



# Race Preview

## 2017 AUSTRALIAN GRAND PRIX

24-26 March 2017

Following a brief but intensely busy off-season, the 2017 FIA Formula One World Championship gets underway this weekend at Melbourne's Albert Park Circuit – home of the Australian Grand Prix. And it's all change as Formula One embraces the most comprehensive reconfiguration of its technical regulations seen for many years.

New chassis regulations mean 2017's cars are wider than previous generations, while changes to the bodywork specify a wider, swept back front wing and a wider, lower rear wing. These and other alterations will lead to major gains in downforce, while further performance improvement will be found through the use of much wider tyres, which will provide more grip and also an additional small amount of downforce.

The result of the large-scale change is bigger, more aggressive-looking cars that are expected to be significantly quicker thanks to greater cornering speeds, particularly in higher-speed sections of track, and which should provide drivers with the opportunity to push harder for longer. As such, lap times are likely to fall considerably this season.

For drivers, the corollary is that the new cars are expected to be more physically challenging and most have spent the winter training harder than ever to meet the demands of the more potent machines.

With just eight days of pre-season testing available to them, Formula One's teams arrive in Melbourne with many questions relating to performance and their place in a new pecking order unanswered. Can Mercedes maintain the advantage that has seen them dominate for the past three seasons? Will Ferrari translate their excellent test results into a title bid or will Red Bull Racing convert their 2016 form as the Silver Arrows' most consistent rival into a sustained championship challenge? A fascinating weekend of unpredictable outcomes, high-speed action and thrilling entertainment awaits.



### ALBERT PARK CIRCUIT

**Length of lap:**

5.303km

**Lap record:**

1:24.125 (Michael Schumacher, Ferrari, 2004)

**Start line/finish line offset:**

0.000km

**Total number of race laps:**

58

**Total race distance:**

307.574km

**Pitlane speed limits:**

60km/h in practice, qualifying, and the race

### CIRCUIT NOTES

- ▶ Additional tyres have been installed in parts of the barriers at Turns One, Six and 14.
- ▶ The opening in the wall on the driver's left in Turn Eight has been closed.
- ▶ The fixings for the kerbs at the apexes of Turns 11 and 12 have been improved by anchoring the ferrules in concrete.
- ▶ A double kerb has been installed at the exit of Turn 12.
- ▶ A TecPro barrier has been installed in front of the tyres around the outside of Turn 12.

### DRS ZONES

- ▶ There will be two DRS zones at the Australian Grand Prix. The first activation point is 762m before Turn One, while the second is 510m before Turn Three. They share a single detection point, 13m before Turn 14.

<b>ROUND 01</b>	AUSTRALIAN GRAND PRIX	<b>START TIME</b>	16:00 Local - 05:00 GMT
<b>RACE DATE:</b>	26 MAR 2017	<b>CIRCUIT LENGTH:</b>	5.303KM
<b>CIRCUIT NAME:</b>	ALBERT PARK CIRCUIT	<b>RACE DISTANCE:</b>	307.574KM
<b>NUMBER OF LAPS:</b>	58	<b>LAP RECORD:</b>	1:24.125 - M Schumacher [2004]

**KEY**

Speed Kmh  
Braking 120 3 Gear

Timing Sector T3 33.7  
Lap Time 1:23.9

Sector 1 Sector 2 Sector 3

Circuit Start Finish

DRS Detection DRS Activation Run-off Areas

FIA Medical & Safety Cars Marshal Posts Light Panels

Notes: Speeds are approximate based upon 2017 simulated data  
Gears are approximate based upon 2016 data  
Lap & Sector times are based upon 2016 Qualifying data



