



Founded 1986

News and information

March 2024



*Congratulations to all those recently elected/appointed to the 2024 VFT Committee!*

[www.vicflag.org.au](http://www.vicflag.org.au)

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



## 2024 VFT Committee



President  
Suzanne Arnott  
0438 398 805  
[president@vicflag.org.au](mailto:president@vicflag.org.au)



Vice-President  
Natalie Daish  
0413 205 253  
[vicepresident@vicflag.org.au](mailto:vicepresident@vicflag.org.au)



Secretary  
Andy Kelk  
0490 173 402  
[secretary@vicflag.org.au](mailto:secretary@vicflag.org.au)



Treasurer  
John Booker  
0439 359 907  
[treasurer@vicflag.org.au](mailto:treasurer@vicflag.org.au)



Training Officer  
Simon Baston  
0409 994 970  
[training@vicflag.org.au](mailto:training@vicflag.org.au)



Chief Flagmarshal  
Glenn Rochester  
0421 546 204  
[chief@vicflag.org.au](mailto:chief@vicflag.org.au)



Asst Chief Flagmarshal  
David Thornbury  
0410 846 361  
[asstchief@vicflag.org.au](mailto:asstchief@vicflag.org.au)



Motorsport Aust Rep  
Mark Thompson  
0409 324 341  
[motorsport@vicflag.org.au](mailto:motorsport@vicflag.org.au)



Grade 3 Rep  
Patrick Harding  
0400 332 043  
[grade3@vicflag.org.au](mailto:grade3@vicflag.org.au)



Grade 4/5 Rep  
Ninad Kavi  
0405 254 652  
[grade4@vicflag.org.au](mailto:grade4@vicflag.org.au)

## 2024 VFT Training Committee



Training Officer  
Simon Baston

TBA

TBA

TBA

TBA

TBA

## 2024 VFT Induction Team



Patrick Harding  
Coordinator



Sienna  
Amos



Attila  
Bary



John  
Beck



Lachlan  
Cuxson

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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]
John Haywood	
George Hetrel (Honorary Life Member)	
Pat Hetrel (Honorary Life Member)	

*Cover Picture:  
The newly elected/appointed members of the VFT  
2024 Committee*

## Welcome to New Members

John Miller and Scott Taylor

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## Reminder – General Meeting – 4 April 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

### 2024 General Meeting Protocols

In order to facilitate more productive General Meetings this year we are requesting that any items of ‘general business’ be sent to the Secretary the week prior to the meeting. These will be added as agenda items and we will be better able to discuss and have potential solutions, rather than items/issues dragging on. This also gives members who are unable to attend General Meetings the opportunity to have a voice and raise questions.

Of course, if issues or questions arise during the meeting we can add them to other business, and discuss if we have time.

Please email any items for discussion at a General Meeting to the Secretary - [secretary@vicflag.org.au](mailto:secretary@vicflag.org.au) at least a week before the meeting. Late items may not be able to be discussed due to time constraints. We are aiming to have meetings last no longer than 90 minutes, as we value everyone’s time.

If you have any further questions on this, feel free to contact me directly – [president@viclag.org.au](mailto:president@viclag.org.au)

See you at the April General Meeting, Suzanne Arnott, President

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## A Word from the Prez



Welcome to 2024, and what a start to the year we have already had. I hope everyone had a safe and restful summer break and you are all feeling recharged and ready to get back trackside. I look forward to catching up with each of you over the coming events. And those of our team who can't make it to race events, we know you would rather be with us, but we understand life gets in the way at times, and that is fine too. You are all part of our family in whatever capacity you can be.

Thank you to our amazing fundraising team who helped out with the BBQ at Bunnings, which raised some extra cash to be able to budget for some future ideas.

Thank you to Joy and Roger Chirnside for hosting the Chief's BBQ, what a brilliant way to start the year. We had a huge turnout of members; the weather was kind and it was a great night. Joy's salads and desserts were outstanding once again.

