



Australian Endurance Riders Association Inc.

Meeting Notes of the General Meeting of Members

Date: 29th July 2017 – meeting commenced at 8.35 am and finished at 7.00 pm
30th July 2017 – meeting commenced at 8.00 am and finished at 1.00 pm
(note that meeting finished early due to security alert at airports)

Venue: Quality Hotel Melbourne Airport, 265 Mickleham Road, Tullamarine, Melbourne, Victoria.
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MEETING NOTES

1. **Welcome by President** – meeting commenced at 8.35 am, chaired by Ieva Peters. Melanie Scott (apology – weather caused delay to flight) joined the meeting at 9.35 am and resumed the chair. Ieva Peters, Vice President, presented an AERA award to Peter Bice and Georgie Girl, achievement of 3000 kms.
2. **Members Present**
 - 2.1. **AERA Delegates Present:** Melanie Scott (SAERA) (Chair), Peter Bice (NSWERA), Steve Swan (QERA), Kim Moir (QERA), Pat Hodgetts (TEERA), Jill Hawks, (TEERA), Tamara Atkinson (VERA), Ieva Peters (WAERA), Deb Jewell (WAERA).
 - 2.2. **Apologies:** Kerry Spratt (NSW), Sioux Reid (VERA), Gerard Bou, (QERA), Alamdar Dastani (NSWERA)
 - 2.3. **Proxy Votes:** Noni Seagrim for Kerry Spratt (NSW); Sandy Little for Sioux Reid (Vic)
3. **Delegates**
Talea Hasko-Stewart has resigned as a NSWERA delegate to the AERA. Peter Bice was nominated as her replacement.
Pam Shadbolt has resigned as a TEERA delegate to the AERA. Jill Hawks was nominated as her replacement.

Motion: 2017/07/01 Moved: Deb Jewel / Steve Swan.

That the nominations of Peter Bice and Jill Hawks to be AERA Delegates, until the AGM 2018, are accepted. Carried.

4. Portfolio Allocations 2017

Liaison - National Veterinary Panel: Simon Bain to continue – Pat Hodgetts to liaise with Simon Bain

Facebook: Ieva Peters, Sioux Reid, Liz Rutherford, **Linda Tanian**

Sponsorship: Sioux Reid, **Jill Hawks**

Quilty Advisory Panel: Tom McCormack, Pat Hodgetts, Ieva Peters, **Peter Bice**

Insurance Advisor: Melanie Scott, Steve Swan, **Jill Hawks**

AERA/Quilty Awards: Kerry Spratt, **Jody Smith**

New delegates accepted allocation of portfolio responsibility – Peter Bice, TQ Advisory Panel; Jill Hawks, Sponsorship and Insurance Advisor. Jody Smith has been included to support AERA/Quilty Awards.

5. Registration of votes

Adult & Junior Riding Membership

	2013	2014	2015	2016	Votes
NSWERA	474	471	520	494	5
QERA	531	537	526	496	5
SAERA	71	65	76	81	1
TEERA	224	253	260	222	3
VERA	174	191	189	194	2
WAERA	141	187	190	178	2
Total	1,615	1,704	1,761	1,665	18

Table includes lifetime members. Membership (riding and honorary/life) at 21/07/2017

NSWERA - 434; QERA - 400; SAERA – 79; TEERA – 199; VERA – 190; WAERA – 144.
Total 1446

6. Previous Meeting Minutes

6.1. Amendments to the Minutes of General Meeting held on 18 & 19 March 2017

Nil amendments recorded

**Motion: 2017/07/02 Moved: Deb Jewel/ Tamara Atkinson.
 That the Minutes of General Meeting of 18/19 March 2017 are accepted.
 Carried.**

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

7.1. Overseas Horses Rule

ACTION ITEM - to be completed inter-meeting and circulated to delegates for approval - Mel to drive

7.2. Strategic Planning

Decision that AERA to consider personnel resources available within the organisation.

7.3 Acknowledgement of Murrumba Club's 50th Anniversary

**Motion: 2017/07/03 Moved: Melanie Scott/Ieva Peters.
 That the AERA send a celebratory hamper to the value of \$100.00.
 Carried.**

Kerry Spratt has registered her vote against any expenditure to acknowledge this event.

8. Executive Decisions to be ratified

- 8.1. That Kim Moir, Secretary, is authorised by the committee to make the statements in *Section 5 Declaration and Privacy Acknowledgement* of Form A12 to complete the Annual Summary of Financial Affairs for 2015. Moved Melanie Scott / Steve Swan

Voting: NSWERA – yes; QERA – yes; TEERA – yes; SAERA – yes VERA – yes; WAERA - yes. Carried.

**Motion: 2017/07/04. Moved Ieva Peters/Peter Bice
 That the Executive Decisions are ratified. Carried.**

9. Works in progress – update reports

9.1. Archives

“The Little Black Book” is in the process of being scanned so that the historical records of the AERA are not lost. Ongoing task undertaken by Kerry Spratt – nil report available.

9.2. Position Descriptions to be developed

9.2.1.AERA Points and Distance Registrar

PD to be developed –Ieva Peters / Jo Bailey.

9.2.2.AERA Sponsorship and Advertising Position

Melanie Scott /Steve Swan/ Jill Hawks

9.3. Website Development

9.3.1.Hall of Fame

Hall of fame to be created for AERA and to include a Quilty Hall of Fame.

Nomination process to be developed - Sioux Reid/ Jo Bailey / Ieva Peters

10. State Reports

10.1. NSWERA Report

We are half way through the year and the rides have been receiving good numbers, the weather has been kind so far on the days of the rides and that has helped with good results.

The NSWERA teams for South Africa and for the TQ17 have been named. With great pride and joy I want to inform that two NSWERA teams will be competing in two different continents in two national championships of two countries, also our NSW rider Talea Hasko-Stewart has been selected to the AERA team to represent Australia at TQ17, we wish all the very best to both the teams and Talea.

The NSW sports and rec has been kind in providing us with a grant which will be utilized to promote endurance in NSW state and to educate the new comers, officials and ride organisers.

I would like to extend my thanks to Maxxis tyres company and all associated with the project in NSW endurance. It was a huge success at the Wingello ride which also attracted foreign riders.

Alamdar Dastani
President
 NSWERA

10.2. QERA Report

QERA is, as per usual, facing the ever present issue of Hendra and vets. We have, realistically speaking, lost all of our very experienced endurance vets at "open" rides. They will only do vaccinated only events.

I do suggest that the AERA pushes forth with the treatment vet accreditation process to help with this situation. There are no easy solutions to the Hendra issue in Qld. Management of this issue at SMC level is full of obvious and not so obvious pitfalls. We are dealing day to day with spot fires that are difficult to extinguish. On other levels QERA is doing well. We have been lucky with grant funding and rides are being well attended on the whole with a couple of exceptions. Financially we are in a decent spot. Not setting the world on fire but standing our ground well.

There are of course many facets to QERA other than Hendra and in those other facets we are doing well. It is hard to ignore the H word and it does consume QERA at this point in time and shall continue to do so for some time to come.

I do wish for one of my reports one day to say nothing about Hendra.

It is a very difficult environment to try and stay as neutral as possible in. In the end it is about the achieving the best outcome for the association. What that is, is hard to pinpoint and could prove harder to enforce.

Gerard Bou
 President

10.3. TEERA Report

Tassie –Tassie—Tassie-- Wow –wow—wow--

We are still all celebrating our second consecutive TQ Gold Cup win. Congratulations to Brooke ,her magic little horse and support crew. Also a big thank you and many cheers to all the Tassie competitors who really stamped our status on the endurance front page.

