

## **Carla Barakat**

My background has primarily been in Sales and Marketing, Staff training and education in Australia and since arriving back in New Zealand, I have implemented three businesses, all within the Equine industry, which has been my lifetime passion.

Since being introduced to the sport of Endurance in 2008, I've worked towards and attained personal goals and been very successful in the Sport. In Endurance racing, careful planning, attention to detail, stickability and time management have been skills which while already attained, have proved successful in achieving my goals within the sport and to those riders who have asked for my assistance.

I have also been instrumental in bringing people into the sport of Endurance, from non-riders right through to Open with varying successes, including a young rider (15) who completed 80 kilometre ride at MacRaes Flat 17/11/ in difficult condition on her own, to come first in her class. Another rider who sought out my assistance is now purchasing horses of her own and is bringing them through the system. It is these examples that demonstrate how important communication, education, proper training and encouragement to our peers can bring great results in the Sport.

Education, horse welfare, and horse management at home or at events has always been a priority. To achieve our goals has meant constantly expanding our knowledge in these areas, through research and assistance from a wider range of equine professionals.

Now that I have achieved many of my personal goals as a competitor, I am keen to commit to give back to our sport through a position on the ESNZ Endurance Board. With the skills that I have attained over the years in business as well as what I have demonstrated through the Sport, I feel I would make a very valuable contribution and would be an asset to the Board over the years to come.

### **Questions to be answered by ESNZ Endurance Board Candidates**

#### **What are your objectives or goals for joining the Endurance Board?**

1. To gain a greater understanding and knowledge of governance and organisation of the sport, with the view to being involved with developing the Boards initiatives in the sport
2. To foster the existing memberships and encourage more people to join the sport
3. To work with the existing board members to encourage strength within the membership

4. To bring my experience within Endurance, knowledge and skills to the Board to help support and facilitate the organisation to achieve its goals and objectives as set in the Strategic Plan

**If you were to join the Endurance Board – what would you like to achieve during your time on the board?**

1. A clear working understanding of the governance and organisational aspect of Endurance NZ
2. Utilising my experience as a trainer I would like to play a role in supporting the board with establishing and facilitating accessible education programmes for all aspects of endurance and levels of participation
3. To help create an environment that allows and guides individuals to achieve their personal goals at all levels within the sport
4. Being able to support the Board to promote and improve horse welfare, rider/trainer education and grow membership within the sport of Endurance

**What skills, connections, resources and expertise do you have to offer to the Endurance Board?**

1. Ability to communicate and negotiate at all levels
2. I have an extensive background in Sales, Marketing, Staff Training and Business Management
3. I have completed coursing in Train the Trainer and Life Coaching
4. Through my businesses as a Public Trainer (NZ Thoroughbred Racing), Free Motion Equine Therapies and Blue Pegasos NZ Ltd, I have a large network of Equine Professionals and suppliers available for input on specific Equine Situations

**What do you see as the top priorities for Endurance Board?**

1. To support current members and to actively encourage membership growth
2. Protect the members interests by making decisions that are beneficial to the members and foster goodwill going forward
3. Keep the members updated on proposed and actual changes in policy or procedures
4. To ensure that the members have a viable platform and adequate education opportunities available to pursue and achieve their goals at all levels within our sport.