

The Victorian Flagmarshalling Team News



REMINDER:
VFT AGM –
February 11, 2016 @
 The Beach Hotel Port
 Melbourne – from 8.00pm
 onwards – *Please attend and*
 help **YOUR club grow**



JANUARY 2016

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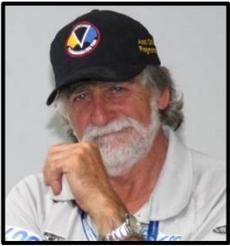


George Hetrel Club Patron

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The 2015 VFT Committee



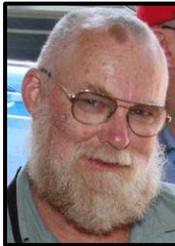
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Grade 4/5 Rep
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The 2015 VFT Training Committee



Training Officer
Mark Thompson



Executive Officer
Perry Ballard



**Terry
O'Callaghan**



**Tony Van Den
Dungen**



Paul Meade



Kevin Watson



Arthur Cooksley



Glen Rochester



Danielle Bell



Simon Baston

The 2015 VFT Induction Team



**Induction Team
Coordinator**
Zoe Buttress



Trish Storey



Simon Baston



Lee Davis



Harold Dreher



Karen Legg



Ian Hogan



Paul Kelly

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RECOGNITION



Congratulations to **MARITA LARKIN** on 10 YEARS service.
(Unfortunately no photo available at this time)



Presidential Pit Stop



By the time you will be reading this, we will have had our fill of Xmas cheer and munchies. New Year resolutions will have been made, tried and then forgotten. It has been a very busy year made harder by some unexpected interstate travel, but I was fortunate to tick off a bucket list entry by flagging at Darwin's Hidden Valley track.

This year has seen a larger amount of upgrades being processed than in previous years. I would hope that this is being reflected in the way that we do our job at the track, because we now have a much higher amount of grade 3's and above than we have had for a long while. This raises a challenge trackside to give all the chance to use those skills in more senior roles.

As has been for quite a while, my passion has been with and for this club. To that end, I have put my hand up to once again to continue as President if so desired by the members. There are some more initiatives to be acted on to improve what and how we do what we do. I have throughout my many years of work and other past interests been strong, and hold in high regard communication of information that is important so that we all work to a common goal. I would like to make that a priority this coming year. Along with that, I would like to work on making sure that our training and assessing processes are relevant to what we are trying to achieve, that is to have skill full and knowledgeable members in place and able to handle all situations to the level trained.

There are many thanks that could be said, and I would prefer to thank those individually instead of embarrassing them here. Quite a few of you have stood up this year and helped in so many different ways, like helping with early morning sign on, doing radio collection and distribution and so many more bits and pieces. So.....

.....A Big Thankyou to Everyone.

Kevin Watson

President, Victorian Flagmarshalling Team Inc.

2016 VFT COMMITTEE ELECTION – A message from your Returning Officer

With nominations for the 2016 Victorian Flagmarshalling Team Committee elections now closed, I am pleased to announce who your candidates are.

- President: Kevin WATSON
- Vice President: Roger CHIRNSIDE
- Secretary: Eric RIGG
- Treasurer: John POLLARD
- Grade 3 Representative: Matthew CORNFORD, Jason CARROLL
- Grade 4/5 Representative: Paul MEADE, Jennifer CROSS

I'd like to thank all of the candidates for accepting their nominations, and wanting to be part of the running of this fantastic club. The election will take place at the upcoming Annual General Meeting on 11 February 2016 at the Beach Hotel. Each candidate will be given the opportunity to write a piece for the January magazine, and speak at the AGM as to why they deserve your vote.

Members unable to attend on the night should request a postal ballot from Eric by emailing secretary@vicflag.org.au. As per previous years, country members living 80km+ from the venue will receive a postal ballot with the January magazine. Please note postal ballots close on 5 February 2016

Voting is open to all Full Financial Members. If you are yet to renew for 2016, please ensure you do so as soon as possible so we can see it on our records prior to election night. This is your chance to decide who you think will best represent you, and take the club forward over the next twelve months. With ballots over recent years being extremely close, every vote counts. So I encourage everyone to make sure they have their say!

