



Big Sky Trailblazers July 2019

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

Please All Contact To: Gdhbluebums@gmail.com

Last Ride: Hartwood by Sue

If you visit "Hartwood" in Tambar Springs at Easter time, you will encounter hundreds of campers in a variety of accommodation keen for the country music artists, bush poets and the hospitality of the owners of this spectacular property! However, on 13th and 14th July a group of 13 riders braved the weather and joined Chrys, at his home to ride the flats and scrub bush.

Day One: We grouped, had a pre-ride meeting and headed out at 1pm, the wind was icy, yes it was cold, but the energy and comradery in the group warmed our hearts if not our hands and feet. Chrys took us on a journey over many kms with a postcard landscape backdrop that took the breath away more than the wind chill factor! We rode through dense scrub bush, which was good for those horses who were a bit stirred up by the wind as they needed to think about where they put their feet. Out on the open flats we could give our horses a break with a safe trot and canter and then back into the scrub which gave us protection from the weather and the feeling of a close hug.

We were out there sharing the country with kangaroos, emu and a range of wildlife, some unseen but obviously present from tracks, such as wombats and the variety of birdsong would suggest this place would interest birdwatchers, but let's not tell them, they might spook the horses!



This ride was not without a few laughs and some creative navigation, Sue's trusty pocket knife came in handy and saved the day on a few occasions; but there were no incidents and everyone returned safely, hungry for Chrys' Camp Oven Dinner. You should know that Chrys can turn Lamb into Chicken – but those of us in the know won't tell that secret!



We thank Maria (Chrys' wife) for her hospitality, she made sure that we were all well fed; three different deserts no less and she went an extra mile for sure accommodating our gluten free member – Thanks Maria. After a great camp fire gathering, a wonderful feed and of course a few beverages we all made our way to bed with varying degrees of comfort; some of us had a good old hot water bottle to make sure we didn't freeze overnight and some of us had greater creature comforts.

Pete AKA Inspector Gadget, has the best 'stuff' and more importantly is happy to share it with the rest of us; which is what makes riding with this club the best experience, the people are so genuine and supportive that everybody has a good time and is well looked after.

Day Two: Sunday morning bacon, sausage and eggs anyone? What a feed – cooked over the still burning camp fire by a 'few good men' we all enjoyed a good breakfast – thanks guys. Back on the trail at 9am for another day in the saddle, today was a "two pairs of socks" day but we were not to be thwarted by a bit of cold weather. A wonderful ride led by Chrys, who gave us a great tour guide experience of flora and fauna over his property, we were back at camp at lunchtime to pack up and head home.

Thank you to Chrys and Maria for hosting us, have a wonderful road trip and we will see you again in September; thank you to the riders for being such a great group of people and thank you to the Club for the opportunity to share it all.



News and Info

Meeting: Held

1. Dubbo ride is a go ahead, however it was put to a motion that the ride be moved to the following weekend of the 14th & 15th September, so more people could attend. (7th and 8th are busy weekends with people having other commitments). All present were in favour of this, and everyone interested is to let Bernie know by email, so new numbers and plans can be made. **After speaking with Allannah this ride is postponed. Thought November might be a good time to have it this to be discussed**
2. Allana asked if our day rides could be made longer, ie. Ride out earlier, stop for a break eg, lunch (brought in peoples own backpack), and rides to continue into the afternoon. Knowing that some rides have to be shorter depending on the circumstances of the day. It has been mentioned that some rides take longer for travelling to the ride than the actual ride itself. Chrys also mentioned that a pack horse could come along as well. All present were in favour of this motion
3. ATHRA re refund for one member said its up to the Club – we refunded them
4. ATHRA reimbursement for Trail Boss Course?? Still waiting for money have re emailed them Bernie
5. Venue booked for 7th and 8th December Christmas Party at Somerton. Email to be sent to Tamworth, Armidale and Coast guys inviting them closer to the date
1. Expression of Interest for Dubbo and Beach Ride emailed out and on Facebook, results are that both rides are going ahead
2. Beach Ride info has been emailed out as there was more than 15 interested. Haven't advertised on Facebook or ATHRA giving our members a chance to put booking form in. When do you want these two platforms after Hartwood to happen – this week?

Notes

1. The Club equipment and spares will be kept at the Parkview Hotel. If you are organising the ride you can pick it up there and drop it off there – its right next door to Woolworths. The person who is organising the ride then needs to check two ways, etc
2. Cath and I did a pre ride for Spring Ridge State Forest – so that can happen whenever you guys want or be used as a backup if can't do a ride
3. Chrys may be able to organise a ride down in the Snowys for next year should we put a EOI out to see if anyone would be interested?
4. When putting things on Facebook please don't use an address so that its kept private for property owners etc – thanks
- 5. Don't forget the Beach ride as deposit needs to be in by 31st July**
- 6. The reason we would like you to let us know by email that you are coming is that if you had an insurance claim we can prove that you hand intent of coming on the ride. Also if the ride was cancelled or changed we would be able to notify you. When you have emailed the Club this then gets put on the Ride Register so we know what day if a camp over you are coming etc**
- 7. We normally would like you to respond that you are coming one (1) week before the actual ride to help whoever is doing the paper work as they do have a life**
- 8. Normally only paid up members receive a Newsletter or Ride Info, a visitor or new member would email the Club to request one or go to the ATHRA site**

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

Calendar of Possible Events 2019

Date	Where	Type	Person to Organise Ride
23 June			Bushrangers
6-7 July	Pony Club Trail Ride – Rocky Glen	Camp	???
7 July	Pine Forest		NETRA
13-14 July	Hartwood	Camp	Greg Thomas
28 July			Bushrangers
4 August	Metz		NETRA
11 August	Crooks	Day	Mark Goddard
25 August			Bushrangers
1 September			NETRA
8 September			
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			
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