

Save Albert Park Inc. No. A0040971
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Schools don't belong at the grand prix

The media spokesperson for Save Albert Park, Peter Logan, said today: "The grand prix event promotes and glorifies fast and aggressive driving. At the same time there is heavy promotion of alcohol at the event. Grand prix ambassador/AFL star, Joel Selwood's recent speeding indiscretion sends a poor message to our youth - as does the grand prix."

Overseas academic studies link motor racing with increased accidents on public roads. To quote from one of them (Warn, Tranter, & Kingham, 2004), "*young males who were more interested in legal motorsport events were more likely to engage in risky driving behaviours*". Here is an urgent case for independent research on such an association.

The TAC, a former long-time sponsor of the GP, has rightly ended its association with Selwood's football club, showing it does not endorse Selwood's behaviour.

Education (?) in Motor Sport

In March 2007 Save Albert Park was advised by the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority as follows: "*The VCAA has no formal association with the Education in Motor Sport Program, nor does it endorse the program or its activities.*"

Under the Grand Prix Corporation's Education in Motor Sport program, schools are offered free entry. Mr Logan commented: "Perhaps schools should more carefully consider any possible influence that an event like the F1GP, and its promotions, might have on teenagers nearing driving age."

It is apparent the grand prix's massive cumulative losses have spurred the organisers to bus in school children to give the appearance of popularity rather than give the children an 'education'.

Schools should seriously consider – with parental and carer involvement – whether it is in the best interests for their students to attend the grand prix during school time.

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Warn, J., Tranter, P. J., & Kingham, S. (2004, September 29 to October 1). *Fast and furious 3: Illegal street racing, sensation seeking and risky driving behaviours in New Zealand*. 27th Australasian Transport Research Forum held in Adelaide, South Australia, Australia.