

Blue Mountains Trail Riders Horse Tales

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2018



The official newsletter of the
Blue Mountains Trail Horse Riders Club Inc.

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Your 2018 Committee members:

President – Dee Thornthwaite
Vice President – Phil Carr
Secretary – Kerry Manning
Treasurer – Teresa Tidball
National Parks Liason – Dee Thornthwaite
Publicity Officer – Judy Duck
Committee – Leanne Carter/ Debbie Beanland
Dagmar Sweetland

Just a reminder that you need to show your ATHRA card or receipt before you can participate in any ride for insurance requirements.

Inside this issue:

1. Cover page
2. Presidents Report
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8. Businesses that Support Us

Upcoming rides

September 2018

Sun 16th – Pattersons Range – Dagmar

October 2018

Sun 21st – Riley's Mulgoa – Julie

November 2018

23/24/25th Xmas Party Weekend
Megalong Valley

December 2018

Sun 9th – Sun Valley – Dagmar

Articles published in this newsletter are published only as a service to members and are intended as a guide only.

Presidents Report.

September 2018

Our rides have been going quite well, Sam's Way turned out to be an all girls ride with ladies and mares only attending. Sun valley was a beautiful day and we had a great ride. The only one that didn't go ahead was Phil's ride at Colo. We haven't ridden in this area for quite some time and I know that Phil and Judy had put a lot of work into it but unfortunately we had been having some very strong winds the week before and on the day the wind was really blowing making it very dangerous to be out there on the trail or even travelling along Putty Road with a float. So I think Phil certainly made the right call putting this one off for another day.

I have recently been involved in the 'Beginners Cattle Clinic's' that have been offered at Grahame Ware Jr's riding School at Yarramundi, (Hawkesbury Valley Equestrian Centre). Much to my surprise Sharnee was very good at it and I think that I will continue to attend.

Teresa, Judy and Phil are also interested in doing the clinic so if we have enough of our members interested in attending one of the beginners clinic's we may be able to have our own days at the centre by hiring the arena and the cattle for the afternoon. Teresa has indicated that she can conduct a class of 'cattle cutting' once we have had some basic training.

We have made contact with the organisers of the Mountain Track Club that use Yellomundee on a regular basis and they have agreed to let us know when they have any events that could cause us to not to want to go there for a ride. They have also agreed to print some horse/push bike rules in their newsletters so that their members can be better prepared to handle coming across horse riders in the future. They have also suggested that we get together to go to NPWL to get some signs up in the area about appropriate behaviour when bikes meet horses on the shared trail. This should make our use of the area much safer.

Our Christmas Party organisation has begun with the Christmas Committee having the first of the meetings last week.

We are holding it at 'Euroka Homestead' in the beautiful Megalong Valley this year. We have previously held it at 'The Cottage' but this year we have a few extra members so we have gone for the larger accommodation. Keep your eyes open for more information on our facebook page.

That's it for now,

Enjoy your rides.

DEE



News Items

Wet Weather Arrangements

It has only just come to my attention that a lot of our club members are not aware of our 'Wet Weather Arrangements. There is a plan in place to cancel any of our rides due to bad weather, be it too hot, or too wet, or any unforeseen circumstances such as being too boggy under foot for our horses or for our floats. The Trail boss of the day is the only one who had the power to cancel or move a ride location at the last minute or maybe even earlier. This is why all club members and visitors are asked to 'Ring to Register.' When you ring and register to ride, the Trail Boss has your phone number handy and is aware that you are going to turn up so its not such a big deal for him or her to get in contact with you to move or cancel the ride on short notice if necessary. It would be far more difficult if he or she has to turn on a computer in the morning to start sending messages. Bearing in mind the fact that he or she is a bit busier than most on the morning of ride as there extra duties to perform. You can, if you want, text or ring to check with the Trail Boss, as you too should have their contact details handy in case you can't attend for any reason and let them know. Decisions on cancelling or changing a ride are normally made as early as possible, the night before or very early on the morning of the ride so that the club members don't actually leave home or head in the wrong direction.

Ride Reports or Information for the newsletters please email to Judy. duckjudith@gmail.com

Club Shirts with the New Club Logo.

