



VSA Trophies

Ron Roberts Trophy

This trophy is awarded for the longest flight made by a VSA pilot (ie a member of a member club of the VSA) commenced from a VSA administered airfield during the year commencing on 1st May and finishing on 30th April of the following year. It can be awarded jointly.

Flown on 31 January, 2020

**Lumpy Paterson – Southern Riverina Gliding Club
(1054.7 kms for 1,128 OLC points)**

David Hooper Memorial Trophy

Presented for the longest flight made by a VSA pilot (ie a member of a member club of the VSA) within two years of going solo, commenced from a VSA administered airfield during the year commencing 1 May and finishing on 30 April of the following year.

Sujai Thomman (Melbourne Gliding) for a 344 km flight from Wangaratta on December 29, 2019

Max Hedt Vintage Trophy - for the most meritorious performance by a vintage glider from a VSA airfield.

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. This left us with the original trophy for Vintage gliders. 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 will 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

Jenne Goldsmith (Geelong Gliding) at Horsham Week 2020 in the Ka6.

The Bob McCullough Trophy

The Bob McCullough Trophy is awarded for services to instructing within the VSA. Nominations are welcome at any time, addressed to the VSA Secretary and should include supporting details of the nominee's contribution to instructing.

Bob McCullough was the CFI of the VMFG club until he was killed in a gliding accident while attempting a 1,000 km flight out of Tocumwal in early 1988. Bob was a very popular individual and a CFI who epitomised the very best in instructing; extremely competent and dedicated. As an Irishman his other interest was playing Irish bagpipes where he was an authority on this music.

This trophy was created in memory of Bob and intended to recognise the essential and valuable role which gliding Instructors perform within our sport.

Chris Thorpe (Beaufort)

Bob McCullough Trophy: For Services To Instructing. Chris Thorpe has held many roles in the Beaufort Gliding club which he joined back in 1981 and his valuable contribution to instructing should be recognised. Chris started instructing in 1986 and has continued to actively instruct for the past 34 years. From 1995 to 2015 held the role of CFI in the club and spent many hours in the mighty Zephyrus. Chris is the only person in the world to have done a solo 300Km flight in the unique and club built Zephyrus. What most don't realise is that Chris was instrumental in implementing a format for running instructor courses. Over many hours he designed the course syllabus and also established the training notes used on these courses. These annual instructor courses were successful, even other states acknowledged this and requested copies of the training material which Chris shared with them. Much of this material is still relevant and in use today.

The Maurice Little Memorial Trophy

The Maurice Little Memorial Trophy is awarded by the VSA Executive to a VSA Club which has made significant achievements in the development of their Club. This trophy was created in 2013 to honour the memory of Maurice Little who served for many years as both VSA and GFA Development Officer. The trophy was kindly donated by Maurice's employer, International Trade Management in Tullamarine.

South Gippsland GC

For embracing a forward thinking culture and way forward by developing a YouthGlide program, engaging with their community and being the first VSA Accredited YouthGlide Centre, and for undertaking the development and building of a flight simulator to assist their young students during the months they cannot fly. For a small club, they are leading the way in what can be done with a little effort.

G Vincent Memorial Trophy

This trophy was created in memory of Geoff Vincent, Grampians Soaring Club who died on 4th January 2016 after a lengthy illness at the age of 75 years. Geoff was a competition pilot and coach who enjoyed the challenges of high altitude flying, particularly in the wave conditions around the Grampian Mountains in Victoria. Over the years Geoff developed a thorough understanding of the meteorology conducive to the formation of wave and became adept at predicting it. He flew the wave at every opportunity and was always vying and eventually won the annual GFA Martin Warner trophy for greatest gain of height. Geoff generously shared his knowledge and enthusiasm for altitude flying with many others and regularly provided training, support and safety briefings to VSA pilots visiting the Grampians Club in their search for wave. To recognise Geoff's commitment to altitude flying this trophy is awarded by the VSA to a pilot who demonstrates enthusiasm and persistence in achieving an altitude flight (or flights) which is of great merit in regard to the pilot's experience.

No nominations

President's Award - for significant contribution to the VSA and gliding:

David Cleland – VSA Secretary for his exemplary service and loyalty to the position of Secretary over 10 years and ensuring that there was continuity for new committee members undertaking the roles.

As background and why David is a much sought-after committee member. David Cleland joined the Beaufort Gliding Club in 1987. He was trained as a glider pilot by the club. Peter Buskens (instructor) sent him solo in the club's training glider "Zephyrus".

David went to New Zealand in 1990-91 for his work and flew with the Auckland GC. He returned to Melbourne and re-joined the Beaufort Club. David graduated as an Engineer and then after a few career changes became the CEO of Pilkington Glass and then Davey Pumps, a large water and irrigation supplier. His corporate career was evident in his considerable contribution to VSA and keeping the committee in line with governance and the VSA constitution.

David served on the Beaufort club committee in the 1990's and was Vice President in 1997. From 2000 to 2004 has was the club Secretary. David has been the Club President again since 2017.

In 2001 he became a level 1 Instructor, which he maintained until 2019.

Living Treasures

In 2005 the VSA created an award event, Living Treasures, to formally recognise the contributions of long serving individuals within our various VSA clubs. These were typically individuals at the 'grassroots' level of our sport who had given long and devoted service to their club in such matters as club accounts, club newsletters, aircraft maintenance, instructors, tug pilots and so on. All essential activities which make for a good club.

