



TASMANIAN HIGH COUNTRY RIDERS

August Newsletter 2010

Sorry it's been so long getting this newsletter sent out, I would like to thank Philip and Sandra for their help.

We have had some absolutely fabulous rides this year. The weather has certainly been perfect for us on our ride days.

CHRISTMAS IN WINTER AT SHEARWATER RESORT

- We have celebrated our Christmas in winter getaway, which was held at Shearwater Resort on the 28th August. 15 Members joined us at the dinner with 11 staying the night and enjoying a few drinks overlooking the Golf course, a short sheeted bed, a door that kept knocking and a flying cup of tea were just a few of the antics that kept us laughing. Dancing the night away, it was certainly a memorable night.

We have also had another couple of meetings at the Blue Barn Café and would like to thank the Morice's again for their terrific meals and hospitality. Our next meeting will be held on the 30th September at the Blue Barn Café, Frankford at 7.30pm, all welcome.

Also a big Welcome to all of our new members

PLEASE NOTE :

September 25th - ride location has changed to George town : contact Ross 0417357905

OCTOBER 23rd - PARRAMATTA CREEK Bushy: 0438050766

NOVEMBER LONG WEEKEND

30th-1st November WOODS LAKE

Sandra: 0407092483

DAY VISITOR FEES

As a result of the increased incident of insurance claims from this group of riders it has been necessary to increase the day ride fee to \$25. The Club realises that this is a sizable increase, but it is unavoidable. This change takes effect from the 1st of July 2010.

THCRA Raffle: Tickets available at September ride or will be sent out to members

We have been extremely fortunate to have been donated a large range of prizes, including a \$200.00 voucher for clothing from Saddleworld Devonport.

Tasmanian High Country Riders, Ride Report



Date:	23rd May 2010
Name & location of property:	Bonney Plains Road, Avoca.
Ride leader & Assistants:	Julie Smith, Phil Stott
Weather conditions:	Cold, foggy, clearing to fine and sunny
Condition of track:	Firm & dry
Accidents or Incidents:	Nil
Riders attending:	26
Brief summary of day's ride:	

What a great ride!! The drive to Avoca was interesting - very heavy frost and intermittent fog. I haven't seen frost hanging from the trees like that since I was a kid - and that wasn't yesterday!

As we weren't sure where the turn-off to Bonney Plains Road was, I was glad to see the Trail Ride sign sitting on the side of the road. I still managed to go past the yards where we leaving from, so had to back-up the float! We were surprised to see so many people there as we had arrived fairly early. The fog was still hanging and it was bloody cold.

We eventually got sorted, and the ride under-way, after some confusion over our pre-ride meeting. Some riders took off early and waited further down the road. This problem has now been addressed.

Four riders joined the ride shortly after we started - apparently these hearty souls (Steve, Wendy & Co.) had camped the night. (Overnight temperatures = minus 5 degrees!) Don't know how they managed to keep warm, but apparently their horses decided to go for an early morning run to warm up!

Soon the sun was shining and the skies blue. It was good to see the regular faces on the ride, but even better to have Sonia & Michael Rice join us as new members. We followed the road for a short distance, and then headed out into open bush land. Apart from the multitude of rocks it was easy going with the ground very firm. I noticed that we had a support vehicle shadowing us for most of the ride. We had been climbing gradually (but it wasn't obvious) when suddenly we breasted a rise onto an amazing view of the Fingal Valley, overlooking Avoca, the highway and the river zigzagging through the various farms. It was a fantastic sight.

