

# Blue Mountains Trail Riders Horse Tales

## NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2018



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

P.O. Box 1849 PENRITH NSW 2751

Email: [bmthrc@gmail.com](mailto:bmthrc@gmail.com)

Web page: <http://www.athra.com.au/clubs/nsw/bmthrc>

### **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
3. News
4. Upcoming ride details
5. Ride reports
8. Businesses that Support Us

### **Upcoming rides**

#### **January 2019**

Sun 20<sup>th</sup> January - Scheyville – Dee

#### **February 2019**

Sun 17<sup>th</sup> February – Sun Valley + AGM

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

## Presidents Report.

This year is just about over with only one ride to go. We have had a great year with most of our rides going ahead and no accidents at all. We have had lots of good times, companionship with our fellow riders and the club has been running very smoothly. There is a lot of cooperation and good friendships within the committee and I think this had continued through to our rides and our annual Christmas Weekend.

I'd like to thank the committee for their enthusiasm and hard work, without them all putting their time aside and working together we would not have the wonderful club that we have today. Phil, the vice president, has had a hard year with bad health but has still been there to help me make some of the important decisions during the year. Kerry has been doing a good job of secretary, Teresa is an amazing treasurer and we are financially secure thanks to her expertise, she is also a great organiser doing most of the coordination for our Christmas Weekend. Judy does a fantastic job of editor, our newsletters are very informative and are put together in an easy to read and follow design and it always looks so special. Leanne, Dagmar & Debbie have been there at the meetings to support and help make all of our decisions and follow up to get things happening. Also Julie has saved the day quite a few times by stepping in and Trail Bossing for us when others were unable to do it.

I have been liaison officer with NPWL again this year and while things are getting harder for us to gain entry to where we want to be I feel that we are doing well to have as much riding as we do in an area so close to the city.

I was recently asked to arrange a meeting by the ranger in charge of Scheyville with the local horse riding representatives. They are going to do some more fencing and gating to try to keep the 4WD's out of the park and hopefully we have made it clear that we will not be locked out of Scheyville. It looks like a cavaletti system will be put in place with a unlocked gate for a few months so everyone gets the opportunity to teach their horses how to use them. Then the gate will be locked leaving only the cavaletti system for us to be able to gain entry. This seems to be the only compromise that NPWL are happy with. The park will be locked on all sides except for the parking area on the nature strip at the top end of the park and the car/float parking area inside the park on Scheyville Road.

Our Christmas party weekend was a great success with everyone who attended having a great time. We had lots of good rides, food, drink and entertainment.

A big thank you to the following people/businesses for the gifts....

Teresa from 'Tidball Accountancy' for beautiful headstalls, the Sweetland family for matching lead ropes, Debbie for candles from Kurrajong Farmhouse.

These gifts were for all who attended the weekend.

Horseland, Newmarket Saddlery, Sydney Equestrian Supplies for gift vouchers, Ashbree Saddlery for girth voucher, Equipax for Yea Sacc, Equine Nutrition Supplies and Performance Saddle Fits NSW for Cen Oil, which were all lucky door prizes.

I think that we can all agree that these were very generous gifts and extremely useful items for us. We are a lucky club to have such great people for sponsors and great members who organise these gifts & prizes.

Also thank you to everyone who helped out with shopping and cooking for the weekend and those who organised the kitchen and the entertainment on the night. Also a big thank you to Barry and Gaye for all the lovely photos.

I hope that you all have a safe and happy Christmas and holiday season, and I am looking forward to seeing you at the first ride of the year in January 2019.

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](mailto: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:

### Scheyville Day Ride – Sunday 20th January 2019

**Meet :** Corner of Old Pitt Town Road & Scheyville Road.  
10am sharp Ready to ride  
**Duration :** 3 hour s +.  
**BYO :** Lunch and water for horses.  
**Type :** Easy going.  
**Ride Co-ordinator :** Dee PH 0411 275 133  
**Ring 48 hours prior.**

### **AGM Feb 17th 2019 at Sun Valley.**

### Sun Valley Day Ride before the Meeting – Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2019

**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 :** See Facebook Page prior to ride date.  
**Ring 48 hours prior.**

## Ride Reports:

### **Patterson's Range Fire Trail Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2018**

The day was sunny, not a cloud in the sky. 5 of us ventured up to Bilpin for a fantastic ride. It was set to be an interesting ride as we had 2 green horses, 2 of us who where trying to get our horses to settle better in company with Dee as trail boss who was trying to keep everyone happy and safe. Dee was on her new horse Geronimo who she had only had for 1 week and she was not sure what he would be like on a road with the occasional car and trailer passing us. Debbie was riding her lovely grey Arab who had not been on a club ride before but was not used to riding in groups at a slow pace. Welcome Debbie.

