will Gaff, David Thornbury, Joy Chirnside, Trevor Jackson, Marion Smith.



We still need another hero ...you'll love this!

QUOTE: *'The greatest legacy one can pass on to one's children and grandchildren is not money or other material things accumulated in one's life, but rather a legacy of character, courage, perseverance and faith'* Dr Billy Graham



The great writer Ernest Hemingway said, *'As you get older it is harder to have heroes, but heroes are necessary'*. I find that's true. Age does not diminish the need for heroes, they just become harder to find, because we need to now step up and be that hero. Our children, especially when they are younger, look up to us as heroes and we as parents, also need heroes and mentors to draw strength and wisdom, when needed. King Solomon said, *'Iron sharpens iron, like one will sharpen another.'*

The word hero is known to almost everyone and if one was asked to give an example, the list could range from people we envy to those we awe from heroic act. Yet, if you ask people to define the word, there are very few who would give the right meaning. As a kid, my hero was Superman; he did stuff that nobody else could do. However, a person does not become a hero because of their occupation or what they do. Rather, a hero in general terms is a person who takes a bold step that requires courage, bravery and a kind heart, and is normally done for or to others (Goins).

In order to understand the definition of a hero, it is important to note what makes a hero.

First, a hero isn't someone doing their occupation, an athlete, movie stars, even lifesaving jobs like a doctor. A doctor's work is to save lives, thus, when they do this, it is what we expect of them. But, if this doctor saves a drowning child from a river, they become a hero. That act of bravery and courage shows a loving heart for the little one, and drove them to take the bold step to rescue the child.

Second point, heroes don't only do acts such as saving a life. Rather, heroes do acts of kindness, like the sacrifices that parents make for the welfare of their children. It is not surprising to see parents working so, so hard to provide for their children, and put the other needs before their own. Character traits of a hero include bravery, kindness, humility, being dependable and tolerant as well as patient, intentional, dedicated, loyal, selfless, showing perseverance, valour, and endurance without knowing the ending.

Heroes are people that take on a journey with many challenges, but manage to overcome them to achieve the best outcome. Many can in such situations give up and turn back. However, heroes persist on despite the challenges and difficulties. Heroes are ordinary people who push through difficult situations, they suppress fears and take on courage and refuse to give up.

Anybody can be a hero, they don't need to be famous, it's not a job. Heroes show up anywhere and their acts of heroism have a way of making a lasting difference in another's life.

Billy Graham was called a hero, a friend, a confidant and influenced presidents, kings, queens and world leaders for over six decades. He passed away at age 99 in February this year. Wikipedia says Dr Graham reached 215 million people through person to person preaching and 2.5 billion through TV and radio. Billy Graham spoke into more people's lives in person than anyone in history.

God help us to do our best and have the sensitivity to be the hero to as many of those who we have opportunity to do so. Stare down your fears and be that difference. We still need another hero!

Doin' life with you. Cheers, Mark Bateman 0412 151 121



Merchandise

The 2018 Merchandise Officer is Jason Carroll.

To order merchandising you can see Jason at the track or

Email: merchandise@vicflag.org.au or Mob: **0422 314 223**



For overalls and jackets allow 4-6 weeks as these are not stock items.

VFT Merchandise

Item	Price
Overalls	\$220
Winter Jacket	\$90
Overall Jacket	\$175
Bag	\$30
Plastic pouches	\$2
Bucket Cap	\$12
Polo shirt (White)	\$25
Cap	\$10
Beanie	\$10
Internal/External stickers	\$2
25th Anniversary medallion	\$20

Keep this date free – Sunday 9 December 2018

The 2018 VFT Christmas Party will be held again at Como Gardens, home of our Patron, George Hetrel and his wife Pat, on Sunday 9 December 2018. This is always a great family day, so make sure to keep the date free and come along for a great social outing in wonderful surroundings.



Loneliness makes the heart grow fonder: the unfortunate art of missing out on being involved in motorsport

Richard Millott

Watching the last minutes tick down of the Bathurst 12 Hour that I had watched all day with the focus of a Tibetan monk, something hit home for me. It wasn't as subtle as a suspension-damaging glance of an Audi R8 through The Dipper, but more of a sudden realisation akin to a tyre failure in The Chase or an epiphany like Senna at Monaco: I didn't have any more beer in the fridge...

Oh, and also a form of FOMO relating to a sport I have been passionate about for more days than I've had hot meals. I hadn't been to a motorsport event in so long, and it was starting to get to me...

