



TRAIL TALES

THE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE AUSTRALIAN TRAIL HORSE RIDERS ASSOCIATION

CLUB AND MEMBER UPDATE

JUNE 2016

Megan Galvin – Director Communications and Marketing

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The 2016 'Ride with Pride'

This year the annual 'Ride with Pride' charity horse ride was held from the 2nd of April to the 9th of April. The fundraising event was in aid of the Leukaemia Foundation and was held at 'Oakhampton Homestead', a large working farm, a bit under an hour north of Tamworth.

As a 'newby' to this type of event, I wasn't sure what to expect. However, the idea of having a holiday with my horse, all my meals catered, meeting like-minded people, spending my days in the saddle, whilst contributing to a fantastic cause, was simply a no brainer. Count me in!!!

Up bright and early on the Saturday, I was appointed with the task of meeting and greeting the attendees and pointing them into the right direction. I thought this was a fantastic way to meet my fellow riders. By late afternoon all horses were yarded, camps set up and old friendships were being renewed.



Australian Trail Horse Riders Association

Mailing Address:

PO Box 181

MELTON VIC 3337

www.athra.com.au

Newsletter Editor:

Rachel Meek

trail.tales@skymesh.com.au

Deadline for next issue 25th August 2016

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

Each evening we were fortunate enough to have fine entertainment provided, the first evening we were treated to a live band following dinner. A great feed was had followed by a few of us getting up to 'bust some moves' and have a laugh. Then, it was off to bed, ready for a big day on the Sunday.

Each morning after a hot breakfast, horses were saddled, the Trail Boss gave us an idea of the days riding and we were off. We were lucky enough to be able to take in the bush scenery of the lovely working property and surrounds. Each day lunch 'found us', delivered out of the back of the trusty 'Polaris', (Thanks Blake & Simone) and both horses and riders had a rest and a spot of 'tucker'.

Thanks to the generous support of Oakhampton's owner James Nixon, and surrounding property owners we



were able to access fantastic areas to ride on. Although the ongoing drought in this region has taken something of a toll of the land, I was stunned to discover a beautiful oasis on a neighbouring property on the back of 'Spilt Rock Dam'. The most magnificent flowing stream was surrounded by lush green grass and allowed horses to have a long cool drink, and more than a few riders donned various swimming attire and had a long cool dip after lunch. It was absolutely beautiful.

Monday night we were treated to a horsey film after dinner and I opted for an early night in anticipation of Tuesday night's big fundraising auction, which proved to be a highlight of the week. Following Tuesday's ride, and thanks to the kindness of James Nixon we were able to use his gorgeous wool shed for the evening meal and auction. The shed was decorated in true country style and auction goods were sourced by riders and sponsors. What a fine collection there was. Everything from horse related goods, saddlery, handmade quilts, jewellery, handmade furniture items and local produce was on offer. Local farmer James Ozdemir very kindly donated lucerne and a collection of his olives and olive oils, all harvested from his farm and a great night was had by all.

It would be remiss of me to not mention the fine job done by Caroline Clack aka 'Sergeant at Arms', whose job it was to issue 'fines' to ride participants for various 'crimes'. A lot of laughter was had, and I believe a lot of gold coin 'donations' were subsequently made to the cause as a result of Caroline's eagle eye and a band of eager 'informants'.



Wednesday was a day off for horses, so riders were treated to a tour of the nearby olive farm, which included some sampling and a firsthand look at the processes involved. After dinner a 'best decorated table' competition was held with the theme being the colour blue. Apparently there must not be too much to do in Tamworth as the local riders took out first place with a.... frightening assortment of blue

themed decorations. There was even an aptly decorated 'horse' to the rear of the table! Well done! We were also treated to a born and bred local giving a thorough description on the history of the area, followed by James Nixon who kindly gave us all a late evening ghost story from the farm which included a tour of an alleged haunted house!!

Thursday it was back in the saddle and that evening, following dinner, strangely, it didn't take too much encouragement for various ride participants, organisers and volunteers....ahem...no names... from showing us their talents on the microphone, al la karaoke.....my ears are still bleeding. Enough said. A big thank you to Helen who got the ball rolling with her humorous ditty's.....Such talents in our midst!

For the ride on Friday, riders were able to choose where they would like to go. Not surprisingly we ended up back at the Split Rock Dam property, and again a few riders went in for a dip and we were treated to an impromptu tour of the area surrounding the dam.

That evening was very relaxed. There were some fun fund raising games and much chatter abounded as we all prepared to head off to our respective homes the next day.

In all it was a fantastic week, and I would not hesitate to attend another one of these events. A massive amount of work is involved in putting together such an event and a big shout out of thanks goes to De'hanne and Peter Keir, Tony Hart, Simone, Blake, Maryanne and of course the riders and sponsors, who all contributed towards a total of approx \$30,000 (the final tally will be provided at the end of June), being raised for the Leukaemia foundation. This brings the total amount raised for the Cancer Council and The leukaemia foundation from Ride with Pride to over \$200,000 in 4 years, an amazing effort. Well done everyone.



