



VICTORIAN ENDURANCE RIDERS ASSOCIATION INC.

MINUTES OF THE 2018 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

HELD ON 19TH JANUARY 2019

CAULFIELD RSL, 4 ST. GEORGES ROAD, ELSTERNWICK

The meeting commenced at 10:09 am.

1. WELCOME

Carol Laidlaw, acting as President, welcomed and thanked all for taking the time to attend.

2. PRESENT

As per Appendix 1

3. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from the following members:

Geoff Jolly	Robyn Albers
Pauline Wallace	Michael Cadman
Linda Carney	Pamela Cox
Stephen Edwards	Mezcal Manners
Daniel Noble	Shea Reynolds
Janeen Smith	Tammy Woodgate
Pamela Moore	Samantha Moore
Trish van Donk	Bill Verspaandonk
Niki Verspaandonk	Tabitha Smetzer
Zeke Verspaandonk	Peter Laidlaw
Chloe Hubezak	Spiro Mizzi
Natalia Bogner	Nikki Hunt
Taylah Nikolic	Belinda Bowd
Liezl Briers	Valerie Schlester
Jennifer Green	Jasmine Venezia
Pauline Drew	Kerry Alderton
Dianne Williams	Tarryn Marshall
Sarah Doyle	

4. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES FROM 2018 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 20TH JANUARY 2018

Motion: That the Minutes from the previous AGM be accepted.

Moved: Carol Laidlaw

Seconded: Vanessa Smith

Carried



5. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Members, ladies and gentlemen

2018 was an interesting year for VERA.

We had a number of resignations not the being the resignation of Alam Dastani, our President, to attempt a political career in NSW. Be assured that Linda and Paul have provided us with 1000 points of Identification, so that we know exactly where they live.

While I took over as President, Sheryl Symes and Jane McLaughlin took over as Secretary and Treasurer. Both did an admirable job for us.

We had another loss from the Committee that was rather more serious. The death of our friend and role model Tamara Atkinson. She had battled the scourge of breast cancer for ten years. She had so much to teach us about endurance in all its forms. We again wish Darryl comfort and support at this impossibly painful time.

Tamara successfully completed the Tassie Quilty just six weeks before she left us. This was her 8th buckle and she was part of our winning team. One of the things I have done since I became acting President was to deliver our tribute to her at her funeral. This was written by Sioux Reid and Jen Green. Thank you for your efforts. It was an honour to deliver your words. Six women spoke for her at that funeral. Three of us have so far survived breast cancer. An interesting statistic. I ask you now to remember what you know of Tamara as we offer a minute's silence to her. Thank you, Tamara, we will miss you.

I would like the members of our successful Quilty team to please stand. Congratulations. Well done

We had many successful rides this year. Thank you to our Ride Organisers. Without them we have no sport, so they are precious. What riders may not know is the amount of paperwork required by Shires, the Department of ever-changing names, VicRoads and all the others that I don't know about. Then there are the markers to go up. Ask our Legend, Julie Woods and she will tell you how the riders would go out and mark the course when they arrived at the base. How would that go down now? Then all those markers have to be taken down. Remember that as you drive out the gate.

Then there are other people we rely on, our Volunteers. The Check Points, our water boys like Paul, the pencillers and others in the Vet ring, around the camp and the track. Sitting in the fog at 02:00 at 3 degrees to make sure people cross on to the bitumen is really great fun. Remember to acknowledge these volunteers, many of whom have no connection to any rider. Because without them you have no ride. Can we hear it please for our Ride Organisers and Volunteers?

Over the years I have found that many riders are really quite ignorant of what we do as volunteers. Speaking as Carol Laidlaw (volunteer), not a member of the Committee, I would like to see riders working at rides as volunteers at times when they are not able to ride. You will meet great people and see a different side of what a ride is all about.



Remember, if you have a problem at a ride, know the rules. Speak to the Chief Steward, contact the Committee as per the procedures. There are procedures. Look them up. Know your rights but know your responsibilities.

There have been a number of difficult situations that have arisen over the year and some have been personal but have moved into sport for resolution. If you are not getting on with someone stay away from them. If you are looking for a problem, you will find it.

