

The Victorian Flagmarshalling Team News



SEPTEMBER 2015

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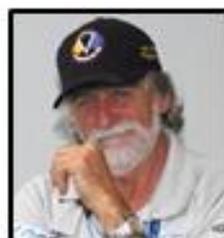


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The 2015 VFT Induction Team



**Induction Team
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Trish Storey



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Lee Davis



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Karen Legg



Ian Hogan



Paul Kelly

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Club Phone: 03 8796 5321 Club Mobile: 0409 823 657

10TH
ANNIVERSARY

Certificate of Appreciation

Awarded to

VICTORIAN FLAGMARSHALLING TEAM

In recognition of their continued support of the
Victorian 6 Hour Relay
over the last ten years.

 2/8/2015

Recognition



The
Victorian Flagmarshalling
Team



Presidential Pit Stop



It is a pleasure to be able to start this article off with fantastic news announcing Natalie Daish as the recipient of the WAMS Officials Exchange Program to attend the Singapore Grand Prix. Most would already have read it on the CAMS pages, but congratulations to Natalie on this achievement. I am sure she will do herself proud and be an admirable ambassador to how we do our motor sport in Victoria, and return home with a wealth of experience. We will look forward to the forthcoming report promise....(won't we Nat!)

As has been announced, we are now ready to implement our uniform replacement program, and this will enhance our profile at events no end. But we seem to have a problem, which is not having enough people at events to wear them. It is being left to around 30% of our membership to stand trackside through the wind, rain, hail and shine on a regular basis at the greater majority of events, regularly one out at the flag point, plus having to cover longer distances due to the chiefs having to drop points because of numbers being low. Now we can all bring out the old cliché that we are all volunteers and we have other commitments that take priority, which is all understandable, but we start to question those that only want to do one event a year. What is the answer? I do know that at present quality is in front of quantity by a long way. If you have any ideas of how to get the current membership to attend trackside and also at the General Meetings, please let us know.

Having just spent a weekend of motor sport north of the border with a small group (all VFT members) , it was very evident that teamwork is the basis of all things good in what we do. The chance to help when and where needed and step out of our comfort zone was challenging but beneficial not only to our own experience, but benefiting them also with our experience.

Which brings me back to the basics of who and what we are. We are the Victorian Flagmarshalling Team. So let's do a bit of analysis here. It is quite obvious that we are Victorians, some of us born and bred, others adopting it by choice. We need to split the next part, and not only because spell check keeps telling me to do so, but because it states what we do, we are marshals that wave flags primarily. Now we do other related tasks that complement this task, but that is the basis of what we do. The final word is how we do it, "as a team". I believe that if we concentrate on this, we can as they say Conquer the world!

Enough of my ranting,

KW, the Prez



6 Hour Through the eyes of Rebecca Armstrong



This week on VFT Masterchef, can Rebecca win over her peers with a delicious offering of Mint and Coconut Cookie Truffles and Ketchup Cupcakes!? Err wait, this is not why we are here! What I meant to say was One Island. One Long Ass Race... No it is not really a race. What kind of a... wait, did you say Ketchup...?

.... So once again here we are for that race that is not really a race but it gives those people who look at their car and have a dream about having it on a track and making it become a reality by going around at a time they are comfortable with. That is the one! The Victorian 6 Hour Relay and not just any old one, no no no, it was their 10 year anniversary.

Now, I know when someone say Regularity, people roll their eyes or pull up a pillow and a sleeping bag and want to go to sleep but right now I will go on record and say that this event is my favourite event. Shh shh Improved Production, don't look at me like that, you are my favourite category and I will always love you but this event gave me my first Flag Marshall warm and fuzzies. Improved Production just gave me my first har-... anyway getting off track. This event inspires hope in people like me. I look at that Hyundai Getz that I blue flagged so many times (sorry, it was not on purpose!) and think that I could steal my mum's Kia Cerato and give it a run for its money. Never would I have thought that I would be actively cheering for a team of Lasers. There is hope that I too could be on that track one day... if I wasn't so terrified that I would lose my road car in a three car collision like what happened between FP6 and FP7

Instead of sobbing in the thought of losing my car to a tyre barrier, I was spending the weekend working on my own. Yep, that's right. A flag point all to myself so you know what that means... I WAS SENIOR ON POINT! THE Pooooooooooooooooooooower! All to my head! I could tell myself what to do! But before I did that, I made sure I sat down and had the safety discussion with myself and made sure that I had signed on, had my lunch and my wet weather gear. Thankfully I was good and had that because like typical Phillip Island, it rained.

After I got over my power trip, one thing that I have taken for granted my entire time game into play. Oh sh#t... there is an incident in my sector. Yellow flag to start with, making a comms call while waving that. Oh now we are red and incident is still there, wait now Recovery is moving to the scene so there is a white flag and... OMG now stopped so I'm going double yellows while waving the red but we still have a moving service vehicle which means the white still and AAAAAAAAAAAAAAH!! I now know that I am capable of waving 4 flags at one. Life accomplishment achieved. And yet I almost lost the Safety Car board that many times with the wind... I swear the driver's were laughing while they went past.....It's okay, I would too.

The end of the day came and while it was raining for the past 45 minutes or so and it had been a long 6 hours, as the drivers did their final parade lap around, those warm and fuzzie feeling I felt from the first time doing the event came back. Hearing them all yelling thank you out the windows, seeing them clapping us instead of the other way around for our hard efforts, I had the biggest smile on my face. Feeling that appreciated, it's totally worth it.



