

# Blue Mountains Trail Riders Horse Tales

## NOVEMBER 2020



The official newsletter of the  
**Blue Mountains Trail Horse Riders Club Inc.**  
193 Blaxlands Ridge Road  
BLAXLANDS RIDGE NSW 2751

Email: [bmtrailclub@outlook.com](mailto:bmtrailclub@outlook.com)

Web page: <http://www.athra.com.au/clubs/nsw/bmthrc>

### Your 2020 Committee members:

President – Dee Thornthwaite  
Vice President – Phil Carr  
Secretary – Sarah Faithfull  
Treasurer – Judy Duck  
National Parks Liason – Dee Thornthwaite  
Publicity Officer –  
Committee – Julie Reay  
Dagmar Sweetland

Just a reminder that you need to show your  
ATHRA card or receipt before you can  
participate in any ride for insurance  
requirements.

### Inside this issue:

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### Upcoming rides

#### November 2020

Friday, Sat, Sun 20<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> Capertee  
Christmas Party Weekend

#### December 2020

Sun 6<sup>th</sup> ?- Sun Valley – ?

*Articles published in this newsletter are published only as a  
service to members and are intended as a guide only.*

## Presidents Report.

### PRESIDENTS REPORT - NOVEMBER 2020

It's great to see that ATHRA has given all members a special deal on 2021 memberships and our committee has also decided to give a half price deal to all members to join or become an associate member of our club for 2021.

Our spring camp at Rydal was a roaring success with 7 happy campers attending. Dagmar was our TB for the weekend and did a fantastic job with the rides. We sat around the camp fire cooked our meals and slept in our cars and floats. It certainly was a good feeling to get back out there in a relaxed camping atmosphere and enjoy our horses and each others company.

Our rides this year have gone ahead even though the numbers were low. It is great to know that some of us are relentless when it comes to our rides together.

The Sun Valley Pony Club Trophy that we are sponsoring has been ordered and we are hoping that a couple of committee members will be attending the pony clubs trophy presentation day to present our trophy to the lucky pony club member.

Plans have come together beautifully for our Capertee Homestead Christmas weekend and I for one am really looking forward to it. I'm sure everyone who is going will not be disappointed.

Hope to see you all out on the trail again soon!

DEE

## News Items

### **\*Membership pricing for 2021.**

Athra has been able to negotiate discounted pricing for insurance for Athra Clubs and members. Therefore, those who had joined their club by September 2020 for the 2020 year will now have their Athra insurance component of the membership automatically extended until 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021. You should have received your 2021 membership certificate from Athra by now. BMTHRC has decided to discount our membership portion by 50%. So all current members will need to pay only \$15 by 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020 to be a full financial member of BMTHRC for 2021. The \$15 is payable directly to BMTHRC.

The same applies to any Associate members of BMTHRC. If you are currently an Associate member of our club but you want us to now be your primary club, let one of the committee know and we can have Athra change your details to Blue Mountains.

New members to Athra clubs who join by 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020 for 2021 membership will get a 50% discount on both the Athra and Club components of the Membership. Total now being only \$65 for 2021. If anyone knows someone who has been thinking about joining our great club please encourage them to join before 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020 to take advantage of this great deal.

All memberships and Athra Insurance reverts back to normal from 1 January 2021. (\$100 for Athra and \$30 to BMTHRC)

BMTHRC Bank Details are; BSB 112879 A/C 489377144

*Please Email the club when you pay your discounted Club Membership Fee.*

bmtrailclub@outlook.com

Don't forget to have a copy of the Membership details either printed or have a copy on your phone, once you have joined a club. You will need that as confirmation of insurance for any club you ride with.

### **\*AGM 2021 Date**

**BMTHRC AGM2021 is 31<sup>st</sup> January 2021.**

We need all members to attend and please think seriously about joining the Committee in 2021. Please put on it on your calendar. Time and Venue to be advised. It will probably be combined with a ride, weather permitting.