The SMC is not there to fight someone else's fight, it is there to get things for the members. So, thank you to the Committee members for your patience, stress survival and hard work for our sport.

If you are potentially joining the Committee, establish a separate email address for VERA. There are lots of emails.

Finally, VERA is facing a mighty challenge. That is the possibility of the Government banning our use of the parks we need. The Government has a huge majority and where that has been the case before there has been a frightening freedom to do what they liked. We have to keep campaigning to maintain our rights to these places or our sport is dead. The SMC has to continue to campaign and so do you.

I hope 2019 is a great one for VERA and for all of you
Thank you
Carol Laidlaw
Acting President 2018

6. TREASURER'S REPORT

As per attached report. In addition, Jane presented the amended Ride Fee structure adopted by the Committee. This structure recognises the financial burden placed on Ride Organisers when small numbers of entries are received and lessens the payment of fees to VERA in these circumstances.

Jane also introduced a proposal for the use of Yellow and Red cards to be used when riders displayed unacceptable behaviour at events. This proposal will be considered by the SMC.

Motion: That the Treasurer's report be received.

Moved: Jane McLaughlin

Seconded: Lyn Taylor

Carried

7. ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO VACANT POSITIONS

7.1 Voting Method

Motion: That voting be by secret ballot.

Moved: Simon Thomas

Seconded: Sandy Little

Carried



Result: As no other nominations were forthcoming Ellen duly elected to the position for the following 2 years.

Treasurer:

Two Nominations were received for the position of Treasurer – Kerrie Gabb and Damien Little. Both candidates introduced themselves and gave a short speech.

Kerrie Gabb

Nominated by Alex Enticknap

Seconded by Brittnee D’Hont

Damien Little

Nominated by Shannon Decker

Seconded by Kasey Thomas

Result: Kerrie Gabb was elected as Treasurer for the following 2 years.

7.5 Election of Ordinary Committee:

Four Committee positions are available. The nominations received were:

Carol Laidlaw

Nominated by Ellen Prestage

Seconded by Geoff Jolly

Alex Enticknap:

Nominated by Brittnee D’Hont

Seconded by Kerrie Gabb

Damien Little:

Nominated by Nicole Porter

Seconded by Lois Sharam

Michael Milne

Nominated by Matthew Milne

Seconded by Shanna Milne

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

It was later determined that an extra vacancy was available as Ellen Prestage had vacated her Committee position when she was elected as Secretary. Nominations were called from the floor to fill the position, but no nominations were received.

7.6 Appointment of Disciplinary Panel

Nominations were called from the floor to fill the 5 positions available on the Disciplinary Panel.

Carl Adamson

Nominated by Simon Thomas

Seconded by Ellen Prestage

Kim Noble

Nominated by Steve Noble

Seconded by Carl Adamson

Jane McLaughlin

Nominated by Sarah McLaughlan

Seconded by Rebecca Williamson

Rebecca Williamson

Nominated by Paul Nugent

Seconded by Simon Thomas

Marty Bryson

Nominated by Sandy Little

Seconded by Paul Nugent



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

7.7 Appointment of Grievance Officer

Nominations were called from the floor to fill the position of Grievance Officer.

Caroline Noble

Nominated by Sallyann Duke

Nomination declined

Russell Gillingham

Nominated by Digger Leehane

Seconded by Tania Beecham

Result: As the number of nominations received did not exceed the number of positions available the nomination of Russell Gillingham was accepted.

The President welcomed the new committee members and thanked the remaining members for their continuing support of VERA.

8. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

8.1 Rides Running under VERA Incorporation

Motion: That all rides run be run under VERA Inc.so removing the financial burden from Ride Organisers (unless they specifically want to run the ride for charity e.g. Moyston)

Moved: Caroline Noble

Seconded: Kendall Noble

Motion Lost

Although this motion was lost, the membership felt that there was some merit in discussing ways in assistance can be provided to better support ride organisers. The members wished the SMC to put together a package to help ride organisers. This will be discussed further at the SMC meetings

8.2 Electronic Timing System

Motion: That VERA Inc. purchase the Electric Timing System from AERA prior to the VERA State Championships 2019 at a total cost of \$10,978.00 (Including GST)

Moved: Bronwyn Cuthbertson

Seconded: Sandy Little

Motion Disallowed due to existence of previous motions that need to be rescinded

After much discussion the majority of members present agreed that the concept of the system is good but there are still questions that need answers, such as:

- Who will be responsible for the equipment?
- Where will it be stored when not in use?
- Who transports the equipment to rides?
- What back up support is in place?