"The Hat"



VFT 30th Anniversary Celebration

Two items for you all this edition.....Firstly, in 2016 the Victorian Flagmarshalling Team will attain the ripe old age of 30! It is proposed that we celebrate this auspicious occasion with a get together of as many members, past and present, as possible.

The venue will be a function room at The Beach Hotel, 97 Beaconsfield Parade, Albert Park, starting at 6.30pm. The club will provide finger food for the event, but meals will be available at your own cost in the dining area. Unfortunately at this moment, owing to uncertainty of motor racing event dates, we cannot give a definitive date. As this venue is in very close proximity to the beach, and therefore parking will be at a premium, we are hoping that June 2016 will be more favorable, with less people at the beach, than the summer months. We will advise the definite date in due course.

The purpose of this early advice is to get people thinking about and contacting previous members who no longer officiate (the more the merrier). Also if anyone has any photos in any format (slides, hard copy or digital) of members flagging, social or humorous situations, we would like to hear from you. It's always fun to laugh at fashions, hairstyles etc from days gone by. Any photos provided will be handled with the utmost of care, and returned promptly after being digitalized, as we have the facility at the venue to give a slideshow. Anyone prepared to furnish photos please contact Mark Thompson or Eric Rigg.

We have a small and active sub-committee to organize the evening and make sure that everyone gets a piece of the celebratory cake and whatever other goodies there may be. In order to get a rough idea of numbers could people please contact me on 9761 0659, 0458 058 917 or by email hennebique@hotmail.com.

You may say that it is a long way in the future but bookings have to be made as well as long term arrangements and as we all know 'time flies when you're having fun'!

I/we look forward to your reply and participation at this event.....and secondly;

Chief Marshal's BBQ - Saturday 16 January 2016

In order to get you all in a party mood for our 30th anniversary later in the new year you are all invited to the biggest occasion of the year and that is the Chief Marshal's BBQ. Whilst we cannot promise to better the Grand Prix racing Bugatti in the driveway of two years ago, we can still have a great night!

For those who are not familiar with the format, details are as follows:

Where: Brooklands
46 Dorrigo Drive
Boronia 3155

When: Saturday 16 January 2016
6.00pm onwards (or until the last drunk is fished out of the garden!)

What to bring: Chair to sit on
Meat to eat

Club will supply salads, desserts as well as beer, wine and soft drink. If you wish to drink top shelf spirits please supply your own, to be run past Roger first for sampling!

Roger Chirnside

Vice President / Co-Founder VFT

And on behalf of the VFT 30th Anniversary Sub-Committee



Flag One Reporting



2015 has been an extremely busy year both on and off the track for all of us. As a group of volunteers, I can appreciate that we can only commit a limited time to our passion. Feedback from motor race promoters and competitors is extremely encouraging and they are most appreciative of the effort we put in to our chosen sport. Attendances have been lower than expected this year, so if you can help out at events, for one day or two, I look forward to seeing you trackside.

Completed meetings:

July 4/5 Winton VMRC2. Warren Gordon, Chief of meeting. Numbers adequate for this event. The inclusion of the trucks made for some very exciting racing. Once again, Benalla Auto Club supplied a dinner for Saturday evening. Thanks to BAC for their hospitality and this great initiative which is much appreciated.

July 18/19 Sandown VSCRC3. Arthur Cooksley, Chief of Meeting. Kevin Watson and Danielle Bell Assistants. 36 flaggies, 3 trainees, 2 CAMS Young Officials, 2 drivers. The VFT also covered half the flagpoints with communicators. Note from Arthur: The hot dog round continues to be a very popular event with the high numbers of officials usually reflective of a V8 round rather than a state round. The quality of racing and the large fields also helps to support this events popularity amongst officials. The new flagpoint checklist was trialled for the first time with positive comments.

August 1/2 Phillip Island 6 hr. Arthur Cooksley, Chief of meeting. Kevin Watson, Assistant. The 10th anniversary of this iconic event. Capacity grid of over 50 cars entered with plenty of blue flagging. Numbers were adequate but down on previous years. Remember to add this one to your calendar for 2016.

August 8/9 Winton Festival of Speed. Kevin Watson, Chief of meeting. Jenny Cross, assistant (under assessment). Numbers adequate but more will always be welcomed. This is the 2nd historic meeting on our calendar at Winton. With some great racing from all historic classes, and a much welcomed gathering on Saturday evening.

August 15/16 Phillip Island Multi-Club. As numbers were extremely low and did not meet the VFT's minimum manning levels, unfortunately the VFT had to withdraw as a Club.

Upcoming meetings:

September 11/12/13 Sandown 500. Terry O'Callghan, Chief. Arthur Cooksley & Kevin Watson Joint Assistants. The list for this event is now closed and Sandown has all contact details. Information regarding sign-on times will be relayed to successful applicants.

September 19/20 Phillip Island Shannons Nationals. Arthur Cooksley, Chief of meeting. Kevin Watson, Assistant Chief. 26 registered for this event. List is still open if you are able to help out for 1 or 2 days.

September 26/27 Winton Trucks. Chief & Assistant Chief TBA. The usual truckies festivities will head north to Winton for this annual event. Numbers: 16 flaggies. List still open.

October 17/18 Winton AROCA 10 hour relay. Chief & Assistant Chief TBA. A change in format to this event sees a 4 hour race on Saturday and a 6 hour race on Sunday. Numbers a low at this stage, so we need more interest.