It was heartening to see some interest in committee positions, meaning for the first time in a while we had to have a vote for 4 of the elected committee positions. Thank you to John Pollard, Murray Stevens, Mario Pacifici and Jason Carroll for putting up your hand for the roles, healthy competition is always a good thing and prevents a committee becoming stale. The members have spoken with their votes and I would like to introduce you to your 2024 Committee:

President: Suzanne Arnott  
Vice President: Natalie Daish  
Secretary: Andy Kelk  
Treasurer: John Booker  
Grade 3 Rep: Patrick Harding  
Grade 4/5 Rep: Ninad Kavi  
Chief Flagmarshal: Glenn Rochester  
Assistant Chief Flagmarshal: David Thornbury  
Training Officer: Simon Baston  
Motorsport Australia Rep: Mark Thompson

Thank you to Kevin Watson and Michael Arnott for their input in 2023, welcome to the team Natalie and Simon, it is looking to be a very good year. Already we are buzzing with ideas.

Some of our volunteer positions have been filled: Thank you to Joy Chirnside – Magazine Editor, Geoff Kay – Equipment Officer, Patrick Harding – Induction Officer. We are still looking for someone with web skills to support the team as webmaster – this would be perfect for someone with web knowledge and we had no EOIs for Merchandise – this is a great role for someone who attends regularly, we have a square device for easy payment of items. I have been told we have managed to reduce the stock we are holding so you won't need a storage shed to hold it all. Any of the volunteer positions could be shared roles. Come and chat or drop me a line if you are interested.

As I mentioned in my email recently to the team, it was sad to hear that George Hetrel can no longer fulfill the role as Patron. There will be more on that elsewhere in the magazine. We are sad to see you go George, and the 2024 committee is working through the process for the future of the role.

The 2023 Awards night was a fabulous event, with great speakers and a popular venue. Details of the award winners will appear elsewhere in the magazine – but congratulations to all winners, and thank you to our two guest speakers: Mark Winterbottom and Tim Schenken. Geoff and Dawn Bull from PIARC were in attendance to present the club with a plaque in appreciation of our "valued ongoing partnership", we appreciate the support and acknowledgement. Thank you. A huge shout out of thanks to our Sponsors VHRR, Penrite and Shannons for their ongoing sponsorship and generous donations for the awards night prizes.

We have taken on the feedback from the survey of attendees, and plan a formal 2 course sit-down affair for our 2024 awards event. The date has been set as February 1<sup>st</sup> 2025, with details to come as the events subcommittee gets on with the job of organising.



We were represented at the Penrite Open Day, and got a lot of people scanning our QR codes and starting the joining process. We look forward to seeing our new recruits at the track soon.

I will leave the track event details to the chiefs to cover, but it has been a hectic start to the year, with Sandown two weeks in a row, some of our team headed up to Bathurst for one or both weekends, and many of us have a full dance card for March with Phillip Island x 2, Winton and then the Grand Prix.

As far as club policies and procedures go, every member has access to the club's Constitution and By-Laws in the members' portal of the VFT website, when you log in. In this area you can update your details as well, making sure you have your Motorsport Australia Licence, and the correct motorsport Australia Licence on your profile.

As always, please don't hesitate to contact myself or any member of committee if you have any questions, queries or issues you would like us to deal with. Please email [committee@vicflag.org.au](mailto:committee@vicflag.org.au) or [president@vicflag.org.au](mailto:president@vicflag.org.au) or any of the committee members. We can't fix a problem if we don't know about it. Catching up at race meetings works as well, but please do follow up with an email where possible, as we are all busy at events, and something mentioned in passing can sometimes be forgotten.

Looking forward to an amazing year working at the track with as many of you as possible.

See you trackside  
Suzanne

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

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## Vice President's Report

Hello Everyone,

First of all, I want to thank everyone for voting me in as your Vice President. I will do my best to help the club move forward and help the members with any questions or issues that you have. My main role will be to support the President and the committee and I hope to make you all proud.



We have had our first committee meeting for the year and I am excited to see the club progress this year with some great ideas. I'm looking forward to getting stuck into the role and to assist all aspects of the club, whether it's training, inductions, promotions or even a humble little raffle here and there. This club of ours is very special, and with great teamwork and collaboration we can make it even better. Feel free to come to me or anyone else on the committee with ideas or suggestions. Many hands make light work.

This year has seen a busy start with a clash already! Bathurst 12 hour and the State round last weekend at Sandown. March also sees another busy month with March Access and Philip Island Classic at Philip Island. Followed by State round at Winton, BMW DCM Come and Try Day then the AGP. I'm exhausted just thinking about it. Luckily, we have Easter at the end of March for a little relax.

Well not too much more from me, the President has given me homework to do so that is next on my checklist. Happy racing everyone.