David Thornbury
2016 VFT Returning Officer

MATT CORNFORD - GRADE 3 REPRESENTATIVE NOMINEE

Hello to all in the VFT for those of you that don't know me my name is Matt Cornford. I have now been a part of this great team now for 3 years having worked at most events in these 3 years. I am putting myself up for your consideration to become the clubs 2016 grade 3 REP. I am wanting to put something back into this great club as it has given me so much. This past year I have gone through the process of upgrading from a grade 3 to 3A. This included doing the CAMS silver module theory section and also Cams EA Course and of course the VFT/CAMS training day. Having learnt a lot this year I would like the opportunity to pass on some of this knowledge to members that may not be able to attend CAMS courses. I look forward to working with the grade 4 Rep to get the most potential out of all members. As I attend ALL 3 tracks we work at regularly I will be available to ALL members most race weekends. As some people may not feel comfortable talking about any issues they may have in a group situation, when numbers allow it I will be hoping to do a walk around at race events to talk to grade 3's/3A's and grade 4's looking to upgrade one on one. I also intend on making regular contact with all grade 3 and 3A's especially those going through upgrades to keep them informed of how things are travelling. This is an area that I feel the club needs to improve on, through the grade reps and also the training committee. I'm not just wanting to make the numbers up on committee I want to be able to bring the committee back to the members and will be actively making contact with grade 3's and 3A's that may have not been as active in the past couple of years and encourage them to come along to a race meeting even if it's only 1 day. So when making YOUR ALL IMPORTANT VOTE FOR YOUR GRADE 3/3A REP please consider Matt Cornford for your vote. I hope everyone has had a great Christmas and New Year and look forward to catching up with everyone in the 2016 Racing Season.

Cheers



Matt Cornford.

JASON CARROLL - GRADE 3 REPRESENTATIVE NOMINEE

Hi all,

I would like to again put myself forward as the Grade 3 Rep for the VFT. I have held this position for the past 2 years and have thoroughly enjoyed the experience. The role is a challenging one, but a role I accept full on. One of my greatest achievements has been the implementation of the overall replacement program. This started from an idea from Murray Stevens and then the policy was drafted and Implemented by myself and John Pollard. It was a policy that a lot of work went into to get right and I firmly believe a policy that is, not only good for our club, but essential for our members.

I came into this role 2 years ago with a personal agenda and that was for Equality, and to give everybody who choose to go up to our senior grading's an equal chance to do senior roles within the club. It is work that I have started on in the backgrounds of our club and would like to be able to continue to work on it to make it come to life. Equality is everything is equal for all in the club, and a lot of work has been done by Mark Thompson and his Training committee in setting out plans for upgrades. But one thing I bought to the attention of the committee was the need for a change to the way we as a club accessed people when they were going for an upgrade of their license and that entails that everybody goes through the same process. Currently there is no set process as to what the club is required to put the person threw who is going for an upgrade, so I would like to be able to continue the work required to implement a system so that it doesn't matter what grade you are trying to achieve, you will achieve it in the same way as everybody else going for that particular grade.

A few people have said to me, and I'm sure a lot of people think to themselves, as to why I am the Grade 3 rep when I'm a Sector marshal at most events and only flag at a couple of events.

One of the reasons I moved into sector marshalling was that when I got my Grade 2 it felt like a door had been shut in my face and I wasn't getting the senior opportunities that I wanted and needed to continue to develop myself further. And in talking to others this feeling wasn't mine alone as there are others who feel the same and are frustrated in seeing the same old faces getting selected to do senior roles. This is not only bad for our current Grade 3a's, 2's and 1's, but not a good outlook for any Grade 3 who may want to progress into senior roles.

So if I'm re-elected " I'll be knocking on the incoming Chief Flagmarshals door" and working on a plan that will give all of our, active trackside, grade 3a ,2 and 1 flagmarshals a minimum of 1 assistant chief role a year . I believe that with the amount of events we attend as a club we can accommodate this plus accommodate any licence upgrades that require chief/assistant chief roles to be done. I'm sure that a lot of work will need to be done to implement this or a similar plan, but I believe that it is vital for the longevity for our club that we utilize and develop all of our talent and experience within the club and not just rely on a couple of people.



This year marks my 10th in the club, and even though I can't attend Winton as much as I would like to, I don't believe that it affects my ability to represent all of the Grade 3 and 3A's as I'm as passionate as ever to make sure we further grow our club from a successful first 30 years into the next 30 years.

All the best,

Jason Carroll

PAUL MEADE - GRADE 4/5 REPRESENTATIVE NOMINEE

Hi all

With the election looming, I have a couple of things that I'm working on for the upcoming year. I wishing to be part of the induction team again and with the vision to work closely with the new members coming through. Also as I'm wanting to stay on the Training Committee, with the Grade 4s, I will take on more of a mentoring role to help them to eventually make the step forward to Grade 3 when the time is right and not before. If more help is required, I'll point them in the direction of the training officer and chief flag. It's extremely important to make all Trainees and Grade 4s feel like their part of and a trusted member of the team.

