



Australian Endurance Riders Association Inc.

Meeting Notes of the General Meeting of Members

Date: 19th & 20th November 2016.

Venue: Ciloms Airport Lodge, 398 Melrose Drive, Tullamarine, Melbourne, Victoria commencing at 8.30am.

Meeting commenced:

Saturday – 8.30am to 6.45pm.

Sunday – 8.45am to 2.20pm.

1. **Welcome by President.**

Melanie thanked and welcomed everybody to the meeting. Sheryl Herbert will be attending to discuss the TQ16.

2. **Members Present.**

2.1 Apologies. Tamara Atkinson (Vic), Talea Hasko-Stewart (NSW), Jessica Aistrope (SA), Wendy Rand (Tas).

2.2 AERA Delegates Present. Melanie Scott (SA), Ieva Peters (WA), Deb Jewell (WA), Gerard Bou (Qld), Steve Swan (Qld), Kerry Spratt (NSW), Simon Bain (NSW), Alamdar Dastani (NSW – proxy), Pat Hodgetts (Tas), Sioux Reid (Vic), Sandy Little (Vic - proxy).

2.3 Visitors. Greg and Sheryl Herbert (1pm Saturday).

3. Proxy Votes. Sandy Little (Vic) on behalf of Tamara Atkinson, Alamdar Dastani (NSW) on behalf of Talea Hasko-Stewart.

4. **Registration of Votes.**

Adult & Junior Riding Membership (AeraSpace, 6/7/16).

	2013	2014	2015	2016	Votes
NSWERA	474	471	520	459	6
QERA	531	537	526	480	6
SAERA	68	59	62	73	1
TEERA	214	249	259	193	3
VERA	171	189	189	180	2
WAERA	141	187	190	170	2
Total	1,599	1,692	1,746	1,555	20

Table includes lifetime members.

Tasmania has a significant drop in membership, and has also experienced some very bad weather. Ride entry numbers are also down considerably.

5. **Previous Meeting Minutes.**

5.1 Amendments to Minutes of the General Meeting held on 16th & 17th July 2016.

Amendments to the July 2016 minutes:

- Page 2, Treatment Vets: should read “inexperienced” vet, not “experienced” vet.
- Page 8, Motion 11.3: Junior affiliation fee is plus GST, not including.
- Exec Decisions to be ratified: left off that Kerry Spratt was reimbursed around \$1,000 for purchases for the AERA awards (frames, clocks, etc.).

Motion: 2016/11/01. Moved: Simon Bain/Gerard Bou.
That the amended Minutes (as above) from the July 2016 AERA meeting are accepted.
Carried.

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

- Catastrophe: Pat Hodgetts has only recently received the paperwork from the Quilty.
- IVT Forms: Pat has all the TQ IVT forms. Pat needs to be kept updated with the IVTs to keep her statistics document updated. Simon has been keeping in touch with Bonny Riddle who is doing some research about tie-ups. The states have been requested to scan the forms into AeraSpace.
- Points & Distance Registrar: Still a lot of work to be done. Mel to ask Jo to do all the Quilties first.
- National Ride Standard: Steve to organise the sponsorship of 1,000 arrows and supply 500 to Sample for their rides and order 500 for our stock, to include the Sterling Endurance logo. Also include the AERA logo.

Motion: 2016/11/02. Moved: Steve Swan/Deb Jewell.
That: all of the arrow distribution expenses and fees are now paid to Greg Garred i.e. 20c per arrow.
Carried.

- Newbridge Trophy: Mel has organised for the trophy to be updated.
- Quilty Buckles: Mel has a sample of the Bob Berg buckles. Gerard has been looking into the technology to make the buckles and AERA to own this technology.
- TQ16 Victoria: Mel has checked with the insurer re: horses attending the event that are not competing. NMGW is not concerned
- Mandatory Rest Periods: Talked about at the Quilty meeting, but no motions. NVP to put up a proposition between the EWS and Rest Orders.
- Horse Welfare: Gerard has sent the QERA articles to Pat and waiting for her response. To go on website.
- Treatment Vets: Treatment document and list has been done and is on the AERA website.
- Facebook: Ieva has asked the states to send her stories and pictures. No response yet.
- EA Agreement: Ieva has sent copies of the old EA Agreements to Melanie.
- Rulebook: Copyright logo has been included.
- Child Protection Policy: QERA are getting a new one done now. Up to the State Divisions. Action items for the SMCs to make sure they have a child protection policy for their state.
- Horse Disease Response Levy: Mel has written back and thanked them for input and we are happy with the current regime.

7. President's Report.

I think it is time for AERA to focus on governance and think about a president who offers those skills. I do not intend to stay at the AERA table beyond 2017 and it is important to note my time will be even more precious next year as the Course Director for TQ17.

TQ16 has been run and won. Thank you to all from this table who assisted at the event and to the TQ16 committee. We will discuss some of the issues out of this year's Quilty elsewhere in the agenda. Highlights for me were the timing system. The low light was not being able to have live updates of Aeraspace during the event. Somehow AERA needs to take more ownership of the event and the expectations of the event are a very high professional level now, so can we leave it all to small local committees?

Hendra and biosecurity. I would like to suggest here the AERA table needs to take a stance on the expectations of its one event, the Tom Quilty in relation to these matters.

So some big picture stuff to do, the strategic plan and our risk management plan are both outdated, time to review, I will be sending them round to you all shortly after this meeting.

EA agreement – this has expired. By the time of the AERA meeting, I will have met with Paula Ward the CEO of EA

to discuss the terms of a new agreement.

Melanie Scott.

8. State Reports.

8.1 NSW Report.

NSW has had a change in president since the last AERA meeting. Greg Moore has resigned from the role of president due to work commitments. As Vice President, I was voted to take the position until the end of the year.

The Shahzada was a big success again this year. While numbers were down a little in the 400km Marathon (45 starters) there were 103 riders that tackled the mini marathon. We have been communicating with QLD and VIC in attempt to not have our State Championships clash as has happened in the past.

We are hosting a Chief Stewards workshop on the 26th and 27th of November with Gerard Bou from QLD representing AERA. We will have chief stewards from NSW and VIC in attendance.

Emily Streckfuss

8.2 Queensland Report.

Again Hendra issues dominate Qld with the release of the government's inquiry findings.

It is safe to say at this point that nothing has changed. Unless the government acts on the inquiries recommendations there will most likely be no change for ride clubs or our vets.

