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TAMWORTH BUSHRANGERS TRAIL RIDING CLUB

Newsletter – February 2018

Note from Newly Elected President:

Thank you to all that were able to attend the AGM.

A warm welcome to new members and a HUGE thank you to members who have stepped down from executive positions and also to those continuing on or taking up roles.

A massive thanks to outgoing president-Scooter and all the tremendous work you have achieved. The club has benefited greatly with you as our leader.

Megan has also stepped down as ride coordinator, a tremendously big effort over the past few years- we will now be handing the reins over to members to coordinate at least one ride - grab a buddy and get your thinking caps on. Please ask if you need some ideas of where to ride and the process involved.

Look forward to meeting new and old acquaintances on our rides in 2018

Ange



Farewell to 2017.....

Our 2017 trail riding year finished with an amazing weekend based at the Nundle Pony Club Grounds on the 18th & 19th November. Quite a few members extended their weekend by arriving on the Friday afternoon with others arriving early Saturday before heading out to our organised ride on "Wombramurra Station" a 12,000 acre cattle property in the hills above Nundle, where the Peel River originates, owned by John Sylvester and his family. The skies were threatening so rain attire seemed appropriate – however apart from a brief, light shower or two we all remained dry and in high spirits as we rode over this beautiful property. Not too challenging, but very scenic. Have included a few photos, but of course, many were posted to Facebook which most members would have already seen.



After our wonderful 'dry' day the heavens opened just as we gathered in the dining hall for a spread fit for royalty. Scooter organising fresh prawns and tender BBQ fare and chicken kebabs with club members showing their culinary skills with salads of all descriptions, potato bakes etc. followed by a delicious array of desserts.

Helen then proceeded to organise the group (with NO exceptions) in the games room into teams for the very 1st **Bushrangers Olympics**. The opening ceremony featured Duncan on Bagpipes (what a hidden talent) and for the closing Ceremony we were lucky enough to have Scooter's trumpet?? accompanying the No Talent Choir's rendition of Advanced Australia Fair. We rode make believe horses, put stockings on our heads, raced imaginary kayaks, skipped and rolled our way through gymnastics and laughed and laughed and laughed some more.

An awesome effort Helen - how can we thank you enough.



**Gold Medal Winning Team
"Buckeroos"**

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE COMMITTEE AND THOSE MEMBERS WHO WORKED SO HARD BEHIND THE SCENES TO ENSURE SUCH A FUN AND SUCCESSFUL WEEKEND WAS ENJOYED BY MEMBERS & VISITORS

BUSHRANGERS OUT AND ABOUT

On the weekend 10th & 11th February, Big Sky Trailblazers hosted a very successful weekend on the beautiful property "Red Hill" at Yarrawitch approx.. 60 kms east of Walcha. In all 3 Bushrangers attended. Gail, Kevin and myself – I am sure this will go on our calendars as a weekend not to miss next year. Apart from the weather (not as hot as everywhere else) the vibrant green grass (not as dry as everywhere else), and the wonderful trails what set this weekend apart was that riders came from 5 different ATHRA clubs. What a super way to make new friends with similar interests and share stories of our riding experiences - trail rides in the mountains, on the beaches and over farmland.



Chuck Wagon Morning Tea



How Green was their Valley



Louise & Robyn reminiscing

For a more detailed description of this fun gathering catch up with the Ride Reports in both the Macleay Trail Riders and the Big Sky Trailblazers current newsletters.

Bendemeer Rodeo Grounds

start venue for first club ride of the year
Sunday 25nd February 2018

Happy New Year Bushrangers and other peeps.



As you may already know, the position of ride coordinator 2018 will be a position shared amongst members. This means at some time in the future you will be asked to take a turn in locating a ride suitable for the club. This month's turn went to volunteers Ange and Megsie who weeks ago got together and pre-rode a lovely ride in Bendemeer. With this being the first ride of the year, coupled with hot weather and a strong possibility of unfit horses, Ange and Megsie kept the ride short and simple...so thank you girls for being the first to put your hands up.

Bendemeer for those who have not been there is "a charming small town situated on the Macdonald River, between Tamworth and Armidale".

Bendemeer's original name was Macdonald River. In 1853 it was changed to Bendemeer after a river that flows near the ruins of Chilminar in Iran. Thomas Perry, the founder of Bendemeer Station, was a descendent of Captain Perry who, in turn, was a friend of Sir Thomas Moore, the author of the famous poem *Lalla Rookh* in which appears the following line "There's a bower of roses by Bendemeer's stream."

I googled all of that!!

Anyway, Bendemeer it was...always a beautiful venue and as it turned out a beautiful day for our first club ride 2018.

Riders on the day were Ange, Lydia, Tarni, Cindy, Rick, Candice, Michelle, Emma, Clayton, Megan, Claudia, Eloise, Anthony, Francie, Kylie, Ruth, Carmel Rachael, Dharia, Lorraine and Helen. Riders included a mix of the usual "unusual" Tamworthians, members from Armidale and Gunnedah clubs and others who visited for the day. I hope they enjoyed the ride and will call again. Our non-rider was blind camera man Mike, who travelled in 4WD Black Betty.

Following the usual pre-ride brief our twenty-one riders rode a settle down loop around the rodeo grounds before heading out past the alpacas. Here trail bosses halted traffic for a safe crossing of Bendemeer's elevated bridge across the Macdonald River. Next it was a left turn at the pub before a ride down Caroline Street through town. Once again locals kindly slowed cars and waited patiently to watch the passing parade whilst others peered from houses ...we of course waved like royalty.

