

Media Release 11 March 2015

Are all journalists innumerate?

“Not all of them,” according to Save Albert Park president Peter Goad. “Greg Baum won a Walkley questioning the dubious figures put out by the Australian Grand Prix Corporation (AGPC).”

“The AGPC has admitted it doesn’t know how many actually attend its event but has consistently refused to do a count of its attendees with the free scanners supplied by its ticketing agency. All of Melbourne’s successful, non-government major events use turnstiles and bar code scanners to produce accurate and verifiable attendance counts. What is the AGPC hiding? **Why should journalists accept unsubstantiated attendance claims, especially when it’s obvious there are far fewer spectators than the claimed number?**” Mr Goad said.

This year the Victorian Legislative Council voted unanimously to demand the AGPC conduct a “full and accurate count of daily attendance” at the GP. Mr Goad warns, “Don’t hold your breath waiting.”

Just in case the AGPC refuses once again to be accountable (a highly probable scenario, given their previous form) Peter Goad suggested this exercise to help journalists sharpen their skills:

1. “When you’re at the grand prix on Thursday and you see fewer than 15,000 spectators, don’t publish the AGPC’s ‘estimate’ of 68,000.”
2. “When, on Friday, you can’t see more than 20,000 don’t publish a figure of 70,000 plus.”
3. “And on Sunday, when you see 26,000 in the grandstands, fewer than 7000 in the corporate boxes and fewer than 30,000 in the outfield, don’t accept the organiser’s claim of 100,000 or more **BECAUSE YOU ARE NOT STUPID OR GULLIBLE!**”

SAP website www.save-albert-park.org.au has plenty of photos of near empty grandstands on racedays when the AGPC claims 70,000 or more in attendance.

Save Albert Park president, Peter Goad says: “Please engage your brain and whether it’s major events mathematics or formula one grand prix bull**, call it for what it is. Victorian taxpayers deserve the truth.”**

Contact: SAP media, Peter Logan 0412697074 or SAP President Peter Goad 0407192455