I am concerned for our ride clubs with this longer term. Clubs have been put in a difficult position and some may choose to cancel rather than run events. Having said that the calendar for next year at this stage is as full as it ever has been.

There are many positives from QERA since my last report and overall if we focus on the positives it has been a good year. We have had many new members join our association. We had a successful state champs run by a small club. The Quilty was well attended by Qld riders and their results were extremely good. Our junior squad has just returned from our 2nd USA visit and more are planned if we continue to be successful with securing sponsorships. We shall again be seeing NZ for junior events in 2017 but NZ have few juniors and would prefer to do FEI rides as competitions. QERA is in a very good position with our junior numbers.

Next Qld Quilty planning is moving ahead with Sterling Crossing hoping to hold the event. Their set up will be excellent by the time TQ rolls around and that shall be spoken about at the AERA meeting in depth I am sure.

*Gerard Bou
QERA President.*

8.3 Victorian Report.

It has been a busy time in Victoria since the last AERA meeting. Although the high rainfall tested us and made track conditions less than ideal Victoria successfully hosted the 2016 Tom Quilty.

Several rides have been cancelled with rain sodden venues given as the reason. These cancellations and other issues have prompted the SMC to look at how rides are affiliated and how the VERA ride calendar is set. As result the SMC has formulated a new strategy for the setting of the 2017 calendar. Thirteen ride dates at three week intervals were made available for ride organisers to submit an application to conduct a ride on those dates. Neighbouring Divisions were contacted in an attempt to minimise conflicting rides and promote dual affiliation. The rationale behind this strategy was to get all riding members to go to as many rides as they could. This would make rides more viable for ride organisers as they should be getting higher entries and better for members as they could plan their season with surety.

A VERA member has faced a disciplinary panel and had their membership suspended for three months and only to be allowed to compete as a novice for the following nine months. This penalty was also applied to all horses in the member's name.

Investigations are under way into another VERA member's conduct on social media and this member will face a disciplinary panel at a date to be fixed in the near future.

Media exposure for VERA has been enhanced as a result of reports on Julie Woods and Lois Sharam. Strong contacts have been made with the rural newspaper 'The Weekly Times' and the SMC plan to make as much of

this as we can.

As noted, Tamara Atkinson has resigned as the VERA delegate to the AERA. I would like to thank Tammy for her time and enthusiasm.

*Yours in endurance;
Sandy Little.*

8.4 Western Australian Report.

The 2016 ride calendar is almost over (or will be at the time of the last AERA meeting). It has been an extremely successful year for many riders and horses.

Frances Overhue and Poseidon Moon achieved their 10,000km's (a one horse/one rider combination), what an awesome achievement by this very popular combination...

At a SMC meeting in August a subcommittee for the WAERA 2020 TQ was formed. With 4 years to the event we have some exciting times ahead, choosing a venue and organising all that entails running a successful event.

A large group of WAERA members and horses travelled over to the VIC TQ experiencing some very trying weather conditions during the trip, and one unfortunate car not making the entire trip. Thumbs up to the WA Endurance family, the load was shared around and horse and rider made it safely to the TQ Base. The reward was a TQ finish and a lovely buckle...11 riders started and 4 finished, in what has been reported to be very tough conditions. Well done to all that had a go...

*Deb Jewell
WAERA Pres.*

8.5 Tasmanian Report.

The highlight of year has been the Tom Quilty Gold Cup win to our Tassie rider Debbie Grull and her horse Lauralyn Notorioius – bred by AERA and TEERA Life member Laurie Nicole and wife Lyn. A magnificent team and well deserved.

There were 32 Tasmanian horses at the Quilty event with 18 successful completions.

The downside of the endurance season has been the prolonged wet, cold and windy weather which had made training almost impossible. Many regular riders decided to turn their horse out rather than tackle the continual mud and brutal conditions that have been thrown at us since end of May.

Several rides were postponed and others cancelled. Ride entries are understandably down and Clubs are finding it hard to cover costs. The SMC has called a meeting with Clubs on 6th Nov to discuss financial matters including increasing ride entry fees to a recommended \$1/km. The ride calendar for 2017 and membership fees are also on the agenda for the meeting.

The TQ18 ride base is looking neat and tidy due to ongoing work by Graham Bucknell and his ground crew. Meeting to be held 12 Nov.

Pat Hodgetts

9. Treasurer's Report.

EA

We still haven't been invoiced for the final \$5,000 component of our affiliation agreement fees. EA have just changed personnel regarding AERA dealings, so are a bit behind, but I would expect to have to pay that as part of establishing the new agreement.

Insurance

We have paid most of our 2016 fees, with only the PA component for late memberships remaining, and there will be very few of those.

<i>PL</i>	<i>55,075.00</i>
<i>Association</i>	<i>2,653.10</i>
<i>PA – Volunteers</i>	<i>4,950.00</i>
<i>Business Pack</i>	<i>3,435.13</i>
<i>PA Members</i>	<i><u>47,202.40</u></i>

Total \$113,315.63

Discussion:

First four are fixed prices. PA members’ insurance depends on the members taking it up. We only pay for what is required. PL insurance – they don’t say how they arrive at the premium and don’t tell us how they will collect it. We charge a fee on ride entries which is \$3 plus GST from 2017 and the affiliation fee. Day membership fee also contributes to the premium.

Note: All these fees are fixed and indifferent to member numbers, except for PA Members, where we only pay what we raise. With the increases we approved at the last meeting, we should be OK for 2017.

Banking

We have spoken for a couple of years about AERA having a credit or debit card. The debit card would work by us having a new separate account that the card would be linked to. At any given time, a determined amount of money would be transferred from our working account, using 2 people to sign, into this account, when an expected expense was approaching, and then the card could be used by a single person to actually pay the bill. So I move:

Motion: 2016/11/04. Moved: Steve Swan/Alamdar Dastani.

That the AERA open a “one to sign” bank account for use with debit cards, that is funded by the working account that shall remain with two signatories.

Carried unanimously.

