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News and information

January 2024

A promotional poster for the 2023 Victorian Flagmarshalling Team Awards Night. The background is a shimmering, bokeh-style pattern of light blue, purple, and white. The text is centered and reads: "Get your tickets NOW For the 2023 Victorian Flagmarshalling Team Awards Night. Tickets available on the club website Saturday 3rd February 2024 At Manningham Hotel and Club". In the bottom left corner of the poster is the circular logo of the Victorian Flagmarshalling Team.

www.vicflag.org.au

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George Hetrel – Club Patron

Victorian Flagmarshalling Team, Brooklands, 46 Dorrigo Drive, Boronia VIC 3155



2023 VFT Committee



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2023 VFT Training Committee



Training Officer
Kevin Watson



Gemma
Ladgrove



Simon
Baston



David
Thornbury



Patrick
Harding



Ninad
Kavi

2023 VFT Induction Team



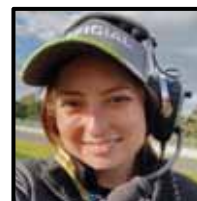
Patrick Harding
Coordinator



Glenn
Rochester



Ninad
Kavi



Gemma
Ladgrove



Tim
Goodall

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ABN 53 038 411 980 ARBN A0008703F Club Phone: 03 8796 5321 Club Mobile: 0409 823 657



VFT Life Members

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

Cover Picture:
Get your tickets for VFT Awards Night

Welcome to New Members

Jake Booker, Cory Ponyeim and Jacob Taylor

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Reminder – Annual General Meeting – 1 February 2024

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

Reminder - Updating Contact Details

Please remember to advise the Secretary secretary@vicflag.org.au of any changes to contact details (ie address, phone numbers, email address, emergency contact) so that the membership contact lists can be kept up to date.

The VFT magazine is printed by Corporate Printers, South Melbourne

email: info@corporateprinters.com.au ph: 03 9690 1166 fax: 03 9690 2118



Final Words from 2023 from the Prez



What a year we have had. Firstly, I want to say thank you to each and every one of you who has been able to get to an event to support the club, and motorsport in general. Without our people on the posts race meetings can't happen, and it has warmed my heart to hear so many drivers echoing that statement recently as well. I know that some of you are unable to get trackside for a number of reasons, don't worry, we are keeping your seat warm, and when you are able, let us know, there may be other roles at an event you could fulfill if you are struggling with the long days trackside. It's great to experience other roles too – you get a great insight into the big picture of the race event.

This year has seen the Victorian Flagmarshalling Team attend as a club at 17 motorsport weekends (and some double ups) at Phillip Island, Sandown, Winton and Calder. 17 weekends of between 1-4 days, that's a great commitment from each of you, and we thank you. The team has participated in Come and Try Days, Club, State, National and International events, and many of us attend the Australian Grand Prix in many varied roles to make the event happen. Thank you to the ongoing support from our friends and colleagues at Phillip Island Auto Club (PIARC), MG Car Club, VHRR, Australian Sports Sedan Association, Victorian Mini Club, Benalla Auto Club, BMW Drivers Club, Porsche Club, Supercars and Motorsport Australia, and the great events you each continue to create. As well as our Victorian events, many of us have travelled around Australia to support events in other states, both big and small.

Off track has been keeping us busy in between race meetings with 5 General Meetings, 2 AGMs, a couple of Bunnings fund raising sausage sizzles, the Chief's annual BBQ (thanks Roger and Joy), the inaugural awards night (thanks Rocky and the events team), team dinner get togethers after race meetings, the VHRR "thank you night" and recently the pre Christmas drinks (thanks for organising this Patrick) and thanks also to Rocky for organising some team visits. We also managed to slot in a few online training sessions, the highlight being Thomas Randle giving up so much of his time in a race week for some driver insights.

Mostly, I have to thank my amazing team on committee, we are all working together and pulling in the same direction, for the club to continue to improve. Thank you Rocky, an amazing 2IC, Andy, my organising guru and getting everything online so we all have access to most things 😊, John for keeping the numbers on track, Patrick for liaising with those he represents as well as running an amazing induction program, Ninad, you work with your charges and keep them coming back.. Love it... Thanks David, Mark and Kev for keeping things ticking over at the track. It has been great to see a range of people coming through to do the role of chief or assistant, and Michael for keeping us informed of what we need to know from State Council.

Moving into 2024, I will be running again for President of this club that I love. I hope I have done alright this year, but I still have some ideas to further grow the club if elected. I want to continue the supportive vibe we have in the team, grow some more volunteer roles, including a social event coordinator who could organise family events, kid friendly, as well as team days. I am hoping we get a few more members taking up volunteer roles, some of these jobs could be great for those of you struggling to flag. The new committee will be appointing volunteer positions based on an expression of interest to the secretary. Some of these volunteer roles include: Web master, Social Media, Magazine, Merchandise, Events coordinator, Induction coordinator, Induction team members, Training Committee members, Equipment officer, and more.

I am passionate about continuing to make our club inclusive and fun, as well as ensuring we have succession planning, and growth potential for all members.

Don't forget to join us at the Bunnings Fundraiser on 6-January at Bayswater Bunnings, the Chief's BBQ at Roger and Joy's on 20-January, followed by the AGM 1-February and our second awards night 3-February. Then bang into racing with the SpeedSeries and MGCC State Round both at Sandown. Get ready for some hot racing, if last year is anything to go by. Events for 2024 are open for registration on Better Impact.

Looking forward to spending time with all of you in the new year and wishing you all the best for an amazing 2024.

Cheers

Suzanne Arnott

President

president@vicflag.org.au



Vice President's Final Report



Hi everyone,

I hope you have all had a terrific Christmas and New Years. Fingers crossed you didn't eat and drink too much. It's always easy to over-indulge in the silly season.

So, at the back end of 2022, the Club committee needed a Vice President for 2023.

So, they asked the most handsome person in the club if they were interested in running for the role of Vice President. That person declined unfortunately. So, then they asked the most charming member. They also declined. Then they asked the best flaggie to run, and they declined too. And then they asked me. As I'd just turned them down three times, how could I say no again.

What a terrific year we've had. It's had ups and downs. But mainly ups, I think. 2023 was busy for the Victorian Flagmarshalling Team. Lots of race meetings at lots of tracks. Let's hope we get another really great year in 2024. The introduction of Calder Park has invigorated the motorsport family with an injection of excitement and enthusiasm, and the smaller events we have attended at Broadford also made for a busy year with those few extra events. I spent (according to my logbook) 48 days trackside. That's a record for me, I think. Woohoo!

As well as trackside race meetings, we've also had a few social events, promotions, and some fund raisers. We had two Sausage Sizzles over the 22-23 summer break that raised a bucket of cash for the club. We had a Team 18 open night (albeit short notice), we had a promotion day at Calder Park for the German Car Club (of which I think we picked up 2 new members). Our grade 3 rep Patrick 'Showbag' Harding threw together an impromptu Christmas party at the QT Rooftop bar a few weeks ago which was (in my opinion) a Sunday afternoon done right. We've had a Supercar driver us online for a training session hosted by our President Suz. We've had licence upgrades and a great bunch of new members come through. All in all, the club is looking very healthy and in good shape for the future.

I look forward to working with you all trackside in 2024, and I hope to see you all at general meetings too. The calendar is looking busy during some periods, so have your bag ready to roll come the first race meeting. The committee urge you all to pack your kit in preparedness for anything, with the appropriate PPE.