Peter Buskens

Peter started with the club in 1960 and was part of the Zephyrus build team. He has been another 'go to' man for so much of the activities of the club. He was **President** in the early 70's and then from 1979 to 81, 1985 to 90 and finally 2003. He was **Vice President** in 1982 & 83 and 1991 & 92. He has had roles as **Secretary** in the 70's and **Treasurer** in the 90's. Of course, he was a committee member from 1964 and most years right up to 2014! Peter was also our BMAM (Bacchus Marsh Aerodrome Management) club representative as well as for quite a few years, BMAM treasurer. He has also been on the VSA committee for quite a few years. Peter became an instructor in 1976 and continued teaching many of us to fly right up to 2015 including myself in 1987.

More recently Peter played the leading role in the Hornet tow plane build and continues playing the leading role in the maintenance team. Peter was National Sports class champion in 1989 and came second in 1988 and 99.

He has been a busy man in the gliding fraternity and the club would not exist without him.

Steve Coulson, (Melbourne Gliding)

Steve personifies the quiet volunteer spirit that keeps many gliding clubs ticking over. A member in the 1990s, and with a stint as the Tug Master in that decade, Steve re-joined the Melbourne Gliding Club in 2006 and since then has been the Club's Tug Master (14 years) and an instructor (Level 2). He is also a member at Bendigo Gliding Club, where he enjoys spreading his cross-country wings, and instructing.

The Tug Master role is demanding at the best of times, however Steve also took on maintenance and two complete rebuilds of our Pawnee tugs (TNC and BCK). The number of hours he has spent travelling back and forth to the airfield, and around the State, in making sure our tug fleet is always ready to operate would be innumerable. He is a regular fixture at the airfield, often there both weekend days, and often mid-week.

In between all of his work as the Tug Master, he was also rostered regularly to fly the tugs and instruct. In 2018, he won the Club's inaugural "Alan Patching Instructor of the Year" Award.

Most of all, Steve is a thoughtful and friendly person and friend to many at the Club. He is always up for a chat. He has mentored and coached our developing pilots. He is always willing to share his knowledge - be it on the skills of gliding, cross-country, towing, or flight computers. During more recent times, he's been part of a group that has encouraged and created a Condor soaring simulator community within the Club and beyond. He's the sort of person that every Club would love to have - the real glue of the place.

Steve stepped down from the Tug Master role in June 2020, but we are thankful he remains a valued member of the Club and flying the tugs. The return of a basically new BCK tug to service later this year, to join TNC, will be a fitting cap to his time in the role, and a legacy for the Melbourne Gliding Club in the years to come.

Tony Vost (GCV)

Joined Gliding Club of Victoria 10 August, 1975 and became an instructor 10th August, 1999.

Now aged 86 and still current as a ground L2, has been on roster continuously since gaining his instructors rating and remains the nominated responsible person for weekend operations.

Tony (Vosty) is a well-respected, selfless person who has contributed vast amounts of time, skill and resources to the gliding movement, including all those "junior" instructors who have had the pleasure to "learn" under his guidance.

Having up to 8 people, instructors and duty pilots to coordinate and mentor on any weekend, Vosty has earned the respect of all those who have had the privilege to "share a weekend" with him. His approach and attitude has always been welcoming and inclusive to all duty pilots and students alike.

Vosty often transported members from Benalla to Essendon in his Cutlass IFR private plane. He was known to plan arrival back at Essendon after a weekend on duty to log a "night landing" for currency.

His commitment and outstanding contribution to instructing has gone by silently for

over 21 years!

Ken Boland (GCV)

He is very dedicated to instructing and first priority was always the safety for the students. He is an instructor easy to approach and has a wide range of knowledge. Years back I learned he was the RMO for VIC. Ken made available the St. Francis church for the instructor panel meetings and when Paul Barber, CFI to that time, could not join, Ken filled in. Ken always filled in when needed.

As Paul Barber decided to give up the role as CFI and no other instructor wanted to take on the role, Ken took on the role. This was mainly decided at a panel meeting, he did not join, but learned later that he is again CFI. Ken's reply was a big smile. Ken is now aged 82.

Richard Cotton, GCV/VSA

Richard Cotton has been a stalwart supporter of gliding within Victoria for many years through his involvement with three VSA clubs as detailed below. Soaring Club of Tasmania (SCOT). Richard commenced his gliding with SCOT in 1980 and a very enthusiastic and committed member becoming a senior Instructor.

Moving with his family to Melbourne Richard was soon established as a senior Instructor with the MGC and as an L3 Instructor supporting the VSA Manager Operations.

Retiring to live in Benalla, Richard became very involved with the GCV. In particular he was the Operations Manager for the 2017 World Gliding Competitions at Benalla and also managed GCV full time operations in recent seasons. These were very demanding roles which Richard performed to great effect.

All three clubs note Richard's enormous enthusiasm and drive as well as his cheerful and approachable personality who makes new members very welcome to the sport of gliding.

Peter Carey

Peter Carey has been involved in gliding for 39 years. He joined GCV on 07/10/1981 and served as Treasurer in 2005, 2009-2011, 2013-2015, 2017-2020 and has been the current treasurer for 3 years. Peter was also GFA treasurer from 2010-2014 inclusive (5 Years). He was GFA Secretary and Office manager in 2013. Peter brings his expertise in business from owning his own successful company and his very extensive number skills to our sport. There is nowhere to hide when Peter is doing the numbers!

Certificates of Appreciation

Dave Meredith and Jarek Mosiejewski - Geelong GC

- For the Introduction and Innovation of webinars and info sessions during COVID19 and making these available to all Victorian members.

Terence "Reg" Gardner, Matt Gage and Colin Collum (GCV)

- for extensive repairs work on the Analogue Simulator.

Laurie McKinley (GCV)

- for engineering repair work to the VR Simulator trailer to ensure more strength and stability

Harbans Mann (SGGC) and James Nugent (MGC / AJGC)

- For the creation and development of the Monash University Soaring Society to introduce younger members of the community into the sport of gliding