Meeting Costs

As requested at the July meeting – the latest costs of the President and Secretary to attend a meeting:

	Airfare	Accommodation	Total	
March meeting				
President	265	135.58	400.58	
Secretary	690	135.58	825.58	1226.16
July meeting				
President	259.05	178.64	437.69	
Secretary	773.64	178.64	952.28	1389.97

Currently AERA pays these. What I proposed at the last meeting was that these expenses be thrown into the same pot that is then paid by the divisions according to the current membership percentage of national total, which currently divides up according to the following:

NSWERA 29% QERA 31% SAERA 5% TEERA 13% VERA 11% WAERA 10%

The total above is \$2616.13, for a two meetings, so if we extrapolate that out for a year, 3 meetings, the annual costs is about \$3950. If we then divide that up by the above percentages, each division would pay, above what they already pay:

NSWERA	1145 per annum = 382 per meeting	VERA	435 per annum = 145 per meeting
QERA	1225 per annum = 408 per meeting	WAERA	395 per annum = 132 per meeting
SAERA	197 per annum = 66 per meeting		
TEERA	513 per annum = 171 per meeting		

Of course, this is just another way of AERA raising income, and I see it as an alternative to putting up other fees. So again, I move that

Motion: 2016/11/05. Moved: Steve Swan/Sandy Little.

All AERA meeting costs are combined before dividing that total on the normal pro rata basis for cost recovery from the divisions, beginning from the March 2017 meeting.

Vic yes, Tas yes, WA yes, SA yes, NSW yes, Qld yes. Carried unanimously.

Financial reports received.

Steve Swan & Debbie Edwards

**Motion: 2016/11/06. Moved: Steve Swan/Deb Jewell
That the Treasurer’s Report is accepted.
Carried.**

10. Honorariums.

Annual November meeting (minimum 2.5% or CPI) increase. Current CPI is 1.5%. All honorariums to rise by 2.5%.

Discussion:

Ieva declared a conflict of interest.

**Motion: 2016/11/07. Moved: Kerry Spratt/Deb Jewell.
From 1st January 2017 the AERA Secretariat’s honorarium will be \$600 per month.
Carried. Ieva abstained.**

**Motion: 2016/11/07. Moved: Pat Hodgetts/Sandy Little.
That the remaining honorariums are increased by 2.5%
Carried.**

Honorariums are as follows:

AERA Secretary / \$600 month AERA Distance Registrar / \$250 month
AERA Insurance Person / \$275.87 month AERA Aeraspace Person / \$125 month
Steve will advise the recipients.

11. National Membership/Ride Entry Statistics.

Source: AeraSpace, 3/11/2016

Division	Endurance	Training	Introductory	FEI	Total
NSWERA	1145	726	835	41	2747
QERA	1135	874	451	42	2502
SAERA	196	175	253	-	624
TEERA	427	307	89	-	823
VERA	570	274	123	-	967
WAERA	334	279	298	-	911
Totals	3807	2635	2049	83	8574

12. Portfolio Reports.

12.1 AERA Registrar Report.

Database

I have finished loading all results for 1995 and 1997 South Australia most of which were missing completely from the db. I am now working on missing data from email requests, 2000 NSW State Championships.

Rider Scrolls

Here is list of riders who have applied for 10,000km distance scrolls:

NSW

ANNETTS, Jenny
COLE, Peter

QLD

FELTHAM, Maureen
LENGRONNE, Marion

WA

CULLAM, Liz
OVERHEU, Frances

HASKO-STEWART, Fia
 HOWE, John
 KNIHINICKI, Rochelle
 LINDSAY, Helen
 LUKER, Dianne
 MAJOR, Carol
 MELLER, Fiona
 PHILLIPS, Daphne
 PLAYER, David
 PROUDFOOT, Kristen
 RUPRECHT, Sonya
 SYMONS, Shan

TAS
 JOHNSON, Heather
 RICHARDS, Ann
 SMITH, Trish

RADNY, Jane
 RADNY, Norbert

SA
 SMITH, Jody

VIC
 STANES, Rohan
 TANIAN, Linda

Could the SMC from each state please let me know when they would like to present these scrolls, riders are expecting them this year or at AGM early 2017 etc. Please allow time for printing and postage, the scroll will be sent unframed.

Jo Bailey
 Registrar – AERA

12.2 Insurance Report.

For the past 6 months I have been trying to organise for Newmarket Grandwest to provide us with an entry form/day membership form that would give coverage to those people in the event of a claim being made. I have told Kendel (My Newmarket Grandwest contact) that I would like her to provide the forms.

I ask that when it is time for renewal of Insurance for 2017 that specific direction is given for what is required regarding paperwork for our members and also day members.

I have also provided Newmarket Grandwest with reports from Aeraspace on Personal Accident payments from members. This involved liaising with all state registrars to correct any abnormalities that were showing in the system from errors in data entry. I believe now that we are up to date as at 30th September and it has been decided that the report will be done quarterly.

Sonya Ruprecht - AERA Insurance officer.

12.3 National Veterinary Panel.

12.3.1 NVP Quilty Meeting Minutes.

Meeting of the National Veterinary Panel 2016 Beaufort, Victoria.

Present: Narelle Cribb, Georgina Sheridan, Lidwien Verdegaal, Rebecca French, Jon Fearnley, Harry Ousley, Graeme Blanch, Simon Bain, Anne Barnes, Nick Page, Mike Tomlinson, Mike P.

1. Training of veterinarians for endurance. Discussion regarding training courses and methods, access, accreditation. It was felt that AERA needed to buy into the continuing education of endurance vets. Modelling training of AERA vets on the FEI training system may be possible but there remain difficulties. Further development of online and distance education courses would be useful.

*2. Rest periods: Rest orders and rest periods based on the FEI rules were previously developed and presented to AERA and the member states and not supported. The opposition to that appeared to be particularly against mandatory rest after successful completion
 Some people see it as a penalty against the rider rather than a therapeutic thing to do for the horse.*

3. Hendra vaccination: the continued engagement of state management committees and organising committees in developing biosecurity practices and policies to protect officials, riders and horses is welcomed. The recent government enquiry has highlighted areas for continued work, but again supports the practice that vaccination is recommended for horses from high risk Hendra areas. The national veterinary panel continues to maintain

the position that for endurance competitions, all horses from high risk Hendra areas, and all horses attending competitions in high risk Hendra areas, should have current vaccination against Hendra virus.

4. Quilty treatment hospital: Discussions since the recent Quilty have highlighted concerns regarding the cost of setting up and running an appropriately equipped and staffed onsite treatment facility, and questioned who should bear these costs. The costs include provision of drugs and equipment to administer fluid therapy and other treatments; the treatment vets may have to transport the supplies to the site, and may be left with the cost of drugs which cannot be returned to the supplier. There are also costs to provide diagnostic equipment. We request AERA to expand the Quilty agreement to cover in more detail the requirements for Quilty organisers to ensure an appropriately resourced and funded onsite treatment facility.

