



Big Sky Trailblazers April 2019

President: Joe Rennick Vice President: Greg Donovan Secretary: Gail Paddison Treasurer: Bernie Irwin

Please All Contact To: Gdhbluebums@gmail.com

Last Ride: Mount Nombi by Liz

Our last ride was held on the property Mt Nombi owned by the Adams family. The Trek out to the property takes you through the small village of Mullaley about 40km south of Gunnedah past Mullaley Mountain. John Oxley passed over the Coxs Creek at the base of this mountain in 1818 and named the fertile basalt black soil plains The Liverpool Plains . A further 20km on at the base of Mount Telbereeya is the 8000 acre property Mt Nombi where we were lucky enough to spend the next couple of days riding the boundaries, the gullies and the peaks.



We camped in the open at the cattle yards under the stars, blessed with beautiful weather, and at night the stars beaming and the quietness that would hear a pin drop.

The Saturday afternoon ride began with a brief meet and greet and pre-ride talk. Sixteen anxious riders and even more anxious horses headed off to explore the western boundaries of the property skirting around the base of another small basalt mountain (phenolite lava dome) called Kiadmoot. 16kms later, incident free, we arrive back at camp just before dark and with enough daylight left to get the horses fed and put to bed. Happy hour turned into happy hours and with the day now well and truly behind us, our beds provided some welcome and comforting relief.



Before we knew it the night had slipped us by and once again horses were being un-rugged and fed. With body and soul rejuvenated (coffee, bacon and eggs and the like) horses groomed and saddled and another pre-ride talk, we set off for another exciting exploration of the south and eastern boundaries. This time we headed to higher ground to capture the panoramic views of the Mullaley area and Western edges of the Liverpool Plains. Although the soil is soft and self mulching under hoof the constant clash of steel against rock reminded us of the importance to have well shod horses.



Although the recent rain in the area was very welcome and was starting show its worth with tinges of green appearing across the hills and flats, the lack of ground cover, the stark contrast of white dead trees against grey-green living trees as you look up the mountain-side, the dominating black brown colours across the landscape and the stock self feeders dotted across the paddocks tell the story of one of the worst droughts in history.

Having closed the gates, checked the troughs and stock, 16 lucky boundary riders returned back to camp around 12.30 for a well earned drink and bite to eat. A quick concise meeting was held and reluctantly we pack up camp load the horses and leave Mt Nombi with memories of a beautiful property, a well organised and enjoyable ride in the company of great people (and Horses).

Many thanks to Greg and Greg and all involved for a great weekend.

News and Info

Meeting: Held

1. Executives have agreed that our Facebook page is only to organise rides and keep in touch with members and not for any private advertising. A notice to this effect has been put up.
2. May Ride – Have permission from National Parks
3. Grant Money have used all but \$47 we used this to subsidise the Boss Course for Full Members of our Club eg \$25. The rest will go towards John Mason for his 1st Aid Cert in November
4. June Boss Course
 - Email sent to NETHA ran a course not long ago, MTR, TBR Clubs they are stilling getting back to Bernie. Weekend booked at Somerton 7-10 June. Bernie checked out the facilities, they are really good. House has been saved for June and the Pam to sleep in. Pre-ride still to be to be organised
 - June said as long as her health is good she will be there
 - Meat for BBQ and salads for the Course - Merry!
 - Plates, etc - ??
 - Morning/afternoon tea - ??
 - Present for presenter - Bernie
 - People to cook, etc, setup - ??
 - Cones, etc - Bernie
 - Closer to the time we will be asking people to do jobs or put your hand up
 - Have sent information about Course and Ride to paid participants. Will send out to all others soon
 - It was decided to give jobs out at next meeting so we don't forget what to do
5. Sympathy card sent to Oakhampton Homestead
6. Pony Club Ride – no email received at this point
7. Tablet purchased and was tested at April ride, seem to go reasonably well

FACEBOOK VERSUS EMAIL – If you could please email even if you have put it on facebook some of us that organise things don't always look on facebook and at least by email one gets pinged so you know to look at it.

- **If ride needs to be changed at the last moment, only those who have responded by email will be contacted**

Accreditation Course – Trail Boss June 8-9 2019 Somerton

Places are booking up which is great so if any of you want to do the course let us know - thanks

Calendar of Possible Events 2019			
Date	Where	Type	Person to Organise Ride
10 March	Spring Mount - Carroll	Day	
24 March			Bushrangers
7 April			NETRA
14 April	Mount Nombi	Camp	Greg Donovan
26-28 April	Gdh Show		
28 April	Hills place	Day	Bushrangers
5 May			NETRA
12 May	Wondoba Forest	Day	Garry Goscomb and Greg Donovan
26 May			Bushrangers
2 June			NETRA
7-10 June	Somerton	Camp	Bernie Irwin and everyong
8-9 June	Somerton – Boss Course	Camp	Bernie Irwin and eveyone
23 June			Bushrangers
6-7 July	Pony Club Trail Ride – Rocky Glen	Camp	????
7 July	Pine Forest		NETRA
13-14 July	Hartwood	Camp	Joe Rennick
28 July			Bushrangers
4 August	Metz		NETRA
11 August	Crooks/Garry Knapman	Day	Mark Goddard
25 August			Bushrangers
1 September			NETRA
8 September	Dubbo	Camp	Allanah Gainsford
22 September			Bushrangers
6 October			NETRA
4-7 October	Beach Ride	Camp	Joe Rennick/Cath Anderson
12 October		Day	
27 October			Bushrangers
3 November			NETRA
10 November	Pilliga	Camp	Joe Handel
24 November			Bushrangers
1 December			NETRA
8 December	Christmas Party and AGM		Bluebums

PLEASE REMEMBER THIS IS A POSSIBLE CALENDER THINGS COULD CHANGE DUE TO WEATHER OR OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES