

MINUTES OF MEETING

Meeting No: 98 Subject : Monthly Meeting Held at : Club Macquarie Prepared by : Laura Renshaw Date : 15/06/2026 Ref. : HMBA– MOM - 941 Issue date: /2026			
Attendees: Melanie Hoffman, Dane Critchlow, Laura Renshaw, Steven Pryor, Grant Jones, Mick Bradford, Phil Dunne, Dean Kozlic, Mark Welsh, Online: Leighsa Cox, Coleen Kehoe, Warwick Turnbull Apologies: Sarah Booth, Tony Edwards, Dallas Barham, Legend – For discussion at next meeting – add to Agenda To remain on minutes for future discussion if needed To be removed from next minutes			
Item	Action	By Whom	Status
1.0	Minutes of the previous meeting		
1.1	May 2026 - Confirmed and accepted as a correct record	Melanie Hoffman	
2.0	Correspondence and notifications		
2.1	Expression of interest for 2027 Season Events: National Series MTB 2027 - 2028 AusCycling MTB National Series - Downhill (DH) 2027 - 2028 AusCycling MTB National Series - Cross Country Olympic (XCO) National Championships MTB 2027 & 2028 AusCycling MTB National Championships - Enduro (EDR) 2027 & 2028 AusCycling MTB National Championships - Marathon (XCM) 2027 & 2028 AusCycling MTB National Championships - Observed Trials (OT) Possible UCI Round – Would want earlier in the year, need to think about funding and other costs.		
2.2	Game On – Teaming Up for Climate Action grant opportunity Discuss whether the club should apply for the Game On grant, which offers \$25,000 to \$100,000 in funding, with up to 100% funding available, for projects that improve energy efficiency, reduce operating costs, and strengthen facility resilience to climate impacts.		

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	Key project options to consider: • Solar panels, battery storage, LED sports lighting, or other energy-efficient upgrades • Shade, drainage, irrigation, rainwater harvesting, and stormwater management improvements • Clubhouse retrofits such as insulation, ventilation, or energy-saving appliances • Works to improve resilience to severe weather, including roofs, fencing, structures, shaded areas, and tree planting Information needed to progress an application: • Landowner approval or consent, if relevant • Quotes or other evidence of costs • Photos of the current facilities or proposed project area • Letters of support from stakeholders such as community groups, schools, council, or partners • Evidence of club affiliation with a recognised SSO, SSOD, NSO, or NSOD Timing: The grant opens on 1 July and closes on 28 July, but may close earlier if funding is fully allocated or the required number of applications is received. Early preparation and lodgement are recommended. Suggested meeting decision: Confirm whether to proceed with an application and identify the preferred project/s for quotes and supporting documentation.		
2.3	Trail Born Shimano Grant being applied for		
3.0	Monthly Racing reports		
3.1	Cross Country Racing – 31st May Racing Report Link: No. of Riders: 63 riders Next Event: 19/07/2026 (Marathon or 3 Hour? 3 Hour, Solo or Pairs, 30-40 min loop, 9am Start Juniors can do a 1 lap each or shorter course Race scheduled at Awaba – Junior and Graded racing • Rego - ? • New Junior Grade policy in effect • Timing –	Phil Dunne	Ongoing

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	• Possibility of Kids timed race on the Development Track (Evan, Dean) • First Aid – Confirmed • Toilet – Onsite • Track Setting – Dallas • Junior Race 8.00 Start – Evan? • Junior race – U9/11/13/15's • Grade racing to start at 9.00am • Commissaire for official starts • Podium to be at the end of race day • Adaptive riders –		
3.2	Downhill – 16/17th May National Round Report Link: No of Riders: 130 entrants, 120 starters \$12-13000 profit. Next Event: National Round 19th July Scheduled at Awaba, D Grade Practice from Biraban • First Aid - Booked • Bus – Booked, will be there at 9 • Trailer – inspection required • Timing – Coleen to contact Landon • Radios – Rick • Riders Briefing at 8.45am – Rick • Minimum 3 Marshalls – • Shuttles start 9.00 - • Riders to be registered by Friday to allow confirmation of bus hire • Cut off 30 Entries	DH Crew	Ongoing
3.3	G-Flow Enduro – Next Event June 20/21st 2026 Report Link: No of Riders: • 1 day race event – Practice on Saturday • 4 stages: ▪ • If Adaptive entry – Course will be set • Shuttles – Granted Ride (Sat 10, Sun 9) • Same price as last year • Numbers – capped at 100 • New 'Officials' plates		Ongoing

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- Mechanic – Cessnock Bike Co
- Photography - Sam SPC Photography
- Coffee Van – Serendipity Sunday
- Adaptive – no entries
- Volunteers
- 10yrs old and Under are not to race Gravity Enduro (as per Junior Policy)

**** Age categories and entries ****

3 MOUNTAIN BIKE (MTB)

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.

Age Cat	Age Span	Max Race Duration (XCO)	Max Race Duration Endurance (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.

*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.