5. Fees: in line with the previously agreed annual increase, veterinary fees should be increased for 2017.

12.3.2 Vet Fees 2017.

2016 recommended vet fees were as follows:

80 km ride \$630 + GST

120 km ride \$707 + GST

160 km ride \$881 + GST

Marathon \$457 + GST per day

Non accredited vets will be paid 75% of the accredited vet fee.

Vets may only be paid the GST providing that they supply a tax invoice.

Motion: 2016/11/08. Moved: Deb Jewell/Sioux Reid.

Motion: that the 2017 recommended vet fees are as follows (increased by 2.5%):

80 km ride \$645 + GST

120 km ride \$725 + GST

160 km ride \$903+ GST

Marathon \$468 + GST per day

Non accredited vets will be paid 75% of the accredited vet fee.

Vets may only be paid the GST providing that they supply a tax invoice.

Carried.

12.3.3 Veterinary Liaison and Biosecurity Report.

Following the July AERA meeting I sent an email to Anne Barnes in her capacity as NVP secretary. In it I mentioned the QERA Hendra vaccination situation, including the running of vaccinated only rides. The email included detailing the appointment of Head and Treatment vets for TQ 16. It mentioned the completion of the treatment document by Dr Luke Annetts. It also asked for NVP comment and input into the Early Warning System. To date I have not received input re this from the NVP. Attached to this email was our submission to the Queensland government inquiry into Hendra vaccination.

The recommendations of the Queensland government 8-month long inquiry into the Hendra vaccination have been released. The recommendations include one that the Dept of Agriculture and Fisheries mount a campaign to promote the Hendra vaccine to horse owners and equestrian groups as a way of minimising the risk to horse owners. The inquiry has endorsed the right of equestrian event organisers to insist on mandatory vaccination as a condition of entry into competition. The inquiry recommends shorter turnaround times for exclusion testing. The inquiry supports the right of vets to make their own decisions about treating unvaccinated horses. Very importantly, the inquiry has recommended changes to the Workplace, Health and Safety requirements, so that vets are not responsible for creating a safe workplace for any person other than themselves and their staff when treating a horse suspected to be infected with the Hendra virus. These recommendations are in line with points made in the AERA submission.

Simon Bain

12.4 Media and Publicity.

12.4.1 Facebook.

Lexton provided challenges aplenty to riders and organisers alike at this year’s Tom Quilty Gold Cup. Thankfully the Rainbow Serpent Festival venue kindly allowed the organisers to utilise their satellite dish which provided coverage via a (short range) modem.

Numbers wise, any event following the 50th Anniversary ride might have been considered a challenge but followers once again tuned in and joined in, so how did Lexton fare on Facebook this year?

Reach

*Reach is defined as the number of people (unique users) who have seen any content associated with the AERA page. Leading up to the event, the AERA page was quiet but interest began to increase two days out from the start and peaked at 35,601 on the day of the ride. See **Chart 1** for Total Reach – Lexton 2016*

*Last year’s 50th Anniversary Quilty only attracted 325 more with a total of 35,926 so for a ‘regular’ event off the back of a special one, Lexton did very well. See **Chart 2** for a comparison between Lexton 2016 and Hawkesbury 2015.*

Chart 1 - Total Reach – Lexton 2016

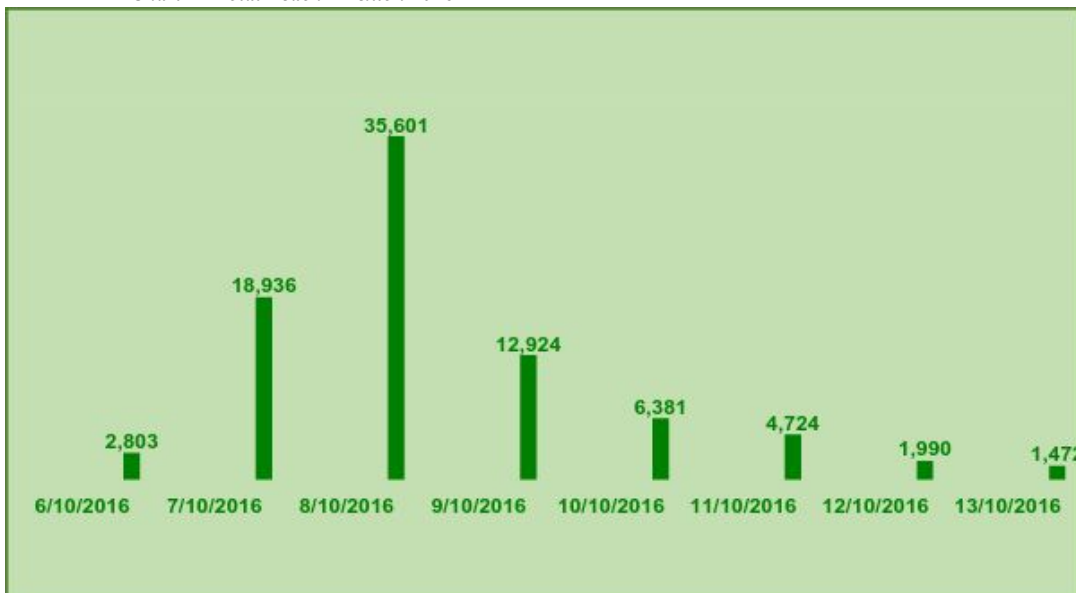


Chart 2 – Total Reach Comparison – Lexton 2016 vs Hawkesbury (50th Anniversary) 2015

Total Reach Comparison
Lexton 2016 vs Hawkesbury 2015 (50th Anniversary)

Demographics

The AERA Facebook page reached followers across all continents and most languages (including Pirate apparently?)

12.4.2 Videos

The midnight start:

Popular as ever, the midnight start video(s) provide as close an experience to being there

as

possible for followers near and far. These videos also provide a wonderful insight into how we run endurance in Australia and are popular in particular with our American endurance counterparts. We had two midnight start videos this year thanks to Sandy's brother-in-law Ken who shot the (most viewed) footage of riders as they left the venue.

Post details

Video Post

Australian Endurance Riders Association Incorporated (AERA)
Published by Liz Rutherford 191 · 7 October at 22:17 · 🌐

Safe riding everyone

12:56

Get more likes, comments and shares
Boost this post for \$15 to reach up to 2,100 people.

