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News and information

March 2023



They do say motor racing is dangerous! One thing marshals need to learn is how to run – fast!!

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Ninad
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2023 VFT Induction Team



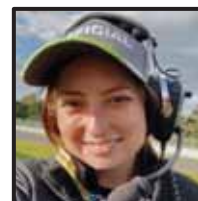
Patrick Harding
Coordinator



Glenn
Rochester



Ninad
Kavi



Gemma
Ladgrove



Tim
Goodall

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VFT Life Members

Keith Alexander	Alan Krahe
Michael Arnott	Terry O'Callaghan
Damian Petrie	Kevin Redman
Ray Begg	Eric Rigg
Rae Begg	Mike Shallcross
Paul Cansdale	Paul Warren
Roger Chirnside	Mike Murphy (dec)
Robert Farrell	Barry Petersen [dec]
William Gaff	Gloria Shallcross (dec)
Sue Jochheim	Neil Thompson [dec]
George Hetrel (Honorary Life Member)	
Pat Hetrel (Honorary Life Member)	

*Cover Picture:
A close shave for marshals at Thruxton, UK*

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Reminder – General Meeting – 6 April 2023

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

- MG Car Club Rooms AND on-line
- Unit 53 & 54
Eastern Business Centre
41-49 Norcal Road
Nunawading
- Meeting time: 7:30pm

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A Word from the Prez



As we head forward into 2023, I am honoured to be representing the VFT as president and am looking forward to working with you all over the next 12 months. The new committee is a great blend of experienced and new members with great ideas to build our club into the strong unit we know it can be.

A couple of initiatives for 2023 have already been discussed at committee and we are looking forward to implementing them. We are always happy to get feedback for ways we can continue to improve our club.

Discussions with Murray Stevens brought up that some members are unable to chat informally with committee members as they used to when we met at a pub. Members of the committee who had been involved with our leaving the pub meetings to go to the MG rooms believed the pubs were not pleased with us staying late and not drinking much.

We feel that having committee members available at the MG Clubrooms or via a virtual link 30 minutes prior to the General Meetings will further open channels for communication. We are looking forward to organising some informal pub nights on those months where there is not much racing going on, so team members can get together and chat informally.

Grade 1 and 2 members, traditionally we have not had a dedicated “rep” for you. This year Rocky and I hope we can be that conduit – if you have any issues or concerns, please let us know. To get to a Silver or Gold level you will have a vast range of experience, and your input is always welcome, as are your skills in training and assessing. We look forward to seeing you trackside.

We are working towards having an open and honest committee, and as such, as outlined in the constitution, general members are welcome to attend the committee meetings. Obviously not everyone at once, and privacy prevails for sensitive items relating to a range of issues. Happy to have you dial in or in person, and observe. This would need to be arranged beforehand. This could benefit anyone who is thinking about going for a committee position in the future, or just interested in how it all works.

Please, if anyone has issues with anything VFT related, please email committee@vicflag.org.au or president@vicflag.org.au or any of the committee members. We can't fix a problem if we don't know about it. Catching up at race meetings works as well, but please do follow up with an email where possible, as we are all busy at events, and something mentioned in passing can sometimes be forgotten.

Huge congratulations go out to two of our members recognised for their efforts at the Victorian Motorsports Awards. Service awards were received by Mario Pacifici and Mark Thompson, and Victorian Motorsport Official of the Year went to Mark Thompson. Thank you both for all you have done for the sport and our club.

A fantastic evening was had by all at our inaugural awards event, and I am looking forward to tweaking this to create an annual event extraordinaire. Many thanks go to the organising committee lead by Glenn Rochester ably assisted by Meg Boers, Roger and Joy Chirnside, all working behind the scenes to make the magic happen.

I am looking forward to a great year ahead where we continue to build and strengthen the team.

See you at the track

Suzanne

Suzanne Arnott

President

president@vicflag.org.au



Vice President's Report



Hi everybody.

It's a great feeling being on the committee again in 2023, albeit this time in a different capacity. I look forward to representing you all to the best of my ability.

My main role as Vice President will be to support Suz in her role. I have the utmost respect for the club, its members, the hierarchy, and what we do. The club has given me such enjoyment over the last 12 years, and I am grateful that I am in a position to be able to give a little back again.

One of the things Suz and I, and the committee as a group, wish to achieve, (amongst a few goals), is to provide a club atmosphere for all members that is respectful and inclusive. Members need to be able feel safe and welcomed, and together the committee hopes to foster this.

I'm looking forward to working with the Training Committee and Induction Team to make this club even better and bigger than it already is. We welcome ideas and concepts to discuss with the committee, so bring all you have to the table.

That's all for now, see you trackside soon.

Rocky.

Rocky

Together
Everyone
Achieves
More



Welcome to New Members

It would seem that some of our newer members missed out on being welcomed in the VFT magazine, so apologies to those who should have been welcomed through last year and are now included below.

