



TRAIL TALES

THE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE AUSTRALIAN TRAIL HORSE RIDERS ASSOCIATION

CLUB AND MEMBER UPDATE

APRIL 2016

Karen Carter – Finance Director

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On behalf of the Board welcome to the April edition of Trail Tales, introducing new members to the ATHRA team – Director for Communication & Marketing, Megan Galvin from Moore Creek NSW and Director for Access, Pam O’Neil from Tenterfield, NSW; Regional Managers - Julia Sherry, North West NSW and Tony Hart South Coast NSW & ACT. Sue Ballie from Pakenham VIC has taken on the Merchandise and Partner Agreement management role and Rachel Meek from Garland NSW has taken on Editor of the newsletter. A big thank you to all these new position holders for the start of 2016.

Welcome to new Clubs Ballarat Social Trail Horse Riding Club and Bush Riders both from Victoria, Canungra Trail Riding Club from Queensland and Mount Manypeaks Horse & Pony Club from Western Australia. There have been many enquiries regarding starting new clubs so it looks like we can look forward to introducing more in the next June edition.

ATHRA’s mailing address seems to have been a mystery to some club executives of late. It has always been on the front page of the newsletter for everyone’s information – see at the end of the contents section in the green column on the left of this page. You can also find it on the ATHRA website home page, there are tabs down the left hand side the first being “Contact ATHRA”. This has a downloadable document with all ATHRA position holders contact details and the ATHRA mailing address in the heading at the top **highlighted in yellow.**

For those who have not visited the ATHRA website home page lately, www.athra.com.au it has taken on a new look showing an advert that was placed in the Outback Magazine Feb/Mar edition. The ATHRA promotional Video and Trail Ride Challenge Videos are also on the home page and are a great tool for clubs wishing to increase their membership, they are not only fun to watch but are a great introduction to the diversity ATHRA clubs have to offer their members. The “News” tab now takes you to another screen for all the latest in what is happening around Australia with Accreditation, state camps and charity rides.

I have enjoyed my four years as Newsletter Editor immensely but now it is time to hand over the reins to Rachel Meek, thanks for taking it on Rachel.

Australian Trail Horse Riders Association

Mailing Address:

PO Box 81

MELTON VIC 3337

www.athra.com.au

Newsletter Editor:

Rachel Meek

Clubs please submit Newsletter articles to your Regional Manager and a reminder that only ATHRA members with email receive these newsletters.

Deadline for June issue is the 31st May 2016

Alan Salter Director (General Manager & Insurance Coordinator) was nominated as an “ATHRA LIFE MEMBER” for his many years of meritorious service at Club, State & National levels and continues to serve ATHRA and the members to his fullest. Once the nomination was tabled it was a unanimous show of hands and Alan was inducted as an ATHRA Life Member, joining Claire Bourke & Tony Hart as the only 3 members to be granted this most esteemed award.



Alan being presented with an ATHRA Life Member Certificate & Gold Buckle by Lloyd Fletcher at the 2016 ATHRA AGM held in Brisbane.

2016 ATHRA REGIONAL MANAGERS WORKSHOP & AGM

Meg Galvin - Director Communications & Marketing

This year's Regional Managers (RM) Workshop and Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held in Brisbane on 4th, 5th and 6th of March. Delegates from near and far gathered on the Thursday the 3rd at various times, subject to their travel arrangements. After a catch up on the Thursday evening, it was straight into business on the Friday morning bright and early at 8am.

This was my second RM workshop and AGM, and on both occasions I have been incredibly impressed by each member's professionalism, commitment, and ability to acknowledge our common goal of 'growing' ATHRA as the premier trail riding organisation in this country. I am aware that a great deal of hours are contributed by each volunteer and I am humbled to be a part of it.

The workshop was officially opened by the very knowledgeable General Manager, Mr Alan Salter. Delegates were welcomed, official introductions were made, apologies were read out etc.

It was then onto the Regional Managers Presentations. These are very interesting to hear and/or see. Each RM from around Australia reports on the locations of their clubs, (some clubs are in very close proximity to each other, and other RM's have their clubs spread far and wide). We learnt what each RM's clubs have been doing, interesting events in their area, such as training days, accreditation courses, membership numbers and the like.

Later in the day it was then onto the remainder of the workshop topics, such as accreditation reports, the Trail Ride Challenge, online membership applications, ATHRA's vision for the future, ATHRA's presence at Equitana, Membership fees for 2017, and presentations by each of the directors on their areas of responsibility.



This year we were also fortunate enough to have a representative from Affinity Insurance Brokers, Mr Paul Davenport, to report on Affinity Insurance's relationship with ATHRA, and to field the many questions that were raised during the subsequent discussion. It was most encouraging to hear from Mr Davenport that ATHRA is viewed by Affinity as the 'go to' trail riding organisation on how to do things correctly, and that we are viewed as a very well run and organised group. Great to hear we are doing things right, and we should be proud of ourselves.

Both days ended at around 5pm. A 'debrief' was held, followed by dinner, a few laughs, much talk of horses, and for most of us, an early night.

Sunday morning, our last day, was the AGM. After the usual formalities, the Executive Board reports were read out. This was followed by the election of Board Members for the coming year. (I am honoured to have been elected to the position of 'Director Communications & Marketing'. I am aware that there are big shoes to fill and that I will be on a steep learning curve, however with the support & guidance of my fellow board members I will endeavour to give my all to the position). This was followed by the statement of income and expenditure for the last financial year, auditors report, the upcoming budget, and changes to the Constitution and Code of Conduct.

The location and date for next year's meeting was discussed and the meeting was closed just before lunch. Following a quick bite to eat, each member bid a fond farewell and began the journey back to their homes, families and of course their trusty steeds.

Lloyd Fletcher – Membership Registrar

It has come to my attention that some members are of the belief that their ATHRA membership starts the day they join their ATHRA affiliated club of choice and ends 12 months later, this is not the case, All ATHRA memberships begin on the 1st of January and end on the 31st of December in any given year regardless of when a member actually joins their club.

