



Australian Endurance Riders Association Inc.

Meeting notes of the General Meeting of Members

Date: 21st & 22nd March 2015.

Venue: Ciloms Airport Lodge, 398 Melrose Drive, Tullamarine, Melbourne, Victoria.

MEETING NOTES

Meeting commenced:
Saturday - 9.25am to 6.45pm.
Sunday - 8.30am to 3.30pm.

1. Welcome by President.

2. Members Present.

2.1 Apologies. Michael Shaw and Sioux Reid.

2.2 AERA Delegates Present. Melanie Scott (SA), Janne Harris (SA), Ieva Peters (WA), Deb Jewell (WA), Steve Swan (Qld), Gerard Bou (Qld), Brad Dillon (NSW), Roy Barsby (NSW), Simon Bain (NSW), Tamara Atkinson (Vic), Pat Hodgetts (Tas), Trent Huxtable (Tas).

2.3. Visitors. Neil Clarkson (Saturday).

3. Proxy Votes. Sandy Little on behalf of Sioux Reed.

4. Portfolio Allocations.

- **Liaison - AERA Webmaster / Chat-Line** (Ieva Peters and Dorte Colje).
One application received from Brad Dillon. Brad declared a conflict of interest. We are paying a lot of money for the website to store data that no one can access. Brad would like to simplify it. We need to start from scratch. Honorarium in the past was \$210 per month. Brad reckons about \$120 per month for maintenance and building the website. Brad already has the software available.

Motion: 2015/03/01. Moved Pat Hodgetts/Sandy Little.
That the AERA accept Brad Dillon's application for the position of the AERA webmaster. Honorarium is \$120 per month, plus expenses. Term is for 12 months.
Carried.

5. Registration of Votes.

	Votes	Adult & Junior Riding Membership				
Division	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010
New South Wales	5	471	478	505	524	575
Queensland	6	535 537	548	565	566	599
South Australia	1	65 68	67	71	77	79
Tasmania	3	249 253	204	229	224	223
Victoria	2	189 194	167	207	209	186
Western Australia	2	179 184	151	153	156	189
	19	1688	1615	1730	1756	1851

There appears to be a discrepancy in the numbers. We should be including life members and non-riding members. Basically, anybody who has a vote. Each state has their own constitution and their voting rights. Steve will have a look at this. Presently, it doesn't make any difference.

6. Matters Arising from the Minutes (from Action Sheet).

- National Ride Calendar: States to ensure that AeraSpace is kept up to date. One person from each state needs to keep things up to date.
- CS, TPRs & Vets: National lists on AeraSpace and kept up to date. Dorte doesn't see the need for the cards to continue, because they should go into AeraSpace. AeraSpace must be kept up to date for the volunteers and officials. Ieva to write to the states and remind them to update the lists in AeraSpace.
- Social Media Policy: Tom has referred to it in the new rule book draft. It is on the wip site.
- Vetting DVD: G is working with Luke and is trying to organise some filming to be done. Starting from scratch.
- NVP: Create the list of treatments and send it to the NVP and the states. Do we need to create a list of treatment vets? Do we need an accreditation procedure? Treating endurance horses is a specialized procedure. Needs to come from the NVP. Grandfather list would be a good start.
- NVP: NVP to draft a motion for consistency – vet score. Presently D for anything, means a D overall. Ongoing. Rules subcommittee has also been discussing this. Has been sent to some vets.
- Biosecurity: Biosecurity protocols – need a common document to share with the states. We cannot have a one plan fits all for each state. We should be thinking about looking at this from a workplace health and safety perspective.
- Chief Stewards: CS vests were sent to Jackie for repairs and updates. They will be sent to Dorte and used for the new CS.
- 2015 AERA Awards: Tom and Steve have generated a list which includes over 10,000km for riders. Three over 30,000 and about six over 25k. 140 all up that are over 10,000km. Lifetime Rider Awards: categories available are 10,000, 15k, 20k, 25k, 30k, 35k. Not being applied for, but being given by the AERA according to AeraSpace. 10k and 15k – scroll. States present this on behalf of the AERA at their annual awards. 20k, 25k and 30k (legends) – presented at the Quilty as part of the AERA awards. Honour board on the web.

