

Annual General Meeting Minutes

10:00am 9th August 2025 - Goulburn Workers Club

Agenda:

1. Apologies
2. Motions for ordinary resolution*
 - a. Lead classes
 - b. Variation to events
 - c. Coaching competitors
 - d. Final qualifications
 - e. Final timing
 - f. Online entries
3. Confirm minutes from 2024 AGM
4. President's reports
5. Treasurer's reports
6. Membership Officer reports
7. Stand down 2025 committee
8. Appoint office bearers and ordinary committee members for 2026

Attendees:

Catherine Daniel, Katrina Nixon, Emma Derwent, Shelly Andrews, Mardi Andrews, Rob Laurie, Joan Laurie, Kim Waddell, Jack Derwent, Kay Fox, Marilyn Leatherday, Kiley Lidgard, Karen Leishman, Brian Chinnock, Kathryn Priol, Melody Wilson, Craig Hillier, Monique Hillier, Tom Dowling, Megan Polsen, Mark Rattenbury, Rhonda Payne

Meeting opened @10:07 am

President Catherine Daniel opened meeting and thanked everyone for attending.

1. Apologies:

Tay Burch, Joan Webb, Reg Webb, Donna Brown, John McGlone

2. Motions for ordinary resolution

- Catherine Daniel handed out copies of the agenda and discussed each motion and opened the floor for all members to have a discussion prior to voting.

Lead classes

Motion 1 – A lead class would allow for inexperienced riders to compete with a “handler” leading the horse inside the arena. This class would be separate to existing Junior and Open events.

Considerations were made for lead classes to be made available at Southern NSW Team Sorting events. If this motion were to be passed there would be certain rules based around this class.

- Concerns were raised from members for the safety of parents on foot and the child riding the horse if the cattle were to charge – this is why lead riders were removed from the competition and placed within the affiliation requirements.
- Kim Waddell suggested to use cow costumes as an alternative to chasing cattle for lead riders to learn and feel included in the competition.
- Katrina Nixon contacted both Affinity Insurance and Ag Show Society insurance to inform the association if lead riders would be insured.
 - Affinity insurance stated lead riders would be insured if a rule was made within our current rules for lead riders, however they weren't happy to allow it.
 - Ag Show Society insurance was not happy to cover but will vary on each show society.
- Members asked if this motion were to be passed would it be mandatory for each club to provide lead classes – Catherine stated no it would be up to each club.
- Emma raised concerns for judges making the difficult decision of determining if the handler was experienced or not at leading the junior. If the judge determined a parent was not suitable, the judge may receive backlash.
- **THIS MOTION WAS NOT CARRIED**

Variation to Events

Motion 2 – This resolution asks if event organisers can be allowed to conduct events other than the standard 2-man Sorting including Team Yarding, 3 man 2-gate and 1-man sorting.

- Concerns from members were raised for adding extra rules for each event and can cause difficulty for new and current riders to understand the rules.
- The variation of multiple events can also raise conflict amongst judging as there will be too many rules to monitor.
- **THIS MOTION WAS NOT CARRIED**

Lead Coaching Competitors

Motion 3 – There is discrepancy between members and judges concerning the rules relating to calling out to competitors and “coaching.” Under the General Rules, Rule 8 specifies “Spotting cattle or fanning cattle from outside the arena will result in disqualification of that team,” There is no mention within the rule of prohibiting ‘coaching’ of riders.

- Kiley Lidgard raised concerns from a parent's point of view of providing coaching to juniors as they may require assistance if they don't have experience chasing cattle at home.
- Members stated that riders don't need cattle to learn how to sort, this can be taught outside an arena and shouldn't be taught during a competition. Other statements included for riders to not be entered in the competition if they cannot ride independently or if assistance is required - the judge should be informed to guide beginners.
- Junior judges also expressed concerns of parents yelling at junior riders during the competition. It has been observed that juniors appear overwhelmed and confused due to excess yelling/coaching during their run by parents. Junior riders are unable to communicate clearly with their teammate, concentrate on cutting/blocking cattle and monitoring how much time is left on the clock when coaching is occurring - this is also removing the fun from the sport. Suggestions of encouragement should be used instead such as 'Well done' or 'You're doing a great job.'
- Members discussed openly what phrases and encouraging words can be used. There was a divide of using the encouraging word, 'GO.' Some spectators use the word, 'GO' as cheering - others may use it as form of coaching the rider to leave the gate and chase the next cow. This was determined to be too hard to monitor, and we should be using encouraging language and cheering to involve spectators in the fun of the sport.
- Megan Polsen suggested for examples of encouraging phrases to be placed onto the website for everyone to see. This will help new riders/spectators understand the rule clearly.
- **THIS MOTION WAS NOT CARRIED**

Finals Qualifications

Motion 4 - If there are multiple riders that finish on the same cattle count, placing them equal 50th, that all are invited to the finals.

