

Darling Downs Residents Association

Minutes from the AGM

Conducted on 23 September 2025

DDRA Annual General Meeting

The Darling Downs Residents Association (DDRA) Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held in the Oxford Community Centre at 57 Foxton Drive in Oxford on 23 September 2025.

Meeting Opened

The meeting opened at 7.08 pm.

Present

The following people attended the AGM:

Sharon Arena, Kathy Brennan, Neil Brown, Debra Brown, Kevin Brimblecombe, Tracy Brimblecombe, Peter Cappendell, Eric Chabros, Vicki Chabros, Emily Darnell, Dave Emery, Ken Edwards, John Dawkins, Jerome Donders, Kat DeRuyck, Tricia Duggin, Chris Eden-Street, Carol Fawcett, Malcom Fawcett, Sue Gilbert, Nicky Gusterson, Bruce Hilliard, Pam Hilliard, Karen Hayes, Trevor Hayes, Dusty Hellwig, Carley Hockridge, Perry Holland, Adam Kestel, Victoria Lynn, Jane London, Phil Petricevic, Terry Mateljan, David Ransom, Neil Ridgeway, Cam Starcevich, Andrew Smith, Corine Smith, Ian Stanley, Wendy Stanley, Pixie Stott, Mark Stott, Deborah Venturini, Neil Waterhouse, Mara Coombes, and Brian Vale.

In addition to these members, the following special guests were present: Mr Hugh Jones, MLA (Local Member for Darling Range), Cr Rob Coales (President of the Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale), as well as Joel Chan and Phil Pettis, who are candidates for the NW Ward.

Apologies

The following apologies were received: Marissa Marriot, Alice Dawkins, Penny Ellis, Paul Gusterson, Robin Vale, Matt Emery, Shirlie Donders, Susan Hale, Noreen Perovic and Karen Treble.

AGM Presentation

The AGM presentation (AGMp) is available at this link: [DDRA-AGM_2025_F.pptx](#). The following text contains references to specific slides in that presentation.

Previous AGM Minutes

Some key challenges were highlighted from the previous AGM Minutes on Slide 5 of the AGMp. The first three issues included drainage and flooding, opening the area to the east of the 70 Acres (Lot 9005 Wungong South Road), as well as the Thomas Road Upgrade and the provision of a safety wall. The attendees were advised that these issues would be updated in the next three sections of the AGM agenda.

Additionally, information on other matters raised at the last AGM would be discussed appropriately in relation to the pertinent workstreams.

A vote was taken on the following resolution:

Resolution: To accept the minutes of the last Annual General Meeting dated 29 August 2024.

Proposed by: Carol Fawcett

Seconded by: Brian Vale

Vote outcome: ***Carried unanimously***

Drainage and Flooding in the Darling Downs Area

Background information on the causes of the flooding in the Darling Downs area was covered using Slides 8 through 33 in the AGMp. As outlined in that presentation, it appears that many of the problems stem from increased flows coming from the east of the rail line, changes in the drainage systems created by the rail line extension to Byford, and modifications to the drains feeding down to Thomas Road. Additionally, it was made clear that the problems also stem from inadequate drains and easement sumps in the Darling Downs area, as well as blocked drains (which in some cases have been deliberately blocked). The areas most affected were also highlighted. Cr. Rob Coales (Shire President) agreed that the Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale (SoSJ) will clear the blocked drains and work with other stakeholders to address the identified problems. A meeting will be convened with stakeholders to resolve the problem as soon as possible.

The DDRA committed to continuing the collaboration with the SoSJ to facilitate addressing these matters and will keep the community appropriately informed. A vote was taken on the following resolution:

Resolution: The SoSJ will continue to liaise with MetCONNEX, the Alliance Partners, and the Public Transport Authority (PTA)/Metronet regarding the rectification of drainage and flooding problems. The DDRA will continue to provide support to the stakeholders and residents.