## FAST FACTS

- ▶ This will be the 33rd Australian Grand Prix and the 22nd to be held at Melbourne's Albert Park. The race joined the F1 calendar in 1985, with the first race being held in Adelaide. It moved to Melbourne in 1996, where it has been held since.
- ▶ The most successful driver here is Michael Schumacher, with the German winning four times from 19 attempts. He recorded a hat-trick of wins from 2000 to 2002 and then won again in 2004 – all for Ferrari. Next on the list is Jenson Button. The Briton won for Brawn GP in 2009 and then scored a brace of victories for McLaren in 2010 and 2012.
- ▶ The current grid features four past winners of this race. Fernando Alonso won for Renault in 2006, Kimi Räikkönen took victory for Ferrari in 2007 and Lotus in 2013, Lewis Hamilton won for McLaren in 2008 and Mercedes in 2015, while Sebastian Vettel stood atop the podium in 2011 for Red Bull Racing.
- ▶ This year's race will hand a grand prix debut to Lance Stroll. The new Williams driver comes to F1 having won last year's FIA F3 European Championship with 14 wins and six other podium finishes. Eighteen-year-old Stroll will be the first Canadian to race in Formula One since Jacques Villeneuve, who also made his F1 debut with the Williams team.
- ▶ Villeneuve scored a quartet of personal firsts on his 1996 debut. As well as making his first F1 start, he took the first of 13 career pole positions, recorded the first of nine career fastest laps, and with second place in the race took the first of 23 career podium finishes.
- ▶ While not strictly a rookie, McLaren's Stoffel Vandoorne is this weekend embarking on his first full season in F1. He made his race debut at last year's Bahrain Grand Prix where he stood in for the injured Fernando Alonso. Vandoorne, the 24th Belgian to race in F1, scored a point in that debut, finishing tenth at the Sakhir Circuit.
- ▶ Sunday's race will be the 225th for Red Bull Racing in Formula One. The team made its debut here in Melbourne in 2005. Should one of its drivers finish in the top three this weekend, it will be the team's 100th podium finish.
- ▶ While there is just one new face on the grid, a number of drivers have changed teams over the winter. Nico Hulkenberg switches from Force India to Renault, Kevin Magnussen moves from Renault Haas and Esteban Ocon joins Force India from the defunct Manor team. Ocon's former Manor team-mate Pascal Wehrlein will now line-up for Sauber, while Valtteri Bottas moves from Williams to the Mercedes seat vacated by 2016 champion Nico Rosberg.
- ▶ Bottas' move to Mercedes sparked a lightning quick return to F1 for Felipe Massa. Last year, the Brazilian announced that he would retire from the sport at the end of the 2016 season. However, following Bottas' switch, Massa rejoined Williams for this season, with the return being officially announced on 16 January. Thus, his retirement from the sport lasted just 49 days.

# RACE STEWARDS BIOGRAPHIES

## TIM MAYER

### **FIA ALTERNATE DELEGATE TO THE USA, FIA STEWARD**

As the son of former McLaren team principal Teddy Mayer, Tim Mayer grew up around motor sport. He organised IndyCar races internationally from 1992-98, aided the construction of several circuits, and produced international TV for multiple series. In 1998 he became CART's Senior VP for Racing Operations. He also became VP of ACCUS, the US ASN. In 2003, Mayer became COO of IMSA, operating multiple series at all levels, and also took on the role of COO and Race Director of the American Le Mans Series. He was elected an independent Director of ACCUS and FIA US Alternate Delegate, responsible for US World Championship events.



## DENNIS DEAN

### **PRESIDENT, LAND SPEED RECORDS COMMISSION; MEMBER, INTERNATIONAL SPORTING CODE REVIEW COMMISSION; MEMBER, COMMISSION INTERNATIONALE DE KARTING; FORMULA E STEWARD**

Dennis Dean has been involved in motor sport since becoming a Scrutineer with the Sports Car Club of America (SCCA) in the late 1970's. He has served at national level as a Scrutineer, Steward, and Race Director, including 10 years as either Assistant Chief Steward or Chief Steward (Race Director) of the SCCA's National Championship Runoffs. He has served a Scrutineer at 10 US Formula One races, in Las Vegas, Indianapolis and Austin. He was also Vice President of Club Racing and Rally/Solo for SCCA. Dennis has been a member of the FIA's Land Speed Records Commission since 2008 and has served as its President since 2009. He currently serves as a member of both the FIA's International Sporting Code Review Commission and the Commission Internationale de Karting. He is also Chairman of the Steering Committee for the SCCA Hall of Fame.



## DEREK WARWICK

### **FORMER FORMULA ONE DRIVER AND WORLD SPORTSCAR CHAMPION**

Derek Warwick raced in 146 grands prix from 1981 to 1993, appearing for Toleman, Renault, Brabham, Arrows and Lotus. He scored 71 points and achieved four podium finishes, with two fastest laps. He was World Sportscar Champion in 1992, driving for Peugeot. He also won Le Mans in the same year. He raced Jaguar sportscars in 1986 and 1991 and competed in the British Touring Car Championship between 1995 and 1998, as well as a further appearance at the Le Mans in 1996, driving for the Courage Competition team. Warwick is a frequent FIA driver steward and is President of the British Racing Drivers' Club.





