

VICTORIAN ENDURANCE RIDERS' ASSOCIATION INC.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

11.00 AM SATURDAY 18TH JANUARY 2025

VICTORIA HOTEL, WOODEND

MINUTES

WELCOME - 11AM

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

Please see attached.

APOLOGIES

Trish Van Donk. Renee Henry. Sheree Court. Ellen Prestage.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS AGM – 20TH JANUARY 2024

Amendments to the Minutes: None

Adoption of the Minutes

Motion (1) Jan 25 AGM The minutes from the meeting of the 20th January, 2024 be adopted.

Moved: Helen Spencer

Seconded: Bek Williamson

Carried: Yes

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Good morning everyone,

What a great year 2024 was for endurance in Victoria.

I would like to thank all our committee members for their efforts this year. As always the committee have been very busy behind the scenes, the new ride trailers are up and running, continued work on incentives for ride organisers, we have been looking at way to improve membership as well as many other things.

I would next like to say a huge thank you to all of our wonderful registrars who work hard behind the scenes:

Bronwyn Cuthbertson – Logbooks

Wendy Riha - Memberships

Rebecca Williamson - Point Score

Kasey Thomas - Grievance

Mark Gabb - Webmaster

Jennifer Green Social Media

Sioux Reid – AERA Delegate

Narelle Cribb - Honorary Vet

Helen Spencer - Honorary vet

Kerrie Gabb - Bookkeeper

A huge thankyou to the ride organisers for 2024, 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 to you also.

I would like to congratulate those who travelled to South Australia to attend the Quilty, a massive effort, well done.

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.

By all working together we can keep Victorian Endurance going for many years to come, We just can't keep leaving it up to the same people to do everything.

Finally I would like to wish everyone a wonderful and successful 2025 season, kicking off in a few of weeks at Eldorado.

Hope to see you all soon.

Paul Nugent

President

VERA

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 1/10/2023 to 30/9/2024, and not as per a calendar year like our memberships).

- A. The following Incomes and expenses vary greatly depending on how many rides are held each year and how many members we have, you will notice they bounce around a lot year to year:
 - Logbook fees Income
 - Membership fees Income
 - Ride fees Income
 - All AERA fees

- B. AGM meals income – Decreased, this will be due to fewer members present at the presentations.

- C. Merchandise income & expenses, this will be constantly changing depending on the demand for merch

- D. Sponsorship, decreased as a smaller donation was made to the TQ

- E. Tom Quilty Competition expenses, decreased as some expenses have fallen into the 2025 financial year.

- F. Venue hire has increased, as the SMC are now doing a small amount of face to face meetings.

- G. Swabbing fees decreased as all the invoices for swabbing have come in the 2025 financial year.

- H. Legal and Professional fees increased, due to the change in the constitution, therefore needing to pay CAV for this.

- I. The term deposit #1 was closed as the funds were used for the trailers.

With AERA increasing their fees to VERA for the 2025 riding year, VERA will be increasing membership fees, all fees RO's, horses and day members will remain the same.

The trailers are still awaiting sponsorship on them.

With rides on the calendar for 2025, I hope everyone enjoys their year.

Kerrie Gabb - Bookkeeper

Motion No: (2) Jan 25 AGM That the treasurers report be received.

Moved: Kerrie Gabb

Seconded: Kasey Thomas

Carried: Yes

Many thanks to Sheree Bishop for being treasurer who has stepped down this year.

Motion No: (3) Kerrie Gabb is thanked for her work with VERA

Moved: Sandy Little

Seconded: Paul Nugent

ELECTIONS

Appointment of Scrutineers (2)

Nominations will be sought from the floor for 2 members to act as scrutineers in the collection and counting of votes for positions.

Scrutineers: Bek Williamson. Mezcal Manners

Stand Down of 2024 SMC Members at end of Term

Sandy Little chaired this part of the meeting.

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

- Paul Nugent – President
- Shannon Decker – Vice President
- Sheree Bishop - Treasurer
- Donna Nicholas – Secretary
- Sioux Reid - General Committee

- Russell Gillingham - General Committee
- Simon Thomas – General Committee
- Shannon Decker - General Committee
- Nicole Porter – General Committee
- Sandy Little – Resigned
- Damien Little – Resigned

President

Member	Proposer	Second
Paul Nugent	Rebecca Williamson	Shannon Decker

Vice President

Member	Proposer	Second
Shannon Decker	Nicole Porter	Donna Nicholas

Secretary

Member	Proposer	Second
Donna Nicholas	Donna Nicholas	Sioux Reid

There was discussion regarding whether a member could nominate themselves. There is nothing in the VERA Constitution that reads that you cant.

Treasurer

Member	Proposer	Second
Helen Spencer	Bronwyn Cuthbertson	Rebecca Williamson

There were no nominations received prior to the meeting to nominations were taken from the floor. One nomination was received for Treasurer.