### **Wet Weather Arrangements**

It has only just come to my attention that a lot of our club members are not aware of our 'Wet Weather Arrangements. There is a plan in place to cancel any of our rides due to bad weather, be it too hot, or too wet, or any unforeseen circumstances such as being too boggy under foot for our horses or for our floats. The Trail boss of the day is the only one who had the power to cancel or move a ride location at the last minute or maybe even earlier. This is why all club members and visitors are asked to 'Ring to Register.' When you ring and register to ride, the Trail Boss has your phone number handy and is aware that you are going to turn up so its not such a big deal for him or her to get in contact with you to move or cancel the ride on short notice if necessary. It would be far more difficult if he or she has to turn on a computer in the morning to start sending messages. Bearing in mind the fact that he or she is a bit busier than most on the morning of ride as there extra duties to perform. You can, if you want, text or ring to check with the Trail Boss, as you too should have their contact details handy in case you can't attend for any reason and let them know. Decisions on cancelling or changing a ride are normally made as early as possible, the night before or very early on the morning of the ride so that the club members don't actually leave home or head in the wrong direction.

**Ride Reports or Information for the newsletters please email to Judy. [duckjudith@gmail.com](mailto:duckjudith@gmail.com)**



### **Club Shirts with the New Club Logo.**

Short Sleeve Polo    **\$35**

Long Sleeve Cotton    **\$50**

Put your name on  
your shirt for Only    **\$4**

## Upcoming Ride Details:

### **CHRISTMAS PARTY WEEKEND - PORT MACQUARIE HOMESTEAD – CAPERTEE NATIONAL PARK**

This years Christmas weekend looks like being a great weekend with 13 of us heading up to Capertee to stop in the homestead..

We have a full house at the homestead

#Pillows & doona's and towels are supplied. We will be trying to keep everyone happy with the sleeping arrangements however you must be aware that you may have to share a queen bed with one of our club members on 2 of the 4 nights. We can, shuffle the sleeping arrangements each night.

# The club will be supplying our celebration dinner on the Saturday night.

# Our Saturday club ride will be our longest and our main ride of the weekend, The group will probably be split into two. One for a faster pace and one for a slower pace. We will be leaving very early on the Saturday and meeting up along the way and for a snack or lunch at the turn around point.

Sunday we will be having a shorter club ride to cater for those who will be leaving us to head home. The rides on Thursday, Friday and Monday will be do-it-yourself ride, no organised club ride, so you are free to ride around the area and enjoy yourselves.

There is a fully equipped kitchen in the homestead and you will have to clean up after yourself at all times.

There are two large bathrooms with toilets inside them.

Note that there is no handy store to visit to buy anything nor is there anywhere to go to have a meal. Once you are at the homestead you will be staying for the weekend.

If everyone could try to bring ice bricks or something that they can re-freeze we can keep our eskys cold and use them as well as the fridge in the kitchen.

There will be no ride fees over this weekend.

### BRING WITH YOU

# For those who wish to participate in gift giving, bring a gift to the value of \$20- \$25.

# Please bring morning tea & afternoon tea to share.

# Bring your own sleeping bag or linen.

# You will need to bring your own food for the rest of the weekend. (Breakfasts lunches and dinners)

# You will need to bring some electric fencing for you horse, there are yards but some of them are large and can be taped off into two to allow room for all the horses.

# All feeds, rugs, water buckets etc. for your horse.

# There will be water available. If you could all bring a garden hose and a joiner we will not have to carry buckets so far.

# Bring comfy walking shoes as the area is a beautiful place to go for a walk, also gumboots are helpful if the grass is wet first thing in the morning..

### DIRECTIONS

Leaving Lithgow follow the main road (Great Western Highway) over Farmers Creek and up the hill, take the turn off to Mudgee (Castlereagh Hwy) on the left which takes you over the main highway for about 30ks into Capertee, there is a petrol station on your right and a pull over rest area on the left which is safe to take your horses out for a break. You can grab any last minute food supplies at the servo.

Taking the Glen Davis Road on the Right after the servo and/or opposite the rest area and follow to the end 35ks where you take a left on to Glen Alice Road travel another 15ks (some of this is dirt) until you come to Port Macquarie Road on your left. This is also a dirt road...follow until you come to the NPWL gate another 5ks, put in the code and travel another 5ks to the homestead.

If anyone would like to join a convoy travelling from Capertee rest area opposite the servo at Capertee, we can arrange to meet at the rest area at 11.00am -11.30am on Thursday.