Peter Austin
John Booker (returning member)
Chris Houghton-Allen
Timothy Lack
Marietta Landgraf
Sreya Prashul Kumar
Robert Williams

John Beck
Steven Clasby (returning member)
Antonino Inferrera
Gemma Ladgrove
Rick Ling
Rose Spizzica (nee Streatfield)
Teilor Woolford



Chief Flagmarshal Report

I'd like to open my report this month by thanking the committee for appointing me as Chief for 2023. It's a huge honour, and I am really excited to be able to support the club.



Last year, Mark and I functioned as Co-Chiefs so as to share the experience and the workload. This year, we are welcoming Kevin Watson back into the fold to share the Chief duties at events. I'm sure most of you already know Kevin, but for those who don't, he brings a wealth of experience to the team as a 20+ year veteran of the club, including time as both a Chief and former President. We are hoping to have someone else on board, but discussions are continuing at this stage.

In addition to our Chiefs, we are again looking to share the Assistant Chief role amongst our members. We have a couple of people we will be working with early in the year to help them gain experience towards their upgrades, but are keen to provide the opportunity to anyone who is interested. Even if you don't have a long term ambition to volunteer in a senior role, doing an event as an Assistant Chief will give you some valuable insight into the planning that goes into an event, as well as a view behind the scenes on the race weekend. I have the view that the more of these sorts of experiences we can provide to our members, the stronger the club will be as a whole.

So, if anyone is interested in doing an event as Assistant Chief, please let me know so we can slot you into the calendar.

Our first race event of the season has run. Thanks to everyone who supported the club at VSCRC Rd 1. Having heard from the senior officials and category reps at the event, they were all very appreciative of our efforts. Particularly for those who were there Friday in the extreme heat! A job well done by all.

Our upcoming events are as follows. You can register on the website unless it is noted otherwise.

PIARC March Access - 4-5 March – Phillip Island

VHRR Island Classic - 9-12 March – Phillip Island (register on Better Impact)

Porsche Sandown 360 - 19 March – Sandown

VSCRC 2 - 21-23 April – Winton

Speed Series Round 3 (formally Shannons Nationals) - 12-14 May – Phillip Island

Looking forward to seeing you all trackside soon!

Regards

David.

David Thornbury

Chief Flagmarshal

chief@vicflag.org.au



VFT Chief's BBQ





Grade 3/Induction Co-ordinator Report

Hi everyone,

It's a great honour to be your new grade 3 representative for 2023. This year's motorsport calendar looks to be a very busy one with the club officiating at 6 different circuits this year!

We had a good number of grade 3s turn up at our first race meeting of the year which brought good weather and decent racing. Hopefully as people get back into the routine of attending events, we may see our numbers increase.

It was also good to see a number of trainees come along as well and this is where your role as a grade 3 becomes important to the club in terms of training these new guys coming through and demonstrating good flag marshal skills.

Should any grade 3s have any issues, please let me know by phone, email or even trackside and we can have a chat.

Cheers

Patrick Harding
Grade 3 Rep/Induction Coordinator





Grade 4/5 Report

Hi everyone,

I'm excited to take on the Grade 4/5 Representative role on the 2023 committee and represent the largest cohort of marshals within the club. Firstly, I would like to thank the outgoing Grade 4/5 rep Patrick for having done a stellar job the past few years in this role and setting a high bar.



For those that I haven't had a chance to meet yet during my relatively short time at the VFT, I began my marshalling journey as a track marshal at the 2022 Australian Grand Prix. I was instantly hooked and wanted to be a part of the action so I joined the VFT in June 2022 with my first event being a cold and wet Ford Club day at Sandown. Having had many fabulous days trackside since, I look forward to giving back to the VFT community and supporting our members as best I can in my role this year.

It was great to see a strong turnout of our Grade 4 & 5 at our first event of the year, especially those who were able to assist in the trying weather conditions on Friday. We hope to see more of you all over the coming year at some very exciting events and supporting the sport we all adore!

Well done to Mario Mohorko (right) for receiving an upgrade to Grade 4 at our first event of 2023, great way to start the year!



We look forward to supporting all our trainees through their 10-day training period and upgrade to Grade 4. Likewise, if you would like to upgrade to Grade 3, Patrick & I are available to support you through that process.

As always, if you have any questions, comments or concerns please do not hesitate to reach out to me via Facebook, email or phone.

Cheers,

Ninad Kavi
Grade 4/5 Rep
0405254652 | ninad.kavi@vicflag.org.au

From the Editor

Many thanks once again to those members who have submitted articles and made the magazine that bit more interesting. Thank you also to all of you who have recently sent so many photos. As there have been too many to put in the magazine, hopefully there will be a spot on the VFT website for them to be placed, to be seen by all members.