I want to take this opportunity to thank the 2023 committee for their efforts this year. The amount of time they invest into the club is incredible. I'm talking about their own time. The passion this group of individuals have for our/your club is commendable, and I'd like to publicly acknowledge that. Congratulations to you all on a seriously top effort in running the club. You should all be proud of yourselves.

I won't be running for Vice President in 2024, with my goals aimed in a different direction. By the time this magazine is published, the deadline to submit nomination forms will have been and gone, however I wanted to wish all members who have submitted a nomination for a position or an EOI for another role all the very best. Don't forget we have the Annual General Meeting coming up in February where voting (where needed) will be conducted. It's also a great opportunity to catch up with members away from the track.

That's all from me. Peace,

Rocky

Rocky

e: Vice.president@vicflag.org.au

m: 0421 546 204

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Report from The Treasurer



Firstly, it has been a very interesting past twelve months and a warm thank you to everyone I've worked with, both on track and off. While it has been a long while since I was last active with the Victorian Flagmarshalling Team, it has been a pleasure to get back involved with the running of the club, in a role that I can use my skill and experiences.

I need to thank and acknowledge the current committee for their efforts this year. Taking the time out of their real lives to manage and guide our club to ensure it continues being the best that it can be. I do need to single out two people especially – the President, Suzanne Arnott, for driving the committee forwards with a clear vision of what needs to change, or be improved to ensure we can attract and retain officials – and the Secretary, Andy Kelk, for being the glue that keeps the entire organisation together, from the minutes, meeting notifications, mailouts, club technology, etc, etc, etc. While we had some challenges this year on committee, everyone was allowed a voice and we all worked together. Thank you. Due to this, I have submitted my intention to run again for the Treasurer Position.

So, what has been happening in the Treasurer's role this year? Apart from receiving all the moneys due to the club, making payments authorised by committee and then keeping correct accounts showing the financial affairs of the club, my goal this year was to ascertain where the funds came from and where they were spent and how to be more efficient in capturing this information for reporting purposes. The club is still using a manual cash book so looking up past information is a frustrating and time consuming affair.

An opportunity came up to attend a free course on "Making it easy to be a successful treasurer" that was run for 3x 1 hour sessions over a period of three weeks. It was very interesting. Did I learn anything new? Not really. But my main takeaways from that course were two-fold. One – just like normal business, a well run club treasury will prepare budgets and cashflows to enable the committee to have timely information when making financial decisions. I will be implementing this for next year's committee. And Two – going online with financial transactions and reporting. We do the former, but not the latter. (Side note – on the course, we spent nearly a whole hour discussing online accounting software, how it makes it easier for volunteers, automates creation of financial reporting and reconciliation as well as minimises risk of fraud. The other clubs present could not believe we still ran a cash book and the reluctance to upgrade to online software.) Needless to say, this is something for next year's Treasurer to seriously consider implementing.

Another task I have been working on is the updating of the VFT Constitution and there have been updates throughout the year at the General Meetings. This is not a simple task and there have been changes in the Incorporated Association Act which has pushed this back. As communicated at the last General Meeting in December, a draft document will be made available to members in March 2024 with members invited to submit comments or alterations so they can be discussed at the next General Meeting following the AGM. This process may continue until the new document is deemed fit for purpose and then the club will announce a Special General Meeting to get members to vote the acceptance of the new constitution. This important document governs the running of your club, so please take the time to review the document when it comes and help shape it.

As most will know, Victoria has finally activated the Container Deposit Scheme where you can exchange eligible drink containers for 10 cents. If you should feel generous and would like to donate your refund to the VFT, below are the bank details for the club. If you do this (thank you!) can you please send an email to treasurer@vicflag.org.au as the bank does not send through any details other than it is a payment from the Container Deposit Scheme.

Bank Acc: Victorian Flagmarshalling Team Inc

BSB: 123-601

Account No: 2197 6383

Finally, I just want to thank everyone who worked trackside this year (in any capacity). While motorsport cannot operate without the officials, without promoters, drivers and teams, we wouldn't have somewhere to go and share our appreciation for the sport. What has really made me happy inside this year is the quality of marshalling I have witnessed – it is of a very high grade. And, this is mostly from a "young" experience base since us oldies are not as generous with our time anymore! (Apparently!) That means that the training program is working, and people are willing to pass on their knowledge and skills to those coming up. Brilliant. And don't stop. I won't.

John Booker, VFT Treasurer



Chief Flagmarshal Report



And just like that, 2023 is over and we are into 2024. I hope everyone had a great Christmas and New Year, and have been making use of the off season to relax and spend time with family and friends.

2023 was a quite a challenging year for the club. We lost Warren Gordon, after his courageous battle with cancer. And Simon Baston was severely injured in an incident at Historic Sandown. Something that stood out with both of these guys is the positive attitudes they both have had towards their situations. It has really been admirable to see. R.I.P. Warren, and wishing you all the best for your recovery Simon.

On a positive note, 2023 again saw a good number of new members join the team. It's really great to see how enthusiastic our new members are and how quick they are in making a positive contribution to the club. Thanks have to go to Patrick and the great work he has been doing on induction, along with everyone trackside who has spent time with our inductees helping to train them. I don't think I have ever seen the retention rate for the club as good as it has been over the last couple of years, which really is a credit to you all.

2023 also saw us continue to rotate the chief and assistant chief positions to help build the experience within the club. I'd like to thank everyone who stepped up into these roles. You all did yourselves and the club proud, so well done. We also continued with having members of the team observe in Race Control for a few sessions. I believe this is a valuable exercise for helping to ensure members of the team get an understanding of the "big picture" of how an event is run.

One of the side effects of us escorting team members up into Race Control, is that it limits whomever is doing the escorting capacity to get around the flag points. I'd like to thank our Chief Marshals, Roger and Michael, along with anyone who did the Chief or Assistant Chief role for helping ensure as many points as possible were visited. And for anyone who I missed catching up with at an event, I apologise.

The new season will soon be upon us, and we once again have a busy start to the year, with six weekends of racing in the first seven weeks (included the Grand Prix). The events at Phillip Island and Winton are likely to be lighter in numbers, so if you are able to assist with these meetings in particular, it really would be appreciated. Events can be found at the back of the magazine, or on the "upcoming events" tab on the website (www.vicflag.org.au). The website will also have details of how to register.

In closing, I'd like to thank everyone who supported the club trackside in 2023, and look forward to seeing you all at the track in 2024.

Regards
David

David Thornbury
Chief Flagmarshal
chief@vicflag.org.au



Assistant Chief Flagmarshal Report



A Heartfelt Thank You to VFT Members for a Fantastic Year

Dear VFT Members,

By now I expect that you all have had a cracking Christmas and a well-deserved holiday break to recharge for the upcoming year ahead.

As we bid farewell to 2023, I want to take a moment to express my sincere gratitude to each and every one of you for your unwavering support throughout the year. It's been an incredible journey serving as the Assistant Chief Flagmarshal for our amazing club, and none of it would have been possible without the expertise and dedication of the VFT family.

This past year has been filled with thrilling racing events, and your commitment has been the driving force behind the success of each one. Your passion for motorsport has created an atmosphere that truly sets our club apart.

Being not only your Assistant Chief Flagmarshal but also a club committee member has been a privilege. Witnessing the return of familiar faces to the trackside and welcoming an ever-growing list of new members has been a joy. Our club's sense of community continues to strengthen, thanks to each member's contribution.