We cannot have access to the Homestead until 4pm, but by the time we set up yards and tend to our horses I'm sure we won't have to wait.

The code for the gate will be sent to you by message the week before....

Please see below the description for the Homestead amenities listed by NPWS.

- The homestead is fully furnished and has 4 bedrooms, a separate external bedroom, kitchen, dining room, living room with wood heater (firewood supplied), ducted air conditioning, 2 bathrooms with showers and toilets, external laundry and wrap-around verandah with outdoor seating.
- The homestead sleeps 10 people: 1 queen and 1 single bed, 1 queen and 1 single bed, 1 queen bed and 2 single beds.
- The separate external bedroom sleeps 4 people: 1 double bed and 2 single beds. There is a heater in this room.
- Bed linen, towels, duvets and pillows are provided.
- The kitchen has a fridge and freezer, gas oven, toaster, kettle, dishwasher, crockery, cutlery, glassware and tea towels.
- There's a TV and DVD player but no TV reception.
- There's a gas barbecue and wood barbecue (firewood supplied).
- Hot and cold running water is available at the property. The water supply comes from rain water tanks so you'll need to use water sparingly. Drinking water is untreated rain water, so you may need to treat or boil it before drinking.
- Please leave the homestead clean and tidy and report any breakages, damage or maintenance issues to the Mudgee office.
- Bins are provided. Please recycle rubbish into appropriate bins.
- Toilets
- Flush toilets
- Barbecue facilities
- Gas/electric barbecues (free)
- Wood barbecues (firewood supplied)
- Showers
- Hot showers
- Electric power

This property is connected to mains power.

#### BMTHRC CAMPERS PLEASE NOTE -

Thursday night everyone will have a bed to themselves

Friday & Saturday nights we will have 2 single people that may have to share a bed.

Sunday night everyone will have a bed to themselves.

#### **Sun Valley Day Ride – Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> ? December (check Facebook for Date.)**

**Meet :** Sunvalley Pony Club.  
?10 am Ready to ride

**Duration :** 4 hours +.

**BYO :** Lunch and drink.

**Type :** Easy going. Possible water crossings

**Ride Co-ordinator :** Dee 0411 275 133.

**Ring 48 hours prior.**

**Directions :** Arriving from east (Sydney) turn right into Sun Valley road follow down to the pony club grounds.

Arriving from west (Katoomba) turn left into Sun Valley Road and follow down to pony club grounds.

## Ride Reports:

### RIDE REPORT - MORAN'S ROCK - 01/03/2020

What a great way to start autumn, 2020 with a club ride at a different venue. Unfortunately, the only members who came along had already done this ride, but never mind it's always a great place.

There was Julie & Amitty, Judy & Bella, Phil & Shar and myself & Sharnee.

We set off in good spirits after the normal pre-ride discussion with Phil being Trail Boss for the day and I wasn't long before we realized that Bella and Sharnee were a bit fresh. Sharnee had been grazing endlessly on the greenest of grass and is always very excited when his two favorite mares are on the ride (Bella & Amitty)

We came to the first hill, not a very long one but it was steep with speed humps and when Sharnee got to the first speed hump he let fly with a buck and a twist followed by a small buck. Phil was riding behind me and called out 'well sat' I had just pushed him forward through it and made him trot up the rest of the hill and we all had a good laugh.

We rode along the shorter of the tracks and turned around to come back and Sharnee was still being hard to handle and so Phil said, 'get him up the front and sort him out and we will meet you at the top of the hill' Meanwhile Bella decided it was her turn to act out a bit but Judy had her back on track by the time they caught up to me waiting at the top of the hill.

We shuffled along and went directly to the lunch spot which has an awesome view with the intention of having a long lunch and a great catch up chat with each other.

The lunch was very relaxing and we eventually mounted up and started to head back towards the ride base when we commented that Phil was taking his time catching up with us. Shar had decided that it was his turn to be a hand full by not going where Phil had told him to go, Shar throwing a tantrum and Phil winning the argument.

The rest of the ride back was uneventful but very pleasant. We cooled down our horses and sat down to have our traditional cuppa before heading home after an awesome day together with our friends and horses. Looking forward, as usual to the next club ride together.

