



# MELBOURNE TRAIL HORSE RIDERS CLUB INC.

IncorporationNo:A0004356B

# TRAIL TALK

## April 2014

In this edition: Ride Reviews from Razorback Hut, Strath Creek, Mt Worth/ Crossover & Marysville.  
Plus: Photos, classifieds and horsey fun!!!! ☺

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## Rides coming up:

25 <sup>th</sup> – 28 <sup>th</sup> April:	Pyrenees Ongoing ride	Mitch Kemp
17 <sup>th</sup> & 18 <sup>th</sup> May:	Murrindindi	Bruce McClean
7 <sup>th</sup> – 9 <sup>th</sup> June:	Tinamba / Happy Days B&B	Katie Kemp
29 <sup>th</sup> June:	Yea to Molesworth Pub	Linda Fencaros
12 <sup>th</sup> & 13 <sup>th</sup> July:	Maldon games day weekend	Mitch Kemp
16 <sup>th</sup> & 17 <sup>th</sup> August:	Strathbogie Ranges	Gordon Lyttle

**New Members**  
**Leanne Romaszko**  
**Robyn Thiessen**  
**Kim Lovely**  
**David Wallace**

**Welcome Back**  
**after 20yrs.**  
**Len Stocker**  
**Marg Roach**

Please make our new members welcome!!!!

## **Mt Stirling - Razorback, by Kim & Mr T**

### **Mt Stirling switch - a top plan well orchestrated**

Nothing beats a good adventure, particularly when the weather kindly delivers picture perfect days. It was a leap of faith to switch the Australia Day long weekend ride from Jamieson to Mt Stirling, and we could not have hoped for better riding over the three days – led by Gary.

It was my first organized trail ride in over 20 years, on a rescue horse I'd purchased only a couple of months prior. With this confession to the group, everyone was kind and clearly alert to 'Mr T' and me as the newbie's. Special thanks to Gordon and Linda for their warm welcome, helping me unload in the dark and make sense of my new-fangled electric fence.

Our small gang comprised: Trail Boss - Gary and 'Tego', Gordon and 'Gil', Linda and 'Rebel', Leanne and 'Douglas', Robyn and 'Dargo', Allison and 'Abbie', Brian and 'Nadia'.

All three days were blessed with amazing weather as we explored the cross country ski routes and many huts around Razorback, Mt Stirling and Craig's Hut. (So many huts, so little time – as I recently commented to Robyn. The riding was so good, Robyn and Leanne and co returned to Mt Stirling for another round of horses and hut-hopping during March.)

Mr. T, a sensitive new-age thoroughbred, didn't let me down – he thoroughly enjoyed every sure-footed step of the trails, happily prancing along, popping over small logs and relaxed camping alongside new horsey friends (Gil and Rebel).

The highlight of the weekend was the second day – fantastic winding bush trails and the approach to Craig's Hut, which was teeming with patriotic Aussies picnicking, many of which delighted in photographing our approach. Robyn and Dargo stole the show though, with Dargo becoming the "official wedding horse" for a bride and groom from Yarrawonga. (Check them out on Facebook!)

Thanks everyone for your warm welcome to MTHRC!



WORKING TROT



MEDIUM TROT



EXTENDED TROT



WHOA DAMMIT



## **Strath Creek 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> Feb; By Marg & Penny**



As old members from over 20 years Len and I have recently started to ride again with the MTHRC and Strath Creek was certainly a great location to spend our first weekend away with old and new members, Mitch, along with Katie certainly didn't disappoint us with putting on a great two days riding.



We chose to arrive Friday to allow us plenty of time to set up camp as we are so out of practice and as the evening went on we discovered we had left so many things at home (and I thought I was organized).

Len was setting up the portable yards which we had not used before (how hard can it be), well it can be if you buy the wrong insulators, then, no matches for the gas cooker but thanks to Denise and Antonio we were able to eat for the weekend.

After a warm night, Saturday morning saw more floats rolling in and soon 14 riders were saddled up and riding out of camp.

The first hour of our ride gave the horses a nice warm up, slowly climbing up a big hill which gave us great views and plenty of wildlife to see including deer, emus and kangaroos.



Lunch was by a very picturesque billabong where Katie, Bob, Riley, Andrew and Charlotte joined us and this worked out well, both for Denise and Katie as Denise was feeling a bit unwell so Katie was able to spend the afternoon riding while Denise drove the car back to camp, it was nice to see husband and wife riding together as I guess this doesn't happen much on club rides.

Saturday night about twenty of us went to the Strath Creek pub for tea and were sad to hear such an old pub was shutting their doors on Sunday night for the last time.

Sunday morning we woke to rain which was only a drizzle and lasted most of the morning but all was good and as well as the rain more floats arrived with members of the Riddles Creek Club to join us for the day. Lunch spot once again had terrific views and Bob and Denise welcomed us with coffee tea and Bobs' fruit cake.



The weekend was a great success with great views, great tracks some which were steep and rutty making the horses think about what they were doing, as well as good cantering spots that Antonio and a few others were able to have a bit of fun on. The camp site was ideal with plenty of fresh water, the sound of the bellbirds and best of all a toilet (We didn't have that years ago).

