

**President** Garry Fischer 53681439 – 0400 640 433  
**Vice President** Julian G 57270440 – 0427 270 400  
**Secretary** Amy G 0408 342 990  
**Treasurer** Julie Samson 54248545 – 0427 859 586  
**Publicity Officer** Amy on above details



## **March 2019 NEWSLETTER**

### **Update from the Secretary:**

Hi all, February was a stellar month of riding for the club with the 3 day High Country Adventure and then our Bullarto ride at the end of the month. Well done to all of those people that spent the last 2 months preparing their horses for the 3 day ride. The work all paid off and all the horses managed the rides really well. With much of the eastern state of Victoria having terrible fires at the moment, it has been a reminder to always keep up to date with the Victoria Emergency website or app before planning a trip away. Please make sure you read the below ride notices for details regarding fire risk. We look forward to seeing you there!  
Yours on trails, Amy, Secretary.

### **Next KDTRC Committee Meeting:**

The next KDTRC Committee Meeting will be held at our April ride.

### **KDTRC 2019 MEMBERSHIPS**

All memberships are now processed online through ATHRA. Go to their website [www.athra.com.au](http://www.athra.com.au) then click on Memberships. It will give you three options, click the most appropriate for you and follow the prompts. Once you get to the end, it will tell you that you can pay the **ATHRA amount \$100 online**, but the **KDTRC \$25 is to be paid directly to us**. Complete the ATHRA online process, and then either do a bank transfer into our account for the \$25 with your online banking (log on through your banks internet banking website), or just give us the \$25 on your first ride with us. So membership is:ATHRA \$100.00, KDTRC \$25.00 = TOTAL \$125.00

To ride with us if you are NOT a KDTRC member, fees are; **ATHRA members are \$5** and non-ATHRA **Day Members pay \$15. You must complete your Day Membership online via the same details above PRIOR to the day of the ride you're attending. You cannot do this on the day of the ride, or paper based anymore. If you're having trouble with it, please TEXT message or PHONE Amy G and she will talk you through it.** If you are already an ATHRA member with another club but think you might end up riding with us frequently also, you may want to join our club as well for just \$25.

### **Bank details for KDTRC are:**

**Kyneton District Trail Riders**

**BENDIGO BANK**

**BSB: 633 000**

**ACCOUNT NO: 164 619 264**

**(this is our new account, please delete the old account from your internet banking favorites).**

Make sure you put your name and 'membership' in the details section e.g. 'AmyGMship'.

## KDTRC Ride Calendar for 2019

*Ride calendar is subject to change. Please look for updates in the newsletter.*

DATE	LEADER/PHONE	WHERE	TYPE OF RIDE
27 <sup>th</sup> January	PAULA GARNER 0407 868 705	SPRINGHILL – Wombat Forest Winery Ride	Bush riding through the Wombat to winery. Club lunch \$5 and wine etc if you purchase.
9 <sup>th</sup> , 10 <sup>th</sup> , 11 <sup>th</sup> February	AMY G 0408 342 990	MT STIRLING	High Country long weekend camp, Mt Stirling, Craig's Hut, River Spur Trail and more.
24 <sup>th</sup> February	AMY G 0408 342 990	BULLARTO	Riding out from Bullarto Hall. Bush ride to Lyonville Spring for lunch, back via Bullarto Reservoir.
31 <sup>st</sup> March	SALLY BENN 0409 808 161	RUNNING CREEK	One day ride up at Running Creek near Jamison on the Howqua River, go up Sat arvo, camp, then ride Sunday.
	JULIE SAMSON 0427 859 586	LYONVILLE	Bush ride saddle bag lunch, local alternative to Running Creek ride.
28 <sup>th</sup> April	ROB FEATONBY 0402 980 675	AIREY'S INLET BEACH RIDE	Bush ride and beach! Saddlebag lunch.
	GARRY FISCHER	BLACKWOOD PUB	Same day for those not keen on sand
26 <sup>th</sup> MAY	GARRY FISCHER 0400 640 433	GREENDALE	The infamous 'Garry's Ride'. Single trails of hills, gullies, and old mines.
30 <sup>th</sup> JUNE	ALISON STONE 0427 169 791	TARADALE	Bush bashing, single trails, hills hills hills. Saddlebag lunch.
28 <sup>th</sup> JULY	DEBBY SHARBAUGH 0428 250 056	MT TARRENGOWER	Saddlebag lunch.
25 <sup>th</sup> AUGUST	ERIN DOWNIE 0407 401 406	ELPHINSTON PUB RIDE	Bush ride and pub!
29 <sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER	AMY G 0408 342 990	HEPBURN SPRINGS	Bush ride and pub lunch.
27 <sup>th</sup> OCTOBER	TONY ROSS 0437 345 703	KOOWEIGUBOORA	Bush ride and saddlebag lunch.
23 <sup>rd</sup> & 24 <sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER	JULIE & GARRY 0427 859 586	NEWBURY	Two rides, overnight camp, obstacle challenge and more!

