



**Minutes of the 2023 Annual General Meeting
of Equestrian Queensland Incorporated
held at 6.35 PM on Wednesday, 27 March, 2024
at Sports House, 150 Caxton Street, Milton and via ZOOM**

1.0 Attendance and Apologies

Trevor Hyatt	Zoom	Gary Lung	Zoom
Danae O'Keeffe	Zoom	Mandy Ballard	In person
Lisbeth Betts	Zoom	Emily Ballard	In person
Lloyd Raleigh	Zoom	Nicholas Ballard	In person
Caiwen Cusworth	Zoom	Peta Fielding	Zoom
Peter Toft	Zoom	Emily Coggan	In person
Dave Holland	Zoom	Darryn Fedrick	Zoom
Karim Cham	Zoom		

Apologies

Christine Doan

In attendance

Samantha Duffy

Briston Toft

2.0 Welcome by Equestrian Queensland Chair

The meeting was opened by EQ Chair, Nicholas Ballard who thanked all members for their continued support and dedication to the sport. In his address, Mr Ballard provided an overview of the highlights across the sport in 2023 and expressed his gratitude to all EQ affiliates, clubs, members, volunteers, staff and supporters. *"I'm pleased to report that our sport and membership continues to grow across the state, but it is very important to acknowledge that many of our members are continuing to do it tough with recent weather events and cost of living pressures"* said Mr Ballard.

EQ continues to support all disciplines with both financial and administrative resources and as members may be aware, EQ has committed to utilising its strong surplus position to support new initiatives related to education, equestrian facility improvements and safety initiatives.

EQ was pleased to report that we have continued to act on its commitment in 2023 with substantial investment into education and professional development of our volunteers, officials and coaches. We are also pleased that through effective financial management over a number of years, EQ was able to provide some relief to members in 2023 by not raising membership fees for competitors, participants and supporters (coaches, officials and owners).

As part of his address to members, Mr Ballard extended his sincere appreciation to fellow directors Gary Lung, Emily Coggan, Peta Fielding, Dave Holland and Karim Cham for their continued support and dedication to promote, grow and develop equestrian sport. "I also would like to extend my sincere appreciation to Brett Cantle from Eventing Queensland, Madeleine Graham from Jumping Queensland and Melanie Wellsted from Show Horse Queensland who in accordance with the EQ constitution are required to stand down from their positions on our sport committees after serving two consecutive terms. Our sport depends on volunteers like Brett, Madeleine and Melanie and I thank them and all like them for their commitment to our sport".

EQ CEO, Briston Toft advised members that EQ has delivered another year of membership growth, our tenth consecutive year which is a testament to the vibrant and inclusive nature of our equestrian community. Our commitment to reinvesting in education, facility improvements and safety initiatives has led to substantial work in these areas this past year, directly benefiting our volunteers, officials, and coaches.

"The journey towards securing and enhancing equestrian facilities in Queensland remains a top priority, as we actively work with government and stakeholders to leave a legacy for our community" said Mr Toft. Mr Toft extended his appreciation and thanked all volunteers. "Your contribution, big or small helps connect our growing community and I thank you for your continued support and engagement as we continue to elevate equestrian sport in Queensland to new heights".

3.0 Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Annual General Meeting

The Minutes of the 2022 Annual General Meeting of the Equestrian Queensland held on March 22, 2023, having been circulated, were taken as read.

Motion 1: - "That the Minutes of the 2022 Annual General Meeting be confirmed as a true and correct record."

Moved: D Holland **Seconded:** T Hyatt **CARRIED: 23.AGM.01**

4.0 Presentation and Adopting of the 2023 Audited Financial Statements

The Equestrian Queensland Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Briston Toft presented the Financial Statements of Equestrian Queensland for the year ending 31 December 2023. The 2023 Audited Financial Statements were circulated to members on 20 March 2023.

Motion 2: -
"That the 2023 Audited Financial Statements of Equestrian Queensland be approved."

Moved: G Lung **Seconded:** K Cham **CARRIED: 23.AGM.02**

5.0 Presentation and Adoption of the 2023 Annual Report

Chairperson, Nicholas Ballard tabled the 2023 Annual Report and noted inclusion of reports including the Chair, Treasurer, CEO and each of the seven Equestrian Queensland Sport Committees and Advisory Groups.

CEO, Briston Toft provided an overview of the Annual Report and invited members to ask any questions they may have. There were no questions from the members present regarding the Annual Report.

Motion 3: -
"That the 2023 Annual Report of Equestrian Queensland be received and adopted."

Moved: P Fielding **Seconded:** E Coggan **CARRIED: 23.AGM.03**

7.0 Election of Board and Sport Committees

As per the notice issued to Members on 29 January, 2024, nominations for the Equestrian Queensland Board and the Sport Committees closed on 10 February, 2023. Elections are only held for the Board and/or Sport Committees where the number of nominees exceeds the number of vacancies.

