



Pony Club Association of Victoria

ABN 64 320 020 091
73-75 Mackie Rd
Mulgrave. Vic. 3170

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 23 August 2009

Minutes

Held at the Moama Bowling Club, Northern Zone
on Sunday 23rd August, 2009 at 10.30am.

1. **OPEN ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 10.30am**

2. **PRESENT**

People Present

Connie Anderson, Rowan Anderson, John Barlee, Pat Barlee, Kaye Blanchard, Bronwyn Bouchier, Peter Bouchier, Louise Bouchier, Jenny Bourke, Bronwyn Brougham, Lindy Bruce, Jo Campbell, Edna Chandler, Mary Chatto, Phillip Cobbledick, Pat Collins, Brain Copeland, Kammy Cordner Hunt, Frances Corry, Robyn Coutts, Barry Coutts, Rochelle Crow, Diane Curtis, Deirdre Davey, Jenny Donald, Adrian Dowell, Justin Dullard, Jan Faulkner, James Fitzpatrick, Heather Ford, Bronwyn Glenn, Adrienne Gorman, Jeanette Graham, Linda Harris, Jodie Hay, Debbie Hicks, Issie Hill, Amy Holland, Phil Holland, Kerrie Jennings, Hayley King, Angela King, Clarrie King, Vicki Kneebone, Leonie Lang, Jennifer Leddra, Clare Lewin, Vicki Lloyd, Ann Marston, Richard Marston, Louise Martin, Fiona Matherson, Brain McCarty, Marion McKay, Bronwyn Meadows-Smith, Dorothy Miles, Janny Miller, Debbie Morden, Amanda Murphy, Graeme Nettleton, Yvonne Nettleton, Chris Norris, Cherie O'Donohue, Rosemary Oram, Andrea Otto, Jim Page, Margaret Page, Jim Page, Alf Parsons, Pat Parsons, Bev Parsons, Sandra Peacock, Dorothy Peacock, Rhonda Quinsee, Jenny Sargent, Wyn Scott, Bette Scougall, Linda Smith, Marlene Stapleton, Laurel Stevens, Lyn Stevens, Anthea Sutherland, Carolan Thomas, Judy Tranter, Robin Tranter, Naomi Walkington

Clubs Represented

Ballarat, Balranald, Bamawm, Benalla, Charlton, Cohuna, Colac, Deniliquin, Echuca, Hamilton, Kangaroo Ground, Kerang, Kyabram, Laurimar, Lockington, Maldon, Mansfield, Maryborough, Meeniyah, Mooroolbark, Mornington Peninsula, Moulamein, Nathalia, Nunawading, Numerkah, Nyah and District, Riddells Creek, Rochester, Shepparton, Swan Hill, Tatura, Tooradin

3. **APOLOGIES**

Janice Ray, Stephen Bragg, Tony Curwen, Megan Harrington, Stephen Coffey, Kevin Blanchard, Lauris Cole, Laurie Cole,

4. **CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES** (26 August 2008 Minutes)

Moved Robyn Coutts

That the Minutes of the AGM 26 August 2008 be taken as circulated and read.

Seconded Anthea Sutherland

Carried

Moved Linda Smith

That the Minutes of the AGM 26 August 2008 be accepted as a true and accurate account.

Seconded Leonie Lang

Carried

5. APPOINT A RETURNING OFFICER

The attendees present appointed host Zone President, Bronwyn Bouchier, as Returning Officer for the Vice Presidential vote count.

Candidates nominated Deirdre Davey and Lyn Stevens as scrutineers.

6. TREASURER'S REPORT

Executive Officer James Fitzpatrick presented the Treasurer's Report on behalf of Treasurer Janice Ray who was absent.

Moved Vicki Kneebone

That the Treasurers Report be accepted

Seconded John Barlee

Carried

Appointment of the auditor, Clements, Dunne Bell

Moved Kammy Cordner Hunt

That Clements Dunne Bell be the auditors for 2009-2010

Seconded Robyn Coutts

Carried

7. PRESIDENT'S REPORT AND AWARDS

Jan Faulkner invited people to read her report, which was printed in the Annual Report. Jan expressed her appreciation to her fellow executive members of the Council, the State Councillors, Executive Officer, Coaching Director and staff and for their wonderful support. Jan highlighted the NCAS Coaching, strong government grants, improved communication, membership, events, and the horrible bushfires.