Stay safe and happy 😊  
Nat

Natalie Daish  
Vice President  
[vice.president@vicflag.org.au](mailto:vice.president@vicflag.org.au)



## Chief Flagmarshal Report

Hi everyone,

I'd like to begin my first report as Chief Flag by thanking the 2024 committee for appointing me to the role. All things going as planned, not a lot will change from the way David and Mark ran the show last year. I aim to get as many people in as assistant as I can to further their experience.



As I haven't yet been in the role of Chief, I will only be commenting on the report provided to me by your last Chief, for Speed Series Round 1 held at Sandown.

### Speed Series

Up the top, a big thank you to Paul Meade for being Chief for the three days. Michael Verni was acting as Deputy Chief and did a great job with the placements and briefings for the weekend. As he had never been in this position previously, he stepped up and smashed it. Well done Michael!

The weather was a bit taxing on the Sunday, however there was a cool breeze blowing which helped a lot. Friday and Saturday were pleasant. Numbers were really good for the first race meeting back for the year - 35 Friday, 69 Saturday, and 63 Sunday. This included a big group of first timers, so thanks to those that were happy to have a newbie on their point.

We had 4 people being assessed, 3 from the club, and one from NSW. Thanks also to those officials that have stood up to do assessments.

Great categories all around, though entries were a little down. But what we had provided for some terrific racing all weekend.

Clerk of Course was happy with the team's efforts when spoken to. The race directors were extremely happy with the blue flagging.

Thanks to Geoff for dealing with the trailer and doing the flag run. It's really appreciated Geoff!

For the state round the following week, Dave Thornbury was Chief, so I won't steal his thunder and I'll let you all read his report.

We have a few upcoming meetings, which I hope to have more information on for you in the next edition.

Rocky

Rocky (Glenn Rochester)

Chief Flagmarshal

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



## **Assistant Chief Flagmarshal Report**

I'm sure you will have all seen by now that Glenn Rochester has been appointed the Club's Chief Flag Marshal for 2024.

When I became Chief back in 2022, it was a goal of mine to increase the number of people we had in the club who felt confident in being able to be Chief for an event. Over the last couple of years, there have been a number of our seniors step up and take on the role of Chief or Assistant Chief for various events. So, it was great to see Glenn put his hand up to be Club Chief this year.



I'm sure Glenn will bring his own approach to the role, and have his own initiatives that he wants to introduce. I'm happy that he and the committee have appointed me as Assistant Chief, and will be offering him my full support throughout the year.

I was Chief for the recently held VSCRC 1 at Sandown. With it being run the same weekend as the Bathurst 12 Hour, which attracted a number of our regulars, we were a little light on numbers. I'd like to thank each and every one who did support the event for stepping up and making the weekend such a successful one. I have had feedback from the Clerk of Course, Stewards and Category representatives, and it has all been very appreciative of the work you have done.

March is going to see us have an event clash, with the state series round 2 being run at Winton on 16-17 March, while the BMWDCM has an event at Sandown on 17 March. Clash weekends always stretch the club, so if you are able to support either of these events it would be really appreciated. They are the weekend before the Grand Prix, so they represent a good opportunity to get your eye in.

See you at the track soon!

Regards

David

David Thornbury

Assistant Chief Flagmarshal

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

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## **From the Editor**

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

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

*Photos in this magazine appear courtesy of: Suzanne Arnott, Attila Bary, Michelle Clewett, Tim Goodall, Patrick Harding, Luke Hingeley, Andy Kelk, Revved Photography, Glenn Rochester and Mark Thompson*



## Grade 3/Induction Co-ordinator Report

Hi everyone,

First of all I would like to thank the club for making me your Grade 3 rep and Induction Co-ordinator again for 2024. The calendar looks to be another packed year with a few back to back events on. For those grade 3's looking to do more senior roles trackside, please have a chat with me and I'll help you out with this, as there are plenty of events on this year where you can have the opportunity to step up and have a go at being chief, assistant chief, placements etc.



So far at the time of writing we have had two events which have had plenty of members turn up and plenty of new people come onboard. Although the Speed Series didn't have many categories there was still good racing to be seen.

So far this year I have had over 20 sign ups on the website to join our club. Some of these people have already done a few days trackside with us at the Speed Series and we hope to retain them for future events this year.