The communication last year between myself and the Grade 4s was not the best, I admit, but with a change of circumstances, the lines of communication will be better with the likelihood of me being able to attend an event or two at Winton. Even if this doesn't eventuate, I will be available to talk to with any concerns or issues you may have.

With the work I've done in previous years with the Induction and as a Grade 4 rep, hopefully this will help you to make your decision and get your vote.

See you at the AGM

Paul Meade



JENNIFER CROSS - GRADE 4/5 REPRESENTATIVE NOMINEE

Hi, my name is Jennifer Cross, and I would like to be your Grade 4 Rep. I have been involved with the VFT for 9 years, in this time I have seen the club grow. With the growth of the club and so many more members, training and follow up to help members grow to their full potential needs to be consistent and work for each individual. I have a belief in training, and working with the training committee and eventually Grade 3 rep to see your training has given you the opportunity to upgrade to Grade 4 or 3. As I attend all 3 tracks in Victoria, and attend a lot of the meetings, I am readily available trackside or email or phone, to help answer your questions, and ask the hard questions to others to get an answer. I hope you consider me for the role of Grade 4/5 Rep to help continue getting The VFT to move forward with well-trained flaggies.

Jennifer Cross



Flag One Reporting



Completed meetings:

Nov. 6/7/8. Sandown Historics. (Clash) Terry O'Callaghan, Chief. Assistant, Lloyd Owen. This 3 day event and part of a clash saw our numbers stretched. Friday saw typical Melbourne wet weather. With the added pressure of a CAMS OLT conducted, our concentration levels were at a premium. Thanks must go to Kevin Watson and Geoff Kay for helping out on Friday and then travelling up to Winton for Saturday/Sunday. Thanks also to David Thornbury and Roger Chirnside for coordinating the equipment distribution. Saturday and Sunday saw our numbers improve to have over 50 both days for this iconic event where the big banger sports cars are the featured category.

Nov. 7/8. Winton 300. (Clash) Kevin Watson, Chief of meeting. Once again, a number of our members travelled to Winton for this annual event. As well as using the flags/lights, we also manned the communications trackside system. A large variety of cars saw plenty of blue flags.

Nov. 21/22. V8 Supercars Phillip Island. Arthur Cooksley, Chief of meeting. Assistants, Kevin Watson/Terry O'Callaghan. Natalie Daish helped out with our new sign on procedure. There were a number of new procedures actioned at this event which included the re-positioning of the start/finish flagpoint. Favorable feedback was received from those who worked at the start/finish flagpoint. Hopefully, this "trial" will become permanent. Safety is paramount for all marshals and this new procedure is more user friendly. Another new process we implemented was that when a vehicle runs wide at Turn 4, it now has a bitumen return road to re-join the track – a great improvement. Thanks must go to Phillip Island management for the implementation of these 2 new procedures and all those who passed on their feedback. The racing over the weekend was exciting, to say the least, and the championship chase was still alive for the final round in Sydney.

Nov 28/29. Phillip Island Magic. Terry O'Callaghan, Chief. Assistant, Kevin Watson. This event attracted a huge number of state and national competitors. With no championships on the line, but plenty of bragging rights, it was another fantastic weekend. We had 28 flaggies Sat/Sun and the weather was great.

Dec. 5/6. Winton HQ 4 hr. Kevin Watson, Chief of meeting. This enduro was spread over 2 days with plenty of action trackside that kept the flaggies amused with some of the racing lines the drivers had invented.

Upcoming meetings:

Please see calendar in this magazine.

Phillip Island Historics 2016. The management team of this event have requested that we all registered of our intention to officiate at this event. Go to the VHRR web page for further information.

It is imperative and members sole responsibility to ensure that they have adequate insurance cover if they wish to attend as an individual where the VFT has withdrawn due to lack of numbers.

Just a reminder, if you change postal address, you need to contact all promoters and inform them of your new address. Due to privacy constraints, the VFT cannot and will not pass on this information to 3rd parties.

If and when you receive a communication from any event organizer in reference to your attendance, it would be a great help to respond to both the event organizer and VFT Chief Flagmarshal so we can manage our placements lists.

This will be the last edition of Flag One Reporting (from me).