And so there is a open invitation to fellow mainland riders --"you know where the TQ Gold Cup is now held ---- if you want it then you must come and get it ". Hoping to see many in Tasmania for the next Quilty event October 2018.

The first part of the 2017 endurance season ran smoothly with 11 rides held and there have been no major dramas and only 2 IVT's. Participation has been at around 75% of previous years. The short winter break should see riders and horses spelled and freshened ready to resume at end of August. The SMC is enforcing the directive from AERA for a temp log as part of the horse health declaration and this will be introduced at the ride on 26th August.

Traditionally the Tasmanian State Championships are held late Nov as the final event of the year but for 2017 will be held the first weekend in October as the final test run for TQ18. We are expecting mainland entrants and intend to be using the same biosecurity format as for TQ18.

TEERA have ordered the electronic timing system and look forward to using it at most rides.

Tom McCormack is coming to Tasmania 12/13 August for the CS workshop.

Pat H

10.4. VERA Report

We have had a few changes in our SMC of late, with replacement of some long time committee members. Dave and Trish Reeves have resigned, due to health issues. We wish Dave all the best. They are not disappearing though, as they are the ride organisers for the Harrison F Trucks Vic State Champs. They have

been replaced with Hans Peuker and Paul Nugent. Hans has been on the committee before, so brings past experience with him, and Paul brings fresh new ideas to the table. Our rides have been very well attended. The three week system has proven to be a big win, with better attendance at all rides. Great for the individual Ride Organiser. We have just had our Toongabbie ride, who had thankfully taken over a ride that had to be cancelled. Numbers had doubled this year, compared to the last few years. It's great to see more interstate riders come through too. The log book stickers for HEWS have been printed, and will be trialled at 3 rides in the next few months. The Chief Stewards already have them, so it will be interesting to see the feedback from the membership. We have got a great number of people entered for the Quilty, which now this report is for afterwards, I hope we all achieve our buckles!

Tamara Atkinson

10.5. WAERA Report

So far it's been a great half year for WAERA. Our rides thus far have been really successful with good numbers in attendance.

The SA TQ17 was by all accounts very successful WAERA would like to extend congratulations to the Managing Committee for a well run ride.

A huge congrats must go to the WA riders that made the trip over to SA and achieved a buckle. Well done to you all, it's a big trip and was well worth it.

The WAERA is having a half yearly general meeting on August 26th, the idea being the members can attend and bring up any concerns they have or ideas for the forward planning of their club, instead of waiting until the AGM, it seems to work well, as problems can be sorted quickly and saves a lot of time at the AGM.

It is the second year running we have done this and it seems to be very popular with the members.

With 7 rides left on the WAERA calendar including the State champs, it's going to be an awesome finish to the year with some great milestones achieved for many new riders.

With time flying by a sub Committee has been form with the 2020 TQ in mind. They are taking submissions for potential TQ venues, and as we all know this can be time consuming making sure all the things that are needed for a successful ride are in place. Will keep you posted with how things progress.

Deb Jewell

WAERA President.

11. Treasurer's Report

11.1. Treasurers report

July 2017

Things are running reasonably well.

Insurance - We have paid our PL insurance (\$55K) and by the meeting will have started on the PA. We have paid EA our annual \$8,500 + gst.

Tom Quilty Cup

Trevor Young made us another excellent cup for TQ17.

Prior to 2015 the TQ division rotation was SA, Tas, Qld, WA, Vic, NSW. In 2015 Vic and NSW swapped so that the 50th could be held over some of the original ground in NSW. In what division are we now going to hold the ride after WA in 2020 – are we going back to the original sequence, that is to Vic? Or are we staying with the changed sequence and going to NSW? The thoughts of those two divisions are most important.

Arrows

As you can see by the Item List above, our arrow and distance marker stock has been running down, so I have ordered more, which we will have received by the meeting. The distance markers shall be the same, but the new arrows will be -



This design was arrived at by consulting with some experienced endurance riders / track markers from around the country – Debbie Grull, Tamara Atkinson, Sandy Little, Louise McCormack and Steve Gray. The colours will be stronger than represented here, and they will all have silver glitter mixed in with the paint to give them a little reflectivity. For night-time riding, they will still need reflective tape added, but probably not as much.

The arrows have been sponsored by Matthew Sample's company, Sample & Partners, for \$5,000, which is about 88% of the cost.

Budget for 2017 and 2018

Deb Edwards has put together an excellent, and very detailed budget, as a spreadsheet, that enables us to project forward, and therefore help us plan. Some apparent trends are:

- i) our membership is down, Australia wide;
 - ii) because of i), our income from insurance recovery, affiliation fees, and ride entries will be down on what was expected, so will make our bottom line weaker than anticipated.
- This has impacts for 2018 that we need to consider. Steve Swan.

11.2. AERA Bookkeeper – Review of Position and Contract

Current contract to 31 December 2017 – Deb Edwards regarded as competent and is now up to speed with what is required. AERA to offer to renew this contract for 2 years. Steve Swan.

12. National Ride Entry Statistics 2016. (Source: AeraSpace.)

Data as at 14/07/2017

Div	Enduro	Training	Intro	FEI	Total
NSW	1268	803	883	41	2995
QLD	1237	931	484	42	2694
SA	245	196	292	-	733
TAS	526	329	93	-	948
VIC	637	311	136	-	1084
WA	352	297	344	-	993
Totals	4265	2867	2232	83	9447

Div	Enduro	Training	Intro	FEI	Total
NSW	572	468	498	24	1562
QLD	548	586	252	12	1398
SA	280	107	138	-	525
TAS	373	252	78	-	703
VIC	268	147	121	-	536
WA	221	170	122	-	513
Totals	2262	1730	1209	36	5237

13. Portfolio Reports

13.1. AERA Registrar Report (Jo Bailey)

Database

I am now working on missing data from Tom Quilties after which I will resume working on email requests and any other issues as they arise, ongoing.

Rider Scrolls

WA have been in contact to have any 10,000km rider scrolls sent for presentation at their AGM later this year, all SA applications were processed and presented at TQ2017. I have not heard from VIC, QLD, TAS (there are applicants that have been waiting around 2 years now for their scrolls). NSW rider scrolls were presented at their AGM earlier this year.

ACTION ITEM: State Management Committees to advise when they are to present these rider scrolls, AERA made previous decision that all 10,000km rider scrolls to be presented by respective state committees.

Jo Bailey

Registrar – AERA

13.2. Aussie Endurance Chatlist (Dorte Colja)

The chat line continues to be very quiet, mainly ride flyers being posted. The ride info posted, can easily be found on either State or ride club websites, so anyone with access to the web can get the info needed, without having to rely on the chat line. Discussions have moved to Facebook pages, for quicker responses, and I am sure that no one relies solely on AussieEndurance for Ride info, so AussieEndurance as a discussion and Ride info line seems defunct now. I feel that AussieEndurance has lost its purpose, and can be closed. I have attached a message history, that will show how the messages have dwindled over the last couple of years. Data presented on agenda showed decline in usage to almost nil.

Motion: 2017/07/05 Moved: Mel Scott / Ieva Peters.

That Aussie Endurance Chatlist be closed – Kim to advise Dorte and to discuss with Angus re process to end.

Carried.