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

Joy Chirnside

Photos in this magazine appear courtesy of: Suzanne Arnott, Meg Boers, Roger Chirnside, Paul Freeman, Patrick Harding, Luke Hingeley, Paul Meade, Revved Photography, Glenn Rochester, Mark Thompson, David Thornbury, Roger Townley



Merchandise Report

For any merchandising orders or questions, you can email me: merchandise@vicflag.org.au or ring me on mob: **0434 533 097**



GRADE LANYARDS

As some of you will have seen at the last few race meetings, we have launched our new VFT Grade Lanyards (pictured). If you haven't yet received your grade lanyard, please come and see me at the next event.

The grade lanyards are a FREE item for members.

Club Bag \$30

Hoodie \$50

Club Cap \$15

Grade Lanyard Free!

25 Yr Medallion \$20

Long Sleeve Polo Shirt \$20 (Backview both shirts) Short Sleeve Polo Shirt \$20

Hat Pin \$5

Looking forward to seeing you all at the track! (even if I am spectating for a while)

Meg Boers
Merchandise Officer



2022 Victorian Flagmarshalling Team Awards Night

*Jason's Restaurant at Bradford Estate Winery
11th February 2023*

Hi members,

I hope you're all well and looking forward to the year ahead. It's looking jam packed with motorsport goodness. The VSCRC Round 1 will have been done and dusted by the time this goes to print. For those who attended, I hope you had a great time.

I wanted to put a small piece together about our Awards Night held on 11th February in Upper Beaconsfield. What a great night. Seven awards to present, (more on that soon), service awards, Member of the Month presentations, Grade 4 presentations, and lots of give aways.



From the feedback received on the night and the days following the night, the troops had a wonderful evening. The venue was fabulous, the food plentiful and top-notch grub, the wines were stellar, the weather couldn't have been better, and the company unsurpassed.

We opened the doors at 6:00pm and guests began arriving right on time. We all received our door prize tickets upon registration and were met by venue staff who fetched us our desired drinks. Members took a stroll through the pristine gardens and had a wander out onto the deck. Roger and Suz opened the evening with some housekeeping and a welcome speech.



Food was handed around from about 6:15pm and kept coming all night. Spinach and buffalo mozzarella arancini balls, mini quiches, battered fish with French fries, wagyu beef burger sliders, fried calamari, and these little mini mousse tartlet things that were divine. I might have missed some food items here, sorry.



We began the ceremonial part of the night with the two door prizes. A \$150 dinner voucher for Jason’s restaurant, and a mixed half a dozen wines from the Bradford Estate Winery. Congratulations to Murray Stevens and Hannah Holloway.

We then moved on to Member of the Month for two members that were unable to receive them back when they were decided.

Congratulations Rose Spizzica and Meg Boers.



Murray – dinner voucher



Hannah – wines



Next were service awards – 35 year certificates to Paul Warren and Roger Chirnside.



We drew a few raffle items next, and a big congratulations to all our winners. I won squat. Diddley. Nada.

We presented our awards next. The list of recipients will follow, but I want to let you all know that the committee had such a great group of members to pick from, that we had to discuss the winners at length for quite a while. It’s a shame we couldn’t present more awards, because we really did have some fantastic members to select from.

- The Neil Thompson Memorial Award for Attendance – Geoff Kay
- The Roger Chirnside Rookie of the Year Award – Ninad Kavi
- The Stillwell Motor Group Encouragement award – Tim Goodall



Geoff – Attendance Award



Ninad – Rookie of the Year Award



Tim – Stillwell Encouragement Award



After more food and wine, we pulled a few more raffle prizes for members. Congratulations to all the winners.

Leanne Ferrier turned up at about 8:45pm and Roger began to interview her in what I thought was a great 45 minutes. Leanne spoke of her racing career starting from when she was just 13 years old. Roger and Leanne bantered on for a while and eventually brought the interview to a close. Then members fired some questions to Leanne who was very receptive of the questions, and in depth with her responses. I'd like to thank Roger very much for hosting the interview, and Leanne for so generously giving her time to the Club on a Saturday evening. It really was a great segment.



Lastly, we followed with our final awards. The big bangers. Again, the committee had a struggle to decide the recipients of these awards, because honestly, there are just so many possible deserving recipients.

- The Noel Barr Club Person of the Year Award – Simon Baston
- Patron's Award – Chris Sullivan
- President's Award – Glenn Rochester
- (And the BIG one) – The Barry Petersen Flag Marshal of the Year – Tanya Salan



Glenn – President's Award

I think (and hope) I can speak on behalf of the committee of 2022, and the members of the club, when I say congratulations to all the awards recipients. They're all well deserved. Your contribution to the club is appreciated and recognised.

I'd like to take a moment to thank all the organisers of the night.

