

## Meeting Notes of the General Meeting of Members

**Date:** 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> July 2016.

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

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### **Meeting commenced:**

Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> July 2016 at 8.45am – 6.40pm.

Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2016 at 8.45am to 1.25pm.

#### **1. Welcome by President.**

Melanie welcomed everybody to the meeting. A few apologies for this meeting. Unfortunately, Sioux's dad has passed away. Ieva to organise some flowers to be sent to Sioux at a later date as Sioux is overseas at the moment.

#### **2. Members Present.**

**2.1 Apologies.** Pat Hodgetts (Tas), Tamara Atkinson (Vic), Steve Swan (Qld), Talea Hasko-Stewart (NSW), Sue Reid (Vic).

**2.2 AERA Delegates Present.** Melanie Scott (SA), Jessica Aistrope (SA), Ieva Peters (WA), Deb Jewell (WA), Gerard Bou (Qld), Kerry Spratt (NSW), Simon Bain (NSW), Pat Lamprey (Tas), Pam Shadbolt (Tas), Sandy Little (Vic).

**3. Proxy Votes.** Pam Shadbolt (Tas) on behalf of Pat Hodgetts, Sandy Little (Vic) on behalf of Tamara Atkinson, Kerry Spratt (NSW) on behalf of Talea Hasko-Stewart.

#### **4. Registration of Votes.**

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

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

*Table includes lifetime members.*

#### **5. Previous Meeting Minutes.**

**5.1 Amendments to Minutes of the General Meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> March 2016.**

##### **Motion 2016/7/01.**

**Motion: that the minutes of the AERA General Meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> March 2016 are accepted.**

**Moved: Gerard Bou/Simon Bain. Carried unanimously.**

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

- Non-FEI Event Selection Policy: NZ are very keen to do a competition between AUS and NZL. Could do this for the Quilty 2017.
- Horse Welfare: Gerard has sent the QERA articles to Pat and waiting for her response.
- Treatment Veterinarians: Create accreditation format. Simon is in the process of creating a treatment document which will be available on the website. Equipment list and PPE gear to be included. Must be a practicing vet preferably equine. Don't need an accreditation process for treatment vets. It's skills and experienced based. Thanks to Simon for all of his hard work.
- AERA Points & Distance Registrar: Jo has been thanked for her reduced honorarium. We've re-done the

rider distance awards of 10,000km+. The list has changed significantly. Some awards from last year were incorrect. Will be an application driven process and to be verified.

- Quilty Buckles: Tamara has tried to get in touch with Trent, no success. Gerard and Mel have been approached by Bob Berg who is based in Vietnam these days. He would like to discuss the making of Quilty buckles. Some sample pictures have been received. Changing from 100 miles to 160km? AGM discussion. Rider should be wearing a helmet? Wording: endurance ride or Gold Cup? Gerard and Mel will give Bob the feedback from this meeting. Get something together for the November meeting.
- Chief Steward Accreditation: New document has been sent out for comment. Gerard has done one workshop in Qld, two more to do. NSW is in the pipeline in November. Vic will go to the NSW workshop. SA is later in the year. Tas is working on it. WA had one in March.
- Biosecurity: Updated document was circulated to the NVP. No feedback.

## 7. State Reports.

### 7.1 Queensland Report.

*QERA has had a pretty tough few months. Which has been due to Hendra and its effect on our ride calendar. Our trial period for vaccinated rides is over and no clubs asked for any financial assistance.*

*Sterling Crossing FEI championships turned out to be a crossroads for the Hendra debate. They tried very hard to source vets from here and overseas but had no luck. When Sterling Crossing club announced that they would be vaccinated only the penny dropped for many members and they vaccinated their horses. It is quite simple. No vets = no rides. No ride clubs = no rides. Looking to next year we estimate that 90% of our rides will be vaccinated only.*

*Ride organisers are wary of the new biosecurity legislation which comes into effect on July 1st. There is no doubt that the Qld government wants the risks put back on the horse owners. Both health wise and financial. This is to be adopted by NSW in the near future also. It is a serious wake up call for those that organise events and for horse owners who care to read and understand the legislation.*

*QERA has received some great sponsorships for our junior program and with the injection of \$20,000 from the Cullen Group. Our juniors will be riding against an American squad in a weeks' time and we shall again take a touring squad away to the US later in the year.*

*Gerard Bou*

#### Discussion:

FEI ride being held this weekend. It was a late addition to the calendar and has messed things around. Things are a bit better in Qld than it was about 3 months ago.

QERA is into the Zoetus database. Currently between 65% and 70% are vaccinated that are active in our sport this year. In all likelihood from 2017 onwards, horses from Hendra areas would have to be vaccinated.