Jan made special mention of the Life Membership presented to Clarrie King at this year's State Horse Trials.

Jan called speakers to assist her with the presentation of the Distinguished Services Awards and the recipients were Graham Nettleton, Richard and Anne Marston, Brian Copeland, Val McKenzie, Stan Barratt and Oriel Gardiner

8. COACHING DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Clare Lewin invited people to read her report, which was printed in the Annual Report.

Clare highlighted the improvements in coaching resources and the rollout of the NCAS. The year ahead looks very positive. Clare thanked the Council, sub-committees and staff for a year of consolidation and achievement. Clare also thanked outgoing ZCI's Wendy Abey and Michele Campbell for their tireless work and efforts over the years.

9. EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

James outlined the performance of the organisation. The year was very positive with many major improvements such as the NCAS Rollout and coaching resources. The State Council provided excellent direction and we have a clear pathway for the focus on resources and consistency. State and Zone Training will be the focus for the coming year and we hope that membership numbers improve through this period. James thanked the Council, sub-committees and staff for a very pleasing year.

Moved Bronwyn Glenn

That the President's, Coaching Director's and Executive Officer's reports be accepted.

Seconded Brian Copeland

Carried

10. ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS

All positions were declared vacant and the following election took place.

- a. President – Nominations received by due date
 - i. Jan Faulkner

- b. Vice President – Nominations received by due date
 - i. Kammy Cordner Hunt
 - ii. Philip Cobbledick
 - iii. Vicki Kneebone

Both positions were declared vacant and an election by mail was held prior. The postal and hand delivered votes were tallied by the Returning Officer, and two of the three candidates were elected.

The candidates elected for 2009-2010:
Philip Cobbledick
Kammy Cordner-Hunt

11. ELECTION OF ZONE REPRESENTATIVES

- a. Nominations received by due date

All positions were declared vacant and as there were no other nominations for the positions, the following persons were duly elected for 2009-2010.

- i. Barwon Zone – Deirdre Davey
- ii. Central Zone – Leonie Lang
- iii. East Gippsland Zone – Stephen Bragg
- iv. Midland Zone – Kaye Blanchard
- v. North Eastern Zone – Lyn Stevens
- vi. Northern Zone – Bronwyn Glenn
- vii. North Metropolitan Zone – Linda Smith
- viii. South Metropolitan Zone – Robyn Coutts
- ix. Wannon Zone – Anthea Sutherland
- x. West Gippsland Zone – Vicki Kneebone

Jan Faulkner presented a State Councillor badge to Robyn Coutts

Jan thanked the outgoing SMZ Zone Representative, Tony Curwen, for his support and effort throughout the years.

12. CLOSE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 11.33am

13. SPEAKER

Our guest speaker was Dr Marion Magee who gave a colourful account of the ageing process and some very valuable advice on how to slow the process.

14. PRESENTATION BY JAMES ON THE STRATEGIC PLAN

James Fitzpatrick gave a report on the Strategic Plan from last year. The plan was reviewed by colour coding the completed, ongoing and not complete items and highlighting the priority given to each item..

15. PRESENTATION BY CLARE ON THE NCAS PRELIMINARY COACHING

Clare Lewin gave a report on the NCAS Coaching progress.

16. OPEN CONFERENCE

Jan Faulkner opened the conference and gave an overview of the afternoon stating how it is really positive to have input and feedback.

17. ITEM 1 – the FUTURE WITH VISION

Bev Parsons, a Northern Zone DCI from Kyabram PC spoke to the items raised in her letter. There were three issues – a) vision b) offer something different c) name change.

She said club members are the heart and soul of pony club. Decision making needs to come from the bottom up from clubs. Changes to Bylaws need to be kept to a minimum. There is too much emphasis on competition requiring big commitment of parents in time and money. Perception of what pony club can offer needs to be realistic.

There was discussion from the floor which highlighted that clubs do operate at varying levels of satisfaction. This affected committee decision making, planning and rallies.

The general reporting structure was viewed as working and clubs had access to zone and state decision making.

It was interesting listening to club delegates talk about the effectiveness of good committees and junior committees who were very proactive. Some clubs have 85% rally attendance Rally plans are improving with NCAS Coaching training.

The group spent time talking about rally attendance and why we went to 5 rallies. It was pointed out that some clubs hold fortnightly rallies and 50% attendance was very difficult for riders at these clubs to achieve.

