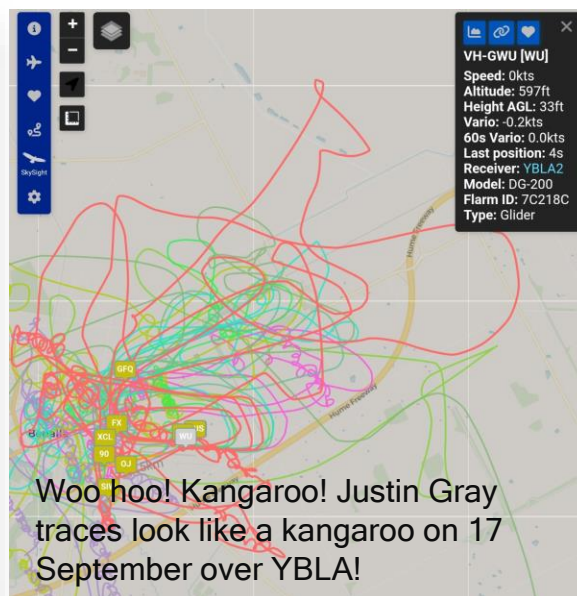




GlidingVicTas

VSA NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2023



YES! SUCCESS!

Gliding VicTas is excited to announce that it has been successful in procuring funding from the Victorian Government Sport & Recreation for the next four years! This funding is there to ensure that Gliding VicTas is able to support gliding clubs in Victoria with programs and initiatives to promote gliding and assist regional clubs. A large amount of work went into procuring the funding and there are guidelines associated with the [Gliding VicTas Strategy Plan](#) and alignment with Gliding Australia's One Team, One Sport, One Gliding vision.

INITIATIVES & FUNDING FROM GLIDING VIC/TAS

Is your club aware of the funding from Gliding VicTas that can assist your club? Most clubs would say – No! Check out the link to the [VSA Initiatives & Funding](#) page and have a look at how your regional association can assist you. There are guidelines and criteria to fulfill, so ensure that you read the detail! If your funding fits the criteria, please apply for a Funding Application Form from the [VSA Secretary](#).

CLUB SIGNAGE

Want to look “schmick and slick” for the coming season and to let your customers know where and who you are? Check out the funding available for [club signage](#) through Gliding VicTas.

If your funding fits the criteria, please apply for a Funding Application Form from the [VSA Secretary](#).

WOMEN IN GLIDING

Outlined below is the recent SWOT Analysis of understanding why women are not participating in gliding and the opportunities available to move forward. Check out the full [#YesGirlsGlide Strategy Plan](#) for further information. The Women in Gliding Development Plan will be released shortly to provide you with ways and means to get more involvement from women and girls.

VSA #YesGirlsGlide SWOT Analysis

Strengths

- Group of willing advocates for the sport
- Existing strong sense of gliding community
- Gliding is fun, rewarding and proven to relieve stress
- Precedents of successful female gliders

Weaknesses

- Females lack confidence in associated skill sets
- Females lack confidence in their ability
- Fear of flying/association with high risk
- Time constraints
- Poor media coverage of female participation
- Lack of strong (female) membership development programs
- Social stereotyping – ‘boys’ club’
- Financial barrier to entry

Opportunities

- Females with direct or indirect link to gliding
- Leverage existing female glider pilots (stories, PR and mentoring)
- Relatively cheap and proven online technology - online forums, direct email, new website
- Enhance the Victorian Soaring Association #YesGirlsGlide program
- Study (online) opportunities for required skills
- Suitable venues that can be used for social activities
- AEFs provide realistic “try before you buy” opportunities

Threats

- Increasing family commitments
- Economic downturn, people becoming increasingly conservative with discretionary spend
- General decrease in VSA membership - acquisition and retention
- Other state sporting associations, including alternative aviation options, competing for female participation
- Trying to do too much too soon with limited resources



YOUNG PEOPLE AND GLIDING

We want more young people in gliding to keep the sport focused and growing into the future. Below is the recent SWOT Analysis of understanding why young people are not participating in gliding and how we can address weakness and threats to move forward. Check out the full [Gliding VicTas YouthGlide Strategy Plan](#) for further information.