# 2016 Formula One World Championship

## CONSTRUCTORS' CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL STANDINGS

	AUSTRALIA	BAHRAIN	CHINA	RUSSIA	SPAIN	MONACO	CANADA	EUROPE	AUSTRIA	GB	HUNGARY	GERMANY	BELGIUM	ITALY	SINGAPORE	MALAYSIA	JAPAN	USA	MEXICO	BRAZIL	ABU DHABI	POINTS
<b>1</b> MERCEDES AMG PETRONAS F1 TEAM	43 <sub>1</sub> 2	40 <sub>1</sub> 3	31 <sub>1</sub> 7	43 <sub>1</sub> 2	NC NC	31 <sub>1</sub> 7	35 <sub>1</sub> 5	35 <sub>1</sub> 5	37 <sub>1</sub> 4	40 <sub>1</sub> 3	43 <sub>1</sub> 2	37 <sub>1</sub> 4	40 <sub>1</sub> 3	43 <sub>1</sub> 2	40 <sub>1</sub> 3	15 <sub>3</sub> NC	40 <sub>1</sub> 3	43 <sub>1</sub> 2	43 <sub>1</sub> 2	43 <sub>1</sub> 2	43 <sub>1</sub> 2	<b>765</b>
<b>2</b> RED BULL RACING	12 <sub>4</sub> NC	18 <sub>4</sub> 7	27 <sub>3</sub> 4	37 <sub>11</sub> 15	37 <sub>1</sub> 4	18 <sub>2</sub> NC	18 <sub>4</sub> 7	10 <sub>7</sub> 8	28 <sub>2</sub> 5	30 <sub>2</sub> 4	25 <sub>3</sub> 5	33 <sub>2</sub> 3	18 <sub>2</sub> 11	16 <sub>5</sub> 7	26 <sub>2</sub> 6	43 <sub>1</sub> 2	26 <sub>2</sub> 6	15 <sub>3</sub> NC	27 <sub>3</sub> 4	19 <sub>3</sub> 8	22 <sub>4</sub> 5	<b>468</b>
<b>3</b> SCUDERIA FERRARI	15 <sub>3</sub> NC	18 <sub>2</sub> NC	28 <sub>2</sub> 5	15 <sub>3</sub> NC	33 <sub>2</sub> 3	12 <sub>4</sub> NC	26 <sub>2</sub> 6	30 <sub>2</sub> 10	15 <sub>3</sub> NC	12 <sub>5</sub> 9	20 <sub>4</sub> 6	18 <sub>5</sub> 6	10 <sub>6</sub> 10	27 <sub>3</sub> 4	22 <sub>4</sub> 5	12 <sub>4</sub> NC	22 <sub>4</sub> 5	12 <sub>4</sub> NC	18 <sub>5</sub> 6	10 <sub>5</sub> NC	23 <sub>3</sub> 6	<b>398</b>
<b>4</b> SAHARA FORCE INDIA F1 TEAM	6 <sub>7</sub> 13	15 <sub>15</sub> 16	11 <sub>11</sub> 15	2 <sub>9</sub> NC	6 <sub>7</sub> NC	23 <sub>3</sub> 6	5 <sub>8</sub> 10	17 <sub>3</sub> 9	17 <sub>17</sub> 19	14 <sub>6</sub> 7	1 <sub>10</sub> 11	7 <sub>7</sub> 10	22 <sub>4</sub> 5	5 <sub>8</sub> 10	4 <sub>8</sub> NC	12 <sub>6</sub> 8	10 <sub>7</sub> 8	4 <sub>8</sub> NC	7 <sub>7</sub> 10	18 <sub>4</sub> 7	10 <sub>7</sub> 8	<b>173</b>
<b>5</b> WILLIAMS MARTINI RACING	14 <sub>5</sub> 8	6 <sub>8</sub> 9	9 <sub>6</sub> 10	22 <sub>4</sub> 5	14 <sub>5</sub> 8	1 <sub>10</sub> 12	15 <sub>3</sub> NC	9 <sub>6</sub> 10	2 <sub>9</sub> 20	11 <sub>11</sub> 14	2 <sub>9</sub> 18	2 <sub>9</sub> NC	5 <sub>8</sub> 10	10 <sub>6</sub> 9	10 <sub>12</sub> NC	10 <sub>5</sub> 13	3 <sub>9</sub> 10	6 <sub>7</sub> 16	6 <sub>8</sub> 9	11 <sub>11</sub> NC	2 <sub>9</sub> NC	<b>138</b>
<b>6</b> MCLAREN HONDA	14 <sub>NC</sub>	1 <sub>NC</sub>	10 <sub>12</sub> 13	9 <sub>6</sub> 10	2 <sub>9</sub> NC	12 <sub>5</sub> 9	11 <sub>11</sub> NC	11 <sub>11</sub> NC	8 <sub>6</sub> 18	12 <sub>12</sub> 13	6 <sub>7</sub> NC	4 <sub>8</sub> 12	6 <sub>7</sub> NC	7 <sub>12</sub> 14	7 <sub>7</sub> NC	8 <sub>9</sub> 16	12 <sub>5</sub> 18	12 <sub>12</sub> 13	1 <sub>5</sub> 9	1 <sub>10</sub> 16	10 <sub>10</sub> NC	<b>76</b>
<b>7</b> SCUDERIA TORO ROSSO	3 <sub>9</sub> 10	8 <sub>6</sub> NC	6 <sub>8</sub> 9	9 <sub>12</sub> NC	4 <sub>6</sub> 10	2 <sub>8</sub> NC	2 <sub>9</sub> 12	NC <sub>NC</sub>	4 <sub>8</sub> NC	5 <sub>8</sub> 10	4 <sub>8</sub> 16	4 <sub>14</sub> 15	14 <sub>14</sub> NC	15 <sub>15</sub> NC	2 <sub>9</sub> 14	11 <sub>11</sub> 14	13 <sub>13</sub> 17	8 <sub>6</sub> 11	16 <sub>16</sub> 18	8 <sub>6</sub> 13	NC <sub>NC</sub>	<b>63</b>
