SDM Report August 2020

## National Coaching

The SDP (Soaring Development Panel) and Peter Temple as the National Coaching Director have focused on finalizing the new coaching syllabus and associated training materials over the past 12 months.

The draft presentation accompanying this report summarizes the status of the Coaching program at a National level.

A key component of this is the implementation of an Integrated Training System across both Coaching and Instructing.

We are part way through the implementation of this new model with the Silver Coach being the focus of the SDP and regional SDMs.



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## Victorian Coaching

The National coaching list was reviewed to reflect the active coaches, this is included below in order to provide a benchmark for Victoria in regard the other states.



In Victoria we only have 15 Coaches who are active, with 6 who hold a Silver Coach rating.

In part the low number of Coaches reflects the inability to schedule and run planned Coach Training and Development activities due to the impacts of the COVID pandemic.

A Silver Coaching course was run at Benalla in late 2019 and this enabled six people to gain their Silver Coach rating in Victoria.

A further course was expected to be run at Bacchus Marsh in early 2020, however due to the COVID 19 pandemic this was postponed.

It is expected that running these courses will enable a number of existing Instructors to acquire the Silver Coach Rating and will also be a catalyst for recruitment of others to take on Coaching roles in Victoria

The low number of Coaches also reflects the lack of volunteers to take on Coaching roles and the number of Coaches who have resigned, or are no longer active, due increasing age and other issues.

It will be important for the ongoing development of coaching and the structured approach to training and developing the next generation of cross country pilots that post the pandemic, coaching is re-invigorated in Victoria. This will be a critical component in addressing the ongoing membership retention and churn issues that plague gliding.

## Coaching Events

Despite poor weather this season there were a number of coaching events prior to the restrictions on gliding due to the pandemic, this included:

* Melbourne Cup Weekend – Bendigo Gliding Club
* Horsham Coaching Week – Horsham Flying Club

The outcomes of the Horsham Coaching week have been previously reported to the VSA, with good success in bringing new pilots through the course and into their first competition at Horsham. This remains a key event in the coaching calendar for Victoria.

Due to COVID pandemic and other issues there was no Mountain Soaring Course this year, hopefully this can be resurrected once the pandemic and other issues are resolved.

## Coaching in the Pandemic

During the pandemic there have been a number of Zoom conferences on a variety of topics that have been made available to VSA members, with more to come.

Whilst this is no substitute for face to face training and flying as a means of coaching and developing pilots, it has been successful in keeping members engaged and learning during this difficult time.

Post pandemic we need to consider how remote learning and web conferences can be used on an ongoing basis to provide the theory and frameworks that pilots need so they can maximise their flying outcomes.