7. Treasurer's Report.

Steve went through the budget. Roy would like to see more money allocated into increasing the membership. National Registrar: is still a topic that is open for discussion. Agenda item: budget variables for the July agenda 2015.

Motion: 2015/03/04. Moved Steve Swan/Deb Jewell.

That all previous motions regarding the recovery of meeting costs are rescinded, effective immediately. Carried.

Motion: 2015/03/05. Moved Steve Swan/Simon Bain.

That the AERA meeting costs are fully recovered from the State Divisions on a pro-rata basis. Vic – yes, Tas – yes, SA – yes, WA – yes, NSW – yes, Qld – yes. Carried.

Huge vote of thanks to Tom McCormack for all of his hard work putting the budget together. Executive needs to keep in mind our budget requirements. Cash Disbursements, Ageing Debtors, P and L, Ageing Creditors and Balance sheet was tabled.

Motion: 2015/03/06. Moved Steve Swan/Simon Bain.

That the Treasurer's report is accepted. Carried.

8. Portfolio Reports.

8.1 AERA Registrar Report.

Registrar's job description needs to be done. Mel will do this in conjunction with Jo Bailey.

AERA Awards: Jan suggested:

- 10,000 to 19,999km – Bronze Award (Scroll)
- 20,000 to 24,999 – Silver Award (Framed scroll and \$50 prize)
- 25,000 to 29,999 – Gold Award (framed scroll and \$75 prize)
- 30,000 and above – Platinum Enduring Legends (Framed Scroll and \$100 prize).

8.2 Webmaster Report.

Letter of thanks has been sent to Elaine Williams. One application received from Brad Dillon. Brad was appointed the AERA Webmaster..

8.3 National Veterinary Panel. Terms of Reference.

State vets go onto the national vet panel. Terms of Reference probably needs to be reviewed and possibly modernised. Send it to the State vets for comment. Pat will do this.

8.4 Equestrian Australia Endurance Committee.

Letters from the FEI were tabled – 12th March and 17th March 2015.

Tom and Pat have done quite a bit of work in keeping thorough and accurate records of horse deaths and invasive treatments. Pat agreed that we need a complete history of the invasive treatments etc. We need to identify the issues regarding horse illness and death, find out why it happened, and share this information. Spread sheets that Tom and Pat have created have been distributed.

Pat and Deb Grull to create an article about how to spot problems early with your horse, to avoid metabolic collapse. Would be good to get the last two years inputted into the spreadsheet prior to the next AERA meeting.

Letter from QERA 7/3/14 was tabled. Ieva talked about the situation with the FEI – this is an unprecedented action by the FEI. The concerns regarding the fabrication of ride results and horse deaths, particularly the pictures of SC Bundy that went global. Puts endurance as a whole sport into a very poor light, which effects all of us internationally. UAE riders that have already entered the Quilty were discussed. The Quilty is an AERA event over which we have jurisdiction. FEI database can be used to identify UAE riders. The letter from the FEI is quite clear:

Athlete's Participation:

3. Emirati athletes are permitted to participate in National Events organised by other NFs (National Federations) in all disciplines, except the discipline of Endurance.

Motion: 2015/03/07. Moved: Steve Swan/Pat Hodgetts.

That UAE nationals who were members of an AUS division in 2014 and prior to the suspension of the UAE from the FEI (prior to 12th March 2015), may continue to compete in Australia, until further notice.

Vic – yes, Tas – yes, SA – no, WA – no, NSW – yes, Qld – no. Motion is lost.

Motion: 2015/03/08. Moved: Ieva Peters/Deb Jewell.

That AERA supports the FEI statement of 17th March 2015 that Emirati athletes are not permitted to enter Australian affiliated endurance events until further notice.

Qld – yes, NSW - abstain, WA – yes, SA – yes, Tas – abstain, Vic – yes. Motion is passed.

QERA's letter:

That, in the light of the ongoing horse welfare issues in the UAE, the AERA:

- 1. requests that EA writes directly to the FEI supporting their decision to suspend FEI rides in the UAE and requesting that this suspension be extended indefinitely until a thorough review of endurance events in the UAE has been conducted by the FEI and an appropriate standard of horse welfare can be guaranteed.*

Action: AERA will write to EA and support the FEI regarding the UAE suspension in their investigation regarding this matter.

