NEW ZEALAND THOROUGHBRED
RACEHORSE OWNERS
FEDERATION

DRAFT

MINUTES OF NZTROF 2025 AGM
held Sunday 7th December 2025 at 11.00am at Jetpark Hotel Auckland and via Zoom

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Present:

Executive Members:

- Bernard Hickey (President/Chairman) – Hawkes Bay
- Sally Blyth (Vice President) – Auckland
- Mark Verran – Manawatu
- Berri Schroder - Waikato/BOP
- Ian Hackett – Wanganui/Taranaki
- Pete Faulkner – Central South Island (via Zoom)
- Neil Miller (Co-opted) – Auckland

Executive Officer:

- Denise Mayhew

Members:

- Lex Paterson – Auckland Reserve Delegate
- Mike Gething – Auckland
- Lynne Forsman – Waikato/BOP (via Zoom)
- Briar Virtue – Waikato/BOP (via Zoom)

Apologies:

Lee Somervell – Hawkes Bay

Jill Lunn – Waikato/BOP

Allan Fenwick – Manawatu

Pat Woollaston – Auckland

Brian & Leslie Court – Central South Island

David Paykel – Auckland

Roger & Jo Blunt - Waikato

1. **Welcome**
   President Bernard Hickey (Chair) opened the NZTROF 2025 AGM at 11.20am after some technical difficulties with the Zoom link, and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. **Apologies**
   Moved that the Apologies as presented be accepted. *B Hickey/S Blyth Carried.*

3. **Condolences**
   The Chair asked for a pause of silence to remember those members who had died in the previous year.

4. **Minutes of AGM 26 November 2024**
   Moved that the Minutes of the AGM held on 26th November 2024, as posted on the NZTROF website, be confirmed as a true and correct record of proceedings.
   N Miller/I Hackett. Carried.

   Matters Arising: Nil

5. **President's Report:** Bernard Hickey
   (Available on the NZTROF website)

   The President read his written report. Key points included:

   - NZTR needs to develop a business plan to support and measure its Statement of Intent
   - NZTROF, along with the three other Recognised Industry Organisations, is now a member of NZTR, and as such can now move motions and speak at NZTR AGMs
   - With this new foundation now in place, NZTROF is looking to increase its membership
   - The Stakes Review is eagerly awaited, with a particular need for stakes at the lower end of the scale to be looked at

   Moved that the President's Report be received. *B Hickey/I Hackett. Carried.*

6. **Annual Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31st July 2025**
   (Available on the NZTROF website)

   Moved that the Annual Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31st July 2025, prepared by Shelley Tweedy & Associates, be received. *Mark Verran/M Gething. Carried.*

7. **Auditor or Reviewer**
   The Constitution requires that the appointment of an Auditor or Reviewer be considered. The President pointed out that the Financial Statements are prepared by a professional firm of accountants.

   Moved that no Auditor or Reviewer be appointed. B Hickey/S Blyth. Carried.

8. Annual Subscriptions and Capitation Fees

Moved that a decision on the annual subscription and capitation fees be held in obeyance for the Executive to make a formal decision. *B Hickey/B Schroder. Carried.*

9. Confirmation of Delegates of Regional Associations

The Regional Delegates and Reserves were confirmed.

- Auckland: Sally Blyth; Reserve – Lex Paterson
- Hawkes Bay: Bernard Hickey; Reserve – Lee Somervell
- Waikato/Bay of Plenty: Berri Schroder; Reserve – Jill Lunn
- Manawatu: Mark Verran; Reserve – Allan Fenwick
- Wanganui/Taranaki: Ian Hackett; Reserve – Brian O'Dea
- Central South Island: Pete Faulkner; Reserve – Andrew Trusttum

10. Nomination for President

Two nominations were received for the position of President:

- Berri Schroder nominated by Waikato/Bay of Plenty
- Sally Blyth nominated by Auckland

Their bios were circulated to the Board prior to the meeting, and both nominees spoke to their bios. The President noted that both were worthy candidates.

A secret ballot was held with Mike Gething and Neil Miller as scrutineers.

Sally Blyth was duly elected and congratulated.

11. Appointments of Patron and Accountants

NZTROF Patron: A R Galbraith KC

NZTROF Accountants: Shelley Tweedy & Associates Ltd

Nominated by B Hickey, seconded by N Miller, they were duly confirmed.

12. Adoption of updated NZTROF Constitution to meet the requirements of the Incorporated Societies Re-registration

Moved that the updated NZTROF Constitution be accepted and the Federation reregister as an Incorporated Society.

B Hickey/M Gething. Carried.

It was agreed that the Executive Officer will register the Financial Statements with the Companies Office, followed by the Constitution.

All Delegates will need to sign a consent form agreeing to be an Officer of the Federation.

An Officer will need to be nominated to be the Contact for the Companies Office.

13. General Business

Treatment of 1% Welfare Fund Levy

President Hickey informed the meeting that the Federation supports the opinion of the Manawatu Regional Association that the 1% Welfare levy should be deducted from the total pool of prize money for each race, rather than be deducted as expenses with GST added when paying Owners their stake money.

On 4th December he emailed Rowan Cramond at NZTR regarding this issue. He is happy with the level of transparency around how the funds are being spent, with recent beneficiaries being the horse crematorium in Waikato and the horse ambulance.

President Hickey passed the chairing of the meeting over to the newly elected President, Sally Blyth.

Gift Presentations

President Bernard Hickey and Owners' Bulletin Editor Neil Miller were presented with gifts to thank them for their huge contributions to the Federation over a period of many years.

The Manawatu Regional Association expressed their thanks to Neil Miller for his longevity, and Bernard Hickey for his boldness.

Owners Bulletin

The need to start moving towards a digital format was recognised, but reservations were expressed about using AI to write the Bulletin.

The Executive will consider next steps for the future.

Proposed New Hawkes Bay Racetrack

B Hickey reported that members at Hawkes Bay Racing Club had voted for a green fields project just outside Flaxmere. This will be developed with the proceeds from the sale of the current site, and the NZTR Development Fund.

Members' Council

B Hickey advised that three members, including himself, will each get three more years on the Council, but one of them will step down each year. His view was that the Members' Council could work well in terms of their constitution.

Digitisation

B Schroder expressed his view that it is legally possible to digitise a horse, with KYC (Know Your Customer) being the start. He reported that NZTR have agreed to the principle of KYC.

There was no further business, and the meeting closed at 12.40pm.

Denise Mayhew
Executive Officer, NZTR Owners Federation