Sue Baillie – Merchandise & Partner Agreement Manager

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Tony Hart - Accreditation and Training Manager

Accreditation Courses

The following accreditation courses are confirmed events, those wishing to attend any of these sessions, should submit their applications to those contacts listed for each individual course.

Warnambool (VIC) July 2 & 3 Warnambool Trail Riders, Katrina Taylow winnstanpark1@bigpond.com

Redlands (QLD) July 23 & 24 Logan River Redlands, Janelle Brauer myjare4@bigpond.com

WA August 6 & 7 Manypeaks Trail Riders, Jean Cowles manypeaksriders@gmail.com

REGIONAL ROUNDUP – NEW SOUTH WALES

South West NSW - Karen Carter

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

Koorawatha March 2016

The March ride that was actually in early April due to a clash with the Easter ride was held on a beautiful property near Koorawatha. A few last minute hiccups meant that only 4 riders made it on the day but the small group headed out along a laneway between paddocks lush with lucerne, gradually heading uphill and around the back of the property. The highlight of the ride was at the highest point where there were views in all directions towards Cowra, Young and Grenfell, a wonderful vista spread out in all areas! Then we slowly made our way back down the hill, stopping to have a chat with the large herd of dairy cattle that came over to the fence, travelled along some back roads and finally arrived back at the floats. Dave gave us a demonstration on how to ride up a mobile cattle ramp, which other riders decided not to attempt, especially as there was a real chance that some of the rounder horses might become stuck. Lunch was held at the floats and Sam did a superb job of cooking the sausages despite having been at work early that morning before the ride.



Old Woman's Creek April 2016 A favourite venue and great autumn weather, with just a touch of coolness in the breeze saw 11 riders enjoy exploring the native forest and farm country. The 4 club members welcomed 2 new riders, Lisa and Rachel, who signed up as full members, visiting riders from another ATHRA club and several potential new members who we hope will join soon. It was very peaceful and relaxing meandering through the forest, up and down a few hills and crossing a very dry creek bed several times. A very friendly group of goats wanted to come close and say Hi early in the ride, and Rachel and Puzzle had to head them off to avoid upsetting the horses who aren't used to goats! We also encountered several groups of

kangaroos and also some sheep, but they didn't seem to bother the horses too much. We successfully found all the track markers (where would we be without baling twine to tie to trees?) and got back to the floats just in time to enjoy the great chicken and veg soup that Simon had ready for us with a cuppa and, of course, the obligatory sweet slice! It was lovely to welcome some new faces, and even though we had some green horses, a couple just back in work and one or two who haven't done much trail riding, all the horses and riders coped with it all without too much fuss.



Gooloogong Horse Trail Riding Club Kirsty Combe, President

May 2016 This month saw us host a camp over at Nangar National Park on 21 and 22 May. We obtained a permit from the National Parks and Wildlife services and were fortunate enough to be allowed to set up camp at the entrance to the park on a members' property.

Saturday started with a ride to dripping rock for lunch. The scenery was breathtaking, and for those of us who had not been there before, we all wondered why not! After a very civilised lunch of bread rolls and wraps with a nice hot cuppa, we set off to explore some more. We split into two groups, with the younger riders heading back to camp and the other group tackling the hills. As much as we wanted to keep going we had to turn back for home, but its left us hungry for more and an ambition to get to the top of Mount Nangar next time!



Our “mother hens” had to leave us to fend for ourselves for the evening, which was a bit daunting – we managed to get the campfire going, but did not do so well navigating our way around the superbly equipped van... light trouble; missing gas bottles; the steam from the urn making me believe that the van would explode... but we survived, ate well and had a lovely evening – character building so they say!! Thankfully they were back in time to look after us for breakfast, and answer the questions from the night before... we will be fine next time, as long as they don’t leave us again!!



Sunday’s ride was set to go back to dripping Rock for lunch as we had a few different riders with us. Four children were on this ride, including 1 first timer, and they all did very well with their ponies. We are proud to be a family friendly club and are happy to help each other out to make it an enjoyable experience for all.

A big thank you to Ann-Maree and Jenny for organising the food for the weekend – we never go hungry, Heidi and Simon for allowing us to camp at their beautiful property, Jenny and Alan for doing a wonderful job in support and of course to the National Parks and Wildlife Services for issuing us with a permit to ride there – we hope to be able to do it again soon.



