

## MINUTES OF MEETING

<b>Meeting No: 97</b> <b>Subject : Monthly Meeting</b> <b>Held at : Club Macquarie</b> <b>Prepared by : Laura Renshaw</b>				<b>Date : 15/05/2026</b> <b>Ref. : HMBA- MOM - 940</b> <b>Issue date: 20/5/2026</b>			
<b>Attendees:</b> Joshua Bridson, Melanie Hoffman, Dane Critchlow, Laura Renshaw, Leighsa Cox, Tony Edwards, Grant Jones, Mark Welsh, Colleen Kehoe, Dean Kozlik, Dallas Barham <b>Online:</b> <b>Apologies:</b> Phil Dunne, Sarah Booth, Bill Willis, Steven Pryor, Evan Steverson.							
<b>Legend –</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: #d9ead3; border: 1px solid black; margin-right: 5px;"></span> For discussion at next meeting – add to Agenda</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: #f4cccc; border: 1px solid black; margin-right: 5px;"></span> To remain on minutes for future discussion if needed</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: #e6b0aa; border: 1px solid black; margin-right: 5px;"></span> To be removed from next minutes</li> </ul>							
Item	Action	By Whom	Status				
<b>1.0</b>	<b>Minutes of the previous meeting</b>						
1.1	April 2026 - Confirmed and accepted as a correct record	Melanie Hoffman					
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Correspondence and notifications</b>						
2.1	AGM held – New Dawn Congrats Mel and huge thanks to outgoing President Josh						
2.2	AusCycling Special General Meeting 23/04/2026 Josh to give update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o For full update please ask.</li> </ul>						
2.3	Email from LMCC re Lake Mac Business Excellence awards <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We have nominated in the Outstanding Visitor Experience category</li> <li>• Small group of key people to represent club if successful – 24/07/2026</li> </ul>	Josh Bridson					
2.4	Email from AusCycling – Chris Clarke <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2026 AusCycling NSW/ACT MTB XCO Series update – 14/05/2026</li> <li>• Date is 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> of August 2026</li> <li>• Will need a Commissaire please</li> </ul>						
2.5	Email from Tracey Dickson from Outdoors NSW to link HMBA with Dr Alana Thomson (Senior Lecturer - Tourism and Event Management – Newcastle Uni)	Josh Bridson					
2.6	Today - Shaun Van Roon - Request permission to use Awaba Mountain Bike Park as a venue for a proposed veteran ride activity for local serving members and veterans <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• once a fortnight on Fridays, from 10:00 am to 12:30 pm</li> <li>• 12 participants</li> </ul>						

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<b>3.0</b>	<b>Monthly Racing reports</b>		
3.1	<p>Cross Country Racing – 19<sup>th</sup> April AGM + Racing</p> <p>Report Link:</p> <p>No. of Riders: 89</p> <p>Next Event: 31<sup>st</sup> May?</p> <p>Race scheduled at Awaba – Junior and Graded racing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Rego - ?</li> <li>● New Junior Grade policy in effect</li> <li>● Timing –</li> <li>● Possibility of Kids timed race on the Development Track (Evan, Dean)</li> <li>● First Aid – Confirmed</li> <li>● Toilet – Onsite</li> <li>● Track Setting – Dallas</li> <li>● Junior Race 8.00 Start – Evan?</li> <li>● Junior race – U9/11/13/15's</li> <li>● Grade racing to start at 9.00am</li> <li>● Commissaire for official starts</li> <li>● Podium to be at the end of race day</li> <li>● Adaptive riders –</li> </ul>	Phil Dunne	Ongoing
3.2	<p>Downhill – 19<sup>th</sup> April</p> <p>Report Link:</p> <p>No of Riders: 52</p> <p>Next Event: National Round 16/17<sup>th</sup> May</p> <p>Scheduled at Awaba, D Grade Practice from Biraban</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● First Aid - Booked</li> <li>● Bus – Booked, will be there at 9</li> <li>● Trailer – inspection required</li> <li>● Timing – Coleen to contact Landon</li> <li>● Radios – Rick</li> <li>● Riders Briefing at 8.45am – Rick</li> <li>● Minimum 3 Marshalls –</li> <li>● Shuttles start 9.00 -</li> <li>● Riders to be registered by Friday to allow confirmation of bus hire</li> <li>● Cut off 30 Entries</li> </ul>	DH Crew	Ongoing
3.3	G-Flow Enduro – Next Event June 20/21 <sup>st</sup> 2026		Ongoing