13.3. Facebook (Ieva Peters, Sioux Reid, Liz Rutherford, Linda Tanian)

Quilty time is busiest time – eg 8 400 hits re the winner's photo and 9000 + for rug photos.
Two-person team to maintain postings during Quilty events – midnight start always watched.
Over 3000 followers and a powerful tool that we need to use more.

13.4. AeraSpace (Steve Swan)

AeraSpace report

July 2017

There was a new version released at the start of June, which is working well. Apart from some enhancements to general admin capability (registrars inputting/reporting) there were some more development of the ETS software, and some changes to the structure of how ride team competitions are administered.

Teams

Since we introduced the concept of having team competitions, with different technical requirements, running simultaneously at the same event, AeraSpace needed to evolve to reflect that. So we now have 3 categories of competition – International, National, Traditional; and 2 types of competition – restricted and unrestricted.

Electronic Timing System

Production of ETS units is well under way. TEERA and QERA have confirmed orders by paying their \$4,950 50% deposits, to give us the working funds necessary, so they will be receiving their systems hopefully a couple of weeks after the meeting, and will both be able to use them at their upcoming 2017 state champs rides. We are confident that the system is now high quality, and are ready to accept orders from other entities.

Yamamah App has been accessing data from AeraSpace and reports on endurance rides from around the world; work has been done to block his access to data and he has requested access; consideration re payment for this.

Motion: 2017/07/06 Moved: Melanie Scott / Deb Jewel.

That Steve is given authority to negotiate "sponsorship" from Yamamah operator with suggestion of \$2 per horse per annum, equates to \$20,000.

Carried.

13.5. National Veterinary Panel (Simon Bain and Pat Hodgetts)

AERA Vet Liaison Report July 2017

Training of Endurance Vets

Training of treatment vets has been a prominent discussion item in recent months. The NVP meeting concluded that the accredited veterinarian process and lists need to be emphasised and maintained. The NVP meeting noted that vet schools have been contacted to see if they are interested in providing endurance specific information in the curricula. There has been some interest but apparently no accommodation within regular courses. The suggestion has mostly been to provide seminars to EVA young members outside of normal classes.

Biosecurity

At the NVP meeting it was felt that the AERA biosecurity document is useful. **It should be noted that for rides conducted in areas where Hendra virus is a risk the NVP considers that all horses attending the ride need to be vaccinated.** It was also noted that the legal ramification for vets and veterinary clinics were very serious and restricted provision of services to unvaccinated horses in Hendra risk areas.

Rest periods

With respect to rest orders the NVP felt that rest orders following elimination remain challenging to specify given the range of biological variables for each case. At the recent FEI forum, data were presented to support mandatory rest periods, and to extend the current periods. It was acknowledged that national riders are generally not supportive of mandatory rest periods, and such rules require negotiation.

Actions from the NVP Meeting

Seek assistance from AERA (financial and with the mechanics) for developing and presenting webinars on line vetting and treatment. Reiterate through AERA and state management committees the process for appointing accredited vets and ensuring sufficient veterinary cover. AERA to seek sponsorship for mentoring 1-2 vets per year to develop their endurance specific veterinary training and skills, and attend and present at a conference.

Endurance Veterinary Fees

It was felt that the current small fee increases are not keeping up with reality. In order to attract and keep young vets in the sport it is felt there should be realistic increases in the fees. It was felt that there could be a separate fee of \$175 for a pre-ride vetting day as there are vets that only turn up ride days.

The recommended fees as a result of discussion are therefore:

Ride Distance	Recommended Accredited Fee	Ride Distance	Recommended Accredited Fee
80km	\$725 + GST	Pre-ride vetting only	\$175 + GST \$500 ride day only
120km	\$875 + GST	Daily rate (eg Marathon)	\$550 + GST
160km	\$1100 + GST		

What effect will this have on ride entry fees? The breakdown of the increase is as follows: Each vet can vet 30 horses in a standard event or 15 in VGIH. So a \$100-\$200 increase would mean ride entry fees would increase by \$3.30 to \$6.60 per standard vetting and \$6.60 to \$13.20 per VGIH ride.

Simon Bain BVSc MANZCVS

Motion: 2017/07/07 Moved: QERA / VERA.

That Rule Book to include

15.3 When more than 3 vets are required to meet the vet:horse ratio, the vet team will include at least 2 accredited vets

Voting: NSWERA – yes; QERA – yes; TEERA – yes; SAERA – yes VERA – yes; WAERA - yes. Carried.

First vote

Motion: 2017/07/08 Moved: Steve Swan/ Pat Hodgetts.

That AERA recommends a once only 5% increase for 2018 bringing fees to \$678 plus GST for 80 km rides; \$492 plus GST for daily fees, eg marathons/multiple rides; \$700 plus GST for 100 km rides; \$762 plus GST for 120 km rides; and \$949 plus GST for 160 km rides. A new fee will be introduced for pre-ride vetting only of \$160 plus GST and \$500 plus GST for ride-day only.

Voting: NSWERA – yes; QERA – yes; TEERA – yes; SAERA – yes VERA – yes; WAERA - abstaining.

Carried.

13.5.1. Vets for accreditation

Vets recommended for accreditation:

Dr Ashley Greeves (VERA) Dr Lesley Hawson (VERA)

Dr Bruno Ros (QERA) Dr Lachlan Cameron (QERA)

Motion: 2017/07/09 Moved: Ieva Peters / Tamara Atkinson.

That all vets as recommended be accredited as AERA vets, having met all criteria.

Carried.

13.6. Medication Control (Dorte Colja)

13.6.1. Report

Three more Swabbing Stewards have been trained for QERA this year, accreditation should come through shortly.

VERA has ordered kits for future swabbing and Tom Quilty kits have been delivered to SA. QERA has swabbed 2 events so far, this year. I haven't received orders or reports from other states yet.

It is important that State Swabbing Portfolio holders are aware, that kit orders for endurance need to go through me, and that I need reports back in order to tally up events swabbed, plus urine and blood samples collected. Documents are available on AERA website or through me.

13.6.2. Swabbing Tom Quilty 2017 (South Australia)

Notice as posted on AERA website

ANNOUNCEMENT REGARDING TOM QUILTY 2016

The AERA is disappointed to announce an adverse analytical finding involving prohibited substances in The Tom Quilty Gold Cup 2016.

A horse tested positive to the two prohibited substances, the stimulant Caffeine and its metabolite Theophylline. Equally, Theophylline, used for the treatment of asthma and various respiratory diseases, can be metabolised to Caffeine.

Theophylline and Caffeine are listed as Controlled Medication and Specified Substances under the FEI's Equine Anti-Doping and Controlled Medication Rules (EADCMRs) as adopted by the AERA.

The AERA rules required the disciplinary process to be managed by the State Division of each member involved and in this instance, three persons have been identified in association with the horse and are members of the NSWERA.

The horse Coolahlee Park Shaman and rider Elizabeth Moir have been disqualified from the ride and the buckle has been returned to the AERA. Jolene Cole (Person Responsible) and Chris Geddes (Trainer) received administrative penalties in accordance with the AERA/EADCM rules. All connections with the horse have been penalized by the imposition of fines.

The process in accordance with clause 25.3 of the EADCM rules has been finalized.

13.6.3. Adverse Analytical Finding

Reference correspondence from EA re Wingello Forest Ride, 28/05/2017 – laboratory analysis found 1 banned substance and 3 controlled medications.

Correspondence to NSWERA to advise of their responsibility to manage this incident in accordance with the rules.