### 7.2 Western Australian Report.

*WAERA membership is going along very well and currently we have 158 members, 11 of those being life members. The growth of the sport in WA is going very well. We seem to have someone new attending their 1st endurance ride at most rides held.*

*The State Management committee are already talking 2020 Quilty. We are starting to think about potential venues and the formation of a subcommittee to get the ball rolling, nothing like being prepared. Speaking of Quilties, we have quite a few members hitting the road to the VIC Quilty.*

*Regards*

*Deb Jewell*

*WAERA President*

### 7.3 Tasmanian Report.

*Mother Nature has hit our little Island State from all directions in the last 6 months.*

*At present we have 206 members. Congratulations to Trish Smith and Beaucheval Akhiran who were nominated for the 2015 Domestic Athlete & Horse of the Year at the recent Equestrian Australia Sport Achievement Awards. Although not the outright winners Trish was over the moon to be nominated "to complete is to win" --- and shared an enjoyable evening with Talia Franke - also nominate for 2015 Barastoc Young Athlete of the Year. Organisation of TQ18 is progressing well with huge support from local council. Pat L and Pam S*

## 8. Financial Report.

Financial reports sent separately as a PDF.

### **8.1 Treasurer's Report.**

*First of all, I'd like to say that our new bookkeeper, Debbie Edwards, is doing an excellent job. Her experience and competence certainly give me confidence that our financial affairs are in order and well managed. She is pro-active and forward thinking.*

#### EA

*We have yet to pay EA 2 lots of \$5K, one in July and one in September, to finalise our current agreement commitments.*

*We need to decide how we are going to finance our next AERA/EA agreement, which hopefully we will be signing this October. Really, I believe that we should be able to cover this cost ourselves, and that we should be including the expense in our annual budget, and therefore levying accordingly - \$1 on the Ride Entry Levy would cover this.*

#### Insurance

*The reality of what our new insurance policy is giving us and costing us is a little different to what I expected. We will be out of pocket for 2016, because our total non-PA bill is \$66K instead of the \$51K last year.*

*For next year, I would like to raise our Ride Entry Levy by another dollar, to \$3 per entry, giving us back the buffer we were seeking for this year, and have now lost. We should vote on this today.*

#### General

*As we know the AERA recovers its meeting costs by adding them up and then dividing the total on a pro rata basis, then invoicing the divisions. For a reason I don't understand the initial addition excludes the costs associated with the president and secretary, leaving those costs with AERA. I guess the idea was that the AERA should pay something?*

*To bring things up to date, and to base this on a full cost recovery basis, I would like to move that:*

***Motion: "All associated AERA meeting costs are totalled before dividing that total on a pro rata basis for cost recovery from the divisions".***

Steve Swan

#### **Motion 2016/7/03.**

**Moved: Pat Lamprey/Sandy Little.**

**That the AERA ride entry levy is increased to \$3 inc GST from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2017.**

**NSW – no, Qld – yes, SA – yes, WA – yes, Tas – yes, Vic – yes. Carried.**

#### **Motion from Steve Swan:**

***Motion: "All associated AERA meeting costs are totalled before dividing that total on a pro rata basis for cost recovery from the divisions".***

#### Discussion:

AERA has paid transport and accommodation costs of the secretary and president to attend the AERA meetings. If the motion is passed, the costs will go to the states. Originally, it was felt that the AERA should contribute to the running costs of the meeting. What are the impacts of changing this? Bring back to next meeting with some figures of what this change means. Agenda item for next meeting. Needs better wording, as well, particularly around "the costs", i.e. the example of the third delegate was raised.

### **8.2 Affiliation Fees 2016.**

#### **Motion 2016/7/04.**

**Moved: Sandy Little/Pam Shadbolt.**

**That the AERA Membership Affiliation fees are increased to:**

**(Adult) \$29.09 plus GST**

**(Junior) \$14.55 inc GST**

**as from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2017.**

**Motion 2016/7/05.**

**That the AERA Treasurer’s Report is accepted.**

**Moved: Gerard Bou/leva Peters. Carried unanimously.**

**9. National Membership/Ride Entry Statistics 2015.**

Division	Endurance	Training		Introductory		FEI	Total
		Full Member	Day Member	Full Member	Day Member		
TEERA	776	220	182	27	89	0	1,294
QERA	1,261	524	471	163	405	0	2,824
SAERA	233	96	42	56	211	0	638
WAERA	428	136	175	51	285	0	1,075
VERA	487	141	194	69	151	0	1,052
NSWERA	1,841	333	429	135	671	54	3,463
<b>Totals</b>	<b>6,026</b>	<b>1,450</b>	<b>1,493</b>	<b>601</b>	<b>1,822</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>10,346</b>