17,722 people reached

Boost post

151 5 Comments 73 Shares

Like Comment Share

17,722 People Reached

7,076 Video Views

215 Reactions, comments & shares

137 Like	137 On post	0 On shares
14 Love	14 On post	0 On shares
1 Wow	0 On post	1 On shares
5 Comments	5 On Post	0 On Shares
73 Shares	73 On Post	0 On Shares

2,920 Post Clicks

889 Clicks to Play #	1 Link clicks	2,030 Other Clicks #
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NEGATIVE FEEDBACK

6 Hide Post	0 Hide All Posts
0 Report as Spam	0 Unlike Page

New Post with this Video Edit Post Boost post

The winner vetting: These videos are always popular and this year's didn't disappoint.

Post details

Video Post

Australian Endurance Riders Association Incorporated (AERA)
Published by Liz Rutherford 191 · 8 October at 10:55 · 🌐

The WINNER of the Tom Quilty Gold Cup for 2016 is Debbie Grull from Tasmania riding Lauralyn Notorious in a riding time of 10hrs 21mins 13secs. CONGRATULATIONS Debbie & Fred!

03:36

50,470 people reached

View Results

826 74 Comments 185 Shares

Like Comment Share

50,470 People Reached

18,122 Video Views

1,028 Reactions, comments & shares

764 Like	764 On post	0 On shares
43 Love	43 On post	0 On shares
19 Wow	19 On post	0 On shares
79 Comments	79 On Post	0 On Shares
185 Shares	185 On Post	0 On Shares

7,467 Post Clicks

1,681 Clicks to Play #	2 Link clicks	5,784 Other Clicks #
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NEGATIVE FEEDBACK

10 Hide Post	2 Hide All Posts
0 Report as Spam	0 Unlike Page

New Post with this Video Edit Post View Results

12.4.3 360 degree videos:

This year I trialled 360 degree videos which are very new technology and while they weren't nearly as popular as the ordinary videos, I think this is related to their newness and people not being aware of what they are or how they work (moving your screen and/or mouse around to view all around you) so perhaps down the track their popularity will increase.

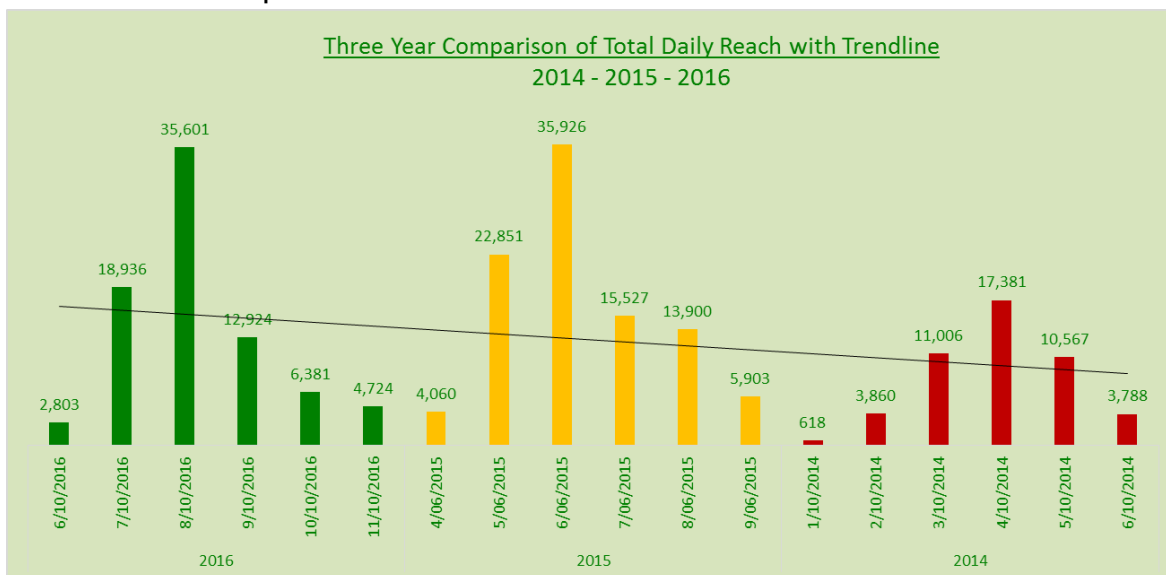
Videos on Facebook are by far the most effective way of showcasing Australian endurance to the world and the videos provided at Quilty events over the last five years have (I believe) contributed to increased inter country exchanges and increased interest in Australian endurance as a whole. This is the power of Facebook.

Future TQ Events

Lexton 2016 was my last Quilty doing Facebook. By the numbers above and the fact that Facebook won't be going anywhere anytime soon, the AERA must recognise the value of what has been created. While Facebook and what I do doesn't create revenue directly, it does create interest and goodwill for our sport at a time when endurance needs all the goodwill it can muster.

*The trend in the number of people Facebook at Quilty time reaches is increasing steadily (see **Chart 3** below) and for this reason, the AERA should formally recognise its place in TQ proceedings. To stop using Facebook now would set Australian endurance back a decade in terms of global knowledge of our events and of our endurance culture.*

Chart 3 – Three Year Comparison with Trend Line



12.5 Equestrian Australia - Endurance Committee.

Horse Welfare

The issue of horse welfare internationally, not just restricted to the Group 7 issues, is continuing to be discussed by the EA Endurance Committee. A further letter was written recently to the FEI following the World Endurance Championships. The letter to the FEI was publicised on the state FB pages.

The Committee is meeting on Monday, 7th November and the EA's CEO (Paula Ward) will be in attendance.

Both Paula and the EA's Chair (Judy Fasher) have been kept informed on this matter. Paula and Judy will be attending the FEI General Assembly this month and will be further briefed to enable Australia's position to be put to the FEI. The Committee is continuing to monitor this situation and will continue to push for improvements in horse welfare at an international level.

Appointment of Committee Members

The terms of the following committee members will expire in January:

- Melinda Stevens
- Robyn Parnell

Australian Endurance Team

By now everyone will be aware of the fantastic outcome achieved by the Australian Endurance Team at the World Endurance Championships. The goal set for the team was, in fact, a team completion so to also finish 4th was a bonus.

The next event is the World Youth Championships, the event will be held in Verona, Italy. Good responses have been received from young riders with quite a number of nominations being received.

