

Laurie Nicolle

Nominated 2002

Laurie Nicolle was elected Tasmanian Equine Endurance Riders Association (TEERA) President and AERA delegate in 1990. He remained one of Tasmania's delegates until 2002. In this time, he became AERA President. He was a Life Member of TEERA. He was made an Honorary Life Member of the Australian Endurance Riders Assoc. (AERA) in 2002 and in 2008 he was made an AERA Living Legend. Very special awards to Laurie.

Laurie also served the Arabian Horse Society of Australia (AHSA) as the Tasmanian representative on the AHSA Board of Directors from 1999 to 2009 and was a Life Member of AHSA – which he was very proud of. He was also involved in many other horse clubs and events, including the Gordon Williams Memorial Endurance ride event.

While battling cancer, which he overcame in 1999, Laurie Nicolle had three wishes, which were:

1. To be elected to The AHSA Board of Directors, which he achieved in 1999.
2. To become President of AERA.
3. To breed a horse that wins the Tom Quilty Gold Cup.

Laurie's three wishes were indeed fulfilled. With his wife, Lyn Nicolle, of Lauralyn Arabians, they together bred many great horses including the infamous Lauralyn Notorious. The horse, affectionately known as Fred, in combination with rider Debbie Grull achieved winning the Tom Quilty Gold Cup in 2016. So far, Lauralyn Notorious has achieved 9 Tom Quilty buckles, the majority of which were in the top 3 placings.

Way back in the beginning, Laurie started out in horses with his first pony named Topper. He later progressed on to the purebred gelding Hamish which he purchased from Franklin Arabian stud. He competed successfully in rodeos on him. In 1975 he purchased a purebred mare named Godiva who had a colt foal at foot and in foal to AK Sir Halima again, at the 1975 Ralvon Stud sale. The colt at foot was Star of Arabia Sir Ghazal who became a very intelligent trick horse among other things for Laurie. His next purchase was the lovely mare Shazilla who went on to become the first 1982 Reserve Australian Champion mare and producer of supreme champions and winning endurance horses.

In 1987 after the Tom Quilty started rotations around the States and was coming to Tasmania Laurence Fielding said to Laurie "we should have a crack at this" so their show Arabians started in endurance. Laurie was up against it a bit with his weight of 120kg all up and to qualify you had to do the ride in time and a half of the winner. Bit hard with this weight, horses just starting out, and the 80 km rides being won in 4 hours. Laurie didn't qualify but Laurence did and went top ten with his athletic stallion Yamus. Laurie went on to achieve 2 Tom Quilty buckles on Laurjil Osca in NSW and Tasmania and did many endurance rides in Tasmania.

Famously, Laurie once responded to a query of the nature: "who the heck are you", with his usual wit and dry humour, by quoting his TEERA endurance membership number of 70001. Over the years Laurie made many lifelong friends around Australia in endurance and it was his passion for 32 years. Indeed, many have said, Laurie was everybody's friend. He will be sadly missed.