




October 2020 Newsletter

 athra.com.au

Find us on 

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GENERAL MEETING & AGM 8pm Tuesday 13th October 2020

All members are welcome to come - **Southern Hotel - Gawler** (next to Cafe Nova)
Come early for tea – 7pm

MEMBERS FOR 2020

The Club currently has 30 members and there have been a constant number of people enquiring to possibly join.

Welcome back on board:

Michelle Day

Wishing you and all members continued enjoyment riding & socialising together.

LAST MEETING - SEPTEMBER 8th

Meeting discussion included:

- Ride Calendar – Confirming Dates and Hosts (ongoing).
- Ride debriefs.
- Bitta chit – bitta chat – some steak n salad – some parmi, more chit n chat – clink of drinks.
- Di S entertained us like no other night!!!! Belly laughs.
- Do feel welcome to come and join the meeting comradery and sometimes jolly fun. We always laugh!!

Your club is settled and prospering.....

2021 AGM

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

8PM Tuesday 13th OCTOBER 2020 after the General Meeting

Dining Room, Southern Hotel

Consider coming along, even if you do not wish to be an active committee member

We are seeking nominations (by nominee or other) for all executive positions for the Club.

We are also seeking nominations (by nominee or other) for ordinary committee members – those who would like to be more involved in the club.

- Nominations to be forwarded to the club Secretary at least 1 week prior to the AGM.
- If no quality nominations for positions come forward nominations are to be sought from the floor on the night of the AGM.
- In both cases if more than one nomination comes forward the members will vote on who is to be elected to the position.
- Each member personally present at any meeting shall have one vote (N.B. - Our constitution does not allow proxy voting).

Please contact any of the current executive committee if you are interested but unsure, otherwise email us on gawler.thrc@gmail.com. Hope to see you at the 2021 AGM

Kath McCullagh

Secretary – Gawler Trail Horse Riders Club

ATHRA ANNOUNCEMENT - MEMERSHIP 2021

ATHRA exists to serve the common interests of its members so in response to comments and suggestions made by our clubs and members, the ATHRA Board has decided to kick start 2021 with a one-off membership offer as detailed below:

- For all members who have joined their club by 30 September 2020, memberships will automatically rollover until 31 December 2021.
- This means your membership will now expire on 31 December 2021.
- You do not need to do anything for the membership to roll over, however it would be appreciated if you could log on to your ATHRA login and check your address and email is correct so that when we send your new electronic card it goes to the correct address. If you are unable to do this, please check with your club Secretary.
- For your friends and family who are either new or previous members, if they join between 1 Oct and 31 December the ATHRA component will be reduced by 50%. So, encourage your friends to join up and take up this offer because on 1 January 2021, our normal membership rates will then apply.
- ATHRA day memberships will increase to \$20 effective 1 October 2020 (plus the club \$10 fee = \$30/day)

If there are any members not wishing to take up this offer and not intending to remain as club or ATHRA members, they must notify the ATHRA Registrar by 30 September either via email or phone.

COMING EVENTS

September Day Ride – Mt Crawford Forest – Saturday 26th 2020

Host – Julie Jackson

Trail Boss – Maria Pearce

This ride was also advertised last week (before publishing of this Newsletter) via email to members and on Facebook. This ride will be for approx. 2.5 hours with venue and starting point having been advised to all who RSVP'd by Wednesday 23rd.

You should purchase a SA Forestry Day Permit if you don't already have one (on line only now)

<https://www.forestrysa.com.au/horse-riding/>

The ride will be easy going and suitable for bare foot horses as tracks are good.

Arrive at 9am for a 10am start with an unmounted briefing at 9.45am.

Bring your own lunch and chair to enjoy sitting back after the ride. If suitable weather we can have a BBQ at Di's fire pit.

Cost - ATHRA member \$2 Ride fee. Non ATHRA member riding visitor fee \$25/day (please be advised that if you are not a member of ATHRA you will need to be sponsored by an ATHRA member to ride & pre-register as a day member 3 days prior with ATHRA online - \$15 direct to ATHRA & \$10 to club on the day).