The venue for the World Equestrian Games has now been announced following the notification from Bromont, Canada that they would not be proceeding with the event. The location will be at the Tryon International Equestrian Centre venue in North Carolina, in September 2018. A number of expressions of interest have already been received for this event and the Committee will start gearing up for this event as well as the Youth Championships.

Education for Officials

Recently an education seminar was run for Officials, Vets and Stewards in Coogee, NSW. It was well attended and a number of people will now be nominated for advancement through the FEI ranks.

An FEI Veterinarian course was run at the Adelaide International 3DE. A number of endurance vets attended this seminar as well.

QERA have passed management of the fund available for running seminars to the Endurance Committee and a set of application guidelines has been submitted for consideration at the next meeting. This fund originated from the seminar/courses held at Gatton University a number of years ago.

EA/AERA Agreement

Progress on the finalisation of the agreement has been very slow unfortunately. This item is the highest priority on the agenda for the meeting on Monday the 7th. The CEO will attend the meeting. An update on progress will be made to the AERA President following the meeting.

New FEI/EA Rules

The FEI submitted a number of rule changes to EA for review. These were published for members to comment on. The rule changes come into place on 1 January 2017.

One of the new rules introduced is the requirement for all horses competing in FEI events to hold a passport.

This will be discussed at the next meeting to clarify a number of questions and will then be publicised to members. Once the rules are finalised they will be published for members to review.

The EA has updated the approved standards list for helmets and this will come into effect from 1 January 2017.

The current American standard SNELLL E2011 and the British standard PAS 015 have been added to the list.

The new Australian ARB HS 2012 standard has been added to the ongoing and current AS/NZS 3838 standard.

The European standard EN1384 has been removed from the list of approved standards.

2017 FEI Ride Calendar

To date one ride application has been received for FEI rides.

It is planned to hold another Team Camp following on from the success of the last one.

Linda Tania

12.6 Chief Stewards and TPRs.

12.6.1 Chief Stewards for Accreditation.

Motion from NSWERA: NSWERA wishes to nominate Neil Seagram for inclusion on the TPR list and Renee Kirk for inclusion on the Chief Steward list.

Motion: 2016/11/09. Moved: Gerard Bou/Alamdar Dastani.

That Renee Kirk (NSWERA), Rob Curtin and Dee Berry (QERA) are accepted as an accredited AERA Chief Steward. Carried.

12.7 Medication Control.

Spreadsheet (below) swabbing numbers for the year so far, this will most likely be the final numbers for this season. This season there has been greater effort made to sample urine. The Swabbing Stewards usually succeed in sampling urine, when a proper swabbing bay, with straw or shavings, is available.

It seems to be an ongoing issue for Swabbing Stewards, to have a suitable swabbing area provided. To improve the chances of collecting urine, I would suggest that the SMC's make it mandatory for all Ride Organisers to provide a swabbing bay with straw or shavings, at all rides, whether the event is targeted or not.

Dorte Colja

AERA Swabbing Kit use 2016								
State	Ordered by	Swabbing Steward	Date	Event	kits ordered	number of kits used	Bloods	Urine
SA	Sioux Reid	Sioux Reid/Linda Young	17/03/2016	Mil LeI Easter ride	5	4	4	3
NSW	Denise Trollope	Denise Trollope	21/04/2016	tabletop	4			
NSW	Tony Warren	Francois Debaecker	2/05/2016	Harden	12	7	7	
Vic	Damian Noseda	Damian Noseda	12/06/2016	Moyston	5	4	4	0
SA	Melanie Scott	Caroline Jones	2/07/2016	SAERA SC	5			
WA	Debbie Symington	Deb Symington	9/07/2016	WA SC Collie	5	3	3	
Qld	Dorte Colja	Dorte Colja	5/08/2016	Murrumba	6	4	4	0
Qld	Dorte Colja	Dorte Colja	5/08/2016	QERA SC Wiangaree	6	5	4	0
Vic	Damian Noseda	Damian Noseda	10/08/2016	Ararat	5	4	4	2
Vic	Dorte Colja	Dorte Colja/Belinda Hopley	8/10/2016	TQ Lexton	14	12	12	4
Qld	Dorte Colja	Dorte Colja	13/09/2016	Sparkler	5	4	4	0
Total to November 2016							46	9
By State	SA: 4 bloods 3 urine, no numbers available from State SC	NSW: 7 Blood, no numbers available from Tabletop	WA: 3 bloods	Vic: 20 blood 6 urine, this includes TQ samples	Qld: 12 bloods			

12.8 AeraSpace.

There have been a couple of version updates since the July meeting, done as needed, to improve some critical operations. Eg., getting the reporting of horse transactions accurate.

Generally, the program has been working well. The way this testing happens is not enough, and we need to change this. The best way to do that is firstly to get Peter to do some more, more than he has been. More importantly I think we need to enlarge the AeraSpace working group, so that there are some more experienced AeraSpace users, IT / database people, who can work together to test the program. These people could be from all over Australia, as it all happens via the internet.

One of the major additions will be On Line Nominations. I have been discussing what we're trying to do with Trybooking. The principle would be that once nominations were closed, we would interface AeraSpace with their database, and get all the nomination details straight into our ride setup. Each ride organiser would have their entry fees in their bank, without having to worry about security at their ride base.

They would still have to verify the qualification right of people and horse to enter rides, with AeraSpace's help.

ETS

At Lexton, some of the more recent hardware additions to the ETS were not usable. Some new aerals we received did not work. They were sent back to the supplier, but their replacements did not arrive in time. Three weeks before Lexton, we ran the ETS at the Woodstock ride. It all went pretty well, a few minor problems, and ones that we were confident we could deal with at TQ16.

PJ is now working on making up some new production units, with the features we have previously discussed – stronger wifi, unbreakable gate units with military grade components and internal printed circuit boards, new lights, better power units, etc etc. When we have three unit made, enough to run a ride, we will thoroughly test these and further refine as necessary before actually producing these for sale.

One of the problems with it has been that the ETS system of communicating with the various units, which results in many functions happening simultaneously, can sometimes be upset by a major ride computer activity, like doing a data to the server. We're also looking at refining the wifi output that enabled us to have the display screen outside the office window at Lexton, so that we can have a larger screen located more remotely.

Steve Swan

13. Tom Quilty Gold Cup.

13.1 2016, Lexton, Victoria.

13.1.1 Event Director's Report.

As always the last few weeks before a Quilty are hectic and there never seems enough time to do everything

that is required. This is partly because there are some aspects of the event delivery that cannot be done until that last minute.

