

# ***Pony Club Association of Victoria***

73-75 Mackie Rd  
Mulgrave. Vic. 3170

Inc A0013413S



## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 12<sup>th</sup> October 2014**

### **MINUTES**

Held at "Irving House"  
73-75 Mackie Rd, Mulgrave. VIC  
Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> October 2014 at 10.00am.

#### **1. OPEN ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 10.00 AM**

The President, Philip Cobbledick, welcomed those attending the AGM and noted the Life Members present in Kaye Blanchard, John Barlee, Jan Faulkner and Keitha Raabe. He also welcomed the guest speaker Stephanie McAuliffe of Mountain District Pony Club.

#### **2. PRESENT**

##### **People Present**

Val Armstrong, John Barlee, Kaye Blanchard, Julie Carstairs, Philip Cobbledick, Vicki Connelly, Laurie Cruise, Deirdre Davey, Pam Davey, Jan Dear, Adrian Dowell, Jan Faulkner, Peter Favaloro, Sue Foley, Kerryn Gooding, Issie Hill, Graeme Johnstone, Pam Kalms, Leonie Lang, Tony Lee, Clare Lewin, Sue Muirhead, Rosemary Oram, Jim Page, Catherine Pender, Keitha Raabe, Tony Shaw, Anthea Sutherland, Kate Wilson

##### **Clubs Represented in person**

Bacchus Marsh, Benalla, Bendigo, Buchan, Charlton, Cockatoo, Colac, Findon, Gisborne, Hamilton, Kyabram, Longford, Mansfield, Monash, Mooroolbark, North Eastern, Pakenham, Trafalgar, Wyena,

##### **Clubs represented by Proxie**

Deirdre Davey – Barwon Valley, Julie Carstairs – Briagalong, Peter Favaloro – Moe, Issie Hill – Euroa, Leonie Lang – Bullengarook, Lancefield & District, Melton \$ District, Sunbury, Riddells Creek, Sue Muirhead – Doongala, Rosemary Oram – Mildura- Alcheringa, Jim Page – Healseville, Kangaroo Ground, Lilydale & District, Lower Plenty, Ringwood, Seville, St Andrews, Upper Yarra, Yarra Glen, Yarrambat,

#### **3. APOLOGIES**

Apsley Pony Club, Numurkah Pony Club, Darrelyn Boucher – Cockatoo Pony Club, Paula Clark – Melton Pony Club, Jenny Elliot – Briagalong, Kylee Hickey – Cobblers Creek Pony Club, Tracy Hosier – Eltham Pony Club, Fiona Matheson – Swan Hill Pony Club, Linda Smith – Kangaroo Ground Pony Club,

##### **Moved: John Barlee**

That the apologies as recorded be received.

##### **Seconded: Jim Page**

**Carried**

#### **4. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES - 13<sup>th</sup> October 2013**

##### **Moved: Deirdre Davey**

That the Minutes of the AGM held on 13<sup>th</sup> October 2013 be taken as circulated and read.

##### **Seconded: Kaye Blanchard**

**Carried**

**Moved: Anthea Sutherland**

That the Minutes of the AGM held on 13<sup>th</sup> October 2013 be accepted as a true and accurate account.

**Seconded: Adrian Dowell**

**Carried**

**5. APPOINT A RETURNING OFFICER**

The attendees present appointed Pam Davey, PCAV Treasurer, as Returning Officer for the counting of votes for Vice President – Even years..

**Moved: Vicki Connelly**

That the PCAV Treasurer, Pam Davey, be appointed Returning Officer.

**Seconded: John Barlee**

**Carried**

Candidates for Vice President were invited to appoint a scrutineer - Adrian Dowell appointed Issie Hill, Peter Favaloro appointed Val Armstrong and Jan Dear acted for Tracy Hosier.

**6. TREASURER'S REPORT**

Pam Davey invited those present to read the Treasurer's report printed in the PCAV Annual Report.

2013- 2014 will noted as a significant year in the history of the organisation due the purchase on PCAV Park – formally Shirley Heights Equestrian Centre. The purchase brings the accumulated assets of PCAV close to 3.5 million dollars.

While the audited bottom line shows a decreased cash surplus PCAV continues to show a strong financial position. The decrease in surplus can be explained by a number of factors; the \$500,000 cash deposit for the property, decreased income due to lower interest rates, reduced Government Grants due to the payment schedule, an Insurance fee from the previous financial year and increased staff wages.