October 24/25 Phillip Island VSCRC4. Terry O'Callaghan, Chief. Assistant TBA. The final round of the state series where championships are generally decided. 28 EIO's at present. List still open if anyone available for 1 or 2 days.

If and when you receive a communication from any event organiser in reference to your attendance, it would be a great help to respond to both the event organiser and me.

If you need to register or withdraw from an event, please use one of the following methods:

Ring the Club mobile on: 0409 823 657

OR

Leave a message on the VFT answering service: 8796 5321

OR

Email chief@vicflag.org.au

OR

Add your name on the list at a prior event.

PLEASE DO NOT USE FACEBOOK'S PAGE TO REGISTER/WITHDRAW YOUR INTEREST.

Cheers,

Terry O'Callaghan

Your Chief, Your Club

0402 359 099





CAMS, Promotions and Social Media Update

CAMS

The latest State Council meeting was held in the beginning of August. A few items came out of this which may be of interest to our members.

Entries for the State Series are a little down on last season. While this is a bit of a concern, there is interest from other categories to join the series. Possibly in combined fields. The series is also looking to run an additional round at Winton next year.

There was some excellent feedback from all levels around the Victorian 6 Hour recently run at Phillip Island. The event has grown to the level where it is now attracting entries from as far afield as Perth, Cairns and New Zealand. As a side note, the VFT were pretty light on numbers for this one. Given the reputation this event is building, hopefully we'll have a great turn out next year, as this is becoming a must do meet.

A number of motions were passed in relation to the Australian Motor Racing Commissions Strategic Review that was recently published. For those unfamiliar with this document, it creates the framework for Australian Motor Racing for the next five years. The main area of concern has been the removal of CAMS National Championship status from a number of categories. Motions were put forward by Formula Ford around reconsidering this.

Concern was raised around the number cases the medical officers were dealing with for pre-existing conditions. A case was discussed where significant medical resources were tied up on identifying and treating an officials pre-existing condition, that could have been resolved much quicker if someone had known about it. I think this serves as a timely reminder to our members of the importance of letting the Chief and seniors on point know if you have any existing medical conditions. Managing yourself is one of the most basic competencies for a Flagmarshal. And making sure you can be cared for if anything flares up should be second nature, in the same way as bring the right kit to the track is.

PROMOTIONS

The Sandown 500 is coming up, and this is traditional our best event for recruiting new members. At the time of writing, we are finalising the arrangements to have a small team distributing brochures at this event once again. Thanks in advance to everyone helping with this.

If anyone is ever at a race meeting and does get asked about becoming an official, please remember to do your best sales pitch. Real officials, talking positively about the role, and the club are our most effective tool for recruiting new members. So don't be shy if you get the chance! And remember to direct them to the website (www.vicflag.org.au) or recruitment email (info@vicflag.org.au) if they want to take their interest further.

SOCIAL MEDIA

With the VFT having recently announced a sponsorship deal with Shannon's, why not sign up to the Shannon's Club? You can join at www.shannons.com.au/club/. Once you have created your profile, click on "Car Clubs" and search for The Victorian Flagmarshalling Team to register as a VFT member.

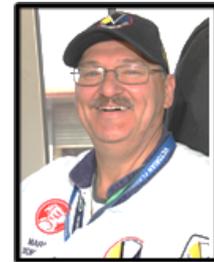
Did you know you can register for events using the TiqBiz app on your smartphone? When in the app, click on the "Calendar" button. Find the event you would like to attend, then scroll down and enter the event and your personal details in the appropriate fields and click "Submit". Eric will then ensure your name goes on the list for that event.

And finally, I'd just like to remind members to take care when they are posting on social media. Any issues relating to the club should be directed to the appropriate committee member rather than raised in a public domain. Contact details are at the front of this magazine. Additionally your postings on the various motorsport groups (including unofficial ones) or even your personal page may be monitored by the powers that be. So please be careful that your posts do not reflect poorly on yourself or the club.

David Thornbury

Cams, Promotions & Social Media

TRAINING MATTERS – Sept 2015



Hi everyone, well the countdown is on for the upcoming Sandown 500 and its shaping up to be a real top event. It got me thinking a bit about how we set out our point and what other skills may come into play during the weekend, so I've included the **VFT Flag Point set up layout** and our on track **Hand Signals**. Whilst I understand that many of you know this information very well, it doesn't hurt to have a bit of a refresher on occasions. Please read carefully the tips and layout instructions for the flag point and to have a bit of a practice with your hand signals, get your mates or partner to give you a bit of a test of the layout and hand signals, after all its better to look like a bit of a nong at home waving your hands about rather than getting it wrong trackside. This information together with the on point check list will go a long way toward everyone having a drama free day and having everyone on your point in the know, after all, everyone is watching during these big events so set up to impress and wave those flags high.

Setting Up Your Flag Point

These are some of the things you should be thinking about when arriving at your point each day. Of course every flag point is different and some tracks have bunkers, shelters, platforms, cages etc. Try to apply these principles to your location each time and collaborate with your team to get the best set up for the weekend.

Setting up the flags

The green and blue flag is manned by the person facing the oncoming cars so those two flags are placed at one end.

The lack of adhesion, white and yellow flag is manned by the person on yellow to show to drivers what is ahead of them – a slow car, an accident or a change in track condition. However, if you place the white flag closest to the person on blue, they can pick it up and hand it to the marshal on yellow when a slow-moving or service vehicle is in sight.