- **Suz.** Thanks for your digital presence in promoting the event and creating the invitations. They looked great and it's a testament to your creative skills. Also, thank you for collecting the gift for Leanne which was presented to her at the end of the night.
- **Meg.** Thank you for arranging with the Venue the menu for the night. The food was simply lovely. Also, thanks for the photo booth which I believe was a great success.
- **Joy.** Thank you for the photo booth accessories. The booth looked amazing. Also thank you for running the registration and raffle tickets.
- **Patrick.** Thank for running around to help collect prizes for the raffles. Some of the collection spots were closer to you than to me, so thanks again. The Club really appreciates it.
- **Andy.** Thanks to you for keeping track of registrations and the square device on the night.
- **John.** Thanks for taking good care of the financial side of things. It beats me how you do it. I can't get my head around your role, and have the utmost respect for your efforts.
- **Roger.** Thank you for MCing for the night. You bring a sense of calm to the (or any) crowd when you speak. Thanks again.

My mum used to say (after an argument with my brother) "You can choose your friends, but not your family". Well, this last few years has proved her wrong (sorry mum). The VFT family I choose. And some of you have become my friends as well. It was a great experience organising the awards night, and I look forward to helping who ever puts their hand up to run it next year.

Finally, from me, a huge congratulations to the recipients of the awards. They were well deserved and earned. To those that missed out on a raffle prize, you should have bought more tickets.

Rocky
Vice President



Wedding of a VFT Member – Paul Meade

On Saturday 11th February 2023 at Deoro by the Bay in Hastings, I married my best friend, Leanne, with Mark Bateman performing the ceremony. With about 80 guests, we had about 20 officials attend.

The sun shone on a crystal clear day and everything went perfectly.

Becky and Loz Hind were the photographers and did a fantastic job and Bryce Crawford supplied his beautiful FJ – Leanne had to roll up in a Holden.

Simon Baston and Tanya Salan were guests, only to find out later that they had won VFT awards (and missed out on the Awards Night!).



Award Presentations – Sandown VSCRC Rd 1



(Editor's Note: So, now you know why some of the trophies were presented at Sandown instead of at the Awards Night as the recipients were guests at a wedding!!)

Tanya Salan receiving the Barry Petersen Flagmarshal of the Year Award



Simon Baston receiving the Noel Barr Club Person of the Year Award



Chris Sullivan receiving the Patron's Award

Formula Ford Driving Experience

Patrick Harding



On Saturday 25th February I ventured out to the Wodonga TAFE driver training complex to do 20 laps in a Formula Ford 1600 car with the Anglo Racing Academy Team.

I was quite anxious on the drive up as this would be the first time I would drive a manual car outside of a supermarket carpark and first time in a proper open wheeled race car!

I arrived at their facility and was taken in for a drivers' briefing which talked about basic car control, flag rules (this one was easy for me!) and what to do if there is an incident on track.

We then got

shown around the cockpit of one of the cars where we got shown how to change gears, pedal layout and seat belts etc. The last part of our training was to be taken on 2 orientation laps in a road car to see what lines we should be taking and where our braking points were.

I finally got strapped in for my first session of 10 laps. I spent the first few laps just getting a feel of the car and knowing how much braking I needed to do through the corners. I unfortunately made a few mistakes during this session though. My instructor looked at me wide eyed and told me "you did that entire session in 2nd gear! Not 3rd!" I thought that I might have killed the gearbox or something like that but luckily the car was fine.

After handing the car over to another driver that was doing the same package as me, I got some more advice from the instructor who showed me where 3rd gear should be and what rev limits it should be at.

I strapped back in for my 2nd set of 10 laps and after struggling for 2 laps I finally found 3rd gear properly and was able to drive the car properly and really push it!



I was very happy at the end of the session and was pleased with how I went. It was an interesting insight to see how the drivers in such cars like the Formula Ford are strapped in and how low they sit in the car. Yet still had some decent vision of the track and surrounds. There was also a 2 seater Formula Ford that was driven by a professional which made a very loud noise and would zip past us so much quicker. The joke during the drivers' briefing was that if we could overtake the 2-seater we could be hired by the team!

Overall, I was very happy with the experience. The team at Anglo Racing Academy were nothing but professional in running the day and helping you get the most out of the car.

I highly recommend people give it a go as it's an amazing experience to drive a race car and see what it's like from a driver's perspective.



Roman Holiday

Paul Freeman

My wife Lyn and I were recently lucky enough to spend ten days in Rome and included here are a few holiday snaps. What a fantastic place it is; so much to see. We didn't drive a car there – you can't compete with the taxi drivers. They are all graduates of the Max Verstappen school of driving and their ability to brake late into a corner would make Daniel Ricciardo go pale. But if you choose a central hotel just about everything you want to see is within walking distance.

Apart from revisiting a few old favourites, I had researched some interesting spots that we had not seen before. There are several paintings by Caravaggio that are freely accessible in churches. While many artists painted scenes that are "nice," Caravaggio painted gritty, warts and all studies. Even to the untrained eye such as mine, his works are standouts. He was also a murderer, but I guess we all have our faults.