As most of you are aware, I will not be seeking re-nomination for Chief Flagmarshal for 2016. Over the last 10 years I have held the position of Assistant Chief for 5 years and Chief Flagmarshal for 5 years which I have thoroughly enjoyed. Thank you to everyone who has participated trackside and made my time as Chief/Assistant a memorable experience.

I hope the next Chief has a rewarding experience as I have had. Looking forward to catching up with you all at the track in 2016.

Finally, I would like to thank both Arthur Cooksley and Kevin Watson, my 2 assistants, for their help and support they have given to me in 2016 and previous year. It would be remiss of me not to mention the committees I have worked with over the years – I thank you all.

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

Ring the Club mobile on: 0409823657

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

0402077405





CAMS, Promotions and Social Media Update

I hope everyone had a great Christmas and New Year.

I'm sure after the break from racing activities everyone is itching to get themselves back trackside. As you look at the 2016 calendar, I encourage you to consider adding some of the smaller events to your racing schedule. Not only are these events (arguably) the best way to develop your skills, but they are generally the ones that the club most needs your help with. The 2016 calendar can be found with this magazine as well as on the club website.

Here are the latest updates on my various areas:

CAMS

CAMS recently held the State Awards, with the State Official of the Year being awarded to Peter Castledine of Team Medical Australia. Congratulations to Peter from all your friends in the VFT.

The Victorian State Government is making a \$1 million contribution to improvements at Winton. Improvements include a complete resurfacing of the track and is expected to be completed in February 2016. So we should see more fast and exciting racing at Winton this year.

Promotions

We had approx. 500-600 brochures handed out at the Phillip Island V8SC event in November. Thanks to Luke Hingeley, Kim Dale, and Ian Saxby for their help during the race meeting.

Social Media

An event has been created on the Facebook page for the 30th anniversary in June. Please do use this to share the event with past and present members of the club you may have on your friends list.

As always, if anyone has any photos or stories they would like to share with club members, please do send them through to socialmedia@vicflag.org.au

Regards

David Thornbury

TRAINING MATTERS – May 2015



Well here we are at the end of another very busy Marshalling year, I'm sure you will all agree that it has been a full on 12 months with many track clashes, ongoing upgrades and general changes to the racing industry overall, however having said that, it was also a very exciting year to part of the Victorian Flagmarshalling Team. The introduction of a number of new events and the increase in our club numbers has certainly had its challenges, but it also give us as a club an opportunity to show what sort of stuff the VFT is really made of and to reflect on some of the programs we have started and to be ongoing into the years ahead.

One of the most important is Trackside mentoring, I believe this is a crucial to the ongoing skill levels of our club and its members and is an area we can all be involved in with immediate results. With an ever increasing number of new members coming through the club and flagging trackside either as a newbie or as a Grade 4, it is important that we as the seniors of the club ensure that the correct procedure, protocols and techniques are fostered to our new arrivals, however please be mindful that Mentoring is not training, mentoring gives our fellow members a "go to person", a person that is happy to share their experiences and skills and advice when required. The training committee has resurrected the Mentors form for use at all circuits, however with some of the changes by CAMS there will be a new document available in the new year, so those of you that are interested in becoming a mentor, please let me know and we will get you into the program. With the input of our seniors and our "on point check list" this will ensure that not only will all our people be up to speed on the whys and how of the point, their individual duties and of course our flags and boards, they will also be well informed about the point and its idiosyncrasies, after all, most of our seniors have worked these flag points at most tracks time and time again. This on point check form covers such things as escape routes, engineering issues to report (albeit limited), fire extinguishers, brooms, flags, medics and recovery, personal protection equipment to name but a few. The on point check list is the responsibility of the senior on point and will be completed and handed to the Chief Flag, Assistant Chief Flag or training officer during their rounds. Please be sure if you are the senior on point, don't forget to pick up a check list each morning at muster.

We have also had many reviews of the Upgrade Process and have yet again made a few changes to the format, soon to be on the VFT website will be the revamped criteria for each upgrade together with the new forms, don't forget that it's *your responsibility* to hold onto your assessment form if you are undergoing an assessment, it will also be the responsibility of the senior who is doing your assessment to complete a debrief each day using a debrief and check off form and if you are considering an upgrade please talk to your grade rep so you can be fully informed of the responsibilities, criteria and requirements for your proposed grading.

I am happy to say that we have had the following successful upgrades for 2015 together with quite a number to be completed in 2016. I take this opportunity to congratulate those people who completed their upgrades and I look forward to working with those who are ongoing. Please see below the numbers.