It should be the yellow flag person who makes the call to pick up the second yellow flag and go double as the blue flag person is looking the other way, but the blue flag person can help out by waving the second yellow if another pair of hands are required.

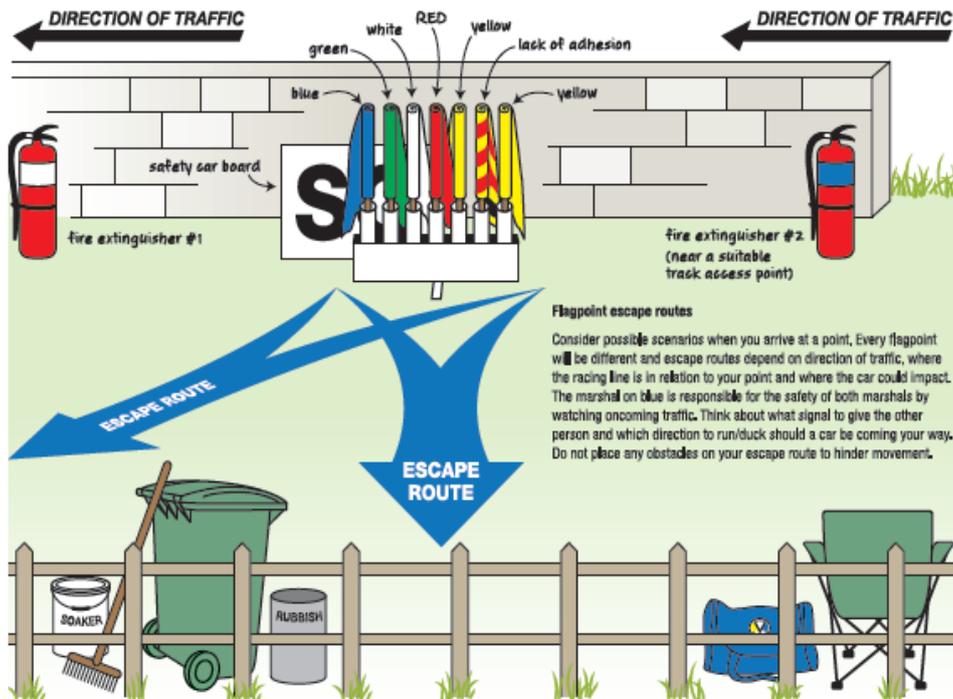
The red flag can be waved by either person so it is in the middle and easy to reach by both people.

Alternative flag set-up

The most important thing is to work out with your team how the flag point will be set up for the weekend and stick with it. Working alone on a flag point can require a different arrangement to working as a group of three. Listen to each other's suggestions and make a compromise to get the best result. You are free to exercise discretion on your placement of the 'middle' flags - there are no set rules, but make sure everyone is aware of the arrangement and why.

Some like to remove the red flag from rocket launcher completely to avoid picking it up by mistake - a favourite place for it is laying on the ground in front of the rocket launcher. Others turn it upside down to differentiate it from the other flags. However, always have a different coloured flag in between the red and lack of adhesion flag as when rolled up they can look very similar.

The white and second yellow flag can be interchangeable, but as already mentioned, it can make more sense to put them nearer the person who picks them up first.



Flagpoint escape routes

Consider possible scenarios when you arrive at a point. Every flagpoint will be different and escape routes depend on direction of traffic, where the racing line is in relation to your point and where the car could impact. The marshal on blue is responsible for the safety of both marshals by watching oncoming traffic. Think about what signal to give the other person and which direction to run/duck should a car be coming your way. Do not place any obstacles on your escape route to hinder movement.

Flagpoint equipment

All personal belongings and other equipment should be placed well away from the flags and escape routes. Ideally you should store bags and chairs up against the fence or under the shelter if one is provided at your point. The wheeled bin, soaker, broom and other items should also sit away from the track but still within reach when a quick track clean-up is necessary.

TIP

Always have a bin liner handy to place your kit bag and belongings in during wet weather. Failing that, use the wheeled bin to store your things!



FLAG TIPS

YELLOW FLAG WITH RED STRIPES (*Lack of Adhesion Flag*)

This should be shown motionless to inform drivers that there is a deterioration of adhesion due to oil, water, dirt etc on the track in the area beyond the flag. This flag should be displayed, for at least (depending on the circumstances) four laps unless the surface returns to normal beforehand. It is not necessary for the sector beyond where this flag is being shown to show a green flag.

This can be displayed with any flag except the red flag.

One point of discussion is should this be displayed at the same time as a green flag? The green flag advises the driver that the track is clear of the yellow flag incident preceding your point and he may now overtake, but the 'yellow with red stripes flag' advises that there is a deterioration of adhesion in the track ahead. As the rules stand, both flags can be shown. However, the priority should be given to displaying the 'yellow with red stripes flag' - it is important that the driver is warned of the deterioration of adhesion ahead.

Note that this flag is NOT used to cover any debris on the track that is likely to cause damage to a vehicle if they ran over it. In this instance, the appropriate level of waved yellow flag should be used.

Remember this rule: If you can drive through it, you use the 'lack of adhesion flag', if you have to drive around it, then wave the yellow flag.

Hand Signals

When marshals attend a trackside incident, information needs to be quickly relayed back to the communicator at the point and then up to Race Control. You will need to use these signals to tell the people back at the point what is happening with the car and driver. Marshals at the point must then repeat them back as acknowledgement of the communication.