Bramante's Tempietto

Another sight new to us was a beautiful little temple by Bramante. It is a perfectly proportioned building with a dome; surrounded by columns. He used it as a practice run for his bigger project, St Peter's Basilica in the Vatican. Bramante's Tempietto is near the top of the Janiculum hill.

The other thing you can't help noticing up there is that the army fires a large cannon every day on the dot of midday. Apparently, Pope Pius IX was unhappy with the church bells all ringing at the wrong time, and decreed that the cannon would act as a timekeeper. It's quite loud. If you are anywhere over that side of Rome you know when it's midday. Your ears usually stop ringing by about 12.30!

Perhaps the highlight of our new (to us) discoveries was the Basilica San Clemente. It's easy to find, not too far from the Colosseum. At street level stands the current 12th century church which contains lovely frescos and mosaic work. The ceiling is Baroque, redone a mere 400 years ago. About 150 years ago someone did some excavation, and discovered the original church of San Clemente, which dates from about 400AD, directly underneath. More beautiful frescos that are well over a thousand years old. But wait, there's more! Underneath the 1600 year old church is a 2000 year old Roman villa, complete with spring, and a temple to the god Mithras. It's a triple layer cake of history and it's all available to enjoy.



Pantheon – and no sign of it falling down after 2000 years!



Pantheon interior – the oculus is nearly nine metres across



Moses by Caravaggio



Church of Sant'Ignazio Fresco

We attended a concert of opera arias at the church of St Paul Inside the Wall (not to be confused with the other St Paul Outside the Wall.) At the end of the concert a young man led his girlfriend out in front of the audience, got down on his knee, and proposed to her. This sort of thing apparently happens quite frequently in Rome. There were tears, and that was only in the audience! We all went home relieved and happy because she said yes.



Wedding proposal!



Also, during our stay, my wife Lyn went on a self guided tiramisu assessment tour of Rome, which she enjoyed very much. For those interested the winner was Alfredo alla Scrofa at Via Della Scrofa 104, not far from Piazza Navona. All this in a city full of friendly Italians where you can eat spaghetti every day! I can't wait to get back.

Paul Freeman



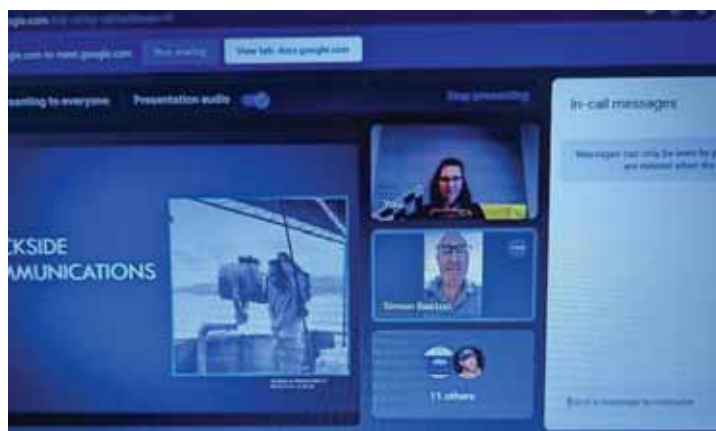
2000 year old Roman Forum



Waiting for coffee in Piazza della Rotondo!

Virtual Training Sessions

Another successful Virtual Training session was held on 2nd March. Watch out for dates of further training sessions throughout the year and register to attend.





Do What You Can and let Him Do What You Can't, ...you're gonna love this

Song, 'He's Got the Whole World in His Hands' is a traditional African-American work song, first published in 1927. It became an international pop hit in 1957–58 in a recording by English singer Laurie London, and it has been recorded by many other singers and choirs.



I can picture this song being sung as workers toiled in the fields through the long hard days. What I find comforting is that no matter what circumstances being faced by these workers, they did what they needed to do and trusted that he who holds their lives in his hands would do what they could not achieve.

None of us can control what is going on each day and you may not think you can control anything in your life and become stressed out by that thought alone. But there's good news. You can control some things in your life. Do these five things that you can control every day; and see what happens.

ATTITUDE - your attitude can either set you up for a day of good times or a day full of fear, failure, and defeat. All you have to do is choose which path you want to take. Wake up fearful of each day or wake up with the confidence that you can get on and do what you need to do with power and strength from above.

THOUGHTS - Your thoughts will form words that can make or break your day too. You can control what comes out of your mouth just by stopping to think about what you say before you say something. Think about how your words will affect others regardless of the way you say it. Whether it's out loud or through a text message to a friend or family member or through an email to your boss. Anything you say can change your life from that instant on. Your words affect not only you but the people around you too. Are you looking for favour or itching for a fight.

ACTIONS - All you can do in your life is try your best at everything and forget the rest. Your actions towards something that challenges you is what builds your character. You can either give up or keep trying. No matter how challenging something is, you can make it through. Even if you end up failing at something or if something doesn't go your way, at least you'll know you tried your best and learnt some valuable lessons. Actions become second nature to you and you will bounce back on your feet.

