**VICTORIAN ENDURANCE RIDERS’ ASSOCIATION INC.**

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**2.00 PM SATURDAY 21ST JANUARY 2023**

**TAB CORP, MELTON**

**MINUTES**

# WELCOME

Meeting commencement 2:15pm

The President and VERA SMC welcome all members and visitors to the VERA Annual General Meeting. Thank you for making the effort to travel to the meeting.

# Attendance

All members attending should sign the attendance register.

# APOLOGIES

* Susan Gill
* Peter Laidlaw
* Carol Laidlaw
* Ellen Prestage
* Louise Mackay

# MINUTES OF PREVIOUS AGM – 15 JANUARY 2022

## Amendments to the Minutes

## Nil

## Adoption of the Minutes

**Moved:** Linda Tanian

**Seconded:** Simon Thomas

**Carried**

# **PRESIDENT’S REPORT**

Good afternoon everyone,

2022 was a great year for endurance in Victoria, with a reasonably strong calendar and only a few covid restrictions to adhere to early in the year.

I would like to thank all of our committee members for their efforts this year, in particular the ones that stuck with it to keep the sport moving forward.

I would like to say a special thanks to Kerrie Gabb who took on multiple roles in the second half of the year, after the committee lost several of its members.

Thank you to all of our wonderful registrars who work hard behind the scenes,

Bronwyn Cuthbertson

Sandra Feil

Wendy Riha

Rebecca Williamson

Tanya Beacham

Mark Gabb

Jennifer Green

Sioux Reid

A huge thankyou to the ride organisers for 2022, without you we would not be able to do what we love. It is quite an arduous task and often thankless, so again we thank you.

To the many volunteers who are the backbone of a ride thankyou also.

Unfortunately as you all know Victoria were unable to host the Tom Quilty Gold Cup in 2023 and it has moved to Queensland.

Running the Quilty is a massive undertaking and I would like to thank the team that attempted this.

Moving forward we need more of our members to put their hand up and help in one form or another, be that volunteering at a ride (foregoing a ride for that weekend) running a ride, or getting on the committee.

If we all work together we can keep endurance in Victoria for years to come, if we keep leaving it up to the same people to do everything it may not last much longer at all.

Finally I would like to wish everyone a wonderful and successful 2023 season, kicking off in a couple of weeks at Snake Valley.

Hope to see you all soon

Paul Nugent

# **TREASURER’S REPORT**

Audited financials have been emailed for all members to look over

Explanation of why there are difference in income, expenses and balance sheet items compared to last year (please remember our financial years run from 1/10/xx to 30/9/xx, and not as per a calendar year like our memberships).

1. The main reason there are a lot of variances in the financials between this year and last is, is due to the fact more rides were run this year and there were more members. The ones that fall under this category are :

* Logbook fees Income
* Membership fees Income
* Ride fees Income
* All AERA fees
* Chief steward fees

1. AGM meals income – decreased due to being style of meal between the 2 years
2. Bib income, with more rides, more riders became qualified so more bibs were purchased
3. Merchandise income & expenses, this will be constantly changing depending on the demand for merch
4. Courses/ training has gone up to train another swabbing steward
5. Registration and insurance under motor vehicle has gone up, as the trailer insurance has now been put under there

With being able to have such a good year in 2022 with the extra rides, VERA have opted not to hand on the AERA increases to RO’s, members and day members.

We are also still working on the trailer situation from last year, unfortunately with the reducing numbers in the committee, this project got pushed to the back burner. With a new committee coming in, I am looking forward for all of us to work together and get the trailer situation sorted for the RO’s. If anyone has suggestions please contact the committee via the secretary

With rides on the calendar for 2023, I hope everyone enjoys their year.