A special shout-out goes to our training and induction team for their tireless efforts in recruiting, maintaining, and training our newbies. Your dedication ensures that our club remains vibrant and inclusive, offering a warm welcome to all who share our passion for being a racing official.

I extend my heartfelt thanks to David Thornbury, our Chief Flagmarshal, for the invaluable opportunities provided to me throughout the past year. Likewise, I appreciate the support of those who stepped up and did a top job as assistant chiefs throughout the year, Atilla Bary, Patrick Harding, Chris Sullivan, Mathew Hardy to name but a few, with special thanks to Glenn Rochester, and Paul Meade, whose collaboration has enhanced our collective achievements as chiefs of the club.

I also give my sincere appreciation to our all our sponsors, supporters, event organisers, competitors and volunteer officials for your unwavering support of the VFT. Your collective efforts and support have played a pivotal role in making the VFT an integral part of the racing community and the exciting world of motorsport.

As we step into the new year, I'm excited to announce my candidacy for the role of Assistant Chief Flagmarshal once again. If successful, I eagerly anticipate the opportunity to continue working alongside such a dedicated and passionate group of individuals. Together, let's make 2024 another thrilling chapter in our racing journey.

Thank you once again for your support, and here's to another year of amazing motorsport and unforgettable memories!

See you all trackside soon...

Best Regards,

Mark Thompson

VFT Assistant Chief Flagmarshal

0409 324 341





Grade 3/Induction Co-ordinator Report

Hi everyone,

I hope you all had a great Christmas and happy new year with all your friends and families.

2023 was another great year for motorsport, with plenty of events on and a return to Calder Park being a highlight of our Motorsport calendar. It was great to see more members getting upgraded to Grade 3 and taking on more senior roles within the club. This will help keep us sustainable in finding new talent and bringing them up through the ranks. If anyone is considering getting upgraded to Grade 3 in 2024 I would be more than happy to provide them with advice on this.



On the induction side of things, it's been another great year with more than 20 new trainees come through us this year. It's been great to see as well that most of these new trainees have stuck with us and gone on to complete their 10 days training as well. I would like to thank my entire induction team for assisting me this year. Whether it has been with contacting new trainees in my absence or meeting them at the gates, your help is very much appreciated. I highly recommend that if you would like to get more involved with the club, being an induction assistant is a great way to get to know new people and familiarise yourself with what goes on with the induction process.

Finally, I would like to let everyone that I will be running again as the Grade 3 representative for 2024. I hope to be re-elected again and serve the club well on the committee.

Cheers

Patrick Harding

Grade 3 Rep/Induction Coordinator

Grade 4/5 Report

Hello everyone,

I hope you all had a great holiday season, celebrating Christmas and New Year's with family and friends! As we wave the chequered flag on an exciting year of motorsport just gone by, I'm sure we all eagerly await another year of events that lie ahead in 2024.

Reflecting on the last 12 months, we have had a fabulous cohort of new Trainees and General officials, all demonstrating an unwavering commitment to our club, and passion for motorsport. With over 20 new trainees coming in, most even completing their induction period within the year, the future of the club shines brightly.

However, before we spring into action in 2024, a social calendar awaits to celebrate our club, members and all of our successes from 2023. Please do join for the Chiefs BBQ and Awards Night celebration, as per the details mentioned in the magazine. We have a very exciting and diverse lineup of guest speakers for the Awards night, to provide an excellent insight into motorsport and answer all your burning questions.

On a personal note, I have been extremely honoured to serve as the Grade 4/5 representative on the committee this year. Thank you to everyone in the club and on the committee for their support and efforts in making this year memorable. I look forward to re-nominating for the same role in 2024.

As always, if you have any questions or would like to chat, please don't hesitate to reach out at anytime.

Thanks,

Ninad Kavi

Grade 4/5 Rep

0405254652 | ninad.kavi@vicflag.org.au





Training Committee Notes

This year has seen many of our new members work through the induction process, join the club and are already training the next lot of flaggies. It's a good picture of the depth and level of skill our team creates through its training strategies.



We have also had several members level up to Bronze, Silver and Gold this year. We are expecting to see even more growth in the coming years as we continue our training, with high expectations of competence and willingness to continually learn.



As we know Track craft is developed over many years and goes well beyond knowing which flag to wave and when.



The Training Committee is looking forward to working with all levels of our team to continue to improve and refine their skills in the coming year. We hope to continue with our online training sessions, as well as face to face days and on the flag point training.

We are looking forward to putting the streamlined training and assessment process into action in the coming year. If you are keen to be a part of the training committee in 2024, please make sure to put in an expression of interest to the secretary@vicflag.org.au prior to the AGM on Thursday 1st February.



Wishing all of our members a bright and festive holiday season. We look forward to seeing you at an upcoming event.



Reminder - VFT Annual Chief's BBQ – Sat 20 January 2024

This purely social event is a great opportunity for members and families to come along and enjoy the evening. In past years, we have been mostly lucky with the weather and with the backyard floodlit and decorated with a motoring theme, it has always been a very convivial event.

For the benefit of those who haven't attended before, the format is very simple. The club will be providing beer, wine, soft drink and water, as well as salads and desserts.



All you have to bring along is something to cook on the BBQ, and perhaps a chair.

When: **Saturday 20 January 2024**

Sign on is at 6:00pm and chequered flag is when the last one leaves!

Where: **'Brooklands', 46 Dorrigo Drive, Boronia** (Melways Ref 65 D5 for those that still use one)
- the home of Roger and Joy Chirside.

Everyone is invited - the more the merrier.

Roger & Joy Chirside

Reminder - VFT Awards Night – Sat 3 February 2024



Don't forget to organise your tickets
ASAP.

Only \$40 and you will get:

Drink on arrival

2 very special guest speakers

Door prizes

Awards

And great company!



VHRR Thank You

On 15th December members of the Victorian Flagmarshalling Team and the Victorian Fire and Rescue Squad were invited by the VHRR to a function to thank both teams for their support throughout 2023. Disappointingly, only eleven VFT members attended, but those who did thoroughly enjoyed the evening. It gave a chance for a pre Christmas social chit chat, as well as a chance to view the magnificent trophy collections from several Australian champions, the comprehensive library, the recently acquired complete set of Australian Grand Prix programmes and also, importantly, to further cement the relationship with one of our valued sponsors. So, many thanks to Ian Tate and Conor Ryan for putting on the evening.

Merchandise

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.



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

Meg Boers
Merchandise Officer

From the Editor

Many thanks once again to those members who have submitted articles but please keep them coming!

Please note articles for the March edition are due 24th February – magazine@vicflag.org.au – Joy Chirnside

Photos in this magazine appear courtesy of: Suzanne Arnott, Tim Goodall, Andy Kelk, Revved Photography, Glenn Rochester, Mark Thompson



Committee Elections 2024

Hi Everyone,

Nominations for committee elections closed on 31 December 2023.

Below is a list of nominations for the upcoming election:

President: Suzanne Arnott, John Pollard & Murray Stevens

Vice President: Natalie Daish & Murray Stevens

Secretary: Andy Kelk (**Elected Unopposed**)

Treasurer: John Booker & Mario Pacifici

Grade 3 Rep: Patrick Harding (**Elected Unopposed**)

Grade 4/5 Rep: Jason Carroll & Ninad Kavi



The election of committee members will take place by ballot at the Annual General Meeting on Thursday 1 February 2024 at the MG Car Club, Unit 53, 41-49 Norcal Road, Nunawading VIC 3131.