As always for those amongst the grade 3 membership base, please feel free to contact me if you have any questions for me that you would like raised at the committee level.

Cheers

Patrick Harding  
Grade 3 Rep/Induction Coordinator

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## Grade 4/5 Report

Hi everyone,

As we head into 2024, I am honoured to be the representative of our largest cohort within the club and I am excited to work with you all to see what the year ahead holds.



We've had a cracking start to the year already, not just with the social events to kick things off, but also trackside more recently with an influx of newbies at the Speed Series round.

Looking ahead, March seems to be one of the busiest months on the calendar with 4 back-to-back events happening together. If you could spare even a day to come trackside and support the club during this busy period, it would be much appreciated.

As always, it's great to see faces familiar and new at our events and see the club grow in leaps and bounds each year. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out at any time.

Thanks,

Ninad Kavi  
Grade 4/5 Rep  
0405 254 652 | [ninad.kavi@vicflag.org.au](mailto:ninad.kavi@vicflag.org.au)





## Motorsport Australia Rep Report



Hi Team

As the VFT appointed Motorsport Australia representative, I extend a warm welcome to all our members and supporters and to my first magazine entry as your rep. I am Mark Thompson and I'm honoured to represent you in ensuring that your voices are heard and your concerns addressed within Motorsport Australia as well keeping you updated with developments and issues.

I take this opportunity to remind everyone that as your representative, I am here to advocate for your interests. Should you have any issues or suggestions that you would like raised or to share with Motorsport Australia, please do not hesitate to reach out. The proper procedure is to send your inquiries through the committee secretary addressed to me, and rest assured, confidentiality will be maintained if required.

Recently, I had the privilege of attending the Victorian State Council meeting, where we discussed several important developments within Motorsport Australia. One of the key topics of discussion was the progress of the National Official's Program. While it is still a work in progress, I am pleased to share that we have received assurances that significant strides are being made. MA's new CEO, Sunil Vohra, is dedicated to enhancing the number of officials nationwide. He is diligently working to introduce new ideas and initiatives aimed at both recruiting and retaining officials.

Furthermore, I am excited to announce that an Event Assessor's Course will be conducted in the near future. If you have an interest in participating and to be recognised as an event assessor, please do not hesitate to make it known to me or your grade rep. Your involvement is invaluable to the growth and success of our club.

In addition, I am delighted to report the successful completion of a Silver course in February where several of our members attended and successfully passed. I congratulate those who attended. For those considering an upgrade to Silver, please ensure that you reach out to your grade representative and submit an Expression of Interest (EOI) to Motorsport Australia for the course. Once we reach the required number of participants, we can coordinate a suitable day for the course to take place.

The proposed Home of Motorsport feasibility study has been completed and is still moving forward albeit slowly. The State is rather cash strapped as we all know, and this is now having an impact on the continued support from the State Government, we can only hope that this community-based project will get the support it deserves.

As we eagerly anticipate the upcoming events, like the Phillip Island Classic & 2024 Australian Grand Prix and Shannons Speed Series to name but a few, I look forward to seeing you all trackside again soon. Your passion and dedication are what make our club and motorsport community thrive.

Thank you for your continued support, and together, let us make this season of motorsport an unforgettable one!

Best Regards,

Mark Thompson  
VFT Motorsport Australia Representative  
0409 324 341





## Training Notes

I'd like to start by saying a huge thank you to 2024 committee members showing confidence in electing me as Training Officer 2024.

I have been involved in training and the Training team for many years and I have very much loved doing it. I get so much joy watching trainees being trained as flag marshals, going forward in VFT gradings.



I am looking forward to continuing the great work from previous Training Officers and Training team members to continue to improve the way we do upgrades to simplify so we can process them quickly.

In the next magazine I will announce the members of the Training team for 2024. It looks like a very busy start to 2024. So far we have introduced 5 first time trainees for the first two events: Speed Series at Sandown and VSCRC Rd 1 at Sandown. I would like to congratulate all Trainers for a fantastic job with trainees making them feel welcome and training them: keep up the great work.

I will be looking to be walking around to each flag point during events if we have enough marshals at each flagpoint to catch up to talk and mentor trainers and trainees and answer any questions you may have.

Simon Baston  
Training Officer  
[training@vicflag.org.au](mailto:training@vicflag.org.au)

## Member of the Month Award



September 2023  
Member of the Month –  
presented to Tim Lack in  
recognition of excellence  
in training.