SWOT Analysis – Junior Pilots	
Strengths <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pathway from gliding into a career in aviation • Existing strong sense of gliding community • Gliding is fun, rewarding and proven to enhance mental health • Precedents of successful junior pilots 	Weaknesses <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Time constraints • Flexibility in line with studies • Poor media coverage of junior pilot participation • Lack of strong junior membership development programs • Financial barriers to entry
Opportunities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Junior pilots with direct or indirect links to gliding • Leverage existing glider pilots (stories, PR and mentoring) • Relatively cheap and proven online technology - online forums, social media, direct email, new website • New online gliding study programs opportunities to gain required skills • Improve clubhouses to be used for social activities • Air Experience Flights provide realistic “try before you buy” opportunities 	Threats <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Study / part time work commitments • Economic downturn due to the COVID pandemic and people becoming increasingly conservative with discretionary spend • General decrease in VSA membership - acquisition and retention • Other state sporting associations, including alternative aviation options, competing for young people’s participation and interest. • Trying to do too much too soon with limited resources

AI AND YOUR CLUB!

Do you need to write a newsletter, press release, strategy plan, development plans or branding for your club? Get onto the Artificial Intelligence platforms and reduce your time and energy to produce documentation.

The recent Sport Community seminar on the use of AI was most informative. Many clubs, including Gliding VicTas are utilizing this technology and it saves an enormous amount of time to produce documentation and assist in areas that you may not have the expertise. Most programs are free to use for the purposes you need.

Check out [ChatGPT](#). ChatGPT, which stands for Chat Generative Pre-trained Transformer, is a large language model-based chatbot developed by OpenAI which enables users to refine and steer a conversation towards a desired length, format, style, level of detail, and language. ChatGPT V3 is free and V4 is a paid service.

Another AI platform is [Bard](#) which is a conversational generative artificial intelligence chatbot developed by Google. You will need a Google account to access.

Differences between the two platforms? ChatGPT is better for generating content, ie., newsletters, press releases, strategy plans, development plans, especially when data is given, such as summarizing an article.

Bard is made for research using real-time data, so users can ask about current conditions such as the weather.

AND for a lot of fun to create merchandise, branding, posters and promo material, check out [Midjourney](#). To start generating images with Midjourney, you'll need to subscribe to a plan with the basic being \$10 per month.

Have a go! You won't believe what you are seeing! Your life just got easier!! 😊😊

Ways to Improve Your Clubs Organisational Direction



Ways to Improve Your Clubs Organisational Direction

Here are 5 actionable things your club can do:

1. **Data-Driven Decision Making:** Utilise data for informed decisions. Gather feedback from club members, review registration numbers, and assess participation history to understand your club's trajectory.
2. **Analyse and Assess:** Consider, discuss, and document your club's strengths, weaknesses, and opportunities. Identify areas for growth and improvement.
3. **Smart Goal Setting:** Establish clear, realistic goals with achievable time frames for monitoring progress. Consider available time and resources when planning.
4. **Create a Clear, Step-by-Step Plan:** Assign tasks to committee or club members, and maximize efficiency by completing tasks between committee meetings. Maintain regular check-ins and offer support as needed.
5. **Utilise Resources:** Don't hesitate to seek assistance when required. Utilise online resources, tap into support from state or national sporting organizations, and explore potential grants or council funding opportunities.

GOVERNANCE AND INTEGRITY

Yeah, we know! We always harp on Governance and Integrity, but it is the world of sport we live in, so if your club has not embraced the “new world” or don't have the expertise to develop these policies and procedures, check out the [Gliding VicTas Governance](#) section of the website (scroll down to Policies) – they are all there for you! Alternatively, you can also use the [Gliding Australia Governance & Integrity policies](#).

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

[World Gliding Championships - Narromine](#)

Sat Dec 2nd - Sat 16th, 2023

[2023 Multi-Class Nationals – Benalla](#)

Mon Jan 15th - Fri 26th, 2024

More details to come.....

[Coaching - Horsham Week](#)

The Horsham Coaching week runs from Saturday 27th January to Saturday 3rd February.

Entry form and entries pages are also available on the website <https://www.horshamweek.org.au>.

[Competition - Horsham Week](#)

The Horsham Competition starts Saturday 3rd February to Saturday 10th February.

Entry form and the entries page are now on the website: <https://www.horshamweek.org.au>.