Short Sleeve Polo **\$35**

Long Sleeve Cotton \$50

Put your name on
your shirt for Only **\$4**



Upcoming Ride Details:

Patterson's Range fire trail – Sunday 16th September 2018

Meet : Left hand side. Just before Pattersons Range Rd.

Duration : 4 hours +. Leaving 10.00am sharp.

BYO : Bring lunch & water for horses.

Type : Medium going some hills and rough ground. Bridge crossing.

Ride Co-ordinator : Dee 0411 275 133

NO SMOKING at this Ride base.

Rileys Mountain – Sunday 21st October 2018

Meet : On grass verge in Park River Close. 10.00am sharp.

Duration : 4 hours

BYO : Bring lunch & water for horses.

Type : Medium going hills narrow tracks and some rough ground.

Ride coordinator: **Julie** PH 4776 2210

Ring 48 hours prior.

Please PICK UP YOUR HORSE'S MANURE and NO SMOKING ON THIS RIDE OR AT THE RIDE BASE



CHRISTMAS PARTY WEEKEND 23rd, 24th and 25th November 2018

This just in! We will be going to the **Euroka Homestead in Megalong Valley**

Limited to 18 people, first in, best dressed.

Club members have until the 21 September to confirm their spot before we open it up to family of club members.

Secure your spot for \$75. (Message Teresa if any issues.)

Deposit into BMTHRC account:

Name: BMTHRC

BSB: 302-966

Account: 000 226 806

Reference: Your first initial and last name (i.e. TTidball)

Further information will follow soon,

Sun Valley Day Ride – Sunday 9th December 2018

Meet : Sunvalley Pony Club.
10 am Ready to ride

Duration : 4 hour s +.

BYO : Lunch and drink.

Type : Easy going. Possible water crossings

Ride Co-ordinator : Dagmar 0431 911 094

Ring 48 hours prior.

Ride Reports:

The View from Behind Sun Valley – Sunday 22nd July 2018



Fast Facts:

- Sun Valley is considered the Blue Mountain Trail Horse Riders Club home ground.
- Sun Valley is the result of a geological formation known as a diatrema or volcanic vent.
- The trails can be a bit rocky underfoot with several shallow water crossings.

- Although there are no loop trails, there are a couple different trails that will keep you busy all day.

Clancy and I took the steep descent into Sun Valley and came across the Sun Valley Pony Club, which is our designated ride base. There were heaps of bikes there, as we didn't know that the bike riding club was having a race there today. However, they were only going to be riding around in the pony club, so we shared a parking area and all was good.

The riders were Dee (as trail boss), Leanne (Stubbs), Rita, Katie, and Teresa/me (drag). As we started out Leanne took the lead as her horse was keen to get going. I offered to ride drag today as I wanted to practice that with Clancy. Previously, he wasn't too happy about being last.

Once we got out on the trail, the horses settled into position which tended to be Leanne and Dee at the front, Rita and Katie next, and myself on Clancy at the back. Being at the back was a big change from me, as my previous horse, Digger, always was determined to be at the front, first, winning the race, and leading the group. I enjoyed letting Clancy pick his way down the trail at the back and remind him that it's okay to be last and to have a good amount of space between the horses.

The creek crossings were low, and all the horses handled them well. We went past the ascent to Five Ways and through the spot that always has a decent amount of water in it. It was fun to challenge the horses through the water.



We turned around and planned to have a canter up to five ways. I decided to keep Clancy last as this would be our first group canter together. The ponies were keen, so they were first. Well... it didn't quite work out as planned. The ponies decided they didn't want to go very fast, so all us big horses were stuck up the back behind them. Clancy was excellent and listened to

me when I said we weren't allowed to pass. We had a bit of a canter up the top and all the horses were puffing from the run.

Lunch was at the lookout, and then we headed back down the mountain and to home. I took the opportunity to practice having Clancy stop and let the other horses walk away. He was very good and did what I asked. He didn't get worried and try to run after the other horses. I'm very pleased with how he's going as this was his second club ride. I think we have found our place. I love meandering at the back.

See you at the next ride!

~ Teresa & Clancy the Waler Horse



The Colo Heights Ride was cancelled due to dangerously windy conditions.

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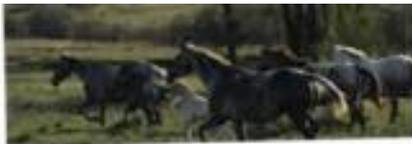
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