Fluid on the track
Point to the fluid and 'spread soaker' with the other hand



Assistance required
Pat top of head



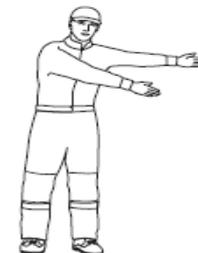
Is it safe to cross the track?
Arm vertical: Wait (not safe)
Arm lowered: Cross (safe)



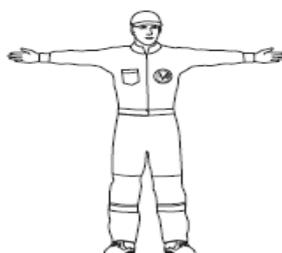
The driver is OK
Thumbs up



Medical attention required
Cross arms over head



Fire marshals required
Arms form an 'F'



Flat tow required
Arms form a 'T'



Lift tow required
Arms raise and lower repeatedly



Rescue equipment required
Arms form a 'W'

Grade 3 Rep



Hi all,

Well in the blink of an eye we have come out of our winter hibernation and are starting to gear up for a busy run to the end of this year's motorsport season. So I hope that all of our Flag bags are cleaned out, restocked and ready to go again.

Have to say huge congratulations to Natalie Daish on being selected as the 2015 recipient of the WAMS Officials Exchange Program. I'm sure that you will have a great time and gain a great amount of experience.

At the recent General Meeting it was discussed about the lack of numbers that we have had at recent meetings at Phillip Island. The discussion focused on the safety side of things, as it should, but one of the biggest questions that wasn't discussed was, why? Why do we struggle to get numbers down to the Island? The answer at the moment is that we don't know. So I put it out there to you all, if you have any thoughts as to why we struggle to get numbers to go there and if you have any ideas as to how the club can get more members to come, please either contact Paul or myself so we can raise it at committee.

I trust that you have all heard about the overall replacement program that we announced at the last General Meeting. A lot of work went into delivering this to the active trackside members so I hope that it's well received amongst us all. If anybody has any questions as to the program please don't hesitate to contact me.

To all those that are making the annual trip up to Bathurst I hope you have a safe trip up and back and a great time there and I'll see you there.

All the best,

Jason Carroll - Grade 3 rep

grade3@vicflag.org.au



A problem shared is a problem halved!

... We need to do this!



*Those we love don't go away, they're in our thoughts every day.
Unseen, unheard, but always near, Still loved, still missed and very dear.*

Most of my articles touch on the positive aspects of life, but I want to make sure that you have a balance of support in the 'tough' season that you face in life.

The old saying 'a problem shared is a problem halved' is based on what is now known to be a scientific fact, according to a new study. Researchers from California have proved that the best way to beat grief, stress and duress, is to share your feelings - and sharing with people who have experienced similar situation yields the best outcomes.

This is because sharing a threatening situation with a person in a similar emotional state 'buffers individuals from experiencing the heightened levels of duress that typically accompany, stress, loss or threat' claimed the study.

It's often hard to know what to say or do when someone you care about is experiencing duress. You may be afraid of intruding, saying the wrong thing, or making the person feel even worse. Or maybe you feel there's little you can do to make things better.

While you can't take away the pain of the loss, you can provide much-needed comfort and support. There are many ways to help a grieving friend or family member, starting with letting the person know you care. This could be simply a touch on the shoulder, a hug and some encouraging words that acknowledge their circumstances and your concern for them.

Sometimes we feel that we wouldn't want to do something that will make it worst and those 'messy feelings' ... awkward ... hesitation shows up. When we avoid a person it sends them a message, so show your support in some genuine way.

Here are some tips for supporting someone who is grieving:

- Offer practical support, meals, shopping, gardening, errands, lifts, etc. especially in the early days.
- Accept that everyone grieves differently. Grief is a normal and natural response to loss but everyone grieves differently.
- Don't judge. There is no right or wrong way to grieve. Especially don't say 'you should...' or 'you shouldn't...'
- Accept a wide variety of emotions such as sadness, anger, confusion, fear, guilt, relief, etc. Such volatile and varied emotions are a natural response to the death of a loved one.
- Listen well. Bereaved people often need to talk about their grief and it's okay to just sit in silence.
- Use the name of the lost loved one. Allow the bereaved person to talk of their loved one and to use their name.
- Avoid platitudes such as 'At least you have other children', 'it was meant to be', 'it's God's will', etc. Well-meant statements like these are unhelpful and often hurtful.
- Don't say 'I understand' or 'I know how you feel'. Individual grief is so complex that no-one can really understand how an individual feels.
- You can't fix it. No one can take away the pain and sadness but knowing that people care is comforting and healing.
- Don't assume. People who are grieving aren't necessarily showing it. It's an individual thing.

Like you, I love my motorsports family and I'll give the support needed to make sure we continue to enjoy our sport and do life together.

Look out for each other!

Cheers,

Mark

Mark Bateman 0412 151 121



Drive For Life Touring Road Event 2015

Sunday 27th September



The 2015 event will run in two separate divisions using different roads for each division.

