**GAWLER TRAIL HORSE RIDERS CLUB**

Thank you for your enquiry on our club & following is some **general information**.

The Gawler Trail Horse Riders Club (GTHRC) is an Australian Trail Horse Riders Association (ATHRA) affiliated club that encourages a non-competitive, social & responsible trail riding environment.

Club trail rides are held at least once each month (3rd & 5th Weekend (Sunday calculated)), Training days are occasionally held & camps ~ 2-3 times per year.  Trail rides include beach, road, paddock, moonlight & forest to name a few, usually lasting for around 3 hours (some longer rides also). Rides are conducted in an orderly fashion & speed is determined by the size & experience of the group, mostly walk & a little trot but some are a bit faster (detailed in newsletter), group size varies (average ~8).  The social atmosphere of our rides usually finish with a get together for lunch & a chat.

Member’s ages currently range between late teens & into their 70s.  Members have all sorts of horses from Pony to Draft (some barefoot all year round) & saddlery from English to Western & all sorts in between.

No special equipment is required for trail riding, but the club does require

* All members & Day Members are to wear a Safety Helmet that is less than five years old from Date of Manufacture.
* Appropriate riding boots – No work boots with the ‘chunky’ sole or joggers permitted
* Riders must be in control of their horse in a group & be able to walk, trot & canter independently.
* Riders under 16 years must be supervised by a parent or nominated guardian.
* Members & Day Members need to be aware of the Clubs Safety Policy & ATHRA ride rules

Club membership fees for 2021 are Adults $110, Junior (under 18) $50, Social (non-horse handling) $40 per calendar year and are due Jan 1st.   Unfortunately there is no discount for part year membership as it is all insurance costs. A ride fee of $2 per ride for ATHRA members is applicable. (Join after 1/10/20 & membership runs to end 2021).

We do allow Day Members but there is ATHRA Day Members (visitor) Fee of $30 per person per ride (non-refundable fee, maximum 2 rides as a Day Member) - please be advised that if you are not a member of ATHRA you will need to be sponsored by an ATHRA member to participate on a club ride. We can usually arrange a sponsor but the club must have time to organise in advance (at least I week prior).

New riders must contact the trail boss to discuss attendance to make sure that it will suit your needs & your horse is adequately prepared. Once you have spoken to the club and you feel satisfied this is the club for you, simply join as a Member or Day Member at least 3 days prior to attending a ride via ATHRA Online. Note: Once you become a GTHRC member you can ride with any ATHRA affiliated club at no extra insurance fees.

The club holds a meeting at the Southern Hotel in Gawler on the first Tuesday of each month at 8pm & some of our members get there at 7pm and have a meal before the meeting & stay after for a bit of a chat.  We are happy for any prospective members or new members to join us without any commitments.

We send out a newsletter each month via email to members & post on Facebook for non members.  We have a club Facebook page with general information & where you can have a look at previous Newsletters & some photos etc. We also have a “members only” page with more detail on upcoming rides.

Included in this pack are FAQs, Guidelines to your First Ride & Clubs Safety Policies for your information. Remember if you wish to participate on one of our rides you will need to join ATHRA via its online membership. [www.athra.com.au](http://www.athra.com.au)

Hope this information is helpful & if you need anything else feel free to contact us again & maybe seeing you at one of our rides or meetings.

Happy Trails.

*Kath McCullagh*

*Secretary – Gawler Trail Horse Riders Club*

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[www.facebook.com/groups/gawlertrailhorseridersclub](http://www.facebook.com/groups/gawlertrailhorseridersclub)

[www.athra.com.au/clubs/viewgroup/58-gawler-trail-horse-riders-club](http://www.athra.com.au/clubs/viewgroup/58-gawler-trail-horse-riders-club)