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News and information

July 2023



*Warren Gordon receiving a well earned Life Membership*

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Ladgrove



Simon  
Baston



David  
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Patrick  
Harding



Ninad  
Kavi

## 2023 VFT Induction Team



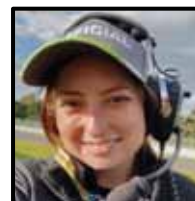
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Gemma  
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Tim  
Goodall

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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:  
Warren Gordon Receiving Life Membership  
Award

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## Welcome to New Members

Tess Britt  
Jen Campbell  
Lachlan Cuxson  
David Hodgkiss

## Reminder – General Meeting – 3 August 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



Leadership is about more than just looking at rules and regulations. It's about the people, and fostering a warm inviting environment where people feel safe and want to continue to come back. As trackside motorsport volunteers this is especially so, as the role can mean long days on your feet in all weather extremes. This is why the committee is working together to ensure our members have a good time trackside, are prepared and ready to face what the racing and elements can throw at them.

It was heartening at the recent Speed Series event at Winton to get some wonderful feedback from some of our new recruits telling me that they felt supported and included, and can't wait to get back to a track again. While we were at Winton, we had the opportunity to finally present Warren Gordon with his Life Membership and 20 year service award. I also had the privilege of working beside Warren all weekend up in race control, we had some fun chats and he mentioned how he misses being able to train our new officials. Being on the flag loop it was also wonderful to see how far our newer members have come with great flag calls and use of the radio. The beauty of Winton is that you can easily see every flag post around the circuit from race control. It was a trip down memory lane for me, to a circuit where I learned so much in the mid 1990s, and was able to hone my track craft under the watchful eyes of Neil Thompson, Roger Chirside, Paul Warren, Paul VDA, Chooka Farrell and Alan Krahe among many others. We hope our new visitors to Winton created some great memories too.

The sub committees for the awards event and the constitutional review are progressing well. If you would like to be on either of these sub committees please email myself or Andy, many hands make light work.

In regards to the upcoming referendum, as with any election, the VFT is not taking a stand for either view. We believe, as does Motorsport Australia, that each member has the right to come to their own decision on which way to vote. No discussion on the merits of any viewpoint will be entered into by the club.

On writing this Roger and Joy are in Europe, Roger and Paul Warren worked some Aussie magic at Le Mans, and I'm sure there will be some further stories and photos later in the magazine.

See you trackside soon.

Suzanne

Suzanne Arnott

President

[president@vicflag.org.au](mailto:president@vicflag.org.au)

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## From the Editor

*Many thanks once again to those members who have submitted articles. At the time of going to print, Roger and I are touring through France and will soon be entering the champagne region of Epernay and Reims, so looking forward to some tasting, and of course a visit to an odd race track or two as well! Due to lack of internet at times whilst touring, I apologise if I have missed any submissions.*

*Please note articles for the September edition are due 24<sup>th</sup> August - [magazine@vicflag.org.au](mailto:magazine@vicflag.org.au) –Joy Chirside*

*Photos in this magazine appear courtesy of: Michael Arnott, Suzanne Arnott, Luke Hingeley, Glenn Rochester, Revved Photography, Mark Thompson*



## Vice President's Report



G 'Day members,

I hope that while you're reading this magazine article you are warm as winter sets in. It's a timely reminder to go through your bag and dust off the thermals, ready for the next 4-5 months. We know how cold it can get in Victoria over winter and early spring at the racetrack. I know a few weeks back at Phillip Island for the Speed Series it was so cold, I was coming out of the muster shed and there was a monkey sitting there with a welder. COLD!

The committee of 2023 have put out an email to the members seeking expressions of interest from you all, to be a part of the organising committee for the 2023 awards night, (date and venue yet to be confirmed). If you would like to be a part of this sub-committee, check out the email and respond accordingly. The last awards night was a huge hit with those that came, so let's all contribute and make the next one even bigger and better.

I'd like to reach out to our senior members if I could. This paragraph is for you. We need your help; we have a wonderful group of new members that need your help. Your experience is valuable to the club's reputation as the leading flag marshalling club in the country. As you know, it is also recognised in other countries in the motorsport fraternity, and that has been for the most part because of you and your experience in training, mentoring, and passing on your skills to our new members. I know Bones and Thomo have put a lot of effort into the training regime over the years to get us to this point, and it would be such a shame for that to have been a waste of time. We need you at some of the smaller events where you can impart your wisdom onto our trainees. Smaller events like regularities – a great opportunity for a trainee to hone their blue flagging skills. And they can't do it without you. So even if it's just for one day, we'd love to have you trackside. We had the State Series Round 3 recently at Phillip Island. It was a great weekend of action, so I hope you were there for it. Great fields and categories. I can't remember what the weather was like, but it was probably cold. Then we had the Speed Series up at Winton. A HUGE congratulations to Tim Lack for being nominated by the senior marshals as the marshal of the weekend. Tim was presented an award and received a limited edition pin. He was also interviewed on live TV on STAN SPORT by non other than Rusty. Rusty only got in one question. Tim expanded on his answer until they ran out of time. Plugged the VFT and our website. Top stuff Tim. Oh, the weather was cold too. There was a small window of warmth from about 2:50pm to 3:05pm each day. Also, a bit shout out to Attila Bary for taking on the role of Chief Flag for Friday. From feedback received, Attila did a terrific job and handled himself very well. Congratulations Attila, I look forward to seeing you up there again. I was Chief Flag for Saturday and Sunday with Patrick and Attila as assistant for the days respectively. Thanks Champs.