13.7. Equestrian Australia – Endurance Committee

World Youth Championships

The World Youth Championships, to be held in Verona, Italy on 23rd September, is the focus of the Selectors and Team Management now.

The selectors are busy getting all horses vet checked for this event with every horse currently on the list being located overseas. We currently have 3 youth riders qualified – Liberty Mercer, Tayla Hadzi (NSW) and Bec Radny (WA). A fourth youth, Jess Daykin is still seeking qualification and will be heading over to Portugal in the near future to try her luck out at getting her last qualifying ride.

Once the horses have been vet checked the selectors will make the announcement of the riders on the long list and, a bit closer to the event, the team will be announced.

FEI Endurance Forum

I was lucky enough to be able to attend this event, in Vic Spain recently with the full support of EA.

Session 1 – Veterinary Concerns and Studies

- *Presentation covered risk factors in endurance rides, reporting on the outcomes, from the first year and a half of study and covered over 97,000 horse starts*
- *One of the outcomes looked at the impact of increasing rest periods between competitions*
- *Increasing by 7 days showed a clear win for horses with considerably less horses then having further Fail to Qualify due to lameness or metabolic issues*
- *Then we had Chris Witton from Australia who has been looking at catastrophic injuries and prevention opportunities*
- *A lot of his work looked at the increasing stressors of work and how that impacts on the life cycle of bone adaption*
- *The risk factors point to interval between rides and speed as there is inadequate time for the horse's system to properly adapt to the loading*
- *His research supported the idea of increasing the length of rest between events*
- *Third presentation was from the Equirating guys (Sam Watson from Eventing and Diarmuid Byrne)*
- *They are putting together a system that highlights riders who are not achieving quality outcomes, i.e. competes in 10 rides with only 2 completions thereby qualifying for a Championship event but not necessarily someone who should be selected in a team when other riders qualify with less non-successful attempts*
- *They are developing software to map this and provide National Federations with an additional tool*
- *It is similar in premise to our Early Warning System although achieves the same outcomes in a different way*

Session 2 – Education and Responsibilities

- *This presentation was about the total review of the FEI's education system for officials and vets*

Session 3 – Rule Modification Proposals

- *An excellent opportunity for some of the endurance fraternity to review rule change proposals before they get sent to the National Federations for comment*

Session 4 – National Federation Specific Concerns

- *We had a presentation from the Emirates Equestrian Federation on improvements that they are implementing*
- *It included a statement that there have been no Catastrophic Injuries sustained in the period from February to May in the UAE FEI Competitions*
- *This statement excludes CEN competitions*

Session 5 – Modernising the Sport

Today's session at the FEI Endurance Forum was all about modernising the sport. There were lots of interesting stats about the increasing popularity of endurance on a worldwide basis including:

- *95% increase in the number of international endurance events since 2007*
- *58% increase in the number of registered endurance riders*
- *37% increase in the number of registered endurance horses*

Our own Brian Sheehan led the first presentation taking us through the mission statement, values and some of the changes being experienced by endurance. A WEG Review highlighted a number of concerns about endurance and the fact that it is only available for 1 day on the WEG schedule of events means a considerably smaller spectator attendance (6,000 compared to 110,000 spectators for Jumping which runs for 6 days). It is making it unviable to include endurance on the WEG schedule as other sports are subsidising us.

Brian presented his expectations for the future of the sport which included:

- *Highest standard of horse welfare of all the FEI and non-FEI disciplines*
- *Officials practice the highest standard of integration*
- *New and successful competition format for individuals and teams with high completion rates and entertaining to watch*
- *Self-funded discipline ensuring financial stability*
- *Education for officials, athletes and trainers*

The next speaker was Nick Brooks Ward who is the Operations Director of the Horse Power Group and is involved in the Windsor Royal Show and the Euston Park endurance events among many other things. He provided some thought provoking questions for us and highlighted how we keep endurance hidden away. He has lots of experience in promoting sports (the Tour de France is one of them) and suggested:

- *Endurance is conceived as a closed sport*
- *Videos that his company have put up onto the web are pulling good numbers in terms of views and this is a much under-utilised opportunity*
- *There is a lack of understanding about what endurance is in the larger equestrian community that we could easily address*
- *There are lots of positive messages that we could be producing to highlight our sport*
- *A lot of education is required to bring people up to speed on what we do and how we do it*

Stephane Chazel is a member of the FEI's Technical Committee for Endurance. He talked about the philosophy of the sport and how it has changed from being a complete to win scenario into flat racing. He thought that we had the opportunity to decide where our sport was heading and presented three options:

- *More professional and elitist – a little like cycling where a team approach is adopted*
- *Extreme sport with the supreme test of horsemanship*
- *Long distance racing*

His feeling was that the sport should be splintering and a new rule set should be created for each splinter.

The last presentation was given by Ignasi Casas who is the Chef d'Equipe of the Spanish Team. He gave us a bit of a trip down memory lane. He tracked the changes of the sport from a totally amateur sport to what it is today – professional teams, big sponsorship and monetary/high value prizes.

The opportunity for everyone to then join in an open discussion on the issues facing the sport and where the sport could go. Many interesting comments were provided and some of the elephants in the corner were allowed to run around a bit. While there was no consensus on a single approach the FEI has been given lots of information and ideas to mull over.

Trans Tasman Competition

Work is continuing on presenting the Trans Tasman competition, which will be held across the 1 and 2* events. This format is different to previously held Trans Tasmans and this is at the request of the NZ Federation. It seems that there are not lots of qualified NZ riders so we've made the event easier to attend by specifying that two riders will compete in the 2* event and 2 riders will compete in the 1* event.*

We have had a good number of people nominate for the team so that will put the pressure on the selectors in terms of putting together a team.

EA

EA have appointed a new Committee Liaison Officer, Vivienne Liogas to replace Stef Mauran who has been looking after us for the past 12 months. Kirsty Pasto is the Committee Liaison Manager who has been on board now for a few months.

A new set of Committee By-laws have been put together by EA. These provide a much more solid framework for supporting the various EA Committees and provides direction in a number of areas in which the previous by-laws were silent. These were welcomed by the Endurance Committee.

One of the comments that our Committee frequently hears is a question regarding the value that the membership of AERA get from the agreement between AERA and EA. I thought I'd take a little bit of time to outline what is available as a result of that agreement:

- *Access to the International Development Fund – Endurance OCs have received a substantial sum of money from this fund and a further application has been made to seek funding for the upcoming EA Championships*
- *Support to the Endurance Committee from the Committee Liaison roles (EA have noted that the Endurance Committee is the most active of all discipline committees) for running meetings and preparation of agendas and minutes*
- *Processing of ride entries, ride applications, supplying Letters of No Objection and schedules for events*
- *Provision of a rug for the EA Championship event*
- *Financial support for attendance at the FEI Endurance Forum*
- *Support for officials in terms of organisation of educational seminars*
- *Assistance with submission of team entries for World Championship events*
- *Provision of funding for Committee members to attend the two face to face meetings in Sydney each year*

There have been initial discussions with EA about the provision of a small budget to help us with activities, such as the Team Camp and the Strategic Planning meeting.

Ride Calendar for 2018

The Endurance Committee will shortly be looking at working with our OCs to try and work up some dates for the 2018 year for FEI events. We are planning on inviting the SMC Presidents to this discussion to allow visibility of the dates. As the application time frame for the FEI calendar is considerably earlier than most states the approval of FEI ride dates has always been a little 'tricky'. By getting everyone together early it is hoped that we can avoid OCs having to pay late calendar fees.

