



VALE – Ian “Skip” Taylor

A few years ago I wrote about the loss of our dear friend Peter Nelson, a friend, a colleague, a mentor and a very hard-working official. It was difficult to write as it was hard to know how to summarise the life of a person’s motorsport commitment into a few paragraphs.

Now I find myself with an even greater task of knowing how to write about the motorsport legacy of Ian “Skip” Taylor, who left us too early in late 2020. One of the many disappointments of the 2020 race cancellation was that Skip never got the chance to come to the track and catch up with friends.

Skip was the type of person that everyone loved because he made friends easily. He knew his job at the track inside and out and he was an absolute pleasure to be around. So many officials knew Skip from multiple race tracks around Australia and Skip’s legendary booming voice was also well know around the world as he and other Motorsport Australia officials travelled far and wide training countries new to Formula 1. Skip always enjoyed himself.

At the Australian Grand Prix, Skip drove the Course Car and he waved at everyone trackside as he drove past. Never have I witnessed such an eagle eyed driver as he scanned the circuit for nuts, spanners and bolts at turn 1, 2 and 3 that might have been left in a quickly repaired race car, only to fall out during braking or around corners. During the lap he was always scanning Sector Marshalls for notes to pick up, problems that needed solving, debris on the track that a corner might have missed, and he even made time to wave back to spectators.

Pulling up in the Course Car on track, he was constantly asking if anyone knew the way to Sydney. Wearing his signature red beret with his wider than life smile, Skip was always there to lend a hand. It didn’t matter who you were or what you needed, such was the kind nature and loveable spirit that Skip radiated. He would always jump in feet first and sometimes ask questions later.



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Known as Skip to everyone, he was adopted and named Skip by the Van Den Dungen family who all loved him. He was their brother to a different mother, he played Santa, he was a friend, he was an uncle, he was a strong mentor, he was a loving father, he was fun, he was very serious and he was also unforgettable. Such was his sense of humour, that Skip could always make light of even the most dire situation. A lovable larrikin who touched so many people throughout his life.

He used to tell us that some of the Course Cars he drove were like driving a block of flats around the track or a piloting a tuna boat through the heads, but he simply loved a fast car. Especially if it was someone else's car. For years he even drove his own car at Phillip Island as a loyal member of PIARC.



At home he was a true family man, loving husband to Marg, father to James and David, father in law to Caroline and grandfather to Jenson and Charlotte. He loved his family so much.

Many a party was held at Castle Taylor and it was always a great time watching Skip mingle with all his friends and family.

Skip volunteered by driving cancer patients to and from their appointments such was his desire to give back to the community that ultimately helped him with his health struggles. He never gave up.

Working at Daimler Benz in product development, Skip loved nothing more than improving the trucks that he worked on and designed, but we never mentioned the use of engine brakes around him.