If or when a member decides to join additional ATHRA affiliated clubs there is no requirement to pay the ATHRA membership fee again, once a member has paid their yearly ATHRA fee they are then a full ATHRA member for that year, they are then only expected to pay the club fees of the club/clubs they wish to join, if or when a member joins additional clubs they need to advise the club that they are already an ATHRA member for that year and supply the club with their current ATHRA number and proof that their yearly ATHRA fee has been paid, such as their ATHRA Membership card.

Once a member has been allocated an ATHRA number it remains their number for life regardless of which club they are a member of during their time as an ATHRA member, this is also the case for members that have returned to ATHRA after some time of non ATHRA membership.

I sincerely hope this clears up some misconceptions regarding ATHRA membership and please feel free to contact me if you have any additional questions regarding your ATHRA membership at lcfletcher@bigpond.com or 0400 668 020.

REGIONAL ROUNDUP - VICTORIA

Paul Peddie – Central Victoria

Baringhup Trail Riders – David Wallace (Vice-President)

Woodlands Historical Park

February's ride meant a change in location for us, with BTR venturing to the outer suburbs of Melbourne to conduct a leisurely ride at Woodlands Park. This wonderful piece of bush parkland is across the road from



where new BTR member Carmel Perrott agists her horse, Maddie, so thanks Carmel for sharing this with us.

We all arrived around the same time, and another friend of ours, Heather and her granddaughter Emmerson had just arrived with a freshly baked warm damper, jam, and a peppermint tea for our weary travellers to participate in. Nice touch; thanks. Carmel had also organised for Erika Gough to attend to take some faecal samples from our horses for analysis of possible worm burden. Erika owns a local business "Inside Out Equine Health", providing a range of services to horse owners besides doing her faecal samples. She laughingly refers to herself as the "Poo Chic"! And she had the results back to us by the time we got home from the ride. Great service.



We got off to our ride about 10.45 under a lovely blue sky. The Park was not too busy, with loads more kangaroos than people about. We roamed round the lower part of the park, looking at the amazing old gum trees, with Peter giving us some info on one with aboriginal history. The horses were all brilliant with none flinching at the constant aircraft traffic overhead, or the huge herds of roos under almost every tree, and of course cyclists, walkers, joggers, dogs and walkers on the tracks throughout the Park.

We wandered past the Living Legends complex and marvelled at the history of retired racehorses within their fields. Then past the old restored Woodlands Homestead and outbuildings, before heading off to further explore the Park. Past a huge enclosure containing the Eastern Barred Bandicoot breeding program, before passing the Victorian Mounted Police complex and talking to the beautiful horses there (and scaring some roos who scared Barney and Co!).

Then up Gellibrand Hill to have lunch at the site of long gone

Dundonald Homestead, and the radar tower for Melbourne Airport. Nice lunch seated on a huge granite boulder in the shade of a she-oak grove. From here we had views back over the Melbourne skyline, sprawling suburbs and Melbourne Airport.

Our amble back was past an aboriginal cemetery where Peter sighted a bee swarm on a branch, and then the abandoned site of the old Greenvale TB Sanatorium which now only has its beautiful old gardens to mark the site followed by a trot back through a Sugar Gum plantation. Then we spotted the large sculpture of a rearing spotted horse on the hill, which terrified the horses we least expected it to, and didn't trouble those who we thought it would! Go figure??

So thank you Carmel for such a lovely ride. Everyone really enjoyed the day out and a chance to explore some wonderful sites. Especially as we really had no idea of the history involved in this area. We were all ready to leave by about 3.30, and thankful we had attended. What a big day it turned out to be. Phew!

Great Golden Triangle Ride – David Wallace

This year the ride was located at Glendhu Station, a 6000-acre sheep station, between Crowlands and Landsborough, in the foothills of the Pyrenees Ranges. A beautiful area to ride in, that I hadn't explored before. The weather was warm and very humid for March, but a few cold beers and a cold shower tended to dull that memory.

BTR was well represented this year, with 9 club members and 2 associate members in attendance. The ride was a smaller one than usual for our host club of Dunolly Horse Activity club, with about 25-30 riders. The camping area was set a long way back from the main road and nestled amongst some biggish hills. The facilities were good for our use, with lots of undercover areas, as well as an amenities block.



We all arrived on the Friday afternoon and settled in well. Carmel and I went in to the Pub at Landsborough for an early dinner, which was good. The first ride was Saturday, to a winery for lunch. Jack, the owner of Glendhu Station, led us through his beautiful property and his neighbour's paddocks before we arrived at the winery. It was a later start and short 6km ride to Dog Rock Winery, where we had a great "finger food" lunch in the tastings room, overlooking the vineyard. The vineyard owner then gave us a rundown on all his wines and a tasting, which enabled some of us to choose our favourite tipple from the selection.

The Sunday ride was described as "going over some bigger hills" and it wasn't wrong! We ambled past the current homestead, being led by Jack's wife, Lynne, out to the old abandoned original homestead before we tackled our first hill. It was big! I had a great canter up the hill to the crest, to take in a gorgeous view over the Pyrenees to the east, and the Grampians to the west. It was very high! Then it was down the other side and lots of smaller hills and gullies to tackle along our trail. The views at every turn were great. Eventually we arrived at our lunch stop, the old original orchard at the head of Glendhu Creek.

After a lovely lunch under the wattle trees, it was a short jog home again. Time to get ready, as the bus was coming at 5.30 to take us all to the Moonambel Pub for dinner. The bus trip was nice as the route took us through some more of the area, before we arrived at the Pub. Dinner was an interesting affair, as our meal choices were given out incorrectly, but eventually was all sorted. My meal was excellent. The wine was excellent also. Monday was a free day to fill in as we wanted.





