****

**Westernport Dressage Club Inc.**

**Annual General Meeting – Minutes 2019**

**Meeting Date:** Sunday 24th November 2019

**Time:** AGM & PRESENTATIONS of awards – 5.30pm to 6.30pm.

6.30PM - DINNER

**Location:** MORNINGTON HOTEL (Old Tanti) - 917 Nepean Hwy Mornington.

1. **Confirmation of minutes AGM November 2018**

**Approved:** Avril Williams **Seconded:** Katrina Mann

1. **Presidents Report:**

Thank you all for taking the time to attend tonight’s AGM. It’s been a busy and full year for the club, and the committee is proud of what we have achieved, with the club ending the year with a clear direction forwards, and in a better financial position.

This year saw the introduction of our Young Rider Program and we ran regular training and protocol days for both our general members and for the Young Rider Squad. In addition, the Young Rider Squad benefitted from some unmounted and social sessions. Many thanks for the hours put in to this program by Julia Stewart and Melissa Mamers.

We joined with Berwick and District Dressage Club to run a members only, unofficial Ashes competition at Merricks Station Reserve. We all enjoyed a lovely lunch together at the conclusion, with Life-Member Janet Earle joining us. This is the second year in a row where we have joined with Berwick to run the Ashes, and it has been a fun and successful day both times.

Our fundraising efforts this year were again augmented by a sausage sizzle at Bunnings, Hastings, earning us around $900 towards the running of the club. Many thanks to all who helped with this event. We have requested to run another one in 2020. It’s a fun day to participate in, and many hands make light work, so please join us in 2020 to make it even better.

Sadly this year, we lost one of our Life-Members, Mr John Clifford Price. After nearly 20 years in Victoria, John and his wife Barbara had moved to NSW a year earlier, but the family brought his ashes home here to Victoria, to scatter in the paddock where his beloved mare Kaley is buried. We held a small wake in July to celebrate John’s life with many equestrian friends and about 10 of John’s family members present. John will always be remembered for his kindness and generosity.

We entered a team again for the VDC Werribee competition. This year’s theme was “It’s a Party!!!” and Melissa and Katrina absolutely excelled using the theme to celebrate the 30th anniversary of this competition, and their stunning table won the coveted table prize!!!! Well done girls. Our team put up a credible performance and ended up in 4th place. It was a very enjoyable and social day.

Our major competition for the year, the Premier Cup, was a huge success. We ran a very full day with 4 jam-packed rings on a very tight schedule. The early “save the date” contact to judges ensured we even had spares available. The entry numbers were fantastic, with all the early scratching’s places being filled from the reserves. We made an excellent profit of around $2700 with this competition this year. It thankfully ran smoothly, and all the competitors, judges and volunteers seemed to enjoy the day.

We have been incredibly lucky over the last few years to have the support of some wonderful sponsors. Our long-term sponsors “The Tack Box”, “Liken Fencing and Stockfeed”, “Hi-form/Harry’s choice”, “Piaffe Rugs and Embroidery”, “Dressage Masterclass” and “Equine Images” never say no to us, and we could not run this club without their ongoing support. In addition, we have had some new sponsors step up this year, Katrina has been amazing with her “Jimmy-Jams rug repairs and haynets” sponsorship. Her sponsorship of the Premier cup, and her contribution to the catering definitely helped towards achieving our decent profit this year. Other new sponsors included HBT Insurance Brokers, My Pallas Equine and Boutique Equines. Please take any and all opportunities, on behalf of the club, to thank these sponsors when you come in contact with them.

I cannot thank the committee enough for their hard work and support this year. Together we have achieved a lot. As many of you know, my husband and I are planning to move back to Western Australia in 2020, and as such I feel I cannot commit to another term on the committee, hence am stepping down from these roles. I will still be around for most of the year, and will enjoy helping out when and where I can. Thank you to Cheryl for your contributions over the last few years and Sam Thomson for her help this year. Sam also roped most of her family in for the sausage sizzle and the premier cup. So thank you. For next year, the future for the club looks positive, we have moved to evolve with the times, running more protocol days and less competitions/clinics, and we are excited with the Young Rider Squad initiatives. It is fantastic to see Gwyn stepping back onto the committee after a break and I wish all of the committee the very best for the upcoming year.

Thank- you.

1. **Financial Report – for year ending 31st October 2019 –**

**See attached**

1. **Election of New Committee –** Avril Williams, Samantha Thomson, Cheryl Cooke and Racheal Ward, stepping down. New Committee will comprise of Melissa Williams, Gwyn Coulthard, Julia Stewart, Katrina Mann, Carl Williams, Melissa Mammers and Michelle Cameron.

Positions to be discussed at the next meeting.

1. **Young Riders Program will Continue –** Young Rider of the year awarded to Erica D’alia
2. **Announcement of New Life Member –** Gwyn Coulthard
3. **Presentation of awards –**

**Member of the year –** Olwen Kemp

**Prelim Horse Lyndel Jones Trophy –** Sunrise Avenue Abby Mammers

**Novice Horse – Flynstone –** Jane Toohey

**Elementary Horse – EA Black Jack –** Taleah Cameron

**Medium Horse Flurry Trophy –** Zoe Georgina Foot

**Advanced – HB Diamonds Are Forever –** Tiffany Joosse

**Meeting Closed: 6.30pm**