In this election cycle nominations for the EQ Board and Sport Committees did not exceed the vacancies available and therefore no ballots were required at this time.

Where there were insufficient nominations for the EQ Board and Sport Committees, appointments may be made to fill casual vacancies through consultation with the EQ Board and the relevant Sport Committees.

Elections Unopposed

Equestrian Queensland Board

The following members have been nominated to be a Director on the Board of Equestrian Queensland and will be elected unopposed at the AGM.

Dave Holland
Gary Lung

Dave Holland and Gary Lung were elected to the Equestrian Queensland Board unopposed for a three-year term.

Dressage Queensland

There were two (2) nominations for Dressage Queensland.

Anne McDiarmid
Nicole Magoffin

Anne McDiarmid and Nicole Magoffin were elected unopposed to the Dressage Queensland committee for a three-year term.

Eventing Queensland

There was two (2) nomination for Eventing Queensland.

Caiwen Cusworth
Christine Hynard

Caiwen Cusworth and Christine Hynard were elected to the Eventing Queensland committee unopposed for a three-year term.

Vaulting Queensland

There was one nominations for Vaulting Queensland

Lisbeth Betts

Lisbeth Betts was elected unopposed to Vaulting Queensland for a three-year term.

Jumping Queensland

There was one (1) nomination for Jumping Queensland.

Trevor Hyatt

Trevor Hyatt was elected to the Jumping Queensland committee unopposed for a three-year term.

Interschool Queensland

There were two (2) nominations for Interschool Queensland

Alex Sorensen
Sarah Pearce

Alex Sorensen and Sarah Pearce were elected to the Eventing Queensland committee unopposed for a three-year term.

Show Horse Queensland

There were two (2) nominations for Show Horse Queensland.

Joanne Uppington
Vanessa Sorensen

Joanne Uppington and Vanessa Sorensen were elected unopposed to the Showhorse Queensland committee for a three-year term.

Outstanding vacancies on Equestrian Queensland Board and Sport Committees may be directly appointed by the Equestrian Queensland Board with consultation with relevant sport committees.

Moved: E Coggan Seconded: D Holland CARRIED: 23.AGM.04

8.0 Appointment of Branch Auditor

Motion 6: -

“Moore (Brisbane office), be appointed as the Equestrian Queensland Branch Auditors.”

Moved: G Lung Seconded: P Fielding CARRIED: 23.AGM.05

9. Questions received from members

Questions received in advance from members. Firstly, we start by thanking those who have submitted questions in advance.

1. Given that EQ has \$1.25m in cash reserves, how does EQ intend to spend this money for the betterment of the sport?

Answer: EQ over successive years and collaboration between the EQ Board, sport committees, volunteers and staff, EQ has built up a healthy cash reserve. As stated in previous annual reports and in 2023, EQ is committed to using its surplus position to support new initiatives related to education, equestrian facility improvements and safety initiatives, in consultation with members and sound business cases to validate the investment/use.

2. What is the EQ board's position in relation to the stated intention of Equestrian Australia to disband all states and vest all power in the national body as well as amalgamating all state bodies' funds under their control?

Answer: Our general view

- Understand the need/desire for reform. We acknowledge the issues with the current governance systems and processes.
- We believe the first priority is to action operational efficiency first which will provide simple service improvements for members.
- EQ supports a phased approach being operational efficiency first i.e. coaching renewals, shared services next, then broader reform (where required)
- Our view is that if we get the efficiencies and shared services right and we empower, resource and support the NDCs – reform as proposed is not required.

The feedback we have heard from our members and sport committees is that;

- *state-based service delivery needs to continue.*
- *pathways and development opportunities for all members are lacking.*
- *there remains a disconnect between state and national offices and committees. This disconnect appear to be growing.*
- *Local operational support for NDC and SDC for events, planning, support and administration.*

3. What is the boards position on Equestrian Australia's plan to dissolve Equestrian Queensland and take control of EQ's cash reserves (\$1.4m)

Answer: Our view is that if we get the efficiencies and shared services right with the state branches and we empower, resource and support the NDCs – reform as proposed is not required. However we are opened minded enough to acknowledge that change in itself is required and this should first occur with EA's service to members. This needs to be the priority. If members/states see and experience service improvements from EA than there will be greater opportunities and willingness for change and collaboration going forward.

4. Given that EQ is a member based organisation whose role is to benefit it's members, what plan does the board have for spending the \$1.4m in cash reserves is currently has, to benefit Qld members?

Answer: As per advice earlier, As stated in previous annual reports and in 2023, EQ is committed to using its surplus position to support new initiatives related to education, equestrian facility improvements and safety initiatives, in consultation with members and sound business cases to validate the investment/use.

9.0 Closure

The Chairperson, Nicholas Ballard thanked everyone for their attendance and declared the meeting closed at 7.05pm.