It was felt the two rallies for Associates has not worked as they are not there often enough in some clubs but this varied club by club. A discussion took pace on attracting and retaining boys and older members. It was noted that some clubs do this successfully because of the way they tailor their group structures and rally plans.

Some parents see pony club and rallies as a pathway to competition.

DC's are often bogged down in compliance.

The internet is a great source of rally ideas and communication and also there are some new great books in the PCAV shop like Rally Planners and Lesson Plans.

It would be nice to have an age limit at HRCAV to give clarity of membership to both organisations.

Zone meetings are sometimes hard to get to but are a great source of information for clubs. We always need more communication especially down to the rider level as some officials are not passing on information.

Pony club needs to strike a balance between the high achievers and those riders seeking fun at rallies.

Modified rules for inexperienced riders have been introduced such as F Grade show jumping.

In earlier days, there was more horse knowledge which is not so prevalent today.

The Name Change is on the international, national agendas but no-one has come up with a suitable name suggestion at this point in time. Pony Club is an International Brand Upgrading the profile of pony club is a sound idea as we collectively need to increase membership.

18. ITEM 2 – SYLLABUS OF INSTRUCTION RE-WRITE

Dianne Curtis from Cobram spoke to the item about the Syllabus of Instruction and certificates.

There was a discussion of how some clubs and zones, such as SMZ, encourage and support riders who wish to do higher level certificates. This offers an easier progression for riders.

The Syllabus is a Pony Club Australia publication. There are a number of initiatives developed by the CIP to aid riders in achieving their certificates and these can be found on the website.

C and D Manuals have really assisted riders and certificate assessors

19. ITEM 3 - \$1 LEVY FOR STATE and NATIONAL EVENTS 1.45-2.00

Phil Holland from Mornington Peninsula Pony Club spoke on the \$1 levy per rider for national and state events.

Phil suggested the item go back to all clubs for comment.

From a quick survey from the floor about 50% of zones make a surplus each time they run a championship. This depended on the site and existing infrastructure.

Some zones such as NMZ already have a \$1 levy on competitors at all events held in the zone to help raise funds for when they host state events.

The \$1 levy would raise \$7000 but some years we spend \$30,000 eg 2005 Perth Nationals. State Council has a new sponsorship with Horseland that provided \$3000 towards the State Horse Trials.

State Council has the provision to grant a loan to a host zone.

Some opposed to the levy as zone should call for assistance from within the zone.

20. ITEM 4 – BARRELL RACING AS A STATE EVENT 2.00-2.15

Kerrie Jennings from Maldon PC spoke to the barrel racing concept.

Affordable and achievable for all clubs.

Ranking system for riders offered ceding for ability levels.

Feedback was most clubs have barrel racing at rallies.

Most Northern Zone clubs have barrel racing and it was suggested that NZ might prepare a discussion paper for the State Council.

21. STATE GAMES TEAM SIZES 2.15-2.30

Due to time constraints, this issue was not discussed at the conference but is being heavily debated by the State Games Sub-committee and the NMG Sub-committee who will report to the State Council in the future.

22. JAMES ROVING QUESTION TIME 2.30-2.50

Bronwyn Glenn asked whether an "FAQ" or "frequently asked questions" page could be added to the website to help answer the most often asked questions. This will be investigated.

Bronwyn Bouchier raised the issue of bitless bridles and questioned the process used to change gear rules in pony club.

The current National Pony club rule states the horse must have a bit in its mouth.

The process is Club to Zone to State, across to Chief Instructors Panel, State to the National panel that meets twice per year.

John Barlee spoke of his concerns regarding the duty of care of PCAV in providing adequate first aid services especially at State events. It is apparent that the quality is not consistent across the state.

A number of clubs suggested first aid providers that were offering a good service. The State Council is reviewing first aid services and this item is currently under investigation.

Jeanette Graham asked the question about riders using public grounds, access out of hours, ground closure and the status of insurance.

Clubs are covered 365 days per year for public liability so it is not an insurance matter. The issue is for clubs and landlords to agree on ground usage and sustainability issues. There are a number of steps to take if grounds are open to the public such as ensuring all equipment is safe, checked regularly and fit for use.

23. CLOSE CONFERENCE 3.30pm

Jan Faulkner closed the conference and thanked everyone for coming and travelling so far. She wished them a safe trip home and for all to enjoy the coming year in pony club.