

A tribute to our wonderful volunteer officials and staff. On Friday morning as I drove to the Albert Park track, the news feed was that the Aus GP would be cancelled. Fearful of having to tell the AGPC we could not provide support for the event, I wondered how many of our volunteer officials would decide not to come to “work”. I need not have worried!! I arrived at the early morning muster to find all 950 had shown up, kitted up and ready to do their bit. With the help of Mike Smith, Dr Brent May and our staff, we explained what lay ahead and reminded them about the steps to be taken re COVID19. We did not get one question or any push back. No complaints, no whinging. They broke up into their teams and went out to their positions – where they waited for another 2 hours before being told the race was cancelled. We returned to the muster and there they all were again – disappointed but united. I have experienced highs and lows in sport but this would have to be one of the highlights – the response from our wonderful, magnificent and the world’s best volunteer officials was inspiring. From everybody at Motorsport Australia – THANK YOU!! I could not be prouder of the response from our loyal volunteers and our hard working staff.

Eugene Arocca Chief Executive Officer at Motorsport Australia

Michael Masi

This interview was conducted Thursday afternoon during a S5000 session.

It's been an interesting and challenging year for FIA F1 Race Director, Michael Masi. It was a year ago at AGP that the then Deputy Race Director was asked to fill in for Charlie Whiting, who had died unexpectedly on the eve of the weekend. "It's been hectic. Obviously a lot has changed in the last 12 months. It's been a huge learning curve. It has evolved and is continuing to evolve. I did my best last year. I've had a great team of people. I learn every day. And absolutely, he is enjoying it. Very enjoyable. I like the mentality of F1 and find the F1 paddock very welcoming."

Michael is the Race Director, and the duty of Starter held by Charlie Whiting was split off. Christian Bryll is the permanent FIA F1 Starter., and head of logistics. Collin Haywood is the Deputy Race Director and Radio systems Manager, and sits next to Michael in Race Control. On Michael's other side is the Clerk of the Course, Tim Schenken.

Michael, an Australian, has always had a passion for motorsports. He started spectating and attended the Adelaide AGP in 1993 with his mother. and then volunteering for teams, starting with go karts and working up the ladder with teams and series, including a Formula 3 team, Tiga, Rally Australia and WRC, CAMS, led the CAMS training team for Singapore GP and Korea's GP, Super Touring Cars, and Series Manager for V8 Supercars. His last position was Deputy F1 Race Director, and he was going to be Race Director for FIA F2 and F3.



Michael Masi Interview (continued)

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There were no changes to the F1 light boards this year, other than which flag it displayed for the end of the race. FIA has gone back to using the Chequered Flag instead of the flag used in 2019.

In addition to the video recordings and TV monitors for all the marshal posts, "the Race Director and/or Stewards use written reports from the marshals regarding incidents, coming through channels to Race Control, and sometimes are the trigger for some of the things we see."

Masi is not in favor of the "Monkey Dance" on the F1 Cool Off lap, which is the marshals displaying of all the flags in celebration of the racers. It's unsafe as there is no way to upgrade a flag condition should situation arise during that time. It was in Charlie's notes last year and Michael's job to so advise the marshals at each track last year. Michael is, as was Charlie, in favor - within reason - of light frivolity during the Steward's Inspection.

Michael was at the FIA Prize Giving ceremonies when Janette Tan was presented the Charlie Award. He said it was so nice to see the genuine surprise and pleasure from Janette, who did not know until that moment that she had won. FIA had made sure she would be at the ceremony, as she had just attended the Race Directors seminars.

It was quite the process for this award, which Charlie's staff and family had asked for, to promote his legacy. The 'competition' for the Charlie Whiting Award was open to all ASN's to nominate someone, who was either a National or International Race Director or Clerk of the Course. A written test was held, followed by a video oral interview. Janette, who heads up the training and recruiting for the 900+ Singapore marshals, came out on top. She's attended several AGP's, with large groups of marshals, as part of their training.

Michael tries to make it to at least one marshal briefing/gathering per Grand Prix. Last year he came to the Marshals BBQ.



AINSLIE

After three years with CAMS/Motorsport Australia as National Marshals Manager, we bid farewell to Ainslie Gardner, who is leaving this autumn to travel in Europe. She plans to visit Silverstone and other circuits for which her special friend, Michael, can gain her access. She said one of the best memories/experiences she had was being in the Muster Tent for AGP sign-on and briefing. She loved the passion, exuberance, energy, excitement of all the marshals. Bon voyage, Ainslie. We will miss you!

