



Andrew Blake

Andrew and his wife Jennifer moved to Tasmania in 1991. Andrew came with a Master of Business and was teaching at Devonport TAFE when he met his neighbour, Dennis Foley. Dennis was preparing his horses and children for the 1993 Sheffield Tom Quilty. Andrew offered to help and, although considering himself an academic rather than a horse rider, so began his endurance journey.

Andrew tried riding and purchased a mare, Miss Mac, from Dennis. He completed an 80km ride on her in 1993 and went on to do a couple more rides over the next two years. Andrew bred a foal from Miss Mac, which was later sold to someone in Japan.

Although pain prevented Andrew from participating in endurance rides beyond 1995, he continued to contribute, strapping for Dennis and the Mahoney's, and becoming a member of the State Management Committee. His roles included representing Tasmania at AERA meetings and assisting in rewriting the AERA Members Handbook.

In addition, Andrew became a Chief Steward and was on the organising committee for the 1999 Deloraine Quilty. His contributions were recognised in 2003 by Life Membership of both TEERA and AERA.

After a diagnosis of cancer, Andrew and Jennifer left Tasmania in 2004 to fulfill Andrew's dream of caravanning around Australia. He continued to travel to Tom Quilty events, with the last being at Tonimbuk, Victoria in 2009.

Since Andrew's death in 2010, a perpetual trophy in his memory is awarded at the Tasmanian State Championships to a junior rider displaying good horsemanship. Jennifer has returned to Tasmania on numerous occasions to present this trophy.