Please bring the correct change & place in tin at sign on book.

October Day Ride – Moppa Area (Barossa) - Sunday 18th 2020

Host – Michelle Day

Trail Boss – TBA

RSVP by 14th October to: gawler.thrc@gmail.com (if you have any queries please email.)

This ride is open to Day Member Riders. (see below for costs and details).

Arrive at 9am for a 10 am start with an unmounted briefing at 9.45am.

Ride will be mostly walk / trot. Barefoot Mounts should be ok – mainly clay and white metal roads – Cart Friendly.

Ride will incorporate vineyard areas - with lots of gum tree shade plus up and down hills a few fords etc. Lots of open farm paddocks around.

Approx. 2.5 to 3 hour riding time - BYO drink in your saddle bag.

Hazards are kangaroos, farm animals, farm machinery etc.

Bring your own lunch and chair to enjoy chat and laughs after the ride.

Cost- ATHRA member \$2 Ride fee. Non ATHRA member riding visitor fee \$30/day (please be advised that if you are not a member of ATHRA you will need to be sponsored by an ATHRA member to ride & pre-register as a day member 3 days prior with ATHRA online - \$20 direct to ATHRA & \$10 to club on the day).

Please bring the correct change & place in tin at sign on book.

October Weekend Combined ATHRA Trail Clubs Camp – Friday 23rd to Sunday 25th 2020

The SA South East ATHRA Trail Club has been in contact with our club suggesting a combined club camp at the Mount Pleasant Show grounds. Because of the Covid-19 this club has not been able to hold camps and rides across the border into Victoria – their travels have been quite affected. All Gawler members would be invited to join them for rides on Saturday / Sunday and generally at their camp site to socialise. There could be up to nine riders from the south east club coming to visit our area and it would be good to support them in hosting their visit at Mount Pleasant if you are able to. More information will be sent out to members after our next meeting (13th October).

RIDE CALENDAR FOR 2020

- If you are able to host a ride or think of one that you would like to go on (we will arrange for the particular ride to take place) please let the committee know so that we can include the ride.
- Camp weekend dates are negotiable

The following is a work in progress – dates, location & hosts to be continually confirmed

<i>Ride Date 2020</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Host</i>	<i>Club Meeting Dates for 2020</i>
Sept 26	Mt Crawford	Julie Jackson	
Oct 18	Moppa	Michelle Day	13 Oct
Oct 23-25	Mt Pleasant Combined club camp	Julie Jackson	
Oct 30-1 Nov	Southern Flinders (weather permitting)	Kath McCullagh	
Nov 21	Yaldara	Lisa Bates	3 Nov
Dec 12	Rosedale	Lisa Crinion	1 Dec

PAST EVENTS

August 29/30th Camp Mt Belvidere - Host - Richard Grimson

I think the Belvidere Camp was quite the success (well, any time when you are with your horse is, right!!!) and I think all who attended really did enjoy the time they spent riding and socialising during the two days and night spent together. 'Thanks' go to Richard for organising this camp at the property



which gave us shelter and privacy from the weather and a sense of seclusion in the area even though we were only a stone's throw from Greenock town. The property is kindly offered to us by the local farming family and we are very privileged to be able to spend time there wandering all over it – the land is very wooded and hilly with creeks and gullies, and so we have the protection of wind to some degree. The camp fire is always a bonus and the evening was spent with lots of



banter, laughing and jibing between each other which I reckon the newer members and visitors found somewhat entertaining. We are a colourful bunch of characters to say the least.

