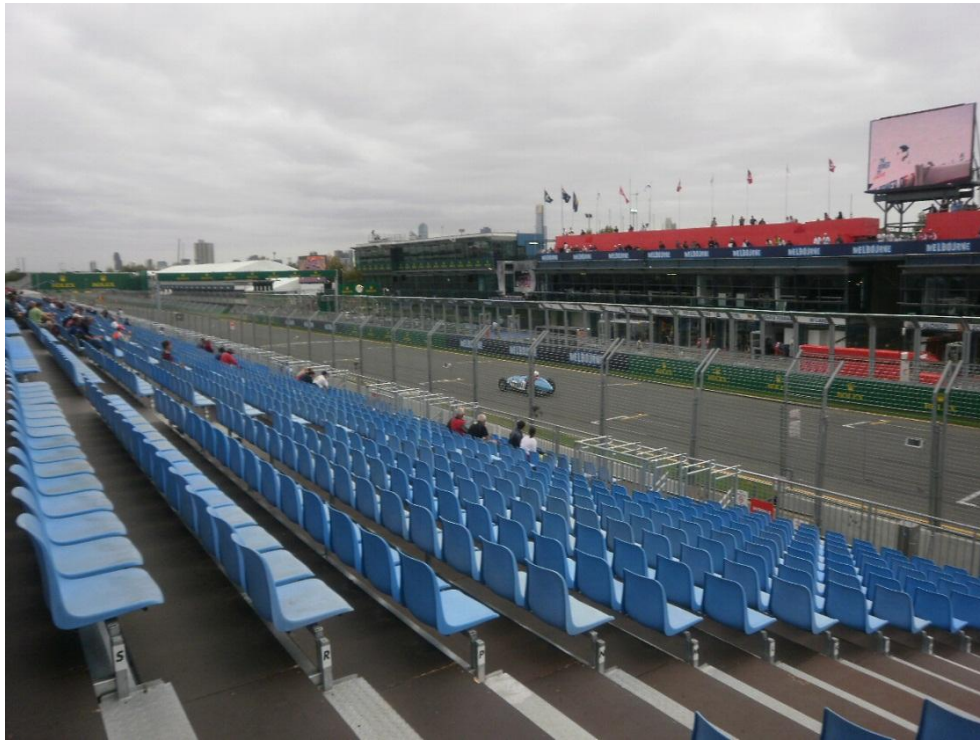


How many people were at the free Thursday at the grand prix? 69,800, according to the grand prix corporation, but Save Albert Park's estimators on the spot say it was only a fraction of that. The venue's maximum capacity is about 70,000 and that's if every area is full – grandstands, boxes, viewing mounds and a big crowd is around the entire track four deep or more.

Of the hundreds of photos in the SAP file, here is a selection from the most significant locations around the track, taken on Thursday, 14 March 2013 during the events and back of house at lunch break, when all the office workers and school children came for free.



First event 11:00 to 11:15am. The 69,800 who came to see "Heritage Day" and this is the car that won the 1953 GP.



Same event - keen spectators (actually only 30, including those in the exclusive Paddock Club viewing area.)
The car is the historic Brabham that Jack Brabham drove to win the 1966 World Championship



Second event, 11:25am to 12:10pm. Three or four lonely diehards in the grandstand at turn 3



Next event, 12:25pm to 12:45pm, Period Sorts Cars (7 litre V8s). No spectators in foreground, none on viewing mound at right (Lakeside Stadium) but three or four down the straight at left.



12:50pm. Albert Rd end. Did the GP corporation count the police a few times as they walked around? Good to see them anyway.

No spectators across the track either.



Celebrity event, 12:55pm. Not many spectators on the lakeside. Where are the rest of the 69,800?



Celebrities again 12:55pm to 1:15pm. Relaxed spectator – fell asleep counting patrons?



Celebrities still circulating. Bigger crowd here. There is even one on the lakeside



V8s now 1:30pm to 2:00pm. Seven or eight officials on the lakeside



V8s again, not many in the Waite stand and nobody in the *exclusive* Mercedes corporate suite behind the fence.