The aim over the next few years will be to invest in the infrastructure of PCAV Park and reduce the bank commitments whilst continuing to maintain the current service to members

As there were no questions from the floor, the President took the opportunity to congratulate Pam on her achievement in ensuring the continued strong financial position of PCAV.

**Moved: Pam Davey**

That the Treasurer's Report and Audited Financial statements be received

**Seconded: Kaye Blanchard**

**Carried**

**Moved: Pam Davey**

That Crowe Horwarth Vic be appointed as Auditors for 2014-2015

**Seconded: Pam Kalms**

**Carried**

The Scrutineers and Returning Officer left the room to conduct the count.

**7. PRESIDENT'S REPORT AND AWARDS**

The President Philip Cobbledick invited people to read his report printed in the Annual Report.

Philip highlighted the purchase of PCAV Park as a significant achievement in the history of PCAV towards a sustainable future for Pony Club.

Another initiative that State Council has commenced is a review of the current Governance model. The review has been funded by a grant from SRV and the structure will be based on best practice as laid down by the Australian Sports Commission. This project will take place over a number of years and will involve consultation with member clubs.

Philip congratulated Vicki Connelly on her appointment as Chair of Pony Club Australia. In order to take on a position on the PCA Board Vicki was required to resign from all state appointments. Philip thanked her for her years as a State Councillor and Vice President and wished her success in her new role.

Philip recognised the contributions made by retiring State Councillor Kaye Blanchard over many years. He thanked State Council for their help and guidance over the year and finished by thanking the office staff for their hard work over the year.

## **8. COACHING DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Coaching Director, Kate Wilson, invited people to read her report printed in the Annual Report.

Kate summarised some of the main points in her report;  
Coach Membership – this is a new category of membership for all Pony Club Coaches which has been implemented for several reasons. At the present time we rely on Clubs to register their coaches as Service Providers, this process can be hit and miss. Registering directly with PCAV will allow the office to communicate with Coaches to ensure they are updated on workshops, rule changes and updating activities. The Insurance Company requires that all Coaches, including volunteers, must be registered with and approved by PCAV. Direct registration will ensure this occurs. The NCAS has a requirement that coaches must be a members of the sport in which they coach. Coaches can now join PCAV to ensure they comply.

Kate reminded Clubs that from January 2015 those with more than 20 Riding members are required to have a current NCAS Coach at rallies and activities.

There is an incentive to become a PCA NCAS Level 1 Coach by May 2015 as there is a \$100 rebate offered under the Local Coaches for Local Clubs Scheme for all newly accredited Level 1 Coaches. In addition Level 1 Coaches are now covered to Coach current Pony Club Members outside of normal PCAV activities.

Kate thanked the CIP, NCAS Assessors, Coaches, Riders and Parents for supporting the coaching initiatives throughout the year.

She also thanked the Department of Sport and Recreation Victoria and vicsport for their funding and support.

## **9. EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT**

Executive Officer Clare Lewin invited people to read her report printed in the Annual Report.

The purchase of Shirley Heights Equestrian Centre was a major achievement and long term strategic objective of the State Council.

Clare emphasised that services provided by the PCAV State Office would not be impacted by the purchase but that the additional infrastructure and further development of the property would require some significant fund raising activities to be undertaken.

PCAV must continue to adapt to the changing attitudes and behaviour of society and the way that they wish to participate in sport. This is a challenge faced by all sporting bodies and is documented in the Australian Sports Commission Market Segmentation Study commissioned in 2012.

Membership attraction and retention is a State council priority and some non-traditional categories have been piloted. The Adult Riding Membership trialled in 2012 has become permanent and has helped smaller regional clubs to remain viable. The Riders without Horses category is being further explored via Commercial Riding Centres and pathways to Pony Club.

PCAV has continued to be supported with generous funding from the State Government through Sport and Recreation Victoria. Funding has been received under several programs and initiatives. The funding model has changed meaning that payments are received in decreasing amounts over a period of time. This factor illustrates how important it is to maintain financial a good financial model that reflects the true cost of running the organisation.

Clare thanked the dedicated team in the State office staff for another great year, especially their work in absorbing the extra responsibility for the Pony Club Australia administration. She thanked State Council, the Executive Sub Committee and all club volunteers for their continued hard work and commitment to the Pony Club movement in Victoria..