July 2023 Member of the  
Month – presented to  
Paul Warren for  
exceptional training of  
newer officials.  
(presented in Feb 24)



November 2023 Member  
of the Month – presented  
to Chris Moore for being  
flexible and a team player  
when it was needed.



February 2024 Member of the Month – presented to  
Peter Austin for his dedication working across the  
Speed Series and VSCRC rounds at Sandown.



## A Hard Decision for the Inaugural Patron of the VFT

George Hetrel, who has been Patron of our club since June 2006 has regrettably had to make the hard decision to step down from the position due to failing health.

When George was first appointed as Patron, he was still racing his beloved Bugatti Type 35, and brought with him a wealth of knowledge and advice gained over many years of involvement with motorsport, both here in Australia and overseas.



As well as being Patron, George, and his wife Pat, generously invited the club to use their beautiful property – Como Gardens – for our Christmas party each year, and over the years many members thoroughly enjoyed the magnificent gardens, together with the delightful steam/diesel train that ran around the property, the rainforest walk and other delights, including George's amazing collection of classic cars and motoring memorabilia.



As has been recently seen in the daily newspaper, the Como Gardens property is now for sale – sadly the end of an era. George and Pat have owned the property since 1996, restoring the many acres and also enhancing the undeveloped areas of the property with appropriate landscaping and a beautiful lake.



The Victorian Flagmarshalling Team would like to express its thanks to George and Pat and wish them all the very best. The support and friendship which you have extended to the club over many years will be greatly missed.



## Merchandise

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.

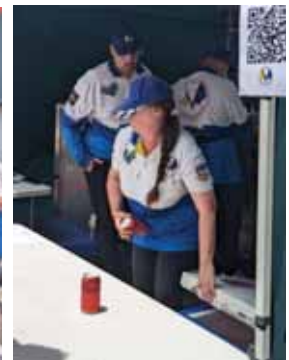
The grade lanyards are a FREE item for members.

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

Meg Boers  
Merchandise Officer



## Bunnings Fundraising BBQ



*Once again, our band of willing helpers working hard to raise funds for the VFT – this year again, over \$2000!! Well done – a great effort!*



## Chiefs BBQ



It was lovely to see over 50 in attendance this year, many of whom were new members or hadn't attended previously.

## Penrite Oil Open Day



Penrite Oil held its Fan Open Day on 3-Feb, celebrating the unveiling of the 2024 Penrite Racing Supercars Championship season and VFT members were there to promote the club.

## Fabulous Officials

Presented by Mark Thompson, Motorsport Australia Rep and State Officiating Panel Chair to:



*Lachie for his amazing work at Post 4, waving yellows, holding arrows AND communicating on the radio.*

*Our President, Suzanne, who stepped up to be Assistant Clerk of Course – Operations*



**Congratulations to both!**



## VFT 2023 Awards Night

The VFT presentation night for 2023 awards was held on 3 Feb at the Manningham Hotel and Club and a great night was had by all in attendance – approximately 60. Glenn Rochester had done a great job in securing numerous donated items for raffles and door prize, aided by his team with their individual tasks, who all helped to make the night a great one. Prior to the main presentations, there were a few licence and service awards etc presented as follows:



Harold Dreher  
20 yr Service Award



Paul Meade  
Gold Licence Certificate



John Haywood  
Life Membership



Cory Ponyeim  
Welcome Kit



Meg Boers and Joy Chirside 5 yr Service Award



Geoff Bull (PIARC) presenting VFT an Appreciation Award



During the event, the VFT was honoured by Geoff Bull, on behalf of PIARC, presenting a plaque in appreciation of a valued ongoing partnership between the two clubs. His speech was sincere and very much appreciated by the club.

The two guest speakers were well received and both Mark Winterbottom and Tim Schenken helped with award presentations following their interviews which were conducted by the MC – Roger Chirside. I think all the recipients were more than a little surprised with their awards!



The Stillwell Motor Group Encouragement Award went to Peter Austin



Phil Hoogendoorn received the Roger Chirside Rookie of the Year Award



The Patron's Award was awarded to Glenn Rochester



Patrick Harding received The President's Award



The Noel Barr Club Person of the Year Award went to a stunned Joy Chirnside



The Barry Petersen Flagmarshal of the Year Award went to Simon Baston





## Bathurst 12 Hour

Written By Attila Bary

Photo credits to Supercars Volunteers Facebook page, Patrick Harding, Tim Goodall, Glenn Rochester and Attila Bary.

