



HOOOF PRINTS

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS



Saturday the 31st at Walsh's Hotel Queanbeyan saw a lovely turn out with from bottom left Donna, Lisa, Beth, Helen, Mieke, Hillary, Gitta, Ian, Billy & Karen (took the photo)

The Executive elected are in the footer of the newsletter and Beth remains ACT Equestrian Association representative with Karen as the KHA Representative and Billy as a committee member.

Trail Boss roles & Code of Conduct was discussed after several instances on a couple of rides last year. It was requested that the more important sections/summary of Code of Conduct be included with the newsletter & Ride Notices to remind Trail Bosses of their obligations. **These notices will be important for all members to read not just the Trail Bosses so everyone is aware as to how rides should be conducted for any ATHRA club.**

Arboretum Horse Yard - Beth advised the meeting that the ACT Equestrian Assoc. we're raising funds to help the Arboretum to put in a horse yard and water trough alongside the hitching rail which is already in place. Not only will the yard increase safety to the general public visiting the area but it will make leaving horses for riders to visit the cafeteria safer also. MHT has kindly donated \$500 toward the project & Beth has confirmed since the meeting that the project will be going ahead with works commencing end of February which is great news.

February 2015



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Schofields Hut – Ian advised the meeting that there is no current policy for furniture to be used in the hut. Hilary has kindly donated 4 school chairs and Ian since the meeting has advised he has smaller items that may be useful also. We will just enjoy the weekend ride to look at the hut 21st February and organise a working bee for later in the year as the required paper work has to be completed for KHA before gaining approval which all takes time.

Bicentennial National Trail – our club will join as an organisation at a cost of \$55, those who don't know much about it you can look at their website www.nationaltrail.com.au or attend our next General Meeting in May to read their Tracks magazine that comes out twice a year.

RIDEREPORTS

Wattle Ride 30th August 2014 – Jenny Costin

The yearly event when the various types of wattle are in full bloom known as The Wattle Ride.

From the plain of Duntroon horse paddock following the tracks around Mt Majura a varied ride through popular walking trails where the nearby Campbell Park office walkers leave their computers for their lunch time escape, we are surrounded by the yellow bloom of wattle. Overhead black hawk helicopters and the Air Force Roulette hover and zoom around us. It seems our wattle ride coincides yet again with open day at the next door Fairburn Air force Base. Our horses surprisingly unfazed by the overhead noise and I am sure we give the black hawks something to aim for. We wave cheerfully as we ride along underneath them.

Lunch is spent behind the war memorial just out of sight of the buses with lots of children pouring out. The view over the parliamentary triangle is quite spectacular. The ride only about 15 km is led by Hilary. It takes us a while as there is so much to see on this beautiful sunny winter's day.

How lucky we are once again so close to the city and yet in the bush.





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September Daffodil Ride on the Brindabella Road not far from the Cotter – Jenny Costin

“A host of golden daffodils” that describes our lunch time spot at a site of an old homestead where some caring folk planted these at the beginning of the last century. Carefully we walk amongst them and sit down at the picnic table surrounded by yellow beauty.

Looking down from their graves into this spectacular display if only they knew of the legacy they left us to enjoy. No old structure left. The site is next to a creek and in a valley now surrounded by pine and eucalyptus trees which at this time of year the purple native creeper also adds to the colourful scene of varying shades of green, in the back ground the ups and downs of the Brindabella Mountains. We now see the completed Cotter Dam in the distance as we ride along the fire trails.

The ride starts at the cavaletti off the Brindabella Road into what is known as Sherwood Forest. A perfect short ride for winter or spring.





Tom Groggin to Old Snowy Camp November – Jenny Costin

The week started with the AGM of the Bicentennial National Trail at Tom Groggin Station. Monaro members who also are BNT members rode the new trail from Tom Groggin to Geehi with area NP Manager Pam O’Brien. The newly constructed track constructed to avoid the 22km of busy Alpine Way has two new horse camps either end, which has been a combined effort of enthusiasm from Peter Cochran and funding from NP with a generous donation from Canberra businessman Terry Snow. The track is cut through some dense subalpine vegetation an easy undulating ride crossing culverts over creeks. A width of about two metres surrounded in spring by flowering trees and bushes. A couple of places trees had fallen across blocking the track, next time easier to take a small saw to get thru. Monaro riders and BNT cyclists and walkers, also enjoyed the opportunity to explore privately owned Tom Groggin Station and into the neighbouring Alpine National Park.



Left to Right: Helen, Leonnie, Dayle, Karen, Jenny, Helen L & Rudi



Karen and Helen





Leaving Tom Groggin saying goodbye to Beth and our fellow BNT friends, with new members Leonie from Dorrigo near Guy Fawkes NP, Helen off her sheep station at Jerilderie in the Riverina, Dayle from Geraldton WA, Rudi from Mornington Peninsula VIC, Karen, Angela, Helen Locke, Graydon and myself drove back up the winding road thru Jindabyne then on to Adaminaby and Old Snowy Camp Tantangara. We were very relieved to find the 32 km into camp off the tar had just been graded particularly after the Dam Wall the steep switch backs can be a challenge when rutted.