There was a General Meeting for members on 1<sup>st</sup> June at the MG Car Club in Nunawading. I hope many of you attended, be it in person or online. If not, I urge you to come along and be a part of the next general meeting. If you can't come personally, there is also the option of dialling in from the comfort of your own home.

That's it from me, for now.

I hope to see you all trackside in the future. Please don't be afraid to come tap me on the shoulder and say Hi if you see me. I can talk the hind legs off a donkey sometimes, but I'm also here to listen to you. This is in person or via email or telephone. Hit me up!

**Rocky**

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# Assistant Chief Flagmarshal Report



Hi everyone, it's been a while since my last entry into the newsletter. So, I thought I would give a bit of a recap on the goings on in the past couple of months.

## Shannons Speed Series – Phillip Island

Generally, a good meeting with excellent feedback from Matt Balcombe CoC. A big thanks to Tim Goodall & Matthew Hardy for stepping up as my assistants over the weekend. Great job done by both guys. We had a few minor hiccups with MA with our sign in, but all sorted by Sunday. Need for intense induction on race day morning for Newbies – Fundamentals of Flagging & Comms are crucial. A big thanks to Simon Batson who conducted a Flag Training Session whilst Roger held the Safety Briefing.

A huge thanks to all that attended the weekend to make it such a success, with 20 members on Friday, 49 Saturday & 39 Sunday. Great fields of cars with Trans Ams, TCR's, Excel's, S5000 to name a few it was tops!

Congratulations to Ninad Kavi, Geoff Kay, Michelle Clewett, Jeff Birrell & Justin Parrant for their Fabulous Officials Awards. Not bad out of 7 awards 5 were from the VFT.

## Darwin Supercars

It Monday and as it happens, also the first Kings Birthday. Darwin is pretty quiet so were off for a bit of a look around and a helicopter ride that had been booked since Covid began in 2019. Scheduled for a 9.00 am take-off, it was a quick hello a couple of minutes of a safety check, and we are off, the view was amazing as we travelled over Darwin city and then along the coast. I might say I've been in a lot of helicopters both for work and pleasure, but not one with no doors, it was quite an experience and not sure how many times I checked my seatbelt, particularly when banking around to the left hmmm.



After the curly Helicopter flight, I noticed a local Ford Club display day being held at the Darwin Show Grounds, whilst I'm a Holden fan, I saw some of the older fords pulling in, so thought I better go and have a look. Very impressive.



We also spent some time at the amazing Aircraft Museum, I would encourage anyone who goes to, whether it be for the cars or just as a holiday to get along to this display, there are some very impressive aircraft as well as the impressive B52 Bomber that takes up almost half the huge hanger. It was also nice to be up close to the famous Spitfire and its equally impressive Merlin Engine. There is a lot of history on display about the role played during the bombing of Darwin.



## Finally, the Supercars!!!

It's been a big week in the far north and finally the Darwin Beta Triple Crown supercar round has arrived, all the transporters are on the freeway ready to drive through the city with their horns blowing. It's about 6.00pm, still 28°C and I have just picked up our credentials from an Italian restaurant in the city and enjoyed a few frothies and plenty of finger food with friends of years past and few fellow Victorians. As I leave the restaurant with all my gear, it seems that every person in Darwin has lined the streets to watch the motorcade pass through the city on their way to Hidden Valley, it was like a carnival atmosphere and great to see everyone support the teams as they drove through the tight Darwin streets.



So, at last the long-awaited round and one I love to attend is with us, with lows of 22°C & highs of 32°C-34°C with clear sunny days who could want anything more. Its 6.00am and the stars are still shining, and the sun is just starting to peak on the horizon, I've picked up the QLD troops I met the night before and headed to the track. Muster is filling up and the breakfast is on, tea, coffee, croissants, fruit salad and bircher muesli a plenty and grab as much fruit and drinks you can carry for the day ahead.





The day kicks off with Laurie Schmitt as CoC and Wayne Oliver as Chief Marshal giving the morning briefing, as usual it's pretty cruisy, full of fun but to the point. We have superbike practice, Aussie Cars, Porsches to contend with, ahead of any supercar activity, so everyone to be alert!!!

I was the Sector on Turn 5, it's a cracking spot with a good view all the way down to 2 and yes, a full view of the Mustang fire of Cam Waters, all the way around to 13, I've got 2 officials from QLD, 1 from SA and a local guy on point with me, it was a top team and all good to work with.

It was a fantastic weekend of racing with plenty of dings and spills, especially for the superbikes, where I had 5 super bikes down one after the other during qualifying.



At the end of the final day we all enjoyed a BBQ and lots of drinks, the thank you party had plenty well deserved awards handed out including several 25year attendance awards and large framed signed posters to the officials of the event.