North West NSW – Julia Sherry

Macleay Trailriders Club Inc. – Jutta Montealegre, Secretary

Nulla 23rd & 24th April



Saturday started off very good with plenty of sunshine to accompany Robert as our Guide and Trail Boss and his 8 followers, Caroline, Barbara, Jody, Bruce, Arthur, Allan, Keith & I (Jutta) on our trek into the Nulla Nulla. As Robert says what goes up, up, up must come down, down, down and so it was as there was nothing but hills. The views were stunning and I finally made my acquaintance with the “Sugarloaf” and was informed that Siberia was just over the other side of “that ridge” (I always thought it was up next to Russia somewhere???) only to be informed it was an area so named as it was very barren.

We had a lovely time enjoying the guided tour and catching up with our friends whilst the horses jostled on the ascents to prove who the “leader of the pack” was. Midday came and some of us (well, only Jody I think) were already STARVING so we stopped next to a crystal clear creek where some drink bottles were replenished with the purest

water around. Much to our surprise Bruce proved to be far too heavy for a tree that had fallen over and managed to land with his bottom on the ground. (And we all thought he was a feather-weight!). At that moment it also started to sprinkle but just as it started it stopped again and we were safe for the rest of the ride back to camp where Robyn was already tending the fire she had lit for that night’s dinner. Thank you Robert for organising this ride and campout after requesting permission from the various landowners for without their approval it wouldn’t be possible.

Here is Carolines report for the evening and Sunday

Nulla Day 1 - The night the day riders, Jutta, Barbara and Jodi departed and despite Jodi saying she would return she must have had a better offer cause we didn't see her again. While we were busy putting the ponies to bed, washing, feeding and setting up yards it was great to see Des pull up to share the night and a



few cool ales with us, closely followed by Sharon, Allen's wife, and their too cute little dog, who came with its own pink blanket and porta cot. We settled by the fire - looking hungrily at Robyn who was in charge of the camp oven cook up - it was only 4.30 pm! After coffee, tea and Anzac Biscuits kindly supplied by Keith it was 5.30 pm and we were still hungrily looking at poor Robyn! Luckily for her we were distracted by the arrival of Colin and Denise Payne and their daughter and we all had a great time catching up. Robyn also treated us to a slide show of her photos of Patagonia which are truly

awesome and so is she for hiking that wild and rugged territory! Finally, the camp ovens were opened and despite not eating the lamb I knew it was good by the silence that fell punctuated by Keith's little groans of ecstasy with each bite!



Nulla – Day 2

After a marvelous sleep we awoke to cloudy skies and then a few light showers, then a few heavy ones!

We knew we were going to get wet but wanted to ride anyway so six of us set out at 9 am and it was well worth it. Within the first 15 mins Robert had taken us up to the most fabulous knoll with breathtaking views of the Nulla valley and he knew every inch of it like the back of his hand! It was one of those moments you feel blessed to be alive and to appreciate how lucky we are to

have Robert as our President with his local knowledge and contacts to share with us. Our ride continued up and down the ridge lines around the valley incorporating some great views, uphill canters and a few jumps for me, always makes my day! We saw a lovely diamond python and appreciated the kind owner who slashed the trail to clear the lawyer bush.

By 10.30 we stopped to put on our Drizabones (in my case Wetasabones!) and decided to head home because the rain had set in. Robert thought it would take us an hour to get home but he hadn't figured on the endurance boys, Arthur and Bruce, setting the pace and Allen and Keith smoothly keeping up with them. We made it back in half an hour.

This was my first time at Nulla and I loved it and can see why everyone has told me it is such a great ride. Many thanks to Robert, Robyn and the local landowners for a fabulous weekend. PS Somewhere along the way Allen opened a gate – thanks mate.



Manning Trail Horse Riders Club - Sheila Perrottet, Newsletter Editor

Trail Ride from Metz Road - Sunday March 20th

This Sunday ride was attended by 8 riders, Clemmy Wise, Keith Sumpner, Sheila Perrottet, Judith Roos, Joey Ryan, Stephen Gladys, Margarete Jackman and Jan Wade. We set off at 10.00 am down a track to Widges Trail, from there we remained over the Old Bar side of the forest. We left the main trails to follow smaller tracks and eventually made our way back to Jan's place. It was a beautiful sunny day with a lot of shade on the trails. A number of Mountain Bikes were seen from a distance, some of the bike riders had got off their bikes, so no problems to our horses. On returning to our floats, we enjoyed a cuppa and chat. It was good to have Steve and Joey join us as well as Keith.

Trail Ride from Koombala Road Hillville -Thursday April 7th

This was a Thursday ride, with six members attending, Clemmy Wise, Judith Roos, Magarete Jackman, Ritchie Roberts, Keith Sumpner and Jan Wade. Our Trail Ride set off just after 10.00 am, we made our way down Careys Road and then turned right onto Peters Road. From there we turned left onto Yarraman Road to get onto Chatham Creek Road. Once on Chatham Creek Road we took a number of tracks forwards and backwards with loops going through Bo Bo Creek. We all saw a diamond python snake making its way up a side cutting on the road when we started our return trip. The weather was sunny with a hint of Autumn on the breeze. The ride took three hours, Keith was wearing his watch that measures the distance travelled and we had covered 16.5 kilometres. Most of us had a cuppa on our return as we had not stopped out on the trail. Everyone enjoyed riding the newer tracks.