**Moved: Kaye Blanchard**

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

**Seconded: Julie Carstairs**

**Carried**

**10. ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS**

The Executive Officer declared all positions vacant and announced that Philip Cobbledick has been returned as President of PCAV.

a. President

Nominations received by due date;

- Philip Cobbledick

b. Vice President – even years

Nominations received by due date;

- Adrian Dowell
- Peter Favaloro
- Tracy Hosier

**11. ELECTION OF ZONE REPRESENTATIVES**

a. Nominations received by due date

- |       |                         |                     |
|-------|-------------------------|---------------------|
| i.    | Barwon Zone             | – Deirdre Davey     |
| ii.   | Central Zone            | – Leonie Lang       |
| iii.  | East Gippsland Zone     | – Julie Carstairs   |
| iv.   | Midland Zone            | – Vacant            |
| v.    | North Eastern Zone      | – Kerry Gooding     |
| vi.   | Northern Zone           | – Rosemary Oram     |
| vii.  | North Metropolitan Zone | – Linda Smith       |
| viii. | South Metropolitan Zone | – Sue Muirhead      |
| ix.   | Wannon Zone             | – Anthea Sutherland |
| x.    | West Gippsland Zone     | – Laurie Cruise     |

As nominations exceeded vacancies for the position of Vice President Even Years an election was held by mail prior to the meeting. The postal and hand delivered votes were tallied by the Returning Officer in the presence of the scrutineers and it was announced that there was a tie between Adrian Dowell and Pater Favaloro. The current PCAV Constitution requires that another Election take place

### **PCAV Life Membership Award**

Philip Cobbledick spoke on behalf of State Council awarding Vicki Connelly and Anthea Sutherland with Life Membership of PCAV in recognition to their years of service to PCAV. Vicki as a Zone Representative and Vice President and Anthea as Zone Chief Instructor and State Councillor roles she filled concurrently for five years.

The awards were received with acclamation from the floor. Anthea and Vicki both thanked PCAV State Council for the huge honour that had been bestowed upon them.

## **CLOSE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 11.30 AM**

### **12. GUEST SPEAKERS**

#### **Stephanie McAuliffe – PCAV International Mounted Games 2014**

Stephanie McAuliffe gave a brief review of her introduction to horses, her time in Pony Club and her journey with Mounted Games which ultimately resulted in her being selected to represent Pony Club Australia at the International Mounted Games Exchange in the United Kingdom.

The teams had a wonderful experience in the UK with the other riders from the participating nations of USA, Canada and Great Britain.

Stephanie thanked Pony Club Victoria and the National Mounted Games committee, who run the NMG selection and training program, for giving her a once in a lifetime experience. She also urged other Pony Club Members to join the NMG squads.

Philip thanked Stephanie for her report and reflected on the wonderful experience and friendships made.

### **13. OPEN CONFERENCE**

As there were no formal Conference items submitted. Questions were invited from the floor.

#### **Questions from the floor**

##### **Inter Schools Competitions and Pony Club.**

Why are interschool competitions so well supported?

Leonie Lang – riders have pressure to represent school and also more inclined because they participate with their peers. Clubs run schools competitions as fundraiser – hybrid rules  
Graeme Johnstone - suggest PCAV should investigate the relationship

Jan Faulkner – Schools events were purely for competition rather than the social aspect of club based activities

Laurie Cruise – name “Pony Club” a detractor – not cool

Executive Officer – Pony Club is an international brand. There have been many suggestions over the years on trying to change the name. Suggest we need to market ourselves better to those outside as the organisation is unique and has a lot to offer.

Pam Kalms – agreed we need to market ourselves better to others.

##### **Tetrathlon**

EO reported that the National Championship Advisory Committee would be running an introduction to the sport of Tetrathlon – riding, swimming, running, laser pistol shooting. It was run as a demonstration event at the 2013 nationals and will be a fixture in 2015. Jan Dear spoke briefly about her involvement and what the OC hoped to achieve.

Keitha Raabe – congratulated Council and the Executive on the purchase of Shirley Heights Equestrian Centre. She then went on to voice her concern about changing the current Governance structure as she felt it important that the Zone Representatives came to the Council table to represent their Clubs.

##### **Governance**

General discussion on various views took place. It was agreed that the current structure had evolved reactively out of necessity. People were now more time poor and the Roles and

responsibilities needed to be restructured. The meeting was assured that nothing would or could be done without consultation and agreement from the member clubs. Graeme Johnstone – in light of the conversation around branding it may be better to call the new property Pony Club Victoria – which relates it directly to who we are. The word “Park” may be misconstrued as not being serious; Equestrian Centre more describes what will occur at the venue. Suggested name Pony Club Victoria Equestrian Centre.

**14. CLOSE CONFERENCE 12.30pm**

Philip Cobbledick closed the conference and thanked everyone for coming, invited them to stay for lunch and wished them all an enjoyable year in pony club.