VICTORIAN ENDURANCE RIDERS ASSOCIATION INC.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
SATURDAY 18TH JANUARY 2020 AT 5PM
TRIOS SPORTS CLUB, 30 GRANT STREET, CRANBOURNE

MINUTES

1. Welcome

The President and VERA SMC welcomed all members and guests to the VERA Annual General Meeting and thanked them for attending.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from:

- Geoff Jolly
- Paulene Drew
- Jo-Anne Francis
- Michael Milne
- Jennie Armistead
- Danny Ellerton
- Lyn Taylor
- Michael Taylor
- David Reeves
- Trish Reeves

3. Present

As per Appendix 1

4. Confirmation of Minutes of AGM held on 19th January 2019

4.1 Amendments to the Minutes

Nil

4.2 Adoption of the Minutes

Motion: That the Minutes from the previous AGM be accepted.
Moved: Ellen Prestage
Seconded: Carol Laidlaw
Carried

5. President's Report

The 2019 year has, like most years in the life of an Association, had its ups and downs. In some instances, we hit the targets set and in other areas we probably fell a little short. However, for the most part it has been a rewarding year with many positives. The SMC recognised the need for training more volunteers and ran:

- A Ride Secretary training session
- A TPR school

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- A Training Seminar
- An Endurance Seminar
- A CS training session
- An Electronic Training session

Each of these were well attended and very good value for the participants who put up their hand and who will, we hope, contribute to supporting our wonderful sport in the future. It was great to see so many people turn up to these training sessions.

Our rides were great events and allowed each and every one of the competitors to enjoy time with their horse and to tick off another goal. Big thanks to all our Ride Organisers, Vets, Chief Stewards, TPRs and all the volunteers supporting the rides. We had a challenging State Championships presented by Bronwyn Cuthbertson, Sandy Little and their crew. A great completion rate was achieved on a tough track with kudos to the riders for taking the challenge seriously and looking after their horses.

We probably saved our best event for the last with first time Ride Organisers Naomi McGaffin, Kylie and Harry Berg presenting a great windup to the year with the Tallangatta ride. Two days of great weather, lots of newcomers to the sport and a challenging but achievable track. And the 5km ride saw lots of very happy little kiddies on cute ponies accompanied by parents and friends traipsing around a rather steep hill a couple of times.

We will see a change in date and distances offered for the Mt Cole ride. It will move to the end of May as a result of the extended fire season to ensure the support of the Raglan CFA is available. The ride distances will change to 20, 40 and 80.

We had the HRV HERO folk come on board and join us with their wonderful standardbred horses. It was great to see these folk out on track enjoying themselves immensely and finding another avenue to compete on their horses. The HERO series was well supported and we are looking to extend this series further this year.

The VERA SMC have just agreed to run a season opener training weekend to get everyone started on their endurance season. We'll have a 40, 20, 10 & 5 km event happening, hopefully on both the Saturday and Sunday. This is just in the very early stages of being organised but if we can get permits then keep the weekend of the 14th & 15th March free. It will also be run as a fund raiser for the bush fire appeal so please bring plenty of cash to donate!

During the year the SMC held 9 face to face meetings and had a few teleconferences as well. I want to thank every one of the SMC for their contribution. We had some absolute star performers who worked very hard this year and I particularly want to thank them for always being there when I needed some help.

I also want to thank our non-committee support people who provide services to the members:

- Sandra Feil – Membership Registrar
- Bronwyn Cuthbertson – Logbook Registrar
- Caroline Noble – Pointscore Registrar
- Sioux Reid – Swabbing Steward and AERA Delegate
- Russell Gillingham – Grievance Officer
- Jen Green – FB Moderator
- Mark Gabb – Webmaster

These people do a power of work behind the scenes and I'd like to ask for a round of applause in recognition of their contribution.

This year our sport will face a number of challenges including the impact of the devastating bushfires, the ongoing closures of our traditional riding tracks and an ever-shrinking pool of people who are prepared to run and help

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out at rides. This year we only have 6 rides on the calendar. Probably one of our poorest starts to the new year ever. We need people to put their hands up to run rides.

The focus of the Committee this year will be on continuing our increased level of support for Ride Organisers. Last year we spent quite a bit of time and funds on completing a full stock take of the ride trailers, identifying which equipment needed replacement as well as updating our first aid kits and providing additional kits. We now have kits for checkpoints, the recovery float and for on base in each of the trailers.

New bibs have been organised to increase the stocks available in the trailers and the arrows are getting replaced to bring them in line with the Australia wide standard that was adopted by AERA a few years ago.