Final entries were 233 horses with 229 starting the event and 120 completing. A completion rate of 51%, slightly less than the fifty-year average of 54%.

Ride base setup was well managed although the heavy rain in the preceding weeks, (35mm on the Sunday before camp opening), made moving larger vehicles a challenge. The paddock sections of the course became very heavy after horse traffic and the course was altered to avoid these sections. The bio-security protocols worked well despite some complaint from members about having to take twice daily temperatures. My thanks to Dr. Pat Hodgetts for her work at the bio-security checkpoint. The limited opening hours worked well for our volunteers however several horses were turned away for late arrival and refused entry until the following morning. Of interest there were six horses from Hendra risk areas that were unvaccinated. All other horses from designated risk areas were vaccinated.

The horse hospital carried out nineteen invasive therapy treatments involving fluids. One horse was referred to an off-site clinic on the Saturday afternoon where it showed improvement, however on the Sunday morning the condition of the horse deteriorated to the extent where it was euthanised. The vet ring lay out with a central access and trotting lanes to each side worked very well. To my knowledge this is the first time this lay out has been used at a Quilty. The only improvement noted could be making the central alley a little wider.

For the first time in a Quilty electronic timing was used. There were several challenges faced and whilst some were overcome others need further work. Progress updates were managed via Facebook. The timing system performed very well during the ride.

At the time of writing a final financial position has not been arrived at as there are still accounts outstanding, however the budget projection points to a small profit. I strongly suggest that any Quilty committee start planning sooner rather than later. The AERA could and should investigate long term sponsorship for this event. This would mean that the AERA would have to a greater involvement at the committee level and would have to come to an arrangement regarding the control of monies supplied. It is becoming increasingly harder to produce a sustainable event that lives up to member's expectations.

A. Little.

13.1.2 Chief Steward's Report.

Ride Name:	Tom Quilty Gold Cup
Ride Date:	7 th October 2016
Ride Location:	Lexton Victoria
Chief Steward	Tom McCormack
Assistant Chief Steward	Gerard Bou
Assisting Chief Stewards	Helen Bowkett, Janet Bull, Dorte Colja, Liz Cullam, Graeme Dugmore, Hayden Fisher, Faye Gallagher, Jen Gardner, Belinda Hopley, John Howe, Pat Lamprey, Dave Reeves, Lyn Taylor, Meg Woodhouse
Head Veterinarian:	Dr. Narelle Cribb
Assistant Head Veterinarian:	Dr. Rebekah French-Davis
Line Veterinarians:	As per published list
Course Veterinarian:	Dr. Brian Clarke
Hospital Veterinarians:	Dr. Ian Palmer, Dr Ben Mason

The 2016 Tom Quilty was in the broad sense a successful event achieving the long term average TQ

completion rate.

The Quilty Committee was small in number requiring an extraordinary level of commitment from those few who were brave enough to put their hand up. This was not the first Tom Quilty Committee to suffer this affliction and it will not be the last. There has never been a perfect Quilty and never will be as there will always be someone who will find some aspect of the event that did not suit them or their horse.

The ride base was located on private property which hosts a major festival each year attracting thousands of spectators and campers.

The committee did an excellent job in preparing the camp sites with each site being individually marked and numbered.

The catering was provided by a sole operator during Quilty week except during the actual ride when a second catering facility functioned on the edge of the strapping area. With hindsight, perhaps a second caterer doing only take-away would have complimented the sole provider.

The catering for the volunteers proved to be a little hap-hazard. I received a few comments from volunteers who were unable to secure food or drink for long periods of time.

The public address system was disappointing and largely did not function effectively. This is an issue at almost every TQ.

Weighing stations were utilised on Thursday morning at 3 locations. These are popular with riders as they minimise the distance to carry tack for the weigh in.

The marshalling area for the start of the ride was in an open paddock below the camping area. Due to the location of the start and the poor PA, there were no announcements, countdown, national anthem or Quilty song. I received a few comments that the start of the ride lacked atmosphere. From a stewarding perspective the start was clean, effective and uneventful.

As most people would know, the East Coast of Australia from Sydney to Adelaide and most points in between had received their wettest winter in 50 plus years. Nobody attending TQ16 would have been expecting a dry course but neither would they have expected the drama that would unfold on leg 1 in the paddock section.

I approached the Course Director who was adamant that if people stuck to the designated tracks, whilst it would be muddy, there was a firm base underneath and that those horses that had sunk, had been ridden off the 'track'.

The motor bike team rode the course on Thursday and Friday to check the course for any safety issues as well as ensure that all the course marking materials were still in place. The view was that the course would be wet and boggy in places but generally ok.

As riders were coming off leg 1, several riders reported to me that the paddock section was dangerous and that some horses had sunk to their bellies and riders had been dislodged. This section of the course was to be ridden again in Leg 4 which would be unacceptable.

With regard to the paddock section, my understanding is that the first 100 horses or so got through relatively unscathed, however the 'firm base' eventually gave way, making it dangerous for the remainder of the field. TQ16 saw the use of the Electronic Timing System (ETS) at a Tom Quilty for the first time.

My only comment is that in general, I thought it worked well as it processes riders through the respective gates quicker, more efficiently, whilst the volunteers are under virtually no pressure and the riding times are not in dispute.

The Vet hospital was located 50m from the vet ring. The vet hospital appeared to function smoothly and efficiently. However, I believe there was an issue in relation to the fees being charged as some rider's saw the fees significantly higher than cost. A total of 9 swabs were taken during the event. The swabbing was done in a designated stall.

The 2016 Lexton Tom Quilty was in itself a successful event despite some issues which have certainly existed at many earlier Quilty's. However, TQ16 will be remembered by many riders for the course which was the result of a 1 in 50 to 100 year wet period which (with the benefit of hindsight) the impact on the course was grossly underestimated.

I sincerely thank the TQ16 Committee for the support and co-operation they provided me and the entire team of ride officials.

Tom McCormack
Chief Steward
2016 Lexton Tom Quilty

13.1.3 Head Veterinarian's Report.

Report tabled.

Each Tom Quilty Gold Cup presents its own set of challenges, and the 2016 event held at Lexton in Victoria was not exempt. As always, concise and clear communication and organisation are vital.

I applaud those who were responsible for the changing of the track once the need for this became apparent. This was not an easy task in the dark! Given the track conditions, the final completion rate was a better result than I anticipated. Full credit to the winners and placegetters for managing their horses well under trying conditions. Thank you to AERA for granting me the privilege of being the Head Veterinarian.