- Completed**
- 1 x Upgrade 2-1 – Will gaff
 - 2 x Upgrades 3 – 3A – Matt Cornford & Matt Alghren
 - 7 x Upgrades 4 – 3 – Karen Legg, Tony Green, Mark Fischer, Sam McCoubre, John Clark, Barbara Shilaker and Ian Hogan.
- We currently have**
- 1 x Going for upgrade Grade 4
 - 5 x Going for upgrade from Grade 4-3
 - 6 x Going for upgrade from 3 – 3A
 - 2 x Going for upgrade from 3A – 2
 - 2 x Going for upgrade from 2 – 1

Some of our ongoing and completed projects are as follows;

Training Expo – Well another successful Expo was run in 2015 in conjunction with CAMS, it was a huge success with many contributors from around the country and also the appearance of the CAMS AOC to add to our long list of presenters. Thank you again to all the club members who attended and contributed to

this special event. We have certainly set the way forward for our interstate buddies that have already held very successful Expo Days in both SA & QLD this year. I expect that this event will gain even further momentum in the coming years.

Mentoring Project – We are still in the throes of formulating a Mentoring Program in conjunction with CAMS for the New Year 2016.

Upgrade Procedures - As for the upgrade procedures, we are reviewing the whole set up over the break to see if we can get it bedded down once and for all.

Flag Point Check List – All going well with some good feedback, however it is important that they are picked up by the senior on point, or at least have some in your kit, we will make sure they are available at each meeting. We welcome any constructive comments on how it can be improved.

Trainee Sector Marshals – Observers - Grade 2 & 3 for Observer Role (Tango) – We encourage people to put their hand up for consideration and suitability to the role. As you know it's not everyone's cup of tea, however if you have attended the Sector Marshals Workshop then ask for an interview to be considered for the role.

I Pad Incident Report Project – Importance of accuracy in our reports, after all it can have a big impact on the drivers future in the sport. Trials at Phillip Island were put on hold by V8 Supercars for a number of reasons, e.g. Wi Fi availability etc however we will be hoping to hold some Report writing workshops into the New Year.

Video Training Programs – These short programs are a work in progress and will cover most of the topics listed in the training e.g. person protection, setting up you flag point, black flag relay etc, and other areas such as report writing etc, so watch this space. Again, I thank Glenn Rochester for his contribution and enthusiasm to get this off the ground.

EA Assessments - I do ask that if you are doing an assessment, please be sure to keep your paperwork with you, as for the people doing the EA, CAMS have released a memo regarding the EA assessment and how they have to be conducted with accuracy and by the guidelines, so coming into the new year we will get the procedure underway.

Overseas representation – We as a club are very fortunate to be recognised as one of the leading Officials organisation throughout the world, an accolade that we all should be very proud of, we are also fortunate to have a number of our people who are regularly selected by CAMS to represent Australia at world events such as the Singapore, Russian Grand Prix, not forgetting our very own Natalie Diash who was selected as an WAMS ambassador, again this testimony to the level of training that our club has to offer.

Whilst we had a fairly ambitious list of objectives for 2015 we managed to get quite a few of them squared away however we still have a little way to go to achieve all of our objectives;

1. Have all of our 3A's complete the Event Assessors course.
2. Have our induction video presentation completed.
3. Report writing course.
4. Get our members through race control to name a few.

As you all know, coming into the New Year there will be a new committee elected and that alone will bring about change, new challenges and interesting points of view therefore I encourage you all to contribute to make a difference and to add your thoughts and ideas to the year ahead. I would like to thank my Training Committee Team for 2015, Terry O'Callaghan, Arthur Cooksley, Tony van den Dungen, Glen Rochester, Daniele Bell, Simon Batson, Paul Meade & Kevin Watson for their support and commitment to making the VFT the club it is today, it's been great working with you all. I look forward to being with you all again in 2016 and welcome any new ideas, innovations or assistance you may have. My wife Karlene and I wish you all a Happy, Safe and Prosperous New Year in 2016 and that the future for you all only brings the good things in life.

So remember, when you waive that flag or show that board, it's with pride and conviction!

Mark Thompson
VFT Training Officer

Grade 4/5 Rep



Welcome all, to the New Year. The season hasn't started yet but it's not too far away. I hope everyone had a great Christmas and 'New Years'.

Last year wasn't an extremely busy year as far as trainees coming through, As I'm lead to believe, the SEEK enquiries didn't amount to much with just a couple of people couple come through and continue throughout the year.