## AGM 2019

We had a fantastic turn out of around 30 people for our AGM at the Bullarto Hall grounds in February. What a great effort! Sally & Carina did a fantastic job in cooking the BBQ on the day, and Meredith & James helped me with all the food prep, preparation and set up. Thanks guys! Again.

We had some great discussions about moving forward with our club, with members discussing what was important to them and how we can continue to improve our club. One noteworthy change is that after about 20 years, we are going to change the BBQ/catered lunch cost from \$5 to \$10. We have realised that it is quite difficult to feed people for \$5 and so we don't need to stress about it or dip into our club or personal funds, it was agreed to up it to \$10. The expectation though is that \$10 gets you a hot lunch including a drink.

Further to that, Vice President – Julian Gross re-introduced a more formalised nomination and voting process for office bearers moving forward. This will involve making nominations by filling out a small form prior to the AGM and then if there is more than two people nominated for the role, they will step out of the meeting whilst the voting occurs.

Thank you again to Garry, Julian, Julie (and myself), for stepping in and taking up these voluntary positions for another year.

## Green Beans & Nervous Nellies 2019 Calendar

Limited numbers of 6 riders not including the ride leader. You need to RSVP to the ride leader mentioned below the week before the ride. We always ride out at 10am so be there at 9am to tack up and relax your horse.

Be prepared to be patient with other riders. We will ride to the ability of the most inexperienced horse/rider. We may have to stop, we may have to wait, and we may have to change our plans. Think of these rides as a 'schooling' exercise for your horse.

Please no 'peer pressure', be supportive, we're not in a rush.

Expect that other people's horses may not behave, especially the Green Beans.

<b>DATE</b>	<b>LEADER/PHONE</b>	<b>WHERE</b>	<b>TYPE OF RIDE</b>
13 <sup>th</sup> January	AMY G 0408 342 990	BULLARTO	Leaving from the Bullarto Hall. Bush riding mostly. 10kms. Call Amy for more details.
10 <sup>th</sup> March	AMY G 0408 342 990	GLENLYON	Leaving from the Glenlyon Recreation Reserve. Bush riding mostly. 10kms. ***RIDE OUT AT 1PM ***
12 <sup>th</sup> May	AMY G 0408 342 990	DAYLESFORD	Leaving from Tipperary Springs car park. Bush riding. 10kms.
9 <sup>th</sup> June	TBA	TBA	TBA
11 <sup>th</sup> August	TBA	TBA	TBA
13 <sup>th</sup> October	TBA	TBA	TBA

## **KDTRC Running Creek Ride – March Ride hosted by Sally Benn**

**Where** – Running Creek Camping Reserve, Howqua VIC 3723.

**Directions** - Follow the Mount Buller Road from Mansfield towards Merrijig for 4km. Turn right at the sign to Jamieson onto the Mansfield- Woods Point Road and travel for about 26km. Turn left at the Howqua River Road immediately after the Howqua River. After approximately 10km up the Howqua River Road, past Symes Track on the right over a couple of hilly bits, go over the Running Creek bridge (currently water is not running!) then up a steep hill and the entrance to Running Creek Camping Reserve is on the left of a sharp bend at top of the hill. The camp site is 300m down a steep decent.