Helen Palma, Donna and Billy met us up at Old Snowy Camp. The rest of the week glorious riding weather and no flies yet, full moon not another rider the whole week. The camp to ourselves was an advantage to people who don't mind colder weather. The resident grey kangaroos kept us and horses company whilst in camp. Kangaroos with their joeys at night joining us almost fire side The brumby stallion checking out the mares in the yards every evening leaving his family hidden in the bush not far off. At night brumbies galloped thru the camp pulling down electric fence tape on their way. Did the usual riding to Oldfield's Hut, Pockets Huts, Blue Waterholes, Currango Homestead, where we followed the original cart track that connects the huts, Karen took the far away visitors to Cherry Gardens. Easy riding either following bridle paths, fire trails with a little cross country.

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Oldfield Hut left to right: Hillary, Jenny, Helen, Leonnie, Dayle & Rudi

Hilary turned up after a few days and joined the sightseeing car tour of Long Plain area and hut, Coolamine Homestead with a picnic at Blue Waterholes and the last ride down the Murrumbidgee Fire Trail to Pedens and Dam return.

Thank you for coming on my ride I so much enjoyed everyone's company and lucky us to have our reliable equestrian friends to get us back safely. Thanks to Graydon Mr Fix it and Billy for his camp support and a special thanks to Leonie Box, Helen Huggin and Dayle Wynn and Rudi Berg for their enormous effort in travelling the distance to attend both the BNT AGM and the Monaro Camp. Guy Fawkes NP riding with Leonnie on my-to do list.



Bywong December – Karen Carter

A big thank you to Lisa and husband Bruce, for a terrific ride from their home at Bywong. As you can see by the photos following, plenty of bush to ride through as well as Lake George and flora to admire while tucking into a great morning tea of scones kindly delivered by Bruce. He also brought out Hillary, Gitta & Billy to join us for morning tea & then we all enjoyed lunch at the local Tea House.

The ride is set for December this year so make sure you don't miss it, promising to be better than last year says Lisa!



Riders Jenny, Meike, Sue, Donna, Lisa & Karen



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Left to right: Hilary, Mieke, Billy, Gitta, Sue, Jenny & Lisa



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Karen & Lisa



New Shared Camp Site at Namadgi Visitors Centre Tharwa Act Book 10

Namadgi Visitors Centre has offered the Bicentennial Trail users a shared bush camp site behind the Visitors Centre approx. 1km south on the Naas Road from the Smith Road BNT route and the original BNT camp site. Many thanks to Ranger Managers Brett McNamara and John McRae for making this happen.

The Visitors Centre is the start of the Alpine Walking Track and is also close to Outward Bound at Cuppacombalong near Tharwa. It is agreed the BNT is able to use the shared camp facility next to the river with interested users. It is for tent camping, not for trailers or camping in your horse float or truck.

The camp site is a secluded grassy well protected flat area with mature eucalyptus next to the river. There is a sandy beach suited to swimming, the area next to the river has been cleared and replanted. The Visitor Centre facilities are a short walk up the hill where toilets are available during opening hours and there is an outside water tank. There is also a picnic area with gas barbeques nearby. The gates are combination locked after hours so vehicles are safe. There is a ranger living in nearby house on property adjacent to horse paddock. At times helicopters may land next to Visitors Centre in an emergency. Combination will be given to campers who have booked in for after-hours exit or entry. The original BNT camp behind Cuppacombalong had no facilities no water no shelter and very exposed to the weather this will be still available for self-contained large vehicles, trailer or float campers.

At this time we have a large well grassed dedicated well fenced horse paddock with up to 12 horses allowed next to the centre with tapped water. Cars and floats will be parked in the visitors centre car park next to the horse paddock. As the camp site is in a riparian area no horses or vehicles can be left in the camping area, it is for shared tent camping. Drop off or pack up gear permitted. A fireplace has now also been constructed in the camping area. Visitors Centre is looking into constructing a much needed outside entry into the inside toilets for all after hours users until then Tharwa has public toilets next to Bridge.

The Visitors Centre has always been a place where BNT trekkers call in to get combination codes to Border gates and pay camping fees or find information, maps, gifts, hire electronic position beacons or just socialise when getting an ice cream or cool drink. Past trekkers have occasional stayed there but now it's official. Namadgi Rangers have always been supportive of the BNT. Namadgi Visitors Centre staff will show you where to go after booking in.

Please respect the guidelines for camping and booking details which will be posted on Guide Book updates Book 10 ACT and sent around when I receive them. It has taken quite some time and negotiation from me and Rangers to acquire the lease and improve the camping area.