I would encourage anyone thinking of going to Darwin for the Supercars to do it for sure.







## MBMWDC Drive Day

Well talk about the complete opposite to up north, Broadford was wet, rainy and about 6°C. A big thanks to Simon for stepping up as Chief for the day. We had a good turn out with all points covered. The sun finally shone through a few times to give a dry track for most of the day. There were some amazing cars, high end BMW's, Mercs and even a late model Maserati and the 3 categories were all well taken up. With David Thornbury & Scott Long at the helm in the tower we were in good hands, well done guys. After a wet and brisk morning we were called in for a welcomed warm lunch, a big thanks to Graeme and Jo for a top day.





## Grade 3/Induction Co-ordinator Report

Hi everyone,

It was a much quieter period over the last couple of months with not so many events running. It's been good to see our grade 3 members continue to come out and support us at many events despite the weather getting colder. Since our last magazine we have had 4 new trainees start with us. So far they have attended events regularly and have been keen to learn as well. A big shoutout to my induction team for helping assist with meeting new people at the circuits in my absence. Our next event will be the Victorian 6 hour and I highly encourage our grade 3 members to attend this event, as this is an opportunity to take on a new role or learn something new for this event.



Should any grade 3's 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

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## Grade 4/5 Report

Hi everyone,

Time has flown by since the last magazine came out and we have had a great turnout from the VFT during the many exciting events in the last 2 months.



There is no doubt we have some enthusiastic new trainees on board, demonstrating their passion for motorsport and marshalling by attending meetings regularly. Additionally, it is great to see some of our experienced Grade 4 members progressing towards their Bronze upgrades as well.

I highly encourage everyone to attend the 6hr relay at Phillip Island, as it is a great opportunity for all newer and experienced members likewise to practise blue flagging skills, whilst also allowing for some great training opportunities for those willing to develop these skills.

As the colder months set in, I also encourage members who require new wet weather gear, to make the most of the reimbursement opportunity up to \$110 made available by the club for purchase of wet weather gear and trackside PPE.

Until next time,

Ninad Kavi

Grade 4/5 Rep

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## Training Notes

Update from the Training Committee

Training has been progressing well over the first half of the year. We have a new group of trainees and not enough trainers at times. So, we have tried a few different ways to ensure they are getting the information they need.

We have been running virtual sessions, with really positive feedback. This allows our brand new recruits to gain some information on what is required at the flagpost before they get there. This also gives them information which can encourage questions and feedback at the post. We have also run a few posts with one senior and a couple of newbies, allowing them to grow their skills and have someone to ask questions.

Simon Baston has also been instrumental in running mini flag sessions showing trainees a range of flagging techniques prior to heading out to the post.

As always it would be great to see more of our Grade 3s and 2s trackside to help with the training.

We have some exciting news for an upcoming training session too. Watch this space.



## Merchandise Report

For any merchandising orders or questions, you can email me: [merchandise@vicflag.org.au](mailto: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	Lanyard Free!
L/Sleeve Polo Shirt \$20 (Backview both shirts)	S/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



## Returning to Winton

It's been a while since we have made the drive north to Winton, 1998 in fact, heavily pregnant with number 2 for the HQ 4 Hour, where I was working solo at the new track extension at turn 1. Then number 3 came along, and the long drive and losing a weekend with our precious little ones, motorsport had to take a back seat.

Winton holds a special place in my heart, it was here, sitting with the WAGS at what was turn 1, that I decided to jump the fence and join in the fun trackside, sorry ladies 😊. I have fond memories of creating my motorsport family bonds here. There was no bunkhouse, we generally stayed in Benalla at a motel or the caravan park. Dinner was usually as a group, at the Royal Hotel in Benalla. The dinners and the conversations reflecting on the day's events were always filled with fun banter and discussions on who did what, where the action was, what could be done better. Informal training where we were able to critique and be guided by our peers and seniors, and improve collectively as a team.



The first thing I bought to wear trackside was wet weather gear, then overalls, white of course, with badges sewn carefully into the appropriate positions. We were proud of the VFT logo, and there may have been friendly competitions to see who could get them on the telly at the big events like Touring Cars.

Championship of Winton (COWs), Truck racing, Historic racing, Formula Fords, HQ Holdens, a 24 Hour relay race, minis rolling over, snakes flying through the air after having been run over by an open wheeler, Paul VDA rescuing a duck who was heading to the side of the track. Spending a whole day listening to Achey Breaky Heart created a whole new level of torture. So many stories to tell, with amazing people like Roger Chirnside, Big Barry Petersen, Neil Thompson, Redders, TopCat, all the Pauls, The Beggs and the Lindsays, Chooka, A.Krahe and more to guide and train us from foundation to expert in track craft and flags.



We were jacks of all trades working in pre-grid and grid as well as the flagpoints. It was a perfect training track, as you could see every part of the circuit pretty much from any post. You could focus on improving reactions, decision points and the basics of getting the flag out without dropping it over the edge of the bunker, watch how other people reacted to situations unfolding in front of them.