**When** –9.45 horseless muster for 10am ride out.

**Come and sign in with Sally**

**Ride** – Leaving 8am/ 9am (depending on when people want to drive home Sunday night or Monday morning) Taking the Howqua Feeder Track (high track) to Wares flat for a saddle bag lunch. Returning along the Howqua River Trail.

**Conditions** – There is approximately 56 river crossings, long uphill inclines. This is a 30km/5hr ride, you and your horse need to be reasonable fit. Horses need to be wearing Shoes/ boots.

**Bring – Humans:** BYO all camping equipment LOTS of drinking water, food, bedding and clothing for all types of weather.

**Horses:** Yards, food, rugs. Camping area has to be left as clean as possible. Please bring bags to take excess feed home. Manure is to be collected and taken home or piled away from camping area. Horses need to be yarded away from water ways.

**Nominations/RSVP** –. Please call **SALLY 0409 808 161** with any further questions **RSVP by Sunday March 10th 2019 via text message or calling**. Any non-ATHRA members must do the on-line Day Membership before they turn up to the ride.... see the ATHRA website for details.

## **Additional local March ride – LYONVILLE – NEWBURY hosted by Julie Samson**

**Description of ride** - Leaving at 10 a.m. We will mostly be riding along bush tracks through the Wombat State Forest, crossing some quiet country roads, mostly undulating and dry (unless it rains) with two steep hills; we'll head south to Wild Dog Road (about 18 km total) we'll stop for a saddle-bag lunch (bring a drink for self and tie-up for horse) and should be back to the floats by 3. Mostly walking but some trots and chance of a canter where safe.

**Bring** - saddle-bag lunch and drink, unshod horses could probably cope with the minimal road work,

**Directions to Starting Point** - Lyonville, (about halfway b/w Daylesford and Trentham); sign-in float will be parked near corner of Bremner and Gleeson Sts; park on the verges of either of these streets, making sure you don't block anyone's drive-way; please don't park near the Radio Springs Hotel as they need their carpark for their clients. Bremner is the road off the main Trentham/Daylesford Rd, between Main and High Sts; look for the KDTR sign on the main road. Horseless muster at sign-in float at 9.45.

**Book in beforehand** - Please **text your name to the Ride-leader Julie Samson on 0427 859 586**. If any non-KDTR members are coming, please text both their name and contact phone number. Any non-ATHRA members must do the on-line Prospective Member book-in before they turn up to the ride.... see the ATHRA website for details.

## KDTRC Ride Report - High Country Adventure

*Prepared by Amy Gross*

Well what can I say....what a weekend! A convoy of riders started rolling into Razorback Hut on Friday at around midday, with cars packed to the brim with food, hay and excitement for the adventure ahead. Once we negotiated with the commercial groups reiterating that it is a public campsite and that we would be staying all weekend, we set up camp and made ourselves at home.

We woke **Saturday** morning to the promise of rain, but also a huge day of riding and adventure and headed out of camp at around 9am. Our group of very well conditioned and fit horses headed down Hut Trail, crossing over the creek near TBJ and heading east up Circuit Rd for about 500 metres and then turning up Bluff Spur Trail (part of the Summit Loop). Some horses were a bit toey and we ascended up to Bluff Hut for a brief snack and toilet break before continuing to the base of the Mt Stirling summit along Howqua Gap Track for 400 metres and then turned down River Spur Trail. This trail turned into a lovely single trail through Alpine forests with snow gums and brush, spotting the odd bunch of wildflowers along the way.

