

“Gliding Victoria”

VSA NEWSLETTER APRIL EDITION



PRESIDENT'S PIECE

Well, since my last newsletter in January, the world has turned on its head and we are all in [#stayathome](#) and [#keepyourdistance](#) mode. It is a very difficult time for everyone with people losing employment and the very fabric of life as we know it. Our digital world has certainly helped us to stay connected through Facebook, Instagram, Whats App, YouTube, Facetime, Houseparty, Zoom, Blue Jeans and other platforms. There are some very funny aspects to life presented which does put a smile on the dial. We are also seeing some really good videos of gliding and flying in general, so if you have some good photos or videos, load them up and share with us to help us keep engaged with our wonderful sport.

There is a lot to look forward to when life returns to normal. If you are struggling and experiencing stress, do reach out to your gliding mates and have a video chat. Link up to video conferencing on your computer or smart phone and have a coffee date and a chat. It's not hard to set up and most of the online platforms have free subscriptions. [Houseparty](#) (long as you like for free). [Zoom](#) and [Blue Jeans](#) have free subscriptions of up to 45 minute duration, or contact organizations such as [Lifeline](#) and [Beyond Blue](#) for assistance or just to talk.

Don't become disengaged, reach out and check on your gliding buddies and set some goals for the future.

As our world changes and we are all connecting via online platforms either on our desktop computer or our smart phones, this is also a very good time to assess the business model for your club and what you did in the past may not cut it in the future. Many members may consider not returning after this pandemic is over. Reach out and engage with your members.

This time is a very positive time for change. Look at how you do things. Will it be the best way going forward? Does it just suit a couple of regulars? What needs to change? What is your club culture? Are you engaging with your members and customers or just expecting them to do as you've always done and said? And most importantly, ask the question: ***“is what you are doing now working for you?”*** If your member numbers are down, I would guess not.

The motto of Service Excellence is:

1. **“what can I do for you?”**
2. **“what do you want from us?”**
3. **“how can we make it better?”**

COVID-19

The VSA is following Government guidance and advice throughout the COVID19 emergency. You can find Government guidance [here](#). And what to do whilst now flying? Here you go.....

Casa e-Learning modules

<https://www.casa.gov.au/education/elearning-catalogue>

Human factors in sport, recreation and general aviation
These modules aim to help you understand the role of human behaviour in flying safely.

Three simple questions – Are you up for the challenge to ask those questions?

The old way of ***“this is how we do it, so you can like it or leave”*** won't cut the mustard anymore. When we are back flying, think about setting up an online survey after customers have had their flight and ask them what they liked and did not like about their experience. Survey your members and take criticism positively and use those comments and suggestions for the development of the club and not be considered as a personal attack.

Remember, when this pandemic is over, people will be rushing out the door like a [thousand chooks out of the chook shed](#) looking for something new to do, so be at the forefront ready to go! With a smile!

On a final note, the VSA Committee's thoughts are with those who are suffering, not only health-wise but financially, and we wish them a speedy recovery and wish for us all to “Stay Safe”. We will come out the other side.

- [Module 1: Introduction to human factors in sport, recreation and general aviation](#)
- [Module 2: Information processing—the human factor](#)
- [Module 3: Are you fit to fly? Age, stress, fatigue and drugs](#)
- [Module 4: What's really going on? Situational awareness and decision making](#)
- [Module 5: Threat and error management](#)

Gliding e-Learning modules

[Matthew Scutter's SkySight Presentation](#)

[Gliding Knowledge](#) – Geelong GC

[Basic Soaring Theory](#) – Craig Vinall

YOUR CLUB NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT

Of course, personal safety and well-being during the COVID19 emergency is everyone's priority. Painful as it is when we look at the sky or think about gliders sitting in hangars and trailers, gliding can wait.

The GFA, VSA and Club committees are working very hard in the background to deal with myriad issues including, of course, the fixed costs, which are a reality regardless of whether flying is taking place or not; insurances, cancelled programs, aircraft preservation etc. One of the best things any club member can do for their club right now is to pay their annual club subscription on time, if you can.

Please support your gliding club by renewing your club membership subscription as soon as it becomes due. By doing so, you will help to ensure that your club will still be there when it's needed again and you can go flying.

SOARING DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

Congratulations to Mike Durrant who has joined the GFA Soaring Development Panel as the Victorian representative. We look forward to an engaging season and Mike's invaluable contribution when we are out of lockdown!