Narelle Cribb

A post-mortem report from the Ballarat Veterinary Hospital has been distributed separately.

Statement: The tragic death of a horse following the Tom Quilty Gold Cup 2016 in Victoria has been fully investigated by the AERA including a post-mortem examination. This investigation concluded that this was an unfortunate no-fault incident. The AERA would like to thank the veterinary teams and the horse's connections in their endeavours regarding the horse's welfare. The AERA offers our condolences to all those that were involved.

13.2 2017, South Australia.

I have recently returned from the Victorian TQ16 event held at Lexton on October 7-9. It was to our advantage that myself and 4 other TQ17 Committee members attended and rode. This gave us a very good idea as to the success and problems associated with various areas of the event. The SAERA President and our Head vet were also present and formed detailed opinions of non-riding areas.

We are working towards an early 80km ride in March at Wirrina which will give us the chance to ride some of the new modified TQ17 course.

I met with Wirrina Hotel management and have negotiated a reduced rate for our event. There will be no cabin accommodation for visitors/riders at the event. In January, when Sandy Little has finished winding up the 2016 event, he will come over and talk to us about our event in his role as Chief Steward. Dr Lidwein Verdegaal our Head Vet will also attend. I have already had a meeting with her and Bill Harbison to discuss Veterinary plans for TQ17 and we will have more meetings and report to the Committee on Veterinary decisions for the event.

Our website should be up by 11/11/16 and our Biosecurity policy finalized soon after the November AERA meeting.

Jean Sims

13.2.2 Motion from SAERA:

Since 2013 SAERA has had a policy regarding horses from certain locations.

In March 2016 AERA adopted an Biosecurity Document with some recommendations regarding general biosecurity and Hendra. At the recent TQ16 in Victoria, reporting enabled identification of 8 horses from Hendra risk areas attending the ride who were unvaccinated. The risk of drastically affecting numbers of horses attending is considered low.

SAERA would like to propose that TQ17 require all horses attending whose property of origin lies within a known Hendra risk area as identified in the AERA Bio security document, present at the event with a current Hendra vaccination certificate, in addition to any other bio security measures which will form part of the TQ17 biosecurity document.

Until this issue is resolved the balance of the biosecurity planning and makeup of the veterinary team for TQ17 cannot be finalized. Further we believe AERA supporting SAERA in this will enable more positive negotiations with local referral hospitals.

Motion: 2016/11/10. Moved: Melanie Scott/Sioux Reid.

SAERA require that all horses attending the Tom Quilty Gold Cup 2017, whose property of origin lies within a known Hendra risk area as identified in the AERA Bio security document, present at the event with a current Hendra vaccination certificate, in addition to any other bio security measures, which will form part of the TQ17 biosecurity document.

Voting: Vic yes, Tas yes, WA yes, SA yes, NSW abstain, Qld abstain.

Carried 8-0.

Quilty Events Standards document: Draft has been circulated. Working group to include: Pat Hodgetts, Ieva Peters, Bronwyn Cuthbertson, Sandy Little, Jessica Aistrope.

13.3 2018, Tasmania.

Tom McCormack has agreed to be the Chief Steward. Tracks stood up OK after the wet weather in October. Pre-ride test in October next year. Event Director and Head Vet is yet to be appointed. Helen Spencer has been approached. Another choice would be Luke Annetts. State Teams put separate and then another Team event. State Team criteria is: two riders over 73kg from any division.

13.4 Pat Slater Cup.

Judges for 2016 in Victoria were: Lois Sharam, Hans Peuker, Gerard Bou, Ieva Peters and Alan Salter. Each judge was asked to submit a short resume about their endurance experience which was read out prior to the judging. The winning horse was Chelleason Rembrandt ridden by Kelsey Irvine. Kelsey has signed the Pat Slater Cup agreement document and the Cup was packed into its box and handed over to her.

13.5 Newbridge Trophy/Shareym Award.

The Krahnens family returned the perpetual trophy to the Victorian Quilty in good order and condition. This year's award was won by Lauralyn Notorious.

13.6 Tom Quilty Manual.

Updated document has been circulated for comment. It is imperative that the document is approved at this meeting to ensure that SAERA may use it for their event. A subcommittee can be formed to continue to update the document to ensure that it is available for the TQ17 in Tasmania.

14. AERA Constitution.

The Subcommittee has been meeting (mostly) weekly and working our way through the Constitution. As you know, we've agreed to continue with the Incorporated Association model.

A key point is that the AERA will (subject to agreement) have three classes of membership:

- 1. The State Division Associations (not all the individual members of the State Associations, eg NSWERA will be the member, not all the NSWERA members).*
- 2. Honorary members recognised for their contribution to the sport.*
- 3. Appointed members will be people selected for their expertise and appointed as members of the Committee of Management for a fixed time.*

15. Rule Book.

Re: AERA rulebook and VERA Inc. Constitution Conflict.

The VERA Inc. state management committee would like to bring to the attention of the AERA an issue we have recently become aware of in relation to the 2016 AERA rule book and the VERA Inc. constitution regarding disciplinary process.

Motion: 2016/11/10. Moved: Sandy Little/Alamdar Dastani

Rule D - Management of Disciplinary Matters, 3.8C, page 7: is changed to read:

3.8c the right of the accused to be represented by counsel at the accused's own expense (subject to the incorporation laws in respective states).

Vic yes, Tas yes, WA yes, SA yes, NSW yes, Qld yes. Carried.

To come back for a second vote in March 2017.

16 Rule Changes.

16.1 Rule Changes – Motions for Discussion and First Vote.

16.1.1 Motion from VERA

Motion: 3.8c the right of the accused to be represented by counsel at the accused's own expense (subject to the incorporation laws in respective states).

16.1.2 Motion from NSWERA re: Proposed changes to Early Warning System rules for riders.

Existing Rule:

Rule 40.1 Every rider in every endurance and marathon ride are subject to the Rider Early Warning System (REWS). The rider attracts penalty points as per Table 15.

Be changed to the following:

Rule 40.1 Every rider in every ride is subject to the Rider Early Warning System (REWS). The rider attracts penalty points as per Table 15.

For clarification, this includes all rides as listed in Table 4.

17. **Meeting Close.** Sunday 2.20pm.

18. **Meeting Dates 2017.**

25th and 26th March 2017

29th and 30th July 2017

25th and 26th November 2017