



March 2018

COMING UP

4 March
Club Ride
Wollomombi

7 & 8 April
Club Ride
Tingha

6 May
Club Ride
Kingstown

Call for volunteers



Riding for the Disabled

Armidale and New England Centre



We are in desperate need of more volunteers.

We ride on the 3rd Sunday of the month at Armidale Equestrian Centre.

Please contact Carmel for more information

0401 525 455,

perrott.carmel@gmail.com

President: Michelle Pope 045 579 9000 powerpainthorses@gmail.com
Vice President: Cathy Noakes 0417 425 870 luke.noakes@gmail.com
Secretary: Sue Belson 6775 2395 Sue.Belson@csiro.au
Treasurer: Amy Brenton 0413 943 044 amybrenton@outlook.com
Newsletter & Publicity: Carmel Perrott 0401 525 455 perrott.carmel@gmail.com

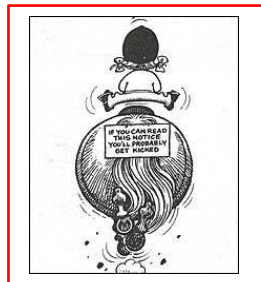
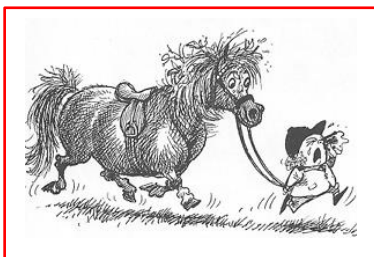
From the President:

I hope everyone is having a great start to 2018.

I'm looking forward to the March ride and catching up with everyone.

Michelle

Some NETRA horses???



ATHRA NEWS

Please be advised that ATHRA has temporarily reduced the day member fee to \$15 for the period from 1st March to 30th Sept as a trial.

EXPLANATION OF DAY MEMBERSHIP (FROM THE ATHRA WEB SITE)

A Day Member is entitled to purchase a maximum of two (2) Day Memberships per calendar year.

The cost of the Day Membership registration can be credited towards a full ATHRA membership if the full ATHRA membership is paid for within seven (7) days of the date of your Day Membership.

Day Members must contact the ATHRA club they chose to ride with prior to registering as a Day Member.

March Ride

Our February ride was cancelled due to bad weather so we are doing it in March

Wollomombi Store Lunch Ride

Sunday 4th March 2018

Starting our ride just passed the Oaky River Dam Road on the Kempsey Road.

Riding into the Wollomombi Store for lunch (roughly 7.6km) then back, so roughly a 15-17km ride all up.

Ride out time: 9.30am

Ride Description

- easy ride
- the odd hill
- mainly bush riding, odd dirt track, some tar on the Kempsey road
- river crossing (twice)
- crossing highway or can go through a tunnel
- riding through a small village
- Horses unshod should be fine, can get off onto grass in most parts.
- Don't forget to carry halters & leads to tie up while enjoying a cuppa & lunch.
- toilets available.

Bring money for lunch and/or a drink or a saddle bag lunch.

Directions

-Head out Waterfall Way (Grafton Road) for about 40km past the Bunnings roundabout.

-Go passed Wollomombi turn off

-Over bridge and turn RIGHT onto Kempsey Road. Go about 5km

-Just passed the Oaky River Dam Road (Right) you will see a sign saying Whiney Road, just passed the sign you will see a gravel cleared area to your RIGHT. Park there. I will make sure I am there or I will put a Balloon on the post.

RSVP: Please contact Cathy Noakes via SMS 0417425870 by Friday 2nd March.

If the ride is cancelled for any reason, Cathy will SMS riders between 6 and 6:30 am on Sunday morning.

Pre-nomination is required for all NETRA rides so the ride co-ordinator knows how many are attending the ride and if the necessary ATHRA Accredited Trail Bosses are available. Rides may be cancelled if there are insufficient pre-nominations.

Please Note that helmets are compulsory on all NETRA rides.



Carmel's NZ Adventure

Globetrotters New Zealand: Glenorchy Backcountry Ride, 4th - 8th December.

By David Wallace, Baringhup Trail Riders

It was about 12 months ago that I suggested to my friends that a Globetrotters ride in Glenorchy NZ might be a fun holiday to have. And so, it came to be that Debby Sharbaugh, Carmel Perrott and I booked the holiday, only to be followed a short time later by Glenn & Leighaire Casboul. So, it was that the 5 of us paid our deposits, booked airfares, arranged holidays and waited.

We waited for what seemed like years and then suddenly, we were in November and departure date for me was December 3rd! Panic.... what to take? What's the weather going to be like? Have I got the right equipment ready to go? Do I REALLY need all that?? This spawned a flurry of phone calls between each other and the host establishment, High Country Horses of Glenorchy. In the end it came down to that age old saying "if you haven't got it, you won't miss it!"

Unless you had participated on this ride it's almost impossible to find the words to convey to you just how wonderful this trip really was. From start to finish we were all gob-smacked by the beautiful scenery, our amazing hosts and guides, and the calibre of their wonderful horses, and just how good they had been to match each of us to our mount for the next 5 days. Talk about a hard act to follow.

Monday at 9am we were collected from our accommodation houses in Queenstown, and ferried the hour or so up to Glenorchy. This trip took us along the shores of Lake Wakatipu up to Glenorchy, which is on the lake shore where the Dart River and the Rees River flow into the lake. This area is where a lot of the location filming for Lord of the Rings, Wolverine, and Mission Impossible 6 were filmed.