This motion was submitted to ask the committee to consider taking on more than 50 riders at the finals if there are multiple riders on the same cattle count for equal rank 50th. During the 2025 Season, 2 riders were ranked both equal 50th – to determine the 50th rider the committee would need to go back to times for all runs over the 2025 season. This was not required as another rider had declined their invitation immediately leading to both equal 50th riders able to ride in the finals without needing to go back to times. During the organising of the final's, nil issues were raised until this motion was placed into the AGM.

- Emma opened the conversation discussing the disappointment of how this motion was submitted and the description given with the motion. The submission of the motion included phrases such as "poor handling of the top 50 riders," and a photo submitted showing in a text message sent by the secretary to a member explaining why the rider 'ranked 51' waited one day for their invitation to be sent out – This included and was further explained during the meeting by Emma:
 - Waiting for a decline from another rider first prior to sending out the next invitation instead of going back through times to save hours of work – (a decline from a rider was sent via email to the secretary immediately)

- Needing contact information from membership officer to send email to the rank '51st rider'
 - Committee members trying their best to organise invitations/finals in a timely manner around their personal life/work commitments
 - The 2025 committee was running in accordance to how all other previous finals have been run over the last 15+ years
- In this photo all names were removed to keep the message anonymous except for the secretary. Emma expressed if this was to be submitted the entire context of messages should be provided, including the reply from this member which raised no genuine issues or concerns at the time. Emma also acknowledged that a discussion about the handling of the equal 50th riders occurred with the president over text message but no concerns were communicated within this exchange. Other members suggested the use of the text message is defamation against Emma and acknowledged this was an unnecessary approach.
- Kiley Lidgard stated the invitation to the '50th rider' should not have been sent until times had been checked to confirm which rider was the '50th rider'. Emma explained that this was not necessary as stated above and the 51st rider was always going to make the finals as the decline was sent through immediately via email before the 50th riders invitation was sent. Kim Waddell further explained to Kiley and supported Emma's explanation. This was not clearly communicated by the member with the secretary or other committee members during the planning of the finals – Emma suggested if there were genuine concerns this should have been communicated at the time by the member, and a committee meeting would be held to discuss the handling of multiple riders on the 50th ranking.
- Emma and other committee members also raised concerns of allowing for multiple riders on rank 50 into the finals. This will lead to an uneven number of riders resulting in fill in runs during a finals. This can also result in potential errors with point scoring due to multiple fill ins and difficulty with completing the draw. This ultimately contradicts the finals inviting the Top 50 Open Riders and Top 20 Junior Riders which has been the foundation of how the finals has been organised over the last 15+ years. Emma also expressed concerns of changing the rule of going back to times – this may lead to the expectation of members arguing with the committee to not go back to times for prizes as we've allowed it in other areas. For example: if 2 or more riders finish with the same number of points at the finals for the saddle, the winner of the saddle is determined by the fastest times over all 9 runs – the other riders may want this rule removed and both riders win a saddle (this is not financially possible for the association).
- Other members expressed that we should open the finals to multiple riders on the same points for equal 50th rank as they are equal tie and it's the fairest way to just invite both. Katrina Nixon also suggested to invite all if this encourages riders to collect points instead of chasing the fastest time for the welfare of horses and cattle.
- Several members also discussed how time consuming it takes for the committee to review all times over the season which is a difficult task.
- Other considerations were raised by members asking why there were 51 Open riders and 21 Junior riders at the 2025 finals. Catherine explained there was a malfunction with the online form by an open rider who accidentally declined, and a junior was only able to commit to riding for 1 day at the finals instead of 2 days.

- After long discussions and conflicting views regarding this motion, it was determined of miscommunication between the committee and members.
- **This motion was carried**

Final Timing

Motion 5 - There is a request to NOT have the finals for Southern NSW Team Sorting during winter.

- Members acknowledged holding the finals during winter can be quite miserable and cold. There were several concerns for animal welfare, previous weather issues and limitation of venue for the finals to be held if the finals remained during winter.
- Suggestions were made to move the finals back to November as previously done prior to the original motion of finals to be moved to the end of the season (June/July). It was also discussed to have the finals at the commencement of the next season to avoid the finals running in the middle of the next season.
- If this motion were to be passed, the committee would need to reconsider the calendar year at the next meeting.
- **This motion was carried**

Online Entries and Forms

Motion 6 - There have been several requests for entries, membership forms and payments to be moved to online formats. This has already been used by a number of affiliated events with success.

This motion was submitted to encourage all clubs to use the same format for entries and to improve the management and workload of memberships.