Last of all it was great to see old mates Len Alan Mitch Bruce Paul and Gordon back in the saddle sharing a laugh like they did years ago, thank you



Thanks Mitch and Katie



## **Mt Worth / Crossover; By Tania the poet!!!!**

“Well folks, here we are at Darnum for the running of the annual Helliwell Cup.

All the horses are beautifully turned out, as is expected from a MTHRC event.

After a slight delay at the starting box due to a late arrival (guess who?), they are off and running!!.....at a nice relaxing , chattering walk along the Darnum Flats road until they reach the base of Mt

Worth.....streaking up though the Pine trees at a steady trot, Pretty in Pink, Sue on ‘Spood’ powered up the hill with the handsome buckskin, Phoenix not far behind, followed closely by the gorgeously glossy, Rio with Lisa on board.....nosing up on the inside is Rose on her flashy chestnut Arab with Marg and Tania (on the only real racehorse in the race :), Rosie, keeping the pressure on, ....after a little rest halfway up the hill, the field start the accent of the foreboding Mt. Worth.

....out of the pines, along the road, popping over a little fence into the stunning scenery of one of South Gippy’s most stunning parks....

...with towering gums bordering the beautiful grassy track, the field of horses goes up and up, but finely tunes athletes that they are, they cover the first few furlongs with ease...

....Apple Cider sparkles up the winding track, putting pressure on The Red Hot Red Head ridden by Brian who is blazing the trail, always just out of sight of the rest of the field....

...As the riders descend the mountain bend, they bunch up, ready to make the dash past the picnic ground to avoid the ‘cheering crowds’...

....‘Spood’ leads with the rest of the horses hot on his tail, they sweep around the sharp bend, quickly and quietly, then negotiate the creek crossing, which could have brought lesser horses and riders undone, but they never faltered.....up the hill they thunder at a exhilarating steady canter, so much fun on lovely soft footing, through open country into the tree line again, the day was just made for horse racing....I mean horse riding!

..with the field steadying at the top of the hill, they turn for home, through into private land and out onto the open hills with some of the most stunning views we have ever seen, even the ‘racehorses’ slowed to take it in..... the wearying horses snaked their way down the hills in orderly fashion, along the ‘home straight’ road, back to the Helliwell Stables with all cantering and trotting with ease..

...neck and neck were Rosie and Red Hot Red Head, with the field strung out behind.....but look out! Having been biding his time, with just meters to spare, here comes Kenny on Apple cider, sneaking past on the inside, with Sue on ‘Spood’ not letting him get away....they turn down the driveway and dash for the finishing post.....what an exciting finish to the ‘race’ ..... a photo finish!!!!!!

What punter could ask for more ?? A fabulous ride, through one of Victoria’s most scenic parks, great company and coming home to such a magnificent spread of food that the Master Chef, Sue put on for us. And to add to the culinary delights of the day, we put the blue blood horses to bed and then trotted ourselves off to the Yarragon pub for a delicious meal and some good conversation. I think I put on 3 kg in just the one day!

Thanks Sue, great job!!

**DISCLAIMER** - The above article in no way implies that the ride was fast or a race in anyway, it is just a novel ride review :)

## Buxton to Marysville; By Katie & Syndah



Well I decided my girl Syndah should have one more trail ride, before she gets too fat from baby weight, so we decided to head over on the Saturday arvo and camp the night, as it was about a 2.5 hour drive to get to Buxton.

We were glad we did, Ray's place in Buxton is fantastic, I night-lined Syndah so she could enjoy the rich green grass while we set our camp up. Turns out we were the only ones there, but that didn't bother us in the slightest as we decided to head to Marysville for some of the most fantastic food I have ever had.



The next morning we were all able to sleep in and enjoy the morning rays coming through our tent.

First came Olga, closely followed by all the other floats, as we were riding out at 10:30 there wasn't much of a rush **even Brian Payne was there early – stone the flaming crows!!!!**

We all saddled up and leisurely rode out from Ray's paddock, through the gate, onto a huge roadside verge and into the forest.



The riding through this forest was amazing, lovely and soft under tootsies, but not slippery either.

I was glad there were hills that we had to go up, because that meant my girl was a bit quieter, ha ha.

We had plenty of spots for little canters or long canters if you wanted to, or walk, as lots of riders also did.

Riding through the ferns into Marysville was just great and I could hear lots of laughing, talking and even Ray doing his Jonny Cash impersonations. Sure sign of a ride enjoyed by all.



We reach the outskirts of Marysville and preceded down the main street, seeing 14 horses was a bit out of the ordinary for the tourists I guess, my girl was leading and I must say I was impressed.

With rally cars, motorbikes, 4wd's, people and flapy thingies, she was awesome.

We tied the horses up in the shade and headed to the bakery for some lunch and coffees. We sat around chatting for a little while before making our way back to the horses and mounting up.

Heading back out the same way we came in, so the horses knew exactly where to go; up the big hill.

It was half way up when I decided to hop off Syndah and give her a little break, carrying me and a bubby would have been an ask (although she didn't slow up any.)

Once up the top we then headed down, and over some valleys and ridges to Ray's 'Secret' track, a nice little single track that weaves in and out of forest back to his property.



It was a sensational ride, thank you to Olga and Ron for organizing such a great ride.



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Hope you enjoyed this edition of our Trail Talk. See you out and about on the trails.

Katie Kemp  
Secretary of MTHRC