DEE & SHARNEE



Three Wise Monkeys – See not evil,  
Hear no evil and speak no evil!

**Sun Valley Ride 17.3.2020 (Postponed from 14.2.2020)**

Today's ride at Sun Valley went off without a hitch.. weather was very kind to us with just a drop of rain as we were loading our floats to leave.....Lunch provided by SV Pony Club was delicious and very enjoyable.....



## **Pauls Road Ride South Maroota 22.03.2020**

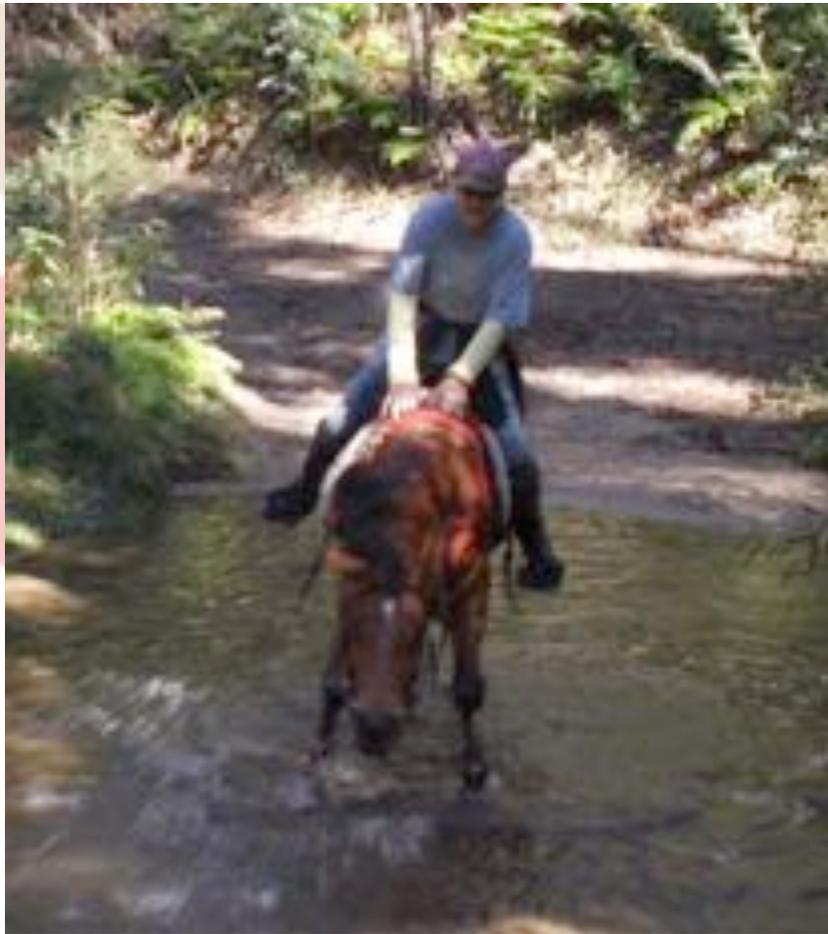
Great ride today with BMTHRC. 4 of us ventured across to South Maroota for the very pretty ride from Paul's Road. Julie was our trail boss, she was joined by Sarah, Angus and Judy. Unfortunately we didn't have a photographer in the group but I have added a little map of the trail that we took. We ventured down a long hill to a very pretty valley, there were a couple of shallow creek crossings and then a long hill up out of the valley to a flat ridge. Along the way we had some great group trots and canters but in all it was a relaxing ride. It was a great way to forget about the rest of the world for a few hours. Along the ridge there was a small dam, or big puddle that was a great spot to give the horses a drink. We found out that Sarah's new horse Archer, really loves to splash in a dam, he also likes to sit down and roll in water. Sarah ended up cooling off with Archer in the dam. At least it was a warm day!! No one was hurt in the cooling off of horse and rider.

## **RIDE REPORT FOR SUN VALLEY 14/06/20**

On the misty morning of June 14th four ladies and their horses arrived at Sun Valley Pony Club Grounds to ride the tracks for the first time since corona virus lockdown. We had Judy, Dee, Debbie and myself, Julie. We also had Bella, Sharnee, Bonny and Amitty, who are equally as important. 1st thing that happened was that I slid and slipped in the mud on a lower part of the club grounds and got a bit stuck for a while, with the float I mean.