Linda Tanian

13.8. Governance and Policy

13.8.1. AERA Constitution

We submitted drafts of the Constitution and Affiliation Agreement to John Mullins and received feedback. Next step will be a teleconference with Steve, Melanie and Sioux and John to discuss his comments and the way forward. Unfortunately, I'll be away and won't be able to take part but will look forward to catching up. I do believe that the documents are close to what we need.

Kerry Spratt

Teleconference on Wednesday 26 July 2017 clarified process to move forward with development of new constitution.

Drive behind constitution was to allow levels of discipline with members to come to AERA – Mullins not recommending that. Most sporting bodies have avoided national bodies taken responsibility for disciplining members. Concern that our operating processes are incongruent with constitution. Some re-working of some sections to occur. Looking at a general meeting of members, similar to AGM, to elect board – a smaller committee to represent membership, not necessarily with equity of DA representation.

John was concerned we still did not have enough clarity around a management group and a representative group. He is firmly of the belief 5-6 is the optimal and the larger table we have is really a rubber stamp/agm type body

Constitution still to change – draft ready by October for discussion at November.

13.8.2. Policy, Strategic Planning, Restructure

13.8.2.1. Child Protection Policy

In considering the roll out of the Member Protection Policy in Queensland, one form that has been reviewed is the Ride Entry Form. I was considering this with specific regard to junior riders.

The QERA Ride Entry Form had dropped the reference to a "Responsible Adult" though this is required by rule 27.7(a). This is to identify an adult who is present at the ride base who can be contacted to act as a representative of a junior rider (If required) during the course of the ride. This should be signed by the Responsible Adult who has been appointed by the parent/guardian to support the junior rider, when the parent/guardian is not present. I consider this person would be called on to sign for swabbing, to be present if a junior rider (a minor) is being disciplined or to deal with an emergency situation related to the rider or the horse.

My understanding is that a parent or guardian will always have signed the declaration, contrary to rule 27.7 (c) which states that this is not required for full riding junior members. I believe this was explored with insurers last year who stated that this declaration must always be signed. My belief comes from information provided by a 2016 QERA SMC member.

These comments are offered for you to consider with your DA with regard to ensuring that information is captured to allow for timely support for and supervision of juniors.

13.8.3. Rule Changes – Motions for Second Vote.**13.8.3.1. Motion from QERA.**

Motion: 2017/03/13. Moved: QERA/SAERA.

That table 13 is amended to reflect a minimum riding age for intro riders of 4 years.

Voting: NSWERA – yes; QERA – yes; TEERA – yes; SAERA – yes VERA – yes; WAERA - yes. Carried.

Motion: 2017/03/14. Moved: QERA/SAERA.

That tables 6 and 9 are amended to reflect a minimum tabled kilometre distance for intro rides be changed to 1 kilometre.

Voting: NSWERA – no; QERA – yes; TEERA – yes; SAERA – yes; VERA – yes; WAERA - yes. Carried.

New rule for 2018

13.8.3.2. Motion from QERA.

Motion: 2017/03/15. Moved: QERA/NSWERA

Rule 40.1 – Every rider in every endurance, marathon, mini marathon and Intermediate ride is subject to the Rider Early Warning System (REWS). The rider attracts penalty points as per Table 15 (The change being that a vet out with a pulse of 66bpm or higher will attract a penalty of 20 points) (The rule currently states 15 points).

Voting: NSWERA – yes; QERA – yes; TEERA – no; SAERA – yes; VERA – yes; WAERA - yes. Carried.

New rule for 2018

13.8.3.3. Motion from QERA

Motion: 2017/03/16. Moved: QERA/NSWERA

Rule 60.1: Every horse in every endurance, marathon, mini marathon and Intermediate ride is subject to the Horse Early Warning System (HEWS). The horse attracts penalty points as per Table 18 (The change being that a vet out with a pulse of 66bpm or higher will attract a penalty of 20 points) (The rule currently states 15 points).

Voting: NSWERA – yes; QERA – yes; TEERA – no; SAERA – yes; VERA – yes; WAERA - yes. Carried.

New rule for 2018

13.8.3.4. Motion from QERA

Motion: 2017/03/17. Moved QERA / NSWERA

Rule 40.2: On the first 12 month anniversary of an individual penalty being imposed, 6 points are credited to the rider. Additional credits occur for the successful completion of intermediate, endurance, marathon and mini marathon rides.

- (a) 4 points for rides 40km and up to 59km***
- (b) 6 points for rides 60km and up to 79km***
- (c) 8 points for rides 80km up to 90km***
- (d) 10 points for rides 91km up to 120km***
- (e) 12 points for rides 121km up to 159km***
- (f) 15 points for rides of 160km and above***

Change Credit points for both Rider EWS and Horse EWS

Voting: NSWERA – yes; QERA – yes; TEERA – no; SAERA – yes; VERA – yes; WAERA - yes. Carried.

New Rule for 2018

13.8.3.5 Motion from QERA.

Motion: 2017/03/18. Moved QERA / NSWERA

Rule 60.2: On the first 12 month anniversary of an individual penalty being imposed, 6 points are credited to the horse. Additional credits occur for the successful completion of intermediate, endurance, marathon and mini marathon rides.

- (a) 4 points for rides 40km and up to 59km
- (b) 6 points for rides 60km and up to 79km
- (c) 8 points for rides 80km up to 90km
- (d) 10 points for rides 91km up to 120km
- (e) 12 points for rides 121km up to 159km
- (f) 15 points for rides of 160km and above

Change Credit points for both Rider EWS and Horse EWS.

Voting: NSWERA – yes; QERA – yes; TEERA – no; SAERA – yes; VERA – yes; WAERA - yes. Carried.

New rule for 2018

13.8.4. Motions for discussion and first vote

13.8.4.1 Rule 5.1 re intermediate rides

Motion: 2017/07/10. Moved VERA / WAERA

That the rule 5.1, table 6 be amended for the intermediate “maximum any leg km” from 40 km to 42 km.

Rationale: there had been a previous rulebook change to allow for up to 42 km in an intermediate ride before requiring a second leg: this appears to have now been reduced to 40 km which is limiting RI's with no space for course distance planning.

Change Credit points for both Rider EWS and Horse EWS.

Voting: NSWERA – yes; QERA – yes; TEERA – yes; SAERA – yes; VERA – yes; WAERA - yes. Carried.

Passed first vote.

Agenda item for November 2017 meeting for second vote.

13.8.4.2 New rule re refusal of entry to events

NSWERA notice of motion:

We've recently had significant problems with a ride organising committee wanting to refuse entry to both the event and the ride base (their property) to NSWERA members on the basis of issues outside endurance. This presents a risk of members being excluded from events that they are entitled to enter under our rules. We do need to note the possibility of legal restrictions that might be in place which trump the rules. Fortunately in this case, with much negotiation, the issue was resolved on the basis of the undertaking on our ride application form:

'In consideration of this ride being approved by and affiliated with the NSW Endurance Riders Association Inc., the ride organising committee confirms that no NSWERA member will be refused entry. The ride organizing committee also confirms that no private property owner will refuse access to their property to any entrant through which the ride travels'.

This declaration is signed by a member of the Ride Organising Committee who must be a member of NSWERA. We suggest that all Divisions not already using something similar, consider doing so.

We've also proposed a new rule attempting to address this problem.

Motion 2017/07/11. Moved NSWERA / WAERA

That a new rule be added as:

12.3 In consideration of an endurance event being approved by and affiliated with a DA., the ride organising committee will not refuse entry to any person who is a member of a DA, unless there is legal justification for so doing.