VSA ONLINE LEARNING

VSA urge you to get involved with the online webinars that cover various aspects of our sport for our Vic members whilst we are in isolation. If you would like to contribute or be part of this great initiative and/or have some IT expertise that may be useful, please contact [Mike Durrant](#).

Many people are setting up home simulators with Condor 2 to fly in online competitions!

Sports Community webinars are available for Presidents, Secretaries, Treasurers and other club information. And don't forget Sports Community [ClubSpot](#) which is provided by the GFA containing free videos and training for you and your club. You will need to sign up to register if you have not already. A link to the BGA webinar series is also available. [The BGA webinar programme and links are available here.](#)

Accredited VSA YouthGlide Centres

What is a VSA Accredited YouthGlide Centre?

The VSA Accredited YouthGlide Centres (VSA YGC) initiative program is completed and has been rolled out to Club Presidents. This program is based on the British Gliding Association Junior gliding centres and with the kind permission of the BGA, we have been able to utilize the framework to develop our own. The framework and program aligns with the newly launched Monash University Soaring Society and the Australian Junior Gliding Club and we are grateful for their input.

Why your club should be involved?

Ask yourself two questions:

1. Do you want to ensure the long-term future of your club?
2. Do you want to grow your membership now and into the future?

Any VSA club that has received accreditation as a VSA YouthGlide Centre can demonstrate to parents and the community that it has policies, procedures and support systems in place to encourage pilots aged under 25 and that they will be treated with inclusion and respect. The club will have demonstrated an ongoing commitment, as part of their club activities, to pursue excellence with a focus on Junior Pilots and junior pilots will be directed to those accredited clubs.

COVID19 is the time to plan your activities and do that paperwork so that when we are all back on track we are ready to go!

#YesGirlsGlide

A meeting was held in 25th February to plan the YesGirlsGlide program for 2020 with the Autumn, Winter and Spring Series of events. Unfortunately, the Autumn series has been cancelled due to COVID19 and more than likely the Winter series. After discussions with Sport & Recreation Vic and the risk planning they are putting in place, we advised our altered plans and what we can do during this lockdown. What is assured is that there will be a set number of junior scholarships for 15-18 years of age and another set for 18+ to assist you with your flying, and the practical program that we had planned to deliver, once we can all get back to an airfield!

Also as of 10th April, the new [Yesgirlsglide](#) Facebook site is up and running along with the [YesGirlsGlide website](#). Check it out and please feel free to contribute. More to come.....

Funding Grants Distributed

VSA have assisted with grants for club infrastructure. Congratulations to Bendigo GC and South Gippsland GC and look forward to your reports and pictures of the outcomes of your projects.

Aircraft Preservation during COVID19

We have all recently received an email from the GFA Chair, Airworthiness Dept, relating to Aircraft Preservation during the pandemic. To reiterate?

The state governments now all have slightly different rules which makes it difficult to work out what can and can't be done. The police of some states are now enforcing restrictions on travel that is determined unnecessary.

A letter has been placed on the GFA web page under Airworthiness that may assist in some way to gain access to aircraft. It is still only advice though and will have little legal weight in the eyes of the police - particularly if they are being heavy handed. GFA have absolutely no power to grant permission to travel to the airfield. See the letter at this link: <https://tinyurl.com/ACpreserve>

A potential alternate solution is for your club President or your Airworthiness Admin Officer to contact the police and explain to them that the club will need a small number of people (whilst maintaining social separation and employing adequate risk mitigation) to mothball / preserve aircraft and to arrange police approval / consent ahead of time.

Volunteering

As we all know, without the participation of our club members to volunteer for the various jobs around the club and on committees, then the club does not function effectively for all members. This will be more important post COVID19. There will be a lot of work to be done. And you don't have to be on a committee to volunteer around your club.

So ask the questions:

- Do you, as members of your club, know that there is an expectation for you to volunteer in some capacity to ensure the success and continuation of the club?
- Does the club you belong to encourage its members to volunteer?
- Does your club have a Mission Statement and a clear outline of expectations to what is expected of you as members and more importantly, what you can expect from the club?

One way to achieve this is to have a Membership Agreement that all members automatically agree to upon joining and are given a copy of this agreement with any information provided to them when they sign up. The VSA have provided a template for clubs to use as a guide. You may choose this one or devise one of your own.

A template of a "*Club Mission Statement and Membership Agreement*" can be found on the VSA website under [Documents/Clubs](#).

VSA VOLUNTEER JOBS OPEN FOR INVOLVEMENT

VSA Secretary Position

Swan Song! No joke!

After many years as VSA Secretary, David Cleland will be vacating the position in 2020. This is definite and unchangeable.

