



# February 2018

## Next Ride

When: **Sunday 18th February**

Where: Limestone Track Winery Ride & BBQ, Guildford

Ride Organiser: **David Wallace**

Riders must pre-nominate to David ormdavidblackstump@gmail.com or 0419359073

*Members of other ATHRA clubs are welcome to join us by arrangement, but will need to bring proof of 2018 membership or purchase a day membership online prior (see [www.athra.com.au](http://www.athra.com.au))*

## Club Contacts

**Baringhup Trail Riders Club Inc.**  
Baringhup Recreation Reserve,  
Baringhup, Victoria 3463

**President:**

Sharon Soldatos 0417 368 048  
[sharon@caerperformance.com.au](mailto:sharon@caerperformance.com.au)

**Vice President:**

Sally Foran 0455 861 452  
[sallyforan@hotmail.com](mailto:sallyforan@hotmail.com)

**Secretary:**

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**Treasurer:**

Linda Chase 0409 285 413  
[jenace@skymesh.com.au](mailto:jenace@skymesh.com.au)

**Newsletter:**

Justine Image 0457 412 274  
[jimage@elphinstone.net](mailto:jimage@elphinstone.net)

## Upcoming Ride

### Limestone Track Winery Ride & BBQ, Guildford

**Pre-nominations are required for all BTR rides.**

*Please see the ride description for the details of who to contact with your nomination. This is necessary for the ride leader to ascertain how many people are attending a ride, and whether the necessary trail bosses will be available for ATHRA certification of the ride. Rides may be cancelled if there are insufficient pre-nominations, so please do not assume you can just show up on the day without prior notice. If your situation changes and you wish to attend a ride on short notice, please contact the ride leader first, to make sure the ride is still going forward.*

*The ride leader is also the person to contact if you need more information about ride conditions before you decide whether to attend.*

**Where:** 6551 Midland Highway, Guildford (David's farm)

**When:** Sunday 18th February. Horseless muster 2.45PM, ride out 3PM.

**Directions:** Travel south from Castlemaine along the Midland Highway, passing through Guildford, travel 5kms south with #6551 on your right. Will be sign posted for BTR. It is located approx 18kms north of Daylesford if coming from that direction.

**Parking:** Plenty of parking available in the paddock, as signed. Horse water available there too.

**Sign in:** COME & SEE David on arrival. \$5 fee for non-BTR riders.

**Description:** We will be riding out the front gate and across the Highway onto a wide grassy verge before entering the bush. It will take about 2hrs to get to Limestone Track Winery travelling along single file bush tracks, old fire trails and some bush-bashing. Some hills and quite stony, so please ensure your horse is shod, wearing boots, or conditioned to barefoot. Some trot and canter available.

Family of BTR members are welcome to attend and can meet us at the winery at 5PM. BTR will be providing a simple sausage sizzle dinner and some wine tastings. There will also be a vehicle available to take horse buckets etc to the winery and return your wine sales to your float. The ride home can be about an hour, mostly along fire trails.

**Conditions:** Suitable for all levels of rider experience.

**Bring:** Drink bottle, halter and lead rope, and money for wine purchases.

**Nominations/Queries to David 0419359073.**

**RSVP numbers for catering by 16th February**

## Upcoming Ride Cont.

### NOTE:

BTR's Heat Ruling will be in effect and if temps are forecast above 33C the ride will be cancelled.

### NOTE:

Day Members must register online prior to the ride at [www.athra.com.au](http://www.athra.com.au), (pay the \$35 ATHRA fee during the online process and \$5.00 club fee on the day). Day Members should contact the club prior to the ride and bring proof of Day Membership on the day.



## Ride Report

**As the January Campbell's Creek ride was postponed due to hot weather, David has prepared a report on a Mt Stirling & Craig's Hut ride he did with the Mansfield & District Trail Riders ATHRA Club.**

Some years ago, when BTR hosted their last Accreditation weekend, I met Jilly Archer and remained in touch with her when she moved to Mansfield. Once there she set up an ATHRA club to take advantage of the brilliant mountain riding in that area. So naturally, when she advertised this day ride to Mt Stirling and Craig's Hut from Razorback Hut camp ground, I, along with some other friends signed up straight away.