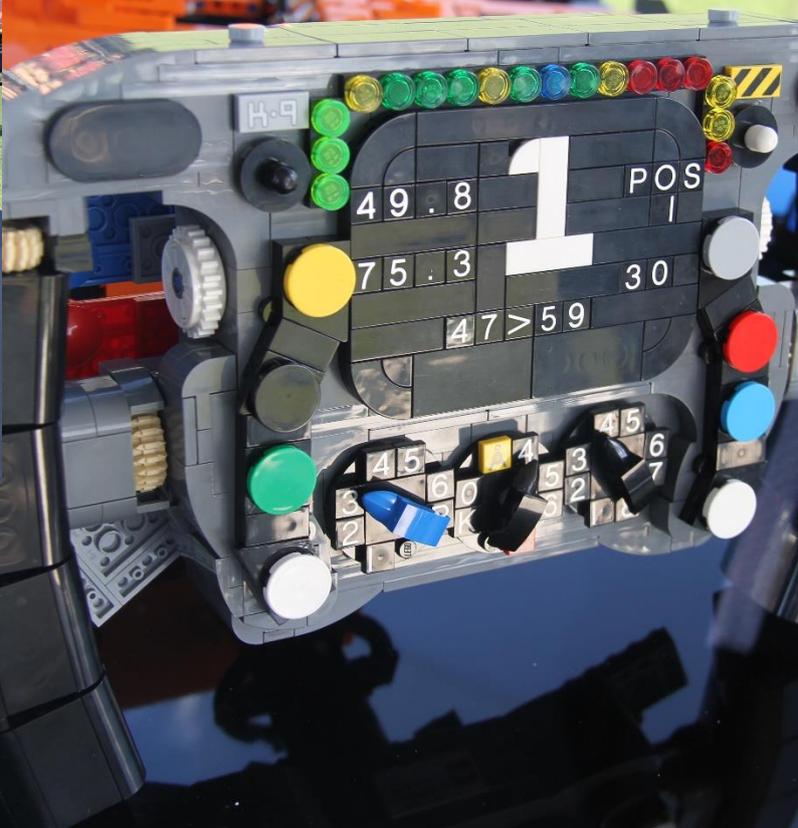
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For me personally, he was the number one person I loved seeing at the race track every time. Phillip Island, Adelaide or Albert Park; the smile, the embrace as we greeted after what seemed too long since we last caught up was always good. He mentored many on and off the track, and off the track sometimes the message might have been repeated too many a time, but that's why we all loved him. So many stories that cannot be repeated or elaborated on in the Officials Gazette 😊. But know this; Skip had fun and they were some of the best stories and most cherished memories within our Motorsport family.

I miss him, but I am not alone. We all miss him. He was one of us, one of the team, one of the funniest, one of the most serious, one of the good guys who was taken way too soon. He was simply one of the best people you or I could ever meet. RIP Skippy, you are sorely missed.

On behalf of all officials and friends,
Richard McLean





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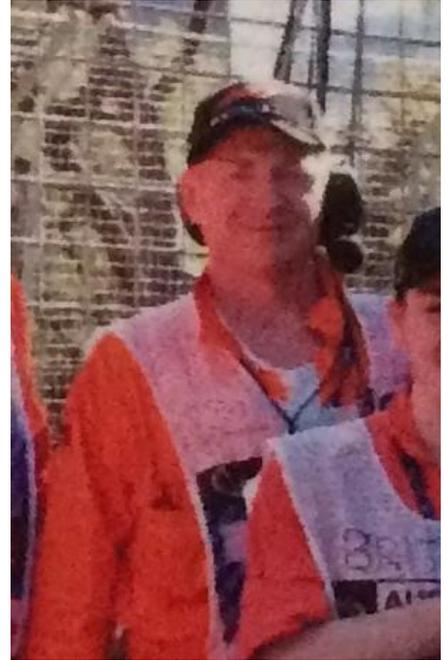