- 2. Writes directly to all other FEI member countries which participate in endurance requesting their support with these measures, and their support for a boycott of all endurance events in the UAE including the WEC should the FEI fail to act on point 1.*

Action: The FEI have already written to all of the National Federations. That AERA to publicly state the support of the removal of the WEC from Dubai. In the current environment we are very concerned with this, but will support whatever decision the FEI makes.

- 3. Passes a by-law whereby all Divisions are directed not to affiliate any Australian endurance event which has been endorsed or sponsored by any group, party, business or individual from the UAE.*

Action: If the FEI lifts the suspension we will let the rest of the delegates know and seek their input about putting up a statement. This table supports positive action. We can repost any FEI statement on FB and website. Can also send information to EA and ask them to support the FEI stance. Sponsorship of FEI events in AUS. There are two FEI events in Australian plus at least one AERA event that is sponsored in Queensland that we believe is funded by UAE entities.

Motion: 2015/03/09. Moved Steve Swan/Ieva Peters.

All State Divisions are directed not to affiliate any Australian endurance event which has been endorsed or sponsored by any group, party, business or individual from the UAE.

Vic – no, Tas – no, SA – no, WA – yes, NSW – no, Qld – yes. Motion was lost.

A group in NSW are sponsoring the Quilty and an FEI event in NSW, and it's believed to be funded from the UAE. Two AUS FEI events coming up are sponsored by a UAE flat racing company. A ride organiser/club should be able to take money from whoever they choose. Could we just do something about the naming rights? It's hypocritical to not allow UAE riders to ride here, and then on the other hand take their money. Unfortunately, due to the costs of FEI events, event organisers should be able to source funds wherever possible. If for some reason the FEI sees the UAE has offered money for sponsorship and then refuse to accept the schedule/event, then we support that decision. Therefore we are not being hypocritical, unless the FEI says the UAE cannot sponsor. Where do we draw the line?

FEI Ride Calendar

Red Range just appeared on the NSWERA calendar, and the State Champs is held close to that event. Each state manages their own process, welcome to give us some guidelines. The ride organisers need to consult with the states when they are scheduling FEI rides. Late additions to the calendar need to consult with their SMCs.

Rule 815.3 Mandatory Rest for Horses

The AERA will not be investing any further funds to update AeraSpace for FEI mandatory rest periods. This is the responsibility of EA and the riders/persons responsible for the horses entering FEI events.

8.5 Chief Stewards and TPRs.

Dorte has about 100 TPR cards left and will use them until finished. After that, it will be managed by AeraSpace, and we won't need cards. All the TPR coordinators in the states need to keep AeraSpace up to date. Ride organisers need to ensure that all of their volunteers are in the db. Agreed to pay Dorte's EA membership so that she can continue her MCP duties.

Motion: 2015/03/10. Moved Steve Swan/Sandy Little.

That the AERA pay Dorte Colja's Equestrian Australia membership for 2015. Total: \$145.

Moved: Steve Swan/Sandy Little. Carried unanimously.

TPR Exam: Yes, to the changes. Brad to update the wip site and Dorte can distribute.

8.6 Veterinary Accreditation.

8.6.1 Veterinarians for Accreditation.

Motion: 2015/03/11. Moved Brad Dillon/Simon Bain.

That Khyle Stewart, Colleen Stewart and Fiona Jacob are accepted as AERA Accredited Veterinarians. Carried.

8.6.2 Treatment Veterinarians.

Grandfather list needs to be done. Luke and Brian to work on a format for accreditation. Pat will chase this up.

8.6.3 Vetting DVD.

Gerard and QERA are working on this.

8.7 Horse Welfare & Invasive Treatments.

Spread sheet is ongoing. National Invasive Treatment Summary document has been created and once it's finished it can go in newsletters, but probably not on the website. Finish this document and send it to the horse welfare officers in each state.

8.8 Medication Control.

Dorte has now received the EA resources for the refresher courses. Dorte can only do the courses for people that have already done the swab course. Need to clarify how these courses will be run: face-to-face, Skype? How long do they take? Materials? Etc. Dorte needs to let us know in a report each meeting the number of kits that she is sending to the states and how many are used, number of kits and which events.