12.4 Where an endurance event venue or any part of the course is on private land, the ride organizing committee must ensure that no private property owner will refuse access to their property to any person who is a member of a DA unless there is legal justification for so doing.

12.5 Any legal justification which is relied on by a ride organising committee or land owner to preclude any person from an endurance event in any way must be provided to the relevant DA management committee prior to the endurance event.

Voting: NSWERA – yes; QERA – yes; TEERA – yes; SAERA – no; VERA – yes; WAERA - abstain. Carried. Passed first vote.

Agenda item for November 2017 meeting for second vote.

13.9 Tom Quilty Gold Cup

13.9.1 2017 – Wirrina Cove, South Australia

13.9.1.1 Event Director's Report

TQ17 post ride report

What a week! What a weekend. Overall I think SA can say it put on a pretty good Quilty!

I feel I had a hardworking talented Committee, most of whom are Endurance riders, and this gave them a better insight in to what needed doing to put on such an event.

As always there are big and small jobs but they were all needed to ensure the success of the Tom Quilty Gold Cup event.

*Jess Aistrope, who did most of the **Course designing** over the last 2 years, driving thousands of kilometres, provided an interesting, challenging but safe and achievable course.*

*Melanie Scott, our **Course Director** spent long hours marking and then worked non- stop over the event making sure water, gates, arrows, checkpoints, communications etc were correct and functioning. It was a huge asset to have someone of her experience and knowledge and organising skills taking on this mammoth task. We had many reports of an interesting, well marked course!*

*A huge thankyou to our **Head Chief Steward** Gerard Bou. His calm but firm, manner over the 24 hours as he organised the Vet ring, CS rosters, horses, riders etc, giving advice and orders, solving problems, offering better options, was greatly appreciated.*

*The **Veterinary Team** were professional and worked well as a team.*

*The **BioSecurity Gate** worked very smoothly, which was a relief. Plenty of flat open ground for unloading was a big help. I am grateful to all our arrivals who cooperated with the process and complied with paperwork and directions. While the BioSecurity Document took many hours of discussion and work it was worth it in the end.*

*The **Timing System** worked well, despite a flat battery at one point. Jon Sims quickly rectified the problem and all was well. I thank Tom McCormack and Steve Swann for supplying the expertise to get it running and keep it going smoothly. Having experienced operators like Ieva Peters, Bronwyn Cuthbertson and her two sons, to run the Data office (and train Cindy Sharrock) was a huge help. We couldn't have done it without all these experienced personnel and the Committee appreciates their commitment.*

*The **Venue**, the Wirrina Cove Holiday Park, proved very suitable. We had more Camp room than we anticipated and people were happy with their slightly larger sites.*

***Sponsorship** was initially difficult but Jodie Lucks' powers of persuasion won them over and we had around \$55,000 donated in the end. We went to great lengths to make sure Sponsors were welcomed, acknowledged frequently over the weekend and thanked at Presentations.*

***Merchandise** was tightly controlled by Jody Smith and Lainie Ray and almost sold out.*

*Our **Volunteer Coordinator** was a superwoman. With just over 100 wonderful people putting their hands up to help in some way, Anita Brandsden did an amazing job organising and rostering them all, then guiding them to their posts when they arrived. She coped with sudden withdrawals from helpers, changes of mind, inclement weather etc.*

*The **Vet Hospital** was manned by experienced capable people. Dr Robyn Mather, Vet nurse Liz Mudge, Dr Sandra Harbison and CS Janet Bull, ran a very well organised and professional unit.*

***Catering** by Claire, while not in the Events Standards agreement, kept everyone well fed and happy throughout the event.*

***Budget** is always a concern. A myriad of unexpected expenses cropped up in the last few days but I'm hoping our contingency fund will cover those.*

13.9.1.2 Chief Steward's Report

CS Report Wirrina Cove TQ 2017

If I could preface my CS report with some words on the organisational monster that the TQ is and offer some very kind words about the hard work and diligence that was put into running this event by a very small

committee.. Although on the day there were many volunteers to help out, the bulk of the work in the lead up was done by a few people.

The Bio gate at Yankalilla seemed to work very well. There were no complaints, other than weather related, about how this operation ran and it is, I believe, a good model for future TQ's to follow should there be another need for it. It reduced pressure at ride base very well.

The ride base was fantastic. It allowed us to build a very good vet ring and strapping area. Comments that have come from riders and crews have been that it was the best set up they had ever used at a TQ. The horses flowed well through the system and it was for the most part very efficient thanks to the efforts of the volunteers at the various stations.

The issue of the locked gate on leg 2 did see some serious thinking happening. Thankfully Mel Scott was on the ball and on track at the time. Also thankfully one of the riders caught had Mel's number and called her so Mel could direct them to a nearby gate to continue on. Soon after Mel arrived at the gate and sorted out the dilemma.

There was a sleeping checkpoint operator before the locked gate. Which some riders were concerned over as they felt they lost some time at that checkpoint waiting for him to awaken and put on some pants. These were the front runners who also were caught at the gate a short time later.

In all 17 riders were affected in one way shape or form by the checkpoint and the gate. In the end riders were given early out times on to the 4th leg on a sliding scale. This did not affect the minimum hold times as described in the rulebook and it left the riders happy with the outcome as the riders all then knew who was in front and behind based on line of sight rather than by a possible time credit via aeraspace that may have seen a rider ahead on track but behind on time. It was very important to me that who actually came across the line first was in first place and not be behind in time because of a time credit. There were no complaints about how it was dealt with and all riders were happy with their early out times. No protests no complaints no worries.

The other issue was a perfect storm of events that saw us battling through a very congested vet ring at one point in the day. It is not unusual to have a back log of horses to vet at one time or another at any ride. Add in rain, a lack of vets, logbooks that couldn't be written on, a lack of pencilers and generally trying conditions and it becomes a bit worse. Had the sun been shining I don't think any riders would have been too concerned.

I returned from a wet clothing change to a very full vet ring and some very stressed out people. The represents were coming in thick and fast and we had finishers at the same time so panels were at a premium. Basically, we lost a number of vets at a time when we needed them the most. Again what is done is done and we muddled through it as best as we could. In the lead up to the ride the conversation about vet numbers came up many times.. If I did have a suggestion for how future vet numbers are decided it would be that the on course vet be available for the vet ring when not actually on course. If that is manageable and they don't need to be in situ for emergencies. Also when deciding on vet numbers that the equation has a plus 1. That plus 1 is purely for panels. We did try this with the vets and I know it has been done before though it does become quite problematic in busy times.

The treatment hospital worked well though there were some communication issues in the lead up to the ride about treatment equipment. It was sorted out before the event and all treatments went well. Every horse was discharged and there were no referrals. All monies have been paid by the owners so no bills are outstanding for treatments as far as I am aware.

All in all the event to me was a huge success. I very much enjoyed working with the experienced vets and I do have a very high regard for those vets that support our sport. With the experience that we had in the vet ring and the hospital I felt very assured that all horses would receive the best care and attention.

My CS team was great also. Dorte was pretty busy with me not in the vet ring for a bunch of time and all CS's did well under sometimes trying circumstances.

Special commendations for those that support from behind the scenes. Sandy Little, Bronwyn Cuthbertson, their two young fellows, Steve Swan, Tom and Lou McCormack, Ieva Peters and hopefully I haven't missed anyone. Without these people putting in the ride would fall apart.

