



Victoria Hang gliding & Paragliding Association.

VHPA Statement of Purpose.

The VHPA fosters the sports of Hang gliding, Paragliding, Weight Shift Microlighting and allied sports throughout the State of Victoria.

Preamble

- The VHPA is the State Recognised Authority for Sports Aviation (excluding fixed wing Gliding) in the State of Victoria.
- The VHPA is registered Incorporated as the Victorian Hang Gliding and Paragliding Association Inc. – A0018791T
- The VHPA membership fees are derived from the ‘State Levy’ which is incorporated into the binding HangGliding Federation of Australia membership fee. This state levy is paid directly to VHPA for use in all operational activities.
- The financial stability of VHPA remains strong within the current operational needs. The VHPA Comm can and do maintain the operations as required by CASA, HGFA and base requirements of its membership.
- Implementation of much of the Strategic Plan is over and above current ‘Caretaker’ mode of VHPA organisation. The several initiatives and projects inherent therein will rely on funding from outside of the base membership fees.
- The VHPA aligns itself in partnership with the HGFA National management. In all related safety, membership, operational activities, development and sustainability.

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VHPA management responsibilities extend to:

- Represent generally the views of clubs and persons connected with Hang gliding, Paragliding, Weight Shift Microlighting and allied sports within Victoria.
- Coordinate and promote the development, progress and advancement of the sports.
- Promote and support the acquisition, development and maintenance of launch and landing sites for the sports within Victoria, as appropriate.
- Promote and support competitions, contests, tests and records for the sports, as appropriate.
- Promote and support training, coaching and instruction in the sports, as appropriate.
- Action on strategies toward gender balance both within our active flying community and on our boards of governance
- Promote, support and enforce, via escalation to the appropriate authorities and the HGFA, safety standards and procedures, engineering standards and procedures, flying and proficiency standards and all other matters relating to the safety and protection of members, participants, spectators and property, as appropriate.
- Promote a favourable image of the sports to government at all levels and to public bodies.

Through its Committee of Management (CoM) the VHPA and affiliated clubs working within the [VHPA constitution](#). maintain past, present and future responsibility for our sport.

VHPA Com activities include: Supporting clubs to grow the sport across all disciplines, improve safety and pilot education

- Funding flying site maintenance or improvements
- Funding new flying site developments
- Funding specialist sports development events
- Developing flying/ landing right of use agreements
- Lodging and acquiring VIC state government access licences
- Assessing and funding appropriate flying safety programs for VIC pilots
- Assessing and funding competitions specialist clinics for VIC pilots
- Assisting Victorian clubs become affiliated with the VHPA/HGFA
- Assisting Victorian clubs govern and administer themselves and their sites
- Organising working bees
- Gaining access to additional airspace
- Supporting clubs to encourage community awareness and participation in the sports
- Representing Victoria at a state level to state and federal government entities
- Seeking to ensure all pilots operate responsibly and safely
- Representing Victoria at a state level to HGFA (and hence through ASAC, FAI, CASA, and other National Aero Clubs, etc.)

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The VHPA central strategy of “**RAISE OUR GAME**’ is to be supported by ;

1. Participation - Attracting, Recruiting, Training and Retaining more participating members.
2. International sporting success - World leading, well known competition pilots across all disciplines providing a marketable brand success that supports a sustainable future.
3. Safety and training – A safety culture of care and diligence that exceeds our responsibilities to all stakeholders and which is supported by world class training.
4. Governance – Engaging with all Stakeholder interests. Our governance embraces best practice and meets ASC mandatory requirements for an Australian SSO.
5. Financial stability – Financial stability that facilitates the infrastructure which delivers a sustainable future.
6. Operational efficiency – our committee is engaged and motivated in operational initiatives which are pre-planned and well executed where our members are well served and supportive of the direction of their sport and the manner in which it is managed.

The VHPA organisation is at present run entirely by the voluntary services of the committee and the members. This may need to be changed as the sport develops due to the increased administrative workload required of the Comm.

New memberships increase.

Increased numbers create greater capacity to provide the necessary infrastructure to secure our future.

Initiatives to implement growth.

