

# VICTORIAN ENDURANCE RIDERS' ASSOCIATION INC.

## STATE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA/MINUTES

### PART 2

Date 7<sup>th</sup> August, 2024

Time 7pm

Location Teams

**1. WELCOME BY PRESIDENT**

**2. PRESENT**

Paul Nugent. Donna Nicholas. Shannon Decker. Simon Thomas. Sioux Reid.  
Russell Gillingham. Sheree Bishop 7.00pm – 9.00pm

**3. APOLOGIES**

Nicole Porter. Sandy Little.

**4. VISITORS**

None.

**5.1 TPR Coordinator**

Shahzada are having a Tpr course if any Vic's are attending & interested.  
This information as been shared on the Vera facebook page.

**5.2 Veterinary Coordinator**

We have confirmation on a HV for Smythesdale Ride, Lesley Hawson.

**5.3 Grievance Officer**

Nothing to report.

**5.4 Governance Sub-committee**

No report received.

**5.5 Webmaster**

Awaiting instructions re: New Website.

**5.6 Social Media**

Apart from a couple of would be spammers and scammers attempting to post inappropriate content, your Admin and Moderator team has not been overburdened with work of late.

The decision some years ago to require approval for all new posts has, in my opinion, been overwhelmingly successful.

As an admin and mod of other groups that allow all new posts, I can safely say it is much less work to approve new content, than to deal with the aftermath that a scammer or spammer can cause!

That said, it might be a good time to mention again that the VERA Facebook group does not allow commercial business advertising other than that of bona fide VERA ride sponsors. Personal advertising of items for sale such as endurance related saddlery and equipment has always been allowed with in reason. Horses for sale advertisements are not allowed, as per Facebook/Meta regulations. Yes, many horsy groups do not enforce that rule, however the risk that the group could be restricted or closed down by Facebook/Meta for violations is too great.

Activity on the group has been a little slower than usual. I can't identify a specific cause. I expect that as our next couple of rides approach, there will again be a flurry of activity.

New members to the group continue at a steady rate and engagement is still high, indicating that a high proportion of our users take the time to look at the posts on the group.

As always, our users continue to be helpful and polite, particularly when a new member is seeking information.

## 5.7 AERA Delegate

The only things I would add would be the discussion regarding a National IDP Panel which we can touch on quickly on Wednesday night.

HHD to now be 3 days prior to the ride and the morning of the ride prior to travel.

Hopefully all relevant RP's have nominated for TQ24 Decade Teams Award, Horse Distance Awards and Rider Distance Awards.

### AERA highlights

- AERA was advised of a horse death at the Endurafest event at Inglewood on 1 June 2024. QERA has provided reports and statements relevant to this tragic incident which have been forwarded to the Horse Welfare Committee for review and this group will report to AERA any determination of the incident and any recommendations for improvements that may be implemented to minimise the risk of this occurring again.
- Currently the AERA database does not facilitate the recording of a horse death as an outcome from a ride and this will be referred to the Database Sub-committee for advice on how this can be reflected in our data.
- Ride entries for 2024 up to the beginning of July suggest a trend that will see a slight increase on entries compared to the last few years.
- The Horse Welfare Sub-committee has recommended a change to the requirements for Horse Health Declarations. This is provided for your comment before the next meeting please: Recommendation For all horses at all affiliated endurance events, the responsible member must complete and present an AERA standard Horse Health Declaration which includes a minimum of a four day temperature log for each horse. The temperature log must be for the 3 days prior to travel to the event and for the day of travelling to the event with that temperature taken before the beginning of travel. Where there are variations to this situation, such as travel time taking more than 1 day or arrival at the event being more than 1 day before the start of the event, the Ride Organiser must address the temperature log requirements in their Event Biosecurity Plan.
- Equestrian Australia Endurance Committee representation – AERA is seeking to appoint someone to this committee to represent AERA and ongoing discussions include how to increase the number of swabbing stewards available for endurance events.

