

MINUTES OF MEETING

Meeting No: 101 Subject : Monthly Meeting Held at : Club Macquarie Prepared by : Laura Renshaw Date : 14/09/2026 Ref. : HMBA– MOM - 942 Issue date: 21/09/2026			
Attendees: Dane Critchlow, Laura Renshaw, Josh Bridson, Melanie Hoffman, Leighsa Cox, Coleen Kehoe, Rick Kehoe, Steve Pryor, Mark Welsh, Phil Dunne, John Richardson, Grant Jones, Dean Kozlic, Matt Shaw, Chris Aitken, Dallas Barham Online: Evan Steverson, Warwick Turnbull, Sarah Booth, Mark Nelmes Apologies: Mick Bradford 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	August 2026 - Confirmed and accepted as a correct record	Josh Bridson	Dean Kozlic
2.0	Correspondence and notifications		
2.1	Hunter Business Awards Night - Mel and Josh attended - Unsuccessful - Josh had a great speech written in case	Mel Hoffman	
2.2	Grant Successful – Dan Repacholi “I’m pleased to let you know that Hunter Mountain Bike Association has been successful in the 2025–26 Volunteer Grants Round and will receive \$1,000.00. - The Department of Social Services will send your formal Letter of Agreement on 15 or 16 September 2026. This will confirm when your grant activity can begin. Please don’t spend the funding outside the activity period listed in that agreement. Grant payments are expected to be made by 29 September 2026.”	Laura Renshaw	

MINUTES OF MEETING

	• Laura applied on Grant Connect website with Josh's help • What to spend on – tools?		
2.3	Club Builder (Grant support) • Option 1 – Grant Ready Program • \$770 • Prepare draft • Option 2 – Grant Assistance Program • \$3850 • Draft Grants Both have a success fee, ~5-15% For now, not reapplying. Need to advertise more for sponsorship	Mel Hoffman	
2.4	UCI DH ROUND • We have officially been confirmed by AusCycling to host the 2027 AusCycling DH National Series – Round 3 & UCI Continental Series at Awaba! • 2–4 April 2027 • Awaba Mountain Bike Park DH National Series Round 2 + UCI Continental Series Hosted by HMBA This is a fantastic result for the club and a huge opportunity for Awaba. Having the UCI Continental Series included gives us the chance to showcase our park, our club and our volunteers on an even bigger stage. • AusCycling has asked us to review the event details and let them know ASAP if anything needs clarification. • UCI Age Categories (Elite and U19) • No sanctioning fees – Auscycling cover • Need to book in MC? • Need for Microphone System	Mel Hoffman	
2.5	Email RE: Junior Gravity Race Academy	Mel Hoffman	

MINUTES OF MEETING

- A proposal has been raised to explore establishing an HMBA Junior Gravity Race Academy, aimed at developing talented and committed young gravity riders across the Newcastle and Hunter region.
- The longer-term vision is to create a structured development pathway that could potentially grow into a recognised centre of excellence for gravity racing, supporting junior riders to progress through club, state and national competition, with opportunities for higher-level competition where appropriate.
- Key elements proposed include professional coaching and structured training, individual rider development, male and female participation from approximately U13–U19, race-day team support, Academy race/training kit, mentoring from elite riders, off-bike development such as strength and conditioning, nutrition and mental preparation, and potential partnerships with local businesses and health professionals.
- An initial pilot could involve up to three riders per age category, with selection based on commitment, attitude, ability and racing goals. Indicative parent contributions of approximately \$1,500–\$2,000 per rider annually have been suggested, supplemented where possible through sponsorship, grants, fundraising and business partnerships. The Academy would operate on a not-for-profit basis.
- Before progressing, significant areas would need further investigation, including child safeguarding and WWCC requirements, AusCycling requirements, insurance and coaching qualifications, governance, financial management, rider selection criteria, program affordability, sustainability and HMBA's responsibilities and potential liabilities.
- For Committee Discussion: Does the committee support the concept in principle and agree to forming a small working group to investigate the feasibility of an HMBA Junior Gravity Race Academy and develop a more detailed business case for consideration before any commitment is made? The business case should clearly establish the proposed structure, costs and funding model, governance and safeguarding requirements, insurance, coaching arrangements, selection process,

MINUTES OF MEETING

	responsibilities of HMBA, and the benefits to both participating riders and the wider club. Discussion: • Matt to come back with outline of what the club can offer • More info needed • Grant semi – interested		
2.6	Lake Mac Meeting - update • Reiterated that its State Forest owned • Letters of support – can do • Asset manager looking into Mogo Situation • Lots of grants coming up • Olney still an active logging forest • Dantier – Grant Guru	Josh Bridson	
2.7	Auscycling proposed Cyclocross Race at the park? • Matt Shaw and Chris Aitken • October 17th Meeting • Lake Mac Council – Operational Land • Booragal • Lake Mac behind the idea • ~130 Riders • Timing System (one mat) • Bunting/pegs • Possible Date (May - August) • Avoid Club Race date • Comitee in favour of supporting this	Josh Bridson?	
3.0	Monthly Racing reports		
3.1	Cross Country Racing – n/a Report Link: Next Event: September 20th Race scheduled at Awaba – Junior and Graded racing • Rego – Phil • New Junior Grade policy in effect • Timing – Phil • Possibility of Kids timed race on the Development Track (Evan, Dean)	Phil Dunne	Ongoing