20 Odd Questions with Bill Birney

Name: Bill Birney

State: Victoria

1. How long have you been a Motorsport Australia official? About 1985 → 2022 – too many years to count as will make me feel old!
2. What race track did you start out as an official, and why did you get into officiating? Unfortunately my memory has failed me, would have been either Oran Park or Amaroo, probably at a Historic meeting – or an Club sprint day
3. What car club are you involved with? Triumph Sports Owners Association
4. What car do you drive? I have three, a modern Ford Focus (really my wife's), a not so modern Fiesta for the commute, and a Discovery 2 because I love fixing oil leaks!!
5. What was your first car? Where is she now? Triumph Herald, 948cc of raw twin SU power!!! God knows, I suspect the bone yard!
6. Do you own a racing car? If no, what type of racing car would you like to own? Yes, at least 2 too many – all Triumphs. 2 with V8's.
7. What is something most officials don't know about you? I have a tin foil lined attic!!!!!!
8. When you attend the F1 AGP where do you stay? I am fortunate enough to live in Melbourne, so I get to commute from Preston each day and stay at home!
9. Are you an iPhone person or an Android person? Why? Android, because I'm not willing to be locked into Apple's world!! (did I tell you about my attic?)
10. When you're not at the track officiating, what do you do for a living? I'm an engineer that is fortunate enough to get to use my skills hands on most days. I work for a business that makes "things", pretty much any high precision type machinery that a customer needs to make. The last 2 years have been mostly occupied with COVID programs
11. Name the closed Australian motor racing track that you miss the most? Why? Amaroo Park – one of my first officiating positions was at the base of the hill, at a historic meet where Bugatti was the feature marque.. A bunch of crazy old cars tearing down that hill at full noise, hard to beat. It was dangerous, crazy and mad and we would never do it now. Two tyres stacked on top of each other as a wall, WW2 field telephones that mostly didn't work.
13. Supercars- Ford or Holden? Favourite Supercar driver I spent a long time working for Tickford/Prodrive and Ford, so never going to support the dark side! But my favourite driver is probably Frosty, we got to know he and his family when he first joined FPR, and he was just such a genuine nice guy.
14. Describe Porpoising? The gentle art of diving through the bow wave of a yacht... or the violent vertical movement of a current F1 car as the underfloor aero alternately generates downforce and then stalls. take your pick
15. As a professional official with years of experience, what advice do you have for the up-and-coming officials? Plus are you training anyone to take your role in a couple of years? As a Comms official, I have always advised everyone, new or old to the game, to BREATHE and PAUSE. I think however that also holds for most positions. When something happens and that rush of adrenaline pours into the body, take that small moment to take a slow breath, pause, think about what to do, and only then do it. Especially on the radio, that moment to take it in and think BEFORE you push the button is so important to ensure that the right information is passed as fast as possible. One great trick to help that for comms officials I have learnt and tried to pass on is the practice of saying what flag is waving as your first call, making the first call "Race Control Post xx, waving yellow" helps give you that moment whilst race control gathers themselves together and responds, and also immediately focusses the attention of race control that there is an incident in your sector. it also tells all your other comms people there is something happening at your point and to stay off the air until it is resolved. I have managed to get one young official at least started, which is I believe a start.
16. What is your hidden skill or talent? Well, I sure can't dance or sing!! Not sure I have one. I like to display my talents!
17. The USA will hold three Grand Prix in 2023; Austin Texas, Miami Florida and Las Vegas Nevada. Which one would you like to attend and why? Las Vegas, because my wife used to go to LV twice a year for work and I never ever got to go, so I'd like to go and see it, even though we'd be staying in some cheap dog box not on the strip like she used to!
18. Who is the official that you look up to most? Why? That is really interesting, many, most probably, anybody that is willing to go and stand by a racetrack or in race control as a volunteer. However, Cath MacDonald is the most responsible for me being the comms official I am today, so I must single her out.
19. Will you miss the F18A Hornet jet flyover in 2022? Not really. it's just noise.
20. Have you watched MAFS? If so, who is your favourite villain? No, my wife tells me it's the evil girl – I forgot her name as fast as she told me
21. What's your favourite corner to work on, or watch Formula 1 at the Formula 1 Heineken Australian Grand Prix? Turn 3, fast, heaps of action, what more can you ask for.



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20 ODD QUESTIONS WITH BERTRAM DANA

Name: [Bertram Dana](#) Age: [72](#) State: [Victoria](#) F1 AGP allocated position: [Race Administration](#)