Heading back 25 years later earlier this year for the VSCRC and Motorsport Australia's Speed Series brought these memories flooding back. A lot has changed, but a lot has remained the same. Lots of new buildings and paddock areas. The "new" race control and pit building was just being finished off last time I was up there. I still have to count back to remember which post number is what now, and was sad to see cleavage was no longer a functioning point – always a great spot to watch from.



I had a giggle when I realised I was sent to flag point 1 at the state round, that was the last post I worked in 1998. So, there are photos of myself being given a hand from Terry... comparing preggy bellies, no shelter, no protection, standing on a piece of wood I think. Fast forward 25 years and there is catch fencing, lights, flags, a roof, even chairs to chill on while eating lunch – not sure I can say I missed the Winton burger and the mystery black sprinkle on the cheese sandwiches. Those of us who have been trackside for a while know the safety features being put trackside are to protect us from what we know can be a dangerous sport, so these changes are good.

I have included some pics from back then and now, some will see faces they know, some we no longer have with us. Great memories. I am looking forward to our clubs working together again in the future, it's been too long between drinks.



I hope all of the team members who made the trek north had fun creating their own memories and building positive relationships with others in the team. I know I loved having chats with so many of you.

See you all trackside soon....  
Suzanne



## In Action (or Inaction)

Speed Series Phillip Island





Mark Bateman receiving his 10 year Service Award



Roger Chirnside receiving his 35 year Service Award



VSCRC Rd 3 Phillip Island



*Congratulations Teilor and John!*



Teilor Woodford receiving his Gr 4



John Mahoney receiving his 25 yr Service Award – and racing his HQ at the event



Speed Series Winton



*Presentations were made – Congratulations Alan, Russell and Warren!*



Alan Krahe, former Chief Flag Marshal, with 35 yr service award



Russell Paech with 15 yr service award



Warren Gordon with 20 yr service award





*Congratulations again Warren for your Life Membership! – Certificate, badge and Revved Photography Picture*



*AND Congratulations to Tim Lack as well!! (The following is an extract from VFT Facebook Page)*

At each Shannons Speed Series round, senior officials are asked to nominate an official who has shown outstanding skills and attitude over the weekend. With so many amazing people out on the posts, in recovery, scrutineering, timing, race admin and more, it's always a difficult decision. Congratulations to **Tim Lack** for being awarded the Volunteer of the Weekend at Winton, which was presented by Motorsport Australia's Michael Smith. Tim's calls were clear, concise and accurate, reports were well written, he was ably training new officials and made everyone in the team feel welcome. Tim received a framed certificate of appreciation, a limited edition pin, and was interviewed on Stan television as part of the broadcast.



BMWDCM Come and Try Day, Broadford



Congratulations also to Chris Muyoma for being awarded the official of the meet! Apparently Chris made "some clear, calm and informative radio calls about a stationary vehicle which appeared to be on fire. His effective communication allowed race control to make quick decisions, neutralising the session then sending the relevant service vehicles to assist". Well done Chris!

## 2023 Azerbaijan Grand Prix Experience

Patrick Harding

On the 25<sup>th</sup> of April I headed off to Baku to officiate at the Azerbaijan Grand Prix for the first time. I arrived at the Olympic Athletes Village in Baku where I was to be well looked after for the next few days. All the marshals were provided accommodation in twin share rooms with bathrooms, and all meals were provided on site! On top of getting a set of overalls, we also got given a cap, 2 x shirts, 1 x jacket and a pair of shoes. I did some exploring of the old town and caught up with some other marshals that day.

On Thursday we all got taken by bus from the athlete's village straight to our posts. Each post had a bus that would take us directly to our posts. I was to be posted at turn 7, which is just before the infamous castle section. I was assigned to be a track marshal as the organizers preferred that females did flagging and males did track.

Another interesting rule I had to get my head around was that track marshals didn't require a tabard on during the sessions, as the organizers felt that it would only get in the marshal's way if needed to go on track. We spent the day getting to know each other, and I learnt some Azerbaijani words. After the safety car test was done, we walked half the track exploring some more sites and checking out the castle section.

Friday was to be the first day of on track action. The Grand Prix only had Formula 1 and Formula 2 running which meant we could leave our post in between sessions to pop out for a coffee and even a bite to eat. Friday was also unique where F1 would trial a sprint qualifying session. Instead of running a 2<sup>nd</sup> practice session, they would run a qualifying session to determine the grid for Saturday's sprint race. After dinner that night we then headed back out to the circuit to see Don Diablo perform.

Saturday rolled around which was another busy day trackside with both F1 and F2 having sprint races on. During the F2 race, Dutch driver Richard Verschoor stopped at our post after an incident at the first corner. This meant we had to intervene and push his car out of harm's way. It was an exciting time for me as this was the first time I got to touch an F2 car! Unfortunately, this meant that poor old Richard had to chill with us at our post for the whole race as there wasn't a way for him to get back to the pits. After we finished our day trackside we headed off to another concert. This time it was





Hardwell performing. Hardwell was a favourite of mine when he played in Melbourne, so it was good to hear his music again.

