



Australian Trail Horse Riders Assn
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CLUB AND MEMBER UPDATE – DECEMBER 2011

Welcome to the December update, we hope you and your families have a safe and happy festive season and also have a chance to get out and enjoy your horse out on the trails somewhere.

TRAIL RIDE CHALLENGE (TRC)

ATHRA is pleased to advise all members & clubs that Trail Ride Challenge (TRC) and the Australian Trail Horse Registry is now operational and clubs can commence conducting the TRC activities.

The Trail Ride Challenge (TRC) is a new event for ATHRA.

It is designed to encourage members to educate their horses and in doing so make it safer as well as increase the value of their horses.

Normal ATHRA Code of Conduct applies to these events.

A TRC is, broadly speaking, a Trail Ride with obstacles that are generally encountered during a normal Trail Ride. Participants attempt these challenges individually and in doing so, are assessed on their horse's performance. There is an assessor at each obstacle.

Whilst they are not timed events, the time taken to negotiate the individual challenge or obstacle is taken into consideration in the awarding of points for that particular challenge.

All participants attempting a TRC commences on maximum points. Points are deducted on the chosen gait and performance of each task.

There are two (2) types of Trail Ride Challenges, "Official" & "Unofficial". See FAQ for details.

Clubs who conduct "Unofficial" TRC's may develop their own categories for assessment and or awards. These will not form the categories for "Official TRC's".

A DVD of the challenges will be available for purchase shortly. This displays each challenge and what is expected of participants and their horses.

All of the information will soon be available from ATHRA's new website. This website is only a short way away from being commissioned and becoming operational. Until then, anyone requiring details of this activity please contact Tony Hart, Director Technical Training, on 0419 303 047 or elaine.tony1@bigpond.com and a CD will be posted to you.



australian
natural horsemanship
study centre



Please go to our website www.athra.com.au click on the "partners" logo for their specific contact details

POST OFFICE BOX REMINDER

Remember ... the ATHRA Post Office box has changed. **All correspondence including memberships and payments should be sent to:**

**P O BOX 1186
CAPALABA DC 4157**

NEW CLUBS

Welcome to the following clubs who have recently joined ATHRA:

- Top End Tales on Trails – NT
- Midwest Horse Trekkers - WA
- Somerset Trail Riding Club – QLD
- Flash Rat Horse Riding Club – VIC
- Southern Peninsula Trail Riders – VIC

2012 MEMBERSHIPS

2012 memberships are now ready for processing; membership fees are unchanged and are as follows:

Adult membership	\$50.00
Junior memberships	\$40.00
Non riding social membership	\$30.00

Remember before you ride in 2012 – your fees must be paid and receipted by your club. And keep an eye out for the Cavallo voucher that will come with your 2012 card.

BRUMBY RIDE

ATHRA members assisted in raising \$6,800.00 in funds for the Australian Brumby Alliance in June 2010. In order to distribute the money the Australian Brumby Alliance asked its members to submit a 'bid' to explain how funds they requested would directly help Brumbies. The full letter and distribution details can be downloaded from our website.

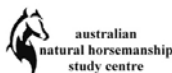
It is fantastic to see how this money went to so many areas to help throughout Australia. We are hoping to run this event in 2012.

WEBSITE

Development of the new ATHRA website is almost complete. This project has been a little delayed but it will be worth the wait. In the New Year manuals will be sent to clubs on how to operate their website component. It's very similar to the old website – but perhaps even more user friendly.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The ATHRA Annual General Meeting and Regional Managers workshop is scheduled to take place from 23 – 25 March 2012. It is being held in Ballarat in Victoria. We welcome members to attend the weekend. Further information will be sent directly to clubs in the New Year seeking nominations for Board Positions that will become vacant.



NASH CUSTOM SADDLE FOR AUCTION

In partnership with Nash Saddles, ATHRA is auctioning this fully tooled swinging fender saddle. For saddle specifications go to www.nashcustomsaddles.com.au

The auction package consists of the following;

- 1 fully tooled Nash Swinging Fender saddle
- 1 matching bridle
- 1 matching breastplate
- 2 matching saddlebags

Open to current financial members only, the auction will close at midday, Thursday the 22nd March 2012. The highest bidder will receive this great saddle package.

The value of this saddle and accessories is over \$3500

Bidding amount starts at \$500 with incremental bids of \$25 only accepted.

A very low reserve has been set so a bargain can be had.