Carmel and I opted to go for a ride up a biggish hill behind the camp site after breakfast and before it got too hot. We were monitored by a mob of kangaroos most of our climb up the hill. The view from the top out over the farmland and ranges was lovely and the breeze was welcome.

That was a lovely way to end the ride and our time at the Station. Our hosts, Jack & Lynne were so obliging and hospitable, and always happy to chat about their lovely piece of paradise. So it was that I expressed our wish to come back with our BTR buddies sometime soon for a weekend of our own. Those who haven't been there will not be disappointed. Jeanette at Dunolly also wants to hold another camp there, probably next year, so that will be one NOT to miss.



BARINGHUP TRAIL RIDERS

in conjunction with
THE AUSTRALIAN TRAIL HORSE RIDERS ASSOCIATION

Is offering a
TRAIL BOSS/ RIDE COORDINATOR/ RIDE STEWARD ACCREDITATION COURSE

ATHRA will be conducting a Trail Boss/ Ride Coordinator/ Ride Steward Accreditation workshop for current ATHRA members aged 18 years and over at -

VENUE: Baringhup Community Hall, Baringhup
Victoria

DATE: Saturday 7/05/2016 and Sunday 8/05/2016

COST: \$50 per person for course attendance

Optional extras:

\$15 for Saturday dinner

\$30 for non-course attendees wishing to partake of morning/afternoon teas and lunch



Baringhup Community Hall

APPLICATION CLOSING DATE: 22/04/2016 or when full (course limited to 30 attendees)

An application form is available from the club secretary, Debby Sharbaugh at debby.sharbaugh@bigpond.com or downloadable from the Baringhup Trail Riders section of www.athra.com.au. The application form is to be completed and forwarded with payment to:

Sharon Soldatos

PO Box 686

Castlemaine, VIC 3450

sharon@caenterprises.com.au

EFT Details:

<i>Bendigo Bank</i>	BSB 633 000	Include your name as reference
Baringhup Trail Riders Inc.	A/C 1301 81258	

For further information about what is involved in accreditation courses, please see the ATHRA website, athra.com.au. For specific details about this event being hosted by Baringhup Trail Riders, contact David Wallace at davidblackstump@gmail.com.

Participants may begin to arrive and set up camp Friday, 6 May 2016 from 3:00 PM onwards. Please indicate your planned arrival date on your application form. For earlier arrival times, please contact Debby Sharbaugh at debby.sharbaugh@bigpond.com. If there is enough interest, we will arrange to have someone on-site earlier.

Packers Rendezvous

April 22nd – April 26th



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'Homestead Valley'**



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Anzac Dawn Service.**

<http://www.packsaddlingaustralia.com>

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Lunch Packs Available.

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2 Day workshop

**Date: Saturday 25th & Sunday 26th June
2016**

Presenters Include Jo & John Kasch, and more.

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An interesting day is planned to help share ideas
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With demonstrations and presentations by pack saddlers, and displays of various styles of
pack saddles available, Shoeing and rugs, communication and navigation.

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- Night Lines and Electric Yards Can You do It???

REGIONAL ROUNDUP – NEW SOUTH WALES

South West NSW - Karen Carter

The last four months have been great for riding and I certainly caught up with some clubs before Christmas which is always terrific fun joining in their club festivities. Orange Trail Horse Riders & Drivers Association sure know how to celebrate with their annual fancy dress ride from Carcoar to Neville siding.



Cowra & District Trail Horse Riders Club incorporated a Trail Ride Challenge into their Christmas ride and club presentation BBQ.



Monaro Horse Trekkers enjoyed lunch at the local tea house to host their AGM in December after a scenic morning ride.



Orange Trail Horse Riders & Drivers Association held an Accreditation course at Carcoar Showground in February which was successful for all 14 participants and great fun for all that were involved. Also a terrific effort for South Coast Club President Lawrie Smith for making the effort to travel that distance to attend.



My thanks go to Tony Hart for taking on the South Coast & ACT region which effectively reduces the Regional area I had been covering for the last 3 years in half, so I am looking forward to riding with the south west clubs more in the coming year. Thank you also to the Gooloogong Horse Trail Riding Club and Cowra & District Trail Horse Riders Club for their contributions to this newsletter.

Gooloogong Horse Trail Riding Club – Kirsty Combe (President)

February – 4 of our members attended the accreditation weekend hosted by the Orange club in February, and although we had all previously





completed the accreditation, we found it to be an invaluable weekend to refresh our memories and gain new ideas from other clubs. A big “thank you” to OTHRADA for organising such a lovely weekend!!

The First ride of the year was held at a Beautiful property near Gooloogong – “Kangaroooby”. We had 13 riders and had a lovely morning riding 15 kms around the roads of Gooloogong, stopping for some yummy apricots fresh from the trees. It was a very warm day so we returned to the floats for lunch and gave the horses (and the people) a well-deserved swim

in the dam.

March - On Sunday 20 March we hosted a ride from Paytens bridge and had a marvelous turnout. We had 21 horses and 23 people come for the 16km ride including a pony and cart. We all had a wonderful time, and it was lovely to see 7 children join us on this ride. We started off through the paddocks, and then onto the stock route, had a little fruit break along the way and then had a lovely lunch and a rest before the shorter ride back to the floats.



We have had a truly wonderful start to the year, and looking forward to plenty of lovely rides to come!

Cowra & District Trail Horse Riders Club – Karen Casey (Publicity Officer)

Summer Rides

Our annual Farleigh Beach ride was held on the first weekend of January. While some members were still away on their Christmas break, eight riders made it to Farleigh Beach on the banks of the Lachlan River on the Sunday morning only to be a little surprised at the number of campers that were enjoying the riverside location. Some of the campers were no doubt surprised to see the horses as well, and several children came over to say hello and pat the horses, while their parents enjoyed a chat with the riders. The riders headed out for a 2 hour tour around the backroads of Cowra, and there was lots of chatting and catching up on what had happened over the Christmas and New Year break. Fortunately, the weather wasn't too hot, which was a welcome relief for riders and their horses after the heat of the previous few days.