On Saturday the riders were Richard, Margot and Robert Scott, Sandra S, Julie, Tracy, Geraldine, Peter Hopewell (from the Riverland) and visitor, Samantha Cunningham and I. The day was fabulous weatherwise – T-shirt weather!! We meandered through the property and headed out westward along kind dirt tracks and roads for our horses. No traffic to be seen out in that area and the group had a very pleasant ride with no hassles along the way. Coming back to camp the



group had this lovely environment and our horses to enjoy - settling them in for the evening. It was about now our Trail Boss, Richard, realised he could not find his car keys!!!
 The Group sat around the fire until late cooking their various meals and assortment of meats etc. Thank you to William and Chris for taking charge of sorting the fire and cooking/heating most of the meals for each person which is really helpful when you have to step around people and the fire pit.... all done with due care keeping us happy.

The night got rather windy and the following day threatened to be a bit wet and very windy. Sure enough by the time we rode out, misty rain was upon us. We opted to stay on the property for protection of the wind among the trees and hills; and go exploring every hill and gully including to the top of Mt Belvidere.



This day
Sandy

Jones rocked up to join us and the group farewelled Julie, Geraldine, Margot, Robert and Samantha. The next couple of hours the remaining riders had a great time covering a good bit of ground all over the property and thankfully it rained less for us just at this time while in the saddle as we investigated every corner of the



property.

The rain set in again as we returned to camp and packed up to leave – the wet weather and wind out on the flatter tracks and roads basically made further riding a ‘no go’ and the decision



called that we should call it

quits. A shorter ride had than we normally manage to do, but still terrific to be going up and down dale; all good trail ride training for the horses that don't get to do so much of this in a group – horses did cover some ground and it would have been somewhat challenging for most that don't get to go



bush bashing, climbing and descending!

Once back at the floats, there was a bit of a scramble to get packed and gone out of the rain. Gotta love that rain though!!!

As everyone packed Richard was desperately looking for his car keys which were not found. He managed to contact a friend who brought his spare set from home and a couple of hours after the last of the group left his keys arrived. Apparently they were found two days later in the tack box while looking for something else in there.



We can look forward to returning another time in the future hopefully. It's a great camp site so close and handy to Gawler. Thank you Richard.



[NEWSLETTER DEADLINE](#)

The deadline for any items that members want printed in the **November 2020** newsletter will be **Tuesday 22 October** so please ensure that your emails reach Maria Pearce on gawler.thrc@gmail.com before that date to avoid disappointment.

[ISSUE OF INTEREST !](#)

How long do you really need to warm-up your diesel engine up for?

By **Wes Whitworth** --September 9, 2020

We thought it about time to sit down with an actual expert and get the ins and outs of the warm-up and cool-down process on modern four-wheel drive diesel engines. Sit back while we bring you the real information from a mate of ours, Tony at **Motovated Turbo and Mechanical** in Toowoomba. His 30-odd years of experience should hopefully put some minds at ease. And some myths to bed. We had a good long yarn with Tony about how long you should idle your engine when you first start it up, and after you pull up. And also discussed whether a turbo-timer is a waste of time and money, one way or the other.

Mr4X4: For how long should you warm-up the engine on your diesel tow rig? We've heard some of the 'Grey Nomads' idling away for some thirty minutes (while they hitch the van and sort the handbrake out). Surely that's a bit excessive, right?

Tony: Warm-up is a little bit of a personal thing. I feel that you should start the vehicle give it a minute or two then proceed off at a steady pace. Don't over-rev the vehicle, just take it steady until it warms up to normal on the temp gauge. 30 minutes of warm-up is not necessary and on modern diesels will cause problems with DPF-type vehicles and excessive soot build-up from EGR in the intake, etc.

Mr4X4: Apart from getting oil around the engine, what's the purpose of warming-up the engine, from an expert's point of view?

Tony: Warming-up the vehicle is to allow oil to flow around the engine. The oil moves pretty quickly but when the oil is cold it is too thick to lubricate correctly. The other reason for warm-up is to allow all of the moving parts to get up to their correct operating temperatures and expand and contract to the correct clearances. An example of this is if you have a performance engine with forged pistons these may get a rattling noise when they are cold and get a noise called piston slap. It goes away once they are warm and up to temperature as they expand to the correct clearance. It is more about not putting the engine under excessive loads and high RPM while it is cold. If you give a cold engine a hard time you increase the risk of engine wear and/or engine damage.