2014 – 6 to QERA, 8 to SA, 8 to Vic, 14 to NSW, 10 to Tas, and 8 to WA.

8.9 AeraSpace.

EWS: on the anniversary of the penalty points, do you receive the minus points off your tally on the first anniversary or on subsequent anniversaries until your score gets back to zero. Currently it is deducted on every anniversary, not just the first one. In the new draft, it will be only once. Most horses reduce their points within 12-18 months. Those that don't probably shouldn't be competing.

Electronic Timing System: hardware is in transit to Tom's place. Tom will do some testing. We've changed the RFID card to an "active" one. We had to change the readers. The active ones, you can limit the distance in which they react. These can now do up to 6m. Won't be used at the Quilty this year. Steve and Peter will make a couple of changes (the most urgent ones) for the updates. Pull back on AeraSpace this year. Testing will be done at the next couple of rides on the timing system. SS would like to see on-line nominations done. SAERA uses "nominate.com". Brad, Steve and Peter to do some costings on on-line nominations through AeraSpace and the AERA website.

8.10 AERA Handbook/Rulebook.

Draft sent to delegates and SMCs for comment. First vote needed for July 2015 meeting. Next we put it out to the members. SMCs need to send feedback to Tom by Monday 13th April. Would be good to release it for public comment on 1st May. Trent was concerned that each rule change should be voted on individually. Sandy has found that the teleconferences have been very productive.

9. Tom Quilty Gold Cup.

9.1 2014, Wagin, Western Australia.

Audit has been completed and tabled. Sincere thanks to WAERA and the Quilty Committee for another fantastic event.

9.2 2015, Hawkesbury, New South Wales.

Neil Clarkson attended the meeting on Saturday 21st March 2015.

Leg 4 has changed slightly to make it easier. Bitumen road is used three times. Road will be closed and a mini bus will be used.

Starting procedure: rather than a mass start, we'd like to go back to the staging section. A large oval is available which can be used for 'penning'. People volunteer for which group they would start with. Their time starts at midnight. A mass start is just not practical. A 1.8km 'walk zone' will be enforced until they can get to Bicentennial Road. One UAE rider on the start list. Ieva will write to him.

Budget has been updated. Vets seem to be under control. On Course Vet: Dan Simms is not available.

Motion: 2015/03/12. Moved Brad Dillon/Janne Harris.

Motion: Dr Darien Feary is appointed as the On Course veterinarian for the Tom Quilty 2015 event.

Moved: Brad Dillon/Janne Harris. Carried.

Aon have advised that we don't sign any of the EVA letters/declarations which is a disclaimer. It seems to be gaining momentum in NSW. Mel would like to know what it is that they want. AERA will probably not be writing any kind of waiver. Simon is OK with the situation as it currently is in the southern parts of the state. Brad has had some problem with vets from northern NSW. Insurance clarification will be re-sent – Mel. They will require two Chief Stewards from each state. AERA pays for one, States to pay for the other. Biosecurity document is a work in progress. Mel has discussed lameness assessments with Robyn to ensure that all of the vets are on the same page. Internet access: being worked on. Should have reliable access. Finish: will be along the riverside. Steve to ask for a picture of the 50th Quilty buckles when they are finished. To go on the website. We have 139 plus the place getters. Electronic timing won't be happening. Cancellation Insurance: doesn't include Hendra. What is "flooding"? Mel to send Sandy the information. AHSA rug sponsorship for the TQ – Ieva and/or Kerry to sort this out with AHSA.

9.3 2015, TQ50th Celebration Committee.

Wooden stands for the display, roughly \$5,000.

Hall of Fame: Create a procedure for the Hall of Fame. Need a time frame. G will speak to Erica Williams (will verify first), and Neil to talk to Ron and Val Males. Tom Quilty should be on the list. Launch it this year and call for nominations for next year's Quilty.

The inaugural inductees for The Australian Endurance Hall of Fame 2015 are:

RM Williams, Erica Williams, Ron Males, Val Males, Prof David Hutchens, Tom Quilty, Marty Stevens
Kevin and Ron Rozzoli. The other suggested people will be short-listed for the following year.