- Will ROs be liable for breakages not necessarily their fault, i.e. equipment arrives and is already damaged?

At this point in time the cost outweighs the number of Ride Organisers who would be prepared to use it. A suggestion was provided that the equipment be hired for this year's State Championship ride as that ride is the only 160k ride on the Victorian Calendar so far this year.

A straw poll was taken with a very slight majority of members indicating they were not in favour of purchasing the Electronic System.

The SMC will look into the purchase further and provide feedback to members when the above questions have been addressed.

8.3 Membership Categories

Item for discussion proposed by Paul Nugent and seconded by Rebecca Williamson. That either Associated Members be provided with voting rights or a new membership category be created for non-riding members to have voting rights

There is no provision in the current VERA Constitution to allow Associate Members to vote. This would need to be put to the next AGM as a motion to change the constitution. Upon discussion this issue resolved into how we can better support our volunteers who currently pay full membership.

The SMC will look at ways of providing some financial benefits to volunteers to reduce the cost of membership.

8.4 AERA Constitution

A brief explanation was provided of the changes contained in the draft AERA Constitution. The change in the management structure and the imposition of a cap on the smaller states was raised as a sticking point for members. It was felt that all states should have the same level of representation at the Management Committee table.

9. Other General Business

Items of general business from the floor were called.

Vanessa Smith put forward a proposal that 1st, 2nd and 3rd placings for intermediate rides should be acknowledged. These riders would still retain their completion award, but novice ride speeds and heart rates would still be applied to ensure horse welfare remained foremost.

The rationale for this suggestion is that many people these days do not have enough time to train horses for 80km competitive events. Prizes could be a simple ribbon and would not be at the same level as those for the competitive events. Best Conditioned events would not be appropriate given there are no weight divisions in intermediate rides.



This is currently being done in America and Vanessa believed it encourages competitive sportsmanship and a desire to achieve more at a 40km level. It was also thought that it may encourage riders to increase their competition distance over time with more experience and confidence gained at a 40km level.

The Committee will look further into this suggestion as the current rules do not support competitive intermediate rides.

10. Meeting Close

The meeting closed at 1:05 pm.



APPENDIX 1 – ATTENDEES

ADAMSON	CARL
ARMISTEAD	JENNIE
BEACHAM	TANYA
BELLHOUSE	AMY
BRIERS	LIEZL
BROWNE	CHRIS
BRYSON	MARTY
BRYSON	PAUL
CUTHBERTSON	BRONWYN
DECKER	SHANNON
D'HONDT	BRITTNEE
DUKE	SALLYANN
ELLERTON	DANNY
ENTICKNAP	ALEX
FARRELL	PETER
FEIL	SANDRA
GABB	KERRIE
GABB	MARK
GILLINGHAM	RUSSELL
HENRY	RENEE
HORVATEK	SHANNAN
JARMAN	JEFFRY
LIDLAW	CAROL
LEEANE	DIANNE
LEEANE	DIGGER
LITTLE	ALEXANDER
LITTLE	DAMIEN
MCLAUGHLIN	JANE
MCLAUGHLIN	SARAH
MILNE	MICHAEL
MIZZI	MARTIN
NISBET	TAMMY
NOBLE	CAROLINE
NOBLE	KENDALL
NOBLE	KIM
NOBLE	SAMANTHA
NOBLE	STEVEN
NUGENT	PAUL
PEUKER	HANS
PORTER	NICOLE
PRESTAGE	ELLEN
REES	CALEY
REID	SIOUX
ROBINSON	APRIL
ROBINSON	RUSSELL
SHARAM	LOIS
SMITH	VANESSA



STEFANI
STOMPS
TANIAN
TAYLOR
THOMAS
THOMAS
WILLIAMSON
WOODS
WORDEN

FLEUR
CHRISTINE
LINDA
LYNETTE
SIMON
KASEY
REBECCA
JULIE
LISA