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	<p>Report Link:</p> <p>No of Riders:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 day race event – Practice on Saturday             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3 stages:                 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If Adaptive entry – Course will be set</li> <li>• Shuttles – Granted Ride (Sat 10, Sun 9)</li> <li>• Same price as last year</li> <li>• Numbers – capped at 100</li> <li>• New ‘Officials’ plates</li> <li>• Mechanic – Cessnock Bike Co</li> <li>• Photography - Sam SPC Photography</li> <li>• Coffee Van – Serendipity Sunday</li> <li>• Adaptive – no entries</li> <li>• Volunteers</li> <li>• 10yrs old and Under are not to race Gravity Enduro (as per Junior Policy)</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>** Age categories and entries **</b></p> <p><b>3 MOUNTAIN BIKE (MTB)</b></p> <p>Riders must always race within their age category. In circumstances where field sizes are small race organisers may combine categories or run multiple categories at the same time to simulate larger fields and promote development. When this occurs riders must not exceed maximum race durations for their current age category.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Age Cat</th> <th>Age Span</th> <th>Max Race Duration (XCO)</th> <th>Max Race Duration (XCM)</th> <th>Max Race Duration Gravity Enduro **</th> <th>General Notes and Considerations</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>U11</td> <td>9-10</td> <td>15 mins</td> <td>n/a</td> <td>n/a</td> <td>Mixed gender categories should be encouraged.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>U13</td> <td>11-12</td> <td>25 mins</td> <td>1 hour</td> <td>2 hours</td> <td>Mixed gender categories should be encouraged.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>U15</td> <td>13-14</td> <td>45 mins</td> <td>2 hours</td> <td>3 hours</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>U17</td> <td>15-16</td> <td>1 hour</td> <td>3 hours</td> <td>4 hours</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>J19</td> <td>17-18</td> <td>1.25 hours</td> <td>4 hours</td> <td>5 hours</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>U23</td> <td>19-22</td> <td>1.25 - 1.5 hours</td> <td>n/a</td> <td>n/a</td> <td>Separate U23 category is only applicable to XCO. Where there is a separate U23 category, riders may apply to AusCycling for dispensation to ride up in Elite when UCI points are available.</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>*XC Endurance includes XCM, multi lap endurance events up to and including 24hr races. Time is the total time spent riding during the event. It is recommended that race organisers facilitate U13, U15 and U17 categories by encouraging team relay style racing in longer endurance events.</p> <p>**Gravity Enduro (GE) time is total time for the event including timed and liaison stages.</p>	Age Cat	Age Span	Max Race Duration (XCO)	Max Race Duration (XCM)	Max Race Duration Gravity Enduro **	General Notes and Considerations	U11	9-10	15 mins	n/a	n/a	Mixed gender categories should be encouraged.	U13	11-12	25 mins	1 hour	2 hours	Mixed gender categories should be encouraged.	U15	13-14	45 mins	2 hours	3 hours		U17	15-16	1 hour	3 hours	4 hours		J19	17-18	1.25 hours	4 hours	5 hours		U23	19-22	1.25 - 1.5 hours	n/a	n/a	Separate U23 category is only applicable to XCO. Where there is a separate U23 category, riders may apply to AusCycling for dispensation to ride up in Elite when UCI points are available.		
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3.4	<p>National Series DH Round in 2026</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ May 16-17 (Friday 15<sup>th</sup> – non-official practice and track set-up)</li> <li>○ \$10k grant funding from LMCC</li> <li>○ Contract with AusCycling</li> <li>○ First aid – St Johns</li> <li>○ Timing – AusCycling</li> </ul>																																												

