



PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2021

www.groups racing.org.au

Well that certainly wasn't the year that we thought it was going to be... especially after what we all endured in 2020.

Our planned return in 2021 from the ups and downs of 2020, started ok, only to be derailed again a few times, with promoters tearing their hair out trying to interpret, and then predict what state governments might decide.

Again we had to wait for events to be confirmed, it was again pleasing to see some events be able to be run despite many of the interstate travelling being curtailed.

2021 Membership | 2022 Renewals now due

The GSRA Committee extended all existing 2020 memberships until the end of 2021. We felt this was the right thing to do at the time.

For 2022, and with vaccinations rates now over 90% nationally, we can only hope that we see a return of what we have previously expected in terms of events.

Therefore members are asked to renew their membership for 2022. A notice will be put out shortly for this to occur via TeamApp.

GSRA Membership

Now in our 16th year, our great Association has yet again sat around 150-160 members, with the typical annual fluctuations as members leave to pursue other interests, and replaced with new members entering. As always it fills me with great happiness when we see new members join, and start competing with their cars.

Whilst 2021 again provided a quieter racing year than we had hoped, I would still like to thank each GSRA member for their ongoing support that keeps our category strong, relevant, and a leader in the Australian historic motorsport community. That strength is what allows us collectively to be quite unique in the historic motorsport arena.

The President's and State Cups – the Super Season (aka The COVID Cup)!

Many of you will remember the first President's Cup won by Mike Byrne in his Lotus 7.

The 2020 President's Cup along with all the other state Cups were combined with the 2021 results creating a Super Season, which I coined the COVID Cup.

I am pleased to see one of our younger and very competitive member won the 2nd President's Cup, and I congratulate Simon Meyer on this achievement. Simon will have the option to run the #1 on his car in 2022, or keep his usual #13. We will present Simon and the other Cup winners at Phillip Island in March 2022.

Lap Records

Despite the few races that occurred in 2021, there were still some new lap records set. Spencer Rice set a new Saa in the Elva Courier at SMSP, as did Simon Meyer on the same day for Sba. The others two were John Geist and Terry Lawlor who broke the Sbb and Sbd records at Phillip Island. Well done guys, seriously fast times!

Thank you again to Colin Wilson-Brown for his work in maintaining Lap Records.

Racing in 2022

The 2022 GSRA racing calendar will start to take shape in the coming weeks as events are locked in. The SuperCars calendar was published late in 2021, and therefore the other promoters are juggling dates. Please keep an eye on the Racing Calendar on the Group S website (<https://groupsracing.org.au/racecalendar.html>) which is replicated on TeamApp.

As we have requested before, we request that you RSVP to each event to assist in planning.

Collectively I am sure we hope that the 2022 calendar ends up being a better one than 2020 and 2021, however given the current climate, we might have to expect a few last minute changes.

TeamApp

Hopefully most members are pretty familiar with TeamApp by now, as it continues to be our main communication tool. TeamApp notifications are also sent via email, and it is responsibility of those users to ensure that they can receive messages via email by checking their personal details (this includes postal address) on TeamApp. There are instruction videos on how to complete these updates on TeamApp under Latest News.

GSRA Committee

Similar to the reduced amount of racing in 2020 and in 2021, the GSRA monthly committee meetings also spread out a little more in 2021, as the number of topics reduced and therefore negated the need to catch up virtually. The Committee has once again provided advice and guidance, held some vigorous debates and discussions, all with the utmost commitment to the Group S cause. Nicholas Taylor (Social Media Coordinator) has continued to grow our Facebook and Instagram following. Thanks to those contributors who provide photographs of us racing.

Thank you

2021 sees me bowing out of the Presidency for the GSRA. It has been an honour to be leading our amazing cohort of historic racers, and I have enjoyed the support that you have provided myself and the committee over the last 5 years.

I won't be completely away from the scene however, with me stepping down to the Vice President role in 2022, before a planned move to general committee in 2023.

I want to congratulate Tom Walstab on his appointment to become President in 2022. Tom has been my right-hand man over the last years, and has done a power of work behind the scenes, and I could not have completed the role without his help and support. I know the GSRA is in good hands with Tom, and I will assist him as he did me as he takes on the 'top job'.

Thanks also to the Committee members who have served in the last 5 years. Your support and guidance has been invaluable, and a reason the GSRA is where it is today.

I would like to call upon any member who is keen on joining the GSRA Committee to seek either Tom or myself out in the coming months. This success of our great category does require leadership and fresh faces who come with new ideas and enthusiasm.

Again, thank you for your support. I leave the role knowing that the Association is in a great place, and we have achieved a lot. Yes we had a few challenges along the way, but that makes the journey and the experience even more rewarding and satisfying.

I wish you and your families and friends a very Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy, safe and enjoyable 2022, and can't wait to get out on the race tracks we love as soon as possible.

Warmest regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alex Webster". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Alex Webster
President (soon to be Vice President)
Group S Racing Association