When we arrived at the stables, we repacked our riding clothes etc into duffel bags, stowed our valuables in the "safe" and went and met our horses. And then, once all mounted and happy, it was off on our adventure. Down the Dart River we went, with numerous river crossings, cantering, and lupin-extravaganza photo opportunities, before we cantered along the lake shore to the delight of the Japanese tourists. We lunched under the old pine trees, watched over by a flock of NZ Natives (sheep!!) at the Pony Club, then back through Glenorchy and on up the Rees River before arriving at our overnight shearers' quarters at about 7.30pm.

A long day that certainly had us all feeling somewhat stiff and sore. An al fresco dinner outside with the horses grazing contentedly nearby, a few beers to quench our thirsts and then to bed. Ahhh; the serenity!

Day two saw us leave early and meander up the Rees further. The day was filled with river crossings, water play, beech forests, chatter, lupins (of course!). The mountains towered above us and still had

snow on the peaks. The day was warm, the river water cold. Our horses all were perfect. Our guides continued to expand our knowledge on NZ and its beauty. And we each took a thousand photos!! Every day!!

That afternoon we arrived at our camp site for the next 2 nights. Purpose built tent platforms, camp stretchers, and midges. All beside a glacial fed stream which provided a great cooling off point for us. All our food and supplies were brought in fresh each day by the support crew. All wonderful fresh local produce.

Day three was very similar as we pushed further up the Rees River valley towards Mt Aspiring NP. At this point we were on a privately owner sheep station, and would continue to be for the next day or so. These sheep stations are huge, and the terrain is extremely rugged and harsh. The only souls we saw were quite a few trekkers as the trail crosses over the mountains to the west and delivers the walkers to Milford Sound. Not a trek I want to tackle on foot.

Day three also saw us negotiate a sphagnum moss bog which was a bit tricky, but no mishaps, and then we got to swim our horses bareback in a glacial stream. Amazing fun. But soooo cold! My legs were numb within seconds. But a great fun way to cool off. Then back to Tent City for more socializing and eating of good food (and more attacks from the blasted midges!).

Next day saw us leave for Paradise Valley Homestead, travelling down the opposite bank of the Rees. Lots of amazing scenery to take in. As we left the Rees we travelled below Lover's Leap and its recent rather large landslip, before a leisurely ride through a forest of towering Red Beech trees. More water fun as we walked along the shoreline of Paradise Lake, the product of a long-gone glacier.

By now we were all excited to see the Paradise Valley Homestead and the delights it held within.....a soft bed and a warm shower! This homestead has been restored and bequeathed to the Glenorchy community, and is a sanctuary for flora and fauna, and a beautiful place to stay and enjoy. Surrounded by towering mountains it was indeed Paradise. That night we had a beautiful roast dinner with all the trimmings, served in the old Glenorchy School House, removed and restored here and the site of many weddings & functions.

It was a muted mob the next day as we embarked on our last day's ride. Back past the lake and the towering Beech forest, before one last good canter to the base of Mt Alfred. Then it was climb, climb, climb as our horses willingly took us to 900 feet above the valley floor. Still another 600 to go to the summit, but what a view. Spectacular. From here we could see exactly where we had been for the 4 days previous, all in one breathe-taking vista. Lunch on the side of a mountain can have some issues.... staying upright and not sliding down for one!

After lunch it was a final descent down and across the river again, back to the stables. Here we lingered, ate scones and savoured nice coffee, no one wanting to end the magic that had been created amongst all 13 of us (10 guests and 3 guides) over the 5 days. We all swapped contacts, hugged like crazy, and the tears flowed before we could eventually bring ourselves to get on the bus for our return trip to Queenstown.

And so, it was over. But it will never be forgotten. The sights, the sounds, the experience: magical. Once back in Queenstown we all converged on the waterfront to have a few beverages and to say our final goodbyes to each other. What an adventure. Thrilling. Life affirming. Sensational. Do you get the picture??? All I can say is that if you ever get the opportunity to do one of these adventures, do it. You will never regret it. Where to next? That's the big question!

Ride Calendar for 2018

Rides occur on the 1st Sunday of the month, unless otherwise stated. Rides are subject to change and are reviewed at our quarterly meetings. All planned overnight rides are held on a weekend other than the 1st Sunday unless they are within 100 kilometres of Armidale and can cater for day riders as well. If you are interested in hosting a ride please inform a committee member. If you are a ride co-ordinator please refer to the calendar to see who has the first aid kit, EPIRB and GPS.

Date	Ride Coordinator	Location
4 March	Cathy Noakes	Wollomombi
7 & 8 April	Deborah Creed	Tingha
6 May	Michelle Pope	Kingstown
3 June	Leonie Lane	Newholme
1 July	Amy Brenton	Pine Forest
5 August	Cathy Noakes	Metz

Facebook

New England Trail Riding Club (Armidale)

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1755125504766004/>

Big Sky Trailblazers Horse Riding Club (Tamworth/Gunnedah)

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1143234909036044/>

Tamworth Bush Rangers (Tamworth)

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/124753350877204/>

Border Country Trail Riders (Tenterfield)

<https://www.facebook.com/BorderCountryTrailRiders/>

ATHRA

<https://www.facebook.com/austrailiantrailhorseridersassociation/>