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Shuttles – Granted Ride</li> <li>○ Schedule has gone out</li> <li>○ Downhill Meeting – TBA</li> <li>○ Catering – Serendipity</li> <li>○ Dallas to collect signs from Alex Please</li> </ul>		
3.5	Adaptive Race – HMBA will plan future Adaptive Categories – agreed on the need to gain greater support/commitment from local adaptive riders.		Ongoing
3.6	<p>2026 Calendar</p> <p>Sunday 1 February – AWABA XC/DH Round 1</p> <p>Saturday 28 February / Sunday 1 March – AWABA G-Flow Round 1</p> <p>Sunday 15 March – AWABA XC/DH Round 2</p> <p>Sunday 19 April – AWABA XC/DH Round 3 - AGM</p> <p>Friday 15 May/Saturday 16 May/Sunday 17 May – AWABA AusCycling National DH Series</p> <p>Sunday 31 May – AWABA XC Round 4 - Marathon Style</p> <p>Saturday 20 June / Sunday 21 June – AWABA G-Flow Round 2</p> <p>Sunday 19 July – AWABA XC/DH Round 5</p> <p>Saturday 1 August / Sunday 2 August – AWABA AusCycling XC State Series</p> <p>Sunday 23 August – G-Flow Round 3 (venue TBA)</p> <p>Sunday 20 September – AWABA XC/DH Round 6</p> <p>October – No club events scheduled</p> <p>Sunday 15 November – AWABA Club Championships (XC &amp; DH)</p> <p>Sunday 13 December – AWABA Social day &amp; Presentations</p> <p>All races are at Awaba Mountain Bike Park.</p> <p><b>IMPORTANT: Dates are subject to change depending on fire, flood, falling flora, feral fauna, foolish folk forging flawed fall lines, etc</b></p>	<p>Phil Dunne</p> <p>Coleen Boyes</p> <p>Dane Critchlow</p>	
Note	Process for postponing races - move it back one week then if not possible – cancel.		For review in future
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Trail Coordinator Report – Park Status</b>		
4.1	<p>Build Day Report:</p> <p>3<sup>rd</sup> May</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Downhill Crew, lots of people</li> </ul> <p>April 18th:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deano's Build Day</li> <li>• Rocky Corner</li> </ul>	<p>Dallas Barham</p> <p>Rick Kehoe</p>	
4.2	<p>Next Build Day: 24<sup>th</sup> May? XC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dallas will write a speel</li> </ul> <p>Future Projects:</p>	<p>Dallas Barham</p> <p>Rick Kehoe</p>	Ongoing

## MINUTES OF MEETING

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Finish “Rock on Garth”</li> <li>• Begin work on “New Camel Climb” and “Wild Polly Extension”</li> <li>• “Get Faulked” – pending successful grant application.</li> <li>• Car parks (lower and overflow) need more formalising</li> <li>• Overpass for start of Monkey Chase on Faulk Line, and similar for proposed new internal climb (i.e. over DH track).</li> <li>• Biraban - Longer term plan for bridges to be built in wetter section toward Thornton Heights. Trail work</li> </ul>																	
4.3	<p>Awaba MTB Park Maps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nothing scheduled</li> </ul> <p>Signage:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Directionals that need installing – in the container ready for a build day</li> <li>• Move Biraban Donation Sign to PJR Area</li> <li>• Open/Closed sign at front gate to be installed – any update?</li> <li>• Cars not to drive to S-Bend road for Biraban pick up. Signs to say last pick up point at Downhill Finish.</li> </ul>	<p>Josh Bridson</p> <p>Dallas Barham</p> <p>Rick Kehoe</p>	In process															
4.4	<p>Trail Sponsorship signs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Email hmbaweb@gmail.com if interested in sponsoring the park.</li> <li>• Mick is working on the video to acknowledge current sponsors</li> </ul>	<p>Josh Bridson</p>	In Process															
4.5	<p>Trail counters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development Trail: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ This months average 89 riders per day</li> <li>○ Last month average 28 riders per day</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Main Trail: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ This months average 98 riders per day</li> <li>○ Last month average 40 riders per day</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Dane and Dallas can help with trail counts each Month (please inform secretary prior to Monthly meeting)</li> <li>• DH Trail: No reader on track</li> </ul>	<p>Dane Laura</p>	In process															
4.6	<p>Container Security – Key Register:</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 33%;">1 - Josh</td> <td style="width: 33%;">2 - Phil</td> <td style="width: 33%;">3 - Steve</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4 – Mark N</td> <td>5 – John</td> <td>6 - Dean</td> </tr> <tr> <td>7 – Mick / Dane</td> <td>8 – Rick</td> <td>9- Dallas</td> </tr> <tr> <td>10 -</td> <td>11 - Mark W</td> <td>12 -</td> </tr> <tr> <td>13 -</td> <td>14 - Mel</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	1 - Josh	2 - Phil	3 - Steve	4 – Mark N	5 – John	6 - Dean	7 – Mick / Dane	8 – Rick	9- Dallas	10 -	11 - Mark W	12 -	13 -	14 - Mel		<p>Committee</p>	Ongoing
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<b>5.0</b>	<b>Finance Report</b>																	