We have approached a number of people directly and we are still without a successor. As of March 2020, we have a total of 606 members, both flying and non-flying. And the silence is deafening. We have an enthusiastic and "can-do" committee and we have the majority of meetings by video conference and have done for over 2 years and this has served us well.

Please consider the opportunity to undertake this volunteer role and the strengths you can bring to the VSA Committee. Further information on this position can be obtained by contacting David at DavidLCleland@gmail.com or looking on the VSA Website for the [Secretary position description](#). You do not have to be a flying member to undertake this role and as VSA is mandatorily required by the State Government to have 40% women on the board to maintain our funding we would be interested to have involvement from any of our female pilots or family members. Please consider.....

VSA WEBSITE UPGRADE

The VSA Website, as most members would be aware, is quite old. We operate on Joomla 1.6 and we should be on Joomla 3 or 4 by now! We already have two people involved but this job needs some expertise and the ability to work with those two main players. So, do you have knowledge of website design? Are you able to assist our Webmaster and Administrator? Please contact president@gliding.asn.au to advise of your interest.

We have a new web template and are currently road-mapping the site.

HORSHAM COACHING WEEK BY MIKE DURRANT

Given the pandemic it now seems like an age ago that we ran the Horsham Coaching Week and were enjoying some great flying and time with our gliding friends without having to maintain social distance.

VSA and the Horsham Flying Club ran Horsham Coaching Week again in the last week of January 2020. This year's Coaching Week program was focussed on developing pilots who had a GPC, or Silver C, through to Gold C and early competition flying. We had good participation from a wide range of Victorian Clubs and many pilots were able to achieve their goals for the week despite some challenging weather conditions. We had a couple of Gold and Diamond tasks achieved and a Silver C was achieved in one day, with Distance, Height and Duration all achieved together in one flight.

Horsham Coaching Week is a great way to develop your skills and leads into the Horsham Competition as an easy entry to competitive flying in a relaxed, safe and friendly environment. We had four first time competitors who came through the Coaching Week program and then flew in the competition with some good results and all had a safe and enjoyable time.

Each day started with a lecture as we worked through the syllabus. The lectures started with a focus on safety when flying in company and this was a constant theme through the week as we flew together and learnt some lessons along the way. The lectures addressed topics such as thermal selection, cross country speed optimisation, competition tasking, self-tasking and competition starts and finishes. Even if participants did not want to fly competitions, all of the topics are applicable to badge and task flying, with perhaps the exception of AAT tasking.

This was followed by a daily weather and operations briefing, at least when the weather cooperated. The briefings and daily operations followed the normal competition sequence and meant that pilots were in the routine before the competition and knew how to grid, launch, finish, make correct radio calls etc. Tasks were set each day to allow pilots to achieve their goals whilst enabling the broad range of experience and performance to be accommodated.

Dual seat coaching in the Horsham Flying Club Janus and the Geelong Gliding Club Duo Discus was offered on a rotating basis, with pilots flying their own aircraft on alternate days. We were able to do some lead and follow flying, with a single seater following the two-seater, this was effective with more experienced pilots in the single seat aircraft. Hopefully we can get more high performance two seaters and coaches next year, as dual seat coaching is the most effective way to develop pilots' skills and knowledge quickly.

Many thanks to the coaches who made themselves available especially John Orton and Rolf Buelter, with guest coaches such as Don Woodward, Tim Shirley, and Craig Vinall who added their experience to the mix. It was notable that the relationships between coaches and pilots developed during the coaching week were maintained into Horsham Week and this again assisted new pilots to settle in and feel supported in their first competition.

I look forward to running Horsham Coaching Week next year, assuming that we are on the other side of the Pandemic and we can return to a new normal :-)

HORSHAM WEEK 2020

Horsham Week 2020 encompassed the VSA State Championships. The competition was only able to host an Open/18m class and a Club Class, with Standard and 15m classes not having sufficient entries.

Congratulations to the winners who were:

Open/18m Mike Durrant
Club Jaroslaw Mosiejewski

MONASH UNIVERSITY SOARING SOCIETY

Due to the very hard work of Ms Harbans Mann, SGGC) and James Nugent (Pres, AJGC) the Monash University Soaring Society has been initiated. This is very exciting and to support this effort, VSA was to represent gliding at the Monash University Orientation Week with our Analogue Simulator. Unfortunately, due to the escalation of COVID19, the OWeek was postponed and then



eventually cancelled. But our team have instigated the [MUSS Facebook](#) page to market the Society. MUSS is not a club. It is a conduit for students to discover information on gliding and be directed to a club that suits their requirements. We are looking forward to the future of encouraging more young people into our sport through this channel and WATCH THIS SPACE!