Namadgi Visitors Centre phone number for booking is 02 62072900

Jenny Costin

ACT Bicentennial National Trail Section Coordinator

BNT office orders for membership and guide books order@nationaltrail.com.au



Please note:

1. No other BNT facilities are being closed
2. The nearest “after hours” toilets are in Tharwa. We have obtained quotes and are hoping to have after hours toilet facilities available at the Visitor Information Centre by June. Until then Namadgi Visitor Centre hours are 9 am to 4.30 pm for public toilet use.



Guidelines for visitors using the BNT campground at NNPVIC

- \$5 per person per night. Bookings essential. Contact Namadgi Visitor Information Centre 0262072900.
- Max of 3 nights per group and max of 12 people per night.
- Nearest public toilet is at Tharwa.
- Please keep noise to a minimum as there are residents nearby.
- Generators are not permitted.
- Unfiltered rain water is available from a tap in the horse paddock and river water from the Gudgenby River. Please boil or treat all water if for human consumption. Do not use soaps or detergents in the Gudgenby River.
- Combination to lock on front gate to be provided. Enter combination and push down on the lock to open. Note: visitors must never leave this gate open or unlocked.
- Vehicles can be used to transport camping gear to campground but must be parked at the VIC. Floats/Trailers to be parked at Visitor Information Centre.
- Horses must be left in the horse paddock for the duration of the stay. Note: pack horses can be used to transport camping gear to campground but must then be placed in the horse paddock
- Horses are not to be ridden outside the horse paddock.
- Fires only in the fireplace provided.
- Campers must provide their own fire wood and comply with all normal fire restrictions.
- No bins provided. All rubbish must be carried out.
- No dogs or other domestic pets are allowed in any part of the Visitor Information Centre.
- Visitors are to stay out of restricted area shown on map.
- Breach of any of these conditions could result in eviction from the campground.

The **Code of Conduct** (COC) document can be found on ATHRA website www.athra.com.au under the Governance tab. The document is now only 14 pages and when you skip items like charity/special events which are not relevant to our small rides there is not a lot to read. All relevant documents pertaining to rides for the Trail Bosses are also on the website but I will forward to Lead Riders/Trail Bosses with an up to date membership list before each ride.

Some points from the COC below:

3.3 The appointed Ride Coordinator and/or Trail Boss is responsible for ensuring that all pre-ride/event risk assessments are conducted and all relevant ride forms are completed.

3.4 Each club secretary must ensure that the following forms for each ride or event are filed together in club records, and retained for a minimum of seven (7) years in accordance with the club's legal obligations. Clubs must make details of these documents available to ATHRA if and when required:

12 IMS-F-009 Ride Attendance Register

13 IMS-F-010 Pre Ride/ Event Checklist

14 IMS-F-011 Post Ride Summary

15 IMS-F-008 Ride Visitor (Prospective Member) if applicable

16 IMS-F-012 Incident Report if applicable

17 IMS-F-013 Application to Conduct Special Events/ Charity Rides if applicable

3.5 Ride Coordinators and Trail Bosses must have a thorough knowledge of this Code of Conduct, and the ability and willingness to follow all rules and guidelines and ensure compliance with same by all participants.

3.6 The Trail Boss and Ride Coordinator must ensure a pre-ride briefing or talk is conducted to advise participants of potential hazards and other details relevant to the safe conduct of the ride. They must ensure that all participants understand the commands that will be used throughout the ride.

3.7 High visibility or reflective vests or clothing must be worn by all ride officials who should each be identified to all participants at the pre ride briefing.

3.8 ATHRA recommends that all riders wear protective clothing appropriate for horse riding and the environment in which the riding occurs (e.g. full length trousers and sleeved shirt). Footwear which prevents the foot sliding forward through the stirrup iron, nor gets caught in the stirrup, is compulsory (ie no chunky soled footwear is permitted).

3.10 Participants must sign the Ride Attendance Register prior to each ride or event and must obey all reasonable instructions from officials at all times.

3.11 It is the responsibility of each participant to advise the Trail Boss, Ride Coordinator or

First Aid person of any pre-existing medical conditions prior to a ride or event.

*3.12 At all times horses remain the responsibility of their riders, and as such, **riders should always be aware of riders/horses in their vicinity, to avoid potential danger.***

*3.13 **It is the responsibility of all riders to maintain control of their horse and to keep them out of kicking distance of other horses at all times.***

3.14 Riders must not pass or overtake another rider at a speed or in a manner which is likely to excite their horse.

3.15 It shall be the responsibility of the rider of each horse to ensure that all riding equipment is regularly checked, well maintained and correctly fitted. The minimum equipment required is a saddle with stirrups and girth and appropriate head gear. The use of halters is only permitted where both horse and rider have demonstrated effective control.

3.16 No rider shall pass the Lead Rider without the Lead Rider's permission, and no rider shall ride behind the Drag Rider without the Drag Rider's permission.

3.17 Riders must maintain sight of the horse in front and the horse behind at all times during a ride.

3.18 No participant may leave a ride without first obtaining permission from the Trail Boss.

3.19 All riders must comply with the State Road Rules when riding on or near roadways.

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