One more V8 Supercar fan but none over the other side of the track



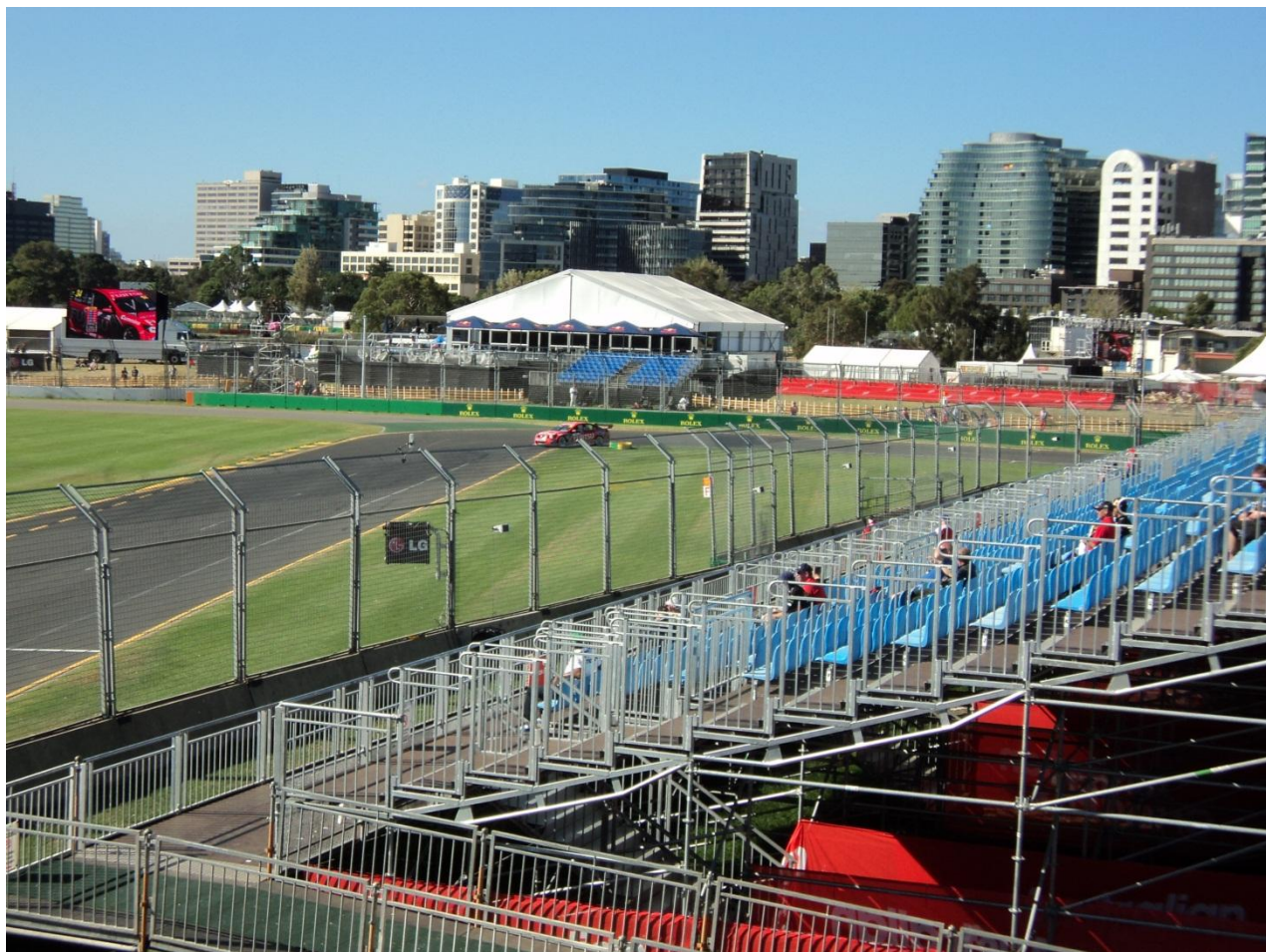
Yes, that's another V8 Supercar – the centre of attraction



Ten more fans watching the V8s, balanced on top of bin and car



Porsche event, 2:10pm to 2:30pm, near empty Prost grandstands



Next V8s event 4:10pm to 4:40pm. Nobody in the corporate boxes over yonder but ten in the nearby grandstand



V8 entering pit straight. Not many in the main Prost and Webber grandstands. Where are the 69,800?

If you're still wondering where the crowds went as this was heavily advertised as Heritage day, free entry to everyone, we'll have to go back to the main straight then look for all the Melburnians who took up the offer.



Main straight, V8s still thundering around but nobody in the corporate facilities above the V8 garages, in fact half of them weren't constructed this year. But they said sales are up, didn't they?



Fangio Stand. Another Period sports car event 2:40pm to 3:00pm and 22 spectators on the exclusive Paddock Club viewing platform, so where are the 69,800?

This is why they came: everyone loves a carnival and there are 2019 seats in this grandstand, below. It's full. They, and the hundreds at the front came to see the sideshow – motor bike tricks - all for free! Melburnians love a party – it's just like Moomba but \$60 million dearer.



We kindly acknowledge the GP corporation for supplying these photos. They get access to areas we can't. We suggest you ask them for their complete set of photos around the circuit. Our work was done on limited resources but taxpayers need full accountability: 69,800 attendees?



Some people at last: Pit alley was opened to the public at 3:05pm. It appears that everyone back of the pits has swarmed into this lane. But, taking the two or three thousand we saw at the sideshow and hundreds here, this is more than 50,000 short of the claimed 69,800. Where the bloody hell are they?

Acknowledgement: Two photos on this page obtained from the Australian Grand Prix Corporation



Apart from the possibly four thousand chasing the celebrities or enjoying the sideshow, we're back in the main straight after lunch, seeking the mostly invisible 69,800. This is V8 Supercars action again, 4:30pm. The huge corporate boxes at Pit exit are empty today but there are a few drinkers in the smaller bar next to the big screen.