**10. Portfolio Reports.**

**10.1 AERA Registrar Report.**

**Database**

*I have just finished loading all results for 1996 South Australia most of which were missing completely from the db, I am now working on 1995 for the same state and will then tackle 1997. I try and average db input of one ride per day as well as answering email, phone and mail enquiries.*

**Quilty Scrolls**

*I already have a list of horse distance scrolls to be presented at this year’s Tom Quilty, I would like the cut-off date for this year to be 31/7/16 so could all requests (only 3000km and above) be sent in by that date to be included in presentation at 2016 TQ, this will allow enough time for embroidery and screen printing etc to be done. Any scrolls of distances less than 3000km are available any time of the year and are posted to the applicant.*

**Thank you**

*I would like to thank Shirley Ellis, South Australia Registrar, for her informative emails requesting updates to riders’ records. Shirley sends me detailed requests which makes it very easy to locate master sheets to verify and correct information. A big thank you also to Deb Symington in Western Australia for her input of old data.*

**Rider Scrolls**

*I have spoken with Mel Scott about the issue of 10,000+ rider distance scrolls, I still have all the applications from last year and a plan is now in place to check and verify those riders who may be eligible for 15,000km+ scrolls for presentation at this year’s TQ. As there are a large number of riders with 10,000km scrolls to be presented it has been suggested that these be applied for by riders and then presented at State AGM’s or similar.*

**10.2 National Veterinary Panel.**

**AERA Vet liaison and Biosecurity Report July 2016 Meeting – Simon Bain.**

*Following the March AERA meeting a report was sent to the NVP detailing outcomes relevant to endurance vets that were determined at that meeting. The vaccination only rides were mentioned, although at the time of*

writing it was a little early to determine the outcomes in terms of increased vaccination rates.

The report then detailed the evolution of the Biosecurity Statement including reasons for Horse Health Declaration temperature log regimens. In compiling the Biosecurity Statement we have covered all potential equine health situations and no vet could possibly argue that was not an appropriate development.

The report went on to comprehensively outline why AERA declined to accept the NVPs Mandatory Rest Period paper. A week or so later the IT (Invasive Treatment) statistics were forwarded to the NVP. I was a little surprised that some of the NVP did not appear to have accessed these before.

In April I compiled a submission (attached) which was submitted to the Queensland Government Hendra Vaccination Inquiry.

In June I attended the Hendra Symposium in Brisbane. This meeting was one of high scientific input. The biggest take home message for us is that with climate change Hendra incidence can be expected slowly to extend south.

A situation at a Northern NSW alerted the need for a treatment document for vets. Luke Annetts has subsequently created a document largely from previous notes of Brian Sheehan's. This has been circulated to some vets for comment. The intention is to ultimately have it posted on AERA and the state websites for ready reference.

There is some work needed for creating an official list of treatment vets. Principle criteria appear to be:

1. Ensuring the vets are trained appropriately &/or have appropriate documented experience.
2. Ensure they have access to appropriate supplies
3. Ensure an access to an appropriate network of referral hospitals and endurance treatment vets for advice (even if via phone).

On the biosecurity front the Biosecurity Statement has been officially released.

### 10.3 Hendra Virus.

#### 10.3.1 Hendra Symposium Report.

I attended the Hendra symposium in Brisbane June 1-2 2016 on behalf of AERA.

The symposium described multidisciplinary research over a 5 year period. It has resulted in 50 peer reviewed publications with the intent that policy be informed by science. The implementation of a flying fox monitoring program was initially described. In examining Hendra transmission dynamics 15000 pooled urine samples and 3000 individual samples were surveyed over 20 degrees of latitude. As might be expected detection prevalence was high in Queensland and Northern NSW. Bats are continuously infected and it was postulated at this stage that virus is shed when they experience nutritional and other stressors.

In response to climate change the risk could extend further southward than the current Hendra risk zones. One got the feeling that will be a slow process but we need to remain vigilant and there is obviously good mileage in vaccinating horses south of current recognised Hendra risk zones.

Hendra occurs in dogs without disease signs. They present infection risk to people but the time window is very narrow. Intentionally infected dogs exhibited very little pathology and live virus was only recovered from oral and throat swabs. My memory is that they were free re HeV infection risk after 6 days, but I will check that.

The symposium was in summary of a very high scientific standard and it can be truly said that the National Hendra Virus Research Program has been a model of collaborative funding for collaborative research into an issue of significant emerging national importance.

My bottom line: I hope I never ever have to handle a bat again. The friggin things have untold numbers of viruses of which HeV is just one!