Tuncurry Beach Ride - Sunday April 17th – Sue Harvey, vice-president

Sunday the 18th April saw 6 Club riders set off on the Tuncurry Beach ride. Ray Ryan arrived for the ride, but due to a broken girth point, decided to retire rather than risk a mishap. Clemmy, Sheila, Sue, Ritchie, Keith and Steve left the parking area opposite the High School at 9.45 and were soon on the beach. The morning was perfect, warm and sunny with just a light breeze. There were dolphins diving close to shore and we met up with another six riders coming south as we headed north.

After an invigorating canter we headed into the bush. Ritchie guided us through several trails which were soft and sandy underfoot. At one stage we came out on the Lakes Way. We worked our way south again and after another stretch on the beach and a spot of bush-whacking, we arrived back at the floats at 12.30 for a leisurely lunch under some trees. Thankyou Clemmy for being our trail boss. Your diligence does you credit.

Thankyou Ritchie for leading the ride. We know you went to a lot of trouble to ensure the trail was safe yet interesting and fun. Thankyou everyone who came along. Hope to see you at the next ride.



Border Country Trail Riders – Vince Sherry, President

Roseneath Station, Mingoola 20-22 May

Arrived Friday at lunch and after yarding the horses and dropping gear in our rooms we saddled up and headed off for a short ride. The weather is unusually warm and dry for this time of year. A couple of hours was enough to stretch the legs before settling down for dinner and a good night's sleep. The accommodation in the shearers quarters is first class, plenty of room for 12 guests.

Next morning was cool but promised another warm day ahead. Breakfast sorted we saddled up and headed out for a long days ride to the falls.

Station manager and lead rider Michael took us on a ride with the country and terrain changing at every turn. It was a three hour ride to the falls for lunch. These falls have impressive rock formations and must be spectacular after rain. The remote area had many signs that it once was a productive grazing property. Yards, windmill pumps, toughs and fences are evident. No signs of cattle or sheep but definitely a few feral goats and horses.



Roseneath Station was once owned by Sir Michael Bruxner, Lt Col in the AIF during WW1 and a member of the 6th Lighthorse. He received the DSO in 1917. The ride back from the falls took a detour via one of the many vineyards in the regions. Zappa's wines kept the cellar door open for a few of the wine buffs to have a taste of the local varieties. This was a long day, almost 8 hours, so we were all looking forward to dinner and an early night. We all seemed to fire up a bit after dinner, enjoying a few laughs until late.

Sunday was a short ride for those who still had some energy left, before we packed up and headed home. Big thanks to Michael and Sophie, managers at Roseneath for showing us around this beautiful property. Thanks to all BCTR members who came along and made this such an enjoyable weekend.



South Coast NSW and ACT – Tony Hart

South Coast Assoc of Trail Horse Riders – Sue Clifton, Secretary

Shoebidge Ride

In 2014 NSW National Parks reopened the Shoebidge track to horse riders. Many of our members and friends have spent many man hours maintaining the Shoebidge track and gathering historical evidence to support its survival and reopening so we have a special bond with this track. Once a transportation route from the Port of Nelligen to Braidwood, with a gradient of about 12 degrees this track is an ideal bridle trail.

Along the trail the diverse vegetation is amazing, views are spectacular and some of the work done on the track in the way of pitching is still evident. The work done by our forebears is to be admired, also the work done by our club members in maintaining the track is to be admired also, without their efforts we would not be able to appreciate this area.



The 11th March saw riders from Scats, Wanderers and Cobargo clubs camped at Buckenbowra ready for an early start on Saturday morning. Some 26km later we had transversed the Shoebidge track through the Mongo National Park and surrounding state forest. The 9 stops along the way to clear debris slowed our trip but for those not involved with the manual labour it was time to admire the scenery. Our camp the first night was beside the Araluen Creek on private property, (many thanks to the owners) our trusty chuck wagon full of wholesome food and beverages there to feed the riders and club members who joined us.

Sunday we were woken by the snapping of twigs lighting the fire for our bacon and eggs and we were packed and off within 2 hours. Heading for the next camp crossing the Deua river to Merricumbene. We did a few extra kilometres skirting the steep banks of the Deua River looking for the old trail. Whilst the river's edge is rainforest the surrounding hills are steep, dry and rocky. The horses and riders did a marvellous job looking after each other. At the end of the 24km day we were able to access private property with the help of Mr Day, then it was into the Whips' property to whom we are much indebted for such a fantastic spot. Our Camp helpers had set up camp next to the Deua River and it wasn't long before humans and horses were in the water swimming together. The horses were then led to a magic paddock with a dam and beautiful grass. Not a peep was heard, every time they were checked, reports came back that they were all good except that one with the red bow in her tail. The night held many surprises from finding out we had a disc jockey in our presence to gun fire throughout the night - frightening fruit bats away from orchards.