MINUTES OF MEETING

	• 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 – n/a Report Link: No of Riders: Next Event: September 20th 2026 Scheduled at Awaba, D Grade Practice from Biraban • First Aid - Booked • Bus – Granted Ride • Trailer • Timing – Coleen to contact Landon • Radios – Mel • 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 - current? •	DH Crew	Ongoing
3.3	G-Flow Enduro – 23rd August 2026 Held at Dungog Common • Great success • Sell out • Adaptive Courses • Few minor timing issues (Thanks Phil for hard work on this) • Need to organise Overall winners Jerseys 7:30-10:30 Practice Race at 11am Rego 7:30-10:30 Vols: John, Tony, Phil, Edie, Josh, Report Link:	Dane Critchlow Laura Renshaw	Ongoing

MINUTES OF MEETING

	No of Riders: 100 1 day race event – Practice on Saturday 5 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 - Mechanic – - 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. <table><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><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></table> *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.	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	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	Phil Dunne Coleen Boyes Dane Critchlow																																											

MINUTES OF MEETING

	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 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		
4.0	Trail Coordinator Report – Park Status		
4.1	Build Day Report: 13th September: • Great turnout – 30? • Maintenance done to make the XC trail leading to Mawks Bridge adaptive suitable • Biraban Rocky corner rebuilt • Link on the Awaba XC loop completed to make Wild Polly part of the whole loop • Work on twisties out the back of the Awaba loop • Lots of raking – Captains Call		
4.2	Next Build Day: TBA Future Projects: • Re-align Faulk Line and work done • Begin work on “New Camel Climb” and “Wild Polly Extension” • “Get Faulked” – when to start, hand built start? ○ Overpass is first step • 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

MINUTES OF MEETING

4.3	Awaba MTB Park Maps: - Do we need more MTB ONLY signs? - Issues with illegal/electric moto's 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															
4.4	Trail counters: n/a - Development Trail: - This months average riders per day - Last month average riders per day - Main Trail: - This months average riders per day - Last month average 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 14/09/2026: <table><tr><td>\$4,078</td><td>WBC Trail Maintenance Account</td></tr><tr><td>\$51,389</td><td>WBC Community Solutions Account</td></tr><tr><td>\$649</td><td>PayPal Account</td></tr><tr><td>\$57,616</td><td>Total Cash at bank</td></tr></table> Watagan's Takeaway outstanding \$500. NOTE: \$12,800 set aside from e-bike raffle for a new trail. \$10,000 from Timber Trail Payables:	\$4,078	WBC Trail Maintenance Account	\$51,389	WBC Community Solutions Account	\$649	PayPal Account	\$57,616	Total Cash at bank	Warwick Turnbull	Ongoing							
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MINUTES OF MEETING

	• Little Falcon - update? • Trailer – Deano? • A few bills Waz is paying this week Upcoming Outgoings: • Signage from Coleen for plates etc • Club happy to spend \$10,000 on timing equipment		
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 • Beanies - \$25 each, \$20 for Committee? • Bottles – Dallas has ordered!	Josh Bridson Melanie Hoffman	In process
6.0	Special Projects Report		
6.1			
7.0	Advocacy / Adaptive Report		
7.1			
8.0	General Business		
8.1	Trailer Maintenance: • Update from Dean on maintenance • Continue to Hire or keep as asset • \$200 Day from \$150 • Form to be used (Josh to distribute)		
8.2	Race Result Timing Equipment Upgrade – Landon Background: • Landon recommends engaging Neil from AusCycling again for the upcoming DH National event following his strong performance at the previous National round. While there were a couple of minor issues, these have been identified and should be avoidable at future events. • HMBA has recently purchased one Race Result Ubidium passive timing system for approximately \$10,000. At the previous DH National, HMBA supplied almost all of the Race Result hardware used by Neil.		

MINUTES OF MEETING

	Proposal: To further improve HMBA's timing capability ahead of the next DH National: Sell the club's existing Race Result 5000s decoder, estimated to be worth approximately \$2,000. Purchase one additional Race Result Ubidium passive system, at an estimated cost of \$10,000. Landon will assist with finding a buyer for the existing decoder, with the proceeds helping offset the cost of the new system. Continue using HMBA-owned timing hardware at the DH National while engaging Neil from AusCycling for timing services. Committee Decision Required: Approval for expenditure of up to \$10,000 for the purchase of an additional Race Result Ubidium passive timing system, subject to the sale of the existing Race Result 5000s decoder where practicable. Proposed Motion: "That HMBA approve expenditure of up to \$10,000 for the purchase of an additional Race Result Ubidium passive timing system, with the proceeds from the sale of the existing Race Result 5000s decoder to offset the purchase cost." Money not there for this.		
8.3	Shimano Trail Born Grant - Reminder	Mel Hoffman	
8.4	2027 Calendar: • Start working on this • 2/4th April UCI DH Round • CX Race • Next meeting • Replicate Calendar?		
	Meeting concluded at 8:30ish pm		
	Next meeting will be Monday 2026 – 7.00pm at Club Macquarie Argenton		

Recorded on behalf of HMBA: Laura Renshaw

Date: **14/09/2026**

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

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