

Barb Macdonald – Life Member Australian Endurance Riders Association

Life Member Queensland Endurance Riders Association

Barbara Macdonald did her first endurance ride in 1974, at Mudgee. A few weeks later, she completed her first Quilty, riding a pinto called 'Santa'. In a long riding career that spanned over 30 years and over 14000 kilometres, Barb completed The Tom Quilty another 10 times, including 2nd place in WA in 1989.

Barb also completed the 320 klm Faraway Easter marathon 11 times with 2 firsts , 1 second, 2 thirds and all other times in the top 10, and she completed 5 QERA State Championships coming second in 1988. She was a member of the Australian team which won the bronze medal at the 1994 World Equestrian Games held at The Hague.

Most of Barb's successful kilometres were completed on two great horses: Kelly and Kildara Sharina. The unregistered partbred mare, Kelly (by Rondeburn Temagin) completed over 2600kms, while the registered purebred mare, Kildara Sharina (by Afandi from Pasadena Natasha) completed nearly 7000kms.

But Barb was much more than an endurance rider. She was a whole-hearted participant in the sport she loved so much. She spent many years on the executive of AERA and also QERA, including several years as president.

And then, when endurance emerged as a truly international sport, she took on the roles of Australian Endurance Squad Manager, National Selector and Chef d'Equipe for a number of overseas team trips. She became an International 4 star FEI Official.

For over 40 years, Barb was a strong and passionate advocate of Endurance riding with a strong voice for horse welfare and for a fair and level playing field for all who participated. She was also a great lover of Arabian horses.

She was also passionate about the Quilty, and one of the situations which epitomises this passion, and also her organisational skills, her depth of understanding of endurance and her sheer stubbornness, was when she was the driving force behind hosting the 2008 Quilty in her home town of Nanango when it looked like the Equine Influenza crisis would stop it from happening.