Female Participation

- Support and budget for initiatives to encourage more women pilots in all disciplines
- Encourage initiatives such as Women’s Fly-In events.
- Women are underrepresented in our sport and represent a valued growth opportunity.
- More members engaged with our flying activity equates to greater leverage for access to external infrastructure and funding support .
- VHPA has been instrumental in assisting with and developing Womens participation.
- *VHPA have fully engaged with the SRV Change our Game initiatives and assisted with direct funding and recourses. Despite the fact that Women are a current minority by proportional representation the VHPA are actively engaging in encouraging more women pilots and a greater presence in organisational roles and decision processes.*

Communications

- Social Media, marketing, publicity based on international competition success, public information events run locally by clubs and supported by the HGFA and State Associations
- Develop and conduct statewide co-ordinated membership recruitment drives.

Memberships

- Target sister adventure sports to aid recruitment of cross over / multi sport athletes.
- Develop pipeline of novice pilots supporting our efforts to increase participation
- Develop strategy and infrastructure to support the program
- Developing a novice program helps us achieve growth and sustainability.

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- Introduce more volunteers to our sport

Inclusion

- Achieve the aim of being recognised as a valued community asset.
- Identify strategies to enhance recreational development – more local club days, more social interactions, greater use of social media to set up pilot networks

Development within Membership base

- Conduct state-based conferences for club executives o Conferences will help better engage with our members and gain support for our plans for our sport .
- Survey members to gain input into benefits they value
- Relationships with key stakeholder organisations are developed and/or improved/made more productive
- Support our half yearly recruitment drive with promoted recreational flying events
- Run more local club competitions or organised flying events.
- Encourage localised events in providing greater local media opportunities
- Identify other users of outdoor recreation assets with whom we might partner or joint lobby with to further all sporting interests. These include rock climbers, orienteers, horse trail riders, motorcycle trail riders, skiers, mountain bike riders, XC runners ect.
- Encourage more SSO/Club events conducted locally to promote a healthier pilot development culture

Develop Skills & Competitive Sport Activities

- Create accredited State / Club Coaching scheme for developing and competition pilots at all levels.
- Create platform for low level comp events at club level.
- Create League tables for Cross Country database for Xc Championships
- Create and implement pilot development strategies to support the general pilot population including XC Clinics and skill development workshops.
- Develop and provide clubs with greater resources to assist pilot skill development
- Develop VHPA Coaching accreditations. State Coach. Club Coach.

World Class Sport Development

Developing the competitive side of our sport will help us aid recruiting, marketing and retention. International success based on pilots who become national household names are very important assets; they can be leveraged to facilitate financial success and hence improve participation and retention.

Having a publicly viewable competition format through both live viewing and live streamed media which attracts and entertains viewers will provide another means of supplementing funding.

Through various VHPA initiatives, and financial assistance from SRV , Victoria now has several of the best pilots in Australia, these pilots now also compete on the Continental and World stages. Victoria is proud to have the sites which regularly host the most prestigious national and international world class events.

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High Performance Development Team:

- Ongoing Development for High-Performance through Academy style programs to identify create pathways for any ambitious State pilots to be recognised elite pilots.
- Aim to produce Australian and World Champions.
- Select, equip and promote State Coaches for each discipline and facilitate development for each .
- Define and implement clear pathways for novice / juniors right through to world class pilots across all disciplines and sub-sets.
- Review and renew comps format – aim to develop short form comps with high spectator (live or via device) entertainment value.
- Pursue development of a state XC leagues tables with annual awards.
- All Activities Access platform to pursue Invictus,
- create alternate competition formats.
- develop a comp format suitable for TV or live streaming.
- Select, equip, promote and facilitate Club and State Coaching Scheme.

Operational Development;

- Develop simple consistent IT management systems for conference / information / communications tools.
- Further Develop Web info pages as central database and storage.
- Develop Media & info pages
- Ensure our event organisers and volunteers are supported, well cared for and recognised for the valued contribution they make to our SSO.
- Ensure subcommittees are more accountable and productive; ensure our record keeping across all areas is effective and secure and ensure operational initiatives are preplanned and well executed; ensure we are well positioned for growth and succession.
- Compile comprehensive stats of current membership demographic.

Implementation

All the above initiatives require considerable input, drive and time allocation from members experienced and skilled in projects delivery.

These projects will be categorised , time-lined, resourced, costed, & actioned as and when sufficient foundation funding is secured.

VHPA have instigated a Special Projects structure in readiness for activating such initiatives.

A comprehensive reporting structure and accountability will be implemented.