We rode along the top of the ridge watching out for each other and continuously changing positions within the ride. This was great training for my mare Bella as she needs to 'get over herself' and be happy where ever she in in the ride. Dee's Geronimo was generally happier at the back but I think everyone rode with Dee at some time or another. The ride was not a "walk only" ride and everyone was confident enough to have some nice trots and canters along the way. As usual Julie and Amity were mainly in front and Teresa and Clancy found a slightly faster gear than usual. As we got to the top of the big hill we decided to park there for lunch as the big hill down to the picnic grounds may have been a bit to much for some of the horses.

We all tied up, found a log to sit on and sat down for lunch and a chat. All the horses tied up well and even when Geronimo got a fright and pulled back it was not an issue.

The ride home was probably a bit quicker than on the way out, as it usually was but generally the horses and riders did a good job. About 300 meters before the floats everyone dismounted and lead their horses back to the float.

I think everyone enjoyed the ride and we all learnt a bit more about our horses.

I love this club, the way our trail bosses take the safety of our members seriously and our members all look out for each other so we all keep safe and happy.

See you at the next ride.

Judy and Bella







## **RIDE REPORT RILEY'S MT TRACK**

**21ST OCTOBER 2018**

On Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> October 2018 Debbie, Teresa and myself, Julie, went for a ride at Riley's Mountain in Mulgoa with our lovely horses, Miles, Clancy and Amitty. We had expected bad weather, but were so lucky and not a drop of rain was felt.

We were out for 3 hours, up hill and down dale, exploring far off places, from the cliff tops and having a good run here and there to stretch their legs, (which one young man did from a few feet in the air) No harm done but he only ran up the hills from there on. Altogether I think it was a nice ride with everybody safe and happy, hopefully we will have many more.

Julie H Reay

## Christmas Party Weekend Reports

### Ride Report for Thursday the 22 of November 2018

This years BMTHRC Christmas Party weekend was held at „Euroka“ in the beautiful Megalong Valley.

From Midday onwards floats arrived at the big Homestead starting with Dee & Sharnee followed by Ailsa and Judy as well as Teresa with their trusty horses.

While the weather was cool and windy, pens were set up quickly in the paddock right in front of the house. The rest of the day past all too quickly unpacking, chatting, checking out rooms and being welcomed by Erin, the Euroka Manager.

A delicious dinner at the local Gardeners Inn Pub in Blackheath concluded the first day and everybody was ready to ride out next morning.



### Ride Report Day 2, Friday the 23. November 2018

The day started in comfort with a cuppa while watching the horses having a wild run of the paddock. Everybody was enthralled by the beauty of the little herd chasing and galloping in the paddock. What a start to the morning.

A bit later Leanne Stubbs and Geronimo arrived and joined us for the ride. Good on them for getting up early.

After saddling up we made our way through the front gate crossing the Megalong Valley Road and heading on a bush track towards Nellies Glen Road. It was still windy but we were ready to ride out and all horses were fine.

The track took us along the quiet dirt road in Nellies Glen, crossing the creek again and finishing at the fourth gate where we couldn't go any further. We had a look where the Six Foot Track went towards the explorers tree up towards the GWH.

From there we turned back the way we came till we turned left through a bush track, traversing the Camp site at the creek and heading for a short part along the main road till we turned right into another dirt track to get via the creek into the back entry onto Euroka again.

The ride lasted for about two hours and we just arrived in time to welcome the Friday group of riders arriving at the Homestead. Kerry & Ebony, Leanne Carter, Debbie L & Debbie B..

The evening came to an end in the Gardeners Inn, enjoying a nice meal together.

Dagmar







# The Long Trek

## Megalong Valley – Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> November 2018



### Fast Facts:

- Megalong Valley is derived from an Aboriginal word thought to mean “Valley Under The Rock”.
- At the 2016 census, Megalong Valley had a population of 149 people.
- The first record of a European coming to the valley was of Thomas Jones, a natural history specimen collector, in 1818.
- The first land was taken up by settlers in 1838.



After a cold night and an early morning power outage, we lined up for the compulsory group photo by Barry (Julie’s husband). Then we set out on our longest day ride of the weekend, at approximately 20km in total. The weather was cooler than expected, but we were all glad not have to deal with the flies and happy to put on an extra layer of clothing. The trail boss for the day was Dee and the drag rider was Ailsa. The riders as photographed above were Dee, Debbie B, Ailsa, Debbie L, Teresa, Dagmar, Judy, Julie, and Leanne C. We also had Barry as our backup driver and Kerry and Ebony came out to meet us at our lunch break.