On the 14th of February members of the VFT embarked on a road trip to attend the Bathurst 12 hour endurance race at Mount Panorama. Four of us travelled together in 2 vehicles but on our arrival we were pleased to see other members had also made the trek.

For myself and Glenn (Rocky) it was our first time as officials at the Mountain. Arriving Wednesday afternoon, we set up camp in the officials' campground and began to settle in for the weekend. We were informed of our roles and track positions as follows:

- Glenn (Rocky) Sector Marshal at 10 and 10.5
- Patrick Harding post chief at FP 9.8
- Tim Goodall Flag Marshal at FP 21
- Attila Bary post chief at FP 17



Thursday morning, we decided to do a track walk which was a real eye opener, the place truly is special. The elevation changes the scenery – there is no other place quite like it, well there probably is but I might be biased. So along came Friday morning – our first day on track and we were excited to get going. The officials' campground is conveniently situated right behind the pit building which is also where the muster shed is - after sign on we were bussed up to our locations. We all enjoyed our first day trackside and headed back to camp for dinner and a chat. Saturday was much the same but we headed out to a local pub for an early dinner to get ready for that 3:30am sign on for Raceday Sunday.



The early start on Sunday is very much worth it, there really is nothing like being up there in the calm darkness and then hearing the sound and seeing the lights of an entire field of GT cars roaring towards you – imagine all the visuals of night racing like glowing brake discs, a few sparks, it's a real sight.



I worked with two others on my point so we took hour long shifts during the race to ensure everyone had adequate breaks, yes, it is a long day but truly rewarding.

After the race on Sunday afternoon Supercars put on a dinner for officials back in the muster shed to celebrate the weekend, and several awards were given out including one to a retiring marshal to thank them for their services.

All in all, we had a fantastic weekend and it's been mentioned in passing that this may well become an annual event.





## Presentations (at various venues)



Suzanne Arnott receiving her 30 yr Service Award



Michael Arnott receiving his Gold Licence Certificate



Geoff Kay receiving his Neil Thompson Attendance Award for 2023, as he was not at the Awards Night to receive it



Scott Taylor receiving his Welcome kit



Tim Goodall receiving his Grade 3 (Bronze licence) upgrade



Mario Mohorko receiving Bronze licence certificate



Tanya & Doug Salan receiving their Silver Licence certificates



Cory Ponyeim receiving his Grade 4 upgrade



Jeremy Cath 5 yr



Richard Millott 10 yr



Luke Hingeley 15yr



David Humphries 30 yr

Members receiving Service Awards:



## In Action (or Inaction)

Speed Series Rd 1





VSCRC Rd 1 Sandown





Bathurst 12 hour & 500



*Geoff Kay was presented with a Silver Award for his happy demeanour to everyone, and giving up his lunch breaks etc to promote racing to young kids. He was presented with a racing tyre from car No 46 driven by Valentino Rossi at the 12 hour.*



March Access





Phillip Island Classic





Patrick Harding receiving 5 yr Service Award, Don Johnson receiving 10 yr Service Award and a welcome to Dominic Campagna



Celebrating our female officials on International Womens Day on Friday 8-March at Phillip Island





## Selection of vehicles at the Classic

Courtesy of Luke Hingeley





# Minutes of the VFT February General Meeting 2024

Victorian Flagmarshalling Team Inc. – February 2024 General Meeting  
General Meeting Minutes  
1 February 2024, 7:30pm  
MG Car Club and Online

**Members present:** 57 members present 49 in person, 8 online (Tim Goodall, John Miller, Arthur Cooksley, Chris Sullivan, Michael Poole, Vivek Prabhakar, Meg Boers, Karen Legg)

**Apologies:** John Haywood, Tony van den Dungen

**Welcome:**

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

**Presentations:**

- Chris Moore, Member of the month for November.
- Michael Arnott, Gold circuit licence
- Suzanne Arnott, 30 years membership (presented by Glenn Rochester)

**Minutes from the previous General meeting (7 December 2023):**

Moved: Anthony Filippousis, seconded: Ninad Kavi, that the minutes be accepted. Carried.