STATE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

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

Our 2025 State Management General Committee as follows:

Member	Proposer	Second
Simon Thomas	Kasey Thomas	Donna Nicholas
Donna Nicholas	Donna Nicholas	Sioux Reid
Sioux Reid	Sioux Reid	Donna Nicholas
Nicole Porter	Kerrie Gabb	Sioux Reid
Shannon Decker	Nicole Porter	Donna Nicholas
Virginia Reichenbach	Nicole Porter	Shannon Decker
Erin Steinbacher	Kerrie Gabb	Sioux Reid
Paul Nugent	Rebecca Williamson	Shannon Decker
Angela Lea	Angela Lea	Paul Nugent

Disciplinary Panel

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

Nikki Robins, Mezcal Manners, Jane McLaughlin, Bek Williamson, Linda Walkingshaw.

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.

Kasey Thomas

Sioux Reid talked about AERA having an Independent Disciplinary Panel (IDP). More information regarding this will be coming from AERA in the near future.

MOTIONS: None

SPECIAL RESOLUTION: None

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

10.1 AERA Rule Changes for 2024.

Re: Temperature Log latest.

These are readily available on the AERA Website.

Paul Nugent read out the rule and wording changes to the members of the meeting. Rules changes are on the AERA website. Everyone was encouraged to make themselves familiar with them.

10.2 Membership and Quilty Funds.

Could the SMC please provide their plans for improving membership levels within our sport for the 2025 year?

In 2025 there are a few initiatives being implemented such as training days, access to mentors for newcomers, more facebook coverage on different sites. Asking members to becoming actively involved in our sport.

New Sub Committee to help new riders do Heart rates, Vet ring procedures etc at the rides. They will be going around asking who is new and who would like some assistance also running talks to all members who would like to come.

An updated website is in the process. 40 second videos of what happens at an endurance ride, such as Checkpoints, Vet runs, Registering, Pre Ride etc.

Ride Calendar up by October the year before to give members a chance to plan their rides.

Flyers to go out on noticeboards, will be asking members to assist with this to get the message out far and wide.

More communication to members through website and facebook.

One member thought that Endurance was not a well known sport and we need to raise our profile by getting in touch with other horse groups.

AERA will also be helping to raise Endurances profile by advertising in Horse Deals, RM Williams, Studs & Stallions with large publications. Pony clubs etc.

Another suggestion was advertising Ride Calendar in Magazines.

Equestrian Australia – FEI are working with AERA to be fully recognised as without it there are no grants/funding available. AERA will be working on a Brand New Panel to get Endurance recognised with EA. This is already on 2025 Agenda.

Our webmaster suggested advertising on facebook and talked about Algorithms to generate more traffic for Ride Organisers. Also getting people involved in local communities.

What does the SMC intend to do with the funds provided by the Quilty Committee, which were earmarked for running introduction to endurance type events?

The money will as intended will be used for running weekend training rides. There is someone interested in running this and we are looking at ride dates.

Boot Camp Sub Committee

Question : Do people use their own horses.

VERA will be using experienced horses for demonstrations such as Temperature checks and heart rates. Explanation of markers, and running a 10km ride explaining the track, markers, etc.

10.3 To discuss the Ride Calendar Policy in particular the Dual Affiliation section.

There was a lot of discussion and questions asked to the members included does VERA still want to Dual Affiliate. The feedback was definitely yes as long as the dual affiliated ride is not within 2 weeks of a Victorian Ride.

Distance from the border: Member feedback was 150kms.

Question: Do you want to Dual Affiliate 2 rides if there is not a ride in Victoria.

Response was yes as long as Victorian Rides have priority. So e.g. If VERA has already got a dual affiliated ride on the Calendar and a Victorian Ride Organiser wants to run a ride on that weekend. The Dual Affiliated ride will be rescinded.

10.4 To discuss implementing the “Big 3” in Victorian Endurance.

Would like to propose that VERA implement the “Big 3” to be determined at the commencement of each calendar year. 2 of 3 **MUST** be Tom Quilty or Victorian State Championships the 3rd to be either marathon or another 160km event.

This VERA initiative was very well received and there will be information coming through on this in the near future.

Discussion included: 1 horse/1 rider. To include Quilty, State Champs, Marathon, 160km events. Kms over 900 for the year and no vetouts.

This prize would be open to everyone with prizes being suggested such as rugs, buckle etc.

Sioux Reid – AERA – Discussion Re: Pre ride weigh in

Removing the pre ride weigh in with the understanding that the scales would be available at the ride secretary office for people to check their weight. If they then wish to change their division pre ride they could do so.

They would still be weighed except juniors at the end of the ride. There was concerns that someone could ride in a lighter saddle in the earlier legs then swap to their pre ride saddle for the last leg.

The response from the members was they were happy to not have the pre ride weigh in. Random weigh in could occur at the end of any leg and any division should the head vet or chief steward require it.

This information will be taken back to AERA.

MEETING CLOSURE: 12.55pm