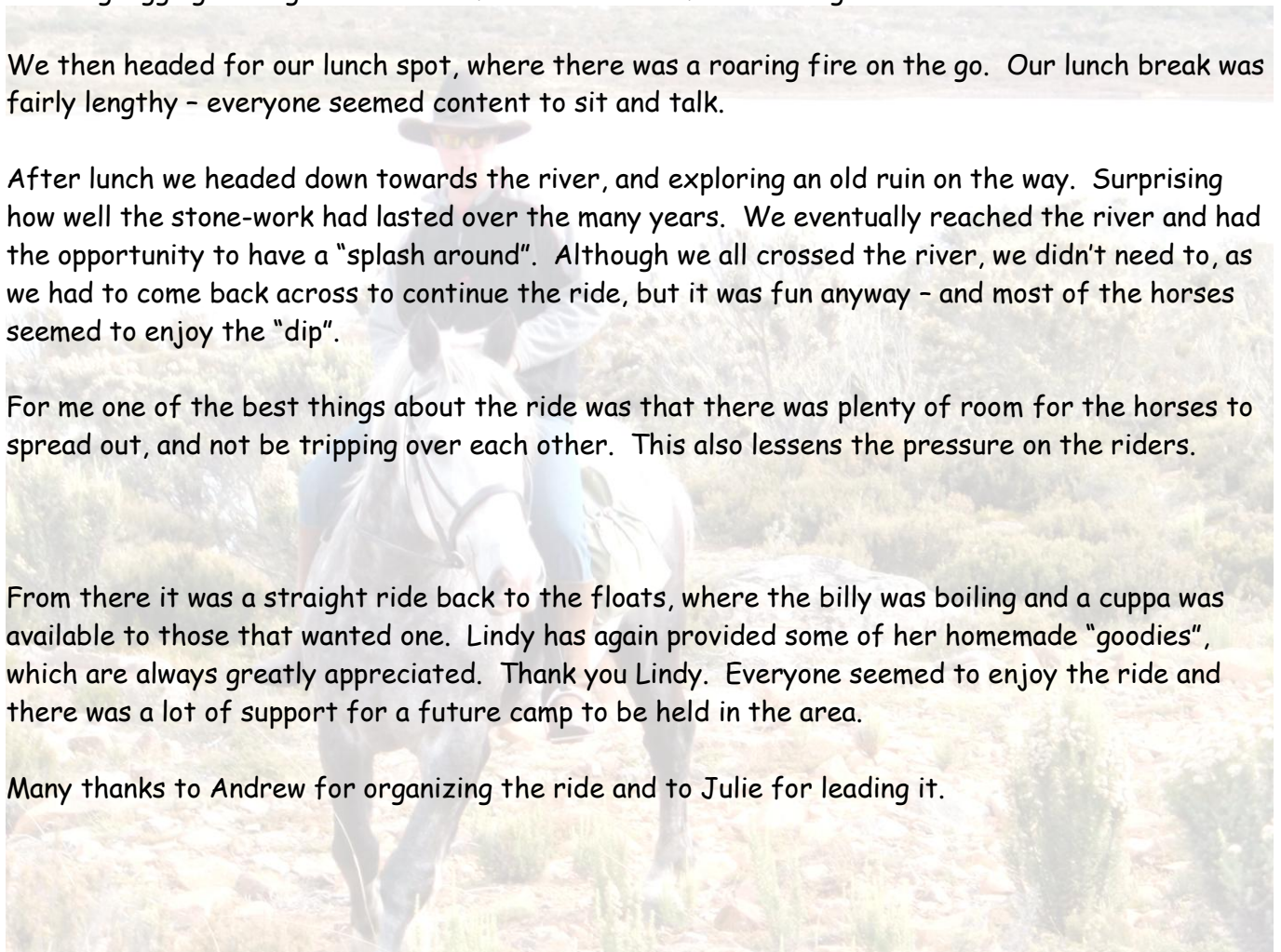
We then headed for our lunch spot, where there was a roaring fire on the go. Our lunch break was fairly lengthy - everyone seemed content to sit and talk.

After lunch we headed down towards the river, and exploring an old ruin on the way. Surprising how well the stone-work had lasted over the many years. We eventually reached the river and had the opportunity to have a "splash around". Although we all crossed the river, we didn't need to, as we had to come back across to continue the ride, but it was fun anyway - and most of the horses seemed to enjoy the "dip".

For me one of the best things about the ride was that there was plenty of room for the horses to spread out, and not be tripping over each other. This also lessens the pressure on the riders.