Kerrie Gabb – Treasurer

Simon asked how much was in the bank, this was answered

Kasey asked about the trailers and what we would be doing with them, this was discussed, and said the new SMC would work on this

**Motion:** That the Treasurer’s Report be adopted.

**Moved:** Kerrie Gabb

**Seconded**: Digger Leehane

**Carried**

# ELECTIONS

## Appointment of Scrutineers

The following people were nominated as Scrutineers:

• Di Leehane

• Wendy Riha

## Stand Down of 2022 SMC Members at end of Term

The following SMC Members have reached the end of their term and their positions are now declared vacant:

* Kerrie Gabb – Treasurer & Acting Secretary
* Mezcal Manners – General Committee
* Russell Robinson - General Committee
* Hans Peuker – General Committee
* Russell Gillingham – General Committee

## President

Nomination has been received from the following VERA member for the position of President.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Member** | **Proposer** | **Seconder** |
| Paul Nugent | Rebecca Williamson | Ken Bradley |
|  |  |  |

Nomination was done pre AGM

## Vice President

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Member** | **Nominated** | **Seconder** |
| Mark Henry | Simon Thomas | Sandy Little |
|  |  |  |

Nominations received from the floor

## Treasurer

Nomination has been received from the following VERA member for the position of Treasurer.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Member** | **Proposer** | **Seconder** |
| Kerrie Gabb | Mezcal Manners | Paul Nugent |
|  |  |  |

Nomination was done pre AGM

## Secretary

Lots of discussion was had here, as to how this could work. Linda suggested to break it up into components. In the end there was a nomination received from the floor

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Member** | **Nominated** | **Seconder** |
| Donna Nicholas | Hans Pueker | Bek Willimson |
|  |  |  |

## Committee

Nominations have been received from the following VERA members for the position of Committee Member, via email pre AGM

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Member** | **Proposer** | **Seconder** |
| Louise Mackey | Heather Stuchbree | Mark Carson |
| Simon Thomas | Paul Nugent | Rebecca Williamson |
| Renee Henry | Shannon Decker | Simon Thomas |
| Shannon Decker | Simon Thomas | Kasey Thomas |
| Nicole Porter | Kasey Thomas | Simon Thomas |
|  |  |  |

Nominations from the floor

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Member** | **Nominated** | **Seconder** |
| Sheree Bishop | Mark Henry | Nicole Porter |
| Russell Gillingham | Paul Nugent | Damien Little |
| Martin Mizzi | Donna Nicholas | Kerrie Gabb |
| Sioux Reid | Donna Nicholas | Digger Leehane |
| Kasey Thomas | Nicole Porter | Rebecca Williamson |

## Disciplinary Panel

Thanks were given to the members who held positions on the Disciplinary Panel last year. Nominations were called from the floor to fill the 5 positions available, and the following people were elected to the Disciplinary Panel:

* Digger Leehane
* Carl Adams
* Nikki Robinson
* Rebecca Williamson
* Mezcal Manners

## Grievance Officer

1 position is to be nominated and elected from those present at the AGM. The role is for a period of 1 year.

* Tanya Bechman TBC

# MOTIONS

No motions have been received for discussion at the AGM.

# ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

## VERA members are required to actively volunteer

Suggestion of mandatory addition to the membership for Volunteering

Submitted by Louise Mackey

Simon asked to clarify it better

Linda stated it has been suggested before and it didn’t work, a different way of going about. QLD have a gold membership (they volunteer) People who are significate members and always volunteer they would receive a discount.

Sheree we have a lot of support from non-members eg family

Digger a incentive thing may work better than a compulsory

Mez stated to make sure volunteers are added to the volunteer list

Damien created a rebate for the following season

Simon doesn’t think it’s a bad idea

Digger remember everyone is a volunteer including family

Jane does the Grenville ride require volunteers/be mentors on the ground. Hans said that would be great to have someone to mark the course and on the day. Potentially have experienced riders there not doing the 56km to help the new people.

A plan to be made at the next meeting

## Changes to the GERZ ride in Rosedale

The application from the GERZ committee be re considered

Submitted by Shannon Decker

Shannon look at the bigger picture with other states, as we were working with the SA rides, there will also be another ride in NSW, Shannon stated that people will travel to Mil - Lel.

