



**Victorian
Automotive
Forum Inc.**

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ANNUAL REPORT

Year Ended 31 Dec 2020

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Foreword

2020, what a year! I'm sure we are still getting over now.

Due to the 2020 Worldwide Covid-19 Epidemic the Victorian Automotive Forum (VAF) was forced to completely rethink its operating model, from historically three face to face meetings a year across metro and regional Victoria to a complete online environment via BlueJeans.

This significant change meant that we needed to rethink the delivery and proceed with a new interactive flexible format in order to meet our obligations under the rules of association. To this challenge we adapted with a fully online AGM conference via Blue Jeans in August 2020, and through feedback from the members a further online VAF conference in November supported by Gippsland TAFE.

These successful conferences consisted of more than 50 online attendees and proved that through Innovation and resilience the VAF is still a major provider of Automotive Professional development and networking for Educational Automotive staff in Victoria and now Australia wide.

To assist in this transformation, I thank whole-heartedly the support from the VAF Committee and also the dedication from our membership base and supporting parties.

The committee members for 2020, include Adrian Lea (President), Gary Atherton (Vice President), Peter Lawrence (Treasurer), Gavin Cribb (Secretary), Alan Platt (Webmaster), Ron Locandro (CoM Member), Michael Cope (CoM Member), Chris Anton (CoM Member)

The Principle Activities of the association during the past calendar year were:

The principle activities of the VAF consist primarily of Automotive Networking Forums, Online conferences, Industry engagement meetings and Professional Development.

Significant Changes:

Annual Forum meetings moved to an online (BlueJeans) environment due to the impact of Covid-19 in 2020. Meeting frequency went from three meetings per year down to two including the AGM. Multi day conferences changed to 1 day events and alternate delivery times were also trialed based upon member feedback.

The forum continued to support the Victorian Automotive Education sector by donating tools to Cann River Secondary School to support student learning in the wake of early 2020 Bushfires.

Operating results:

The surplus / Deficit for the year ended 31 Dec 2020, amounted in a lower than expected result due to delivering the forum in an online environment, leading to a reduction in registration fees. (see financial statements)

2020 Focus

Action Item – supported by 2020 Committee	Item Status as of the AGM 2021
1. Maintain previous year's structure and format including 3 state wide conferences and multi day format.	Incomplete
2. Discuss key industry themes / Industry challenges	Ongoing
3. Provide Curriculum Maintenance updates from the CMM, PWC / SSO, for Automotive Training package review	Complete
4. Website promotion and Social media presence via Facebook	Ongoing
5. Promote to extended Automotive training networks – NTAN, and Secondary Schools	Complete and Ongoing
6. Provide Professional Development relevant to Automotive training	Standing item
7. Engage with Industry Associations including Industry Tours	1 x Completed
8. Provide Financial support to Automotive training, including support to Bushfire impacted RTO's	Complete
9. Develop VAF Corporate items – Stationary, Software, promotional material etc.	Software and Banner Complete, Stationary Complete
10. Attract new teachers to industry	Ongoing

About VAF

The Victorian Automotive Forum (VAF) is a not-for-profit, industry-based organisation whose primary aims cover issues related to education and training within the Automotive and related industries. The Executive Group for the VAF is known as the Committee of Management. This is comprised of an eight-member committee, which operates within the framework of the VAF Articles of Association.

Four elected officers of the Committee of Management, three elected ordinary members, and a nominated Webmaster / Media liaison.

Three distinct support roles, requested by the committee to support in decision making, preparation and feedback from the Automotive Industry. They are the Curriculum Maintenance Manager (CMM) Price Waterhouse Cooper (PWC) and nominated representatives from Industry, invited on request.

All Committee of Management members are elected for one-year terms with the exception of the Curriculum Maintenance Manager (CMM) for Automotive – Victoria, Price Waterhouse Cooper (PWC) who are appointed as incumbents in their respective roles.

The Committee of Management may elect to appoint a Public Officer of the VAF to support with Compliance requirements.

The Committee of Management is responsible for the operation of the VAF with the day to day operations delegated to the President.

The Committee of Management monitors the finances of the organisation, its meetings and forums. Also any programs or conferences it chooses to run.

Supporting documents to this report

1. Financial Statements, including balance sheets, Income and Expenditure statement
2. VICTORIAN AUTOMOTIVE FORUM SENATE STRUCTURE – 2020

VAF Meetings

The 2020 annual year comprised of 2 Single day conferences, and 3 committee meetings -

- August 13, 2020 – **VAF online** via BlueJeans
- November 19, 2020 – **VAF online** via BlueJeans (supported by Gippsland TAFE)
- February 7, 2020 – Committee of management meeting – online via BlueJeans
- May 1, 2020 – Committee of Management meeting – online via BlueJeans
- September 9, 2020 – Committee of management meeting – online via BlueJeans

Industry Connection and Networking

The committee of management and VAF representatives were involved in a variety of discussions, industry presentations and professional development activities over the past twelve months as follows –

1. CMM reporting

Pat Thornton provided curriculum maintenance reporting, and communication between the Skill Service Organisations, PWC and the Industry Reference Committees.