Voting is open to all full financial members personally present. For those yet to pay your 2024 membership, please do so before the AGM to be eligible to vote.

If you are unable to attend, remember to request a postal ballot from the Secretary by emailing secretary@vicflag.org.au.

Postal ballots will be forwarded to all members living more than 80km from the venue.

Please note postal ballots must be returned by Wednesday 31 January to the **Returning Officer** at the club address:

Victorian Flagmarshalling Team, Brooklands, 46 Dorrigo Drive, Boronia VIC 3155

Regards

Bryce Crawford

Returning Officer VFT

Expressions of Interest (EOIs)

Expressions of interest are open for all appointed positions. EOI's close 1 Feb at 4:00PM and should be directed in writing to the Secretary, secretary@vicflag.org.au.

Positions appointed by the Committee

Chief Flagmarshal, Assistant Chief Flagmarshal, Training Officer, Motorsport Australia Rep

Other positions

Training Committee, Induction Co-ordinator, Induction Team, Merchandise Officer, Webmaster, Magazine Editor

Please note that expressions of interest are not binding and the committee reserves the right to appoint only those who have demonstrated appropriate experience for the relevant role.



Committee Nominees

Nominees were given until 5:00pm Friday 5-January to submit a statement in support of their nomination for a committee position. Their statements (or referral to their relevant reports/statements) are listed below in order of receipt.

Suzanne Arnott – President Nominee

Refer to statement in President's words on pg 4

Murray Stevens – President/Vice President Nominee

This is my wife's doing...
(Committee 2024 Nominee)

Hi all.

One night not long after the last general meeting at the MGCC, I was talking (she'd call it something different) to the long suffering wife about the VFT while BBQing steaks for dinner. I'll admit I was being critical of the current committee similar to how I've been at most general meetings.

Now's the time to introduce her to you all. Kimberley is a no-nonsense highly qualified professional. She also does Team Medical and rides with me on her Honda with our local Ulysses branch.

Back to the steaks....She turns to me and says something like, "why don't you go back onto the committee if you think you can do better!"

So here we are today...

You may ask yourself, who am I? Well, in the past along with past president William Gaff we ran a very successful recruitment team for the VFT. Asking spouses of members or some members who wanted to do something different for a few hours, handing out thousands of small brochures at Albert Park and Supercar events. In the end we got the membership to over 200. I secured Holden on a \$5000 per year sponsorship deal that went for about 8 year or so, and was Club Member of the Year for my efforts. Will and I ran guest speaker nights and hosted names like Jim Richards, Gary Rodgers, Chaz Mostert and Alan Moffat. I think I've done 3 years on the VFT committee over my 26 years of membership. I dunno, I don't really keep track or write much down.

I'm still a grade 3.....I don't care for the higher positions trackside. I don't have dreams of grandeur. I just love the art and drama of being a flag marshal. Whether it's 2 or 15 folks at a trackside post, if you're not having fun out there, there's something wrong.

Away from the flag point I also held a part-time position with Supercars for 10 years. Either in commentary playing data assistant at the enduro races working along side Crompton, Matt White, Ross Holder and later with Skaife, or I was in pitlane running a small team of observers for the host broadcaster, Supercars Media.

I'm also on the committee of the local Ulysses branch on the Mornington Peninsula, the Mornington Wanderers. It's not as involved as the VFT but it's great fun organising and co-ordinating various club events.

I've been approached by two current committee members to join the 2024 committee. I feel the current committee hasn't been vigilant enough with the grants, and have made some basic mistakes in the administration of the team. Being awesome trackside isn't enough I'm afraid to say.

So along with those words from Kimberley, I ask you to vote for me if a vote is required.

Between now and the February AGM if you want to speak to me about anything please call or text 0412110354.

Regards
Murray Stevens



Natalie Daish – Vice President Nominee

I appreciate you taking the time to read through the reason I am nominating as Vice President for 2024.

I have been an active member of the VFT now for 14 years. I love this club and I am so proud to be a part of it. It would really be an honour and privilege to be able to have a voice in how we keep moving this wonderful club forward into the future.

I started as Flag Marshal and moved into Sector Marshalling and now I also am lucky enough to be able to help in Race Control. Having been in such a diverse range of positions over the years I believe I have a good understanding of what Marshals want and need.

We all love motorsport, that's why we are trackside, rain, hail or shine. It's why we put ourselves in danger week in and week out. It's why we volunteer at everything from Grassroots motorsport to National & International.

If I were to be elected, I would assist the President with whatever needs to be done to continue to grow not just the club, but to grow the quality of members. Listen to their wants and needs, implement what we can when we can. Keep the training levels up to the high standard we are known for, but most of all, I will be here to listen to what YOU, as a VFT member wants. As a club we need to be united with our passion, we need not be afraid to voice our opinions or ideas and we can continue to collaborate together to make the VFT the best Marshalling club in the country.

If you think that I may have the qualities in a Vice President that you are looking for, then I would appreciate your vote.

This club is about its members, this club is about YOU.

Nat Daish

John Booker – Treasurer Nominee

Refer to statement in Treasurer's report on pg 6

Patrick Harding – Grade 3 Rep Nominee

Refer to statement in Grade 3 Rep's report on pg 9

Ninad Kavi – Grade 4/5 Rep Nominee

Hello everyone,

I am excited to be re-running for the role of Grade 4/5 Rep on the 2024 committee, after having served in 2023.

To share a little about myself, I have been with the club since June 2022, having started as a trainee at a Ford Four Car Club Sprint event during a very wet and cold day at Sandown. Having been given only a blue flag and a solitary black flag without a number board at FP-9 (which is quite puzzling in hindsight), flagging was quite light and the weekend incident free. However I was thrilled to witness the cars drive past, which left me wanting to experience more of the action and learn the crafts of a marshal. Undeterred and brimming with enthusiasm, I have since regularly attended VFT events, along with a few interstate trips in Queensland and South Australia.

During my tenure on the 2023 committee, I have been actively involved in the training, induction and social events sub-committees. This is enabled me to learn how the club operates and what holistic benefits we can bring to our members.

If nominated, my goals as the 2024 Grade 4/5 representative would be to:

1. Continue building a supportive, inclusive and welcoming culture within the club, not just for our Trainees and Grade 4's but also more broadly across all members.
2. Support the growth of our members as per their interests and aspirations, by working together with members, the training team and chiefs to find the right opportunities for everyone.
3. Work together with our members, committee and sub-committees to implement new ideas, improve Trainee retention rates and identify growth opportunities to take our club to new heights in 2024.

Thank you for considering my nomination.

Ninad Kavi



John Pollard – President Nominee

Hi to all VFT Members and welcome to 2024!

After much deliberation and consideration, I have put my hand up to be the VFT President at the upcoming AGM. Having previously served on the VFT committee, I know it is a big commitment to accept a nomination, so I would firstly like to thank all nominees for having a go and committing to the VFT committee if elected.

I previously served on the VFT Committee for 8 years as your Treasurer and decided to have a break in 2023 after a somewhat difficult 2022 year on the VFT Committee. I stood before you all at last year's AGM as your outgoing Treasurer and made a 10-minute speech pointing out some of the mistakes, issues and occurrences during 2022. Having a break from the VFT Committee in 2023, to "see what happens" has sharpened me up and made me keen to serve again on the VFT Committee.