On returning to Farleigh Beach it was off with the saddles and riding gear and the horses were led down the steep incline to the river. Most of the horses just loved being in the water, rolling and wallowing and splashing and churning the water, and quite a few riders ended up wet as well.



Eight horses and riders in the river created quite the spectacle which drew a crowd of onlookers from the camp site who laughed and enjoyed the antics of horses and riders alike. Lunch was held under the shade of the trees near the cars and horse floats and the riders were joined by a number of relatives and friends, some who used to be club members and happily relayed stories of past Farleigh Beach rides. As in the past this ride was a very enjoyable day and a great start to the trail riding year.

The club is extremely fortunate to be able to ride on some lovely private farming properties in the district, and the venue for our February ride was no exception. Despite summers last burst of really hot weather 9 members and one day rider enjoyed close to three hours exploring the stunning cattle property near

Woodstock, with amazing views of the district everywhere you looked.

Always mindful of not disturbing livestock, the group headed out with a plan to skirt wide around any cattle encountered in the paddocks. The cows, however, had other ideas as they were very interested in the unfamiliar sight of ten horse riders and several groups of them came over to say hello- following the riders and even getting in front to show us the way, which the horses didn't seem to mind at all.

Beautiful undulating open paddocks meant there was plenty of room for the riders to spread out, and lots of opportunity for those that wanted to have a canter to do so while others just wandered along quietly enjoying the view or deep in conversation. On several occasions the group stopped to take in the fabulous views of the surrounding countryside, while also enjoying the refreshing breeze on offer at the highest points and most of the horses took advantage of a drink and a bit of a splash to cool off in one of the dams on the way home.





Tony Hart – South Coast & ACT

Tinderry Trail Horse Riders Club – Hilary Gunn (Secretary/Membership)

February Ride

The club's first ride of 2016 was at Michelago on 6 Feb led by Don Munns.



The hilly bush country at the foot hills of the Tinderry Mountain Range is great riding with so many different tracks that each ride is never the same. Lots of timber, gullies and creeks to negotiate made for interesting and skilful riding.



March 2016

The club camp at Cooinbil in Kosciuszko NP was attended by 6 riders and very enjoyable. In spite of predictions of showers, we had beautiful weather. On Saturday we rode to Blue Waterholes, via Harris' Hut using brumby paths and a little bush-bashing, returning via historic Coolamine Homestead and Coolamine Mountain. A chestnut brumby weanling, abandoned by his mob, at the Blue Waterholes campsite was pleased to have our horses company for lunch, but opted to stay with the campers instead of following us home. He was a sad little fellow, very quiet and shy. On Sunday a smaller group rode to Hainsworth Hut.



Trail-riding country doesn't get much better than Kosciuszko NP.

Central NSW – Paul Hughes

Nag Nag Nag – Glen Johnson

Yango ride 2015

Howe's Valley on the Putty Rd is the starting point for our club 3 day ride into Yango National Park and two nights in the Big Yango Homestead. This is the second year Nag club have run this ride into the rugged area bounded by the Putty Rd in the west and Wollombi Rd to the east. Most of the riders from the previous year have jumped at the chance to return, bringing along with them a few extras keen to see for themselves what we have all described as one of our best ever horse riding holidays.

Marty and I beat our way through the Thursday afternoon traffic to meet just the other side of the Windsor Bridge. After a quick g'day we began our winding 115km drive to Kurt's property on the Northern side of the Howe's Valley fire trail. We had both met Kurt and his family on previous rides, their property was in the ideal position beside the fire trail, leaving our floats parked here allowed us to access the trail without riding any of the notorious Putty Rd on horseback.

Arriving at the property in the late afternoon we parked in the front paddock, unloaded our horses and then caught up with Kurt and Trish over afternoon tea. Kurt had lived in the valley for many years and told us some of the history of the area including the fact that the Big Yango property, our destination tomorrow, was a thoroughbred stud in the early 1900s, complete with its own racecourse.

Early to bed for the two of us and up early to greet the rest of the riders and get ready for a 9.30am ride out. Barry and Julie rolled in around 8.00am followed by John and Luke. Our last rider, Robyn, arrived at 9.00 with a story of getting away late, and in the process leaving her wheelie bin full of horse feed and gear still parked in her shed at home. Luckily she remembered the major stuff like horse, saddle, halter and reins, the rest of us were able to provide enough of what she forgot to see the weekend through. Barry, our non rider and therefore backup driver, completed packing the 4 wheel drive while we saddled up ready for our now 10am start.



Kurt arranged to shorten our ride by a kilometre or so by riding through a neighbour's picturesque little valley to come out at the first creek crossing. At this point we allowed the horses a good drink as water could be a little scarce for the next 20km in this hot weather; we carried backup water in the truck if needed. Barry then drove along in front opening and closing the gates along the way until we had passed through the private leasehold and into the national

park. The first few green valleys gave way to increasingly more rugged country with seemingly endless views across deep valleys and gorges. In the early afternoon we had our first view of Mt Yango in the distance, easy to pick because of its flat top, but so far away it was hard to believe that the next day's ride would completely circumnavigate the mountain.

We had planned to stop for lunch along the trail but, the day being quite hot and no one too hungry, we all decided to ride on through to the homestead. The main Howe's Valley track runs all the way to Wollombi, we were riding just the first 20km of the trail then taking the side trail into the Big Yango precinct. This begins just off the main trail with a gate barring access to all but those who have booked with National Parks and arranged a key, this weeds out the motor bikes and any 4wd extremists, making a very safe area for horse riding activities. Just a short 5 kilometre ride and the valley opens up with the homestead welcoming us up on the hill. Barry having arrived first already has the power on, jug boiled and lunch on the way. We quickly set up a yard around the house to enclose the horses, water, feed and rubdown, leaving them quite content while we attended to our own feed and wash.

