



SAERA President Report December 2019

So here we are again, 10 months after the last AGM on another total fire ban day. At least we are inside.

The first month after the AGM was a frenzy of activity with two major projects undertaken and ensure the 2019 committee and ride organisers could get on with the business of running the club in 2019. Firstly I would like to thank our treasurer who has prepared two sets of books this year. Rachel Barnett, Mel Bright and myself spent a few evenings financially reconstructing 2018 and those books have been audited and the results published. I will say no more as that is the treasurer's moment of glory. Needless to say that put the 2019 books behind and Rachel has burnt many hours at midnight to present the books for you today. Thank you Rachel and Sam Uren who is always available to consult. The second big job and it will be ongoing was ride trailer maintenance. Thank you to Jodie Luck who has driven to Perth and back with the thing! It is roadworthy, it is an asset and it will require ongoing maintenance and investment. I thank Jodie for the time she invested in making the trailer happen!

Our membership for 2019 was 57 riders, not our best but definitely not our worst.

We managed to run 9 rides, one of these being the well-attended and very successful first Marathon Ride in SA at Mil Lel in the South East. We hope this will become an iconic annual ride for our state. Harry and Michelle Ousley supported this ride with Harry as head vet and perpetual best managed trophy. Not long after this ride Harry was diagnosed with esophageal cancer. He has had an incredible battle for life this year and won and I even think we may see him at some rides next year. He loves to share his war stories so please get in touch.

We kicked off at Callington, thank you to Jil and crew. The Bright Heinrich clan ran Mil Lel and two rides at Kuito in September, Lisa and Colin Brown ran a ride at Waikerie and Sandy Creek. Jess Aistrop put together two rides at Polish Hill River. Lainie Ray and a crew put together an amazing state championships at Mount Crawford. Finally we dual affiliated with the Reeves in VERA for the wonderful Dergholm Ride.

Our 2020 ride calendar is looking promising with dates set and Ride Organisers already taking an interest in securing a date for their proposed rides.

SAERA held a training day alongside a TPR Course in October at Almazaan Stud with Dr Dan Sims, who kindly donated his time and SAERA gained 10 new provisional TPRs, with all the candidates who sat the exam passing.

Despite our small numbers our state has had a successful performance year.

Particularly of note:

We had 7 riders attend TQ19 in Queensland, 5 of those on SA horses, and all but 1 rider were successful.

We had two riders make the trek to St Albans, NSW to attend Shahzada400 with a successful completion in the 400km Marathon Ride.



Internationally, South Australia was recognised with a successful completion at The Tevis Cup in California by Melanie Scott on her borrowed horse Vaz Djets On (Stella)

A huge congratulations went to Stella Harbison when she travelled all the way back to Queensland for the third time in 2019 to Stirling Crossing to compete in the 160km 3* Open event and won it convincingly in a riding time of 11 hours, 17 minutes 28seconds.

Moving forward towards 2020, we have adopted a new constitution thanks to Andrew Luck and his subcommittee. The road was not always smooth to the new constitution but it certainly drew attention to why we needed one. Thankyou.

Lastly I want to thank all the members of the 2019 committee. When I was asked to take on Pres again I said I was not going to drive myself and the way I have in the past by trying to do everything, all the other committee members would have to do their jobs, and they did. Some of the jobs committee has to undertake are not glamorous but they have to be done. Tania Drever looking after the Membership Protection Policy and its consequences for example. What we lack in numbers we make up for in grit and determination and a fabulous proactive, hardworking State Management Committee.

Melanie Scott

President SAERA