Finally, Sunday came around, despite only having two races we still had an early sign on time. This meant that we had plenty of time to do team photos and we got the opportunity to do a traditional Azerbaijani dance when the safety car was doing its laps around a circuit. Both the F1 and F2 races didn't have too much drama around them with Sergio Perez winning the Grand Prix. That night most of us said our goodbyes, as most of the locals left the athletes village to return home for work the next day.

I found the Azerbaijani marshals to be very friendly with most of them being a lot younger than what you would expect in Australia. The split between males and females was just about 50/50 on every post. It was good to see so many females taking up marshalling here and they all thoroughly enjoyed themselves. I also found that despite the lack of support categories at the event, the local marshals were quite happy with this. Once a session had finished, everyone was keen to hear from race control as to when the track would be open so we could head out for lunch!

After the Grand Prix I stayed another week in Baku doing some more sightseeing. Visiting various sites such as the Flame Towers, Carpet Museum and the Heydar Aliyev Centre. I found the Heydar Aliyev Centre to be quite interesting, as it showcased a lot of Azerbaijan's history and culture throughout the different eras. The food was amazing as well. I got to try a few different dishes such as Pilaf which was a type of rice dish, Qutab which was a freshly cooked flatbread with different fillings and some various grilled meats. I then went further onto Georgia and Armenia visiting their amazing sites.

I highly recommend members try and attend this event, as you're well looked after by the Baku Marshals Club and the Azerbaijani marshals are very friendly and hospitable people.





## ***Several Days in the French Countryside***

*Roger Chirnside*

Le Mans is a city with a population of around 140,000, approximately 200 kilometres south west of Paris. In the mid 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries the area was a centre for railway, motorcar and agricultural machinery manufacture. In 1923 the first Grand Prix de Vitesse et d'Endurance (Grand Prix of Speed and Endurance) was run and today is simply known as Le Mans, the world's greatest endurance race, culminating in this year's event celebrating its centenary.

Over these years the circuit has undergone many changes. One thing that never changes is the attraction of this amazing place, it just keeps on growing.

I have had the good fortune to be here 10 times and with the forthcoming Le Mans Classic (Historic), that will make eleven times, twice as a spectator and nine times as a marshal, a fact that I am pretty proud of.

The 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Le Mans 24 hours was amazing. The weather was very kind and thankfully the only little bit of rain came when we were having a sleep! With 360,000 people attending, it was a fabulous event and an amazing experience. Standing trackside at 3:00am waving flags is a very rare and satisfying experience, when you get it right, because those cars with the bright headlights are very hard to pick. The crowd's reaction to all of us officials when we were standing trackside for the initial inspection was very humbling and made us all feel very special.

As the race wore on, there were several battles down the field in the various classes and one of the highlights for me was of course the outright win by Ferrari, and also the Chev Nascar which bellowed its way around the circuit for hour after hour. One of the drivers of this car was none other than Jenson Button who described the experience as an enormous amount of fun. I think this car received the biggest ovation from the crowd because it looked so unsuitable for this type of endurance event, because of its bellowing noise especially during the night time.

This is not only an endurance event for cars and drivers but also for officials, but adrenalin and excitement at this fabulous event goes a long way to helping with fatigue, so much so that I am excited to be once again trackside at Le Mans for the 24 hour Classic at the end of June. A lot of the race cars that you read about in the glossy magazines will be there in their various classes dating back to 1923. This is my type of stuff and I'm getting very excited about it all. Dare I say it but noise restrictions don't seem to feature prominently at this event, with Matras and Ferraris happily shrieking their heads off night and day! I just hope it doesn't rain because these are very rare and valuable cars which are driven to their limit.

After I have recovered from this excitement, Joy and I are embarking on a few weeks touring in France, to sample French wine, cheese and champagne, before returning to UK for a week or so enjoying various parts of England including the Lake District. We are also heading to Iceland where we will spend eight days driving around the ring road, a totally new adventure for us as it is somewhere we have never been.

## Tales from Le Mans Joy Chirnside

As most of you would be aware from comments made earlier in the magazine, Roger and I are currently touring around UK and Europe and we recently met up with Paul Warren and wife Leanne whilst Roger and Paul were officiating at the Le Mans 24 Hour race. It was an amazing week where we were all made to feel so welcome by the other marshals etc at Poste 5, whether they were French, Belgian or English. The camaraderie was incredible and Roger and I were also very proud to be joined by our eldest son, wife and a couple of the grandsons along with our youngest son as well, also camping with us in the Poste 5 marshals' campsite, very close to the edge of the track. First apprehensions of how to sleep with all the noise of the cars roaring close by were soon allayed as the excitement eventually gave way to sleep!!

As credentials, the marshals were given brand new overalls, a cap, a 100 year anniversary vest and a lovely medallion, all to keep, such is the generosity of the ACO (Automobile Club de l'Ouest).



At Poste 5, given that there was a large contingent of marshals this year, the group was split into 3 teams, with shifts being allocated over the five days, however everyone was on post before the start – for track inspection and group photos (including Paul's friendly kangaroo), and at the end for heralding the winners/finishers.