Inductees:

- Inclusion on the Hall of Fame page on the AERA Website
- Inclusion in Quilty Year Book
- Framed certificate – to be presented at the AERA awards.

Ask Jo Bailey to make up the certificates. Brad will do something for the website. Ieva to do this for the Quilty year book.

Release it this year and nominations can be called in writing from interested person to include their nominated person on the AE Hall of Fame. Must be received by end of January each year, to be included in the AERA agenda in March. Must include a short resume.

9.4 2016, Victoria.

Sandy showed a lot of photos of the ride venue and parts of the course.

Given the communications that the AERA has had from a VERA member, Mel has had a chat with Simon, who assured her that due process had been followed. Southern Crosse has been advised that they weren't successful with their bid.

Quilty profits are equal to the amount of sponsorship that you can get. Working with Sports Central in Ballarat and they take a cut of any grants that they get. They can help the local events in obtaining funding.

One grant is up to \$300k for events returning to Victoria. This table needs to think that if we can swing this grant, we can work with this table and get some of the money back into establishing a national Quilty asset – like a ride trailer or a container with equipment for the Quilty. VERA would need to commit in writing to holding the event at the same state in another six years. Budget works on 250 entries with 65% completion rate. Buckle price is \$300 including GST. The vet ring needs some work and will be slightly different to what we've had in the past.

Mel and Ieva signed the Quilty Event Agreement with VERA for 2016. Ieva to send a copy to the TQ2016 committee.

9.5 2017 South Australia – Seppeltsfield.

Document and site plan sent separately. 120km ride will be held in the area. Need to find a ride base in the area as the present one is not adequate for a Quilty.

9.6 Pat Slater Cup.

Ieva to organise the sashes.

Judges: Quite often, the judges selected by the AERA may not be available to take part in the Pat Slater Cup due to conflict of interest, or they are not available at the time of judging. This can be a bit stressful – trying to find another judge at very short notice that meets the above criteria. Also, as the Head Vet is involved in the BC judging (and other matters presented during the course of the event), they can be a bit distracted and not be available for the entire duration of the PS judging. There are numerous amounts of people that do not hold a Quilty buckle and have not been an AERA delegate that have extensive knowledge and experience and are highly respected in the sport. Pat Slater didn't have a Quilty buckle, but was very experienced and well respected.

Motion: 2015/03/13. Moved Ieva Peters/Janne Harris.

Rescind the motion from the July 2004 AERA meeting regarding the selection of the judges of the Pat Slater Cup.

Carried.

Motion: 2015/03/14. Moved Ieva Peters/Pat Hodgetts.

That the winner of the Pat Slater Cup is to be decided by a panel of five persons appointed by the AERA Inc. The appointed judges must have an extensive knowledge of the sport. A member of the panel may have been a current participant, provided the horse is not eligible for consideration for this award and there is no perceived conflict of interest.

Carried

Qld absent.

AERA will appoint via email and in consultation with the TQ2015 Quilty committee.

9.6.1 Pat Slater Cup Judges 2015.

Need to be selected and advised.

9.7 Newbridge Trophy.

Currently resides at the AHSA. Brad has organised for it to be updated and repaired.

9.8 National Ride Standard.

When the current stocks have diminished, we order the black and white ones to assist those people affected with colour blindness. Steve can do this.

10. Rule Changes.**10.1 Rule Changes – Motions for Second Vote.****Ride and Tie Rules into the AERA Member's Handbook – Submitted by NSWERA.**

Defer to next meeting. Agenda July 2015.

10.2 Rule Changes – Motions for Discussion and First Vote.**10.2.1 Submitted by QERA:**

Motion - That rule H3 3.3 be changed from "A horse must be six years of age before it can start in a 160 kilometre AERA endurance event" to "A horse must be seven years of age before it can start in a 160 kilometre AERA endurance event".

Voting: Vic – no, Tas – no, SA – yes, WA – no, NSW- no, Qld – yes. Motion is lost.

10.2.2 Submitted by NSWERA.

Motion: That any resident living in the Northern Rivers Zone has the option to join either QERA or NSWERA.

From the March 2014 AERA meeting:

Motion 2014.03.17. Moved: Steve Swan/Marlee Turnbull.