Our new contact will be Prianca. Welcome Prianca!

Knut Gassmanis

This is the 35th year for Knut Gassmanis, Chief of what is popularly known as the A Team, and he has been a Senior Official for 25 of those years. Officially the crew is known as the Equipment Team. The name was given by Mel Hemming and Trevor Ellis, because it was the crew that got things done, just like the TV show of the same name. It started when they were behind the Pit straight wall, picking up equipment; and a demonstration dragster blew up and laid down a huge swath of oil on the front straight. While the powers-to-be were working out who and how to clean it up, Knut and the crew hopped over the wall and cleaned it up. They were observed from above by Mel Hemmerling and Trevor Ellis, who sent down a case of beer. Later the crew was called to The Office, and wondered what kind of trouble they were in. Hemmerling, then CEO of AGP, presented them with special A Team T-shirts.



Knut was recruited by Bill O'Reilly in 1986 to work on the AGP Equipment Supply Team and they were housed in Garage 1 of the F1 Pit Lane, next to the Haas Team (Carl Haas, not the current Haas Team. Its drivers were Aussie Alan Jones and Patrick Tambay. As time went on, the crew evolved as it took on more tasks. Back in the day, it was involved with moving F1 freight, providing secondary security in the Red Zone, Parc Ferme security, helping the police, and helping with the corporate facilities. They helped unload F1 tires, tossing them over the fence and rolling them down pit lane. They were especially skilled at bartering. Someone would need something and had something to offer in exchange. That went over especially well with corporate hospitality, and the team was always well-fed. The team became known for specializing in doing the impossible, fixing things, or knowing people who could. They work with people to make it happen.

The A Team works hard and plays hard. They are as well known for their pranks as their impressive list of achieved tasks. They have had fun with the Steward's Inspections, keeping within the boundaries of Race Director-permitted frivolity. One year they won the Steward's Cup as it was known in those days, for retrieving all the corner worker's flags from the dumps. Long story - have someone from the A Team tell you

This year's A team includes two females, 11 members from Adelaide including several veterans who have been together from Adelaide all 35 years, two from Melbourne and one from Brisbane.

As Knut says, it's been a wild journey, interesting, and a lot of fun.



Young Official - Raj (Maharajan Ramanathan) Turn 3
.... In his own words

I am Maharajan Ramanathan (Raj), I understand that it's a herculean task to pronounce my name, that's why I shortened it as Raj. I am from the Detroit of **India, Chennai** which is a hub for Automobile majors. Educating from this historic place and my father being an auto enthusiast, it was natural for me to get passionate about automobiles. I wanted to take it up a notch higher by getting myself involved in motorsport

Motorsport Interest: I got interest into motorsports after I accidentally started watching rallying and Colin McRae on his Subaru and Michael Schumacher on his Benetton on TV, approximately during the same time frame. This sparked me to have my career in motorsports, but unfortunately, I did not have access or information regarding how to get myself into motorsport at that point in time.

Having the interest alone does not help, but dreams do: Access to motorsport was difficult in India due to the limited number of races happening in the country and motorsport not being a popular sport like other countries. I was dreaming to watch F1 race live someday after watching the races on TV for more than 20 years. I wish I had seen my icon Michael race now, but I have Lewis Hamilton who fulfils those aspects equally in the present decade of F1, so happy to see him in his Mercedes in 2020.

Fast forward to 2020: I migrated to Australia, so half of my dream was fulfilled. Next phase was to plan for watching the Australian GP. Since I always wanted to get closer to motorsports, I started exploring for options and **Motorsport Australia** website helped me in identifying my interest towards the sport and I passed the general official training. Theoretical knowledge alone does not help, hence was exploring options to get practical experience and that is how I got in connection with **Victorian Flag Marshalling** team. I started marshalling in races across Victoria and started to understand about marshalling and would always be thankful to this club for giving me this opportunity to learn.

Dream Come True: I was constantly following up on Australian GP website and applied without thinking about anything as soon as the webpage was open for application on 12th October 2019. My joy knew no bounds when I received the notification of successful application on 05th December 2019 and the new year was full of hopes and I was waiting for the racing week and am excited to be part of the F1 marshalling team and wish to take it up further in future years by upgrading myself with the licences and watching the cars up close and learn more on motorsports and racing cars.

Final Say: The week of Australian GP is around the corner and very excited to see F1 cars up close.