1. How long have you been a Motorsport Australia official? [27 years](#)
2. What race track did you start out as an official, and why did you get into officiating? [Sandown. I got interested in motor racing, when my dad took us to the Singapore Grand Prix in 1966 to 1973. I used to race local rallies and speed races.](#)
3. What car club are you involved with? [Victorian Flagmarshalling Team.](#)
4. What car do you drive? [Nissan 370Z](#)
5. What was your first car? Where is she now? [Mini Cooper S. She is in heaven now](#)
6. Do you own a racing car? If no, what type of racing car would you like to own? [No, I don't own a race car. If I did it would like a Jag F type](#)
7. What is something most officials don't know about you? [That I was a Major in the Singapore Arm Forces and love cooking](#)
8. When you attend the F1 AGP where do you stay? [Home](#)
9. Are you an iPhone person or an Android person? Why? [Android user. Easier to use](#)
10. When you're not at the track officiating, what do you do for a living? [I am retired](#)
11. Name the closed Australian motor racing track that you miss the most? Why? [Adelaide 500. It was a great race to officiate. well organised race](#)
12. Which two current Formula 1 drivers would you like to have a drink with? Why? [Daniel and Lewis](#)
13. Supercars- Ford or Holden? Favourite Supercar driver? [Holden. Craig Lowndes](#)
14. Describe Porpoising? [To offer or suggest a possible plan or plan for people to consider](#)
15. As a professional official with years of experience, what advice do you have for the up and coming officials? Plus are you training anyone to take your role in a couple of years? [My advice to new officials will be to enjoy and live the experience. It will be an experience where you can learn so much about people Skills and advancement in the organisation and most of all respect.](#)
16. What is your hidden skill or talent? [Management of people](#)
17. The USA will hold three Grand Prix in 2023; Austin Texas, Miami Florida and Las Vegas Nevada. Which one would you like to attend and why? [None](#)
18. Who is the official that you look up to most? Why? [Tony Van den Dungen. A person with great leadership qualities and willing to share his knowledge of motor racing with all motor racing officials. A very good presenter and trainer.](#)
19. Will you miss the F18A Hornet jet flyover in 2022? [Yes](#)
20. Have you watched MAFS? If so, who is your favourite villain? [No, crap program. all desperate people on it. Makes women look cheap](#)
21. What's your favourite corner to work on, or watch Formula 1 at the Formula 1 Heineken Australian Grand Prix? [Sector 1](#)
24. If you had the choice to drive any track in the world and in any race car, where would you go and what would you drive? [Silverstone. one. I would like to drive a Jag F type](#)
26. All time question; What is your favourite Formula 1 race track, your favourite Formula 1 driver and favourite Formula 1 Team? [Singapore. Mercedes. Lewis Hamilton.](#)



ESTELLE O’CONNOR and SAMANTHA SMITH

They are first time nurses at AGP, and they were here just for Thursday. They work at The Alfred, who sent them to the track.

They’ve never been to a race before, have no idea of what it’s all about, and are finding it very loud. They’re working in the Medical Center and are finding it an interesting assignment.



TONY BOLIN & GLENN JEAN

Both are members of Race Marshals Victoria, which is a motorcycle marshals group in Victoria. Tony has been a Boundary Rider for the past five years, while Glen has been at it for eight years. This year they have Suzuki scooters.

They each like the role as they “get to ride a bike.” Tony also enjoys the independence which goes with the job. He likes to keep busy and enjoys doing the extra little bit. And occasionally, although not under favorable circumstances, he might get to transport a famous person. Tony has been a marshal for the past 25 years, and also belongs to PIARC. He works Pit Lane, Comms, Flags and is a Clerk of the Course at motorcycle events.



Glen has been a marshal for the past 20 years and ‘does everything’ - whatever’s needed, including Flags, Comms and Tech.