Simon Bain

#### 10.3.2 Horse Health Declaration – Phone App.

Simon Thomas, the VERA president has a phone app for HHD he developed a couple of years ago. **See Attached PDF files and Powerpoint presentation – submitted separately.**

#### 10.3.3 Submission to the Queensland Parliament Hendra Vaccine Inquiry (Simon Bain).

Simon Bain wrote a submission on behalf of the Australian Endurance Riders Association as a

veterinarian and Vice President of AERA. Using the following terms of reference:

- The development, trials and approval processes;
- The incidence and impact of adverse reactions by horses following vaccination and the reporting of adverse reactions and economic impacts of the Hendra vaccine;
- Who bears the risks of HeV infection and who incurs the costs and receives the benefits from each risk mitigation option;
- Whether the guidelines/procedures required for veterinarians attending horses that are not vaccinated against HeV are proportionate to the consequences;
- Impacts on the equine industry and the economy arising from veterinarians applying a policy not to treat unvaccinated horses; and
- The impact of Workplace Health and Safety actions on the decision by veterinarians not to attend unvaccinated horses and results of previous Workplace Health and Safety HeV investigations where there have been human infections.

Of Australia's equestrian sports endurance undoubtedly has the largest hands on veterinary involvement. In a 160 km endurance ride horses that complete the ride are subject to seven veterinary examinations. In the relatively common 80 km competitive distance each horse completing is subject to three veterinary examinations. In Australia in 2015 there were 473 endurance rides with a total of 10,242 entries. 169 vets are currently involved in endurance Australia wide. Treatment vets are therefore at greater risk re Hendra infection and some have stated that there is a strong possibility that non-vaccinated horses will be refused treatment in a Hendra risk zone. Hendra virus infection has never occurred at an endurance ride in Australia but never the less the possibility currently exists in Queensland and Northern NSW.

#### **10.4 Media and Publicity.**

##### **10.4.1 Facebook.**

It was decided to put up a statement that FB is not a formal means of communication and that all questions or comments should be directed to the SMC or the AERA. No debate will be entered into on social media.

#### **10.5 Equestrian Australia - Endurance Committee.**

No report.

World Endurance Champs have been moved to Slovakia and it's a couple of weeks before the Quilty. This could be a problem for Narelle Cribb who is the TQ16 Victoria and the Team Vet.

A draft of the proposed new EA/AERA agreement has been circulated.

We need to ensure that the "endurance" domain name (and anything close to it) needs to be trademarked by us.

#### **10.6 Veterinarians/Treatment Veterinarians for Accreditation.**

**Motion from TEERA:** that Dr Sam Morgan and Dr David Nolan are approved as AERA accredited Veterinarians.

**Motion from NSWERA:** Dr Cassie Maria of Grafton and Dr Vickie Lawrence of Wauchope are approved as AERA accredited Veterinarians.

**Motion from VERA:** Dr Ben Mason is accepted as an AERA accredited Veterinarian. Ben Mason is an accredited FEI veterinarian and has had overseas endurance vetting experience. Has done a couple of rides in Victoria.

**Motion 2016/7/06.**

**Moved: Simon Bain/Sandy Little.**

**That the following veterinarians are approved as AERA accredited:**

**Dr Sam Morgan and Dr David Nolan (TEERA),**

**Dr Cassie Maria and Dr Vickie Lawrence (NSWERA),**

**Dr Ben Mason (VERA).**

**Carried unanimously.**

#### **10.7 Medication Control.**

AERA Swabbing Kit use 2015								
State	Ordered by	Swabbing Steward	Date	Event	kits ordered	Total number of samples sent to Lab	Bloods	Urine
NSW	Tony Warren	Denise Trollope	9/04/2015	Harden 160	6	Report from Denise Trollope, Swabbing Steward at this event, not received yet	6	0
NSW	Tony Warren	Marylou Locke	22/05/2015	Tom Quilty 15	16	15	15	0
Vic	Damian Noseda	Damian Noseda	10/06/2015	Ararat,	6	3	3	0
SA	Melanie Scott	Caroline Jones	11/07/2015	SAERA SC	4	? No report received	4	0
Qld	Michael Shaw	Bronwyn Hew		Lake Manchester	5	5	5	0
Qld	Dorte Colja	Dorte Colja	1/09/2015	Kilkivan	5	4	4	0
WA	Deb Symington	Deb Symington	5/09/2015	WA SC	3	2	2	0
NSW	Tony Warren	?	16/09/2015	NSW State Champ	12	? No report received	8	0
Tas	Pat Hodges	?	8/10/2015	Various	10	?	11	0
Qld	Michael Shaw	Bronwyn Hew	8/10/2015	Imbil	4	? No report received	4	0
Vic	Damian Noseda	Damian Noseda	4/11/2015	Buchan	5	4	4	1