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5.1	<p>Club account balance as at 11/052026:</p> <p><b>\$15,912</b> WBC Trail Maintenance Account</p> <p>\$50,314 WBC Community Solutions Account</p> <p><u>\$677</u> PayPal Account</p> <p><b><u>\$66,903</u></b> Total Cash at bank</p> <p>Watagan's Takeaway outstanding \$500.</p> <p><b>NOTE:</b> \$12,800 set aside from e-bike raffle for a new trail. \$10,000 from Timber Trail</p> <p>Payables:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• East Coast Buttler rebuild (paid)</li> <li>• Little Falcon</li> </ul> <p>Upcoming Outgoings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Signage from Coleen for plates etc</li> <li>• Club happy to spend \$10,000 on timing equipment</li> </ul>	Warwick Turnbull	Ongoing
5.2	<p>Club Merchandise:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Socks - \$20 for active committee – maximum 2 per household for this order - \$25 for general public</li> <li>• Shirts –new colour HMBA logo on black shirt available – will be advertised this week for orders, plus stock items</li> <li>• Jerseys: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ XC Race Jerseys – \$50</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Limited number of Monkey Bucket Hats - \$25</li> <li>• Hoodies – new ones for order</li> <li>• Beanies - \$25 each, \$20 for Committee?</li> <li>• Bottles – did anyone look into these?</li> <li>• Dallas spoke to Camelbak</li> </ul>	Josh Bridson  Melanie Hoffman	In process
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Special Projects Report</b>		
6.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grant Assistance Program Proposal - Club Builder</li> <li>• Currently in process for Club Grants <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Large grant for facilities – about \$205,000 for Get Faulk'd – announcement due imminently (mid April)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Infrastructure Grants coming up x 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Undercover areas for car park</li> <li>○ Still waiting on advice for these</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Responsible Wood Grant <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Successful with \$10k for TNT trail – beginner/intermediate timber feature trail</li> <li>○ Grant and Dane are the project leaders – update: Scratched in and marked out.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Josh Bridson  Evan Steverson	
<b>7.0</b>	<b>Advocacy / Adaptive Report</b>		

## MINUTES OF MEETING

7.1			
<b>8.0</b>	<b>General Business</b>		
8.1	Junior academy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On hold</li> <li>• Consideration is how to do this and have participants covered for insurance – use Come and Try Days combined with Free Trial Period</li> </ul>	Joshua Bridson  Sarah Booth	Ongoing
8.2	How to have HMBA successfully link people back to the club for support and marketing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proposed 'Hall of Fame" board in the park somewhere?</li> </ul>	Mark Welsh	Ongoing
8.4	Dallas to Talk about how to repair the internal, road correctly and to give a rough costing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Dallas to patch the internal access road before the weekend 16/17 May</li> <li>○ Thank Dallas for the quick patch before Jason English race just gone</li> </ul>		
8.5	PA System update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brett Coxon has offered to donate a system that can be heard from all carparks</li> <li>• Update: Not going ahead for moment</li> <li>• Brett happy to help out with Nationals Speakers</li> </ul>	Melanie Hoffman	
8.6	State Forest Contact <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All club requests/communication to be through President</li> <li>• Dallas listed as local emergency contact</li> </ul>		
8.7	Socials and Sharing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maybe a form?</li> <li>• Member submission</li> <li>• Tag the club</li> </ul>	Melanie Hoffman	
8.8	Dallas's tool station – location to be decided.		
	<b>Points for next committee meeting Agenda.</b>		
	<b>Meeting concluded at 8:41pm</b>		
	<b>Next meeting will be Monday 15 June 2025</b> <b>– 7.00pm at Club Macquarie Argenton and then: 15<sup>th</sup> June</b>		

Recorded on behalf of HMBA: Laura Renshaw

Date: 15/05/2026

## MINUTES OF MEETING

Further expanding on our previous emails, HMBA will continue to support our junior racers this year and will be re-aligning our XC race grades to better accommodate junior riders within the senior grade racing structure dependant on their age, in accordance with AusCycling guidelines

Based on this, the following Racing Grades, laps (based on a course of approx. 5-6km length) and age limits will be utilised from the start of the 2026 season.