Linda wanted to put the ride on at Easter so it gives other Vic riders a chance to ride, it’s an easier track for people to have a go. Easter weekend also suits the RO and the crew, it was taken into account, and it doesn’t matter if it isn’t a huge event.

Martin asked Simon that was its brought in that it wouldn’t.

Simon stated there will not be a dual affiliation as there is a Vic ride

Bek asked if there is the chance of adding in another 80km

Linda did consider it but doesn’t want to over work people. Linda doesn’t mind about the financial side she wants it a relaxing ride and be fun and all members are looked after.

Kasey would the RO consider a dual affiliation with Mil Lel ?

Kasey has asked so people can still get their points and distance.

Wendy asked how many go to MilLel,

Kasey stated if the Victorians don’t go Mille wouldn’t go ahead.

Linda only 1 5th of the membership go to MilLel

Wendy is it a possibility for a dual affiliation.

Jane if there is a policy it needs to stood by. Does the 100km still apply?

Paul it was changed to 300km

Jane we need to show support for the RO’s for the state so the rides still happen. It would be nice if a Gippsland ride would happen as there is only 1.

Rohan if you are chasing points you would go to the ride that has the most distance.

Martin- if you don’t go to the Vic ride you need to suck it up and not get the points.

Simon support Jane in saying that we support the Vic rides but when it is up against a prestige ride we want to go to the bigger event. Simon understands why Lind is putting it on

Sue stated you have 2 choices you go to the 160km in SA or the Vic 80km as the RO’s bust a gut to get a ride on, the RO’s really work to get the rides on 2 weeks before and after. Support the RO’s in our state. Sue understands both sides of the story.

Sarah Victoria should be able to run a ride on Easter.

Di- things will always clash

Simon- We can bring it back to Victoria. But when there is only 1 80km ride people will go to SA. Simon would be offend if someone said that he didn’t support a Vic ride and went to a premier event.

Sheree stated it is Choice. How can Rosedale become a premier ride?

Linda – everyone has a choice you still get AERA points at either ride, Linda wants a fun ride and get more rides on the calendar, the more support shown to Vic RO’s the more rides there will be.

Mark Henry - wants clarification on the dual affiliation.

Martin its against the rules.

Rohan thanked Linda for running the ride for the Gippsland people.

## Changes to the Grenville Training & TPR weekend

That the ride at Grenville Training and TPR weekend to include an 80km ride

Submitted by Shannon Decker

Shannon why can’t an 80km ride be run?

Marty- can you do the school and ride?

Hans- we have been hanging out for a TPR school that why it’s getting run. He put the ride on so people can try.

Paul you can’t do pre and post ride

Sandy- people who come to ride an 80km come to do that, a training TPR may be a disadvantage to the new TPR’s

Bron- a training ride is to encourage the volunteers.

Digger- if we don’t have TPR’s we don’t have rides.

Simon wanted to ask is there a Pony Club or something coming along?

Hans wants to encourage people into the sport. He wants people to be able to manage their horses out twice. We are long distance we want people to learn.

Bek build on what Jane was saying. Look at what SA do C.A.K.E rides

Mark like inclusiveness in the sport and we need ot put action into that and involving new people.

Martin without these people we wouldn’t have these rides

Wendy how many TPR’s do we have? Is it worth becoming accredited?

Marty maybe it should be a part of the membership?

Kerrie- we have some TPR’s jump in while their rides are out.

Sheree asked if you have to be a member

## AERA rule changes for 2023

The rule changes introduced by AERA for the 2023 year will be covered to ensure all attending members are aware of the requirements of the new rules. These rule changes have been published on the VERA Facebook page and VERA and AERA websites as well.

Damien took everyone through the new changes this was emailed to all VERA members

Marty asked if the drug swabbing included Humans- it was responded as a no, we don’t do riders at the moment

Martin wanted to thank 2 people Mark Gabb and Chris Brown without those 2 our rides wouldn’t happen

Bek suggested that when the plaques are full that we hinge these together.

# MEETING CLOSURE

## 3:45pm closed