AERA Swabbing Kit use 2016								
State	Ordered by	Swabbing Steward	Date	Event	kits ordered	Total number of samples sent to Lab	Bloods	Urine
SA	Sioux Reid	Sioux Reid/Linda You	17/03/2016	Mil LeL Easter ride	5	4	4	3
NSW	Denise Trollope	Denise Trollope	21/04/2016	tabletop	4			
Vic	Damian Noseda	Damian Noseda	12/06/2016	Moyston	6	4	4	0
SA	Melanie Scott	Caroline Jones		SAERA SC	5			

## 10.8 AeraSpace.

### **Desktop**

Version 3.08 was released in May. Amongst other things, it has many improvements in data recording and reporting to do with memberships, horse registrations, and logbooks. It also had greatly modified systems and logic covering the ETS.

There were a few small glitches with this, which meant that about 3 weeks later we released V3.09. Everything is going well now. In further development of the ETS we have a V.3.10 being used by Tom Mac and myself, which will be generally released probably just before the meeting.

There are continual, though not too often, requests from members Australia wide, to correct or complete records and histories in the database. This is something we are continually working on, Jo Bailey puts in a lot of work in this regard, and we are correct what we need to system wise, to make records more accessible. However, members need to understand that this is a very long process, to get all endurance history, 50 years of it, correctly embedded in the database. I would like the delegates to take this message back to their divisions.

### **Website**

There were a few changes made to the website as part of V3.08, and some more have been done since. As there is no need for the server to be shut down in order to do website updates, they can be done almost anytime.

### **Progeny**

The Progeny tab is now more active than it had been. We removed the need for a horse to have a breed society registration number to be active in this logic, so now it's just based on name, and whether the information is in the program. There are still issues with this – there are many duplicates – eg. CC Sadaqa had about 10 aliases, down to 3 now and we will clean those up over time.

### **New Look**

Angus has finished the development of the new AeraSpace website, which I hope you have all now seen. Not only the look has changed, but also the menu structure and in some cases the menu links. These changes will make the site more user friendly, quicker and popular, especially from mobile devices, and will also hopefully make the link to the AERA site more used.

### **Electronic Timing System**

Tom McCormack has been focusing on the ETS, please see his report.

**If agreed at this meeting, we will go ahead and buy / produce the two test units.**

Then when all is OK we will go ahead and get these circuit boards made in China. We need to get at least 10 made at a time to get a better price, but as there will be 7 in one full system, that won't be a problem. A full system, that would handle state championship rides and most TQs, would comprise, and cost – "Full" System - for rides up to 250 entries \$14104. A "Half" system would be -\$8336.

### **10.8.1 AeraSpace - Electronic Timing System.**

*Testing of the ETS continues and is fast approaching the point where the prototype system will be finalized. The ETS has been tested this year at the Bumbaldry, Gundagai and Tabletop rides in NSW, Raglan in Victoria with the latest test being the NSW State Championships at Harden.*

*The Harden test incorporated 2 arrival gates, 2 vet gates and 1 departure gate. All in all, the system worked well with the exception of the following 3 issues:*

- (i) Harden was to be the first test of the 'public screen'.*
- (ii) Mid-morning, one of the vet gates was recording and reporting the scan to the server but was failing to print the ticket*
- (iii) The final issue was that the battery on the remaining vet gate unit became sufficiently flat at approximately 8.30pm to be replaced*

*The Harden ride was also the first test of the 'Compulsory Represent' being processed through the ETS and it handled this ok. I will be taking the ETS to the FEI Ride at Sterling Crossing in QLD in mid-July. I will endeavor to take the ETS to another ride for further testing (perhaps TEERA State Champs Fundraiser).*

*Barring a major hiccup in subsequent tests, I believe we continue with the plan to utilize the ETS at TQ16.*

*Steve will be responsible to manage the ETS on the day at TQ16 as I will be the Chief Steward.*

*The ETS has developed to the point where we now have multiple gates operating effectively. The speed of the gates is such that I suspect 2 arrival, 2 vet and 2 departure gates will handle a ride of 200 – 220 horses.*

*Should number approach 250 - 300 horses then a 3<sup>rd</sup> vet gate would probably be needed.*

*The public screen (with Wi-Fi access for people with a smartphone or tablet) will be a huge step forward.*

*The prototype units have served their purpose and proven the technology and the interface to AeraSpace.*

*However, both Steve and I have stressed to Peter J that future units will need to be more 'robust' with metal rather than plastic fittings etc.*