Proposed by: Bruce Hilliard

Seconded by: Adam Kestel

Vote outcome: ***Carried unanimously***

Lot 9005 Subdivision – Implications for the use of the 70 Acres

Some background information on the implications of the planned subdivision just east of the 70 Acres in the Darling Downs Equestrian Park (DDEP) was provided in Slides 35 to 40 in the AGMp. The following key points were noted:

- The owner of Lot 9005 is attempting to subdivide and sell the area. In the Phase 6 subdivision proposal, the plan is to include four blocks of 10,000 square metres (1 Hectare), which will back onto the eastern boundary of the 70-acre site. A further 34 one-acre (0.4 hectare) blocks are proposed for the bulk of the Lot 9005 subdivision (as shown on Slide 37 of the AGMp). However, according to the zoning regulations, the minimum block size for Lot 9005 must be one hectare to meet the special rural requirements. The SoSJ wishes to enforce this requirement. Consequently, the proposed subdivision plan is still under consideration by the State Planning Commission (SPC).
- The presence of the small (one-acre) blocks may indicate that people moving into the area are not interested in horses, which could lead to potential problems. For example, people with motorbikes or dogs may be located within only a few metres of the slow track in the 70 Acres. Such land use could lead to spooking events that lead to catastrophic accidents.

- To help minimise possible risks, it was proposed that easements be expanded on the south and west of Lot 9005 (see Slide 39 in the AGMp). These easements would facilitate the management of drainage flows to prevent flooding and also provide a buffer zone between non-equine and equine land uses.
- It was also noted that the current Phase 6 subdivision plan does not include the SoSJ's mandated trail in the north, or the utilisation of the gates in the eastern boundary of the 70 Acres to allow access and egress. See Slide 40 in the AGMp for additional information on these gates and the provision of trail linkage to the north.

The Comic Loop South Noise Wall

Updated background information was provided on the Thomas Road Upgrade and the necessity of implementing a safety wall. The pertinent information on these issues is provided in Slides 42-50 of the AGMp and [this document](#).

In particular, it was noted that the current plan would place horses and riders within just a few metres of numerous vehicles, including trucks using air brakes, which generate noise levels exceeding 100 dB(A) that could spook horses and cause catastrophic accidents. The sticking point for acceptance of the need for a safety wall stems from the definition of 'sensitive land use' within SPP 5.4. SPP 5.4 does not include 'public open space' as being suitable for assessment as 'sensitive land use'. However, SPP4.1 does include 'public open space' as a 'sensitive land use'. Therefore, under the premise of Statutory Interpretation, the Alliance Partners should assess the risks in terms of horses using the 'public open space' and build a safety wall.

Mr Hugh Jones, MLA (Member for Darling Range), indicated that he was still supportive of a safety wall, as he had explained at the preceding AGM. Mr Hugh Jones also stated that he had been in discussions with the Minister for Transport to advocate for the provision of a safety wall to separate the bridle trail from the traffic on Thomas Road. He pledged his ongoing support to this matter.

The DDRA will continue to collaborate with Mr Hugh Jones and keep the community informed on progress.

Snapshot of Efforts Conducted By DDRA Volunteers

As outlined in Slides 53 and 54 of the AGMp, DDRA volunteers have been working hard to achieve the agreed-upon objectives. This effort includes providing more than 2,480 hours of volunteer work during the 2024/25 Financial Year (FY). If this effort were provided by the SoSJ staff, it would result in an additional cost to ratepayers of approximately \$195,944.

During the current FY alone (i.e. since 1 July 2025), volunteers have already completed 752 hours of work, which equates to about \$59,408 worth of effort to support the community.

The DDRA Strategic Development Plan

For this part of the AGM, the DDRA Strategic Development Plan (SDP) and the associated works proposed for each workstream were discussed. The coverage of these issues is outlined in the following subsections.

Workstreams

The following points provide an outline of past, current and planned works for each workstream, which will be represented appropriately within the updated SDP:

- **Workstream 1 (WS1): Tracks and Trails.** Issues related to WS1 are covered in Slides 57-63 of the AGMp. These issues include the following:
 - The trail surface in most of the chicanes has been refurbished over the last year using DDRA funds. Slide 57 in the AGMp lists the chicane refurbishments that have already been completed and those that still need to be finished.
 - The SoSJ will allocate funding to implement the trail refurbishment effort outlined in the Business Case dated 19 February 2024 for the 70 Acres. The areas of focus for this work are outlined on Slides 58 and 62 of the AGMp. Although the SoSJ funding had not been allocated as yet, the DDRA had been informed that it would be forthcoming shortly. Cr Rob Coales expressed concern that the funding for this important work had taken so long to be allocated.
 - The DDRA is also monitoring erosion on other trails in the DDEP and will work to address these issues as needed (see Slide 63 of the AGMp).
- **Workstream 2: Rest Areas.** A picnic table has been established in the southwestern corner of the Bernborough West trail, and another one is scheduled to be installed in the northeastern corner of the Birrega Loop shortly. The locations for these tables are illustrated on Slide 65 in the AGMp. Once these tables are established, the DDRA will focus on implementing picnic tables in the vicinity of the northern and southern arenas within the 70 Acres.
- **Workstream 4: Vegetation Management.** Workstream 4 outlines ongoing tasks related to managing existing vegetation in the DDEP, as presented on Slides 67-70 in the AGMp. This effort includes the removal of fallen branches, dead trees, and the mowing of the area. As explained during the AGM, significant work has been undertaken on this workstream by the DDRA volunteers and the SoSJ. In particular, attendees were informed about the rapid response system that has been implemented, and they were asked to report any problems through the DDRA Facebook Group. This approach supports the community to be alerted to issues that arise and for volunteers to be assigned to address each task promptly. The current key areas of focus for Workstream 4 are shown on Slide 69 of the AGMp.
- **Workstream 5: New Vegetation.** On 12 July 2025, DDRA volunteers planted 1,164 new native bushes and plants to help fill vegetation barriers (see Slides 72 and 73 of the AGMp). The DDRA would like to thank MetCONNX, Landcare SJ, and the many volunteers who supported this important work. To help the growth of these plants, mulch created by the SoSJ through their removal of collected fallen trees and branches is being spread around them. Much of the hard work required to spread the mulch is being completed by the DDRA tractor; however, volunteers are needed to help rake the mulch into place during forthcoming Busy Bees.
- **Workstream 6: Gates and Fences.** Repairs to damaged gates and fences have been undertaken during the period since the last AGM (see Slide 78 in the AGMp). The DDRA wants to thank the contractors and volunteers who have implemented these important repair tasks (see the [Annual Report](#) for more information). It was also explained that the two gates on the eastern side of the 70 Acres have been locked, pending the implementation of the adjacent Lot 9005 subdivision (see

above). Additionally, during this FY, hitching posts will be provided at the northern and southern arenas (see Slide 77 in the AGMp).

- **Workstream 7: Safety Control & Vehicular Access:** Safety controls on local roads were discussed using the information provided on Slides 80 to 91 in the AGMp presentation. These issues included the following:
 - Attendees expressed substantial concerns about the existing speed limits on Masters Road and the increased amount of traffic that is utilising this thoroughfare. It was also noted that the amount of traffic is likely to further increase once Hopkinson Road is closed and Masters Road is connected to Malarkey Road at the roundabout on Thomas Road. The speed limit on Masters Road is still under discussion, and it is hoped that Main Roads will soon reduce the current speed limit.
 - The increasing traffic on Masters Road is making the implementation of a Pegasus Crossing connecting the Rain Lover and Gurners East trails much more important. This imperative is explained in more detail within Slides 80 to 83 of the AGMp. The SoSJ has indicated that it is moving forward with a design for the Pegasus Crossing.
 - It was also noted that speed and warning signage are required to help control risks on Rain Lover Court and Evening Peal Court (see Slides 85, 89 and 90 in the AGMp). The current lack of signage can expose horses to real risks, as speeding drivers have jeopardised safety on these roads in the past (see Slide 85 in the AGMp as just one example). During the recent Council in the Community meeting, the SoSJ agreed to investigate and install appropriate signage on these roads as soon as possible.
 - The attendees discussed their concerns about the significant damage to Masters Road caused by the volume of heavy sand trucks using this thoroughfare. As outlined on Slide 91 of the AGMp, the SoSJ has been diligently filling in the potholes, but the large number of trucks continues to erode the road, causing hazardous conditions for users. The SoSJ is liaising with the developers transporting sand on Masters Road to ensure they pay for the damage to the road surface in accordance with Section 132 of the Road Traffic (Administration) Act 2008.
- **Workstream 8: Maintenance.** Workstream 8 focuses on maintaining facilities within the DDEP and DDRA equipment. With the acquisition of the new tractor in January, many maintenance jobs on DDEP facilities have now been completed. Additionally, maintenance procedures for DDRA equipment have undergone significant enhancements over the last year. Another major enhancement managed through this workstream focuses on refurbishing the northern and southern arenas in the 70 Acres, as shown on Slides 93-95 of the AGMp. This project will repair and relevel the surfaces, lay out dressage arenas and provide appropriate jumps. In terms of the jumps, the DDRA thanked Peter Benson, the Gosnells Riding and Pony Club, as well as Robyn, Brian, and Daryl Vale for their donation of equipment and time, to provide better quality jumps to the user community.
- **Workstream 10. Cross-Country Jumps.** As outlined in Slides 97-102 of the AGMp, substantial progress has been made in the refurbishment of the cross-country jumps in the 70 Acres, with new jumps being added and old jumps replaced. At the time of the AGM, the primary focus for the volunteers was to complete the refurbishment of the tyre jump (see Slides 98-101 in the AGMp). Other jumps in the 70 Acres will then be refurbished in accordance with the plan at [this link](#).