I am passionate about the VFT and believe the VFT has lost a lot of its own identity in the last 12 months with just one example being foregoing "our" training standards and internal grading system to adopting MSA's Gold, Silver and Bronze Licence grading only. We need to get back to the once very respected and highly trained Flag Marshalling Team that we have been in the past.

I believe a Leader should lead by example and for the right reasons, to bring a team together and encourage growth of its members, not to lead with favouritism and make decisions that cause constant queries and sometimes division amongst the ranks. Point in hand, why is the current committee constantly calling for experienced or senior members to attend both race and general meetings?

I am fit and healthy, have a strong work ethic and a 'can do' attitude. I also have a plan with your support and vote as President to freshen and change things up considerably within the VFT and I will do this by ensuring decisions and choices made by the committee will provide real benefit to the VFT brand and its members and I will ensure that any decisions and choices made will be carried out in a timely manner and be done right.

Thank you and good luck to all nominees.

John Pollard

Jason Carroll – Grade 4/5 Rep Nominee

Hi all,

For those of you who don't know me, my name is Jason Carroll, and this year I have decided to stand for the Grade 4 rep position.

Due to the events that happened at the 2022 AGM, I've had a 2-year absence from Motorsport within Victoria as I was disgusted in the way that the committee was formed and the way it affected me and my motorsport officiating journey. In the 2 years away from the VFT, I have been able to recharge myself and have regained my enthusiasm to get back involved with the club and motorsport in Victoria again. Even though you haven't seen me trackside, I've been still actively talking to other members of our club and keeping up to date in what has been happening.

If elected, I bring 17 years of experience of being a Flagmarshal, Sector marshal, Assistant chief Flagmarshal and Chief Flagmarshal at events ranging from Club events to International events. With that experience I believe that I would be a great person to help train, mentor and guide the grade 4 and new members of our club in their motorsport journey.

In my previous years on the committee, I have always strived to move our club and image into the modern world and have bought a lot of new ideas to the club. Some of those ideas never got off the ground, some ideas took others to implement, like the awards night and other ideas like the polo shirts, hats, club hoodie you wear trackside were all initiated by me to modernise our trackside appearance.

I would also like to share my support for John Pollard for President, Murray Stevens for Vice President, and Mario Pacifici for Treasurer. Between us all we have a lot of years involved with motorsport and with the VFT and I believe we all have the passion to bring back honesty and transparency to the club.

I'm looking forward to catching up with the older members and meeting the newer members of our great club at the AGM.

Thank you for taking the time to consider me for your very important vote.

All the best,

Jason Carroll



Adelaide - VAILO 2023

The last weekend in November has always been Island Magic time, so I was gutted when we discovered there were multiple clashes. Several of us had already booked accommodation interstate, there was Robbie Williams, and events in most states across Australia, including the Geelong Revival, Bathurst Challenge, Adelaide 500 and of course Island Magic which each had VFT members in attendance. This is a testament to our depth and training that we were able to spread ourselves so thin.... What a team we have.



Long service leave was booked, then a week before we left Covid finally caught me. UGHHHH. I was lucky and got the anti virals, and by the day we drove to Adelaide, I was firing on all cylinders and my RAT was clear... I actually couldn't believe it. I kept a distance from my team, and less



hugging than most years. I was at Sector 13. Had a few spinners in the wet, on Thursday, but apart from that it was a quiet weekend. I had a great team with Scott and Jacob from the VFT, as well as team members from South Australia and Queensland.



Covid continues to rear its head, so make sure you continue to stay safe.

If you get the opportunity, other states are always keen to have us visit, and it's great to see how other teams do it. We are always learning, always striving to improve.

Cheers
Suzanne Arnott



2022 Stillwell Motor Group Encouragement Award winner – Tim Goodall

Well, it's that time of the year again – awards season! The VFT 2023 Awards night is just around the corner, so I thought that as the most recent recipient of the Encouragement Award, I would share my journey as a motorsport enthusiast and my time with the VFT.

The most common question when you turn up on point with a veteran of the club; and are all excited for an action packed weekend trackside seat, is the how and why.

The how is simple. My interest in motorsport was apparently easily identified by Facebook. It was only a matter of time until the Victorian Flagmarshalling Team was 'suggested' to me. So that's how I found out about the VFT.

The why will take a bit more time to explain. I had been watching motor racing – particularly the Bathurst 1000 every year – since I was born. My father had also taken me to a few rounds of the then Touring Car Championships (Sandown and Phillip Island), we saw Wayne Gardner be triumphant in 1989 at Phillip Island, but predominantly attended gravel rallies. So my interest in motorsport was more off the circuit than on it in my pre-VFT years.

My father was a part of support crews for cars taking part in gravel rallies from the 1970's. By the time I came along in the 80s, his attendance had reduced but his passion and enjoyment of motorsport had not. We annually watched the Bathurst 1000 and the odd other circuit racing. My first taste of being an official came in the late 90s. A gravel rally in the Yarra Valley called the 'Rally of Melbourne' allowed me to take a 'peep' behind the curtain of motorsport events. We manned a road closure. This was trackside, and it was amazing. Being so close to cars hurtling almost out of control at break-neck speed through the forest with massive tree trunks either side of the road and a loose surface – I was in heaven! I was so close to being in that driver's seat myself, seeing and feeling and smelling the cars as they shot by. It was fantastic! The 90s also heralded another motorsport milestone for Victoria – Albert Park was reborn, getting the Australian F1 GP from Adelaide, and my father and brothers had to be at the first race there in 1996, and we were.

I left Melbourne as the 90s became the naughties. University in Ballarat was calling, and it took me away from motorsport. Then life intervened, got married, moved around the state with different jobs, even ended up driving trains in Newcastle before returning to Victoria as 2020 approached.

By now, I was no longer married and had more time for interests I had maybe not thought about in a long time. I enquired about being an official at gravel rallies again. I had my own wheels, the ability to get to events and some time to do it. My first baby steps were the Mitta Mitta Rally in 2021. The euphoria being at a start control – think starter at a circuit – where cars are given a countdown, then plant their foot as hard as possible into the firewall, was overwhelming. It was a drug, and I was totally under its influence! That combination of noise, speed and smell never gets old and is universal in all forms of motorsport. I was back!

So, it wasn't long before my future with the VFT became a reality. In fact, I think it was after that event that the VFT was suggested to me on Facebook, and I became a thorn in Patrick Harding's side. I looked into Flag Marshalling and the details of what being a marshal was all about. I had never had any ambition to be a 'flaggie' as I predominantly liked rallies more where it's just all about speed and the clock, and no warnings about a fast approaching tree or rock, and no flags. I had watched plenty of circuit races, but I hadn't paid that much attention to the vital part flag marshals play in the successful conduct of an event. Oh, how little I knew back then.

But Facebook had got me thinking. In fact, the more I thought about being on a corner on a race track every weekend, the more I wanted it. I had Patrick on speed dial. I wanted to know everything I needed to know to get trackside. As with anything else in my life, when I want something bad enough, I am tenacious. I couldn't get through all the online Motorsport Australia Officials Training modules fast enough. I wanted that licence, and I wanted it yesterday. So, I got my licence, and could smell the ethanol from my bedroom. I was pumped. Island Magic 2021 was to be my initiation.



(I think this photo says it all - after my first event as a flag marshal Island Magic 2021)



I hadn't been to this circuit since I think the 90s when Touring Cars still visited. I had grown up spending every holiday on the Island, but not at the circuit. Phillip Island was to become a new playground for me. The cars started coming on track and it was incredible. It was everything I wanted and more. Like watching a rally car take off on a forest road with pure acceleration, circuit racing was also addictive. I couldn't believe where I was!