From there it was a straight ride back to the floats, where the billy was boiling and a cuppa was available to those that wanted one. Lindy has again provided some of her homemade "goodies", which are always greatly appreciated. Thank you Lindy. Everyone seemed to enjoy the ride and there was a lot of support for a future camp to be held in the area.

Many thanks to Andrew for organizing the ride and to Julie for leading it.



Tasmanian High Country Riders, Ride Report

Date:	12th June 2010
Name & location of property:	"Greenhill", Campbell Town.
Ride leader & Assistants:	Jane Taylor and Sarah Byers, Sandra Littlejohn, Lindy Lee and Phillip Stott.
Weather conditions:	Cool, but fine and sunny
Condition of track:	Firm & dry
Accidents or Incidents:	Nil
Riders attending:	23

We were off to an early start, being about the first to arrive at "Greenhill". After our previous ride in the Midlands, I had put on an additional layer of clothing, but it was hardly needed - compared to the start of our previous ride, the morning was positively tropical!

As it was a long weekend I was dubious about how many riders were likely to turn up. Many of our regulars had indicated that they had other things on. But it wasn't long before a steady stream of floats started to arrive, and the area was a "buzz" with farmyard activity - vehicles, floats, horses, dogs, tractors etc. A certain horse took exception to being tied up and busted two halters. Jane took control and the horse was taken away and treated to some further education.

Michael produced our new sign (very flash), advising of the pre-ride meeting, which was very effective. Thank you Michael.

We headed off pretty much on time - (23 riders, and some damn fine horses, including a very attractive Paint, not a bad turn out at all. And also a new member - Betty Castles - welcome Betty.) - out across the paddocks and then across McQuarie Road and into some great riding territory. We climbed up into the hills, which were steep enough to make the horses puff, but the view from the top was fantastic! We stopped for a breather and had time to appreciate the scenery. I'm sure you could see thru to the airport!! As we moved around the ridge the scope of the view increased. It was great. We then headed back down again into a little valley. By this stage the weather was perfect for riding, with the sun shining brightly.

Further along a certain young lady's "brumby" decided it had had enough and was going to have a "lay down". For starters Kim thought the horse wasn't well, but managed to jump off in time, and apply an appropriate boot, bringing the horse back to its feet. Well done Kim!!

We headed back across McQuarie Road and onto a bush track - again great riding country - and skirted the back of a huge dam. Some of our riders decided it was time to increase the pace a bit, so our group split into two, with half a dozen riders, led by Jane, let the horses stretch their legs. The remainder, led by Gaynor, sedately proceeded along the dam to meet up with the others further on. I'm sure there were many riders who would have liked to have joined in with the "fast group", but were just a bit unsure.

Coming out of the bush we headed out across the "potato paddock" and under the irrigators, then back to the floats. Some lovely old buildings were along the way. Back at the floats we were all treated to some typical country style hospitality - soup (very yummy), BBQ, cakes (also very yummy), tea and coffee. What more could you ask for!!

No-one seemed to be in a desperate hurry to leave, with floats slowly dribbling out the gate over the remainder of the afternoon. What a great day!!

A huge thank you to Jane and Ewen, and all those that contributed to the success of the day.

What's more, there are offers of more rides in the area again in the future.



Tasmanian High Country Riders, Ride Report

Date:	25 th July 2010
Name & location of property:	Dalgarth park
Ride leader & Assistants:	Steve & Wendy Bush
Weather conditions:	Cold, icy, clearing to fine and sunny
Condition of track:	Firm & dry
Accidents or Incidents:	1
Riders attending:	22

What started off as a freezing morning with temperatures as low as minus 2 on the drive out to Dalgarth Park, (the paddocks were white), also filling out the paper work with ice falling on to the paperwork, ended as a magnificent sunny day. Thanks to Wendy and Bushys makeshift signs we all found our way with no problems. As we wandered down our first steep decline a slight accident occurred, which led to an unfortunate visit by the ambulance. We hope you are making a rapid recovery Julia and you will be joining us again soon. The situation was handled very well thanks to the Trail boss, members, Bushy and Wendy. The ride went on and very successfully Wendy you did so well on our radio controlled ride, we had a fantastic ride, that was full of beautiful views and terrific riding, Michael you did a great job to follow a woman's orders (he he) and Wendy we hope our pony pulled up okay as well as yourself. The views were fantastic and the ride was comfortably challenging with some steep declines and climbs(which myself and my trusty steed thoroughly enjoyed). Some of the horses were certainly looking exhausted by the end of the day (and their riders). Mmm Dave and Goldie.