From town we rode to and through a white gum lined TSR on the western side of the New England Highway before riding up and down over the granite until we once more reached road. As planned, it was here we entered a tunnel, then rode under Dunducketty Creek Bridge and underneath the highway. All horses took this in their stride. Now on the eastern side of the highway, we entered another common, where the group divided to those that wanted to canter and those that didn't. Each took alternate routes looping around the paddock until we met once again. Following this, it was back through the tunnel where on reaching a tree shaded spot, we paused for a quick morning tea, photo opportunity and return through town, over the bridge and rodeo grounds.

Whilst still mounted, President Ange gave a quick ride debrief, thanked riders and invited those who could, to join us at the Bendy Pub for lunch and much needed thirst quenching, cool drink. Those who could, enjoyed a happy time, as we hope those who could not, did also. Following the ride, some also took horses to the river for a splash and enjoyable roll in the sand.





Ride Report by Helen Woods.

TAMWORTH BUSHRANGERS PROPOSED RIDE CALENDAR

2018				
Ride Date	Ride Month	Ride Coordinator	Location	Comments
25	February	Megsy / Ange	Bendemeeer	
25	March	Lydia / Anthony	Moore Creek	
22	April	Francie	Bendemeeer/Watsons Ck	
27	May	Helen / Ange	?	
24	June	? Donna	? Dungowan	
29	July	Megsy	Moonbi	Note = 5th weekend
26	August	Bev / Jane	?	
23	September	Clayton / Gail/Kevin	?	
28	October	Kylie / Ruth	?	
25	November ? Xmas	? Jane and friends	? Nundle	TBC

All subject to change should people or venues be unavailable

Please ask for assistance if you are unsure of the coordinators role
All rides are to be preridden and ride information distributed as early as possible
If you know of any other rides please share this information, we may be able to fit in a couple of extra rides if people are interested
If you are unable to coordinate the ride in the month allocated to you please swap with someone else early enough to give time for pre rides to be attended and information distributed before the ride and email executive to inform of change.
Unfortunately the ride will not go ahead if no one is prepared to coordinate the ride for the month.
Rides are usually between 3-5 hours depending on the weather and the venue. A camp over on Saturday night is also welcomed if the venue can accommodate this

Thank you for everyone's involvement with the club, if we all do a little then we all have fun. Ange



Have a friend or know someone who would like to Trail Ride and possibly join an ATHRA Club but not sure what it is all about Bring them along on a ride and take advantage of the ATHRA reduced Day Membership fee, usually \$40 per day but
**** For a limited time MARCH until SEPTEMBER ... Day Membership + Ride Fee \$20****

BUSHRANGERS OUT AND ABOUT

Note from the Editor: This Newsletter is put together for the information and enjoyment of our members, however, articles can only be published if you provide them. As horse loving Trail Riders it is not just about the monthly ride and the Ride Report even though this is perhaps the most anticipated article (*hope they didn't mention or use that photo!*) Would love to receive news of other 'horsey' happenings – eg. How did you go at Pony Club?: Something funny happen on the pre-ride?: See something amazing at ALEC?: Ride with another club? In another country? Your horse trashed his new rug?: If it is 'horsey' it will probably be interesting. Please submit stuff by the end of the month to: barlowpark2@gmail.com



If heading out to ride at another club it could be a good idea to take your receipt from ATHRA with you as proof of current ATHRA membership. Cards are no longer issued. Perhaps put a copy in your tow vehicle glovebox or your tack box just in case.

And here is a list of proposed rides away from home to think about.

Calendar of planned Trail Riding Events 2018 (NETRA, Bluebums, Bushrangers)

Date	Club	Where	Type	Person to Organise Ride
4 March	NETRA	Tingha	Day	
17-18 March	Bluebums	Trinke Forest Full Moon Ride	Camp	
25 March	Bushrangers	Moore Ck	Day	Lydia
1 April	NETRA			
8 April	Bluebums		Day	
13-15 April	Gunnedah Show			
? April	Bluebums	Sandy Hollow Camp		
22 April	Bushrangers	Bendemeer/ Watson's Ck	Day	Francie
6 May	NETRA			
13 May	Bluebums	Spring Mount Carroll	Day	Joe Rennick
27 May	Bushrangers			
3 June	NETRA			
10 June	Bluebums	Pilliga Pottery	Long Weekend Camp	John and Kelly Mason
24 June	Bushrangers	? Dungowan		
1 July	NETRA			
8 July	Bluebums			
29 July	Bushrangers	Moonbi	Day	Megan Galvin Note 5 th weekend
5 August	NETRA			
12 August	Bluebums	Goally	Camp	John and Kelly Mason
26 August	Bushrangers			
30 Aug/1 September	Tamworth Show	ALEC		
2 September	NETRA			
9 September	Bluebums	Stobo – Barrington Tops	Camp	Joe Rennick
23 September	Bushrangers			
7 October	NETRA			
14 October	Bluebums	Somerton National Park	Day	Bernie Irwin
28 October	Bushrangers			
4 November	NETRA			
11 November	Bluebums	Spring Mount	Camp	Joe Rennick
25 November	Bushrangers	? Christmas Party Ride ? Nundle	Camp	TBA
2 December	NETRA			
9 December	Bluebums	Christmas Party		TBA

CALENDER Subject to change due to weather or other circumstances. Please keep up to date for changes with respective clubs.