Monday morning first light the horses had full bellies and we crossed the Deua once again. We knew we had to get back up to the top of the mountain but to do that we had to bush bash our way up the ridges through lots of wattles that had grown since fire had ravaged the spur. John led the way, everyone held on tight and its funny we have no photos of this area I wonder why?...a sense of pride on everyone's face as we reached the Quart Pot trail, proud of their horses, themselves and each other. This was how it was done in the past and we had just had a little taste of what our forebears had done to open up tracks like the Shoebridge. After 19 km we were back at our Friday night camp all happy and safe and ready for the next adventure.

Trail Boss John Davidge led this diverse group of adventurers, Lawrie Smith our president was track clearer and everyone else did a great job of being courteous riders.



Monaro Horse Trekkers – Hilary Gunn, Treasurer

Mt Stromlo Ride – March

Seven riders rode out from Arawang Horse Holding paddock and followed the BNT along the back edge of Coolamon Ridge on the western edge of Canberra where the bush fires went through in 2003. We turned off BNT climbing to the top of Mt Stromlo which had fantastic views of Canberra and the Brindabella Ranges and where there is so much history and information regarding the observatory and the remains of the buildings left behind from the fires. Billy provided a lovely lunch. Thanks to Meike & Donna for organising.



Tallaganda Ride – April

Six riders climbed a steep ascent to the radio tower on Mt Cohen on the Great Dividing Range overlooking Captains Flat, then proceeded down to the valley floor where an old ruin made a good lunch spot and rest for the horses. The climb back over the range passed through lush eucalypt forest and tree ferns. Thanks to Hilary for organising.



Wingello Forest Ride 30th April and Wingello surrounds 1st May

Eight riders set off around the outskirts of the pine & hard wood forests, through semi temperate forest gullies which was soft underfoot. It was also interesting to share the forest with the Huskie sleigh group, not my cup of tea with barking dogs all weekend but really interesting to see them in action and thankfully there was plenty of room for us to ride somewhere completely different.

We stayed at the Air B&B at Wingello which is in the design of the French provincial. Great food at the local pub. Thanks to Helen for organising.



Tinderry Trail Horse Riders - Hilary Gunn, secretary

April Ride – Booroomba Station

2016 has been a year of perfect weather for trail riding. The first Saturday in April saw the Tinderry club at the top of a high hill on Booroomba Station with spectacular views over the southern ACT. Thanks Don.



Photos by Helen Palma

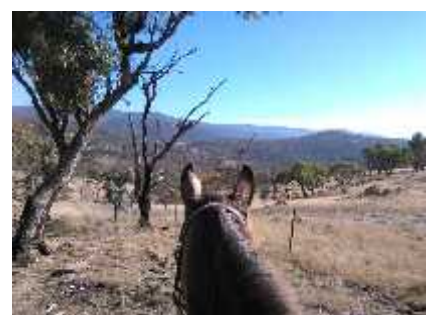


May Ride - Bredbo

Welcome to our new members! What a good turn up we had for this ride, with 2 new members, and 2 potential members, joining Tinderry and Monaro Trekker members for a ride to the Goatshooters Hut on a beautiful autumn day. Billy accepted the challenge of driving the support vehicle through the Murrumbidgee River (low after a long dry spell) and over some steep hills to deliver a welcome BBQ lunch at the Hut. Don's young packhorse-in-training went very well. Thanks again Don for organising.



Photos by Lesley Rose



REGIONAL ROUNDUP – QUEENSLAND

Central & North QLD - Marilyn Green

The Central and North Qld regions have been rather busy with accreditation courses over the last couple of months.

One accreditation course was hosted by the Bouldercombe Club near Rockhampton with 12 new Trail Boss qualifications and a smaller course was held with our newest ATHRA club up north, The Bluewater Trail Blazers with 4 successful people. It's fantastic to see so many participate in these sessions and get involved in helping their clubs run successful rides.



The Pinnacles Equestrian Centre was a great spot for the recent accreditation session. Here the participants are working through risk management processes under the watchful eye of Bob our trainer.

A special thanks to trainer Bob Meuleners for coming up and holding these sessions for us. All participants had a great time and found the course to be engaging.

Our Tablelands Club has also expressed an interest in hosting a course soon.



Bluewater members participating at the recent accreditation. Check out the wonderful "Bluewater sky".

Regional Manager Visit

One of the things I enjoy about being a Regional Manager is to be able to visit and spend time with clubs in the region. During my recent visit to Townsville I was able to catch up with Sue Allen from the Alligator Creek club as well as the Bluewater club. The Alligator creek club has expressed interest in a training / education day as well as getting some of their members first aid training updated. It is wonderful to see clubs utilising the opportunities to learn more. I look forward to helping clubs in the region develop and increase participation in Trail Riding.