REACTIONS - to enjoy your life. Everything in life can be better if you go looking for the good. Try to see the beauty in everything. Even though there are days where you can be stressed out, you can still feel that the goodness of your life will have influence. Make the effort to spend time and ponder through your day with a heaven's got my back approach. After all, if you aim high and miss by a little, you will have a great day. Our manners always matter. Sure, there are days where you don't want to be friendly to people and just don't want to be nice. But remember, just because of how you may be feeling doesn't give you the right to be rude to your family and friends or your co-workers or your boss. Remember your words can come back and haunt you so always be careful about what you say. You could end up hurting yourself, your career and your friendships if you don't mind your manners. Manners are born out of you planning to run your day, reactions allow someone else to ruin today.

EXPECTATIONS – some stay right away from expectations, that way they will never have to face disappointment. I'm a farm boy, we would sow a crop into the ground not knowing what the future would bring, but we expected to see a harvest, if we didn't give up. We would get up in the morning and plan our day irrespective of how we felt. Get going and act out your thoughts. Every farmer will watch for the stages of the crop beginning to grow and expectations matures when the fruit of your labours brings in a great reward. Have great expectations!

Whenever you do not think there are things you can control in your life, remember these five. Also remember, you do not have to control everything. He has got the whole world in his hands.

Doin' life together, Cheers.

Chaplain Mark Bateman

0412 151 121



In Action (or Inaction)

VSCRC Rd 1 Sandown





Luke Hingeley spotted Luke Grech-Combo's improved production category car when he was leaving Sandown circuit and was "thanked for doing what we do as flag Marshals, staying out there all weekend so they can go racing".

(Ed: it's nice to be acknowledged)

Phillip Island Access



Phillip Island Classic









Victorian State Awards – Congratulations are in order!

Motorsport Australia recently held the Victorian State Awards night, with Victoria celebrating the best of the best from 2022. The event was presented by Shannons Insurance, and was held at their auction house containing an exquisite display of cars for auction.

The online virtual presentation, hosted by Cameron van den Dungen, was held to recognise all the winners from the state’s championships and series, as well as highlighting a number of individuals for their work on and off the track.



Among the 2022 Victorian Award winners were two VFT members, with Mario Pacifici and Mark Thompson both receiving Service Awards, and in addition Mark Thompson being awarded the Victorian Official of the Year Award for his ever-present commitment to the VFT since 2004.

Recipients who were in attendance were able to receive their awards personally, so Mark was able to receive both on the night.



Service Award Recipient, Mario Pacifici. (Photo: Revved Photography)

More Presentations



New Pres Suz receiving the President badge from ex Pres Roger



Michael Poole (L) and Shane Rogers receiving Grade 2 upgrades



Peter Austin receiving Grade 4 Upgrade and starter kit



Glenn Morgan receiving his 30yr Service Award



Minutes of the VFT February General Meeting 2023

Victorian Flagmarshalling Team Inc. – February 2023 General Meeting

General Meeting Minutes
2 February 2023, 7:30pm
MG Car Club and Online (Google Meet)

Members present: 27 members present and 13 online

Apologies: Warren Gordon, Mark Thompson, Robin Wood, Matt Hardy, Michelle Clewett, Michael Clewett, Bryce Crawford

Welcome:

Roger Chirnside welcomes members to the meeting.

1 Presentations:

- 1.1 Anthony Filippousis, 15 year membership
- 1.2 Kevin Watson, 20 year membership

Minutes from the previous General meeting (8th December 2022):

Moved: Kevin Watson, seconded: Paul Freeman, that the minutes be accepted. Carried.

2 Matters Arising:

- 2.1 John Grist makes a statement regarding point 16.17; he would like to know why his suggestion to have an indigenous theme for the membership card was derided. Mr Grist also points out that his question at the previous meeting was regarding having photos on the cards and that the minutes were incorrect. The secretary will publish a correction in the next magazine (*see Sec note at end of Mins*).

Reports:

3 President:

- 3.1 The President is overwhelmed with the work that a number of people have been doing both on and off the circuit to further the ideals of the club.

4 Vice President:

- 4.1 The Vice President remarks on the number of new members over the previous year.
- 4.2 The Vice President thanks Glenn Rochester, Meg Boers, and Joy Chirnside for working on the awards night. It is the realisation of a plan that previous committees had wanted to do.
- 4.3 Additionally, the Vice President thanks Glenn Rochester for running the Bunnings sausage sizzle which generated nearly \$4500.
- 4.4 The Vice President notes the focus on training and highlights the virtual training initiative.
- 4.5 The Vice President thanks Roger Chirnside for his contribution to the committee and the club.