Tasmanian High Country Riders, Ride Report

Date: August 21st 2010

Name & location of property: Stoodley

Ride leader & Assistants: Gary & Cris O'toole

Weather conditions: Wet, clearing to sunny

Condition of track: Firm but damp

Riders attending: 19

Many Thanks to Gary and Cris's son and daughter in law for permission to share their beautiful property with us. I know many were like myself, chomping at the bit for a day of good riding. And what a magnificent day. After all the rain?? To find sunshine was awesome, so Thanks to who ever had the power to arrange it. More of it I say! Seriously- the Meaty Bite and I came loaded up with every assorted piece of wet weather and extra warm gear I had, and coming past the Western Tiers and seeing the snow on the mountains brr I thought out by Sheffield its bound to be extra cold, but... what a pleasant surprise to arrive to sunshine and warmth.

Our ride varied and any horse or rider that had a water/creek phobia soon dealt with that as we crossed through many scenic rapidly flowing creeks, (and though there are not many advantages of being on a tall horse most of the time, just sometimes in deep water there are lol). We rode through many types of terrains and a couple of decent hills, Gum tree, bush, Pine forest and all very easy going. Very well done to our trail leaders, who at times had to be adaptive because of trees which had inconveniently fallen down in several places. In one place there were about 8. Our trusty leader in conference with other locals found us another way around. Well done! Guys, Good team effort!!!

Then we rode along part of the Tasmanian Trail, which I was told previously been a train track, once again the volume of the recent rains were clearly noticeable by the first fast flowing river. On a summers day with blue skies it would be truly beautiful there. A hungry clan of riders returned to a BBQ that everyone looked forward too. Many thanks to our cooks. Then after our trusty friends were seen to, we then relaxed, it was a really pleasant way to finish off a special day.

So many thanks to Michael, Cris and Gary, for making the ride and BBQ happen, it was a most enjoyable day. So a very tired Meaty Bite and Sandra loaded up with a wonderful feeling of wellbeing after a day of riding, being with friends in sunshine and having the opportunity to ride through some scenic country. I know some riders felt better for getting out and having a riding fix as well, because all this rain has given us withdrawal symptoms.

Other thank yous go to first aid man David Jarman, for fixing my glasses with a band aid so I could see to drive home, Meaty Bite was pleased he said- Neigh thanks-...

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A noted absentee from our rides of late is club member, Bob Sulzberger. Bob has recently undergone surgery, but is now on the mend. He has been missed on our rides, rides that I am sure he would have really enjoyed. Hopefully he will be back with us again in the future. We wish him a full and speedy recovery.