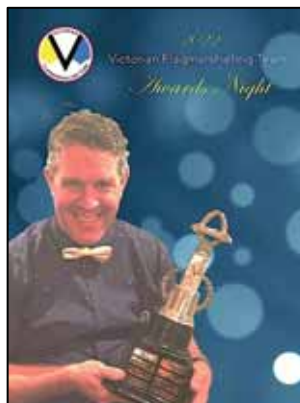
So my adventures with the VFT had begun. Like I did with the online training to be an official, I wanted to burn through the VFT training and move up the ranks. Soon, I was standing on points by myself flagging and on comms independently. I loved it. I learned there was a race track in northern Victoria called Winton, and was even more blown away when I heard accommodation was taken care of for officials! Does it get any better being an official? How did I not know about this earlier? I went to club days, state events, national events and the Australian F1 GP in 2022. Wow, the pinnacle of motorsport in this country in one year. It was great.



It was a big year for me in 2022. I had attended the Australian F1 GP as an official and been active with the VFT since November 2021. But a very special moment was to come. For 40 years, I had watched the Bathurst 1000 from behind a TV screen in Melbourne. In 2022, I made the trip to Mt

Panorama to be an official at a motorsport event there. If my head could explode it would have. I attended the 2022 Bathurst 6 Hour event, and from then on, I have absolutely loved every minute of being a flaggie. If 2022 couldn't be any better, I went on to be a senior official on point at the Gold Coast 500 and be the 2022 VFT Encouragement Award recipient. Here is a photo of me and my car at

Mt Panorama. I intend to return to Mt Panorama with a few other members of the VFT for the Bathurst 12 Hour in February 2024.



As Simon Baston noted recently at a meeting, the VFT is more than a club, it's a family. I was warmly welcomed to the family when I first contacted Patrick – he's an absolute asset to the club – and I have been embraced by just about every other member since. This is a great group of men and women all committed and dedicated to the enjoyment and safety of motorsport as well and the camaraderie in doing that. I look forward to a long future with the VFT both as an active member in Victoria but also as a representative when attending events across in Australia and abroad.

To the nominees for awards this year, I say good luck, and Congratulations to the 2023 Encouragement Award winner.





In Action (or Inaction)

Sandown Historics



Island Magic



Bunning Fundraising Sausage Sizzle



A great job done once again by a team of enthusiastic volunteers, ably led by Glenn Rochester, on a hot day, to raise more funds for the Victorian Flagmarshalling Team. Well done to everyone involved!



A Promised land, ...you'll love this – enjoy.

Quote: *I closed my eyes and summoned the prayer that had carried me here, one I would continue to repeat every night I was president. A prayer of thanks for all I'd been given. A prayer that my sins be forgiven. A prayer that my family and the American people be kept safe from harm. A prayer for guidance. From his book 'The Promised Land' by Barack Obama.*

Firstly, Happy New Year, 2024. It contains 366 opportunities to do good, ...yep, it's a leap year! Let us learn and grow, and live authentic lives, and conduct ourselves with integrity.



A Promised Land. Barack Obama is transparent and candid about the balancing act of being a Black American President, bearing the expectations of a generation buoyed by messages of 'hope and change', and meeting the moral challenges of high-stakes decision-making. *What Barack quickly discovered about the presidency was that no problem that landed on his desk, foreign or domestic, had a clean, 100 percent solution. If it had, someone else down the chain of command would have solved it already. Instead, he was constantly dealing with probabilities. He hoped to help bring the opposing parties together and reach an agreeable middle ground he called 'A Promised Land.'*

Many of us may have scoffed and let a 'good luck with that!' comment slip through our lips. The truth is, we are all responsible to get down off our 'rhetoric' and make an effort to make this world a better place. The buck should stop with us to do our bit and not just pass problems up the chain. The more who except the 'buck stops here' stance, the more common ground/Promised Land will be achieved.

This requires a mind-shift in us. Any new experience is a pre-requisite to a mind-shift.

On my first trip to Chennai India, I came across a just-born baby girl laying naked and crying in the kerb, left to be eaten by the dogs because, she could not attract a dowry for her parents. I relayed this story to my Church in Perth and funds were raised to build an orphanage in Kola Gold Fields. These babies were homed, educated, trained, and funded to start a home industry and break the cycle of poverty. This little girl has now married, a lovely young man also taken into the orphanage with his mum, and their firstborn son was named Mark.

There are many **new experiences** to be had in this new year. A mate of mine, his wife for 35 years declined oysters when they were offered to her. She would do a little shiver and let out an 'aaaggh!' When she was asked if she had ever tried one, she said 'NO!' She plucked up the courage to try one and absolutely loved it. Too often we duck **new experiences** for poor reasons.

Travelling to preach in India was my **new experience**. I was told by my minder when I picked up that little baby girl, 'What are you doing? This is what happens in India, what can you do?' Do not stay in your comfort zone, be moved with care and compassion to be a promised land maker.

Let us push this year to step up into **new experiences** and lift the bar together. I have always been amazed how a **new experience** has influenced change in me. Making a new friend, starting a business, going to Church, doing an act of kindness, speaking into the life of someone struggling along life's journey. Walking a mile with them will enlarge and enhance your view of what **new experiences** they could do. Steps like these have helped me to see things and try.

Step up, develop your communication skill, it will give you the ability to transform lives as you transfer ideas from one soul to another. Do not allow your current level of communication skill to become the limit of your capacity or the ceiling of your influence. Join Barack Obama in his nightly prayer practice. *A prayer of thanks for all I had been given. A prayer that my sins be forgiven. A prayer that my family and the people I am with be kept safe from harm. A prayer for guidance.*

Doin' life together, Cheers

Chaplain Mark Bateman

0412 151 121



Presentations



Alan Milligan, Jacob Taylor & Marietta Landgraf receiving Grade 4 upgrades



Bruce Cameron and Sienna Amos receiving MOM Awards April & Oct 2023 Attila Bary receiving Grade 3 upgrade

Minutes of the VFT December General Meeting 2023

Victorian Flagmarshalling Team Inc. – December 2023 General Meeting
General Meeting Minutes
7 December 2023, 7:30pm
MG Car Club and Online

Members present: 21 members present 9 in person 12 online

Apologies: Andy Kelk, Will Gaff, Joy Chirnside, Patrick Harding (late)

Welcome:

Suzanne Arnott welcomes members to the meeting and acknowledges the traditional owners of the land on which the club meets.

Minutes from the previous General meeting (5 October 2023):

Moved: John Haywood, seconded: Ninad Kavi, that the minutes be accepted. Carried.

1 Matters Arising:

1.1 Nil

Reports:

2 President:

- 2.1 The President thanks all members for their support across the year. The President thanks and welcomes new team members and hopes they become part of the club family.
- 2.3 The President reports on the return to racing at Calder Park.
- 2.4 The President reports on the events to farewell Warren Gordon and reports that the club donated funds to support taking his ashes back to New Zealand.