After a late lunch there was plenty of time for everyone to check out the homestead and the immediate surroundings. The national parks have erected signboards around the area telling the european and aboriginal history of the area.

"Yango National Park and the surrounding areas have been an important spiritual and cultural place for the Darkinjung and Wonnarua People for thousands of years. No wonder there are over 640 recorded Aboriginal cultural sites in the park and nearby areas. Creation stories recount that Biamie, the ancestral being, stepped off the flat top of Mount Yango into the sky when he finished his creation. Today, Aboriginal stories and rock engravings connect us with the rich culture of this ancient land and its people."

The homestead is well set up, solar and backup generator providing power, 2 bathrooms, 3 bedrooms sleeping 9 people, extra accommodation for 6 people in an outhouse around 50metres from the main house, well-appointed kitchen, open fire for those cold nights, gas barbecue, large front deck and outdoor setting large enough for a small army. So a barbecue dinner and a few beers gave way to talk of horses and previous rides to a reasonably early night in preparation for tomorrows ride.

I had a great night's sleep, but not the light sleepers or Marty in his bedroll on the front veranda. I was greeted with these words from him in the morning "Those ###!!! horses are getting locked out of the house yard tonight" apparently they chased each other around the house all night like a game of musical chairs. Well they still looked more refreshed than a few of our riders. Showers and breakfast helped everybody feel a lot better, pack a bit of lunch to take with us, get the horses fed and ready, then by 9.15am we were riding out the gate.

Last year we rode the track around Mt Yango in an anti-clockwise direction, this year, just to be different we rode out in the other direction. Taking the track directly left of the house we headed out on the 28km loop trail toward mountain arm and the old racetrack camping area. What used to be open valleys are giving way to regrowth, but still enough pasture to realize this must have been good grazing land. The trail starts to rise into heavily timbered area past mountain arm gaining height as we ride closer to Mt Yango. Barry was driving in front of us and stopping along the track for photo opportunities, also being our trip photographer capturing those special moments.

The planned stop at the muddy dam for morning tea provided the most amusing sight of the ride. Julie decided to dismount her horse in order to water her; the horse obviously liked the look of the most amount of water seen on the hot ride, broke away and went in for a dip. Up to her belly in the dam, splashing furiously with her front feet and ignoring Julie's pleas to come out. Julie then decided to wade in to get her, this was not easy as the muddy bottom was very slippery and the dam big enough for her horse to avoid her, but after 5 minutes or so someone took time out from photographing the mayhem to ride in and push the horse toward her, only then having some difficulty negotiating the slippery bank, and commenting to everyone, "you know, all you had to do was ride off a bit and she would have come out" but we all preferred to laugh, including Julie who was now seeing the funny side of the situation. It must be said that no one dismounted their horses on the rest of the ride to let them drink.



A few more km's up the ridge we met Barry waiting for a photo opportunity, with Mt Yango in the background and riders framed by the gum trees it really shows off the beauty of this ride. Riding further around the loop trail we came to open area on a

ridge, directly under the steep wooded sides of Mt Yengo. The views south and west from this point are stunning, looking 50km in either direction with absolutely no sign of civilization. After lunch we began to ride downhill and around the mountain above us, walking our horses through silent pockets of thick rainforest. We stopped at the track leading to the summit of Mt Yango, Julie, Barry, John and I left our horses with the others and walked the steep track to the summit lookout. A bit disappointing, reaching the top, as the national parks had allowed the regrowth to obscure the view.



Back on the track we found Luke, Robyn and Marty getting directions to some of the local aboriginal sites from a National Park ranger who stopped for a chat. One called the Tobacco cave was meant to be a short detour off the return trail through the Blue Gums camping area, following the Creek and a few white topped star pickets. The directions seemed straightforward, but getting there was a little harder



than expected. Once found, the cave was spectacular, half way up the hill, opening away from the weather with a sloping sandy floor. Faint aboriginal handprints could be seen on the ceiling, but the timber racks used by earlier settlers to dry tobacco leaves were still visible, hence the name Tobacco Cave. After everyone having a good look we backtracked and took the trail for the last 5kms back to the homestead, more than ready for a bite to eat and a few beers.

After a little bit of afternoon tea, a number of us decided to find another aboriginal site that the Ranger had reluctantly told us about, less than a kilometre from the homestead. This spot part way up the hillside was amazing, two caves with hundreds of handprints and long rock carved with circles outside the first cave. We could easily understand why they wished to limit the chance of such wonderful art being destroyed.

Back to the homestead, dinner on the deck, looking out on a drizzly late afternoon, with the horses in the front paddock enjoying a well-deserved meal and rest. It had been a great day, made all the better with the information provided by the local ranger. We all turned in for another early night, careful to lock the horses out of the house area.



Final morning at the homestead with the rain clearing, everyone was up early. Feed the horses and have breakfast ourselves, then packing up ready to ride out by 9.00am. We all looked forward to a cooler riding day and set off on the trail back, taking a slightly longer scenic route via the Spring Arm trail to the front gate. Making good time we stopped for lunch at around midday, watered the horses, and then set off on the final leg back to the floats. Barry again opened and closed gates for us, then met us at the last creek crossing for a final photo opportunity.

Back at the floats by 1.30pm and every one keen to get going on their way home, we loaded the horses and gear, thanked our hosts Kurt and Trish, and headed off back down the Putty Rd, but not before all saying we must do this again, perhaps in winter, just to make use of that large open fire in Yango Homestead.

For those wishing more information on the homestead please visit the national parks website at www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/camping-and.../Big-Yango-Homestead

The next visit to Yango will be in May 2016 Contact Ride Co-ordinator: Glenn Johnson 0412 130214 for more details.