This was the largest group that I have ridden Clancy in so far. He was an angel. We rode along the roads through the Euroka paddocks and out to the main rode and into the bush. Debbie L had her hands full with her family forward arab, but all in all, the horses were well behaved.

It was a beautiful ride with beautiful scenery. The horses were glad to have water stop after picking their way down the winding road to Packsaddlers. There were a couple loose horses there, but with the help of Julie, Barry, and Dee, we worked our way through and took the bridge bypass through the creek.

The horses were keen for a bit of a run, so we had a canter up to the lunch spot, which was just before the campground, as the campground was a bit busy. Clancy was behaved in the run.

Dagmar's horse started off reserved, but then she let her go and Clancy was good as she passed us.

We enjoyed the break as we were all ready for a bit of a walk around and stretch by lunch. After the break we headed back, and caught quite a few cars through Packsaddlers. There was lots of waiting and having to move out of the way, but the horses were all fine with that. We were getting ready for our big run up the winding road.

As we set off for our canter, we came to a car at the first bend and had to stop, move over, and let them by. After that we didn't encounter anymore traffic, so we could let the horses have a good stretch and run! Clancy wanted to go fast, but I told him, "Pace yourself! This is going to be a long way!" We cantered and cantered, up and up! I got a great video of it on my GoPro helmet cam! Clancy got pretty tired about half way, but we did have a pause for a bit of a re-grouping, and that gave him a moment to catch his breath. He tried his heart out, but it was a big effort for him as he's still building muscle and condition. They were all pretty puffed at the top, but Barry was there waiting to take more photos and give all the horses a drink.

Once all the horses had their breath back, we continued our journey back along the dirt road towards Euroka. Clancy got very tired and I could feel that he wasn't walking exactly right. He was lazily walking, which was causing him to knock his legs. I got off and walked with him for 10 minutes to give him a break. It turned out that having this stretch was great for me as well. After the break, I got back on and he was walking much better. About 2km out from home, I think he was pretty much done, but he kept on anyway and we made it. He was very happy for his special feed when we got back. What a trooper he is at only 4 years old!

A lovely time was had by all! A ride in Megalong Valley is always a good one!

See you at the next ride!

~ Teresa & Clancy the Waler Horse





## 2018 BMTHR CHRISTMAS PARTY

Lots of laughs and good cheer echoed in the beautiful Megalong Valley as the club celebrated Christmas for 2018. By Saturday night all had arrived from various locations including the lovely Leanne Carter all the way from up north. The homestead provided a great venue with an awesome outlook.



The food flowed as did the good fun. We had Leanne Stubbs with her Aussie hills hoist apron loaded with long tongs and other utensils by Ailsa and the kitchen gang. She managed to cook the BBQ without any gas explosions or cremated steak and sausages. Judy was kept on the hop ensuring she had everything needed.



Theresa and all the ladies in the kitchen ensured the table overflowed with yummy salads and tons of food to fill the hungry horse riders. Followed by desert, cheese cake, apple bake, ice cream and more.

In the blink of an eye the dishwashing fairies Debbi and Debbi fired up the suds, waived their tea towels and magically cleared the deck of dirty dishes.

Sticking to tradition the games and wonderful gifts followed. Kerry's horse trivia was won by Ashleen, leaving little Anni and Gaye back on the start line still waiting for a question not relating to horses – no such luck. Charlie and Leanne Stubbs cheated and of course found themselves with no reward.

We had beautiful halters and matching leads compliments of Theresa and Dagmar. Next we all had vouches from the club and lovely candles compliments of Debbi Beanland. Then came Barry and Julies mystery prizes, wrapped to make the opening a challenge within itself. Based on the luck of the draw some were very lucky and some were not. Either way all had lots of laughs and a big thanks to Julie and Barry.



The photos show the fun everyone had playing the throw the hoops onto the reindeer antlers. These antlers had a little more movement than the real deal so there was plenty of stylish manipulation by all the players. Ailsa and Judy won by getting all four rings on the antlers. Both received gift vouchers.



Julie won the lucky door prize, the much sought after girth via the big red hat that Dee thought she might be arrested for after leaving the shop without paying, wondering which camera she was on very quickly went back and handed herself in.





The Kris Kringle got interesting when Theresa through a tempter on one of the gifts, this set the stage for lots of swapping versus keeping. Once the gifts were finally owned, off came the wrapping to find more lovely surprises for everyone.



Somewhere in amongst all this laughter and fun our lovely Dee had a few presidential words on behalf of the club and everyone thanked the committee and all involved for organizing another wonderful Christmas event.

So as 2019 approaches  
Rest up/Feed up/Clean up the tack and  
Get ready to saddle up for another fabulous club year.

