



OPEN LETTER FROM 2017 NHMA Rally Organising Committee

27 August 2016

Dear NHMA Committee Members

As the 2017 NHMA Rally Organising Committee (2017), we are writing this letter to convey our activities and concerns regarding the recent decision made on Saturday 13 August 2016.

The resolution *It was then moved and seconded that the Association adopt the policy "that participants at NHMA-organised events must all hold an NHMA insurance card"* has subsequently placed the 2017 committee on hold.

At the NHMA meeting on 13 August 2016 there was no representative from our Committee in attendance and as identified in the correspondence distributed to all NHMA Clubs, this has been specifically directed at the NHMA National Rally.

To date the 2017 Committee have negotiated with Southern Grampians Council, Hamilton Harness Racing Club, Hamilton Pastoral & Agricultural Society, numerous regional clubs and accommodation venues along with trade and stall holders. We are also currently in discussions with guest speakers and musical coordinators to show case our region and surrounds to those wishing to join and participate in the event. This has been achieved with the figure of approximately 15,000 people would be attending.

We as a committee, have undertaken all these activities in line with NHMA guidelines for Rally management as **item 1.2** states that *'Clubs wishing to hold the National Rally must keep full control and management of the event with no commercial interests having no control what-so-ever'*.

Our registration packs, which were held off on being distributed as requested by NHMA, were created in line with NHMA Club Renewal 2016-17 information that inform that *'Member clubs which hold events that are attended by participants that are non-NHMA member clubs, are advised to ensure that they sight evidence of any Personal Accident cover held by such participants. If possible, keep a 'paper trail' of this information. Should*



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uninsured participants be exhibiting, and an incident/injury occurs, the NHMA insurer would not be obliged to respond to any claim, and the injured person may then make a claim through the host club and/or its individual members'.

The 2017 Committee were made aware of NHMA Committee concerns in relation to recent Rallies that have been hosted by other organisations before this meeting, however were led to believe that our proposed action would be favourably received and addressed concerns. Previously discussed with Ken Bock, Secretary of NHMA, it was suggested that a short-term Hamilton Pastoral Museum Incorporated (HPM) membership for those wishing to attend the 2017 Rally without adequate insurance would be adequate, which was subsequently passed at the HPM Annual General Meeting on 8 August 2016.

In addition, event insurance has been sought from an external local provider for our club for the year, to ensure that we abide by those directions above.

Expressions of Interest received prior to the end of July 2016 numbered close to 200, many of these from clubs with numerous people attending.

Since the correspondence distributed from NHMA on 15 August, the 2017 committee members have received numerous calls from individuals and clubs who are seeking their registration packs and clarification of the insurance requirements that we will be seeking for the 2017 National Rally.

It has also been raised that a significant number of people who attended the Tasmanian National Rally in 2015 have had accommodation booked since then in our region, with deposits paid. Accommodation in Hamilton is close to being booked out with deposits received from nearly all venues, many of these people who have booked are not NHMA members.

A number of clubs have called our 2017 committee members have expressed concern on how this recent affects their clubs, restricting vendors and exhibitors as NHMA affiliated clubs. Those that are not NHMA clubs have indicated that they will not be promoting NHMA events due to the insurance decision as club members will not be able to attend.



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The 2017 committee understand that the NHMA Committee have another meeting tomorrow 28 August to discuss the issues and concerns raised by clubs and members from the recent resolution. In light of this, the 2017 committee is providing the following recommendation for your consideration at this meeting:

The 2017 Rally Organising Committee seek the NHMA Committee:

- a) *accept the actions the 2017 Committee have taken in:*
 - *providing a short term membership for uninsured or under insured exhibitors as approved at the HPM Annual General Meeting (3 month membership from 1 April – 30 June 2017 for cost of \$20);*
 - *the additional out-sourced event insurance as a means of spreading the risk and underwriting the risk of such events;*
- b) *remove the request for all participants (including exhibitors trade, vendors and non-NHMA clubs) must hold NHMA insurance cards to attend the event; and*
- c) *approve the 2017 Organising Committee to continue with arrangements to provide a relaxed, enjoyable and informative gathering of the historical machinery community throughout Australia.*

Yours sincerely

2017 NHMA Rally Organising Committee



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