*There's a hidden little valley, in the mountains, far removed
From the hectic city bustle, the rat race, where we're grooved
Just a piece of god's own country, as he made it, not yet spoiled,
Where the blacks and early settlers, at their labours, often toiled.*

*It's a balm unto the spirit, it's a curtain to the mind,
An oasis in the desert, where one's tensions can unwind.
When you've been there to the valley, nowhere else is quite the same,
With it's untamed bushland spirit and "Big Yango" is its name.*

Poem by Bruce Walker resident at Big Yango for over 20 years.

Cumberland Trail Horse Riders

Hosting the 6th Crackin Cancer Charity Ride in 2016

24th Sept to 1st Oct 2016

Megalong Valley NSW Blue Mountains

This is a camping holiday for one week at a cost of \$220
pp adult, \$100 pp child 16 & Under
Lots of fundraising and Lots of Fun
Cut Off Date is 31st August 2016 any cancellations after
the cut off date will incur a \$50 cancellation fee

*This is a 5 day horse ride with a rest day mid week.
Arriving on Saturday and setting up camp at the
Megalong Valley sports ground. Our first days riding will
be on Sunday.
You must be a member of ATHRA to attend this ride.
BYO food & camping gear for the week except for Friday
evening which is catered for. Lots of entertainment
including an Auction
Horses need to be fit for mountain country*



REGISTRATION & ENQUIRIES:

Please register with Reg Bright on (02)4573 6392 or email
brighty3@bigpond.com

All monies raised will go to the Cancer Council of NSW

REGIONAL ROUNDUP – QUEENSLAND

Lenore Meuleners – Lower South East Qld

SEQ Regional Camp hosted by Logan Red Rivers TRC The Lodge, Thornton.

What an amazing weekend. When I spoke to Kay on Thursday she had 44 riders and 10 non riders, booked in for the weekend.

Bob and I were planning to get there Thursday afternoon but that horrible four letter word, WORK, got in the way and we arrived Friday morning. Not too early a start as the plan was to ride out at 11.

We got there to see lots of camps already set up so we started to get organized. Bob worked on my camp and I organised the swags and Friday nights gear for a camp over at the cattle yards near Blue Stone at Mt Berryman.

By 11 everyone who was making the trek was ready, some of the campers didn't want to camp out under the stars so they stayed back and did there own rides. The Lodge is almost on the BNT so lots of track to follow. 35 of us rode out with 37 horses. We were travelling through private property with our guide George Day. George is 79 years young and is 3rd generation local. We were in safe hands in beautiful country. The hills were great for the horses and some gear changes and lending of gear meant everyone had their saddle stay where it should be.



We arrived at the yards to see the camp fire burning and the smell of camp oven cooking. There was damper when we first arrived and when the horses and our swags were set up for the night, dinner was ready. First course was home made pumpkin soup.

We had beef, lamb and chicken and potato stew with damper for main course. The surprise of the evening was the best apple crumble and custard. Jeff Dean, John, Lorraine and Kay did an amazing job getting the meal ready and a wonderful evening was had by all. Most people slept well under the stars but some of the horses weren't so nice. One had the loudest

squeal you could imagine and my horse thought the buckskin in the pen next to him shouldn't be there so from about 3 he was tied up to keep him from chasing her.

Morning came early as most of us had an early night and the smell of bacon and sausages cooking filled the air. After breakfast we prepared our own lunches and packed up to head back to camp. The ride home was lovely and thankfully uneventful, as I had the first aide kit. We got back to camp just before the skies opened up and we got 30mm of rain for the evening. We all found a dry camp to sit around and talk for a few hours and after a good night sleep we were lucky enough to have a nice day on Sunday. Unfortunately the planned ride would not have been safe for 35 riders so a compromise was made and George found a leisurely ride everyone seemed to enjoy. We were back in camp early for a serving of pumpkin scone and lots of old times recalled.



After horses settled for the evening and our tummies were filled we all came around the camp fire for a lovely evening.



Monday was a short hour ride to the local Lavendar Farm. As the 33 of us rode towards the yard to tie our horses up Roy made a comment about the farm having some donkeys. At the mention of the name the 2 of them came running along the other side of the road braying. Some of the horses nearly turned themselves inside out trying to work out what the Once our horses were settled we went up to be served coffee and lavendar scones. These were still warm and so delicious. There were 2 scones allocated to each of us and I don't think there were many who did not take up their share. After the scones we were served Lemon Myrtle Cheesecake, delicious. We then went down to the little shop to make some purchases and then resaddled to make the short trip back to camp.



We all packed up and bid our farewells. This was a wonderful camp with a terrific group of people.

The behind the scenes work done by the clubs

president Tracey, who couldn't even get there because of that horrible 4 letter word I spoke of earlier, was amazing. The support she receives from her committee of Kay and Roy, Graham and Lorraine as well as the none riders, Jeff and John makes for a carefree type of weekend for all of us. George Day, who is our local guide, seemed

so happy to show all of us the amazing country he calls home. Thank you to the Logan River Redlands club for hosting an amazing weekend which seemed to run without a hitch. I nearly forgot to also thank Claire for the work she does to help organise this as a Regional camp with the support of the Qld funding. Thanks to all for your hard work it is much appreciated.

South East Competitive Trail

Home Base is Moombra, Qld



Pool Noodles. A bit tickly for some horses



This is our local BNT co-ordinator Sue partaking in the event.

As the name suggests this is a competitive group. There are different divisions catering for all levels of rider ability. They challenge horses and riders to ride over, under, around or through various objects. Their Trail Boss is always coming up with new challenges or a twist on an old favourite.

Some of the horses can side pass along a large log covered in whirly fans, streamers and other moving items.

Through the year we have run monthly events including a mini scavenger hunt. There were more points to get the coloured straw in the deeper part of the dam.



The end of year scavenger hunt was enjoyed by all – imagine finding a toothpick out in the bush – between all of the riders every cunningly hidden object was found.