<b>8</b> HAAS F1 TEAM	8 <sub>6</sub> NC	10 <sub>5</sub> NC	14 <sub>14</sub> 19	4 <sub>8</sub> 17	11 <sub>11</sub> NC	11 <sub>11</sub> 13	13 <sub>13</sub> 14	13 <sub>13</sub> 16	6 <sub>7</sub> 11	16 <sub>16</sub> NC	13 <sub>13</sub> 14	11 <sub>11</sub> 13	12 <sub>12</sub> 13	11 <sub>11</sub> 13	11 <sub>11</sub> NC	NC <sub>NC</sub>	11 <sub>11</sub> 20	10 <sub>10</sub> NC	19 <sub>19</sub> 20	NC <sub>NC</sub>	11 <sub>11</sub> 12	<b>29</b>
<b>9</b> RENAULT SPORT F1 TEAM	11 <sub>11</sub> 12	11 <sub>11</sub> NC	17 <sub>17</sub> 22	6 <sub>7</sub> 13	13 <sub>13</sub> 15	NC <sub>NC</sub>	18 <sub>18</sub> NC	14 <sub>14</sub> 15	12 <sub>12</sub> 14	17 <sub>17</sub> NC	12 <sub>12</sub> 15	16 <sub>16</sub> 19	15 <sub>15</sub> NC	17 <sub>17</sub> NC	1 <sub>10</sub> 15	1 <sub>10</sub> NC	12 <sub>12</sub> 14	12 <sub>12</sub> 13	14 <sub>14</sub> 17	14 <sub>14</sub> NC	17 <sub>17</sub> NC	<b>8</b>
<b>10</b> SAUBER F1 TEAM	15 <sub>NC</sub>	12 <sub>14</sub>	16 <sub>20</sub>	14 <sub>16</sub>	12 <sub>14</sub>	NC <sub>NC</sub>	15 <sub>18</sub>	12 <sub>17</sub>	13 <sub>15</sub>	15 <sub>15</sub>	17 <sub>20</sub>	18 <sub>NC</sub>	17 <sub>NC</sub>	16 <sub>NC</sub>	13 <sub>17</sub>	12 <sub>NC</sub>	15 <sub>19</sub>	14 <sub>15</sub>	11 <sub>15</sub>	2 <sub>9</sub> NC	15 <sub>16</sub>	<b>2</b>
<b>11</b> MANOR RACING MRT	16 <sub>NC</sub>	13 <sub>17</sub>	18 <sub>21</sub>	18 <sub>NC</sub>	16 <sub>17</sub>	14 <sub>15</sub>	17 <sub>19</sub>	18 <sub>NC</sub>	1 <sub>10</sub> 16	NC <sub>NC</sub>	19 <sub>21</sub>	17 <sub>20</sub>	16 <sub>NC</sub>	18 <sub>NC</sub>	16 <sub>18</sub>	15 <sub>16</sub>	21 <sub>22</sub>	17 <sub>18</sub>	21 <sub>NC</sub>	12 <sub>15</sub>	13 <sub>14</sub>	<b>1</b>

# FORMULA ONE TIMETABLE & FIA MEDIA SCHEDULE

## THURSDAY

**Press conference** 15.00

## FRIDAY

**Practice session 1** 12.00-13.30

**Practice session 2** 16.00-17.30

**Press conference** 18.00

## SATURDAY

**Practice session 3** 14.00-15.00

**Qualifying** 17.00-18.00

Followed by unilateral and press conference

## SUNDAY

**Drivers' Parade** 14.30

**Race** 16.00

Followed by podium interviews and press conference

## ADDITIONAL MEDIA OPPORTUNITIES

### QUALIFYING

All drivers eliminated in Q1 or Q2 will be available for media interviews immediately after the end of each session, as will drivers who participated in Q3, but who are not required for the post-qualifying press conference. The TV interview pen is located in the paddock on the first grassed area to the left, next to the fountain.

### RACE

Any driver retiring before the end of the race will be made available at the TV pen interview area. In addition, during the race every team will make available at least one senior spokesperson for interview by officially accredited TV crews. A list of those nominated will be made available in the media centre.

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## FIA COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT

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