1. **Social Drive** for beginners and enthusiasts who want to take their car for a nice drive on interesting roads by following a simple set of directions (no traps). No experience is necessary to enjoy this event and you won't be alone as a new starter. All you need is a registered road car, licenced driver and a passenger or two who can read and interpret basic route instructions. Many crews bring extra passengers to help out and make it a fun day. The social drive is on 99% bitumen roads.
1. **Championship** course for those competing in the HRA Touring series and Standard Car class championships. This is a challenging tulip route course for CAMS affiliated club members. a Cams level 2NS licence or better is required. Licences at this level can be purchased from CAMS website or applied for on the day. The championship course is on a mixture of tarmac and well-formed dirt roads.

Please note: this is NOT a speed event. All Victorian road rules will apply.

The Event starts in Eltham and tours through the picturesque Yarra ranges and Yarra valley areas. It will take approximately 4 hours in total to complete the event, including a rest stop. A BBQ lunch is available at the finish destination. It's a great way to spend your Sunday with family or friends.

We are expecting a capacity field this year, with places allocated on receipt of official entry. Are you up for the challenge? Don't miss out, book now!

Visit the website www.driveforlife.net.au for more details and entry information.

All funds raised go towards funding Suicide Prevention Education through Rapid Response Ministries



This event is organised by: Drive For Life Suicide Prevention Association: Reg in Vic A0061302; ABN 65 7074 833 79

NEW INITIATIVES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

There are 3 NEW and EXCITING items to announce in this edition:

- 1) As announced at the last General Meeting – All “Flaggies” will now be able to avail of replacement overalls (or Jacket) to replace any worn or tired uniform for FREE! **(See below)** – New Members will get overalls & a jacket also!;
- 2) We welcome **SHANNONS INSURANCE** on board as a sponsor – see advertisements on the next page and also on the back page also. Please support Shannon’s wherever possible;
- 3) The committee is trialling a new initiative to try and attract active members trackside (to Winton & Phillip Island) – at all Winton & Phillip Island meetings only for the remainder of the year there will be 2 draws of \$25 each on Saturday and Sunday of each meeting – That’s \$100 per meeting! All trackside VFT members only will be eligible to enter and if trackside you will be given a ticket (which could be the lucky one!) when you sign on each day;

Overall Replacement Initiative

Purpose

The purpose of this Initiative is to make sure that members of the Victorian Flagmarshalling Team uphold the professional look that the VFT requires from its members when trackside, with all members wearing the prescribed VFT overalls or overall jacket.

Eligibility

For existing VFT members to be eligible to receive a free replacement pair of VFT overalls or overall jacket, members will need to meet the following criteria;

- Member has previously purchased a pair of VFT overalls or Overall Jacket
- Member has actively been trackside for over 3 years (actively = 4 or more events in a year);
- By directive of the VFT committee that the members overalls are deemed to be outdated/worn out or inappropriate;
- At the discretion of the Victorian Flagmarshalling Team Committee;

NEW Members will be eligible to receive overalls or an overall jacket as per ‘New Members’ criteria below.

Exclusions

Members who have deliberately misused or tampered with their overalls.

New Members

New members will be offered the following choices of membership:

Single Membership:

- Single membership \$20 plus \$70 once off joining fee (payable by the 10th day trackside) This includes:
 - 1 pair of VFT overalls OR overall jacket;
 - 1 VFT winter jacket;

This is in addition to the VFT bag/starter kit as per existing by laws.

Family Membership:

- Family membership \$25 per family plus \$70 once off joining fee (payable by the 10th day trackside) for each active trackside member in the family;

This is in addition to the VFT bag/starter kit as per existing by laws.

Expectations

It is expected that all members attending an event present themselves in full VFT uniform. Only official VFT badges or patches and VFT sponsor badges or patches are allowed on VFT overalls or overall jackets and if members are found with non-approved badges or patches on their VFT overalls or overall jackets they will be asked to remove them before the next race meeting.

Signatures or autographs on VFT overalls or overall jackets WILL NOT be permitted. Members should refrain from getting signatures or autographs on VFT uniform and have other memorabilia items signed or autographed.



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Russell Clasby and John Pollard are your Merchandise Officers again for 2015. To put your orders in, contact them by e-mail at merchandise@vicflag.org.au or ring Russell on 0432 952 572 or John on 0451 308 840. Then see them at the track to collect and pay for your orders!

(You can also contact Secretary Eric Rigg on mobile 0457 245 171 and he will pass on any messages or orders to Russell or John.)



VFT Merchandise

Overalls



\$140

Winter Jacket



\$90

Overall Jacket



\$120

Bag



\$30

Plastic pouches



\$2



\$25

Polo shirt (White)

Bucket Cap



\$12

Cap



\$10



\$10

Beanie

Internal/External stickers: \$2



\$20

25th Anniversary medallion

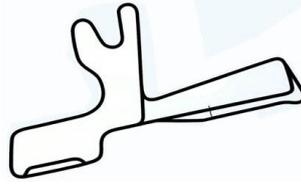
The 2015 Merchandise Officers are Russell Clasby and John Pollard
To order merchandise you can see them at the track, or at a general meeting.
You can also contact them at: merchandise@vicflag.org.au
VFT members receive a 50% subsidy for the first purchase of each of the following:
winter jacket, overalls and overall jackets. Further purchases are at the normal price.

Ray's Outdoors
Est. 1956

MEMBER DISCOUNT: Customer ID – D79832

The Victorian Flagmarshalling Team is listed on the Ray's Outdoors computer system through all their stores. Visit the Ray's Outdoors website for store locations. Mention the VFT's name or the Ray's Outdoors discount code [D79832]. Not available in conjunction with any other special offers and conditions apply.