**1 Matters Arising:**

- 1.1 Nil

**Reports:**

**2 President:**

- 2.1 The President thanks the MG Car Club, PIARC, Australian Sports Sedan Association, Mini car club, Benalla Auto Club, BMW Drivers Club Melbourne, Motorsport Australia, Supercars, the Victorian Fire and Rescue Squad and everyone who's been part of the club in 2023.
- 2.2 The President reports on a busy season of events including the Chief's BBQ, Awards night, VHRR thank you night, and informal Christmas drinks.
- 2.3 The President notes the focus on training with online training and over 20 new members completing training and being awarded grade 4. That amounts to over 200 days of officiating from new members.
- 2.4 The President notes that 2024 is looking to be busy and, with the grand prix being oversubscribed, the club expects more interest.

**3 Vice President:**

- 3.1 The Vice President reports on 2023 including the fundraising event, the training evening with Thomas Randle, many upgrades, retention of new trainees, and a return to Calder Park. The club has been represented at club days, Victorian state championships, and national events in every state and one of the two territories.
- 3.2 The Vice President acknowledges the passing of Warren Gordon and the incident involving Simon Baston.
- 3.3 The Vice President notes the upcoming award night and relays the difficulty in choosing the winners.
- 3.4 The Vice President thanks the committee for their support and wishes well for the incoming Vice President and all of the 2024 committee.

**4 Secretary:**

- 4.1 The Secretary thanks the committee for their support throughout 2023 making the role easier than it would have been otherwise.
- 4.2 The Secretary reports the club has 156 financial members.
- 4.3 The Secretary notes that membership cards have been produced and are available for collection.





## 5 Treasurer:

5.1 The Treasurer's report for January has been sent to attendees of the meeting. The Treasurer informs the members that the report has a new format including a separate cash flow statement to show where money is going and how it reconciles.

5.2 Payments to be passed:

- |                         |            |                                 |
|-------------------------|------------|---------------------------------|
| ● RJ Sanderson & Assoc  | \$495.00   | Audit of 2023 Financial Reports |
| ● Heywood Trophy Centre | \$292.05   | Trophies for 2023 Award Night   |
| ● Joy Chirnside         | \$1,042.97 | Chiefs BBQ Expenses             |

Moved: David Thornbury, seconded: Michelle Clewett that payments are passed. Carried.

5.3 Anne Marie van de Meulengraaf-Veneros asks how much was raised from the Bunnings BBQ. The Treasurer reports that income was \$2826, expenses were \$803 for a \$2023 net gain. John Grist requests that the Treasurer break out expenses for the BBQ.

## 6 Chief Flag Marshal:

6.1 Upcoming events

- SpeedSeries at Sandown from the 9th to 11th of February. Paul Meade is chief and reports that numbers are good with some brand new attendees including those who have not been able to get a place at the Grand Prix.
- VSCRC1 at Sandown from the 16th to the 18th February. This is a clash with Bathurst.
- March access at Phillip Island on the 2nd March. Michelle Clewett notes that this is a clash with the Dunkley By Election.
- Island Classic at Phillip Island from the 7th to 10th March.
- VSCRC2 at Winton from the 16th to the 17th of March.
- BMW Drivers Club Melbourne Come and Try day at Sandown on the 17th March.

6.2 The Chief Flag Marshal reports there have been 20 people acting in the chief/assistant chief over the last 2 years. 20 members have also performed senior roles such as starter, race control, sector marshal, and judge of fact. The Chief Flag Marshal notes that this shows that organisers turn to the club when they need someone. The Chief Flag Marshal reports that over 35 people have been to observe race control. The Chief Flag Marshal notes contact from interstate clubs asking what the club are doing for recruitment, induction and retention; they are seeing positive change and want to know how

6.3 The Chief Flag Marshal thanks the committee for their support through the year.

## 7 Assistant Chief Flag Marshal:

7.1 The Assistant Chief Flag Marshal echoes the sentiments of the Chief.

7.2 The Assistant Chief Flag Marshal thanks the club's sponsors and supporters including the MG Car Club. The Assistant Chief Flag Marshal thanks Paul Meade and Glenn Rochester for stepping up in 2023 for the SpeedSeries and Supercars.