Sunshine Coast – Gail Ferris

Somerset Trail Riding Club - Jodie Lucas, President

The Somerset Trail Riding Club has had a fantastic start to the year. With some new faces on the Committee we have been organising some great events and quickly gaining new members. All of our events so far we have been able to manage around existing club calendars in the region (as best as possible), so that as many ATHRA members can attend as many different rides and experience the different club's cultures if they want. We hope to see you on the trail sometime soon.



Our first ride was in March was *Moore to Linville and return*.

A few people camped out on the Friday night before the Saturday ride and enjoyed a great social evening which is still being talked about!

On Saturday, it was a very hot day and thankfully an easy scenic ride, there are great facilities at Linville to hose down the horses, put them in yards and wander off to the 'local establishment' where we all filled up on water, lemon squash and orange juice, before heading back to our floats.

Our second event was a '*Come Try Trail Riding*' Day at Wivenhoe Dam on 16 April. What a fantastic day we had. These trails are relatively new to the area and are quite scenic. We had 23 riders for the day and many joined up as members on the day. It was amazing to see the fantastic trail riding etiquette displayed by so many new comers to trail riding. Our third event was held on 23 April on the beautiful private property *Rathvernie* at Avoca Vale. We are extremely fortunate that fellow 'Clubby' Ken Faulkner was able to spend some time with us. The day was focused on 'Trail Riding Tips'.

It's fair to say that every single person who attended learnt some very handy trail riding tips. In fact, on rides now we are always hearing people encouraging and sharing a few tips. ie: "Ken said try holding your reins this way or that" or Ken said "use your left leg here and right rein there" etc, etc...

Thanks Ken – we all can't wait for the next one!!



Our fourth event was at *Glenmaurie Station*, it was a fantastic weekend! A special thanks to the pre-ride team for their efforts on helping towards a great weekend. Your efforts were certainly appreciated.

Many left reluctantly on the Sunday having had such a brilliant weekend of great riding, great comradery and great camp fire food and stories.

We will see you all back there on the October long weekend.

Our Fifth event was the *Linville Loop Ride Weekend*.

Everyone enjoys this ride, not only does it have fantastic views and great cantering spots, we often get to meet a few 'local wildlife' along the way. Our Sunday ride was a leisurely ride along the Rail Trail to Moore where scones with jam and cream and a good coffee from local friends (Rail Trail Caterers) awaited us.

We then enjoyed the ride back admiring the stunning views of the Brisbane Valley River.



Trail Horse Riding Education Event

For Qld ATHRA members with

Ken Faulkner

JOIN US FOR 3 DAYS OF FUN AND EDUCATION

Esk, Qld

13 – 15 AUGUST 2016



This course is tailored for Trail Riding

- Horsemanship ground skills for keeping your horse safe and ready to ride
- Skills and techniques to for safe riding practices
- Exercises to help with rough terrain and obstacles (rivers and creek crossings, soft sand, logs, inclines and declines)
- Educational videos regarding the horses anatomy and how our riding effects it
- Educational talk on hoof care
- Includes arena work on horsemanship skills and trail rides around the property
- EACH DAY STARTS AT 9.00AM
- It's a fully self-sufficient weekend
- Horse Yards are available
- Hot showers and toilets
- Participants can arrive from 2.00pm Friday 12 August 2016

NUMBERS TO THIS EVENT ARE LIMITED – BOOK AND PAY NOW TO SECURE YOUR PLACE

\$150.00 each

To book please email Jodie Lucas on jm.lucas@westnet.com.au

Payment is to be made to:

Somerset Trail Riding Club, BSB 014710, account # 375672014, reference your family name.



This event is proudly supported by:



2016 QUEENSLAND SEPTEMBER CAMP

“Rail Trail Express Ride” - 17-25 September 2016

Registrations are now open for this event. Lots of planning and pre-rides have already been undertaken and its looking to be another fantastic event.

This year’s camp will be similar to the 2010 Rail Trail Ride, but with a big difference, we will be traversing through lovely private properties, parts of the BNT as well as ‘Expressing’ through parts of the Brisbane Valley Rail Trail.

The camp will start at Ottaba and finish at Nanango, with lots of interesting stops along the way.

Register for the full event and pay for the full before the 19th of August and you will go in the draw to have your entry refunded. This will be drawn on the evening of Wednesday 21 September. In typical Queensland style this will be the best value catered ATHRA camp during 2016 – so start planning for your holiday.

Full Camp \$425.00 and Part Camp \$295.00



2016 QUEENSLAND SEPTEMBER CAMP



Registrations are now open for ATHRA’s signature September Camp!

No day will be the same....

Commencing at Ottaba and finishing at Nanango, this will be a moving camp with a new location on most nights. You will move your floats each morning to the next night’s camp location and then be bussed back to your horse to ride to the next night’s location using a combination of rail trail, BNT and scenic private property trails.

