



**VSA Presidents' Meeting Minutes, May 23, 2020 video conference
Started 10:30 finished**

Attendance: Ian Benning (Sunraysia), Viv Drew (Pres), Tighe Patching (MG), Mike Durant, State Dev Mgr (in part), Dave Tickner (Bendigo), Max Speedy (Sth Gipps) , David Cleland (Sec), Steve McAvoy (Geelong), Jonathan Mc Aliece (GCV), Eddie Madden (Sportaviation), Anthony Smith, CAD (in part), Steph Hey (Tassie), Matt Woodhouse (GCV), Paul Dealy (GCV) and Tom Speisser, (Treasurer, in part)

1. Update on VSA/SRV Funding.

SRV advised this week about increased future funds. SRV will require us to resubmit VSA funding requests, clubs will have to do the same. It will be called "Experience, Economy and Survival packages" and require a COVID19 safety plan. They may require clubs to have a COVID safety officer. Viv will circulate further information.

2. Positions Vacant:

- 2.1. Secretary
- 2.2. GFA Board Rep
- 2.3. Website Design Co-Ordinator
- 2.4. Inclusion and Diversity Officer
- 2.5. Compliance Officer
- 2.6. YesGirlsGlide Co-Ordinator

3. COVID Virus shutdown - Statements from each club:

Sunraysia: Summer had a lot of windy days preventing operations. Have keen youngsters & juniors. IS28 now 25 years old, is being recovered. The winch needs amajor overhaul.

Sth Gippsland: First accredited Youth Glide Centre, well done! Only a fair season, plenty have gone solo with a mixture of winch and towing. Well on the way with their sim which is only a month away. Airfield is too wet for grass so using hard surface

Tassie: Just getting going with their new site, some instructors now current, limited members & limited resources.



GCV: Summer impacted by smoke, usual international contingent mainly from the UK. Had assistance from one of the UK guys is helping members post solo. There is now a junior contingent at GCV and seem to be 'sticking' around.

COVID risk: Benalla is COVID free but there is a risk with the Melbourne members, so very limited operations at present. Most of the committee members are working and have had little time away from their work

Beaufort: Slow summer, 3 clubs at BM working harmoniously together and instructors have mostly current and members are starting to fly again. We have done some 2 seater flying , two up.

Melb Gliding: Positive, daily ops at BM working well with COVID, had a Tocumwal event that went well, NSG: keeping members is the risk.

Geelong: Went to Narromine, got a lot of pilots to solo, cut short by fires, good participation at Horsham week, 3 BM clubs working effectively at the Marsh.

Bendigo: Had a good summer, increased member numbers, successful open days, looking at more infrastructure such as hangars and an east/West RW. Looking a Junior gliding accreditation. COVID has slowed things down but keeping in contact with members. Tug down for maintenance.

4. Anthony Smith, Chair of Airworthiness, start up after COVID:

First concern is airworthiness and it is the F2 season, so perceived pressure in getting gliders ready which can lead to mistakes. We get one flight a year with a flight control not connected. When re starting don't let any distractions affect DI's etc. The AN 179 advice on disinfecting cockpits which will result in minimal infection risks. An update will be released next week. However no information is available on long term effects on harnesses or parachutes. Further info on specialized chemicals to use will be forthcoming. Tug 100hr/12month overhaul extension not going well with CASA but would like to present a case so let Anthony know.

5. The state of Coaching in Victoria (Mike Durrant):

Updated the coaching list around the country. Introduced the new silver coaching rating and want to get instructors to this level, WIP. Next step gold rating. The % of instructors in Victoria who are silver instructors is low and needs to be increased and is 1 to 96 members for silver and 1 to 36 for a coach. The GPC syllabus is being reviewed and will be updated. Coaching courses will be set up but will take quite a long time. Mike will require assistance and a request will be sent out. The main aim is retention and growth going from solo to initial X country and then getting hooked on X country.



Review of Horsham Coaching Week: Went well, good lead into the comp, 4 or 5 did the coaching week and then joined the comp. Will be run again next year. There is an opportunity at Bendigo to return to a more structured coaching week during the Melbourne Cup week. Other sites could be Mt Beauty and Benalla.

Mike's draft VSA Coaching Event schedule for Vic/Tas is as follows:

- Melbourne Cup Weekend – Bendigo – Nov 2020
- Coaching Event – Benalla - TBC
- Horsham Coaching Week - Horsham – Feb 2021
- Mountain Flying Course – Mt Beauty – Mar 2021

We need to agree a planned schedule for Silver Coaching courses, focussed on upskilling Instructors and existing Coaches in the first instance, with support from Pete Temple and others, including Tasmania. In addition, we need clubs to identify members who want to develop as Coaches from Vic/Tas Clubs and happy to assist with that.

Attached Coaching stats and GPC Coaching Units

6. Viv Drew – **“Doing Sport Differently”** (10 mins). Viv gave her presentation on this topic (attached). Some clubs have started 2 seater flying ie 2 up, some clubs saying it is not worth the risk. Only club doing it is Beaufort at the moment.
7. **Re-Engagement and Retention of Members** – what steps are you taking? What's your risk of non-engagement? Viv gave a presentation of the loss and churn of members throughout GFA and club culture. GFA will introduce an exit review on members who leave gliding. Why some members won't come back after COVID:
 - 7.1. Income & Costs: Some members will have lost their income or significant portions of their income, and hence costs of flying. Is there an ability to stagger payments or pay as you go?
 - 7.2. Safety: Members may consider it unsafe to fly. Ensure COVID cleaning regimes and social distancing are in place.
 - 7.3. Motivation: Some members will decide to stay away for a while and hence may not come back. Communication is essential, keep them engaged, social activities, online communications, simulators.
 - 7.4. Other clubs maybe able to assist eg with instructing, reach out!

See VSA Website for Club Culture report, Re-Engagement and Retention of Members and [Investigation into Attrition, Retention Recruitment Report 2013](#).

David Cleland
VSA Secretary
23rd May 2020