Curriculum topics for 2020 included –

- AUR Release 6. PwC have continued working on this project, and have been held up due to incorrect content and discrepancies around equivalence.
- Revised and recoded 289 units (15 new units)
- Revised and recoded 27 qualifications (deleted 11)
- 9 new skillsets
- 3 quals not equivalent
- AUR30320 – Cert III in Automotive Electrical Technology
- AUR30720 – Certificate III in Outdoor Power Equipment Technology
- AUR30820 – Cert III in Motorcycle Mechanical Technology
- Comparison: AURLTB003 and AURLTB103
- Deleted qualifications and units
- Diagnosis – feedback from industry suggested apprentices were struggling with diagnosis, so they have made changes to these types of units.
- All of the “Diagnose and repair “ units now have wording in the Elements and Performance Criteria around “testing strategy” and “diagnostic process”.
- AURLTB003 range of conditions
- AURLTB03 Performance Evidence
- AURLTB103 Knowledge Evidence
- Deleted Qualifications and Units

2. PWC presentations

Robert Munday provided an overview of PwC’s role in training package development for the automotive sector, including the AUR version 6.0 release.

Total of 31 qualifications, 304 units of competency and 9 skill sets released/updated

12 month teachout for superseded training products

24 month teachout for deleted training products

Reworked Companion Volume Implementation Guide (CVIG) available on VETNet

PwC’s Interest in feedback from the industry on implementation advice from Stakeholders

The Australian Industry and Skills Committee (AISC) have approved three new automotive projects

- Battery electric vehicle service and repair (1 new qualification; 2 new units)
- Light vehicle accessory fitting (1 new qualification; 6 units — 3 new, 3 updated)
- Telematics systems service and repair (5 units — 4 new, 1 updated)

Consultation on these projects is expected to commence in late November/early December.

3. Courseware Validation and Moderation Exercises

Validation and Moderation activities did not continue in 2020 due to Covid-19 impact and the online conference model.

4. Workshops and Group Discussions including the following -

- VAF membership model
- Financial direction
- Professional development and succession planning

5. Guest Speakers

- Daryl Sutton VCAA – discussing Covid impacts on Secondary school delivery
- Fiona McDonald, Tradeswomen Australia – provided an overview of the Automotive workplace diversity Project, aiming to engage 500 automotive workers and 100 businesses.

6. Industry tours

- Online tour of the Trafalgar Holden Museum by Neil Joiner

7. ADAS Presentation - Hella Guttman Solutions

Harry Liaros and Neil Riley provided an update on HELLA ADAS systems, including up to 30 different driver assist features available on contemporary vehicles.

8. Siant Gobain Abrasives

Michelle Morgan and Mark Saunders provided a summary of St Gobain's position in the industry (350+ years) which includes Norton, the leading abrasives brand in the autobody industry.

They introduced and exciting a new initiative developed for automotive autobody apprentices. The 2021 'Prep It' competition, showcasing the skills that apprentices learn in perfect preparation, using a range of sanding techniques.

9. VAF Bushfire support

Through broad discussion from members the VAF committee approved the decision to provide support to bushfire impacted RTO's. Expression of interest was sought and based upon individual circumstances it was agreed that a \$1500 toolbox would be provided.

Through Gippsland TAFE (Rob Jasper) it was identified that Cann River Secondary College was impacted and their Automotive workshop was in desperate need of tools to continue providing quality Automotive education to VET secondary school students

A special presentation was made to Dave Thexton from Cann River Secondary College on Thursday 19th August 2020.

10. Website development

Continued work has been invested into the Victorian Automotive website and Facebook page over the past twelve months primarily by the Webmaster Alan Platt.

Alan has worked closely with the forum committee and members to build and create a purposeful website containing a variety of supporting documents and professional development strategies for the use by association members.

This can be viewed at the following web address <http://victorianautomotiveforum.org/> or find us on Facebook

11. Treasurers reports

Provided by Peter Lawrence, can be located in all VAF conference minutes, Committee of management meeting minutes and also in the Annual Financial report. Peter has continued to implement new strategies to ensure cost effectiveness, timeliness of invoicing and member communications, and ongoing commitment to maintaining professional reporting under our Articles of Association.

Closing comments

2020 was a another huge year for Automotive training and the Victorian Automotive Forum, from bushfire impact in early 2020 to a global pandemic that started in early March and is still with us today.

The VAF has continued to stay resilient throughout these times and adapt to support the continued growth in the automotive education sector.

We have continued to provide essential professional development and networking and believe that all members and attendees have benefitted from essential industry updates, guest speakers, latest technologies and the opportunity for collaboration with fellow peers, and to continuously improve the delivery of Automotive training across Victoria.

As we reflect on these times, we also acknowledge the hard work and effort that all automotive education professionals have implemented to ensure our students were not disadvantaged as we quickly adapted to an online learning environment. Amongst these extreme challenges that have been placed on our work and family life, employment and automotive training across our sector we remain strong and connected.

On behalf of the Victorian Automotive Forum, the committee and I appreciate the support and collaboration from all members, associates and guests. We are also grateful for the support from our organisations, TAFE institutes, RTO's, sponsors and industry bodies.

Details of this annual report will be published on the Victorian Automotive Forum Website within the next few days, and from all of us, please stay safe, provide the best automotive training experience available, and we look forward to catching up again later in the year.

Adrian Lea
President
Victorian Automotive Forum