5 Secretary:

- 5.1 The Secretary thanks members and the committee for their support over the previous year.
- 5.2 The Secretary reports that the membership cards have been designed and a test run done and new cards will be distributed at events this year.
- 5.3 There are 23 membership renewals which are currently outstanding.
- 5.4 The Secretary reports that the club will be doing a reconciliation of the club's membership database with details held by Motorsport Australia.

6 Treasurer:

- 6.1 The Treasurer refers to the end of year financial report which has been passed by the auditor; the Secretary will lodge the annual statement with consumer affairs. The Treasurer reports on healthy track fees and sponsorship income. The club currently has a net worth of \$90,000, made up of \$57,000 cash, plus stock, the trailer, flags, a laptop, camera equipment, and a card printer.



- 6.2 So far in 2023, the club has made \$1182 net profit.
- 6.3 John Grist queries the figures in the magazine regarding the proceeds from the Sausage Sizzle; the Treasurer notes the correct figure is in his report. Mr Grist also asks about whether a non-profit organisation can raise funds in this way. The Treasurer confirms that it can. Marg Hardy clarifies that the money is fundraising income, not revenue.
- 6.4 Payments to be passed:
- | | | |
|-------------------------|-------|----------------------------------|
| • Corporate Printers | \$68 | January magazine |
| • Roger & Joy Chirnside | \$240 | Sausages for Bunnings BBQ |
| • Glenn Rochester | \$5 | Raffle tickets for awards night |
| • Howard Shearing | \$90 | Picture framing for awards night |
| • Bayside SMSF Pty Ltd | \$495 | Audit of 2022 financial accounts |
- Moved: John Grist, seconded: Geoff Kay that payments are passed. Carried.
- 6.5 John Pollard reads a statement explaining why he is not standing for the committee in 2023 and outlines areas he thinks the committee can improve.
- 6.6 Murray Stevens attempts to ask a question. The President makes a comment to which both Mr Stevens and Marg Hardy take exception. Mr Stevens does not proceed with his question and excuses himself from the meeting for a short time.
- 7 Chief Flag Marshal:**
- 7.1 The Chief Flag Marshal provides a summary of the year where there were 18 new members who were retained and there were positive attitudes trackside.
- 7.2 The Chief Flag Marshal thanks the 2022 committee, the Training Officer, and Training Committee. He also thanks all members who attended events trackside.
- 7.3 The Chief Flag Marshal notes that the Chief and Assistant Chief at race meetings was rotated regularly and a number of people went up to Race Control during the year.
- 7.4 The next two events are the VSCRC round 1 and the Phillip Island Classic. Registration for both is on Better Impact for registration. Thursday for the Phillip Island Classic needs more people. The following event will be the Porsche 6 hour with registration on the club website.
- 8 Assistant Chief Flag Marshal:**
- 8.1 The Secretary reads a report from the Assistant Chief Flag Marshal in which he thanks David Thornbury for his support. The Assistant Chief Flag Marshal has been encouraged to see how many new members have come on board which is a testimony to both the Training Officer & Induction Officer and their committees. The Assistant Chief Flag Marshal thanks the committee for their support and inclusion throughout the year, there have been a few rough patches but nonetheless a good working group.
- 9 Training Officer:**
- 9.1 The Training Officer thanks the MG Car Club for use of their rooms and thanks the Training Committee. There have been 25 new trainees with 18 retained as regular attendees. Some of the trainees have achieved their grade 4.
- 9.2 The Training Officer congratulates a number of members who were upgraded during the year.
- 9.3 The Training Officer reports that the ten day training form has been revamped and is proving to be successful.
- 9.4 Marg Hardy and Tony van den Dungen congratulate the Training Officer on the retention number. Geoff Kay reports on interstate officials who have commented on how well the club's members operate trackside.
- 10 Motorsport Australia Rep:**
- 10.1 The Motorsport Australia Rep reports that the next state council meeting will be on the 7th February.
- 10.2 Scott Long advises that he has not put in an expression of interest for the 2023 committee and thanks all members for allowing him to represent them.
- 11 Grade 3 Rep:**
- 11.1 The Grade 3 rep reports that there has been no feedback or concerns from Grade 3s.



11.2 Michael Arnott reports that he is not standing for the 2023 committee for the grade 3 representative as his intention was always to step up until a new representative was found.

12 Grade 4/5 Rep:

12.1 The Grade 4/5 rep reports that there are 53 grade 4 members and 18 grade 5 members.

12.2 Patrick Harding reports that he is standing for Grade 3 representative in 2023 and gives a vote of confidence to the incoming Grade 4/5 rep.

13 Induction:

13.1 The Induction Coordinator reports on a good year for new trainees. A number have come from Seek Volunteer, and from the Grand Prix. He thanks everyone who has assisted with induction.

14 Merchandise:

14.1 No report

15 Magazine:

15.1 The editor thanks everyone who has submitted items for the magazine throughout the year and encourages further submissions, especially from those visiting Bathurst. The deadline for articles is the 24th February.