Whilst the prospect of living a daily trackside life is tempting (cue the smirk of giving my mobile phone carrier a black flag, or an Unsportsmanlike Flag to all the bills arriving in my mailbox on lap-record pace), the sad thing is that it just isn't feasible. Luckily I'm in a field where I can attend events for both work and for pleasure, albeit not always in a motorsport capacity. With event work however, the year's allocation of weekends disappear quicker than a Hot Dog at Sports Sedan round to the stage I looked at calendar dates past with horror.

The last motorsport event I attended was the Sandown 500, and even then, that was in spectator mode. Whilst on the wrong side of the fence, seeing the delight on the face of my two and a half year-old Godson that a field of Supercars in full flight could bring to someone who didn't yet appreciate the skills and talents on show made the experience worthwhile. Then again, the opportunity to hang banter* on Paul Meade at FP5.5 was also a cause to make a day without flags in my hand worthwhile (* Note: Banter is a substituted word...).

One of my last occasions with fabric in hand was in July. Whilst trackside, enjoying the lovely serving of a winter's day on a circuit located on a Melbourne rain belt, I was able to enjoy the latest display of state-level motorsport, including the resurgence of a familiar sight to me. Nic Jones' Formula Vee, the car that I came rather close with during my motorsport course as we kept seeking improvements and maintaining it in the ultra-competitive Formula Vee class. Now sporting a Purple/Black scheme, improvements have been found under the hood as Nic now enjoys the sights of the front of the field. Nic even finished 2nd in the Formula Vee Nationals at Phillip Island last November, an occasion I would love to have been there for to help out and enjoy.

Alas, commitments would see that I couldn't be. The winds of work have kept me busy since September. Melbourne Cup Carnival requires the commitment like that shown from Greg Murphy in his Lap of the Gods, so weekends were off the cards September to November as we handled a horsepower of a different kind. Days later, I found myself reading Auto Action on a flight towards the party location otherwise known as the Gold Coast for my next project – planning for a small multi-national, multi-sport event being held in April called the Commonwealth Games.

Life looks strange when you take motorsport out of it and redefine the idea that what you are seeing is "normality", especially around a street circuit like Surfers Paradise. Peak hour traffic and trams roll past the painted grid spots and palm trees which are fed into people's living rooms in late October. Cars parked on a 45 degree angle all day in places where pit crews service cars quicker than it takes to read this sentence. Beach-goers skip across the road with surfboards under their arms in places where cars skip across kerbs avoiding concrete walls. We're not in Kansas anymore, Toto...

Even a weekend escape further north to Townsville couldn't hide the itch that needed to be scratched. Catching up with mates, we paired off at the local Coles to "borrow" a few shopping trolleys to ride in as we pushed around the Reid Park track making feeble attempts at impersonating the noises of the machines that grace the northern Queensland venue in July, before celebrating



with our podium involving a XXXX shower. And yes, just like a Safety Car, the trolleys went back to their home too...

The closing laps of the 12 Hour on the TV confirmed the worst for me after so long away from a track: I was suffocating from either a lack of oxygen or motorsport, and, given the availability of oxygen available in the world, it was obvious that I need to get back trackside.

Actually, not just trackside. Sign-on too. The chance to rock up at silly-o'clock in the morning and see friendly faces alive on the promise of a solid show of action and fun in whatever conditions the day brought. The chance for a camera flash to blind me before I've had a chance to find out where the sugar is hidden inside my Macca's coffee, or for it to take effect (these make the best Facebook profile pictures!). The chance to catch up with the motorsport family at a home away from home...

Then there is the on track aspect. Watching every single thing that makes up a race, instead of only what a production team wants to filter from trackside cameras into a telecast. Making judgement calls on what is genuine bravery behind the wheel and what demonstrates ambition exceeding ability. Strategic gambles from team bosses that would make some of the wealthiest of casino high-rollers blush with cowardice. The struggle between man, machine, the elements and time itself, all clouded with the uncertainty of competitiveness and mechanical durability.

It's quite the show that's on offer to all – I can't wait to get home to watch the next episode live!

VFT General Meeting Minutes

Victorian Flagmarshalling Team Inc. – February 2018 General Meeting

**General Meeting Minutes
8 February 2018, 9:31pm
MG Car Club
53/41-49 Norcal Rd, Nunawading**

Members Present: 39 Members.

Apologies: Richard Millott, Terry O'Callaghan, Bryan O'Reilly, Brian Mackey, Robin Wood, Gary McArdle, Michael Poole, Warren Gordon, Doug Salan, Rebecca Armstrong, Lloyd Owen, Trish Storey, Michael Murphy and country, interstate and international members.