That we form another constitution subcommittee to discuss and make a recommendation to the AERA constitution subcommittee for the new AERA constitution regarding the NRZ.

Voting: Tas – yes, Vic – yes, Qld – yes, WA – yes, NSW – yes, SA – yes. Carried.

Terms of Reference for AERA Northern Rivers Sub-Committee.

Preamble: this subcommittee has been established to explore options for membership and ride affiliation of endurance events in the Northern Rivers Zone in relation to the new AERA constitution.

Guidelines: To be comprised of two members from QERA and two members from NSWERA with an independent chair appointed by the AERA.

1. To be comprised of two members from QERA and two members from NSWERA with a chair appointed by AERA.
2. Determine the traditional geographical boundaries.
3. Establish the position of each of the states involved.
4. Research the preference of the Northern Rivers Zone Committee.
5. Research the preference of the members who reside within the geographical area.
6. Formulate some recommendations as to the future of the Northern Rivers area with a preferred option.
7. Communicate these findings with the AERA in time for the AERA July 2014 meeting agenda deadline.

10.2.3. Rule Change.**M2 MEMBERSHIP RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

2.1 Riding members pay their membership fee to the ~~Division or zone~~ State in which they are resident.

Moved: Ieva Peters/Simon Bain.

Is there a conflict of interest? NSW and Qld shouldn't vote.

Trent apologised for not doing a report for this meeting. We have had a teleconference and the passing of a lot of old information. To the best of Trent's research and the info provided, it has never been documented and ratified at the AERA table as a sectional zone of Qld. Qld have supported the NRZ committees over the years and have a historical connection there. (Qld have also taken affiliation as far away as Tasmania.) There is provision in the rules for the creation of zones, however, there is nothing in the constitution or rule book to create a zone inside another division's boundary. NRZ Inc. is no longer a functioning body and as far as the NSW government is concerned, they haven't been incorporated and active for several years. Terrain was another reason used to join Qld, as topographically, the mountain ranges start at the border. The mountain range divided the two states. The terrain argument doesn't hold credence any longer, as it is the same in both directions. Qld ran a survey of NRZ members, but didn't survey all the people in the area (NSW members living in the NRZ were left out). The survey could be interpreted as an attempt to circumvent any findings of the subcommittee. Trent has spoken to people from Qld and NSW and the common words that come up are 'bullied' and 'harassed'. They didn't want to put their names to any documents for that reason. Trent has spoken to 7-8 people. There doesn't appear to be any documentation available or historical records that would indicate that the NRZ was established and agreed to between Qld, NSW and the AERA. Defer to next meeting.

11 Correspondence.**Discussion items:****11.1 Correspondence received from the AHSA 31st July 2014:**

Is the below proposal in contravention of rule:

A2 AFFILIATED RIDE STANDARDS

2.3 The AERA Inc. does not allow prize money in AERA / FEI rides in Australia.

No cash please. Nothing to do with us as this is an AHSA award.

11.2 Correspondence received from the Krahn Family 16/11/14 regarding the purchase of the Pat Slater Cup.

We have enough parts for three PS cups to be made, plus the one in the box that G made, plus the original one at the AHSA. How much do we charge for the Cup? Exec to make a decision in between. In principle, we are OK for the Krahn's to purchase at cost recovery price.

Sell Matthew the Cup that he has and the box, we use the one at the AHSA as a perpetual (G can make the box up, will cost more than \$400), two spare ones in boxes – Dick to look after them.

Quilty 2015: use the Cup at the AHSA as a perpetual, G will make a box, order another bronze for the TQ2015. Brad and G will sort out getting the box made.

Brad will organise the picture of the Newbridge Trophy.

11.3 Correspondence from QERA re: new Rider Levy.

Rationale required. Steve to do this.

12. General Business.**12.1 National Magazine.**

Need Qld to update the figures to be more realistic for the sponsorship. Bring another budget to the next meeting.

12.2 Ownership Labels (from the July minutes).

Do we need an ownership label? Who cares who owns the horse? Would need to have a rule to enforce the ownership label. Refer it to the Rule Book subcommittee for discussion.

13. Meeting Dates 2015.

18-19 July 2015. (Mel possibly cannot make this meeting and sends apologies in advance.)

21-22 November 2015.

Meeting closed: 3.30pm.