- 2.5 The President reports that plans for the awards night are taking shape.
- 2.6 The President reminds members to consider nominating for committee and volunteer positions. Positions including webmaster and other behind the scenes roles are needed.
- 3 Vice President:**
- 3.1 The Vice President thanks everyone for attending and thanks the MG Car Club for the use of their rooms.
- 3.2 The Vice President welcomes back Simon Baston after his injury.
- 3.3 The Vice President encourages all members to attend the awards night
- 3.4 The Vice President reports on a number of upcoming events including the VHRR thank you dinner on the 15th December, impromptu Christmas party on the 17th, Chief's BBQ on the 20th January, AGM on the 1st February, and Awards Night on the 3rd February.
- 3.5 Justin Parrant asks if there will be racing at Calder next year. The Vice President confirms there is a round on the calendar in October.
- 3.6 Mario Pacifici asks if the committee nomination form was sent out as an attachment with the last magazine. Suzanne Arnott confirms it was sent out separately in an email on the 11th November. The Secretary will send out a follow up email to all members with a link to the form.
- 4 Secretary:**
- 4.1 Suzanne Arnott reads a report from the Secretary who thanks all members for their support throughout the year.
- 4.2 The Secretary reports there are currently 170 members of the club.
- 4.3 The Secretary reports that renewals are open for 2024; so far 75 people have renewed with 75 outstanding.
- 4.4 The Secretary reports that 2024 membership cards will be produced in the new year and reminds members to ensure photos and other details such as licence number are up to date on the website.
- 4.5 The Secretary reports that the club has purchased two rugged tablets which can be used trackside by the chiefs and training team to manage training documents.
- 4.6 The Secretary notes that a draft calendar was published in the November magazine and that a few changes have been published since then including the dates of the BMW events and the Sandown 500.
- 4.7 Roger Chirnside asks if there is any suggestion that a SpeedSeries round would be held at Calder Park. Suzanne Arnott has heard similar suggestions but nothing has been announced.
- 4.8 Bruce Cameron provides feedback on the website and thanks the webmaster as the functionality has been much better.
- 5 Treasurer:**
- 5.1 The Treasurer's report has been sent to attendees. The Treasurer notes that membership payments are starting to come in for 2024. There is a donation from Glenn Rochester from the container recycling system; if a member wishes to do the same, they can use the club bank details when using the deposit machines. Expenditure includes money on tablets and a donation paid to Warren Gordon's family. Murray Stevens asks the committee for the rationale for the donation. Suzanne Arnott reports that the committee was approached by Mark Bateman who asked if the club would be willing to offer support. Mr Stevens refers to rule 31.4 in the club's constitution and expresses his opinion that the donation is in contravention of the rule; Mr Stevens also believes it sets a precedent. The Treasurer notes that the club has, in the past, spent money on flowers in the event of a bereavement. Suzanne Arnott states that the committee will discuss the matter further.
- 5.2 Payments to be passed:
- PI operations \$351.00 Breakfast for Island Magic.
 - Glenn Rochester \$75.00 Trailer towing for Island Magic
 - Corporate Printers \$90.00 Printing for November Magazine
 - Joy Chirnside \$112.80 Postage for November Magazine
 - Cash \$300.00 Float for Bunnings BBQ
- Moved: Roger Chirnside, seconded: Ninad Kavi that payments are passed. Carried.
- 5.3 Mario Pacifici asks how much money will be spent on the awards night. The Treasurer reports that the current plans have it costing around \$2000.
- 5.4 Mario Pacifici queries whether the tablets have been purchased and if they appear in the statement. The Treasurer confirms the money has been spent and it is under the Equipment category.



- 5.5 Murray Stevens asks the Treasurer about the bookkeeping course that he attended. The Treasurer notes that it was a simplified version of what's required for record keeping, funding, and corporate structure.
- 5.6 Roger Chirnside notes that it was encouraging to see a number of members travel to Winton for the spreading of Warren Gordon's ashes.
- 6 Chief Flag Marshal:**
- 6.1 Completed events:
- VSCRC6 at Calder Park: Entries were down with a few clashes and uncertainty over whether the event would go ahead until close to the date. A couple of officials attended the medical centre because of the cold wind; a good reminder to have extra clothing to lend to newer officials. During the course of the event, the chief made a decision to have flag post 2 be a mirror point for flag post 3. Trackside areas were better than expected but there is still more work required.
 - Historic Sandown: Low numbers on Friday and warm weather. On Saturday there was an injury at 0.1; the Chief Flag Marshal reiterates that Simon did what was expected and that it was an unfortunate freak incident; the trainee working with Simon chose to stand down for the weekend but is keen to return. A cool change on Saturday caught a few people out. Sunday was milder weather.
 - Island Magic: Covered in the Assistant Chief Marshal's report.
- 6.2 The Chief Flag Marshal reports that the Mini round is now a clash with the Sandown 500 and that the Mini club are looking at alternative options including running it at Calder if Phillip Island is not available. There is also a discussion of cutting down the time of races at Calder and adding an extra race per category. Additionally, there is a possibility of making Saturday a twilight event at Calder. Glenn Rochester asks if there is any indication of when a decision will be made on a twilight event.
- 6.3 Simon Baston comments on the placement of portable toilets at Turn 2 at Calder as it was on the wall of the race track and the team decided to only use it between sessions.
- 6.4 Mario Pacifici asks if Workcover was notified about the incident at Sandown. The Chief Flagmarshal reports that Michael Herlihey was working with Gallaghers; the Chief Flagmarshal will double check with the event organiser.
- 7 Assistant Chief Flag Marshal:**
- 7.1 The Assistant Chief Flag Marshal thanks all those who filled the Chief and Assistant role over the year. Especially, a thank you to Glenn Rochester and Paul Meade.
- 7.2 The Assistant Chief Flag Marshal reports on Island Magic. A small turnout on Friday with 9 people. The Assistant Chief Flag Marshal states that the club needs to consider how to handle practice days. There were 23 people on Saturday. 21 attended on Sunday; the breakfast provided by the club was welcomed. A number of people who registered didn't then turn up. The Assistant Chief Flag Marshal encourages all members to let the chiefs know if they can no longer attend any day of an event. Tim Goodall finished his bronze assessment at turn 6. There was good feedback from the Clerks of Course about flagging and communications. The Assistant Chief Flag Marshal thanks Glenn Rochester for assistance over the weekend including doing the flag runs.
- 7.3 Tim Goodall asks if there is not a good enough understanding of the procedures if someone can no longer attend an event. The Assistant Chief Flag Marshal notes that all of the details are in the emails sent before the event. Simon Baston recommends that a contact list be given to members in their upgrade bags. Karen Legg notes that she had an occasion where she should not make an event, texted two people, but they didn't get the message. David Thornbury notes that the member database is configurable and that reminder notices can be customised to have instructions on what to do if you can't attend. Mario Pacifici recommends sending a text message the day before an event starts asking for a reply with confirmation of attendance.
- 8 Training Officer:**
- 8.1 Suzanne Arnott reports on an article in the magazine with a proposal to adopt Motorsport Australia grading and streamlining the assessment process. The training committee will take responsibility for making sure that any general licence holders who wish to become bronze have a training plan. Suzanne Arnott moves a motion to adopt the proposal. Carried.
- 8.2 Suzanne Arnott notes that the Rookie of the Year award was the hardest to choose; a shortlist of those considered will be announced.



9 Motorsport Australia Rep:

9.1 The Motorsport Australia rep has nothing to report. The state council has not met since the last general meeting.

10 Grade 3 Rep:

10.1 The Grade 3 rep reports that there are 60 grade 3/3A members with Attila Bary being the latest.

11 Grade 4/5 Rep:

11.1 The Grade 4/5 rep reports that there are 61 Grade 4 members and 28 Grade 5s. There are no issues to report.

12 Induction:

12.1 The Induction Coordinator reports that, since the last meeting, there have been 7 new signups on the website with 3 of those having started training.