The process and rules for placing your bids is as follows;

- Email your bid to, the National Treasurer, De'hanne Keir (dehannekeir@bigpond.com)
- In the subject line of your email state ATHRA-Nash Saddle Auction
- In the content of your email, list your name, your club, membership number together with your bid amount.
- Your ATHRA membership will be authenticated.
- Your bid will be acknowledged by return email.
- All bids are binding.
- The successful bidder will be notified on Saturday the 24th of March 2012.
- All bids must be received by the Treasurer by midday the 22nd March 2012 to be considered in the auction.
- The highest bid amount will be listed weekly on www.athra.com.au, no names will appear.
- Members may contact De'hanne Keir on 0413 596 547 to request the latest leading bid amount. (No names will be supplied)

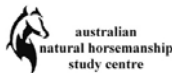
ACCREDITATION SESSIONS

It has been yet again, a busy year for our Accreditation Trainers. They all have put in a sterling effort, conducted 11 different sessions in all states of Australia.

A total of 150 members became newly accredited during 2011. This brings the total accredited members up to a staggering 1082, congratulations to all.

A breakdown of numbers on a state basis is; SA-60, Vic-324, NSW-398, Qld-221, WA-47, Tas-32. We all look forward to adding numbers from NT soon

For further details contact your Regional Manager, or Tony Hart on 0419 303 047.



Please go to our website www.athra.com.au click on the "partners" logo for their specific contact details

INSURANCE UPDATE

ATHRA has once again renegotiated its insurances for 2012 with major increases of personal accident benefits for its members. ATHRA is please to advise the following becomes effective for 2012:

- Employed members benefit up 50% from \$500 to \$750
- Unemployed members benefit up a further 25% from \$200 to \$250 (Thats a 150% increase in 9 months)
- Fractured Bones benefit up 100% from \$1000 to \$2000
- Non medical expenses up 50% from \$2000 to \$3000
- Dental benefit up 100% from \$500 to \$1000
- Capital Sum benefits up 100% from \$25,000 to \$50,000
- Note this has been achieved with no increase in fees for 2012

EQUITANA



Claire Bourke, De'hanne Keir, Tony Hart, Alan Salter and Elaine Kirby manned the stand at Equitana in Sydney.

It was a very successful Equitana with the release of the Trail Challenge Event and Australian Trail Horse Registry as well as the opportunity to meet many of our current and potential new members.

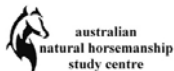


Member - Denise McGrice from Mackay (Qld) modelling one of the ATHRA shirts



Above: Ken Faulkner and Tony Hart's presentation about ATHRA and the Trail Challenge Ride concept.

Right: Elaine Kirby, Tony Nash (from Nash Custom Saddles) and Tony Hart demonstrating the Nash Custom Saddle that is now up for auction to ATHRA members.



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REGIONAL ROUND-UP

The new ATHRA structure is working well and many of our Regional Managers have been getting out and about doing things with their clubs and helping them in many ways. Here's a sample of what some of them have been up to:

Gippsland Region – Ken Ludlow

Traralgon and District Club member Sam Alexander is preparing to undertake a solo 5,330km horseback journey across the Bicentennial National Trail in 2012.

Leaving from Healesville Victoria, Sam intends to travel the trail accompanied by three Australian stock horses arriving in Cooktown Queensland approximately 12 months later. Sam's aim is to promote the work of the Royal Flying Doctor Service and help raise funds for this important organisation.



For any further information contact Sam on headingnorth2012@gmail.com or Facebook.

Eastern Central Queensland – Ken Kirkwood

The three Kens hit the towns of Rockhampton and Mount Morgan during October this year. Ken Faulkner held a clinic for seniors, Ken Anderson held a clinic for juniors in the area and Ken Kirkwood the Regional Manager did all the organising. It was a great effort and both clinics were well supported by the local clubs in the area.

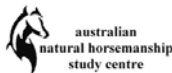
All riders went away with heaps of new things to practice to help in the pursuit of a safer trail riding experience. It was great to also see some of the 4 Rivers members travel from the Eidsvold area to attend the sessions. Hopefully there will be more sessions of this quality during 2012.



Ken Anderson assisting the juniors in one of the activities undertaken during the clinic at the Mount Morgan showgrounds.



Ken Faulkner and members at the Rockhampton clinic.



North Eastern Vic & Tasmania – Michelle Moulden

With the assistance of specialist equine vet, Mark Flanagan, Tasmanian Trail Riders, Inc 'Devils on Horseback' developed and delivered a basic trail horse first aid one day course in October.

