

Jessica Kennedy

I am truly passionate and committed to the future of Endurance and CTR in New Zealand. I have over 25 years' experience in the sport of Endurance and have ridden at all levels moving through from a junior to a 3* open rider with 3 National buckles and I am still actively competing. I have also competed and crewed overseas, and recently completed an official's course. I bring this extensive knowledge of the sport at all levels, and a high level of professionalism with my application to the New Zealand Endurance board.

My professional background in banking offers a broad range of skills to the board and will support the sport moving forward. I have skills in business growth and development, as well as people, conflict and change management. Which I believe will be instrumental in seeing our sport develop and grow in the future.

I believe the future of our sport lies with developing a clear well communicated strategy to advocate and grow the sport, with a clear path forward into a stable, sustainable future. Promoting a fun, clean, safe, and challenging sport for all equestrians. And in doing this providing opportunity for our riders, and officials alike to reach their goals and dreams whether it be to complete a 5km lead rein to representing New Zealand on the world stage.

I want to give back to the sport that has given me so much over the years, by utilising my skills as part of the board. We have an amazing sport which I love, and I am driven to see it have a successful stable future.

Questions to be answered by ESNZ Endurance Board Candidates

1. What are your objectives or goals for joining the Endurance Board?

My main goal in joining the Endurance board, is to see the sport I am so passionate about grow, develop and move forward into the future. We are at a critical point in the sport and I want to support growth in both Endurance and CTR from our newest members to our elite riders. Also promoting open lines of communication between the board and its members, with clear objectives and direction for the sport.

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

If I was to be successful in joining the board, I would like to see the growth and promotion of our sport. Provide a clear path forward into a stable, sustainable future. With opportunities for all riders and officials to achieve their goals, at all levels.

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

I have many skills, connections, resources and expertise to offer the board. I have over 15 years banking experience and I am currently a branch manager for ANZ. I recently opened its newest branch in the growing town of Rolleston in Canterbury. The reason I was so successful in obtaining this position, is my ability to drive growth, business development, and communication within the community. In addition to this I have many other skills to offer obtained over my career. Such as; people, conflict and change management, excellent communication skills, a good understanding of policy, procedure, and I am a confident public speaker.

I have been involved in the sport of Endurance for over 25 years, starting as a junior in the 90s , into the 3* open rider I am now. I have 3x National 160km buckles, been part of a New Zealand Trans-Tasman team, and have been to the World Endurance Championships as a groom. I have also competed in Australia and been 3rd in a Queensland State Championships. Over my years in Endurance I have seen a huge amount of change, from the implementing of our novice system to our alignment with ESNZ and FEI.

I have a huge amount to offer the board and would love to use my skill set to see the sport I love grow in the future.

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

I see the top priorities being clear communication, and the promotion of a fun, clean, safe, and challenging sport. I believe we need a clear plan and strategy to promote and grow the sport, within New Zealand. As well as providing the opportunities to our riders, and officials alike to reach their goals and dreams. Whether it be to complete a 5km lead rein to representing New Zealand on the world stage.