**Gravity Enduro (GE) time is total time for the event including timed and liaison stages.

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3.4	Adaptive Race – HMBA will plan future Adaptive Categories – agreed on the need to gain greater support/commitment from local adaptive riders.		Ongoing																																										
3.5	2026 Calendar Sunday 1 February – AWABA XC/DH Round 1 Saturday 28 February / Sunday 1 March – AWABA G-Flow Round 1 Sunday 15 March – AWABA XC/DH Round 2 Sunday 19 April – AWABA XC/DH Round 3 - AGM Friday 15 May/Saturday 16 May/Sunday 17 May – AWABA AusCycling National DH Series Sunday 31 May – AWABA XC Round 4 - Marathon Style Saturday 20 June / Sunday 21 June – AWABA G-Flow Round 2 Sunday 19 July – AWABA XC/DH Round 5 Saturday 1 August / Sunday 2 August – AWABA AusCycling XC State Series Sunday 23 August – G-Flow Round 3 (venue TBA) Sunday 20 September – AWABA XC/DH Round 6 October – No club events scheduled	Phil Dunne Coleen Boyes Dane Critchlow																																											

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	Sunday 15 November – AWABA Club Championships (XC & DH) Sunday 13 December – AWABA Social day & Presentations All races are at Awaba Mountain Bike Park. IMPORTANT: Dates are subject to change depending on fire, flood, falling flora, feral fauna, foolish folk forging flawed fall lines, etc		
Note	Process for postponing races - move it back one week then if not possible – cancel.		For review in future
4.0	Trail Coordinator Report – Park Status		
4.1	Build Day Report: May 24th Bridges in		
4.2	Next Build Day: 5/7/2026 DH and XC Future Projects: - Begin work on “New Camel Climb” and “Wild Polly Extension” “Get Faulked” – pending successful grant application. - Car parks (lower and overflow) need more formalising - Overpass for start of Monkey Chase on Faulk Line, and similar for proposed new internal climb (i.e. over DH track). - Biraban - Longer term plan for bridges to be built in wetter section toward Thornton Heights. Trail work	Dallas Barham Rick Kehoe	Ongoing
4.3	Awaba MTB Park Maps: - Nothing scheduled Signage: - Directionals that need installing – in the container ready for a build day - Move Biraban Donation Sign to PJR Area - Open/Closed sign at front gate to be installed – any update? - Cars not to drive to S-Bend road for Biraban pick up. Signs to say last pick up point at Downhill Finish.	Josh Bridson Dallas Barham Rick Kehoe	In process

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4.4	Trail counters: - Development Trail: - This months average 20 riders per day - Last month average 89 riders per day - Main Trail: - This months average 32 riders per day - Last month average 98 riders per day - Dane and Dallas can help with trail counts each Month (please inform secretary prior to Monthly meeting) - DH Trail: No reader on track	Dane Laura	In process															
4.6	Container Security – Key Register: <table><tr><td>1 - Josh</td><td>2 - Phil</td><td>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		Committee	Ongoing
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5.0	Finance Report																	
5.1	Club account balance as at 11/052026: \$4842 WBC Trail Maintenance Account \$57,831 WBC Community Solutions Account \$3277 PayPal Account \$65,949 Total Cash at bank Watagan’s Takeaway outstanding \$500. NOTE: \$12,800 set aside from e-bike raffle for a new trail. \$10,000 from Timber Trail Payables: - Little Falcon Upcoming Outgoings: - Signage from Coleen for plates etc - Club happy to spend \$10,000 on timing equipment	Warwick Turnbull	Ongoing															
5.2	Club Merchandise: - Socks - \$20 for active committee – maximum 2 per household for this order - \$25 for general public - Shirts –new colour HMBA logo on black shirt available – will be advertised this week for orders, plus stock items - Jerseys: - XC Race Jerseys – \$50 - Limited number of Monkey Bucket Hats - \$25 - Hoodies – new ones for order	Josh Bridson Melanie Hoffman	In process															

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	• Beanies - \$25 each, \$20 for Committee? • Bottles – did anyone look into these? • Dallas spoke to Camelbak		
6.0	Special Projects Report		
6.1	• Grant Assistance Program Proposal - Club Builder • Currently in process for Club Grants ◦ Large grant for facilities – about \$205,000 for Get Faulk'd – announcement due imminently (mid April) • Infrastructure Grants coming up x 2 ◦ Undercover areas for car park ◦ Still waiting on advice for these • Responsible Wood Grant ◦ Successful with \$10k for TNT trail – beginner/intermediate timber feature trail ◦ Grant and Dane are the project leaders – update: Scratched in and marked out.	Josh Bridson Evan Steverson	
7.0	Advocacy / Adaptive Report		
7.1			
8.0	General Business		
8.1	XC- State Round 1 st & 2 nd of August • Toilets x 2 to be booked • First Aid • Timing • New Plates please • Chris Clark – Chase up Commissaire		
	Points for next committee meeting Agenda.		
	Meeting concluded at 8:15pm		
	Next meeting will be Monday 15 June 2025 – 7.00pm at Club Macquarie Argenton and then: 15th June		

Recorded on behalf of HMBA: Laura Renshaw

Date: **15/062026**

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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

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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

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