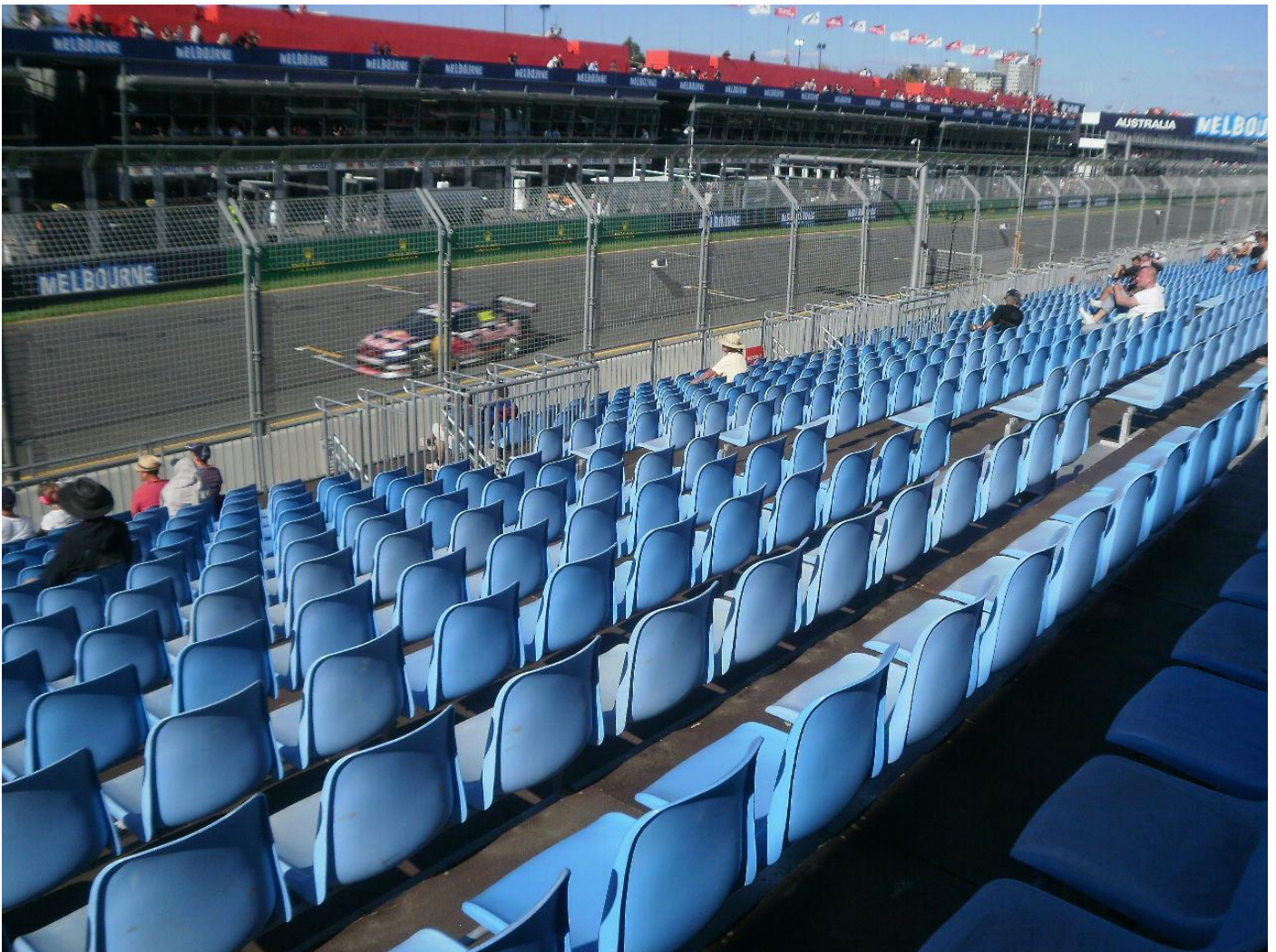


We found three or four staff standing around in the corporate boxes later in the afternoon watching this V8 Supercar going a bit sideways (like the event?) but those spectators are elusive. There are three in the far background.

In conclusion, we have one more sea of blue photo to round up our summary.

We had a team of five, took very many photos and offer them for government to audit any misleading and deceptive claims on attendance. We estimated the crowd as accurately as we can. Then we assumed more could have been in the bars or in the Premier's corporate suite, bunkered down away from the people who pay for this event.

We say there is evidence the organisers and the government may be claiming 69,800 as they want a new contract to protect their jobs. Keenness to protect your job is an attribute? Honesty is more important, especially when this event is mostly public funded. Victoria needs an honest government, one that can tell us the truth on their event. Clearly there are not 69,800 here today!



One last sea of blue shot of the popular V8 Supercars, second only to F1s in popularity for these keen race fans – all 12 of them and another 60 along the top of the pits in the exclusive corporate area.

We repeat: if the venue is totally full it cannot exceed 70,000 and that's if every area is completely full – grandstands, boxes, viewing mounds and a big crowd is around the entire track four deep or more. We did not see 25% of the 70,000 venue capacity occupied here.

Our photos are available free for anyone interested in motor racing or government accountability

Contact us