I see this event as being a very successful one. There will always be dramas along the way but good people sort them out and keep on going. For my part I enjoyed the experience and look forward to the next one either as a rider or as a CS.

Massive congrats to Jean, Mel and Jess.

One thing I do think the AERA should investigate is a TQ container. It was discussed at various times by various people over the course of the event and if the AERA had a shipping container with everything the RO needs to run the ride it may prove easier to send that container to ride base rather than having to get everything new each time. Even down to the arrival and departure tents. Something the AERA could consider perhaps in future discussions. This could also contain a tent/shelter for vets and CS's possibly with an outdoor heater of some kind.

Also I think there needs to be a structured document from the AERA on the day after. BC workouts, Pat Slater, which rugs, which horses, which trophies and so on. A few of us were planning the workouts and presentations and thankfully so. As we would finish a plan someone else would remember another thing that needed adding or organising. If it were all on a sheet, if it isn't somewhere already, then life may be easier when everyone is working on 2hrs sleep after 36 straight awake.

Loved it. Loved working with everyone, loved being supported by so many and would do it again. Though not next weekend.

Gerard Bou

13.9.1.3 NZ / Australia Team Event

AERA Team Manager Report

The spectacular event which is eagerly awaited every year by every Australian endurance rider/family was held on the 8th July at the very scenic Wirrina Cove in South Australia.

The International teams event was competed between Australia and New Zealand. The New Zealanders had two horses shipped to Australia from their home country to compete making the challenge exciting.

Australian team had 4 horses in the team and one reserve and so did New Zealand team.

Australian team consisted of

- *Simone Krahnem riding La Battista shadow fax*
- *Stella Harbison riding Willowstar Bay-Sil*
- *Blaine Astell riding Karabah Tully*
- *Talea Hasko Stewart riding Blake's Heaven Bombora*
- *Reserve rider: Gayle Holmes riding Cairo*

New Zealand team consisted of

- *Ross Hill riding Suncrest Sadaqa's Pride (Aussie horse)*
- *Mark Tylee riding Glendhu Chester (Aussie horse)*
- *Ashleigh Cole riding Zee Boy Rodney (NZ horse)*
- *Ashley Cole riding Kahuna Moon (NZ horse)*
- *Reserve rider: Nadine Barker riding Windradyne Flame (Aussie horse)*

The Aussie team's rider Simone Krahnem was not happy how her steed LA Battista Shadow Fax was not being itself and decided to withdraw on return from Leg 2. On the other side the New Zealand team riders Ross Hill, Mark Tylee and Ashley Cole saw their horses vetted out lame on leg 2. This straight away made the Australian horse be in the lead but game was still ON until the last horse standing.

The people present at TQ were very supportive of the Aussie team and had been constantly asking me how the team was moving along; it was very positive atmosphere even though the weather and the terrain has been harsh.

The Aussie team kept their pace consistent as most of the NZ competition was out of contention and the New Zealand had one rider still competing.

The Australian team won the International teams event against New Zealand in the combined time of 37hrs 34mins and 10secs with the riders Talea Hasko Stewart riding Blake's Heaven Bombora, Stella Harbison riding Willowstar Bay-Sil and Blaine Astell riding Karabahn Tully. The New Zealand team had Ashleigh Cole as their only rider to complete the ride on their imported New Zealand horse Zee Boy Rodney in 17hrs 46mins and 26 secs.

The trophy won by the Australian team is beautiful and well deserved, it compliments all the efforts of the horses, the riders and their crew that have been working hard and training for this event to compete over the very scenic coastal but turned into harsh terrain topped by the cold wet weather.

The Australian team presented themselves in a very professional manner and showed team spirit, though at the presentation one of the team members (Simone Krahnem) didn't show up for presentations and that was unlike the spirit of unity that was at the start.

Overall the International teams event at TQ17 was a success and I would like to extend my appreciation to the AERA team selectors (Melanie Scott and Gerard Bou) and AERA for starting this international teams event, which I hope will be facilitated as a regular event and hopeful inclusion of other countries in the International team's event.

Alamdar Dastani

Team manager

AERA

13.9.2 2018 Scotsdale, Tasmania

13.9.2.1 TQ Agreement

At March meeting it was agreed that the TQ/AERA agreement needed updating and I was one of those people that agreed to be on that sub-committee. Although I soon received a sort of partial update from Ieva (which was basically re-hashing the vet and CS payment details -- as per the the TQ manual) I have not been informed anything since.

As work with TQ18 is progressing very fast and well, I feel there is a need for AERA to provide TQ18 with an agreement that the can work with in preparation for signing a formal agreement at the July 2017 AERA meeting.

*Regards,
Pat H*

13.9.2.2 Event Director's Report

Event Director – has this role been allocated – Graham Bucknell – need a solid support team to bring the event to successful delivery.

Concerns re functioning of committee – AERA to refer back to TEERA to provide advice on event progress to date – letter to secretary to provide more timely reports, content of reporting, and minutes within 10 days of meeting. These minutes must accurately represent what has occurred at a meeting.

Head Vet – Helen Spencer proposed 2IC – tba Treatment Vet - Khyle Stewart

Biosecurity – to review SA biosecurity to meet the Tasmanian needs

Look to sign agreement by November meeting – need more robust reporting to support this signing.

Tom Mc Cormack attending CS workshop in August and SC in October and will advise committee on future planning – goals set in August for review in October.

13.9.3 2019 – Queensland

Proposal from Stirling's Crossing Endurance Club to host TQ19 in Queensland.

THE 2019 TOM QUILTY COMMITTEE

The 2019 Tom Quilty Committee (TQ19 Committee) will consist of members of Stirling's Crossing Endurance Club who have demonstrated experience, skills and knowledge that will support the success of the 2019 Tom Quilty Gold Cup Endurance Ride (TQ19).

The TQ19 Committee will also include

- *two appointees from Queensland Endurance Riders Association; and*
- *one advisor, as appointed by the Australian Endurance Riders Association.*

The TQ19 Quilty Committee membership as known at 15 July 2017, and offered for consideration and approval by the AERA is:

- *Matthew Sample, Event Director;*
- *Bob Sample, Track Design Director;*
- *Jim Green, Ride Base Director;*
- *Denise Green, Promotion and Sponsorship Director;*
- *Kim Moir, Administration and Ride Secretary;*
- *Rod Field, Risk Management (tbc);*
- *Michael Shaw, QERA appointee;*
- *Liz Terry, QERA appointee;*
- *AERA appointee, to be advised.*

Each of these portfolio holders will work with a team of volunteers to ensure that all preparation for the TQ19 remains on schedule.

The first meeting of this committee is scheduled for 29 October 2017 and the committee will remain in operation until all matters relating to this event are finalised, anticipated to be September 2019.

THE EVENT

It is proposed that the 2019 Tom Quilty Gold Cup will be held from 11 – 14 July 2019.

Stirling's Crossing Endurance Club has been approved to host the Queensland State Championships in 2018 and has sought approval for a similar date on the 2018 calendar, as for the TQ19, to allow the Qld State Championships to be observed as a test event.

VENUE

The proposed venue for TQ19 is Stirling's Crossing Endurance Complex, adjacent to Imbil State Forest areas. This property is owned by Matthew Sample who has committed to providing an exceptional venue for the TQ19. This venue provides access to all-weather trails that have been well tried over many years of endurance events being hosted in this area. These include the annual Far A Way Easter Carnival, the Equestrian Australia Championships, and multiple other endurance events over the last thirty years.