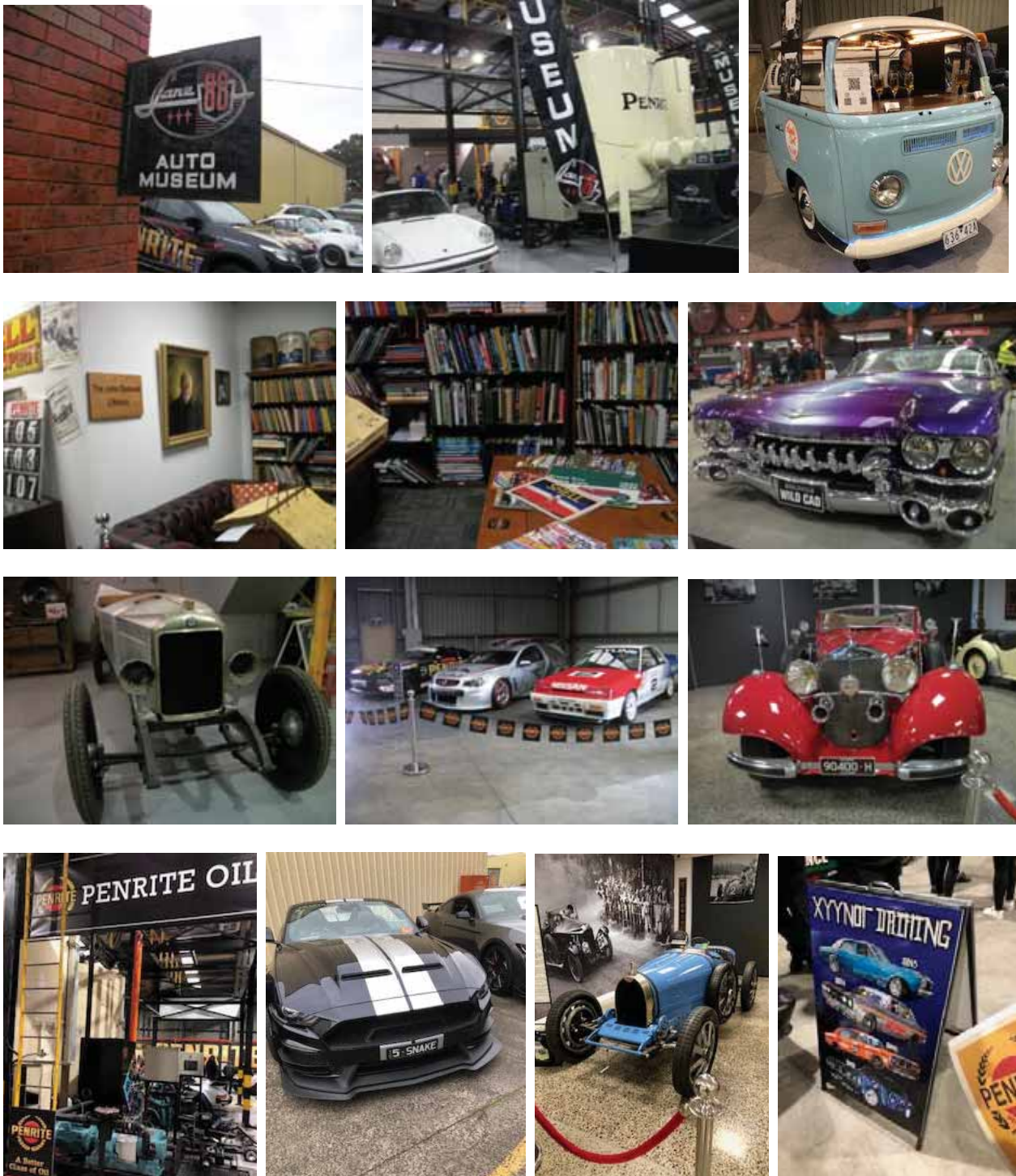




## Lane 88 Auto Museum

Luke Hingeley

Penrite recently celebrated the first birthday of its Lane 88 Auto Museum in Wantirna and I went along to check it out. Apart from the cars on display, some V8 supercars drivers were there – Garth Tander, David Reynolds and the Richards family. Here are some photos from the museum.





# Minutes of the VFT June General Meeting 2023

Victorian Flagmarshalling Team Inc. – June 2023 General Meeting  
General Meeting Minutes  
1 June 2023, 7:30pm  
MG Car Club & Online (Google Meet)

**Members present:** 23 members present (11 in person, 12 online)

**Apologies:** Mark Thompson, Glenn Rochester, Anthony Filipoussis, Scott Long, Peter Austin, Greg Hardy, Matt Hardy

**Welcome:** Suzanne Arnott welcomes members to the meeting and acknowledges the tradition owners of the land on which the club meets.

## 1 Presentations:

1.1 Alan Krahe – 35 years

## Minutes from the previous General meeting (6 April 2023):

Moved: Ninad Kavi, seconded: Patrick Harding, that the minutes be accepted. Carried.