Many of these places never before ridden on an ATHRA event. There will be a rest day mid week at Blackbutt.

Morning Tea, Lunches and Dinners each day will be fully catered.

Full Camp \$425.00 per person — 1/2 Camp \$295.00 per person

Register for the full event, pay in full before 19 August 2016, you will go into a draw to have your full entry cost refunded (drawn on Wednesday 21/9)



PRELIMINARY DAILY EVENTS

Saturday 17th September 2016

Arrive at the Ottaba Pony Club Grounds

Today we will set up yards and our camp for the evening before relaxing and meeting up with lots of old and new friends. A camp oven Dinner will be provided to us by the Pony Club.

Facilities: Shower Tents (with hot water) and toilets are available.

Sunday 18th September 2016

Ride: Ottaba - Harlin

Make yourself a quick breakfast and a cuppa then get ready to depart at approx. 7.00am to drive your float down to the next stop – Harlin. We park our vehicles and our coach will be waiting to take us back to Ottaba.

Morning tea can then be collected and then we ride along the Rail Trail to Toogoolawah. Here we will be meet with our fresh lunches and drinks before heading off again down the Rail trail before getting onto private property to take us into Harlin.

Dinner will also be at the Harlin Hotel. Of course there is a bar there to whet your appetite after the first days ride

Facilities: Hot showers and toilets are available.

Monday 19th September 2016

Ride: Harlin - Moore

Make yourself a quick breakfast and a cuppa then get ready to depart at approx. 7.00am to drive your float down to the next stop – Moore. We park our vehicles and our coach will be waiting to take us back to Harlin.

Morning tea can then be collected and then we ride through mostly private property today to Moore. We will have our lunches bought to us along the way Dinner will be at the Moore Hall.

Facilities: Shower Tents (with hot water) and portable toilets available.

Tuesday 20th September 2016

Ride: Moore – Blackbutt

Make yourself a quick breakfast and a cuppa then get ready to depart at approx. 7.00am to drive your float down to the next stop – Blackbutt. Here we will camp for



3 nights at the Blackbutt showground.

We park our vehicles and our coach will be waiting to take us back to Moore.

Morning tea can then be collected and then we ride along the short but scenic Rail Trail to Linville, then onto a stock route which takes us through private property to the Benarkin forest then onto Jesse's Well for lunch. We then head back through the forest, onto Benarkin for a short stop before we ride the last 6 km along the Rail trail into Blackbutt.

Dinner tonight is at the showgrounds catered by the Anglican Ladies Catering.

Facilities: Hot showers and toilets.

Wednesday 21st September 2016

Today is our day off. Sleep in.... take a stroll into to Blackbutt township, enjoy something from the great 'Blackbutt Bakery' or explore the wonderful areas of the South Burnett Region. There is something for everyone here today. There will likely be a demonstration or two if you want to also relax at the showgrounds for the day. The choice is yours!!

Tonight will be Auction night – Dinner once again at the showgrounds with our Anglican Ladies Catering.

Thursday 22nd September 2016

Ride: Day ride to Taromeo Station

Another sleep in today as we stay again tonight at the Blackbutt showgrounds. We then grab our morning tea and head out to the historical Taromeo Station. We will have a BBQ lunch out here cooked to perfection by the fantastic Rail Trail Ambassadors, before riding home and getting ready for our last dinner tonight by the Anglican Ladies Catering.

Friday 23rd September 2016

Ride: Blackbutt - Yarraman

Make yourself a quick breakfast and a cuppa then get ready to depart at approx. 7.00am to drive your float down to the next stop – Yarraman Showgrounds

We park our vehicles and our coach will be waiting to take us back to Blackbutt.

Morning tea can then be collected and then we ride along the Rail Trail and a forest loop before getting into

Yarraman. Once again lunch will be bought out to us on the trail.

It will be 'Fish n Chip Friday' on the menu tonight (along with some salads of course), cooked by the Yarraman Show Society and there will be a bar open for our second to last night on the trail.

Facilities: Hot showers and toilets.

Saturday 24th September 2016

Ride: Yarraman - Nanango

Today is our last move..... so make yourself a quick breakfast and a cuppa then get ready to depart at approx. 7.00am to drive your float down to the next stop – Nanango – Western Performance Club grounds.

We park our vehicles and our coach will be waiting to take us back to Yarraman.

Morning tea can then be collected and then we ride through private property and stock routes to Nanango. Tonight is our last night – a traditional party night.

Dinner will be provided by the Western Performance Club and we will have some entertainment to celebrate our last night.

Sunday 25th September 2016

Join us for the 'Big Breakfast Farewell' – The Western Performance Club will fill us up with food for our departure home.... Until the next year's adventure.