Reports: Moved John Grist, Seconded Darren Millett that reports are accepted. Carried

16 General Business:

16.1 Roger Chirside reports that Warren Gordon, one of the club's members, is very ill. Warren has been a great member for the club and Mr Chirside wishes him the very best.

16.2 Mario Pacifici asks how many people are attending the awards night. The Secretary reports there are 33 registrations. Mr Pacifici asks how the committee can justify a cost of over \$5000. Tony van den Dungen notes the difficulty in correctly estimating and planning numbers for such an event. Meg Boers notes that a survey was sent to members to determine the style of event which resulted in the path chosen. Ms Boers further reports that the venue chosen is reasonably priced for the style of event and that she is working with the venue to customise menus. David Thornbury notes that the club received funds from the sausage sizzle. Mr Pacifici notes that it's still club money being spent and asks why the club didn't pay a deposit only. Ms Boers suggests that, in the event of a cancellation, those who had registered would have been disappointed. Roger Chirside commends Glenn Rochester for the number of supporters for the event who have provided raffle gifts.

16.3 In response to an earlier comment by the President, Murray Stevens notes that he was awarded club person of the year in 2011.

16.4 Mr Stevens relays a conversation before the meeting in which he had asked the Vice President if she was aware of an email sent to the CEO of Motorsport Australia. The Vice President states that the enquiry made was vague and she has not connected that with an email sent on behalf of the committee by the Motorsport Australia Rep to Motorsport Australia.

16.5 Mr Stevens notes a procedural error in the scheduling of the AGM. The publication of nominees was supposed to have happened 14 days before the scheduled date, however the magazine was published on the 23rd January.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:48pm

16.6 The President introduces the Returning Officer who advises members that the AGM will be rescheduled as a virtual meeting in 14 days. There is no need for a ballot as there is only one nomination per position. Mr Grist remarks that the nominees have not been published. The Returning Officer confirms that all nominations were received on time and correctly and were published in the magazine. Jason Carroll asks if the club needs to get legal advice; the Returning Officer does not believe such is necessary. Mr Stevens wishes to clarify that his highlighting of the procedural error was not a personal attack on anyone.

Meeting closed: 9:15pm

Next Meeting: TBA by new committee

Note from Secretary: In the minutes of the December General Meeting, it was stated that John Grist questioned the need for the club to issue membership cards. This was incorrect and the question was actually about the need for a photograph on the membership cards. This was an error on my part and I apologise to John Grist for the confusion caused.



Date	2023 Calendar		Registration
2 February	MG Clubrooms/Zoom	VFT AGM	
11 February	Jason's Restaurant, Beaconsfield	VFT Awards Night	
17-19 February	Sandown	VSCRC Rd 1 [MGCC]	Better Impact
4-5 March	Phillip Island	March Access	VFT Website
(9) 10-12 March	Phillip Island	Phillip Island Classic	Better Impact
19 March	Sandown	Porsche 6 Hour Regularity	VFT Website
30 March – 2 April	Albert Park	Aust F1 GP (Non VFT Event)	
6 April	MG Clubrooms	VFT General Meeting	
22-23 April	Winton	VSCRC Rd 2	VFT Website
12-14 May	Phillip Island	Speed Series	
26-28 May	Phillip Island	VSCRC Rd 3 [PIARC]	VFT Website & PIARC
1 June	MG Clubrooms/Zoom	VFT General Meeting	
9-11 June	Winton	Speed Series	
24 June	Broadford	BMWDCM Come & Try Day	VFT Website
29-30 July	Phillip Island	Vic 6 Hour Relay	Better Impact
3 August	MG Clubrooms/Zoom	VFT General Meeting	
4-6 August	Winton	Festival of Speed	VFT Website
5 August	Broadford	BMWDCM Come & Try Day	VFT Website
11-13 August	Sandown	VSCRC Rd 4 [ASSA]	VFT Website
19-20 August	Phillip Island	August Access	VFT Website
8-10 September	Sandown	Speed Series	
15-17 September	Sandown	Penrite Oil Sandown 500	Better Impact
22-24 September	Phillip Island	VSCRC Rd 5 [VMCI]	VFT Website
1-October	Broadford	BMWDCM Come & Try Day	VFT Website
5 October	MG Clubrooms/Zoom	VFT General Meeting	
27-29 October	Calder Park (TBC)	VSCRC Rd 6	
10-12 November	Sandown	Sandown Historics	Better Impact
(24) 25-26 November	Phillip Island	Island Magic	VFT Website
7 December	MG Clubrooms/Zoom	VFT General Meeting	

PLEASE NOTE

Due to uncertainty at this stage all meetings are subject to official confirmation

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

Email: chief@vicflag.org.au

In person, trackside or at club meetings

Please DO NOT use Social Media for expressions of interest!



www.vicflag.org.au



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