Anyway, we road steadily along the valley floor and then had a run up Long Angle Hill. The bush looked beautiful, fresh and green and the trail was well used with cyclists, families, dogs (big and very small) and also more serious hikers. Everyone was friendly and was happy to be out and about. Debbie and Bonny were new to us and many things were new to Bonny but she did herself proud. Sharnee filled his feet with 'rotting wallaby' when he trod on the body but all the horses were very good, I believe we all had a lovely ride.

Julie H Reay.





## Ride Report for BMTHR Colo Ride 12th July 2020.

We had a beautiful ride on Sunday. The foggy morning cleared to a mainly beautiful sunny day. We had 4 riders, Maryanne riding Nikki, Deb riding Pete, Julie riding Amity and me riding Real. This was the first time the four of us had ridden together and 3 of us had never done this ride before so everything was new.

We set out along a dirt road, which was mainly used by local residents. The road was narrow and winding but it mainly followed the Colo River. We rode past natural rock walls and river side paddocks. There were houses that were perched high above us and Tiny homes right by the river. The road was winding but there were sections where we could have a nice controlled trot and canter. We rode past other horses, cattle and Alpacas. (Julie thought the Alpaca was a “pretty Palomino Pony”!). About 1km before our snack break we started to climb out of the valley, which gave us the opportunity for another canter up part of the hill. At the top we met Barry who had driven around another way to meet us with the Billy boiled and some yummy snacks. The snack break gave us all the time to get to know each other a bit better.

On the way out Julie and I had led most of the way, as our horses usually do, but on the way back we all swapped positions along the way and so the horses made new friends and found new confidence as well, however they were all keen and knew they were heading for home. This time Barry drove ahead of us so he could be our Paparazzi so we had a few stops for Photo shots. Along the way we encountered a couple of cars and pushbike riders but they were all considerate. We even met 3 cars with trailers full of Kayaks. All the horses had a good look and got a bit of a fright but each rider knew how to deal with their own horse. We were about 3kms from the floats and the sun disappeared, then a couple of rain drops. At about 2kms from home it really started to rain. There was thunder and some distant lightning. Again horses and riders coped with it, which just made it an interesting end to our ride.

It was so great riding with Maryanne and Deb. Maryanne had mentioned at the start, that this ride was out of her comfort zone, we are so glad you came and you and Nikki handled everything that the ride threw at you. I hope we see you at our next ride, wherever that may be. Then, Watch out Capertee, here we come!

Thank you Julie and Barry for organizing this ride for us.

Happy riding

Judy and Real





## MOUNTAIN LAGOON RIDE 13/9/20

This morning was absolutely beautiful in the mountains, I headed out early and there was hardly another car to be seen. Sharnee and I arrived at the ride base before Judy so I poured myself a cuppa and brushed about half a kilo of hair out of Sharnee before I saddled him up. Judy arrived and we chatted a while as she got Bella ready for the day and we headed down Sam's Way and on the the trails.

We were only about 15 minutes into the ride when we come across three walkers so we stopped and chattered for a while with them. We rode along the trail, both of the horses were very chilled and seemed to be happy just to be out. We came across a trail that Judy and Julie had found when they did the pre-ride and so down that trail we went. I had never been along this trail and when we got to the end there was a spectacular view across the mountains.