## 2 Matters Arising:

2.1 Nil

## Reports:

### 3 President:

- 3.1 The President thanks all those that have been at the track over the last couple of months. There has been a steady influx of new recruits. The President notes the good attendance at Winton. The numbers are looking good for SpeedSeries; there is then a break. The next event is the 6 hour and the club is hoping to get as many experienced officials as possible to help with the trainees who will attend.
- 3.2 The President reports on a well-attended induction training night before the last SpeedSeries round.
- 3.3 The President thanks those who gave feedback in the awards night survey. The responses indicated the club should offer something this year, taking into account the location and cost. Members are invited to join the working party if they want to help organise the event. There is also a working party looking at the constitution's wording.
- 3.4 The President reports that the committee is looking at processes to make sure new member applications are processed effectively.
- 3.5 The President is looking to revamp the training and induction manuals and induction kits. The President notes there are also many resources on the club website which will be updated.

### 4 Vice President:

- 4.1 The Secretary reads a report from the Vice President who thanks the MG Car Club for the use of their rooms.
- 4.2 The Vice President thanks those seniors who have been helping out with new members. The Vice President urges any senior to come to the 6 hour to help with training, even if for one day.
- 4.3 The Vice President reports on Friday at the VSCRC round 3 at Phillip Island. Numbers were low and the weather was awful, however there was great on track action with the addition of the 86s. There was no MG category, or sports cars. The categories were combined throughout the day for 4 practice sessions. There was a roll over at turn 1 which the driver walked away from.
- 4.4 The Vice President reminds members to register for upcoming race meetings, especially senior members.



**5 Secretary:**

- 5.1 The Secretary reports that he has contacted a number of people due for Service Awards and posted a number of awards. The 35 year badges have been created and those members will be contacted.
- 5.2 The Secretary reports on changes to the process for membership application; instead of using someone signing up on the website as an application for membership, a separate digital form will be sent once a person has attended a number of meetings. Mario Pacifici asks if the form can be printed off. The Secretary clarifies that it is a digital form which feeds into a spreadsheet. The Secretary notes that he is documenting the process flow and is happy for any member interested to see the flow.
- 5.3 Murray Stevens queries how many members the club has and how many pending applications. The Secretary is unable to answer exactly but reports that it is round 145 to 150. The pending memberships considered by the committee included everyone who had signed up since the start of 2022. Since the last committee meeting, all of those have been contacted to determine if they wish to become a member. 11 people have confirmed they wish to become a member; those applications will be discussed at the next committee meeting. Mario Pacifici notes that the Secretary needs to know membership numbers in order to determine if a quorum is present. The Secretary reports that, while he cannot report the exact figure, he knows that the number of attendees at the meeting is above the percentage required for a quorum.
- 5.4 Mario Pacifici requests details of the review of ratification of membership. The Secretary reports that he has been through previous minutes and cross-referenced those against memberships in the database. Where a member had not been ratified, they were discussed by the committee.

**6 Treasurer:**

- 6.1 The Treasurer's report has been sent out to those who registered for the meeting and there are no major changes to report.
- 6.2 The Treasurer responds to a question from the last general meeting around payments that had been made prior to being approved at the AGM. The Treasurer reports that some payments had been approved by the committee in advance and some were approved after payment was made. The Treasurer notes that he does not intend to continue the same practice.
- 6.3 The Treasurer reports that he is investigating moving the accounting system from a physical book into an online platform. This is best practice, allows for a feed from the bank account for reconciliation, reduces the need to print out receipts and invoices, and allows other committee members to see the books. The Treasurer notes there would be a cost of \$500 to \$600 involved. The Treasurer will report back with a recommendation at the next general meeting and asks any member who has advice to email him. David Thornbury asks if the Wild Apricot system could be used. The Secretary notes that it is not a full accounting system and would not be suitable.
- 6.4 Murray Stevens asks what the balance of two government grants is. The Treasurer reports that the records need to be updated and that he will report back at the next meeting. Mr Stevens asks if there is a time limit on the grants. David Thornbury notes that Mark Thompson provided documentation at the beginning of the year which demonstrated the club has an intention to make use of the funds.
- 6.5 Mario Pacifici asks for the total amount spent on the awards night. The Treasurer will report at the next meeting.
- 6.6 Murray Stevens asks if there has been any income from sponsors. The Treasurer reports that none has been received. Mr Stevens asks how much is expected. The Treasurer will discuss with the committee and report back.





6.7 Payments to be passed:

- Attila Bary \$110 Wet Weather Gear
- Joy Chirnside \$108 Postage
- David Thornbury \$100 Gift cards for member of the month awards

Moved: Ninad Kavi, seconded: Paul Freeman that payments are passed. Carried.

**7 Chief Flag Marshal:**

7.1 Completed events:

- VSCRC 2 at Winton: Patrick Harding was Chief. There were 22 people who attended which is a good number for a round at Winton. Patrick Harding reports that Saturday saw every post covered except turn 5; turns 4 and 12 were one up; Sunday saw all posts covered and turn 12 was one up.
- SpeedSeries at Phillip Island: Mark Thompson was chief and has a report. There were a number of people who applied through Motorsport Australia who have been approached to become members.
- VSCRC 3 at Phillip Island: Paul Meade was chief. There were 38 signed up but a number dropped out during the week; there were many new officials. Paul Meade reports that, after drop outs, there were around 20 people attending. John Grist was shown around race control. The Chief Flag Marshal notes that there were no problems with radio calls or reports.