*I understand Peter J is preparing a quote for a standard ETS kit which Steve is managing. People should keep in mind that the ETS reduces the need for volunteers, eliminates disputes regarding times, stops the congestion at the Arrival Gate, and removes the tension at the Departure Gate. The often tense atmosphere for volunteers is dramatically lowered.*

*Regards*

*Tom McCormack*

## **11. Tom Quilty Gold Cup.**

### **11.1 2016, Lexton, Victoria.**

*Late report.*

*We are now getting to the pointy end of things and attention to detail is becoming the focus of the committee.*

*The position of Head Vet remains open with Narelle Cribb taking up the position of Australian team vet for the WEG. Negotiations are continuing with this committee seeking assistance from the AERA in this matter.*

*Venue planning is coming together with camping sites, vetting and strapping areas allocated. The start/finish area will need some tweaking, but that will be done at the ride base set up.*

*The course is finalised with the exception detailed course maps. These should be finished at the writing of this report or early in the next week.*

*The website is starting to come together and we aim to use it as a key point of contact for the event.*

*One that will require focus next is the Quilty year book. Sourcing an editor is proving tricky, but there are a few names in the hat and this will be finalised at our next meeting.*

*All core officials, (Vets and Chief Stewards), will be asked to read and agree to the terms of the bio-security document. All of the invited officials who have responded have already done this with no objections.*

*Sandy Little.*

*Vets will have to sign off on the biosecurity requirements of the TQ16 in Victoria. Confirm with Sandy Little.*

### **11.2 2017, South Australia.**

*SAERA 2016 State Championships held on 1-3 July and based at Wirrina Cove Holiday Park, was a practice run for*

*the 2017 Quilty to be held in South Australia.*

**Venue:** *Wirrina Cove Holiday Park proved to be a popular and scenic ride base. While camping space is only just big enough, our experienced Camp Organisers, Tony and Paula Van Eck, are confident they can fit in about 220 sites. The oval is large and flat and quite adequate for vetting and strapping, with Start and Finish lines at opposite ends. A 24hr café, toilets and secretarial and radio offices are located at the edge in easy reach of Vets and officials at work.*

**Problem:** *The day after the event Wirrina received around 45ml of rain that resulted in the bridge crossing in to camp being a foot under water! Access into the ride base was cut for about half a day. A number of tracks were inaccessible to vehicles.*

*(Backup plan! If we find that next June /July is going to be extremely wet and floods are expected we can move the whole event to Kuitpo. This course was trialled successfully at the 2015 States. It is a very large flat tree lined paddock, and we would have to bring in all infrastructures at some expense, but the option is there. I sincerely hope we don't have to use it)*

**Course:** *About 70% of the planned Quilty course was trialed on the weekend. It proved a challenging but achievable track. While we only had 11 in the 160km of which 8 completed, we had 17/19 successful in the 90km course over three legs, and 18/20 in the 41km course.*

**Vet Hospital:** *We had a shed about 200m from camp with 4 undercover stables, quite protected from the weather. This had easy float and car access and proved valuable at our event. It has power and water. 2 more stables are available for next year.*

**Council and Landowners:** *Yankalilla Council has been very supportive of our event. They are keen to promote Fleurieu Peninsula and will give a lot more help next year with rubbish, traffic signage, water, etc Landowners have been very supportive in all areas and also seem happy to have visitors come to the area.*

*Jean Sims TQ17*

**11.3**

### **Pat Slater Cup.**

Appointment of judges for the 2016 in Victoria needs to be done.

Suggested judges were: Helen Spencer (riding), Lois Sharam (Musical Gully Arabians), Meg Wade, Hans Peuker, Gerard Bou, Ieva Peters, Alan Salter. Ieva will contact them.

### **12. AERA Constitution.**

*The Subcommittee comprises Melanie Scott (SA), Sioux Reid (VIC), Pat Hodgetts (TAS), Steve Swan (QLD), Dick Collyer (QLD), Kerry Spratt (NSW), Tom McCormack (NSW). The subcommittee has met five times by teleconference which seems to be working well. We intend to continue meeting mostly weekly for the foreseeable future.*

*At the instigation of Mel and Tom we have revisited whether to pursue the Company Limited by Guarantee model (CLBG) or Incorporated Association model (IA).*

*We have previously recommended to the AERA that we pursue the IA model because we believe, relative to the CLBG model it will be:*

- less of a quantum shift for the sport and will formalise the structure that most division members currently think is in place, that is, they are members of the AERA*
- a simpler and more economical structure, having one less layer (no separate Board and Council of Delegates)*
- the structure will serve us better given our size.*

*The limited response from the AERA seems to support this recommendation.*

*After agreement from the subcommittee and the AERA exec, Kerry spoke with John Mullins. John is available to continue working with us and provided the following advice:*

