



GlidingVicTas

VSA NEWSLETTER APRIL 2025

VSA STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS AT HORSHAM

During the evening of Saturday 8th, February the annual Horsham Week Dinner and Presentation of awards to our champions was held in the Horsham Flying Club facilities at Horsham Aerodrome.

Check out all the details on [Horsham Flying Club](#) Facebook page.

Champions

Club	15m-Standard	Open-18m
1 280 Michael Strathern 4,359	1 JH Jack Hart 4,428	1 BV Ryan Driscoll 4,213
2 SG Terry Cubley 4,109	2 NC Neil Campbell 3,704	2 FQF Michael Durrant 3,574
3 WQF Jaroslaw Mosiejewski 3,927	3 2M Tim Shirley 3,419	3 XQK Thorpe & Vagg 3,010



Michael Strathern - Club Class



Jack Hart - 15m Standard



Ryan Driscoll - Open - 18m

Horsham Week Coaching and Competition 2025

The 59th Horsham Week Competition, held from 1st to 8th February 2025, was a successful event despite facing significant challenges due to nearby **bushfires**. It was run in conjunction with the **Victorian State Championships**, which crowned state champions in 15M, Open/18M, and Club classes. The event was preceded by **Coaching Week**, designed to support new pilots entering competition and develop cross-country skills.

Coaching Week, led by Tim Shirley and supported by a strong coaching team, was heavily impacted by bushfires in the **Grampians** and **Little Desert**, resulting in only two flying days. Despite severe fire threats, including near-evacuation, firefighting operations based at Horsham Airport, and extensive damage to surrounding areas, one pilot was still able to achieve their **Glider Pilot Certificate (GPC)**.

The **Horsham Week Competition** proceeded more smoothly, with 26 pilots competing. Conditions improved, allowing tasking primarily to the north and east of Horsham. Female pilots, including Leonie Furze, Diana Schuit, and Anoushka De Chelard, performed strongly in Club Class, achieving day wins and podium finishes.

Winners included:

- **Open/18M:** *Ryan Driscoll* (Nimbus 3t)
- **15M/Standard:** *Jack Hart* (ASW20B)
- **Club Class:** *Michael Strathern* (ASW20)

The competition is organized and run by pilots themselves, ensuring sustainability through shared responsibilities. The Horsham Flying Club once again provided vital support in hosting the event.

The report concluded with optimism for Horsham Week 2026, starting 31st January (Coaching Week) and 7th February (Competition Week), encouraging broader participation—especially from younger pilots and two-seat gliders—to continue building the next generation of soaring pilots.



Anoushka De Chelard waiting to launch.

AVALON AIRSHOW



Future pilots in the making! The simulator has been a hit with young and old. [#avalonairshow2025](#)

The GA display at the Air Show was a great success with many people stopping in to engage with the display. The big draw card was the simulator which always had someone in it! Some outcomes achieved were:

- VSA name and Play By The Rules Banner on display
- Around 250 people tried the simulator. A similar number sat in the Geelong Gliding Club's DG300 on display with lots of photos taken.
- We sold 34 VSA come and try it vouchers. These will be taken up over the next year at VSA clubs
- GA won the "Most Interactive Stand" award from the Air Show organisers.

Kudos to all who organised, lent a hand and attended. Special mention to Daryl Bishop who organised the VSA Simulator to be spic 'n span and ready for action!



Daryl Bishop receiving the award for the "Most Interactive Stand".

FOUNDATION FUNDING

Congratulations to the Gliding VicTas team for securing the Foundation Funding from the Department of Sport & Recreation. Lot of work goes into ensuring the funding is ongoing to support the Vic/Tas regions programs. Well done, Team!!

GRANTS OPEN

[Qantas Regional Grants](#) - What is the Qantas Regional Grant?

The Qantas Regional Grants program offers substantial support to Australian-based communities, focusing on projects that enrich regional areas. With a commitment that stretches back to its first flights in outback Queensland in 1920, Qantas continues to foster local economic activity and job support in these communities.

This initiative aims to sustain brighter futures by offering financial, flight, and marketing support to charities, organisations, projects, and individuals enhancing the spirit of Australia.