- **Workstream 12. Signage.** Progress on this workstream was discussed. The key issues covered in this part of the meeting included:
 - New Information Signage was purchased and installed at appropriate locations within the 70 Acres as outlined on Slide 104 of the AGMp. These signs are designed to help people understand regulations and appropriate etiquette, which can help to make the area safer.
 - Grants have been secured to cover Phases 1 and 2 of the trail signage development, but the DDRA was still awaiting funding from the State Government (see Slide 105 in the AGMp). Once these funds become available, the DDRA will proceed with the project plan outlined on Slide 107 of the AGMp, which involves installing signage at the locations shown on Slide 106 of the AGMp.

After the preceding discussion, the members voted on the following resolution:

Resolution: To accept the updated report on the implementation of the DDRA Strategic Development Plan and the new works discussed and agreed upon during this AGM.

Proposed by: Mal Fawcett

Seconded by: Phil Petricivich

Vote outcome: *Carried unanimously*

Present/consider the Committee's Annual Report

The link to the [DDRA Committee's Annual Report](#) was provided with the notification for the AGM, and copies of the report were also provided to attendees. This report includes progress information and acknowledges the key personnel who assisted in achieving the outcomes discussed earlier in the AGM. These issues were discussed in more detail before taking the vote on the following resolution:

Resolution: To accept the DDRA Committee's Report.

Proposed by: Jerome Donders

Seconded by: Eric Chabros

Vote outcome: *Carried unanimously*

Bruce Hilliard also formally thanked all the volunteers who had provided their support during the year, as outlined on Slide 111 of the AGMp.

Treasurers Report

An updated report on the DDRA's finances was presented. The first two tables provide an overview of the financial statements for the two DDRA accounts during the 2024/25 FY.

Working Account - Funds in working account 1 July 2024	\$ 194.77
Revenue received during the FY	\$ 20,905.00
Expenditures	
Total Expenditure to date	\$ 17,681.65
Bank Fees	\$ 14.40
Bridle Path/ Track Improvements	\$ 1,389.68
Consumables	\$ 232.78

Fuel	\$ 2,249.56
Shed Upgrade	\$ 1,149.86
Jumps	\$ 2,054.94
SoSJ payment for free slasher-Get grapple	\$ 3,300.00
Support Costs	\$ 1,139.56
Insurance	\$ 2,151.03
Tractor/Equipment & Maintenance	\$ 3,556.59
Balance at bank working account 30 June 2025	\$ 3,418.12

WS20 Account – Funds on 1 July 24	\$ 2,524.79
Income/Revenue	
Interest received	\$ 41.73
Advertising/sponsors	\$ 1,000.00
Expenditure	
Nil	
Closing balance at the bank on 30 June 2025	\$ 3,566.57

The following two tables also provide a snapshot of the DDRA's financial position from 1 July 2025 to 23 September 2025.