We even had dress ups. Bernardette was the angel on her Christmas tree Babe. The aim is fun with a competitive edge.



Toowoomba Trail Ride Club

The Toowoomba Trail Ride Club is a very active, family friendly club formed on the Darling Downs in 2002. All levels of rider and all breeds of horses are welcome. The club holds monthly trail rides, some through private property, and some along quiet country roads as well as days on more challenging terrain for those spirited adventurers.

All rides are graded so one knows what to expect. Sometimes we take a saddlebag lunch and sometimes we ride to a venue where lunch is provided.

In addition to this the club also has a performing team called "The Kent Saddlery RASQ Outback Riders" – flag bearing riders and their horses that perform to music at shows and other events in and around Toowoomba as well as further afield. The team also has its own production of "The Man from Snowy River" which is currently being performed at various shows, as well as our own ANZAC Tribute performance.



The Outback Riders is a group of riders of all ages – school students to retirees, from all different walks of life and different riding backgrounds. Some are pony clubbers, some dressage riders and/or showjumpers, some camp drafters and some simply grew up riding farm horses. We like a bit of precision and a lot of action!

The group boasts a variety of horses of different breeds (Thoroughbreds, Quarter Horses, Australian Stock Horses, Appaloosas, one American Saddlebred



and various crosses), all with different levels of experience and training. As you can imagine it takes more skill to get horses of different breeds and sizes travelling together in an orderly, even fashion than it does for a group of horses of the same breed and similar sizing. That's what I like about the Outback Riders – everyone is welcome – you don't have to have a certain type of horse or training to be a part of this extraordinary group. It's also great on the job training for the horses (and the riders!) and its GREAT FUN!

As well as performing in Toowoomba and around the local area we travel to other areas

and have been to Kingaroy, Tenterfield, Stanthorpe, Beaudesert, Beenleigh, Canungra, Mudgeeraba and the Gold Coast just to name a few.

The Toowoomba Trail Ride Club has also been involved in providing horses and riders for major arena productions for the annual Toowoomba Show including the Salute to the Outback, The Waltzing Matilda Story, Ned Kelly – The Siege at Glenrowan, Phar Lap, The Man from Snowy River, Anzacs Under a Rising Sun. We also do street parades such as that for the Toowoomba Carnival of Flowers and Grand Parades for country shows. We love what we do.



Merilyn Green – Northern Qld

Breakaway Horse Riders – Roxy Aprile (secretary)

Breakaway Horse Riders turns 30 in 2016 and we have a great year of events planned. We have been promoting trail and endurance riding in the Mackay District since 1986. That's a lasting legacy and something to celebrate.

So far this year we have held a moonlight ride and we are gearing up for our annual Charity Ride to raise much needed funds for heart & cancer research. Our 30th celebrations will be in July and we are also hosting a pack horse workshop. Here's a bit about our last year. Keep the laughs coming Breakaway and stay tuned for our new revamped logo that celebrates our 30 years.

Xmas Party Breakup Koumala

Thank God for the P'Pot! Our breakup this year was a trail challenge at Koumala. 11 riders spent the hot morning navigating obstacles, bending, going over bridges, opening gates, jumping and dragging stuff around, all made possible by the tireless dedication of Mez Green and Jeff & Pene Duff who were our instructors for the day. You guys are amazing and always have the interest of the club at heart and for this we cannot thank you enough....again!



Thanks also to Kath Ryan our ride Co-ordinator and to Chanelle Steggles and Nicole Grosse who organised soft drinks for the event. This year we decided to go to the Koumala Pub for tea in an effort to give back to the community who have supported us throughout the years. We had the use of the pub courtesy bus and invited many property owners for a meal. These are the people who bend over backwards for our club, especially for our endurance events and cannot do enough for us, allowing us to ride through their properties year after year. Thanks must then go to the Johnson family, who generously allow us to use their yards year in and year out. The Linthwaite family came along as did Nipper & Shirley who have volunteered a lot of their time for Breakaway in track marking and also cooked damper for us on our charity ride this year. We also must thank many other property owners who have allowed us to access your properties on our rides this year. They stretch from Koumala in the south to Urani, Ben Mohr, Teemburra Dam, Mia Mia, Glenden to Eungella, Cape Hillsborough & Calen. Thank you so much...

Our club trophies in 2015 were presented to Mike Teuwsen: Club Person of the Year. Mike you always put so much back into this club in every way. Thank you so much Mike. Jan Simpson was awarded the Piss Pot trophy for her efforts that are still memorable from last year's Xmas party at Mia Mia. Our Junior Encouragement Awards this year went to Justin Essam and Atari Brand. These two outstanding juniors perpetually raise large amounts for our charity ride. This year Justin raised over \$700 and is fast becoming one of the best riders in the club. He drew in first place with Gary Cain on the Trail Challenge this year with a time of 1 minute 44 secs. Not too shabby mate! Well done. We have also seen Justin at team penning and at many other rides throughout the year. We are looking forward to seeing you again on the tracks in 2016 Justin. Atari Brand raised over \$1000 dollars for the club's charity ride this year. Atari has really come on as a rider this year and at the end of the day was going through the gate on the trail challenge like she has been doing it all her life. Well done Atari, hope to see you out with us again next year.

Of course, our President Kath Ryan was awarded a club honorary Life Membership at the presentations. Members will have read about Kath's wonderful dedication to our club. Congratulations Kath!



A very big thank you must also go to our ATHRA Central & North Queensland Manager, who will not be continuing this position next year. Mez you have been nothing short of totally dedicated to arranging events for our club. Your work with team penning has quickly seen this become one of the most popular events in the club of recent years. Numbers for this fill so quickly and the days are full of fun, laughter and learning. We must here thank Jan Simpson for allowing us to use your family property at Calen for these events and thanks also to our cattle donors, the Laids and the Higgins families. Mez you have also arranged the very popular Barb Colby education weekend under a very short timeline as well as your past work which resulted in Breakaway's memberships increasing more than most clubs in Qld. She was a big organiser of our Regional Ride last year and also travelled to other clubs to ride with them in Bouldy and Townsville as part of her role. Thanks so much Mez, we hope you have a relaxing 2016 and enjoy your riding.