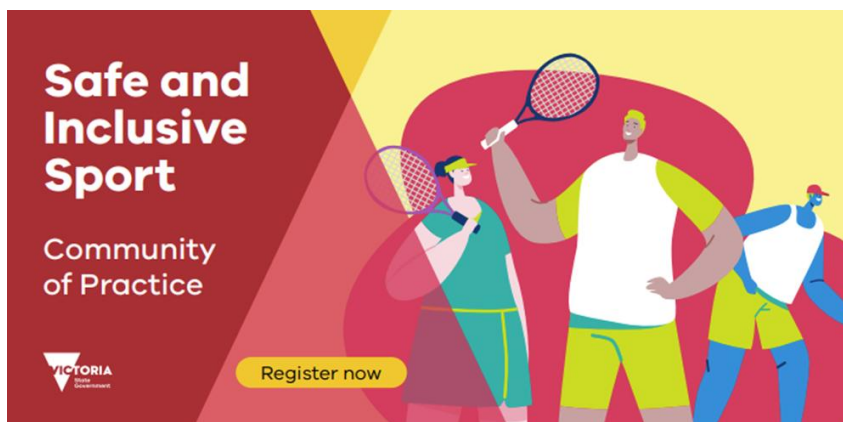
Qantas Regional Grant level of support

- The Qantas Regional Grants program offers recipients a combination of: Cash grants, Flights in kind, and Marketing support.
- While the program does not specify exact minimum or maximum individual grant amounts, the total available pool is \$2 million, with past allocations tailored according to the specific needs of each successful applicant.
- Applicants have to nominate the value of each grant component required for their work and clearly outline how it would be used to further their regional cause.
- Co-Contribution Requirements: None specified.

See the guidelines for full details of the level of support.

Qantas Regional Grant important dates

- Closing date: 10 May 2025
- Qantas Regional Grant Panel assess entries: May - June
- Successful applicants announced: July
- [Register your interest](#) with GrantHelper



The next [Safe and Inclusive Sport Community of Practice \(CoP\)](#) event, hosted by Sport and Recreation Victoria will be held in Ballarat.

This topic for this session is **engaging men as allies for gender equity and the prevention of gender-based violence**.

The session will include:

- A keynote address from Alan Thorpe, CEO of Dardi Munwurro, 2023 Victorian Male Elder of the Year and former AFLM player.
- Case study presentations from Football Victoria and The Men's Project, GenWest and the Western Bulldogs Community Foundation, and Women's Health Grampians and the NRL.
- Guided small-group activities to discuss learnings and practical ways of applying these concepts in your own work.

These sessions draw upon the [Safe and Inclusive Sport: Preventing Gender-Based Violence Guide](#) and aim to provide you with the knowledge and capacity to progress gender equity and prevention of gender-based violence initiatives within your organisation.

The Safe and Inclusive Sport CoP is a series of workshops designed for leaders in the sport and primary prevention sectors. It is an opportunity to come together, share insights, and explore evidence-based approaches for engaging community sports and volunteers in the prevention of gender-based violence.

In-person event:

Date: Wednesday, 16 April 2025

Time: 9:30am - 12:30pm AEST

Location: Selkirk Stadium, 989 Norman St, Wendouree VIC 3355

[Register here](#)

Online event:

Date: Wednesday, 7 May 2025

Time: 9:30am - 11:30am AEST

Format: Zoom

[Register here](#)

The series is open to everyone, so please forward this invitation on to your colleagues and promote the series to your networks.

For more information on the series, [click here](#).

AROUND THE CLUBS!

BENDIGO

Bendigo Gliding Club will be hosting an LGBTQ+ gliding event on 31/5 – 1/6 2025. If you are interested in attending, here is the registration form link: <https://forms.gle/se7QiJne7aFeCqSz6> or scan the QR code below.

SUNRAYSIA

A “Come and Try” day was held on 19th February for women and girls at the Sunraysia Gliding Club in Mildura. The club recently had a word-of-mouth campaign to get some interest in a “come and try” day for women and girls at the club. To fit in with those who were willing, it was arranged for a week day. The four ladies ranged from young working mums to a retiree looking to get an aerial view of her golf club. With the K21 and Janus both set up, we aimed to give them an air-to-air thermalling experience during their flight. It turned out to be one of those days of easy to catch thermals to 4,000 feet. They all had a great day and will have something to tell their friends and spread the word through their networks.



REGISTER NOW



31/05/2025 & 01/06/2025
ALL WELCOME!

LGBTIQA+ GLIDING WEEKEND
BENDIGO GLIDING CLUB
123 BOROUGH RD, RAYWOOD VIC 3570

A WEEKEND OF INCLUSION AND FUN!



People in the pics: Cathy and David Nugent “Ladies on Wednesday”. From left, Ian Benning, David Nugent, Sally, Cathy, Krystal, Meaghan, Adrian Ginn. Rob Wood behind the camera.