Working Account - Funds in working account 1 July 2025	\$ 3,418.12
Income/Revenue	
Revenue from the SoSJ Stipend	\$ 18,660.00
Bendigo Bank Signage Grant	\$ 11,000.00
Expenditure	
Total Expenditure to date	\$ 2,226.34
WS0: Bank Fees	\$ 4.80
WS1/WS10: Trotting fines	\$ 1270.18
WS 4/WS8: Fuel	\$ 159.36
WS4/WS5/WS8: Equipment, tools and consumables	\$ 558.51
WS8: Tractor/Mower Equip & Maintenance	\$ 208.50

WS11: Shed Upgrade	\$ 24.99
Balance for working account 23 September 2025	\$ 30,851.78
WS20 Account – Funds on 1 July 25	\$ 3,566.00
Income/Revenue	
Interest received	\$ 8.25
Expenditure	
Nil	
Closing balance at bank 23 September 2025	\$ 3,574.77

As shown in these balances, at the time of the AGM, the DDRA had \$34,426.55 in funds available, with the expectation that the State Government grant of \$25,000 would be forthcoming shortly. This addition would result in a total of \$59,426.55 in available funds. After accounting for programmed expenditures for the trail signage project, approximately \$22,000 will remain to cover operating costs and development of the current FY.

Having discussed the Treasurer's report, the attending members were asked to vote on the following resolution:

Resolution: To accept the DDRA Treasurer's Report.
 Proposed by: Malcom Fawcett
 Seconded by: Brian Vale
 Vote outcome: *Carried unanimously*

Election of Committee Members

The membership of the DDRA Committee is outlined in the following table. As shown in the table, some of the newer members required confirmation at this AGM.

Role	Incumbent	Status
President	Bruce Hilliard	Confirmed at AGM
Vice President	David Ransom	Elected by Committee – Needs AGM confirmation
Secretary	Pam Hilliard	Confirmed at AGM
Treasurer	Carol Fawcett	Confirmed at AGM
Works Manager	Eric Chabros	Elected by Committee – Needs AGM confirmation
Ordinary Member	Brian Vale	Confirmed at AGM
Ordinary Member	Robyn Vale	Confirmed at AGM
Ordinary Member	Amanda Smith	Confirmed at AGM

Role	Incumbent	Status
Ordinary Member	Dave Emery	Confirmed at AGM
Ordinary Member	Matt Emery	Confirmed at AGM
Ordinary Member	Eugenie Kestel	Confirmed at AGM
Ordinary Member	Charlotte Boyes	Elected by Committee – Needs AGM confirmation
Ordinary Member	Emily Dagnall	Volunteer – Needs confirmation at the AGM

Other volunteers for the Committee were requested, but no additional attendees volunteered.

The following resolution was proposed and voted on:

Resolution: To accept the new members/nominees to become members of the DDRA Committee for a period of up to three years (as per RoA Clause 11.4(2)).

Proposed by: Bruce Hilliard

Seconded by: Adam Kestel

Vote outcome: **Carried unanimously**

General Business

Dave Emery suggested that the DDRA engage prisoners from Karnet Prison Camp to assist with the maintenance of the DDEP. Dave will investigate the procedures involved in implementing this suggestion and report back to the Committee. Mr Hugh Jones also indicated that he would be able to provide some insights into this engagement of prisoners.

Resolution: The use of Karnet prisoners to support works in the DDEP should be investigated, and a report to the DDRA Committee shall be developed.

Proposed by: Dave Emery

Seconded by: Adam Kestel

Vote outcome: **Carried unanimously**

Brian Vale suggested that landowners take more responsibility for their areas adjacent to their property to prevent bushfires from causing major damage. Cr Rob Coales committed to investigating the possibility of allowing landowners to burn their own drains at the front of their property. He will report back to the President of the DDRA.

Meeting Closed

The meeting closed at 9.27 pm.

To the best of my recollection, I attest that these Minutes accurately reflect the proceedings during and outcomes of this AGM. However, in accordance with the DDRA Rules of Association, these minutes must still be accepted at a following General Meeting as part of the ratification process.

Signed as an attestation by the Chairperson for the meeting.

Name: Bruce Hilliard Role: Chairperson & President