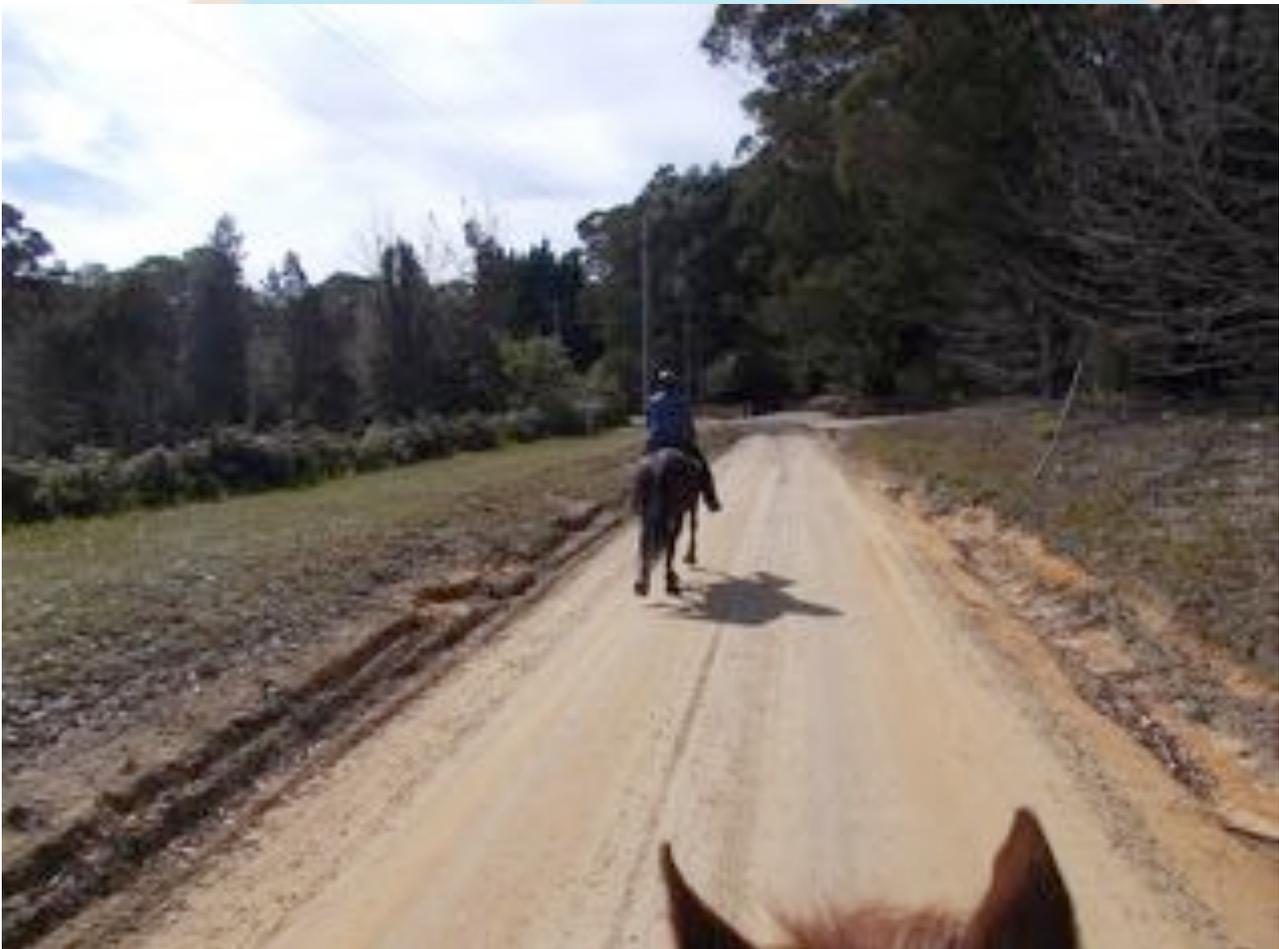
We dismounted and spoke to a motor bike rider that had passed us earlier, he was very polite on the trail and after we exchanged pleasantries we took a couple of photos and mounted up again. We headed back to the main trail and rode until it started to head downwards and got narrower.

We headed for home after that and had a few trots along the way but mostly we walked. We rode 14.2ks and it took us 2hours 40 minutes.

When we got back to the ride base there were cattle in the paddock next to the floats and they decided to get a bit close up and personal with Bella and Sharnee. Sharnee said he wasn't sharing his hay with the leader of the mob and they soon lost interest. Judy & I had a bite to eat and then we had a lengthy discussion organising our coming up camp at Rydal and our club Christmas weekend at Capertee.....I'm feeling like things are coming together beautifully for both of our end of the year events.

The drive was equally as enjoyable on the way home I followed Judy down the mountain at a leisurely pace with a few spots of rain that didn't actually amount to anything.

Great Day...Great Ride...Great company !







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