It took some time but I was pleased to do a presentation to Blake Neck going to Grade 4. Blake started flagging when he was a young 16 year old and come back this year. Also, Simon Quirke had a presentation of his badge at Winton. Congratulation guys. I hope I haven't missed anyone else.

It was good to see the following people want to take the next step and go up to a Grade 3.

- Karen Legg
- Tony Green
- Mark Fischer
- Sam McCoubrie
- Barbara Shilaker (UK)
- John Clark and
- Ian Hogan

Out of the current crop of Grade 4s there are four people still being assessed to go up to Grade 3. Regardless of the AGM election result, I hope to be staying on Training Committee but will help and advise the following people any way possible to progress. I wish them the best with their Assessments;

- Rebecca Armstrong
- Wayne Butteriss
- Michael Clewitt and
- Colleen Walker

See you all at the AGM.
Cheers

Paul



THE KINDNESS FACTORY

I've borrowed the name but, you'll love this!



Kindness and politeness is not overrated at all. They are underused! Tommy Lee Jones

HAPPY NEW YEAR EVERYONE! I heard Melbourne's Lord Mayor Robert Doyle only moments into 2016 say his new year's resolution was to do an act of kindness every day. It never ceases to amaze me how powerful is a simple act of kindness that can completely change the outcome of one's day.

Listen to the story of one such experience and think how we can be the change maker. The Kindness Factory was created by Kath Koschel, a former elite cricketer whose life spiraled into despair and darkness without warning. She fought through the horrible ordeal however, and emerged with a renewed passion for life and a complete understanding of just how powerful kindness can be.

In 2011 Kath made her debut for NSW against South Australia on the famous Adelaide Oval, but no sooner had her career started it came to an abrupt halt. Kath sustained a back injury and just a few months later developed complications from surgery that saw her go within 24 hours having her leg amputated.

It was only Kath's sheer stubbornness that had prevented surgeons from removing the dying limb sooner. At the eleventh hour her persistence was rewarded when professionals discovered a small bleed in her abdomen that was limiting the blood flow to her leg. Emergency surgery fixed the bleed – her leg was saved. It was during this period whilst attending rehabilitation that Kath met Jim. There was an instant connection.

Jim had a smile that could make all of the worries of the world disappear. He was the type of man that made everyone feel welcome. They fell in love, and planned a future together. Jim was Kath's light in this otherwise dark journey.

With a heavy blow, tragedy struck again for Kath in 2012 when Jim passed away; taking his own life. Kath's new light was snuffed out and her journey plunged into darkness once again. Kath's recovery from the mental and physical trauma was a tough one. But throughout it all one thing shone out – the kindness of others who simply wanted to help.

They were small gestures, like offering to help her with a door, but they all helped Kath feel a little bit better. Little things were adding up to make a really big difference. While on the journey to recovery, on Australia Day 2014, Kath Koschel was awarded the Pride of Australia Medal as someone who had shown courage in overcoming adversity. This courage Kath attributes not to herself, but to the power of kindness shown to her by others.

With a new understanding of just how powerful kindness can be, Kath launched the Kindness Factory on 13th November 2015 to encourage people to show a little kindness in their community, and to share experiences of kindness shown to them. It would be sad to allow such an opportunity to be missed or that we lose the art of showing kindness in the simplest of ways.

After all... **One small act of kindness can make a really big difference.**

It could be as simple as complementing a friend on their appearance, or carrying shopping bags for a flustered parent while they tend to their child. It could be giving a homeless person \$10 to buy dinner, or shouting takeaway for a family that you have never met. The most important thing to remember though is that no act of kindness is too small, and kindness is never wasted.

I love to make a difference in other's lives; I'm convinced this can be the sole motivation to making 2016 an amazing year. Let's make it a daily habit and get started today!

Cheers,

Mark

Mark Bateman 0412 151 121

VFT MERCHANDISE

Thanks to **Russell Clasby** and **John Pollard** for their efforts as Merchandise Officers in 2015.

Expressions of Interest are needed and are now open for people to be 2016 Merchandise Officers.

Please put your "EOI" in and assist your fellow flaggies in 2016.

VFT Merchandise

Overalls



Winter Jacket



Overall Jacket



Bag



Plastic pouches



Polo shirt (White)

Bucket Cap



Cap



Beanie

Internal/External stickers: \$2



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

NOTE:

Please be aware that VFT Members no longer receive a discount via "Rays Outdoors" Stores.

The VFT Committee is exploring other / new opportunities that may potentially be available to VFT Members shortly, in lieu of the previous Rays Outdoors discount.