We will also continue to stay more connected with our members through social media and keep the information flow happening. We communicate regularly with our Ride Organisers to keep them up to date with any changes they need to be aware of. One of the other things on the list to do is to have a Ride Organisers meeting – these are held in a couple of the other states so it will be good to provide Ride Organisers with the opportunity to network and have direct contact with the Committee.

As members of this Association we need your help to keep this sport functioning. We need you to put your hand up and say you have some great tracks around your local area and a location for a ride base. We need you to give up one weekend a year to volunteer at a ride. We need the younger generation to step up to the plate and help out. There is plenty of help for anyone who thinks they might like to run a ride as the Committee will be focusing its efforts on rides this year.

On behalf of the SMC I would like to wish you all a fantastic 2020 and hope that you achieve all your endurance goals this year.

6. Treasurer's Report

Audited financials are available for all members to look over, copies available at the entry desk.

Explanation of why there are difference in income, expenses and balance sheet items compared to last year:

A. AERA Personal Liability insurance – I have separated this out of membership income. This gives a more accurate representation of our membership income as the PA Insurance income goes back to AERA 100%; therefore, we make no income as such off it.

B. AGM meals income - decreased as last year was only $10 per head, whereas the year before it was $32.00 per head.

C. I have separated out the bib income from membership income, therefore showing bib income this year and not last year.

D. Membership fees is down, due to points (A) and (C) and fewer members.

E. Ride fees are down due to fewer rides.

F. Accounting fees are down as we don't pay a bookkeeper anymore.

G. All the AERA fees vary as I have broken them up, to show where our payments go to. Last year total $30,551.33, previous year $34,444.54. Our fees were lower due to less rides and less members so not as much to pay back to AERA.

H. AGM/EOY presentations – the venue hire was cheaper last year than the previous year.

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I. Chief Steward fees – last year put under CS costs, previous year shown under ride costs.

J. Drug Testing/Swabbing – this is lower last financial year compared to the year before because we didn't need to pay accommodation for the drug steward last year where they did the previous year.

K. Equipment expense is much higher last year as we purchased, new marquee for the western trailer, batteries for the trailers, arrows and markers for the trailers, new bibs for the trailers and first aid kits.

L. Gifts and donations are higher as we made donations to the breast cancer association and Peter Mac Hospital.

M. Meals and entertainment – $336.66 this is the meals for the SMC meetings, the previous year it was under sundries $460.29.

N. Printing and Stationery – this is much higher due to the printing of the AERA rule books at $2365.

O. Prizes/Trophies/Awards was higher in the previous year as they purchased more leather for the State Champs Medallions, Julie Woods buckle and Border Cup trophies.

P. Ride Costs – down see (I)

Q. State Champs – Dependant in which months the State Champs are held really impacts these costs. Last year the expense was the cost of the rugs for Raglan 2019, whereas the previous year 2 State Champs were in the one financial year, Dergholm 2017 and Moyston 2018.

R. Tom Quilty Comp expenses – Like the State Champs this is very dependent on dates – TQ18 was in Oct, TQ19 was in July therefore all the expenses landing last year, therefore no TQ expenses for the previous year.

S. Venue Hire – last year we paid $497.55 from the previous year still outstanding. Also, more meetings were held last year compared to the previous year.

T. Vets – see explanation at (Q)

U. In the balance sheet note new items

- Asset VERA Tom Quilty Account and Liability money held in trust, both $16443.35. VERA are now holding the funds kindly provided by the TQ16 Committee, which give the next Quilty Committee a good starting point. The financials show these funds are in a Trust account and any interest earned will be added to the account to increase the refundable seed funding.

- Stock on hand, this is the medallions ROs can purchase from VERA to use as prizes for the Intro and Intermediate rides. The medallions were counted at the end of the financial year and valued off the last invoice. Then the paperwork from the last 2 financial years was checked to see how many had been sold to ROs. This is how the figures were calculated.

- Plant and equipment and accumulated depreciation. After tracking down through the paperwork purchase dates and values of assets and talking to ex SMC to see if they knew where some assets went, quite a lengthy excel sheet was typed up, and calculations were done back to purchase date of assets. As directed by the auditor a straight-line method of deprecation was used to work out the figures. The auditor received the full excel sheet to check over and verify.

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Moving forward the SMC will pay the cost of the ETS, which has been ordered. Also, we are looking at replacing all the trailers with the new style arrows. As the ride calendar only has a few rides, we are not expecting a profitable year, between the asset expenses and the loss in ride income.

Motion: That the Treasurer's report be accepted
Moved: Kerrie Gabb
Seconded: Sandra Feil
Carried

7. Elections

7.1 Appointment of Scrutineers

Hans Peuker was nominated by Carol Laidlaw
Leizl Briers was nominated Ken Bradley
As there were no further nominations Hans and Leizl were nominated to the Scrutineer positions.