The aim of the course was to teach trail riders enough basic first aid to identify, treat and monitor the injury until either help arrived or riders got back to base camp. The ability to know a horse's vital signs and how to measure these signs is critical in minimising the harm injury or illness can cause your horse and your wallet.

We quickly realised we weren't the only ones who couldn't tell a curette from a cauliflower and opened up remaining places to other ATHRA clubs and members of the public. In the end, we had to cap the course at 20 to ensure adequate interaction, instruction and supervision but it looks like we may be running another course quite soon!



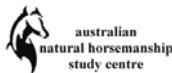
The course is not a public safety package accredited course, you don't get a certificate of attainment, but in seven hours direct interaction with a vet, vet nurse and emergency management planning officer, participants covered horse anatomy including dentistry, vital signs, common illness and injury; vaccination and worming regimes; emergency management planning for equines (fire, flood, biohazard) and, most critically, how to communicate an injury to a vet to ensure remote diagnosis and treatment plan.

The course included theory, practical demonstrations and practice sessions, interactive syndicate discussion and lots and lot and **LOTS** of questions for the instructors.

Devils wanted the course to encourage and inspire trail riders to have a good working knowledge of how to assess, treat and communicate common injuries that may be experience on even a short trail ride- stuff like stone bruise or strains, a puncture wound or a bleeding gash as well as routine illness that can strike at any time such as colic, founder, typing up or scouring.

All participants received a basic but quite comprehensive saddle bag sized first aid kit including bandages, stethoscope, thermometer, tweezers; scissors, dressings, gloves, sponges and swabs with the option to purchase the brilliant Australian book, Equine Emergency Rescue, at a discounted rate. We also offered a discounted micro chipping service for all participants to ensure their horses go on the national data base and gave demonstrations of power float 'whole of mouth' horse dentistry. There was also a lot of spirited discussion about natural or complimentary herbal medicine and 'traditional' remedies that are still really relevant and useful. We also had a lot of medical myth busting moments too!

There was a lot to fit in to the day and, as a first run, we were really pleased with the content that was delivered and the enthusiastic the feedback which will enable us to refine and improve the course for next time.



The course would not have been possible without the endless of development, instruction and assistance provided to Devils by 'Dr Vet' Mark and 'Vet Nurse' Roz Flanagan from the Barnyard Vet, MaryAnne Leighton from Emergency Equine Rescue and the lovely ladies at our local St John's Ambulance Supplies who opened up on the weekend to ensure we had enough first aid stock for the kits!

Most importantly, big thanks to our club members and 'day riders' who contributed, laughed, argued (often passionately!) and were prepared to listen and learn in order to better look after their horses on future trail rides.

Devils Playground - leading the way for Trail Ride Challenges

Taking a break from trails, Tasmanian Trail Riders Inc 'Devils on Horseback' decided to run a Members Only training day, focusing on those basic skills required to undertake the new TRC format. The first half of the day was 'bench marking' that is, doing ground and ridden work to get a better idea of the skills and experience already inherent within the group.



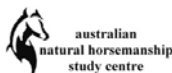
This included plenty of pairs and group riding exercises with horses weaving, circling, passing and intersecting each other at every possible point in the arena. Covered in fine white dust, we called it quits for BBQ lunch and, whilst the riders were relaxing, up went the arena obstacles.

These obstacles were as much about socialising the horses and riders to TRC concepts as they were having fun doing something a bit different and, possibly, a bit difficult too.

We had side pass alley, the 'hot box' where you attempted to enter the box at a nominated gait, halt and then depart the box at the same gait; reversing lane, tarp traverse, picking up a coat or rug from the top of a barrel; float loading, a stirrup clanging narrow gap; fore and hind quarter yields in a hoop; umbrellas, drag bags and the Swiss ball pairs.

For more nervous horses, we started off with a broom handle, then a pool noodle before advancing (with much hilarity) to a lap of the arena with the Swiss ball balanced between the horses.

To end the day we had a compressed group walk through of a mini TRC course.



This included crossing 1m wide spoon drains, stepping over small logs or, if you were keen, jumping bigger logs; stepping up and down an embankment, standing square on top of a platform, mounting, leading and dismounting on the off side; side passing over logs and drums; negotiating boggy ground, walking calmly past a running semi trailer (including exhaust brake usage); leading a spare horse from the saddle and the dreaded creek crossing.

Having given the club an idea of what to expect from a TRC, Devils are now planning another unofficial TRC early in 2012 and hope to invite THCRA for another devilishly good day in the saddle. It was a highly successful day, combining elements of rider education, desensitising and a great intro to ATHRA's Trail Riding Challenge concept!