Mr4X4: Does a longer (than recommended) warm-up time help or hurt the longevity of the engine? Or are they just putting hours on the engine and burning fuel unnecessarily?

Tony: Longer warm-up times on older diesel vehicles does not really hurt the engine as they don't have the pollution controls of modern diesels. All this does is put hours on the engine and burn fuel unnecessarily. Modern diesels have DPFs and EGR valves, etc. where excessive idle periods can cause these to operate in manners not recommended by the manufacturer. This routine can cause the intake manifolds to soot up more than normal and the DPFs to choke up faster causing more burns and excessive fuel usage. Modern diesels are all computer-controlled; some limit the amount of fuel delivery until the vehicle is warm enough and reduce the performance. Taking off at a steady pace and taking it easy for the first few minutes of the trip will not hurt the engine. Taking off and giving a cold engine high

RPMs and high loads unnecessarily will cause excessive wear and damage. Modern diesel vehicles have better cooling systems than those of old and are designed to warm-up the vehicle quickly. Letting the vehicle start and idle for a minute or two will not hurt it and will only help but much more than that is really unnecessary in my opinion. It just causes excessive noise in the caravan park, unnecessary smells, etc. for no gains.

Mr4X4: On cool-down, is there any great point to letting your four-wheel drive idle for five minutes after pulling up? Back in oil-cooled only turbo days, it made sense, but with modern turbos with both water and oil cooling, is there really any point?

Tony: Idle-down really depends on the conditions in which you have been driving. If you have been working it hard right up until you pull up to shut it off, five minutes is definitely worthwhile. If you idle through the town then get to the caravan park and back your van into its spot, it would be cool enough to just shut down, as you have basically done the job of the turbo timer anyway. VNT (Variable Nozzle Turbine) turbos spin at idle and at a fairly high speed compared to the older wastegated turbos. Idle time is more about temperature and allowing the temps to reduce before cool-down.

Mr4X4: As a side question from cool-down, we've all seen trucks (like actual trucks, not you 79 Series lot) sit there idling while the driver runs into a shop, or to the loo. Is that more fuel-efficient for them to leave it idle, or is it a cool-down thing, or is it another reason entirely?

Tony: Allowing your vehicle to sit and idle on the side of the road may be helpful if you have been working it hard and you want to stop and let it cool down or to try and keep your batteries charged or the fridge going, air conditioning going for the passengers you've left sitting in the car. Running the vehicle for five minutes or so for times like this will not really hurt anything. But if you have already driven through a town and everything has cooled down it is not really necessary to do this like the trucks do. Trucks keep running for a number of reasons: mechanical sympathy on starter motors; keeping the air up to the system for brakes, etc. Systems on trucks are vastly different to the light automotive vehicles we all drive, and as such there are many different reasons for keeping the trucks running. Just remember, that leaving your car running and being more than six metres away from the vehicle can get you in trouble with the local constabulary!

Conclusion

So there you have it; idling your four-wheel drive for more than a minute or two in the morning is not only wasting fuel and a detriment to your engine but will potentially infuriate everyone around you, especially at 5am. This also works for when you're finally going to idle down once you're ready to make camp at the end of the day; so it would seem that a turbo-timer isn't completely useless, but your driving behavior before you shut your engine down will save you having to get one.