- Kim Waddell expressed the enormous workload of membership forms and chasing riders to complete memberships at each event. Due to the new rule of all riders are required to complete a membership to compete – this became difficult to manage at times due to major errors in members not completing forms correctly, paying incorrectly the amount of paperwork required to be taken to each event.
- Kim stated the use of online forms would help reduce errors and the memberships officer role would be easier to manage. She also stated some paper forms would still need to be used for members unable to access computers or use online formats.
- Rhonda Payne encouraged for club committees to consider moving away from postal entries as it's unpredictable when the entries will arrive due to mail not being delivered daily. This can cause confusion for riders when to send their entries.
- Members were open to consider looking at online formats for all clubs to use for entries and may require a small fee to set up. If passed, the committee will need to organise this and discuss with each club committee.
- **This motion was carried**

3. Confirm minutes from 2024 AGM

2024 minutes read by Catherine Daniel.

Moved - Shelly Andrews **Seconded** - Emma Derwent

4. President's Report

President report given by Catherine Daniel discussing the 2025 season and the finals. Catherine thanked members and committee members for their participation and organising throughout the season and notified her departure as president for the 2026 season.

5. Treasurer's Report

Treasurer's report given by Katrina Nixon. Katrina printed and handed copies to members of the breakdown of incoming/outgoing costs throughout the 2025 season including memberships, finals and new collars. Overall, a successful season and the association made a net profit of \$5,862.48. Katrina also suggested for the association to consider changing banks from St George to another bank due to the limited access by committee members.

Moved - Shelly Andrews **Seconded** - Melody Wilson

6. Membership Report

Membership report given by Kim Waddell. Kim notified members of 251 Adult memberships, 36 Junior Memberships and 2 Junior Day Memberships for the 2025 Season. There were 19 adult members that no payment was provided over the season. Total amount \$ 6,645. There were some discrepancies between membership numbers and payments between the membership officer reports and the treasurer's reports. This was due to members unfortunately not completing correctly and Kim is hoping for online memberships next year to avoid this.

7. Stand down 2025 Committee

2025 Outgoing Committee Members

President - Cath Daniel

Vice President - Shelly Andrews

Secretary - Emma Derwent

Treasurer - Katrina Nixon

Membership Officer - Kim Waddell

Public Officer - Katrina Nixon

Animal Welfare Officers - Reg Webb, Rob Laurie & Liam Harris

Independent Representative - John McGlone

Junior Representatives - Harry Wilson & Mardi Andrews

8. Appointment of new committee

- Megan Polsen was invited to run the election of the new committee.
- Megan accepted and thanked the departing committee.
- President
 - Jack Derwent (declined)
 - Megan Polsen (declined)
 - Karen Leishman (declined)
 - Tom Dowling (declined)
 - Rob Laurie (declined)
 - Brian Chinnock (declined)
 - Craig Hillier (declined)
 - Melody Wilson (declined)
 - Cath Daniel (declined)
 - Unable to fill position – will be discussed later (Vice-president will currently act)
- Vice president
 - Shelly Andrews (accepted)
 - **Moved** Megan Polsen **Seconded** Kim Waddell
- Secretary
 - Emma Derwent (accepted)
 - **Moved** Shelly Andrews **Seconded** Kim Waddell
- Treasurer
 - Katrina Nixon (accepted)
 - **Moved** Emma Derwent **Seconded** Marilyn Leatherday
- Membership Officer
 - Kim Waddell (accepted)
 - **Moved** Rob Laurie **Seconded** Emma Derwent
- Public Officer
 - Katrina Nixon (accepted)
 - **Moved** Emma Derwent **Seconded** Rob Laurie
- Junior representatives
 - Harry Wilson (accepted)
 - Katie Blyth (accepted)
 - **Moved** Catherine Daniel **Seconded** Emma Derwent
- Animal Welfare Officers
 - Rob Laurie (accepted)
 - Jack Derwent (accepted)
 - Craig Hillier (accepted)
 - **Moved** Catherine Daniel **Seconded** Katrina Nixon
- Independent Representative
 - Rhonda Payne (accepted)
 - **Moved** Kim Waddell **Seconded** Melody Wilson

- Due to the President not being accepted during the meeting, the constitution was checked and advised members the Vice-President will substitute this role until a President accepts during another time.
- Vice-President Shelly Andrews and new committee members approached to sit among the panel.
- Shelly Andrews, Catherine Daniel and Emma Derwent counted the votes for each motion submitted via paper form and announced to members
 - Lead Classes – NO
 - Variation to events – NO
 - Coaching Competitors - NO
 - Finals Qualifications – YES
 - Finals Timing - YES
 - Online Entries – YES

Nominations for Dates for Events

Taralga – 8th and 9th March 2026

Yass - no dates advised

Crookwell – no dates advised

Braidwood – no dates advised

Marulan - no dates advised

Gunning - no dates advised

AGM closed 12:05pm