Janette Tan

Janette Tan is the recipient of the first Charlie Whiting Award, which was conceived to commemorate Charlie's legacy. Qualifications include holding a position of a National or International Series Race Director or Clerk of the Course. The award provides an opportunity for an up-and-coming Race Director to follow in his footsteps and benefit from a period of training and memorizing by FIA World Championship Race Directors during the course of this racing season.

Janette started as a volunteer race marshal more than 15 years ago, and had been the Chief Marshal in Singapore. She has attended Australian Grands Prix, starting in 2009, heading up volunteer management of one of the first group of Singapore race officials and marshals who came to Melbourne for acclimation and training experience. Janette is tasked with recruiting and training race officials and marshals for the Singapore Grand Prix, numbers which equal the 900+ needed at AGP. She has worked as Deputy Clerk of Course at Singapore Grand Prix and Senior Manager for Race Operations. Janette is also a member of the FIA Women in Motorsports Commission and the FIA Volunteers and Race Officials Commission.

Janette said receiving the honour was the 'pinnacle of my career. When I received this award in his name, I was actually very happy because it really means a lot to me.





2020 Peter Nelson Trophy Winners

Jacqueline Devereaux and her 16.4 corner working team got the 2020 Peter Nelson Trophy, formerly known as the steward’s Cup. Here Jacqueline is shown with one of the crew, Mario Veronese.

The Originals

Here are the original officials who have attended all races since 1985:

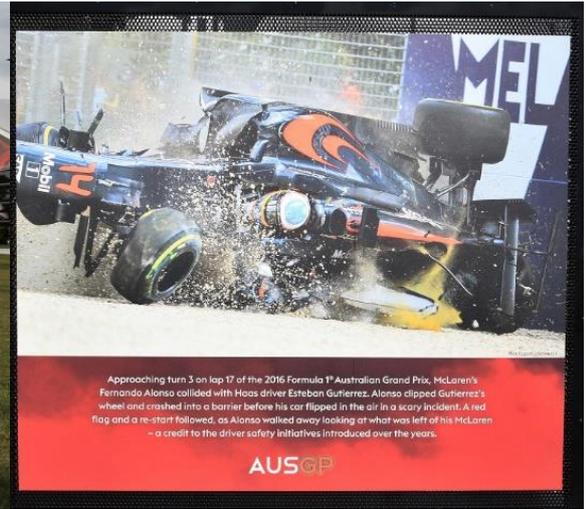
- | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| Terry Bebe | Rae Begg |
| Ray Begg | Angus Black |
| Terry Buxton | Christopher Byrnes |
| Rhys Carleton-Carlos | David Castrechini |
| Roger Chirnside | Vincent Ciccarello |
| Henck Duncan | Ewan Cole |
| Barry Frost | Raelene Frost |
| Peter Green | Daryl Karlsson |
| Kevin Kidsley | Catherine Macdonald |
| Paul Martin | John Miller |
| Mario Napoleone | Paul Overell |
| Gregory Piggott | Stephen Preece |
| Warren Reid | Peter Rosier |
| Geoff Rothberg | Tim Schenken |
| Lawrie Schmitt | Robert Styling |
| Tony Thorne | David Turnbull |
| Tony van den Dungen | |



The Flying Squad

The Flying Squad is photographically portrayed on the blue 2020 AGP Guest Pass. They are quickly retrieving car parts strewn by Daniel Ricciardo on the start of the 2019 AGP. They are, L-R, Shawn Kostiw, Paul O’Halloran, Rod Mills, Jeff Maher, and Steve Frost. Well done, lads.





STATEMENT REGARDING FORMULA 1® AUSTRALIAN GRAND PRIX

At 9am today the Australian Grand Prix Corporation was advised by Formula 1® of their intention to cancel all Formula 1® activity at the Formula 1® Australian Grand Prix.

In light of this decision and updated advice this morning from the Chief Health Officer of the Victorian Government's Department of Human and Health Services, the Australian Grand Prix Corporation confirms the Formula 1® Australian Grand Prix is cancelled immediately.

Last night a member of the McLaren Racing team tested positive for the COVID-19 virus.

A further seven individuals returned negative results, confirming that they do not have the COVID-19 virus.

Additionally, a ninth individual has been assessed and tested for the COVID-19 virus, with the results of this test pending.

This individual is not associated with any Formula 1® team, the FIA or associated suppliers.

Our first priority is the safety of everyone including attendees, our personnel, all event partners and members of the local community.

Further information regarding refunds for ticket holders will be communicated in due course.

Released by Formula 1 Australian Grand Prix Friday March 13, 2020



THE G TEAM