12.2 Suzanne Arnott thanks the Induction Coordinator for all of his hard work with the induction team.

13 Merchandise:

13.1 David Thornbury reports that the committee has decided to reduce prices on the old design of polo shirts and orders can be placed by emailing merchandise@vicflag.org.au. Murray Stevens asks how many of the new polo designs were purchased. John Booker reports that there were 180 in the last order. David Thornbury notes that new members get two polos in their upgrade kits instead of a duffle bag.

14 Magazine:

14.1 Roger Chirside relays a report from the magazine editor which notes that the deadline for articles for the January magazine is the 28th December. The editor suggests that those who went to Adelaide consider putting in an article. Suzanne Arnott asks Mr Chirside to pass on thanks to the editor for a great job.

Reports: Moved John Booker, Seconded Simon Baston that reports are accepted. Carried

15 General Business:

15.1 Glenn Rochester informs members that the club is running a sausage sizzle on the 6th January at Bunnings Bayswater on Canterbury Road. Thanks to all those who have put their hands up to help.

15.2 Glenn Rochester reports on a donation made via the state's container recycling scheme. Suzanne Arnott asks for the club bank details. John Booker notes that they are on invoices and in the magazine. Tim Goodall suggests that, at the sausage sizzle, the club try to retrieve as many drink containers as possible and deposit them.

15.3 John Booker reports on progress with rewriting the constitution. The Victorian Government released a new version of the Associations Incorporation Reform Act which includes a new set of model rules. This means the process needs to begin again. Mario Pacifici asks when members can expect to get a copy of the new draft. Mr Booker suggests the first discussion be held at the April General Meeting. A special general meeting can be held at any point throughout the year once the constitution is agreed to.

15.4 Murray Stevens asks about the expiry timeline for the government grants. Mark Thompson reports that, at the point the grant was paid, it was valid for 18 months and that the government may conduct an audit although the chances are slim. Mr Thompson suggests the club needs to follow up with the government to determine where it stands with regards to residual funds. Mr Stevens suggests that, if the club does not show due diligence then it may affect future grants. A number of members including Mr Pacifici, John Haywood, and Simon Baston agree on this course of action. Suzanne Arnott notes that there was communication with the government on the topic at the start of 2023 which the previous treasurer assisted with.

15.5 Simon Baston thanks everyone who assisted with his incident at Sandown including the Club, the VHRR, Motorsport Australia, PIARC, the MG Car Club, pit lane marshals, and medical team. Mr Baston also praises the Alfred Hospital and reminds members to ensure they have Ambulance Victoria membership. Bruce Cameron relays his gratitude that Mr Baston is well.

15.6 Roger Chirside reminds attendees that registration for the Australian Grand Prix closes on the 8th December. Suzanne Arnott notes that the SpeedSeries have opened all of their events for registration.

Meeting Closed: 9:00pm

Next Meeting: Annual General Meeting, 1st February 2024, MG Car Club



Minutes of the VFT 2023 Annual General Meeting

Victorian Flagmarshalling Team Inc. – 2023 Annual General Meeting
Annual General Meeting Minutes
16 February 2023, 7:30pm
Online (Google Meet)

Members Present: 28 members present online

Apologies: Doug Salan

Roger Chirside welcomes all attendees to the meeting

Minutes from the previous Annual General Meeting (3 February 2022): Moved: Andy Kelk, seconded: Tanya Salan that the minutes be accepted. Carried.

1 Matters Arising

1.1 None

2 Reports

2.1 The president reports on a productive year with new members and a healthy bank account. The year culminated in an enjoyable awards presentation evening. The president thanks all those who helped both on track and off track.

Meeting is handed over to Paul Freeman, Returning Officer.

3 All committee positions declared vacant

3.1 Paul Freeman gives thanks to the 2022 committee on behalf of the members

3.2 There is a single nomination for the positions of President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Grade 3 Rep and Grade 4 rep. These positions are elected unopposed.

4 Committee election results

4.1 President – Suzanne Arnott

4.2 Vice President – Glenn Rochester

4.3 Secretary – Andy Kelk

4.4 Treasurer – John Booker

4.5 Grade 3/3A rep – Patrick Harding

4.6 Grade 4 rep – Ninad Kavi

The Returning Officer hands the meeting to the 2023 President, Suzanne Arnott

5 Incoming committee remarks

5.1 The president thanks the returning officer. The president is determined to stop some of the bullying and harassment that has been ongoing in the club. The president highlights the outgoing treasurer's statement at the previous General Meeting as an example of how the committee has progressed as, in previous years, an NDA would have been in place. The president states that committee business is free for anyone to hear and encourages anyone who has an issue to speak to someone to resolve it sooner rather than later.

5.2 The vice president supports the president and commits to do as much as possible to help the club.

6 General business

6.1 Mark Thompson notes that the new committee now needs to appoint other committee positions. The president will chair a committee meeting and send an email to members once the positions are filled.

6.2 Roger Chirside informs members that the awards which were not able to be presented at the awards night will be presented on Saturday after competition at the VSCRC event at Sandown.

6.3 Mark Thompson informs members that the 22nd February is the Motorsport Australia State Awards event.

Meeting Closed: 7:55pm

Next Meeting: Annual General Meeting, 7:30pm 1 February 2024



Date	2024 Calendar		Registration
1 February	MG Clubrooms/Zoom	VFT AGM	
3 February	Manningham Hotel & Club, Bulleen	VFT Awards Night	VFT Website
9-11 February	Sandown	Speed Series Rd 1	Better Impact
17-18 February	Sandown	VSCRC Rd 1 [MGCC]	Better Impact
2-3 March	Phillip Island	March Access?	VFT Website
(7) 8-10 March	Phillip Island	Phillip Island Classic	Better Impact
16-17 March	Winton	VSCRC Rd 2	VFT Website
17 March	Sandown	BMWDCM Come & Try Day	VFT Website
21-24 March	Albert Park	Aust F1 GP (Non VFT Event)	
4 April	MG Clubrooms	VFT General Meeting	
7 April	Sandown	Porsche 6 Hour Regularity	VFT Website
12-14 April	Phillip Island	Speed Series Rd 3	Better Impact
18-19 May	Phillip Island	VSCRC Rd 3 [PIARC]	VFT Website & PIARC
6 June	MG Clubrooms/Zoom	VFT General Meeting	
30 June	Sandown	BMWDCM Come & Try Day	VFT Website
28 July	Broadford	BMWDCM Come & Try Day	VFT Website
Unknown	Phillip Island	Vic 6 Hour Relay	Better Impact
1 August	MG Clubrooms/Zoom	VFT General Meeting	
16-18 August	Phillip Island	August Access	VFT Website
24-25 August	Sandown	VSCRC Rd 4 [ASSA]	VFT Website
20-22 September	Sandown	Sandown 500	Better Impact
21-22 September TBC	Phillip Island	VSCRC Rd 5 [VMCI]	VFT Website
3 October	MG Clubrooms/Zoom	VFT General Meeting	
26-27 October	Calder Park (TBC)	VSCRC Rd 6	Better Impact
Unknown	Sandown	Sandown Historics	Better Impact
(22) 23-24 November	Phillip Island	Island Magic	VFT Website
5 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

In person, trackside or at club meetings

Please DO NOT use Social Media for expressions of interest!



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