- as previous advice we can legitimately remain an Incorporated Association and remedy the issues we currently have*
- as previous advice, best practice would be a Company Limited by Guarantee structure. John acknowledged the resistance to this change and advised that the less drastic action of remaining an Association is by far*

*preferable to not acting to fix the issues with the current Constitution*

- *NSW is an appropriate state in which to be incorporated because the NSW legislation will allow arrangements that we may want, that other state legislation does not permit eg appointed directors*
- *an affiliation agreement could provide the necessary links between the AERA and Divisions and the AERA and Division members*
- *he will review a draft constitution and affiliation agreement to be provided to him by the Subcommittee, and provide guidance*

*We now recommend that:*

1. *The AERA formally minutes its agreement to proceed with an Incorporated Association model at the July meeting*
2. *The subcommittee proceed to draft changes to the AERA Constitution and create an affiliation agreement, subject to John Mullins' advice and input.*
3. *The AERA sign the Costs Agreement received from John Mullins to re-engage John to review and provide guidance on a draft Associations Model Constitution and affiliation agreement.*

*Kerry Spratt*

*Chair, Constitution Subcommittee*

*30 June 2016.*

#### **Motion 2016/7/07.**

**Moved: Kerry Spratt/Simon Bain.**

**The AERA agrees to adopt the three following recommendations:**

1. **The AERA formally minutes its agreement to proceed with an Incorporated Association model Incorporated in New South Wales.**
2. **The subcommittee proceed to draft changes to the AERA Constitution and create an affiliation agreement, subject to John Mullins' advice and input.**
3. **The AERA sign the Costs Agreement received from John Mullins to re-engage John to review and provide guidance on a draft Associations Model Constitution and affiliation agreement.**

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

The costs agreement for John Mullins was signed and Kerry will send it to him this week.

### **13. Child Protection Policy.**

Ongoing. Each state should have their own. There is a Playing By The Rules Program – on-line basic child protection guidelines for Chief Stewards and SMCs or something similar. WH&S and equal opportunity and sexual harassment policies should apply for their state. Kerry will have a look through her old documents and see if she can find the one that we were using.

### **14. General Business.**

#### **14.1 Horse SA Symposium.**

*On Friday I attended the Horse SA symposium: "People.Horses.Culture" at Randwick racecourse on behalf of AERA. The symposium was for managers, supervisors, event committee members, and coaches in workplaces, venues, activities or organisations where people interact with horses. The central topic was work health and safety in the equestrian workplace. In the period 2000-2014 there have been 133 horse related fatalities in Australia and for the same period 4000 odd horse related hospital admissions. The injury rate is similar to that occurring in mining.*

*A very interesting presentation was given by Tanya McManus from the Australian Turf Club re" Raceday Operations: The "human factor" venue and safety." Julie Fiedler from Horse SA gave a good presentation of some relevance to us; "Introducing large animal rescue skills for horse welfare and human safety". This included movement of the recumbent horse, the necessity of screens where euthanasia is necessary, and the removal of a horse from a rolled float.*

*Late in the day were two very good presentations on horse welfare. Dr Andrew Mclean is always good value and he gave a very good presentation on evidence based training based very much on equine behaviour research. 64% of horses that go to horse abattoirs are for behaviour related problems. His message was that you cant apply human mental abilities to the horse. He compared the essential differences in the anatomy and physiology of the relevant part of the brain and concluded the horse is a here and now type of*

*animal without the ability to think forward or back ward.*

*In conclusion not so much of direct relevance to endurance. Some of the value at these things arises from networking and I had an interesting conversation over lunch with Judy Fasher, President EA. She is very aware of the UAE endurance happenings and vehement in condemnation of those happenings.*

Simon Bain

#### **14.2 AERA Rule Book - Risk Management Protocols.**

The RM protocols etc. that are not yet in our rule book. Standard answer has been that they haven't been written yet and use your current procedures. Mel has spoken to Tom. We have an AERA RM plan which relates to this organisation. 16.3 require that ROs do a plan for their rides, participants shall comply. Mel has the documents and will send them to Angus to go on the website.

#### **14.3 Overseas Horses coming to Australia.**

There is a lack of clarity over recognition of horse status for horses coming from other countries i.e. NZL. Horse comes to AUS and an open book is requested by the owner. We can check the horse's records and see if it meets our requirements. Doesn't show individual leg speeds. Do we recognise qualifications from elsewhere? Should we be asking the National Federation (EA)? Also, FEI recognises the horse's birth date as 1<sup>st</sup> January which can be difficult. Mel to put together a new rule to address this for the next meeting. Must meet our age requirements. Is the horse allowed to compete at an event as a one-of (ie Quilty) without a logbook? Or do you need to purchase a logbook? Must be a member to purchase a logbook. Mel will also have a look at Rule 11.3 broaden to include the horse status.