20 ODD QUESTIONS WITH KARL FLEMING

Name: [Karl Fleming](#) Age: [59](#)

State: [South Australia](#) F1 AGP allocated position: [Sector Marshall](#)

1. How long have you been a Motorsport Australia official? [20 years.](#)
2. What race track did you start out as an official, and why did you get into officiating? [Mallala motorsport park. Always loved motorsport growing up, just wanted to be involved in some capacity](#)
3. What car club are you involved with? [SAMROA. South Australian motor racing officials Association](#)
4. What car do you drive? [Mazda 3 Astina](#)
5. What was your first car? Where is she now? [1980 BC Ford Escort one of the last to be made. To this day the best car I ever owned.](#)

[Long gone I should imagine, last time I saw it had a huge dent in the rear end, broke my heart.](#)

6. Do you own a racing car? If no, what type of racing car would you like to own? [No. Anything that gives me a thrill.](#)

7. What is something most officials don't know about you? [I am a Qualified Personal Trainer. On the outside I look cool, calm and collected where in reality I am one of the most shyest, nervous individuals you will ever meet.](#)

8. When you attend the F1 AGP where do you stay? [Normally straight across the road in St.Kilda but this year in the CBD](#)

9. Are you an iPhone person or an Android person? Why? [I have a iPhone. That's what got handed down to me.](#)

10. When you're not at the track officiating, what do you do for a living? [Delivery Driver for Thomas Foods](#)

11. Name the closed Australian motor racing track that you miss the most? [Amaroo Park. Just loved watching racing at this track on TV](#)

12. Which two current Formula 1 drivers would you like to have a drink with? Why? [Lewis Hamilton can't think of another right now. Read About Lewis's up bringing and the struggles and sacrifices to get where he is today. Found his story quite inspirational.](#)

13. Supercars- Ford or Holden? Favourite Supercar driver? [Ford. Dick Johnson.](#)

14. Describe Porpoising? [I think its the cars buffering on the straights due to aero not working properly. I'm just guessing here](#)

15. As a professional official with years of experience, what advice do you have for the up and coming officials? Plus are you training anyone to take your role in a couple of years? [I am not specifically training anyone to take my role at the moment but always willing to share knowledge and assist fellow officials](#)

16. What is your hidden skill or talent? [Some People in SAMROA call me 'Rain Man'](#)

17. The USA will hold three Grand Prix in 2023; Austin Texas, Miami Florida and Las Vegas Nevada. Which one would you like to attend and why? [Las Vegas would be nice because its new, but in all honesty would be happy to attend any of them.](#)

18. Who is the official that you look up to most? Why? [Too Many To mention. I find them all Inspirational as I think you can learn different bits and pieces from everyone](#)

19. Will you miss the F18A Hornet jet flyover in 2022? [Doesn't really bother me either way.](#)

20. Have you watched MAFS? If so, who is your favourite villain? [No](#)

21. What's your favourite corner to work on, or watch Formula 1 at the Formula 1 Heineken Australian Grand Prix? [Hard to say only done a few AUS GPS and not had a corner. 6 looks good though.](#)

23. What's your favourite Formula 1 motor race of all time? [Monaco is good. I like Spa as well](#)

24. If you had the choice to drive any track in the world and in any race car, where would you go and what would you drive? [Any track would do. Formula 3 car _ I love open wheelers.](#)





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BILL GIBSON

This year's F1 equipment arrived on time, but there was some drama in the process. The sea freight was behind schedule, so from Europe it was changed to air freight. It ended up with ten chartered flights, including two which were added. The F1 TV equipment required two 747's. Bill Gibson, head of Gibson Freight which has handled the F1 equipment since the race came to Australia in 1985, said the site venue was further along this time which helped his process.



DR CHEE LEE

Dr. Lee is stationed in Victor 1, which is a medical car stationed at Pit Out. In it are also the driver and a paramedic or nurse. The 'territory' they cover is to Turn 4. There are five such cars around the course, including Turns 8, 11 and 13. He has worked AGP since 2005 and has also worked other forms of motorsports including Rally, Targa, Bathurst, and Targa Tasi.

Later this year he's going to Singapore for the Grand Prix. He spent five years working at UCSF in San Francisco, but didn't work any races there. He would like to work USGP at COTA. We met up whilst he was on a coffee run for the car.



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