South East Queensland Annual September Camp – Bob Meuleners

This year's September camp was held in the Scenic Rim region on the Moojirah property owned by Frank, Tina and Samantha Brown. For all those who attended the camp it was a good time to catch up and reacquaint with old friends and an opportunity to make new ones. For all those people who helped out with the rides and giving the committee a hand when needed, thank you. This support is great to see. It makes these camps worth while attending and a great way to spend some quality time riding our horses and spending time with our friends at the same time. How good is that?

After the rides, and when our horses were fed and watered we could get together under the marquee or around the camp fire and have a laugh and joke about the days ride.

It is not easy to coordinate and host a camp like this. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Logan River Redlands Trail Horse Riders Club for putting their hand up who all worked hard to ensure the success of the camp. John Tully – who never even sat on a horse, but as the Camp Boss with his charm, patience and infectious laugh made camp life enjoyable

Without these people it just would not have happened.

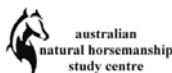
The event raised in excess of \$4,000 for the local Mount Alford Rural Fire Brigade and they were extremely happy that they are now able to purchase some much needed equipment.



Under the guidance of our expert Trail Boss for the week Kevin Lotz - some of our junior riders were mentored by accredited stewards to take on the responsibilities of ride stewards and assisting the drag rider.

There was at times a lot of 'abnormal chat' on the radios – but the juniors had a great time assisting and even better – opening and closing the gates as Lucy Lewis is seen here doing.

For those that want a week of fun, great riding, great company – Lock in September 22 to 30th 2012 and come up to Queensland.



NSW Central - Elaine Kirby

Crackin Cancer Charity Ride, at 'Tinagroo' - Scone, October 15th – 22nd 2011



Congratulations to the Cumberland Trail Horse Riders Club for hosting the very successful 'Crackin Cancer Charity Ride'. 30 riders attended the Charity Ride at Scone and together they raised over \$8000 for the Cancer Council of NSW.

Of course great rides like this need great properties and 'Tinagroo' was certainly a great property and the property owners Duncan and Jillian MacIntyre were such wonderful hosts.

Riders came from near and far to gather for this event and were lucky to have picture perfect weather for the whole week. Fortunately we picked the right week to hold the event as the week before it had been very cold.

Fundraising consisted of: Sale of caps, horse feed, proceeds from auction, raffle tickets, donations and a lingerie party hosted by Jill MacIntyre at the main homestead.

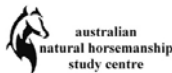
There were 6 wonderful days of riding around the hills of Tinagroo Station lead by Trail Boss 'Stalkie'. Each day we were back within good time to give our horses a wash down and also give the riders a chance to relax each afternoon before happy hour which was held at a different camp each day.



THE FABULOUS COOKS or the 3-R's - Ross, Reggie, Ron

Tinagroo will be high on the list of prospective places for next year's ride as it had everything there for us, water was plentiful in camp and there were many yards available for us to use as well as the undercover arena where we had our meals each day.

Keep this time free for next year as the club is thinking of making this an annual event and you won't want to miss it again.



North Queensland- Brendan Wakefield

Tableland Trail Rider members Janet Blaik and Sheila Tait took on the job of planning this year's June / July 10 day ride, from Boonmoo Station, via Dimbulah, to Wongabel.

A grant from Department of Sport and Recreation enabled several junior riders to take part. Their costs for general ride expenses, eg, back-up, transport, were generously subsidised.

As usual the back-up drivers are always the most valuable part of the team. This year we placed a bigger burden than usual on the back-up team, particularly as they took a part in the cooking, and looking after their children, in addition to the duties usually expected of them.

The junior riders are to be commended for the way in which they followed the Code of Conduct and followed the example of their trail leaders. Their conduct in safety, horsemanship, courtesy and consideration was excellent. Some of them could be granted opportunities to demonstrate their leadership abilities, without hindrance from senior members, should occasions arise.

It seems from the comments on the Face book site that everyone enjoyed the ride immensely.
Sheila Tait.

Western Australia- Anna Sheehan

One of our newest ATHRA clubs has not wasted any time getting out on the trails. Wind did not deter the spirits of the twenty horsewomen who gathered in Yetna for the first official ride of the newly formed Midwest Horse Trekkers Club. People travelled from as far away as Perth and Mount Magnet to attend this greatly anticipated event.

