

Shameless – phoney attendance figures of the grand prix. Gormless – journalists who believe them



For journalists, this is what 100,000 spectators looks like and inset is what 26,838 GP ‘spectators’ looks like

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With fewer than 27,000 grandstand seats and audited ticket sales indicating about 70,000 customers, the Australian Grand Prix Corporation shamelessly boasted more than 100,000 attendees at the 2019 GP. With the venue almost empty on the Thursday, less than half full on the Friday and the full 70,000 only attending on the Sunday, the GP corp boasted 324,000 for four days. That’s about twice the real four-day attendance of those ticketholders.

Victorians deserve honesty from ‘their’ corporation. Victorians have lost more than a billion dollars propping it up.

Victorians also deserve a media that informs them, not just a cage full of parrots repeating the lies and obfuscations.

Let’s focus on the evidence in public view: audited ticket sales, published seat prices and seat numbers published on the website indicate the maximum crowd is around 70,000, yet the media quote the unbelievable figures of the GP corp. Also, there is the telecast that gives headcounters another shot at estimating the crowd.

Three examples of gormlessness or gullibility are: Despite the best estimate that around 70,000 tickets were sold The Herald Sun’s James Campbell (7 Mar) wrote the event “last year attracted 324,000 people” and The Age’s Chip Le Grand (8 Mar) wrote “...more than 300,000 people are expected to gather...”. Worst of all, The Age’s Towell, Preiss and Mannix (3Mar) wrote about the 2019 event, “ -the best attended Melbourne event in 14 years, which attracted more than 325,000 spectators.” Yes, this is gormless and perhaps naïve if they hadn’t been living in Melbourne. But just a look at the telecast and primary school maths would tell them it’s all fake news to justify the billion dollars of taxpayers’ money spent on these misleading and deceptive claims.

We reserve the best quotation for last: **“When it comes to fake news, the Grand Prix Corporation makes Donald Trump look like an apprentice.”** Greg Baum, The Age 23 March, 2018. *All hail the grandiose prix*

Contact: Peter Logan (volunteer spokesperson for Save Albert Park Inc. Tel. 0412 697 074)