For Further information, contact Claire Bourke on clairebourke1@bigpond.com or 0418 438 807

REGIONAL ROUNDUP – VICTORIA

Paul Peddie – Central Victoria

Baringhup Trail Riders

Trail Ride from the Forans' - Peter Foran

A beautiful Autumn day greeted us and we unhurriedly prepared for the ride as it was from our place and we were already here, the other keen riders arriving in formation. Deddie Austin had a flat tyre to let her down on the way but took it all in her stride as the rest of us enjoyed a bit of extra time for horsie talk before muster. A cozy group we were, even David having to reluctantly forfeit although he couldn't resist a g'day visit before leaving us to our adventure; the intrepid gathering consisting of Debbie S & Chickory, Amy & Willow,



Alie and Ben, Debbie A and Clancy, Sally and Ferdie and yours truly and Sarge, all keen to explore the bush beyond, as many before us had, particularly gold fossickers. Only one other adventurer was seen all day; a modern day gold seeker as we meandered through the bush and birdsong. I did take my binoculars for birdwatching but have discovered that the view through binoculars from atop a horse in motion is undulating at best.

Warm enough though it was in the sun, I was glad of my jumper in the shade as we took first a few narrow and interesting trails with the occasional small challenge before settling into a wider trail where we could spread out and catch a bit of sun and news along the way, dropping back into the tighter trails here and there when opportunity arose and getting a glimpse out across the expanse of the Fryers Flora reserve as we traversed a vantage lookout.. The horses were only marginally interested in the water available in a dam and the few puddles from recent rain but some took a few sips...to my surprise, Sarge was one of them!



We lunched at Spring Gully mine site, an historic area that we explored after our saddlebag cuisine (thanks Sal), interesting topics being covered as we munched, sometimes having to swallow quickly as laughing and chewing don't mix!



The return was a bit shorter, mostly fresh single (ish) trails leading home. On the way, two pony sized dogs dashed to the edge of their property barking but while some gathered in the reigns, the horses just said 'meh'. A great day horseriding with great company in beautiful country. Thanks also to the organisers.

Baringhup hosts Accreditation Weekend

It took a long time to come around, and it was gone in what seemed like a flash, but it was really worth all that effort. And it would never have happened if it hadn't been for the rock-solid support of our core membership when it came to preparations and for all our members and associate members who were so eager to give of their time. Thank you to all those who helped make the accreditation weekend such a success for both our club and also the participants.



The weather was good (mostly) for the entire weekend, the participants all eager to participate, and the Trainers ready for a fun weekend. What started out as a large uptake of places on the course, eventuated with 13 riders participating in the course, which was just enough. Any more and the course would have been very full-on for all concerned. Most of the attendees arrived on Friday, some quite late in the night, but they all settled in well and all the yarding held firm, mostly, with only one electric fence letting down the side. The last few arrived early Saturday morning, and it was straight into it for everyone.



Our club had lots of members on hand all weekend to assist with catering and troubleshooting, which was excellent. There was a mountain of cakes and slices, along with oodles of yummy fare for lunch and dinner. I think everyone enjoyed the gastronomic delights. On Saturday night we had Julie Morris, an accomplished Bush Poet come along and entertain us with her selection of wonderful poetry around the bonfire. We were all spellbound with her recitations. Peter Foran also gave us a rendition of some of his poetry, which was very animated and easily relatable.

Sunday saw the trail ride scenarios and some of the riders really got theatrical in their portrayal of injured riders and the like. So much so, some of the locals got quite concerned! It all added to the reality and chaos, and all the riders did a great job at managing their trail ride. Even a bit of rain to add to the authenticity of the situation.

It was sad to have the weekend finish so soon, but so heartening to hear such favourable comments from all the participants, trainers, and other ATHRA officials in attendance. And all the course attendees agreed that while it was a testing course, it wasn't as difficult as they had all imagined. I think our wonderful Trainers, John Kasch, Allan Schulz, and Joanne Kasch made it such a relaxed and informative weekend for all.

This is the second of the accreditation courses that our club has hosted in the last 9 years, and if you have a supportive membership, and good organisational skills, it's not as hard an event to host as most people tend to think. I urge clubs to be proactive and host a course themselves if they are looking to increase their numbers of accredited members. It is a very rewarding experience for all.

And our members were just awesome in all that they did to ensure the success of this weekend. There were smiles all round. And lots of new friendships and exchanging of stories and info for all over the weekend. Thank you to all those who came along to learn or to help in anyway. I think ATHRA has some great new trail Bosses and Ride Stewards, and one awesome Ride Coordinator!



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AFFINITY INSURANCE offer a range of discounts to ATHRA members on all of their insurance needs, whether they be horse or float, Public Liability or Personal accident. Contact Affinity direct to discuss.

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AUSTRALIAN NATURAL HORSEMANSHIP (Ken Faulkner) offers ATHRA members a 10% discount on all events including Horsemanship Courses, Demonstrations and Special Events throughout Australia. www.australiannaturalhorsemanship.com



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