7.2 Upcoming events:

- SpeedSeries at Winton: 28 currently on the list.
- BMW DCM Come and Try at Broadford: looking for one or two more. It is a good event for Grade 4 and trainees.
- Victorian 6 hour: Unclear if sector marshals are required. Usual sector marshals are welcome to attend in a training role.

**8 Assistant Chief Flag Marshal:**

8.1 SpeedSeries at Phillip Island: Friday assistant was Tim Goodall who did an excellent job, was well organised, and gave a good briefing; there were 4 Sector Marshals, 10 Graded Members, 6 Trainees (3 new) for a total of 20. Saturday had no assistant as Chris Sullivan was unable to attend; there were 13 Sector Marshals, 22 Graded Members, 14 Trainees for a total of 49. Sunday assistant was Matthew Hardy who did a good job, was well organised, and gave a good briefing; there were 11 Sector Marshals, 19 Graded Members, and 9 Trainees for a total of 39. Generally, a good meeting with excellent feedback from the clerk of course. A big thank you to Simon Baston who conducted a Flag Training Session whilst Roger held the Safety Briefing. Congratulations to Ninad Kavi, Geoff Kay, Michelle Clewett, Jeff Birrell, and Justin Parrant for their Fabulous Officials Awards.

**9 Training Officer:**

9.1 No report

**10 Motorsport Australia Rep:**

10.1 The Motorsport Australia rep reports on the May Motorsport Australia meeting. There was very little relevant to trackside officials. There was some discussion of the extreme weather policies but no resolution other than the Clerk of Course being responsible for officials' welfare.

**11 Grade 3 Rep:**

11.1 The Grade 3 rep reports that there are no reported issues. There are around 50 grade 3 members.

**12 Grade 4/5 Rep:**

12.1 The Grade 4/5 rep reports that there are 59 grade 4s and 21 grade 5s for a total of 80.



- 12.2 There are quite a few Grade 4s going for their Grade 3 upgrades. There's also a good influx of trainees. The Grade 4/5 rep puts out a call for officials for the BMW day at Broadford and the Victorian 6 hour which is a good event to practice blue flagging.
- 12.3 The Grade 4/5 rep thanks Paul Meade for his note after the VSCRC 3 at Phillip Island. It was good to have the work of the Grade 4s and trainees recognised.
- 12.4 Marg Hardy thanks the Grade 4/5 rep for his response and email after the last General Meeting. Ms Hardy asks for the Grade 4/5 rep to continue sending emails every couple of months.

**13 Induction:**

- 13.1 There have been 15 expressions of interest since the Australian Grand Prix. New trainees have attended at Winton, at the SpeedSeries round, and at the VSCRC 3 round at Phillip Island.

**14 Merchandise:**

- 14.1 David Thornbury notes that the club's spare wet weather gear got used at the Phillip Island VSCRC 3 round.

**15 Magazine:**

- 15.1 Articles are due by 20th June for the next magazine.

**Reports:** Moved Simon Baston, Seconded David Thornbury that reports are accepted. Carried

**16 General Business:**

- 16.1 Simon Baston asks if there's any thought about updating the brochures. The President notes that the old brochures are out of date but have had a QR code added. The committee is looking at some online advertising as another option. The President notes that younger members are not looking at brochures.
- 16.2 Mario Pacifici asks to see the number of responses to the survey about the awards night. The President reports that there were 39 responses: 61% of the responses were those who attended; 23 people said they would attend a future event, 3 said they would not, and 12 said they might. The President notes that the location and cost were factors in the feedback and that they would be addressed for future events. Mr Pacifici notes that 39 responses is low compared to the total membership. Murray Stevens notes that Kevin Watson has suggested Winton as a venue and asks for the committee's thoughts. The President reports that the working party has not discussed the venue as yet.
- 16.3 Murray Stevens notes that, in the minutes of the extraordinary committee meeting following the April General Meeting, the first item of business was the resignation of John Booker and Ninad Kavi despite them not officially being members. John Booker notes that the resignations were done to keep the information flow intact. Mr Stevens believes that the minutes are inaccurate and that the reason for the meeting should be included explicitly in the minutes. The President notes the feedback.
- 16.4 John Beck notes that the committee has not been updated on the website. The Secretary will update this page.
- 16.5 John Beck asks about the progress on merchandise. The President reports that the new polo tops have been ordered.
- 16.6 Murray Stevens asks what has happened to the socks. The President reports that they are not yet for sale on the website. Mr Stevens asks the actual cost of the socks; Glenn Rochester will report back.
- 16.7 Michael Arnott reports that the 6 hour relay will be using sector marshals and asks any aspiring flaggies who wish to have a go to speak to him.
- 16.8 The President encourages members to check the upgrade pathways and to ensure they are familiar with the requirements of an assessment.

**Meeting Closed:** 8:31pm **Next Meeting:** General Meeting 3rd August, 7:30pm



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**

***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](mailto: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](http://www.vicflag.org.au)



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