7.2 Stand Down of 2019 SMC Members at end of Term

The following SMC Members reached the end of their term:

- Martin Mizzi
- Geoff Jolly
- Jennie Armistead
- Paulene Drew (seconded during 2019)

These committee members were thanked for their contribution during the year.

7.3 Committee

7 Committee positions were available. The following nominations were received:

Mezcal Manners
Nominated**:** Kerrie Gabb Seconded**:** Ellen Prestage

Paulene Drew
Nominated**:** Julie Woods Seconded**:** Jeff Jarman

Marty Bryson
Nominated**:** Martin Mizzi
Marty declined the nomination

Result: As the number of nominations received did not exceed the number of positions available all nominations were accepted

7.4 Disciplinary Panel

Nominations were called from the floor to fill the 5 positions available on the Disciplinary Panel and the following 5 people were elected to the Disciplinary Panel.

- Sandra Feil
- Ken Bradley

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- Rebecca Williamson
- Kim Noble
- Mark Gabb

8.3 Grievance Officer

Nominations were called from the floor for the position of Grievance Officer. Russell Gillingham was nominated and as the number of nominations received did not exceed the positions available Russell was declared elected.

9. Items for Discussion

9.1 AERA Constitution

The President explained the changes to be included in the new AERA Constitution and the transitional arrangements for moving to the new model. The Constitution will be adopted by the AERA Delegates at the March AGM where a special resolution will be tabled. The Draft Constitution is available on the AERA website (www.aera.asn.au).

9.2 Rule Changes for 2020

An explanation of the new rules that will be introduced from 1 January 2020 was provided. Members were reminded to amend their rule books with the rule changes. The rule changes are available on the AERA website (www.aera.asn.au).

9.3 VERA Calendar

With the number of rides in Victoria decreasing each year an open discussion took place on how more people can be encouraged to try ride organisation. Ideas put forward included:

(a) Form a Sub Committee to help Ride Organisers – Ken Bradley suggested that this Committee would set up a protocol to approach Shires/Councils, Pony Clubs, Adult Riders Clubs and look for venues, promote our sport, assist with obtaining permits and encourage new ride organisers. Ken will be invited to the next SMC to discuss this further.

(b) VERA SMC is planning on organising a Ride Organisers training session to provide a forum for sharing ideas and training new Ride Organisers

(c) Existing ROs indicated that the hardest aspect of organising a ride was the lack of volunteers, a lack of understanding by riders on the number of volunteers required and adverse comments on Facebook.

(d) More promotion of the sport outside the existing options. As an example, rodeos often put up signs in the town they are coming to advertising the date of the event to attract competitors and spectators.

(e) Further financial support is required, particularly for new Ride Organisers to get a ride up and running.

(f) Use major prizes to attract interstate riders.

(g) Members:

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I. Offering to help with the set up or clean up at rides instead of just packing up and leaving after presentations
II. Attend 1 ride per year as a volunteer
III. Donate lollies, fruit or water, cups to a ride to help ROs

(h) Other items discussed were the cost of Day membership (SMC advised that this has been decreased by $10 and that other AERA costs were being absorbed) and riders supporting Victorian rides instead of other states when rides are on the same weekend.

Meeting Closed 6:10pm

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APPENDIX 1 – VERA 2019 AGM ATTENDANCE

Members

Name	Membership No.
Mark Gabb	146945
Kerrie Gabb	130464
Linda Tanian	30233
Chris Brown	146944
Carol Laidlaw	30664
Peter Laidlaw	31063
Ellen Prestage	30855
Mezcal Manners	141424
Caley Rees	30671
Sandra Feil	30171
Russell Gillingham	108081
Martin Mizzi	30664
Natalia Bogner	128840
Taylah Nikolic	126501
Belinda Bowd	138260
Cassidy Warden (J)	108090
Liezl Briers	126501
Rebecca Williamson	132180
Tania Beacham	103461
Paul Nugent	132183
Sallyann Duke	31118
Ashleigh Van Leeuwen	130486
Steve Blackhurst	31285
Gina Thompson	106420
Louise Mackey	31359
Julie Woods	30021
Jeffery Jarman	30166
Ken Bradley	30166
Kim Noble	30744
Steve Noble	30745
Alison Noble (J)	31320
Christine Stomps	31393
Hans Peuker	30173
Marty Bryson	31424
Paul Bryson	31423
Neil Gardner	31378
Vanessa Mills (J)	108087
Amy Bellhouse	128441

Guests

Simon Beard
Faye Cooper
Ryan Mackey
Christal Bishop
Marilyn Gardner
Joanne Mills
Mark Mills

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Ashley Mills
Andrew Grant
Stacy Grant
Sky Ponpot

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