So, it was that the 4 of us set off on a Saturday morning, bound for a rendezvous at Mansfield and a camping weekend away, and hoping for some adventure. The weather had been very hot in the lead up, so I wasn't surprised for it to top at 38C during the road trip. But we were surprised to grind to a halt for 30 minutes just outside Merton because of a road accident. Geordie handled the heat and the unscheduled stop rather well. But when we arrived at Mansfield and awaited the arrival of the girls (Sally Benn, Carina Wickens and Yolanda Howe), things got a little worse. Yolanda's car came in with a loud knocking noise which had us all

thinking "radiator". We fuelled up and pushed on, rather slowly.

As we travelled up Circuit Rd towards razorback, it was soon evident that the radiator wasn't going to make it. Yolanda and Carina pulled over, while Sally and I pushed on. The plan was for Sally to return with an empty float, so she could take the horses up the mountain, and Yolanda would "deal" with the car. Me, I was to mind the horses and campsite; easy! Some time later Sally reappeared with only one horse.... Carina was riding the other horse the 10kms up the mountain, and Yolanda was driving slowly in front. It worked. They both arrived safely and in need of a drink.

Razorback Hut is set in a beautiful clearing surrounded by tall mountain ash trees. And is a well-used basecamp for a lot of the local trail ride tour operators. Unfortunately, there is very little water available there, so we had to carry in enough water for our horses, but as Nature would have it, it was hot and humid, and the horses drank more than we'd expected. Yolanda's hubby and son were coming

up on the Sunday to fix the radiator, so also were asked to bring lots more water.

The ride to Mt Stirling was going to be warm, so the 9 of us rode out at 9AM to avoid some of the heat. We rode through some beautiful tall timber, up and down some steep slopes, and eventually reached a nice 4x4 track that allowed us to have a mad gallop towards the summit. The scenery was beautiful, and then we popped out above the tree line and were afforded clear views of the Mt Buller ski village. Then across a snow-grass plain to reach those iconic granite boulders that form the viewing platform out across the endlessly stretching blue mountains that typify the Aussie High Country. Wow! ☑

Then the real ride began as we descended into the valley amongst the snow gums and their soft-hued trunks. These tracks were all single trail through the low bush and presented some challenges with footing. We had passed a few of the Huts as the ride proceeded, and saw some 4x4 vehicles and mountain bikers, but no other trail riders.



*Find us on Facebook!*

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/BTR.ATHRA/>

## Ride Report Cont.

After a short stop at a spring fed dam for a well-earned drink for our horses, we continued, eventually coming onto Craig's Hut almost unexpectedly.

The hut nestles into the side of the mountain, and is approached through a field of native wildflowers, nodding in the breeze. There were a few sightseers around, but loads of room, and such good photo opportunities. We stopped for lunch there (it'd only taken about 2.5hrs to get there) and we all went berserk with our phone cameras! Beautiful views in all directions. Craig's Hut. ☑

After lunch we retraced our steps until we almost reached the summit of Mt Stirling again, then we took a more northerly track back around the mountain. This brought us past a few more Huts, and some interesting trails. At one stage we came across a road block with no easy way around the rope barrier. My solution was to stand on the rope and let everyone

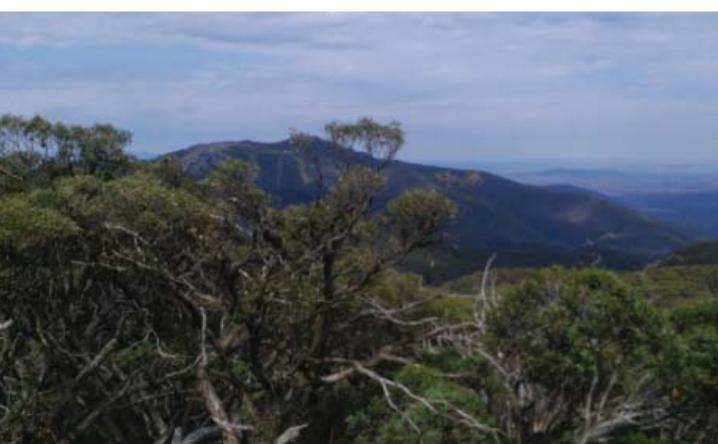
walk over it. That worked well. This area of the Alpine Park is crisscrossed with loads of trails, tracks and roads, some are clearly marked for horses, some aren't. Our route home was well navigated by Jilly and crew, and we popped out onto the trail at King Saddle and we were almost home. A short trot up a beautiful track through the tall timbers and we came into our campsite.

It was a hot day, even at that altitude, so we all cooled off as best we could. The girls were all staying on another night, and the radiator fan had been fixed, so all seemed good. I was heading back down the mountain to stay the night with some friends in Mansfield. And I was pleased to get behind the wheel and crank up the aircon! What a great ride we had had that day. Everyone was a bit gob-smacked about having done the ride and seen those iconic sites. But all very happy.

