



NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2012 & JANUARY 2013 NEWSLETTER

NEXT MEETING WILL BE THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

6.30pm Tuesday 19th March, Cattlemen's Pavilion, Toowoomba Showground.
Please bring a small plate to share with tea & coffee.

QUOTE: "Gypsy gold does not chink and glitter. It gleams in the sun and neighs in the dark.." Attributed to the Claddagh Gypsies of Galway.

I hope you all had a happy and safe Christmas and I wish you all a very Happy New Year. The last two months of last year seemed to go even faster than ever and our last ride for the year which was the very popular ride on Leo O'Keefe's property had to be cancelled due to weather conditions.

We will endeavour to have some new and interesting rides in our calendar for this year as well as some old favourites.

The Club's Christmas party for 2012 was held in this time at Clifton Bowls Club and Santa Clause managed to find us there—a big thank you to Chris Barton for making sure that happened! Santa proved a big hit with kids and adults alike. Trevor Fowke organized the music man and started the singing off—thanks Trevor. Much later into the night the music ramped up and a lot of fun was had as various members took the microphone.



The raffle was well supported by members and local businesses—Hanna's, Geraldine Lalor, Pet Cafe, and Westridge Fruits—thank you everyone who donated the great prizes—the club made over \$300.00 from the raffle which basically paid for our party!



*TTRC CHRISTMAS PARTY
2012 HELD AT CLIFTON
BOWLS CLUB ON SATURDAY
15TH DECEMBER.*



2012 was a busy year for the TTRC and we welcomed a number of new riders into our club—many of whom have also joined the Outback Riders.

Our members' resilience and determination to succeed was certainly tested shortly before the Outback Riders were due to perform at the Beaudesert Show last year. A number of events happened that could have stopped us having the numbers to perform—one member had a terrible accident involving her vehicle, her float and her horse (inside the float at the time), others had various problems with vehicles and horses. In the true spirit of the TTRC—the show must go on—everyone pulled together, determined that we would deliver on our promise to Beaudesert Show Society. In an amazing show of generosity horses were loaned, floats were loaned and vehicles were loaned. We all got there, had a ball, were invited back and got an invitation to perform at Beenleigh Show for this year. **WHAT A GREAT TEAM!!!**

OUTBACK RIDERS

The TTRC's performing group "The Outback Riders" are currently practising for performances at **Allora Show** (9th February) and **Clifton Show** (16th February).

Other dates for performances throughout the year so far are:

Thursday 11th, Friday 12th & Saturday 13th April—Toowoomba Royal Show.

Saturday 4th May—Jondaryan Heritage Festival, Jondaryan Woolshed.

Saturday 6th July—Performance for Toowoomba Hospice Charity Day at Clifford Park Racetrack.

Friday 19th July—performance for SE Qld Pony Club

Friday 13th September—OBR & Man From Snowy River performances at Beenleigh Show.

Carnival of Flowers Parade Saturday 21st September—this is open to all members to participate riding in club uniform with flags in the street parade.

ATHRA has offered to run a Trail Boss accreditation course in Toowoomba on Saturday 20th and Sunday 21st April. This course runs for a day and a half and is open to any of our members. We may be joined by members from other clubs also. We already have a number of names for this course but if you are interested and have not put your name down yet please contact Konrad on 0408 495 762 to register for this course.

LARGE ANIMAL RESCUE COURSE

ATHRA is organising for course to be run in Toowoomba on Large Animal Rescue conducted by Queensland Horse Council. The course date is yet to be set. It is a full day course and includes a comprehensive rescue manual and costs and other details will be forwarded as they come to hand.

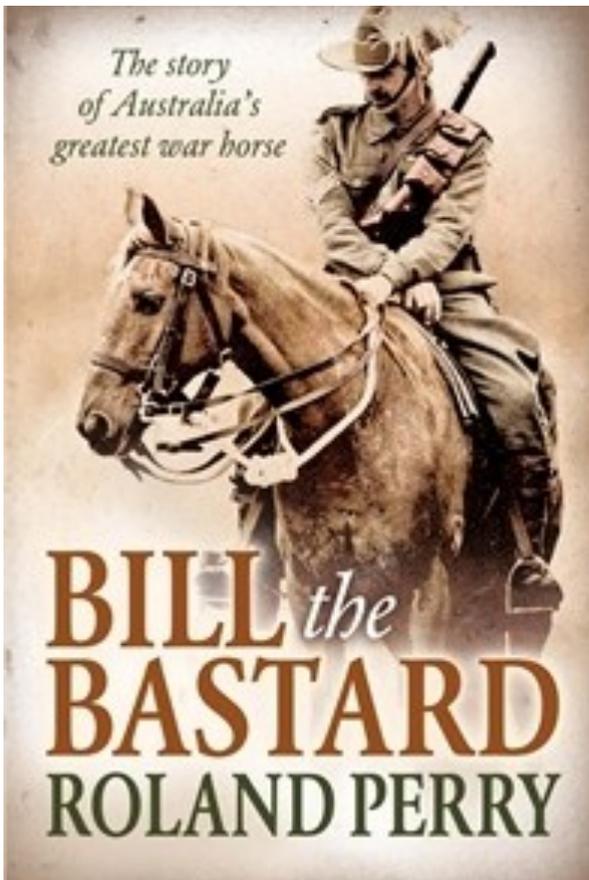
BOOK —BILL THE BASTARD

I read about this book in Hoofbeats magazine and promptly bought it. Have just started reading it. The summary on the back cover reads as follows:

Bill was massive. He had power, intelligence and unmatched courage. In performance and character he stood above all the other 200,000 Australian horses sent to the Middle East in the Great War. But as war horses go he had one serious problem. No one could ride him but one man—Major Michael Shanahan. Some even thought Bill took a sneering pleasure in watching would-be riders hit the dust.