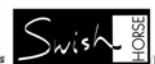
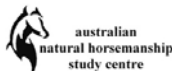


Nineteen horse riders and one cart driver completed distances of between 12 and 20 km along a quiet gravel road on the first of what will be hoped will be many horse treks in the region.

It was a quiet ride where people were free to travel at a leisurely pace or trot along with the lead riders. Small groups of riders, chatting away, formed through the ride where new friends met and old friends caught up. Trekking is a family oriented pastime and riders of all ages can participate.

Quite a few silver-haired horse riders were there, setting the pace for the younger ones or settling the young horses with their more experienced mounts.

Note: Any clubs wishing to tell the rest of ATHRA about one of their special rides should send their article to their Regional Manager for on forwarding



UPCOMING FEATURE EVENTS

Australia Day Celebrations and Trail Opening Ride 26 - 29 January – Logan River Redlands Club



Join the Logan River Redlands Club to celebrate Australia Day and the opening of the Boonah to Lilybrook section of the Boonah to Ipswich Trail.

Once completed the Boonah to Ipswich Trail will be a 74 kilometre multi-use recreation trail linking the communities of Ipswich and Boonah and connecting to the 40 kilometre network of recreation trails developed as part of the Wyaralong Dam precinct and Ipswich City Council's Flinders Goolman Conservation Estate, including Hardings Paddock picnic area and Flinders Plum picnic areas

Dress up in your "Aussie Gear" for the ride to Lilybrook, as there will be a prize for the best dressed themed participant. A breakfast will be supplied before we leave and for those that want a long weekend – stay and camp and ride for the next three days at Lilybrook.



More details will be available on the website or contact Janice Turner on 3297 0974 or 0428 750 145.

Easter at Eskdale 6 – 9 April 201 – Brisbane Valley Trail Riders



Eskdale was the home to the Queensland September Camp in 2009 and we now have another opportunity to ride on this magnificent property again in 2012.

The Brisbane Valley Trail Riders Club is still finalising details, so keep an eye on the website or contact Tony Nash for more details on 0432 401 525

Note: Any clubs wishing to tell the rest of ATHRA about one of their upcoming feature or special events should send their article to their Regional Manager for on forwarding.



OUR PARTNERS

Just a reminder about our partners:

Affinity Insurance (www.affinityib.com.au) offer a range of discounts to ATHRA members on all of their insurance needs be they horse or float, Public Liability or Personal accident. Contact affinity direct to discuss.

Australian Natural Horsemanship (Ken Faulkner) www.australiannaturalhorsemanship.com
Australian Horsemanship Pty Ltd will offer all ATHRA members 10% discount on all events including Horsemanship Courses, Demonstrations and Special Events throughout Australia.

Cavallo (www.cavallo-inc.com) who provide members with significant and varying discounts on their merchandise. They are also ATHRA's major sponsor.

Dixon-Smith, (<http://dixonsmith.com.au/>) they will provide 10% discount to ATHRA members, advise your ATHRA membership when you make the purchase.

Nash Saddles (www.nashcustomsaddles.com.au) will provide a range of discounts – members ordering a new sale will obtain a 10% discount.

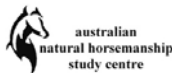
Ozzy Horse Ropes, (www.ozzyhorseropes.com) provides a 10% discount to ATHRA members. Advise your ATHRA membership when you make the purchase.

Swish Horse (www.swishhorse.com) offers 10% discount on Cashel product range & 5% discounts on Swish Horse product range. Advise your ATHRA membership when you make the purchase.

Thanks to Cavallo – every ATHRA membership processed prior to the end of April 2012 will be given a voucher to cash in on any Cavallo hoof boots or Saddle pad products. These vouchers will be sent out with your individual membership card.



The image shows a rectangular voucher for Cavallo Bucks. The top half features the text 'Cavallo Bucks' in a large, bold, black font, with '\$50' in a very large, red font below it. To the left of the '\$50' is a silhouette of two riders on horseback within an outline of Australia, with 'ATHRA' written below. To the right of the '\$50' is the text: 'Redeem towards the purchase of any pair of Cavallo Hoof Boots or Saddle Pad And we pay the shipping! Exclusive to 2012 Paid ATHRA Members Valid Until June 30, 2012 Only redeemable by emailing info@cavallo-inc.com No cash value.' The bottom left corner features the Cavallo logo, which is a red circle containing a white horse head silhouette, with the word 'Cavallo' in a stylized font and 'HORSE & RIDER' underneath. The entire voucher is framed by a decorative border of red '\$50' text on the left and right sides.



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