It was somewhere along the River Spur Trail that it started raining. And it rained for 3 hours straight. We couldn't believe it! Who would have thought that it would rain on a ride organised in February! Anyway, we all rugged up in our ever so important Drizabones and continued on. The trail then crossed the Circuit Rd west of Howqua Gap Hut and we continued down the mountain, now admiring tall timbers and ferns.

A few of us spotted a Lyrebird just as the trail met the Delatite River Trail, and we crossed the Delatite River and now found ourselves riding along the side of Mt Buller heading towards Mirimbah. After about an hour of gentle descending we reached the river and began the 11 or so river crossings to Mirimbah. All the horses were fantastic, crossing the river with ease and behaving very well. I'm fairly sure that as we hit the 2 hour mark of solid rain, Paula decided it was well and truly time to break out into song to try and keep all the soaking wet riders moods up, and we proceeded to sing a chorus of "we're singing in the rain", and "you are my sunshine" all the way down the river to our lunch site.

The fabulous Matt Bourke was like a knight in shining armour, diligently cooking sausages in the rain at the Mirimbah Picnic Ground having unfortunately found the undercover BBQ to be out of order. Matt had managed to whip up a cover for the sausages using the cardboard from the slab of beer that he bought us to make sure everything cooked and was hot for the wet and slightly exasperated riders. The group of us devoured all the food within about 10 minutes, downed a few alcoholic beverages (purely medicinal at this stage) and a few swigs of whisky out of my emergency hip flask and we were on our way!

We rode back up the river for about an hour (singing pretty much the whole way), and then turned down a little known track to our left. Might I add that it took months of investigating, and adventures to find this little track, but thanks to Alison, Rob, and myself we finally found it and were able to complete the dream of riding up and down the mountain in one day. All the horses managed the two difficult creek crossings really well, with Sally's fabulous mount 'Beef Cakes' having a 'brief look' at this one and we ducked and weaved our way through some intense overgrowth before starting our ascent.

This stunning and allusive trail zig zagged its way up the mountain through some of the most beautiful areas of ferns and unique scrub before spitting us out onto the Mt Stirling Rd approximately 2 kms south of TBJ. After 6 hours a riding and rain we looked around the group of horses and saw that we were standing in a huge fog of steam coming off our horses contrasted by the cold alpine air around us. I'll never forget the sight and it was something that you could not catch on camera, you had to be 'in the moment' to appreciate it. After that, we decided to trot up the Mt Stirling Rd to TBJ, then up to Albie's Drop and back to Razorback Hut, with hungry horses and satisfied minds.

*\*\*\*Note – unfortunately during the last kilometre of the ride, Carina noticed that her mount 'Russell' was not himself and he suddenly slowed down to a walk after being completely fine and energetic all day. Once Russel got back to Razorback he was treated by off duty vet nurse – Sally Benn but within a very short amount of time we realised something was definitely not right. Russell was rushed to the emergency vets in Mansfield but unfortunately didn't make it. Both the vet and Sally concluded that*

*Russell died of a snake bite that he either received just before he left home on Friday, or once he arrived at Razorback Hut. There was absolutely no way of knowing that he had been bitten unfortunately and there was absolutely nothing Carina or anyone could have done. The only signs that something was different with Russell in the morning was that he didn't eat a carrot he was offered. But with all the excitement and horses around, this would have in no way indicated snake bite or anything serious was going on. It's just a reminder of how sometimes freak things can happen, and it could happen to any of our horses. We send our love to Carina, and Russell's family the Howe's.*

After a big night at camp, we awoke **Sunday** morning to the sun shining on the second day of our high country adventure. We mounted up, and headed out of camp down the Hut Loop towards King Saddle Shelter, crossing the Circuit Rd and then heading up the Stirling Trail to Cricket Pitch Hut. The trail then split, horse riders to the left, bike riders to the right and we headed along the top of a ridge with stunning views of Mt Cobbler and Mt Buffalo to the North. With a bright blue sky ahead we reached King Spur Hut for a snack and to admire this lovely little wooden hut. We then ascended to Geelong Grammar School Hut (GGS), popped out at the top of Clear Hills Track and then headed down the single horse trail towards Craig's Hut. This single trail had copped a bit of a beating recently and was suffering a bit of erosion in places, so for the first kilometre or two we decided to ride along Clear Hills Track to give the horses and riders a break from the difficult terrain.