FUN / CHALLENGE TRAINING SESSION (for you & horsy!!) - *The Better Horse Behaviour Test*

#	TASK	SCORE 0-10	DIFFICULTIES (Which were yours?)
1	Lead your hors calmly with slack in the line		Dragging / pushing / pulling / leaning /jigging
2	Back your horse by the halter for 20 steps		Pushing / crooked / rears /strikes / head goes down/ shakes head / opens mouth / grinds teeth
3	Handle or shake a plastic bag		Horse spooks / pulls away / rears / snorts / strikes / kicks
4	Load your horse into a trailer without leading him in (you stay outside)		Refuses to go inside / resists / pulls away / doesn't stay inside / panics/ paws
5	Stand still when mounting: for 5 – 20 seconds on loose rein		Horse cannot stand still / moves as rider mounts / walks off as soon as rider is in the saddle / bites or kicks during mounting
6	Back up 20 steps – rider mounted		Backup is difficult / resistant / does not go backwards / tosses head / opens mouth / pulls reins out of rider's hands / goes crooked / rears
7	Go Sideways 6 feet(2 metres) rider mounted		Sideways is difficult / resistant / does not go sideways / tosses head /kicks out /rider kicks or uses spur strongly
8	Ride over tarp		Horse is scared of tarp / refuses / panics / spooks while crossing / jumps over / goes around it
9	Go forward without using your spurs (in walk, trot, canter) and slow down without using reins?		Horse does not go forward from rider's seat / is resistant / dull /rider has to use spurs or kicks Rider has to use reins to slow or stop the horse / horse takes over / takes off
10	Ride calmly in the company of others		Horse is nervous / 'competitive' / scared of the other horses / attacks, kicks / difficult to control
TOTAL			

POLICIES

A reminder to all members that our club has some policies that we endorse. These include a **NON SMOKING, SAFETY & HOT WEATHER** policy. These can all be viewed on the ATHRA web site, via the state page - www.athra.com.au.

Previous Newsletters, photos & club information can also be viewed at any time on the ATHRA web site.

WEATHER

The ride host/leader for the day will have the final say regarding weather (including inclement weather).

The hot weather policy states, if the weather forecast in **ELIZABETH** for the next day is to be **over 32 deg** (as per the news the night before) the club rally/ride will be cancelled (unless the ride is scheduled to commence prior to 9am or after 6pm). This is for the safety of all riders and horses. Also, any club rides in **FOREST** areas on **TOTAL FIRE BAN** days will be cancelled.

Please check with the Trail Boss if in any doubt. They have the final word!

CLUB UNIFORM

Our club uniform currently comprises of a lime yellow high-vis shirt (long or short sleeve), club badges available for \$12. **Gawler Club Members & their visitors are required to wear Safety Helmets whilst mounted - helmet must be no more than five years old from Date of Manufacture.**

RIDE FEE & DAY MEMBERS

ATHRA members - a ride fee of \$2 per ride is applicable.

Non ATHRA Members (Day Members) – a ride fee of \$30/person/day is applicable (\$10 to club on the day & \$20 to ATHRA with pre-registration) (*Non-refundable fee, maximum 2 days as a day member*).

The important things to note:

1. Day Members must be sponsored and accompanied at all times by an ATHRA member during the ride or event.
2. The Sponsoring member must make the Day Member aware of ATHRA rules and requirements of the Code of Conduct.
3. They may only sponsor 1 Day Member per ride.
4. By participating as a sponsor, the sponsoring member acknowledges responsibility for the conduct and behaviour of the Day Member
5. Day Members must contact the trail boss to discuss attendance & then pre-register with ATHRA Online at least 3 days prior to ride.

RIDE HOST CHECKLIST

A ride host's checklist is in the green bag, in which is kept the sign in book, ride fee tin, saddle bags, first aid kits, safety vests, etc. Trail Bosses are to check the list to make sure all is in order prior to your ride. It is also t

+he Hosts responsibility to ensure a ride report is arranged to be submitted to Newsletter Editor prior to next publication date.

DISCLAIMER

The material in this newsletter is for the benefit and information of our members. The items are in the nature of general comments only and are not to be used, relied or acted upon without written permission of GTHRC. The club accepts no responsibility for any errors or omissions or for any damage suffered as a result of any person acting without written advice. All opinions and views in the newsletter are not necessarily the view of the club, but are personal opinions only.

It's spring - Happy Trails!