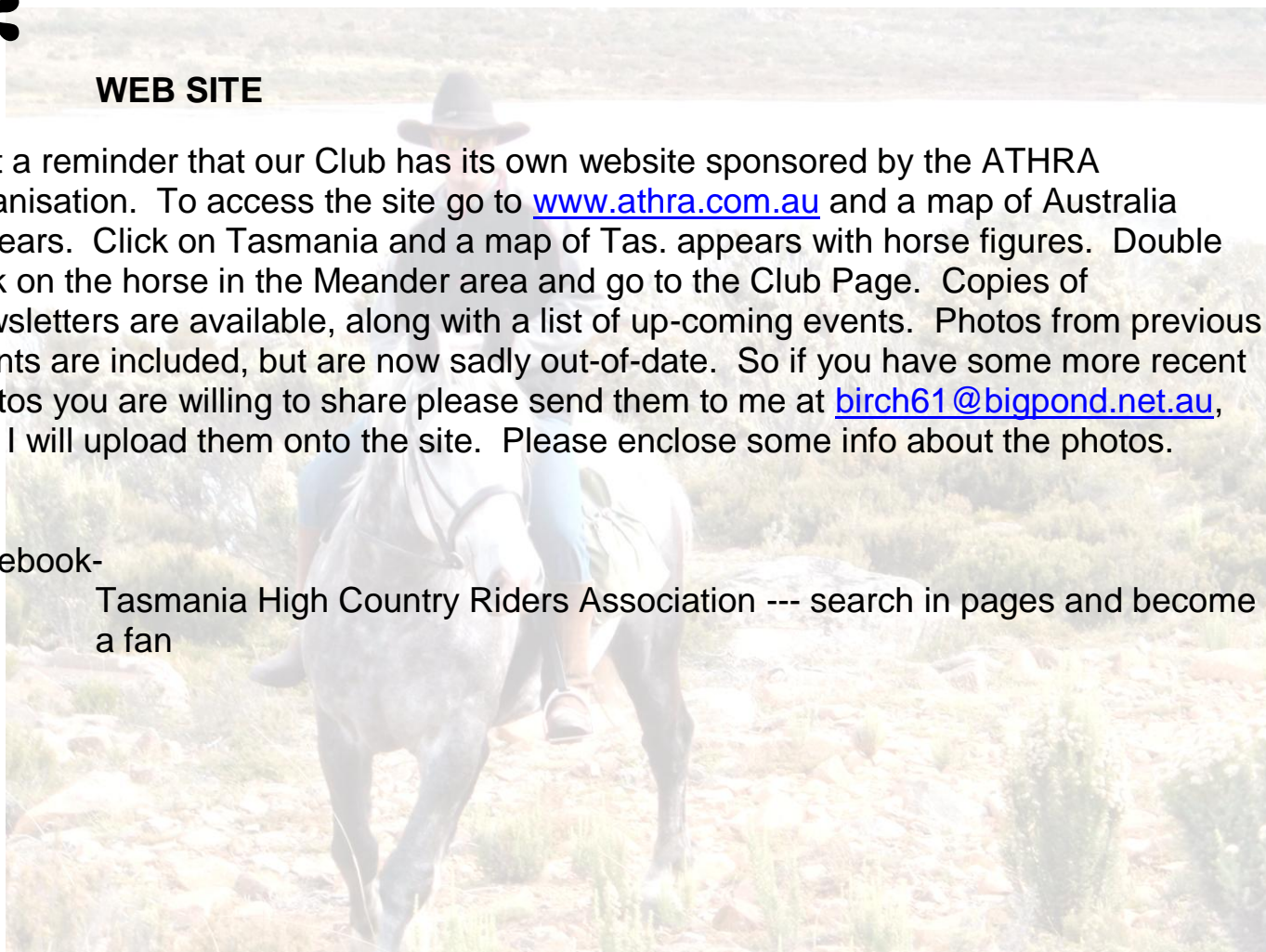


WEB SITE

Just a reminder that our Club has its own website sponsored by the ATHRA organisation. To access the site go to www.athra.com.au and a map of Australia appears. Click on Tasmania and a map of Tas. appears with horse figures. Double click on the horse in the Meander area and go to the Club Page. Copies of Newsletters are available, along with a list of up-coming events. Photos from previous events are included, but are now sadly out-of-date. So if you have some more recent photos you are willing to share please send them to me at birch61@bigpond.net.au, and I will upload them onto the site. Please enclose some info about the photos.

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RISK WARNING SIGN

Exclusion of Right to Sue These Conditions Affect Your Legal Rights. PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

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2. YOU acknowledge that Recreational Services are dangerous activities with many inherent risks as a result of which personal injury (and some times death) are common. YOU by your participation in such recreational activities accept all risks of personal injury or death in any way whatsoever arising from your participation in such recreational activities and YOU and any dependants release and forever discharge Australian Trail Horse Riders Association and its employees and agents from all and any liability and claims arising from the supply of the Recreational Services.

NOTICE dated

Authorised by Australian Trail Horse Riders Association