Victorian Flagmarshalling Team Inc
Annual General Meeting
5th February 2015
The Beach Hotel: 97 Beaconsfield Pde Albert Park

Meeting opened 8.00PM

Members present - 41. Guests - 3

Apologies: Tony Green, Terry Regester, Michael Poole, John Booker, Paul Baxter, Paul Freeman, Greg Hardy, Rebecca Armstrong, Arthur Cooksley, Lloyd Owen, Jack Arnott, Doug and Tanya Salan, Country, Interstate and International members.

President's Welcome

Minutes from the 2014 AGM: Moved: Michael Murphy, Seconded: Kevin Redman that the minutes be accepted. Carried

Matters arising from 2014 AGM. Nil

Reports

1 President

- 1.1 Good Year, sufficient numbers to cover clashes.
 - 1.2 Thank you to our sponsors: Holden, BOQ, VHRR, Penrite Oils and BDR Haulage.
 - 1.3 Thank you to our supporters
 - 1.4 Social Media policy now Social Media guidelines
 - 1.5 Planning for a V8 Driver guest speaker night in 2015
 - 1.6 Contacted a local politician regarding financial support for volunteers
 - 1.7 Overall Replacement program being researched.
 - 1.8 30th anniversary coming up, planning needs to be done
 - 1.9 Murray Stevens and Michelle Whitaker not standing for 2015 positions on committee. Thank you for your help.
 - 1.10 Thank you to remaining members of the Committee: Eric Rigg, John Pollard, Terry O'Callaghan, Kevin Watson, Mark Thompson and Jason Carroll.
 - 1.11 Thank you to all other members you took on roles in 2014.
 - 1.12 2015 Long Service Awards presented to those attending AGM
 - 10 Years: Eric Rigg, Paul Meade.
 - 15 Years: Simon Baston, Warren Gordon, Darren Millett.
 - 20 Years: Garry McArdle, Mario Pacifici.
 - 25 Years: Trish Storey.
- 2 Secretary:** as per report
- 2.1 Penrite Oil's partnership program, club received a banner.
 - 2.2 Members need to keep contact details up to date, recently received returned mail.
- 3 Treasurer:** as per report
- 3.1 Auditor's report presented to the members. No questions.
 - 3.2 Cheques to be passed for payment:
 - 3.2 Alan Lopez \$500 [prepare auditor's report], Corporate Printers \$155.74 January magazine, Aust Post \$127.98 [magazine postage], Eric Rigg \$20 [petrol reimbursement, travel to Mt Martha and Brighton for gifts and trophies], Beach Hotel \$120 for soft drinks] and Mark Thompson \$240 [frames for pictures for award recipients.]Moved: Kevin Redman, Seconded: Shane Rogers that the cheques be passed. Carried.

Victorian Flagmarshalling Team Inc
Annual General Meeting
5th February 2015
The Beach Hotel: 97 Beaconsfield Pde Albert Park

4 Chief Flagmarshal

- 4.1 Thank you to members for supporting events.
- 4.2 Several assessments completed several in progress.
- 4.3 Thank you to the Induction Team for helping newbies in to the team at race meetings.
- 4.4 Reporting process was good, some areas need work, looking at attending Steward's hearings.
- 4.5 Sandown 500, the club looked after the young officials.
- 4.6 Sandown Historics, students from Marian college in Ararat joined us, and were shown various areas of motorsport.
- 4.7 Thank you to: Kevin Watson and Arthur Cooksley as Asst Chiefs, Training Committee, Suz Arnott, Russell and Steven Clasby for Equipment.
- 4.8 2015 there are 3 clashes.
- 4.9 Upcoming events, lists available.
- 4.10 Winton V8's, list closes 31st March

5 Assistant Chief Flagmarshal

- 5.1 AROCA 6 hour, in hindsight the club should of attended instead of withdrawing.
- 5.2 Thank you to the Induction Team.

6 Training Officer

- 6.1 Thanks to the Training Committee
- 6.2 Thank you to the Induction Team
- 6.3 Questionnaire circulated, some responses.
- 6.4 Grade 3 role
- 6.4 Black Flack relay kits
- 6.5 Number of upgrades completed
- 6.6 planning more workshops, report writing, critical incidents procedures.

7 CAMS Rep

- 7.1 State Council meeting on 3rd February, constitutional changes relation to Board Directors terms of office positions time frame, [3 terms total 9 years is limit].

8 Promotions Officer

- 8.1 Recruitment program outline from start to now
- 8.2 Uniform replacement program
- 8.3 Due to family and work it is time to move on.
- 8.4 Kevin Redman: Thank Murray for his effort over the years.