Geordie and I said our goodbyes and headed down to the heat of the valley. It was lovely to spend some quality time with Sue and Graeme at their beautiful new property and to meet some of their new critters. It was a very comfy night's sleep, and Graeme and I saddled up early, so he could show me their local neighbourhood. Beautiful country. So many lovely horse properties about. But it was warming up again, so after a late breakfast and some more chatting, we once again headed for home. I was extremely pleased with Geordie and his athleticism, and am once again looking forward to Feb, when we go back to ride the Howqua River again, for 3 days. Can't wait. All those river crossings... so much fun on a hot day. Unfortunately for you all, that ride is fully booked, but you could waitlist for it if keen? Stay tuned for that adventure wrap up.



# Ride Report Cont.



## Equine Practitioner

*This will be an occasional inclusion where I shamelessly plug a practitioner or local business I have had positive experience with. If you have a favourite equine health person, please email through their details so I can approach them to be involved - it would be a great way to support quality services!*

**The equine practitioner featured this month is Erika Gough from Inside Out Equine Health. Erika is a qualified Equine Nutritionist and has her own business offering nutritional consultations alongside faecal egg counting. Erika has loved horses as long as she can remember and her mum says that she started asking for riding lessons at almost the same time that she started to walk!**

*Your favourite horse:* This is a tough one! I have two horses at the moment and I love both of them. I have an 8 year old retired OTTB (spinal issues) and a very sassy friesian x mare. I bought her before she had been started and she makes me a better rider every day!

*What services do you provide for horses?* I provide nutritional consultations, basic health checks faecal egg counting and offsite pasture analysis. I offer people online and face-to-face consultations and each client receives a full written report with a current diet analysis and a new diet plan with explanations of why I'm recommending each feed and how to feed it. Getting the diet right is important to health, performance, behaviour and aesthetics. For a horse with Cushing's or laminitis getting the

diet right can literally be life-changing. Faecal egg counting is really important for two reasons - Firstly, parasites are becoming resistant to the worming products available to us (much like humans and antibiotics) and additionally, why put chemicals into your horse if they're not required?

*Can you tell us about a memorable equine client?* Also a tough question! I do remember one of my first clients, a much-loved, 27 year old pony with Cushing's (that was still in light work) had lost a great deal of weight and muscle, had no energy and was staring off into space a lot. The owner was really worried about what the future held for him. I recommended a completely new diet plan and after about three weeks fully on the new diet he was back to his old self, put on the weight he'd lost and was back

in full work again! Such an amazing feeling to get such great results and make horse and human so happy.

*Why do you love what you do?* See above :) I'm convinced I have the best job in the world. Every time I can improve a horse's health and save someone stress and/or money it's just so rewarding. We all want the best for our horses, but we can't all know everything about everything!



You can find Erika online at [www.insideoutequinehealth](http://www.insideoutequinehealth) or <https://www.facebook.com/insideoutequinehealth/>

# Ride Calendar 2018

<b>January</b>	21st January	Campbell's Creek Ride	Sally Foran
<b>February</b>	18th February	Limestone Track Winery Ride & BBQ, Guildford	David Wallace
<b>March</b>	10th-12th March	Barmah Forest Camp (Labour Day w/e)	David Wallace
<b>March</b>	30th March - 2nd April	<b>Easter Holidays</b>	
<b>April</b>	29th April	Mirrabel, South Australia 10 day ride	
<b>May</b>			
<b>June</b>	16th-17th June	Weekend Winery Lunch Ride	Alison Jeynes
<b>July</b>	15th July	Newstead Pub Lunch Ride	Debby Sharbaugh
<b>August</b>	19th August	Avoca Day Ride	Jennifer Williams
<b>September</b>	16th September	Taradale Ride	Justine Image
<b>October</b>	21st October	Mt. Cole Ride, Possible Camp	Cecelia & Vanessa
<b>November</b>			
<b>December</b>	16th December	BTR Christmas Ride	TBC

## For sale

Pasture hay, primarily phalaris and clover. Baled November 2017. Tested as 12.6% protein, 14% WSC and 11.2% ESC.

Sell for \$7 or swap for lower sugar hay. This is beautiful weed free hay but the ESC is too high for my insulin challenged horses.

Approximately 60 bales available.

Debby Sharbaugh, 0428250056