After re-joining the single trail we stopped to let the horses have a drink at the dam located just before the Monument Track intersection and then headed back onto the single trail to Craig's Hut.

At the hut we basked in the sunshine, took photos, and enjoyed a lovely bit of cake and cup of tea provided by the fabulous Matt Garner. Our non-riders for the day Carina and Yolanda met us at the hut and many people that hadn't been there commented on how it is certainly a 'bucket list' location.

After a long break for lunch, we headed back the same way to Mt Stirling, this time riding up to the summit and appreciating the spectacular 360 degree views with mountains as far as the eye can see to the North, East, and South.

We then rode down the Stirling Trail, adding a few new ballads to the song list as we descended down to King Saddle Shelter and back into Razorback Hut, making sure that EVERYONE could hear our arrival.

We said goodbye to a few riders that couldn't stay Sunday night and settled in for the evening, all commenting on how much food we had packed for the weekend, having enough to feed a whole army.

We woke on **Monday** morning, again to beautiful warm weather, and pancakes cooked by Sally. We rode out of Razorback Hut, this time heading west along the Razorback Trail with views towards Mt Buller and Mt Timbertop to the south.

We rode along to where the trail meets Number 3 Road and instead of going through the stock gate, we turned a hard right, going up a single trail that goes over the top of Mt Winstanley. The native brush had grown somewhat since our last ride there in 2017, coming up to our elbows in some spots but our horses knew the way and diligently climbed up the hill to the summit. The Monday ride was one of appreciation. Many times throughout the half day ride, we spoke about how impressed we were with our horses and about the value of proper training when planning for a multiple day ride.

As we rode back into camp, we snuck a quick pic in front of the popular hut and celebrated what a wonderful bunch of members we have to share these experiences with. Thanks to Matt B & Matt G for everything you did over the weekend! And thanks to James for filling the water buckets with the rain water from our sagging awnings! An ingenious solution that was fortunately captured on camera!

Amy

Ride leader

## Photos of the High Country Adventure



## Photos of the High Country Adventure





## KDTRC Ride Report Bullarto Ride– February Ride

*Prepared by Amy Gross*

On the last Sunday of February a large group of riders mustered at the Bullarto Hall grounds and headed out across the railway line and into the Wombat Forest. We rode down some stunning single trails, along a ferny creek down to the Bullarto Reservoir.

We welcomed some new riders with us for this ride, Ian & Esther from Bendigo and it was great to have them join us after a view members had met them at the Pack Saddling Workshop last November.

After the res, we turned up another small track that took us to the base of Top Track and split the group into walkers and trot/canter, and ascended Babbington Hill meeting at the top.

After a quick toilet stop we headed East down Babbington Hill towards Lyonville Spring, before which, turning left at the bottom of the hill and going for a lovely trot around the base of Babbington.

We turned down Basalt Track and then bush bashed our way south in the direction of the res, crossing a steep gully which all the horses and riders handled brilliantly.

At the reservoir a few horses had a drink and a dip and we headed back along the single trail back to the hall, having a nice trot along the way.

Thank you to Matt for being First Aider and for Tony for being drag.

Amy



## **Get yourself a KDTRC uniform!**

Do you wanna be one of the cool kids in KDTRC? Do you wanna represent your club when riding with other ATHRA affiliated clubs?

Contact Paula to order yourself a club shirt, vest or polo fleece for winter! Look on our FB page for the detailed document of all the types of uniform options we have.