Why a trip to Winton should be on everybody's race calendar

When I first took on the role of Promotions Officer for the club, one of the things I wanted to focus on was boosting numbers at the smaller out of town meetings. As part of that, I will be doing a couple of pieces here in the magazine to highlight to members some of the benefits of heading out of town and volunteering at smaller events.

To kick things off, let's take a look at Winton and why everybody should include a trip or two up the Hume highway in their race calendar.

Ease of Access: There is no denying that Winton is the farthest away from Melbourne of the three circuits we service. But it's location just off the Hume Highway does make it an easy drive and also makes it a lot quicker to get in and out of without the queues of backed up traffic.

The Track Itself: With the layout of the circuit and minimal elevation changes, most flag points will provide you with an excellent view of the majority of the circuit. This allows you to follow and enjoy the racing along with helping you to perform your role to a higher standard.

It is also is the only track we attend that has two circuit configurations which is great for providing some variety to events run there.

The Facilities: All the flag points are covered and provide excellent shelter from the rain and the sun. Many of the points also have access to permanent toilet facilities. And there is the canteen facilities which is often used for post-race get togethers

Unique Race Categories: Winton runs a number of categories that we don't get to see at the other circuits we service. Historic Motorbikes and Sidecars of Historic Winton is the only chance we have to flag for bikes as a club. Super TT, Victorian V8 Series, are two exciting categories with good numbers. And my personal favorite, Super Trucks. Big and fast, add smoke and noise. They are a real spectacle not to be missed.

The Atmosphere: Being based in the country, Winton events have a more relaxed feel to them. Different officiating disciplines will mix and share a joke with one another, and everyone is welcoming. Because of this, it can also mean more information is shared to keep people in the loop with what is happening behind the scenes.

Experience in Additional Roles: With most flag points operating from bunkers, there is no room for Communicators and Sector Marshals. Therefore our flag marshals are required to perform these functions as part of their duties. Often while working one to a point. This additional responsibility and greater exposure helps to develop your skills and confidence as an official.

Additionally, with the more relaxed atmosphere at Winton, it is easier for us to take members through Race Control, Scrutineering etc. or have them join the Chief on the walk around.

The Light System: Flagging purists will correctly observe that you can convey additional information to competitors in the way that you wave a flag. It does seem however that light systems at race tracks is an increasing trend. As a well-rounded Flag Marshal, it is worth being familiar with how such systems work. And working lights does have its advantages when you are having to multi task across roles or display multiple flags!

Free Accommodation: For all but the biggest events (V8 Supercars), free accommodation is available near to the track at either the bunkhouse or camping. Winton are about to unveil the addition of a new toilet and shower block to further improve the facilities for those staying there.

Staying at the bunkhouse also provides a great venue to unwind and build friendships with fellow motorsport officials.

Saturday night Dinners: The Saturday night dinner at the local Bowls Club or RSL has become a real highlight of a trip to Winton. Now the circuit has gotten on board, frequently providing dinner for officials in the track canteen. Just like the bunkhouse, this is another great way to enjoy the social side of the sport we love.

So there you have it. For those who have never been to Winton, I hope I've sparked your interest in going. And those that haven't been for a while, reminding you of what makes it a great place to work.

Below is a list of the remaining events at Winton this year.

Upcoming Events at Winton:

- 26-27 September: Supertruck Nationals (did someone say trucks?)
- 17-18 October: AROCA 6 Hour Relay (officials are really looked after)
- 7-8 November: Winton 300 (mixed field for blue flagging)
- 5-6 December: HQ 4 Hour (great close racing)

To register for these or any other VFT events, email chief@vicflag.org.au, call 0409823657, or via the TiqBiz app on your smartphone.

Many thanks to all those who contributed to this article.



We are appreciated

Minutes of General Meeting
August 6 2015 8.00PM
The Beach House Hotel
97 Beaconsfield Pde Albert Park

Members present: 23

Apologies: Michael Murphy, Trish Storey, Zoe Butteriss, Terry O'Callaghan, Simon Baston, Russell Clasby, country, Interstate and International members.

Minutes from the previous meeting. Moved: Shane Rogers, seconded: Geoff Kay that the minutes be accepted. Carried