There are also many others to thank for their work throughout the year. Without you all, this little club would not be as successful as it is. Thank you to everyone who has worked for the club in making this a successful year.

Next year is the 30th anniversary of our club's first ride at Mia Mia, when the horses broke away – hence the name of the club. We do plan to celebrate this and to thank those founding members who really had a vision for the club and who have given us a legacy that has been able to continue for 30 years.

Ohhh the Piss Pot!....

Well in the morning after the Xmas party, my little Butane stove burst into flames as we were having our traditional bacon & egg brekky (yes, if you do have one of these and it's not gas compliant, get rid of it because they really do catch fire). Noel jumped to the rescue while the rest of us just stared at the flames in tied trances from the night before. He leapt up, grabbed someone else's towel, wet it and threw it onto the flames. This wasn't enough though because the flames kept licking into the air and we did become a bit concerned the canister would explode. Then there would be no hot cups of tea.

AND Sooooo our recently crowned life Member sprung to life and with her 17 fractures from a fall during the year now on the mend, contorted her limbs and jubbled towards the ute. She grabbed the Piss Pot Trophy...hubbled to the tap, filled it with water, lurched towards the flames and doused them....if that wasn't enough, we got to see the whole unrhythmical dance again and they were out. Thank God for that Pisspot! AND thank God for YOU KATH RYAN. Those lumbering images will stay etched in our minds for a good old while lovie. Haha.

My goodness....not only is she a Life Member....she also knows how to handle a Pisspot. ONYA Kath!





Breakaway Horse Riders Club

Congratulates

Kath Ryan

on being awarded an

Honorary Life Membership

*Your dedication and support of Breakaway Horse Riders
Club*

& endurance riding over many years is truly appreciated

Kath's accolades include:

Being a long standing, active & respected member of Breakaway; many years serving as Club President & active involvement with endurance riding which includes being Chief Steward, participation in Shahzada and the attainment of 3 Quilty buckles. Kath also completed a horse ride from Longreach to Brisbane.

Testimonies:

"I just wanted to send my congratulations to Kath, upon her lifetime membership award. Congratulations to a dear friend, to a committed and tireless worker, and a very long time member of Breakaway. I couldn't think of more deserving recipient. Breakaway's success has arisen from the efforts of a large number of people over the years and Kath, your support has greatly contributed to this. I have many cherished memories of working alongside you and hours spent in the saddle with you and your gorgeous Nimi. Congratulations Kath xo" **Juanita Bosel past Breakaway Member & endurance rider**

"A huge congratulations to Kath Ryan on being awarded Life Membership with the Breakaway Horse Riders Club. I am fortunate and honoured to have known Kath, along with her family for approx the past 20 years. Together we have some wonderful memories of riding locally at places such as Oakdale, Wandoo, Finch Hatton, Koumala and also Denison Creek. During 2006 together with husband Steve, Juanita (Bosel) along with Kath took a road trip together to the infamous Shahzada 400km endurance test. This was a fantastic week, with both Kath and I successful in the 400km marathon. Kath has a long history with both endurance and trail riding in the Mackay district and has always been very approachable by any rider or strapper for advice and has worked tirelessly and selflessly to ensure the longevity and successfulness of the Breakaway club. Congratulations Kath". **From Melissa and Steve Longhurst.**



*... more about our
Kath Ryan
... a bit of history*



The Breakaway Trail Horse Riding Club has its origins in the Kuttabul district and was formed in 1986.

To start with the trail riders were a part of the Kuttabul Sports Club. While the Kuttabul Sports Club was running out of energy the trail riders were just warming up.

At a meeting in early 1987 the Kuttabul Sports Club was dissolved and the Trail Riding Club formed a committee in their own right.

The club consisted of about a dozen families or so met on a monthly basis for horse rides. Children ranged from nappy years to teen years. The friendship was infectious. And to this day the club's friendliness and companionship still exists. Adults shared child-minding duties of those children who could not ride or supervision and support to those children who could or who were learning.

The Ryan family first appeared on the scene in 1988 (I think). They were, John, Kathy and the three beautiful girls and it didn't take long for them to become part of the Breakaway family.

Some lighter moments...



Viv Teuwsen recalls:

Kathy's sporting spirit - when on one endurance ride there was herself Kathy, Rose Cameron and husband John riding together. At one point in the ride Kathy was at the tail of the group and asked if everyone could slow down. So of course being considerate people everyone slowed down, and at that moment Kathy took off like a flash of lightning and left the group for dead. John was heard to comment - "that woman talks with forked tongue".



Ross Dodt recalls: The Ryan family turning up for a weekend trail ride with truck loaded up with horses and camping equipment. Once the horses were unloaded it was noticed that the lid had blown off the esky containing the weekend's food. On further inspection it seemed as though one of the horses had somehow managed to position its tail over the open esky and delivered a few horse dumplings into it!

Gail Dodt recalls: Kath impersonated Marilyn Monroe late at night at an endurance ride at Wandoo. (encore later please Kath!)



Kath Ryan and Breakaway:

1990 - Treasurer

1991 - President.

- Qld State C'ship 160klm Endurance Ride
- and husband John collects the Boozer's Trophy.

1992 - President

- Club becomes incorporated

1994 - Junior Vice President

1996 - Club Secretary

Kath has 3 Quilty Buckles, has complete Shahzadah, ridden from Longreach to Brisbane to finish at the Ekka. She is a well-respected Chief Steward in the Qld endurance community.



Kath we all love your wonderful energy and your fun loving personality....don't ever change

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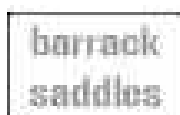


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