### **15. Late Reports.**

#### **15.1 New South Wales Report.**

As we move into the second half of 2016 I am delighted to report the NSWERA is in a solid financial position despite there being fewer rides on the calendar, although individual rides on the whole are getting good numbers of riders. Year to date NSW have held 21 events across numerous distances with another 12 book to the end of the year.

The 2016 NSW State Championships were held at Harden on the June long weekend and were a great success. I am delighted to say that Talea Hasko-Stewart, NSW AERA delegate, defended her title for the 3rd year in a row ... a feat never before achieved ... on her amazing horse Blake's Heaven Bombora.

The NSWERA committee have this year been a very cohesive group following a year of turmoil, this had led to meetings being constructive and productive.

There have been a number of issues for the committee to deal with around the behaviour of individuals, these have been dealt with in house without the need for them to be referred to the IDP, with satisfactory resolutions being reached.

Greg Moore  
President NSWERA

#### **15.2 South Australian Report.**

Once upon a time, endurance rides used to be fun. There was a communal fire, good food, a friendly atmosphere and interesting courses through attractive country. Then the Arabian money tree ripened and brought a stream of wealth which enabled all of us if we so desired to justify new floats, new vehicles and more horses. It was a shot in the arm for the Arabian horse which was on the brink of extinction as a good, sound workhorse - displaced by small footed play things with pop eyes and caved in heads.

Then the UAE were accused of cheating on a massive scale and the FEI, rightfully in my opinion, stepped up to the plate and suspended them until the problem was addressed. Then we saw an explosion of "for" and 'against' camps. We saw people turn on each other, an outbreak of abuse on social media which can only be described as cowardly bullying and it has soured the entire sport. Rides have become less enjoyable, arguments raging between the factions and people have become disillusioned with our sport and many have left it all together. It has been disappointing to see the corrupting and destructive effect of greed.

Anyway, the situation seems to have settled, the UAE are buying Australian horses again and people have settled down to a point but the scars still remain.

This is where we are at now and is the main reason I took on the job. I have been around the sport since it's inception, and it is my desire to steady the ship, to try and restore some sensibility, and to once again see our sport be a pleasure to be a part of. I encourage and invite all of you to try and achieve the same.

I also point out that in our rule book, we do have specific clauses to deal with bullying and destructive

behaviour on social media.

Enough doom and gloom - on a lighter note, it is good to see the evolution of some new courses and new ride organisers which should go a long way to reinvigorating our sport locally. In conclusion, I implore you all to help inject some harmony, common sense and pleasure back into the sport. If you have any issue that concerns you or another member, please feel free to ring me, email me or talk to me at a ride.

We should ALL be very grateful to Mel Scott for her time on both the SAERA and AERA committees in the past years.

Cheers, Bill Harbison

### **15.3 Victorian Report.**

My apologies for the lateness of this report, delegate unavailability has caused havoc with planning.

Membership numbers are fairly stable which in its own way is disappointing given the numbers of day riders entering intermediate rides. Several things have been tried to address this including having members at rides act as a point of information and a system of making mentors available for new riders.

Our financial position remains stable and we are in the fortunate position of a bit of cash in the bank. The fundraising raffle was a disappointment in that not all the membership seemed to be behind it. We did make more than bank interest, but as usual it was a lot of heavy lifting for a few. Current fundraising is centred round efforts at rides and these have been quiet little earners and provided a bit of fun.

Being a ride organiser isn't getting any easier, mostly due to demands from local government and most importantly the financial risk. RO's are loath to increase ride fees for fear of driving riders away but times and cost are changing and riders may have to pay more for their fun. As a result our ride calendar is thinner than it has been and the SMC is always looking to help and support RO's.

There have been a few changes at the SMC table. The treasury portfolio is being managed by Simon Thomas and we look like going to paid bookkeeper. Sandy Little is responsible for horse welfare. After many years Jo Francis has resigned from the position of membership director. Jo has performed this role with diligence and dedication and has also acted as the returning officer for elections and voting at the AGM. Quilty planning continues and there is no reason it will not be a great event.

Our recent State Championships had an incident of note to all ride organisers. A horse got caught up in a set of metal yards and proceeded to run around the camp. Several other horses joined it and quite a dangerous situation occurred. A girl was knocked into a fire and was burnt badly enough to require hospital treatment. The incident provided an excellent chance to educate all attendees as to how secure and appropriate their horse yards are. The good news is that there was no lasting damage to either man or horse.

Sandy Little

### **16. Meeting Dates 2016.**

19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> November 2016.