Cheers,  
Leanne Stubbs

### **Ride Report - Sunday 25 Nov - relaxed ride to Dry Ridge Estate Winery**

We were greeted today by another beautiful sunny morning. We had a relaxed start to the day, tea and breaky on the outside tables and chairs, tidying up our rooms, packing our floats and pulling down our yards. By 10.30am we were ready to ride off to Dry Ridge Estate Winery, an easy ride, and comfortable hour away, at walking pace, with a few trots thrown in for good measure. Leanne S and Dagmar joined us, Debbie Lee unfortunately had to leave to head back to the northern beaches (long drive), and then the rest of the gang started on our ride out the gate. Kerry and Ebony joined us up at the winery for a wine tasting with cheese overlooking the stunning vista below. Million dollar view. Worth riding there or even walking there on foot just to experience the valley from above. We chatted and tasted, and then realised we should really hop back on our horses who were all perfectly mannered tied up to the nearby trees. Tink was by Poco's side every second of the day, not allowing more than 12" to separate them, and they enjoyed day two of their horsie moon (honeymoon).

A lovely easy ride back to the homestead, passing a few tourists heading to the winery, and a few backpackers doing the 6 foot track. Back at the homestead, we packed up our remaining gear and loaded our horses for the journey back home. A few lingered a little longer for a chat under the shade of the homestead trees. None of us really wanted the weekend to be over, but all good things must come to an end.

Thank you everyone for a perfect, successful, drama free weekend. I feel refreshed and invigorated. Great company, perfect ponies xx

Debbie B and Tink xx



### **Ride Report 09.12.2018, Sun Valley**

It was already pretty warm in the morning when Dee, Ashleen & Charli, Julie, Teresa, Leanne S. and myself headed out for the last ride for 2018 along the beautiful forest tracks through Sun Valley. Before we left I went through the pre ride talk and Julie took up the lead rider position while Teresa was our drag rider and Ashleen was our first aid officer. Everybody else was a ride steward and we all looked out for each other. We ignored the uphill climbs because our horses were hot just walking on the flat tracks.

Starting off we turned left into Rosenthal Lane where Ashleen opened the gate for us and headed along Valley Heights Creek on the fire trail. It was a really quiet ride and we encountered only a few people. The horses were good at the water crossings. Julies horse loved to have a good play in the water. A bit further along the trail we turned left into the Long Angle track and followed this one till we reached the beginning of the big hill where we were all happy to turn around and head back. Clancy had us smiling when he laid himself down in the middle of the trail and Teresa had to get him back up, what a funny big guy he is. Teresa kept her cool and it was no issue. The entire ride took 2 hours. A special mention goes to Charli, our kid guest rider, who behaved like a pro on the ride. Thumbs up to you.

On return to the Sun Valley club grounds we washed our horses down and gathered for a delicious lunch where Kerry & Eb and Rita & Katie joined us. Thanks to Dee for bringing the provisions for ham & cheese rolls with lots of salads, Leanne for the rolls, Kerry for the cold Drinks wheelbarrow and Dagmar for the cake. The general meeting after lunch was a short affair, Dee gave us the presidents report and Teresa had the financial details at hand for us. Everybody was noting down the first ride in January in Scheyville on the 20.01.2019.

Happy Riding

Dagmar

B.M.T.H.R.C





TIDBALL  
ACCOUNTANCY



Newmarket Saddlery  
North Richmond



Richmond







IN-SYNC  
HALTERS  
Australian Made  
*Insync-halters.com*



**FARRIER**  
PATRICK BROWN  
**0416 024 047**



**DISTINCTIVE  
IMAGE**  
Embroidery and Screen Printing  
[sales@distinctiveimage.com.au](mailto:sales@distinctiveimage.com.au)  
Phone: 02 4577 5901  
Fax: 02 4577 5902  
7/31 Brabyn St Windsor NSW 2756

- Corporate Clothing
- Safety Workwear
- Safety Footwear
- Promotional Products
- Uniforms
- Trophies & Awards
- Embroidery
- Screen Printing
- Digital Printing
- School Wear
- Team Uniforms
- Race Apparel



**Imperial**  
Lan Chung  
Managing Director  
020 501 442  
[www.imperialhorses.com.au](http://www.imperialhorses.com.au)  
1300 86 917 or 9427 1362  
771 Windsor Road, Box 146, NSW, 2750

**Imperial**  
Karin Anderson  
After Sales Service  
020 501 137  
[www.imperialhorses.com.au](http://www.imperialhorses.com.au)  
1300 86 917 or 9427 1362  
771 Windsor Road, Box 146, NSW, 2750