7.3 The Assistant Chief Flag Marshal thanks all who stepped up as assistant during the year.

7.4 The Assistant Chief Flag Marshal thanks Joy Chirnside for her work as magazine editor.

7.5 The Assistant Chief Flag Marshal wishes luck to all running in the election.

## 8 Training Officer:

8.1 The Training Officer reports that he didn't get to put in as much time as he'd expected and thanks Suzanne Arnott for covering when he was unavailable. The Training Officer notes the impact of Warren Gordon's passing and thanks the club, Winton, and the Benalla Auto Club.

8.2 The Training Officer notes a number of areas the club needs to work on such as people facing the wrong way with a flag. The Training Officer will write a list for the successor.

8.3 John Pollard queries the appointment of Gemma Ladgrove on the training committee as a new member. Glenn Rochester notes that Gemma is a professional trainer and assessor. The Training Officer notes that Gemma's appointment was to help from an administrative view.



**9 Motorsport Australia Rep:**

- 9.1 The Motorsport Australia rep notes that it has been a privilege to be the club's representative and notes that the 2023 committee is the most cohesive he has seen.
- 9.2 The Motorsport Australia rep reports on trackside activity including 20 people coming from trainee to grade 4 and 20 people doing the chief/assistant chief role.

**10 Grade 3 Rep:**

- 10.1 The Grade 3 rep reports on a good year with many grade 3s turning up and taking on senior roles.

**11 Grade 4/5 Rep:**

- 11.1 The Grade 4/5 rep reports on his first year on committee and thanks all members and the 2023 committee for their support. The Grade 4/5 rep notes the positive, supportive culture established in the club.

**12 Induction:**

- 12.1 The Induction Coordinator reports that a number of trainees have come through and thanks the assistants who helped contact people and meet them at the gate. The Induction Coordinator asks that anyone interested in helping contact him.

**13 Merchandise:**

- 13.1 David Thornbury notes that some old stock is being sold at the AGM.

**14 Magazine:**

- 14.1 Suzanne Arnott thanks the Magazine editor for everything she's done with the magazine.
- 14.2 The editor thanks all those who have put in articles and notes that the 24th February is the deadline for the March magazine.
- 14.3 Anne Marie van de Meulengraaf-Veneros asks how many copies of the magazine are posted. The editor reports 47 copies.

**Reports:** Moved Kevin Watson, Seconded Shane Rogers that reports are accepted. Carried

**15 General Business:**

- 15.1 Shane Rogers queries whether people's phone numbers are kept confidential by the club as he received a phone call from Murray Stevens without having given his number out. Glenn Rochester notes that the membership database is locked down so that only the secretary can access details. Murray Stevens apologises to Shane Rogers.
- 15.2 Mario Pacifici asks for an update on the grants. Mark Thompson reports that he has contacted the government and explained the situation. The project officer's advice was to spend the money as soon as possible (within 6 months). Mr Thompson advises he also spoke to Motorsport Australia. Mr Pacifici notes that the grants were a big issue for the club and thanks Mr Thompson for making contact.
- 15.3 Murray Stevens follows up a remark made at the August general meeting about the lifespan of grants. Suzanne Arnott responds that she may have misinterpreted something that was said in the discussions. John Booker notes that, at that time, he had no information on the grants so he had to go back through the books as there was no documentation provided to him. Joy Chirnside notes that committee members are volunteers and use their spare time to manage the business of the club. Anne Marie van de Meulengraaf-Veneros notes the difficulty of understanding government grants.
- 15.4 Murray Stevens asks for further details of the \$6800 expenditure on polo shirts and how many were ordered. John Booker reports that it was 185 units. Mr Stevens asks whether a competitive quote was sought. Meg Boers notes that she maintains a full tracking document for all merchandise and that the same supplier was used as it was a continuation of a previous order.
- 15.5 Murray Stevens notes that the committee meeting minutes contain no record of correspondence in or out. Andy Kelk reports that the committee does not follow such a practice. Suzanne Arnott notes that most correspondence is electronic. Mark Thompson notes that the committee suggested they didn't need all correspondence documented a number of years ago.

**Meeting Closed:** 8:30pm

**Next Meeting:** General Meeting, 4th April 2024, MG Car Club



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
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
13-15 September	Sandown	Sandown 500	Better Impact
3 October	MG Clubrooms/Zoom	VFT General Meeting	
4-6 October	Phillip Island	VSCRC Rd 5 [VMCI]	VFT Website
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](mailto: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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