## 4.8 Membership

Membership Type	2023 EOY	2023 YTD	2024 YTD
Adult rider	112	110	115
Junior rider	7	5	4
Associate	2	2	2
Intermediate	6	5	9
Junior Intermediate	0	0	3
Life	3	3	4
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>136</b>

Honorary Vet

## 5.9 Honorary Vet

Obviously in July, the VERA State Championships were held at El Dorado. This was a fabulously well organised event, and the OC had managed to gain significant sponsorship which resulted in fabulous facilities and also prizes.

The weather was chilly, but kind for the time of year, and by all reports the tracks were challenging, but achievable and well marked.

I was ably assisted in the Vet Ring by Chief Stewards Sandy Little and Tom McCormack. Damien Little ensured that the Electronic timing ran smoothly all weekend. We were superbly looked after by the Committee.

Fellow vets were Ash Greaves, Renee Orange, Helen Spencer and Brad from Murray Valley assisted with the 80km. The vet ring ran smoothly, and the vets did a super job.

We really appreciated Sandy dealing with the unauthorised recording and publishing on Social Media of a conversation with one of the riders and one of the vets.

It was disappointing to only have one TPR, and we really appreciated Tracey's help over the weekend. As with many organisations, people seem to be increasingly time poor, and volunteer numbers are dwindling. Are there plans for another TPR school at all this year?

Swabbing was done expertly by Dr Helen Spencer, Sioux Reid and Donna Nicholas. **This was great - are there any plans to ever swab riders? VERA has no plans at this stage to swab riders.**

We did have a horse which required treatment, and this was done very ably by Dr Renee Orange. The horse is reported to have made a good recovery- I have been in touch with the owner this week.

Congratulations to the hard working committee on staging the event.

On another note, I think it is important that the VERA committee and membership are aware that there is currently an Australia wide shortage of Intravenous fluids. This has already impacted most veterinary clinics and some hospitals.

The clinics that I work at, and most veterinary hospitals are rationing intravenous fluids and reserving them for urgent use only. Intravenous fluids cannot be purchased from anywhere in Australia currently, and the current word is that none will be available till December.

My clinics will no longer allow me to take any of the clinic fluids to rides.

In light of the current situation, sufficient IV fluids may not be available to have fluids available at rides. As a result, any horses who require treatment may have to be transported to the nearest Equine hospital for treatment. The administration of oral fluids via nasogastric tube is not a viable alternative for a compromised endurance horse.

It may be prudent to establish how many litres of intravenous fluids are available at each ride - to ensure that the Head Veterinarian has established whether or not horses can be referred for IV fluid therapy to the nearest nominated hospital (as per AERA rules) - and ensure that all stakeholders are aware of the situation so that they can make informed decisions regarding which rides they enter, and what risk they are prepared to take. It will be vital to ensure adequate water is available for horses at rides at regular intervals along the track - and that selfish individuals do not contaminate water sources with dirty sponges etc.

There should be at the very least, discussions pertaining to the situation at pre-ride briefing, and in discussion about ride start times, hold times and the like to minimise risk and misconceptions. Rides on hot days may need to be run at different times of day, or ride tracks shortened or re-routed over less demanding terrain if the situation does not change.

Most compromised Endurance horses will require a minimum of 10 litres of intravenous fluids for initial treatment.

I hope everyone has had a good July, it was good to see some rain at last.

## **GENERAL BUSINESS**

### **6.1 Sioux Reid. Governance**

Sioux Reid, Donna Nicholas, Russell Gillingham and Sandy Little will start to update VERA policies.

## **LATE ITEMS**

### **7.1 Sheree Bishop Trailers have 5 need 2 set up.**

There will be a working bee to get 2 trailers up and going with 3 to sell after Ararat.

- 8. NEXT 2 MEETINGS: , 28<sup>th</sup> August, 2024 @ 7.00pm via teams.  
14<sup>th</sup> September, 2024 face to face. Location TBC**

- 9. MEETING CLOSURE: 9.26PM**