Bill the Bastard is the remarkable tale of a bond between a determined trooper and his stoic but cantankerous mount. They fought together. They depended on each other for their survival. And when the chips were down, Bill's heroic efforts and exceptional instincts in battle saved the lives of Shanahan and four of his men.

By September 1918, "Bill the Bastard" was known by the entire Desert Mounted Corps, who used his name not as an insult, but as a term of endearment. Bill had become a legend, a symbol of the courage and unbreakable will of the Anzacs. There was no other horse like Bill the Bastard.



The summary above mentions that Bill saved Shanahan & 4 of his men—this was all AT ONCE—Shanahan in the saddle, 2 sitting behind the saddle and 1 man on either side with one foot in a stirrup holding on and firing at the enemy behind. The huge Waler carried the 5 men at a lumbering gallop over soft sand to safety. It was also the first time Bill had allowed anyone but Shanahan on-board without bucking!

Incidentally—my late uncle, a retired Brigadier, was in the last class at the Royal Military College, Duntroon to study and practice Equitation.

Mandy Beer

HODGSONVALE RIDE REPORT by Jane Thomas

Seven riders set out for a hot but enjoyable ride on 12th January from Hugh and Helen Rose's lovely property on Meyninks Road, Hodgsonvale. We rode south on Breydon's Road climbing some great hills on the stock route and up onto Wilson's Road with magnificent views to the east. We even picked out our dream homes and horse properties!

After we washed our horses and some of us stayed on for lunch. Thanks to Helen and Hugh Rose for their hospitality at short notice.

A big thanks to Jane also for organising the first ride for 2013.



From left: Jane Thomas, Greg Zirbel, Mandy Beer, Tara Romer, Catrina Grams & Joan Willshire. Konrad Beer took the photo.

UPCOMING RIDES:

- * Ride from Robyn Brown's property at Ramsey Rd, Hodgsonvale on Sunday 17th February—details to follow in a notice.
- * Stanthorpe Ride camp over 2nd & 3rd March.

BAYSTONE—WINNER OF THE 1958 MELBOURNE CUP

I have often heard my husband Konrad relate stories about the big racehorse that lived with the Beer family on Buddah Station, outside Narromine after his racing career was over. In fact he often says that the first horse he ever rode was a Melbourne Cup winner—so I guess his love of Thoroughbreds stems from that time. The five Beer children, of which Konrad was the youngest, would often hop on Baystone and go for a ride—all together. They would lead the big horse under an old Peppertree and climb up the tree and onto his back one by one. Konrad, being the littlest, would be on the ground holding the reins and when the four others were on-board his eldest sister Toni would reach down and pull Konrad up and off they would go on their group ride! By all accounts Baystone was a very easy going horse particularly with the children.

He was the first horse to win a Melbourne Cup wearing the No. 7 saddlecloth and was ridden to victory by a 21 year old Mel Schumacher. The 1950's saw the development of barriers for starting a race however 1958 was the first year the Melbourne Cup had been started out of barriers—previously a simple line up with a rope in front was used and the rope was raised to start the race with the starter yelling “go”.

Baystone may have been retired from racing but he still earned his keep as a very useful stock horse who was happy to do whatever was required of him.

Konrad particularly likes telling the story of a typical day when his father had just employed a new young jackeroo who rather overestimated his skills as a rider. Invariably, for such a clever chap the wonderful Baystone would be the horse chosen as a suitable mount—dependable and easy going he would poke around all day at whatever pace he was asked to work at. This of course further enhanced the young jackeroo's opinion of himself as he had obviously had no trouble riding the big horse.

With the work done they would soon head for home—but the day was not over yet—there were still some lessons to be learned and Baystone would be today's teacher. The head stockman called the riders to line up side by side facing the direction of the homestead—yes—you guessed it—triggering the big fellow's memory of racing. Then he yelled “GO!” and the big bay Thoroughbred

surged to the front taking the lead from the other contenders—it would be Baystone's race today. As he powered up to top speed his unwilling jockey's face got paler with every stride as any attempts to slow him were totally ignored! Konrad relates that the road home entailed an almost 90 degree bend on one section—many a would-be hero was lost on this corner as the mighty Thoroughbred barely slowed for the turn. If he hadn't managed to dislodge his star jockey on this famous turn he still had one more trick up his sleeve (or hoof if you like). Baystone continued along the road hurtling towards the stable block at break neck speed only to get there and prop stop unloading his unworthy cargo onto the ground in front of him. The work day was now over—lessons were learned and Baystone reigned supreme once more! The big horse repeated these lessons as often as they were needed!



BAYSTONE AFTER WINNING THE 1958 MELBOURNE CUP

Paul Gollan Saddlery

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5%

DISCOUNT

To all members....for repairs to bridles,
saddles, swags and rugs etc. He is open Monday to Friday and generally
Saturdays (although it may be an idea to give him a call) if you're calling in
on a Saturday as he does Camp drafting and may be away).

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3/616 Ruthven Street, Toowoomba Qld

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Annie: 4688 9789

Mobile: 0417 483 658

Mark: 4688 9788

Mobile: 0407 787 579

President

**Konrad Beer
0408 495 762**

CoobeeQld@bigpond.com.au

Vice President

**Mark Abra
0407 787 579**

Secretary

**Mandy Beer
07 4630 9908**

Club Caterer

Jane Thomas

Outback Riders

Co-ordinator

Mark Abra

Treasurer

Greg Zirbel

Ride Co-ordinators

Tara Romer

0419 695 756

Sandra Jenner

Bruce Gilbert

0428 984 461

Catrina Grams

0487 294 660