The design of the ride base will allow an uninterrupted view of the final 1000 metres of each leg. Separate arrival and departure lanes will minimise two-way horse traffic.

The facilities offered by the venue include an undercover vetting area (50 metres x 30 metres and with good lighting), a toilet and shower block, an administration building, water access to camp sites and an undercover hospital area. Further toilets and showers will be sourced for the event; a marquee will be provided to accommodate meetings and post-ride celebrations; the current hospital facility will be extended and an isolation area will be provided with consideration to veterinary access.

The vetting areas will be subject to approval by the Head Vet and the Chief Steward.

The town of Imbil is a short drive from the proposed venue and offers access to local services for fuel, groceries, meals and accommodation. A small bus will provide return trips to Imbil twice daily. The community is accustomed to endurance events and has been welcoming of the business this brings to local businesses.

The city of Gympie is 35 kms from the ride base and the ride base is accessible from the Bruce Highway.

3.4 Course

The course proposed for the TQ19 will be the same course as used for the Queensland State Championships in 2018.

The course will be of 160 kms and will be measured by two different methods to accurately establish the exact distance. There is capacity to provide a course of 5 or 6 legs. The length of legs will not exceed 40 kms with at least two legs being shorter in length and of lesser intensity.

The course will be free of hazards and will be able to produce an average riding time of sixteen hours, with no more than 10% of the course on bitumen or paved roads.

Water will be accessible on course as set down in the Event Standard.

The proposed course will allow access for emergency services, rescue floats, on-course farrier and other officials. A member of the TQ19 Committee, who is familiar with all aspects of the course will be available to escort emergency services personnel or other ride officials to respond to a critical incident or to review the course from time to time during the event.

Radio check point positions are well established and proven to be effective.

The course will provide challenge to experienced riders and horses, but will be well balanced. Course loop maps and elevation profiles will be submitted to QERA for approval and later posted on the TQ19 website.

The finish line will be close to strapping and vetting areas.

3.5 Biosecurity

The TQ19 Committee will develop a Biosecurity Plan in collaboration with Biosecurity Qld, the AERA and with consideration of advice received from other relevant bodies and parties.

The first draft of this document will be submitted to the AERA for approval by November 2018.

All horses entering the Quilty ride base venue must, prior to being granted access to the ride venue, must present an appropriately completed AERA Horse Health Declaration and/or any other bio-security requirements as implemented from time to time, by the AERA Inc. or the host Division SMC.

Emergency services will be advised that the event is occurring to ensure that their staff are aware of contact details and access to the venue..

SPONSORSHIP and MEDIA

The TQ19 Committee will seek sponsorship to contribute to the cost of the event and so reduce the cost to participants.

Sponsors will be accepted with consideration of the standards and principles stated in the Event Standard.

Sponsorship Packages that require any undertaking by the AERA will be submitted for approval to the AERA before being finalised.

Naming rights for major sponsors of the Quilty will be permitted subject to approval by the AERA. The words "Tom Quilty Gold Cup" must remain a prominent part of the name of the event at all times.

All advertising and promotional materials, with the exception of approved sponsors' promotional material, will include the AERA Inc logo and include the wording "Tom Quilty National Championship".

Discussion re tracks, weather conditions for the time of year proposed, committee memberships with reference to QERA appointees, Michael Shaw and Liz Terry. Concerns re Michael's availability to attend meetings. Preference for a 5-leg event.

Steve Swan appointed as AERA Rep.

Letter to advise of AERA rep and other matters discussed. Proposal accepted.

13.9.4 AERA Awards / AERA lifetime awards

Report re breakdown of all the costs for the 2016 AERA awards, provided by Jody Smith.

Thanks to Jody Smith for doing an awesome job organising the awards this year. Jody's enthusiasm was fantastic. Feedback from awardees is very positive.

The distance scroll application says awards are made every 1500km over 5000km. This is not correct because we jump from 8500 to 10 000km. I've asked Jo to change the application form.

Kerry Spratt

Jody willing to accept this role, Awards and Trophy coordinator – will she be this person in the future – Mel to follow up with Jody and Kerry.

13.9.5 Pat Slater Cup

Motion: 2017/07/12 Moved: Ieva Peters/Steve Swan.

That AREA purchase another Pat Slater Cup bronze . Carried.

13.9.6 Tom Quilty Buckles

Design model received with cost similar to current cost to source buckles from USA, approx \$250; business is too much for a small manufacturer and too small for a big manufacturer.

Options

1 AERA to continue to source buckles as is.

2 Purchase a machine @ \$14,000 inc gst, includes software but not bits; Gerard Bou would have ability to manufacture buckles.

- Machine could be used to manufacture buckles for other rides; buckles currently used are not expensive – prototype would be made with machine and then cast in quantity required.
- Australia made with new design based on old style
- Machine can't replicate a hand-cut finish

3 Gerard Bou, or other, to be buckle maker, providing individual buckles

Unknowns include how long one buckle will take to make – maybe 45 minutes ; what maintenance may be required on the machine and its longevity; how will this keep pace with changing technology.

Details of buckle design are endless - still to be worked on with prototype presented for consideration; question of whether rider is shown with a helmet or a hat; consensus to maintain status quo of hat; rider to be made separately; questions re mix of materials and impact on quality of final product.

Further financial analysis to be provided and to include insurance cover.

Motion: 2017/07/13 Moved: Noni Seagrim / Ieva Peters

That TQ buckles continue to reflect 100 miles with reference to historical context.

Voting: NSWERA – yes; QERA – abstain; TEERA – yes; SAERA – yes VERA – yes; WAERA - yes. Carried.

Motion: 2017/07/14 Moved: Tamara Atkinson / Steve Swan

That AERA, based on further costing to be provided by Gerard Bou, purchase a machine, to be stored by G Bou and to be used by G Bou to produce buckles for AERA.

Voting: NSWERA – yes; QERA – abstain; TEERA – yes; SAERA – yes VERA – yes; WAERA - yes. Carried.

14 General Business

14.1 Horse Early Warning System - VERA

Use of logbook stickers to support awareness of HEWS implemented by VERA

Sample letter to Chief Stewards and stickers.

Dear Chief Steward,

At the 2016 VERA Inc. AGM there was a recommendation from the Disciplinary Panel for there to be a visual reminder to all members on the importance of being personally aware of the Horse and Rider Early Warning System (EWS) points accumulation for Vet Outs in Endurance Rides.

To conduct the EWS Sticker Trial the VERA Inc. SMC has purchased the enclosed stickers for use at VERA Inc. affiliated rides for the remainder of 2017. It is felt that the CS would be the most appropriate official at rides to apply these to the horse logbook.

During the EWS Sticker Trial these stickers are to be used for every Vet Out in Endurance Rides (80km and over) to encourage our membership to refer to their AERA rulebook and develop a better understanding of the rules they ride under. Please apply these stickers either in the vetting metabolic area if no information will be covered or in the Vet Out reason box on the Left page.

During this trial period you may be called upon to assist the membership to understand the HEWS and REWS. The SMC would appreciate any feedback you personally feel able to provide and any comments you receive from riders.

Regards

Bronwyn Cuthbertson

	<p>Sample Sticker</p> <p>Aim is to raise riders' awareness of rules and processes – letter to VERA acknowledging and agree to forward any comments from members.</p>
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15 Meeting Closed Meeting closed 12.50 pm

16 Meeting Dates 25th and 26th November 2017

17/18 March 2018 – AGM and General Meeting