Grade Description	Number of Laps	Age at 31st December of current year
A Grade Men	5	19 years and older
A Grade Women	4	19 years and older
B Grade Men	4	17 years and older
B Grade Women	3	17 years and older
C Grade Men	3	15 years and older
C Grade Women	2	15 years and older
D Grade Men	2	13 years and older
D Grade Women	1	13 years and older
E Grade Men	1	11 years and older
E Grade Women	1	11 years and older
E Bike Open	4	15 years and older
Junior Under 9	2 (Separate junior course)	7 or 8 years old
Junior Under 11	3 (Separate junior course)	9 or 10 years old
Junior Under 13	4 (Separate junior course)	11 or 12 years old
Junior Under 15	5 (Separate junior course)	13 or 14 years old
Adaptive Open	Dependant on each race course	Dependant on each race course

Nb: HMBA recognises that some junior athletes may demonstrate skills, endurance, and race craft beyond what is typical for their age and has therefore established the following framework to identify and approve exceptional cases for grade progression from the 2026 season and in the future.

This policy is designed to support athlete development while maintaining safety and competitive integrity.

Progression to a higher age or grade division may be approved via one of the following three pathways.

### Pathway 1 – Prior HMBA successful grade riding competency

If a junior rider has raced in HMBA grades above the age limits in the table above for at least two races prior to the 2026 season and would like to continue riding in the same grade, they may submit a written request to the club. Following review of their previous results in that grade, approval to continue riding in the higher grade may be granted if the club is satisfied that their results reflect that the rider has the necessary physical, technical and emotional maturity for the higher grade.

*For all other riders from the start of the 2026 season:*

### Pathway 2 – Accredited coach endorsement

## MINUTES OF MEETING

Where a junior athlete is currently training under an AusCycling-accredited coach, the coach may provide a written letter of support to HMBA confirming that, in their professional opinion, the athlete has demonstrated sufficient:

- technical riding skills
- physical endurance
- race craft and tactical awareness
- emotional maturity to compete safely

### Pathway 3 – Performance-based trial assessment

As an alternative to coach endorsement, HMBA may approve progression using a performance-based trial process as proposed by AusCycling.

This method uses objective race-time comparisons calculated via a spreadsheet model and requires the following criteria to be met:

- the junior rider must compete in a minimum of two HMBA events (events do not need to be consecutive)
- in each assessment event, the junior rider's grade must be run on the same course and at the same time as the proposed higher grade (ie: course layout and race conditions must be comparable)
- the junior rider's predicted race time for the same number of laps in the higher grade must be within 5% of the fastest JUNIORS time in the next higher age group / grade division. For Example, an U15 riding 2 laps in D grade must have an estimated 3 lap race time that is within 5% of the leading U17 or U15 already riding in C grade (who may not necessarily be the overall C grade race winner)

The 5% "performance factor" of the older age category is used as a benchmark to ensure the younger athlete has all the underpinning physical, technical, tactical and psychological skills development to support entering the higher category. If the rider demonstrates this performance standard across the required events, they will be deemed eligible to progress to the higher grade.

Where progression is approved via this pathway, HMBA will strongly recommend that the rider and their family consider engaging an AusCycling-accredited coach to support further development of race skills and long-term progression.

All requests to support junior racing advancement under any of the three pathways above should be submitted to [xchmba@gmail.com](mailto:xchmba@gmail.com)

We believe that this policy provides a clear, evidence-based mechanism to identify exceptional junior riders while remaining aligned with AusCycling guidelines and HMBA's commitment to rider safety, fairness, and sustainable athlete development.

We will also continue with the dedicated junior races from 8 AM prior to the main cross-country rounds, with plans to explore incorporating skills development into these sessions as well.

Regards,  
HMBA Committee