AIRWORTHINESS REPORT

- Audits undertaken at Beaufort GC and Melbourne GC.
- Audits due at Grampians GC was scheduled for first week of March.
- F2 course to be held at Ballarat Aerodrome in April has been cancelled.
- Succession planning in progress for RTO Airworthiness has been completed.

The VSA is following Government guidance and advice in relation to Airworthiness throughout the COVID19 emergency. Government advice [here](#)

VSA ASSET DAMAGE

A sizeable amount of damage occurred to the Analogue simulator after use at a community event. The simulator was left in a deplorable state and was only discovered when another club had arranged to use it. Over fifty hours of work was undertaken at Benalla on repairs, fiddling with parameters of control linkage and computer software.

As a consequence, the simulators will now be housed at Benalla and will be signed out and checked upon return.

Further to the above, one set of VSA scales are still missing and damage has occurred to one set. The Scales and Testers are now housed at Ballarat with Joe Luciani.

The VSA Committee has now instigated a \$300 Bond prior to the loan of VSA Assets.

VSA are very fortunate to have secured funding to enable our association to support Victorian clubs. Wasting money on damage incurred due to negligence is not what our funding is for and ultimately means that the money incurred on repairs takes away money from other projects.

A NEW ADDITION TO OUR TROPHIES! By Ian Grant

MAX HEDT VINTAGE TROPHY

The Max Hedt Vintage trophy was created at the 50th Horsham Week for the best performance in a wooden glider. In subsequent HW comps there were no entries of wooden gliders so it was decided to change the trophy criteria to award it to an individual who showed great promise, enthusiasm and a positive attitude. A second trophy in acrylic plastic was created in 2017 and known as the 'Max Hedt Trophy' with no mention of Vintage. Refer to this link at the Horsham Week site [the-max-hedt-award](#) Thus this left us the original trophy for Vintage gliders. At Chris Thorpe's suggestion it was decided to adopt this trophy as an annual VSA Award for the most meritorious performance by a vintage glider from a VSA airfield. The selection of future winners to be at the discretion of the VSA committee based upon recommendations from the Vintage Glider Association of Australia and/or applications from individual owners of Vintage gliders.

FAI PAUL TISSANDIER AWARD

The Paul Tissandier Diploma is awarded by the Federation Aeronautique Internationale. The diploma was established by the FAI in 1952 and is named after Mr Paul Tissandier, Secretary General of FAI from 1919 to 1945. It may be awarded to those who have served the cause of aviation in general and sporting aviation in particular, by their work, initiative, devotion or in other ways.

In January 2020, it was awarded at the GCV 90th Anniversary celebrations to Dr John Wharington and Mr Matthew Gage for their development and implementation of the Proximity Analysis Tool.

Improving safety in sport aviation championships is critical but often difficult to produce accurate data to identify the cause of accidents, in particular mid-air collisions. The Proximity Analysis Tool was developed by Dr. Wharington and Mr. Gage to use GPS flight recorder data to analyse glider flights and detect when pilots fly too close to each other in competition, which increases the risk of a collision.

The tool uses a bubble of 30m radius and identifies when a pilot enters the bubble of another glider – called an incursion. This indicates that the pilot is flying too close to other pilots. We have many pilots with 10-20 incursions over 7 days, but some with 150 incursions. Stewards are targeting these pilots and are managing to reduce the number of incursions they have. Over time we can push all pilots to minimize the incursions even below what is currently acceptable. John and Matthew have identified factors that increase the likelihood of increased incursions such as class size and task parameters and this now provides valuable advice to championship organisers.

Stewards are able to counsel pilots with hard evidence rather than hearsay, and most pilots are calling for the tool to be used so as to reduce these hazardous activities. This is now being used in nearly every championship in the European gliding season with great success.

Congratulations are extended to John and Matt.



Keep safe in 2020...

Calendar of Events **Cancelled due to COVID19**

Date	Event
20 - 24 April 2020	VSA Airworthiness Course - Ballarat (to be rescheduled)
17-19 March	Monash University Orientation Week to launch Monash University Soaring Society
5th April	Latrobe Valley Airshow - marketing event
13th April Easter Monday	Molyullah Sports Community Day - marketing event

Calendar of Events – Video Conference

23 rd May	Presidents' Meeting - Video Conference 10.30 am - 12.30 pm (BYO Lunch, Computer and Desk!!)
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Viv Drew
VSA Prez