Matters arising: Nil

Reports

- 1 President
- 1.1 Certificate of appreciation received from David Bellenger, Race Director for the Victorian 6 Hour Relay for the VFT attending the first 10 years. Congratulations were passed on to David and Jean Bellenger on behalf of the VFT for building the event to what it is now. Good event for trainees to learn as there is plenty of flagging.
- 2 Vice President: No report.
- 3 Secretary: as per report
- 3.1 Shannons Insurance is now a sponsor of the VFT, donating 120 caps to the Training Expo, 3 Jim Richard ride tickets and plaques as part of the club awards. Photo shoot being Organised for Shannons Nationals at Phillip Island, and Shannons Insurance badges will be supplied for uniforms.
- 4 Treasurer: as per report
- 4.1 Cheques to be passed for payment: \$377.52 Promotional Centre [vests], \$278 Inkstation [ink cartridges], Eric Rigg \$50 [phone], Revolution Racegear \$250 [uniforms], \$33 Sunaura Embroidery [uniforms], Aust Post \$17.50 [postage]. \$84.30 Russell Clasby [plastic licence holders], \$37.50 Mark Thompson [trailer], \$112.50 Geoff Kay [trailer]. \$135.00 Hostgator [web hosting].
- 5 Chief Flagmarshal: read by Arthur Cooksley.
- 5.1 Reports: CoW meeting: Matt Cornford, VMRC 2: Warren Gordon, Shannons Nationals Winton: Paul Kelly, VSCRC 3 and Vic 6 Hour: Arthur Cooksley.
- 5.2 Tony van den Dungen and Kevin Redman, manning levels. Referred to Committee.
- 5.3 Upcoming events, names on list for August Access will be sent to PIARC tomorrow
- 6 Assistant Chief: report part of Chief's report.
- 7 CAMS Rep.
- 7.1 Drivers and officials not managing pre-existing medical conditions. CAMS has document on their website to register your prescribed medication.
- 7.2 Vic 6 hour, interstate and international drivers attended
- 7.3 Critical incident course. Kevin Redman asked if it was a duplication of information from Silver Module. It was noted that the Critical incident course is worthwhile doing
- 7.4 State series entries, possibility of 5 rounds next year.
- 7.5 Fit and Proper person section on licence renewal forms [new]. Working with Children cards covers this area.
- 8 Social media
- 8.1 Thanks to Rebecca Armstrong for article.
- 9 Promotions
- 9.1 Sandown 500, distribution of flyers
- 9.2 Volunteer seek program generating some enquiries.
- 10 Training Officer
- 10.1 Committee meeting held recently, looking at focusing on training.

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- 10.2 Mentoring Program being updated in the VFT and in CAMS
- 10.3 On point checklist, feedback has been positive.
- 10.4 Training expo, Theory on event assessor, practical to complete at CAMS events by those who attended the Expo.
- 10.5 Support each other, Training Committee welcome to constructive ideas
- 10.6 Tony van den Dungen: Thanks to Mark Thompson for organising the Expo
- 11 Grade 3 Rep
- 11.1 Matt Cornford recently lodge upgrade paperwork.
- 11.2 Upgrade process: reminder that you are not being trained for upgrade, Training is ongoing; upgrades are there to see how much information is taken on board to fulfil the move to the next level.
- 12 Grade 4 Rep
- 12.1 Thanks to Mark Thompson for being allowed to fulfil Training role at VSCRC 3
- 13 Induction
- 13.1 3 newies at VSCRC 3, 25 no replies after following up on enquires from Seek.
- 14 Merchandise: up to date with uniforms.
- 15 Magazine: deadline 24th of August.

Reports: Moved: Warren Gordon, seconded: Kevin Redman that reports are accepted. Carried

- 16 General Business
- 16.1 John Pollard
- 16.1.1 Overall replacement program presented. Thank you to Murray Stevens for the idea.
- 16.2 Simon Quirke
- 16.2.1 Does the club do anything for Movember?
- 16.3 Roger Chirnside
- 16.3.1 30 year dinner, sub-committee formed to plan event.
- 16.4 Eric Rigg
- 16.4.1 Disappointing that social media is the first point to report problems rather than refer to Committee to be resolved.
- 16.5 Kevin Watson
- 16.5.1 Singapore GP – WAMS. Two nominations from VFT, Danielle Bell and Natalie Daish.

Meeting closed: 9.45 PM

Next meeting: 8.00 PM 1st October. The Beach Hotel. Albert Park

2015 Calendar

* = Clash

January 17	Brooklands	Chief Marshall's BBQ
February 5	Beach Hotel	AGM
February 15	Winton	Champ of Winton 1
* March 6-8	Phillip Island	Island Classic
* March 7-8	Winton	VMRC Round 1
March 12-15	Albert Park	Formula 1 Grand Prix - NOT a VFT event
March 27-29	Sandown	Shannons Nationals
April 2	Beach Hotel	General Meeting
April 18-19	Phillip Island	VSCRC Round 1
* May 15-17	Winton	V8's Winton 400
* May 16-17	Sandown	VSCRC Round 2
May 22-24	Phillip Island	Shannons Nationals
May 30-31	Winton	Historic Winton
June 4	Beach Hotel	General Meeting
June 7	Winton	Champ of Winton 2
June 13-14	Winton	Shannons Nationals
July 4-5	Winton	VMRC Round 2
July 18-19	Sandown	VSCRC Round 3
August 1-2	Phillip Island	Vic 6 Hour Relay
August 6	Beach Hotel	General Meeting
August 8-9	Winton	Festival of Speed
August 15-16	Phillip Island	Multi Club Event
September 11-13	Sandown	V8's Sandown 500
September 18-20	Phillip Island	Shannons Nationals
September 26-27	Winton	Supertrack Nationals
October 1	Beach Hotel	General Meeting
October 17-18	Winton	AROCA 10 Hour Relay
October 24-25	Phillip Island	VSCRC Round 4
* November 6-8	Sandown	Sandown Historics
* November 7-8	Winton	Winton 300
November 20-22	Phillip Island	V8's Phillip Island 400
November 28-29	Phillip Island	Island Magic
December 3	Beach Hotel	General Meeting
December 5-6	Winton	HQ 4 Hour Relay

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

- The VFT Club Phone : **03 8796 5321**
- The VFT Club Mobile: **0409 823 657**
- e-Mail: **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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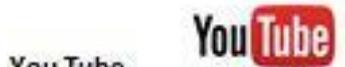
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Thank you to all the contributors of this issue and for getting your articles to me by the due date. Please remember articles for the November edition are due 24th October. I hope you enjoyed the read.