Minutes from the previous meeting (10 December 2017): Moved: Simon Baston, seconded: Matt Hardy that the minutes be accepted. Carried

Matters Arising:

Nil

1 General Business:

- 1.1 John Clarke puts forward a motion that the summer uniform shirts are subsidised in bands based on the number of events attended in 2017.

David Thornbury suggests that while it is a great idea for the club do something that recognises people's attendance, having already promoted the price for a number or months and many sales made already the ship has sailed. Eric Rigg and Mario Pacifici also speak against the motion

Moved: John Clarke, seconded: Karen Legg that the club subsidise summer uniform shirts based on 2017 attendance. Motion defeated.

Meeting Closed: 9:45pm

Next Meeting: General Meeting, 8pm 5 April 2018 at the MG Car Club



In action (or inaction) at:

Bathurst 12 hour



Sandown VSCRC Rd 1





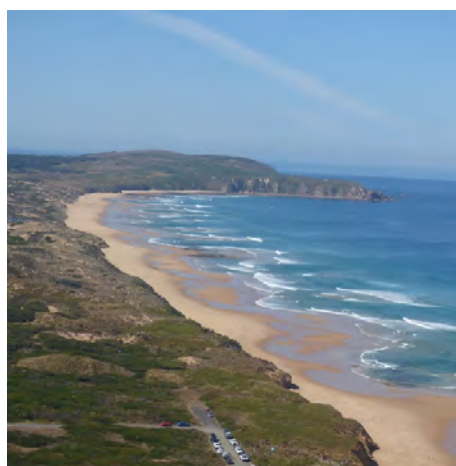
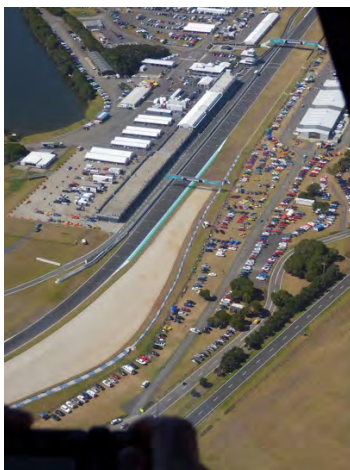
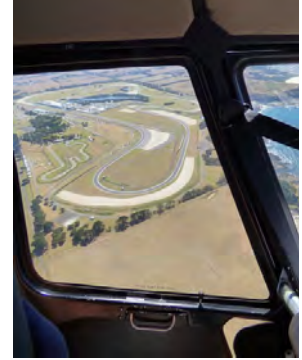
Phillip Island Classic





Phillip Island from a different view – Joy Chirnside

As one of the UK Marshals staying with us this year happened to have a 70th birthday a couple of days after the Phillip Island Classic, Roger and I decided to surprise him with a quick helicopter flight over the circuit whilst racing was taking place during the weekend of the Classic. So, on the Saturday morning, under a clear blue sky, a couple of us whisked Trevor Jackson away from his post at 12.5 and led him, at that stage, to an unknown destination! Here are some of the views we had:



Needless to say, Trevor was pretty impressed with the whole deal and the views of the circuit and the island on such a beautiful day were stunning!



2018 Calendar		
3-4 March	Sandown	VSCRC 1
9-11 March	Phillip Island	Island Classic
22-25 March	Albert Park	F1 AGP, not a VFT event
20-22 April	Phillip Island	V8's Phillip island 400
29 April	Sandown	Porsche 6 Hour
5-6 May	Phillip Island	VSCRC 2
11-13 May	Sandown	Shannons Nationals
18-20 May	Winton	V8's Winton 400
26-27 May	Winton	Historic Winton
1-3 June	Phillip Island	Shannons Nationals
16-17 June	Winton	VSCRC 3
23-24 June	Phillip Island	Multi Club [closed Meeting]
21-22 July	Sandown	VSCRC 4
28-29 July	Phillip Island	Vic 6 Hour Relay
4-5 August	Winton	Festival of Speed
18-19 August	Phillip Island	August Access
1-2 September	Winton	Shannons Nationals
14-16 September	Sandown	Sandown 500
29-30 September	Phillip Island	VSCRC 5
13-14 October	Winton	AROCA 12 Hour Relay
9-11 November	Sandown	Sandown Historics
24-25 November	Phillip Island	Island Magic
9 December	Como Gardens, The Basin	VFT Christmas Party

Expressions of interest to attend any events must be conveyed to the Chief Flagmarshal via any of the following 4 ways:

- The VFT Club Phone : **03 8796 5321**
- The VFT Club Mobile: **0409 823 657**
- Email: chief@vicflag.org.au
- In person, **trackside or at club meetings**

Please DO NOT use Social Media for expressions of interest!



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