9 Grade 3 Rep

- 9.1 Stats supplied to members of current grade 3 and 3A's
- 9.2 Email sent out and had some responses.

10 Grade 4 Rep – No Report

11 Induction Officer

- 11.1 Learning curve in the first year, thank you to Committee, Induction team and Paul Meade for the support
- 11.2 Follow ups – 12-14 newbies, currently 6 waiting to attend trackside

Victorian Flagmarshalling Team Inc
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- 12 **Merchandise** – up to date. 3 uniforms currently on order.
- 13 **Magazine – Social Media**
- 13.1 500+ followers on Facebook.
- 13.2 Thank you to those who sent through pictures and stories.

Reports: Moved: Simon Baston, seconded: Paul Meade that the reports be accepted.
Carried.

- 14 **Club Awards**
- 14.1 Stillwell Motor Group Encouragement award: Justin Parrant
- 14.2 Club Person of the Year: Russell Clasby
- 14.3 Neil Thompson Memorial award: Geoff Kay
- 14.4 President's award: Rebecca Armstrong
- 14.5 Flagmarshal of the year: David Thornbury.

Meeting was handed over to the Returning Officer.

- 15 Nominees were invited to address members.
- 15.1 Grade 4 Rep: Matt Cornford and Paul Meade
- 15.2 Vice President: Roger Chirnside and Mario Pacifici. Returning Officer read Arthur Cooksley's article from magazine.
- 15.3 President: William Gaff, Kevin Redman and Kevin Watson.

Short recess for counting of votes.

Meeting resumed, 2014 Committee positions declared vacant.

- 16. **Voting outcome.**
- 16.1 Grade 4 Rep: Paul Meade elected
- 16.2 Grade 3 Rep: Jason Carroll, returned unopposed
- 16.3 Treasurer: John Pollard, returned unopposed
- 16.4 Secretary: Eric Rigg, returned unopposed
- 16.5 Vice President: Roger Chirnside, tied vote, decided by drawing of straws
- 16.6 President: Kevin Watson, elected.

Returning Officer handed meeting over to the 2015 President: Kevin Watson.

- 17 Kevin Watson thanked Past President William Gaff for his role in the club.
- 18 Motion: that all voting slips be destroyed. Moved: Darren Millett, seconded Robin Wood, Carried
- 19 **General Business**
- 19.1 Thank you to all the members who distributed flyers.

Next General meeting: 2nd April - Beach hotel at 8PM
Meeting Closed 10.10PM

2016 Calendar

(Preliminary Calendar – subject to additions/change)

♦ = Clash

January 16	Brooklands	Chief Marshall's BBQ
February 11	Beach Hotel	AGM
February 28	Winton	Champ of Winton 1
March 5-6	Winton	VMRC Round 1
March 11-13	Phillip Island	Island Classic
March 17-20	Albert Park	Formula 1 Grand Prix - NOT a VFT event
April 7	Beach Hotel	General Meeting
April 1-3	Sandown	Shannons Nationals
April 15-17	Phillip Island	V8's Phillip Island 400
April 30 - May 1	Phillip Island	VSCRC Round 1
♦ May 20-22	Winton	V8's Winton 400
♦ May 21-22	Sandown	VSCRC Round 2
♦ May 28-29	Phillip Island	Shannons Nationals
♦ May 28-29	Winton	Historic Winton
June 2	Beach Hotel	General Meeting
June 11-12	Winton	Shannons Nationals
July 2-3	Winton	VMRC Round 2
July 23-24	Sandown	VSCRC Round 3
August 4	Beach Hotel	General Meeting
August (TBA)	Phillip Island	Vic 6 Hour Relay
August 6-7	Winton	Festival of Speed
August 28	Winton	Champion of Winton
September 3-4	Winton	VSCRC Round 4
September 10-11	Phillip Island	Shannons Nationals
September 16-18	Sandown	V8's Sandown 500
October 13	Beach Hotel	General Meeting
October 15-16	Winton	AROCA 10 Hour Relay
♦October 29-30	Phillip Island	VSCRC Round 5
♦October 29-30	Winton	Improved Production Nationals
November 4-6	Sandown	Sandown Historics
November 12-13	Winton	Winton 300
♦ November 26-27	Phillip Island	Island Magic
December 1	Beach Hotel	General Meeting
December 3-4	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!



SHARE THE PASSION



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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
March edition are due **24th February**.

I hope you enjoyed the read.

