



MONARO HORSE TREKKERS INC. JANUARY 2018 NEWSLETTER.

PRESIDENT Donna Cameron
0429 164 077

VICE PRESIDENT Mick Casnave

TREASURER Karen Carter
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Dear Members Welcome to 2018. Bywong's AGM was held on 20th January at the local tea house under the shade of the leafy pergola. The team is back enthusiastic as ever planning the 2018 calendar. This year has introduced a new way of joining or re-joining ATHRA. on line www.athra.com.au and search memberships any difficulties contact Karen.

Committee members: Beth Stone ACTEA delegate, Meika Van Gool, Billy Cameron support, Jenny Costin BNT public officer and newsletter. Hilary Gunn facebook and website.

New members always welcome in Monaro. We are a small club established in the 1980s and concentrate on local rides within 100km of Canberra. Our camp outs are usually in Kosciuszko National Park, Namadgi National Park. We also have weekends away on the South Coast and Southern Highlands. More information available on the Australian Trail Horse Riders www.athra.com.au website which includes the Code of Conduct we abide by to help keep the rides safe.

Presidents Report from Donna Cameron.

This year has gone fast with many things we want to achieve and so many goals to meet and the good old bucket list hovering in our thoughts, yet so many obstacles to navigate on our search for fulfilment e.g. the weather ruins that weekend or the road works close our access points, work commitments and family obligations. However I think we had a great year with Monaro Horse Trekkers. We had a variety of rides in different locations and even a cattle clinic, we have been lucky enough to experience new adventure with our beloved horses and friends.

I am very proud to be part of Monaro (ATHRA Club) it is inspirational and supportive. The members and committee members of this club are providing an outstanding foundation for participants in good standards of horsemanship and trail riding, as well as sharing locations for really nice and safe rides in our local area.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to our club this year including Tinderry club who have provided support for our club and have extended our local trail riding experience.

News items:

A new and more efficient way of joining Monaro is go to www.athra.com.au website look for membership new or renew. Your membership will be processed much quicker with a direct payment to ATHRA. Print out the membership document when received.

A new trail from Equestrian Park. Map later in newsletter.

Mid 2017 ACT local equestrians noticed all these new signs across some traditional riding areas in the forest across the causeway of Molongo River below Equestrian Park and close to the Zoo. ACT Equestrian Association notified and after meeting with track builders and forestry, it was found not to be done without local ranger's permission. So here we go again our rangers who always support us, in-between fighting fires in California graded bridle path through the pine trees. The shady trail avoiding the bikes and away from the zoo animals connects to the corner of the Zoo fence which leads to the Tuggeranong Park underpass into the Arboretum. Rangers have also mowed inside the perimeter fence adjoining the Tuggeranong Parkway back towards the River Road and the Bicentennial National Trail. When funds permit the rangers will grade the perimeter track. The maps yellow line shows the approx.



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route of the new trail. The other tracks within the forest Bakkar Dr Worm etc are the off road cycle tracks. We can still ride in the forest main trails just beware of cyclists.

National Arboretum at Yarralumla. If you are planning a ride in the Arboretum please stick to the equestrian route. We are not allowed at the top of Dairy Farmers Hill as shown.



There is a huge underground tank covered by a layer of top soil which supplying the arboretum irrigation system. This area is dangerous and there is a risk of a lot horses' weight giving way. The arboretum CEO **welcomes horse riders but please stick to the route shown on the Arboretum maps at the 3 equestrian entrances or get one off the websites home page - follow about, publications and maps. Map attached in email**

Unfortunately ACT Equestrian Association president Christine Lawrence and I as BNT Section Coordinator hear about equestrians not adhering to equestrian trails at our meetings. It's a real concern and we don't want to jeopardise our equestrian relationship and trails in the Arboretum by wrong doers. It has taken since 2004 to get what we have. We have a horse yard just near visitor's centre which is a short walk to café and fabulous view it's a great place to see the view from and a respite from the weather. I had lunch there recently and the food was beautiful.

The Arboretum Public Use Policies states that equestrian access to the Arboretum will be permitted on designated trails and the Bicentennial National Trail. For the purposes of equestrian access, designated trails are defined as all gravel roads, trails and interconnecting alleés, but excluding the access tracks to the events terrace, the amphitheatre and the central valley

Our meetings with the CEO and staff are about planned walking/cycling trails and how they could affect the horse riders. We recently had a cavaletti and route changed coming out of the cork oaks and up into the cypress pines to avoid a downhill cycle track. New signs pointing to route will be installed soon. The dead trees at the horse yards have been replaced. No floats in the Arboretum. Park at Equestrian Park and try out the new forest trail which connects from the causeway below Equestrian Park. Jenny Costin BNT



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Memories from 2017

August Coast Ride.

Helen Locke is really good at finding accommodation with horses to the delight of trekkers the opportunity to ride on a beach in Eurobodalla NP with spectacular views from the headlands starting at Congo entrance of the Dreaming Track down lake behind Tuross Beaches. Horses are allowed areas of Moruya beach near the northern end of the airport between the windsock and the creek. Parking at the windsock is spacious. The accommodation is on the Moruya River in cabins is reasonable adjoins the river but agistment is pricey with small yards.



Moruya Beach at dusk

Christmas Ride at Bywong December 2017:

For our Christmas ride, 7 of us braved the heat, and rode at our place here at Bywong.

As it was quite warm, we rode out at 9.30 for 2 1/2hrs then went onto our neighbours place with a very large dam used for water skiing, to swim with our horses. With all saddles off, Judd (my horse) was a very willing participant and didn't need much encouragement to go in to cool off. Others soon followed, especially Laurens new horse. Lauren has now discovered that her horse enjoys swimming, which is a wonderful sensation for all horse lovers.

We finished off with a picnic lunch under the shade, with wine and all that Bruce (my husband) kindly brought up and organized for us. Another great, safe ride by all, and look forward to it again. Lisa Camp



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Photo Bwyong Christmas Ride



June at Bwyong. Lisa led a 3hour ride from her property along part of the historical route to Bungendore which navigates its way around the southern ends of Lake George. We came across an historical well-built stone tower which obviously marked the original route. The views from the escarpment amazing. A cool day with the evening dinner around a huge bonfire of Lisa's efforts in clearing the property of fallen timber





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Photo June Bywong Ride



October Kambah to Pine Island Return: organised by Helen Palma. The ride from Kambah's Arawang agistment paddocks followed the BNT around Urambi Hills to Pine Island where trekkers enjoyed a picnic lunch. The BNT



overlooks the Murrumbidgee and the Bullen Ranges. Zig Zags to avoid the archery range.



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August Cattle Clinic:

Heaps of fun on a sunny wintery day at Hoskingtown.



Lamberts Winery Lunch Ride

A three hour ride along bridle paths. Trekkers enjoyed a bit of a la carte dining at Lamberts Winery at Wamboin. Organised by Helen Locke a special treat in the rides lunch break. At the Winery there is a dedicated area to tie up h

Narrabundah Hill Ride.

The weather was cloudy and brisk to begin with. The horses were all well behaved and so were the riders. We just meandered along the BNT to Narrabundah Hill and followed the trails up and over and around where the pine trees kept us sheltered and warm.

Very peaceful and we enjoyed seeing and hearing the black cockatoos flying in and out of the pine trees. Helen



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Social Rides: Members often contact each other for social riding. If you have an idea and want some company let Helen MHT secretary know and she will send around an email.

Social planned rides are not covered by ATHRA insurance but you can invite non ATHRA members.

Monaro Horse Trekkers - 2018 Ride Calendar

DATE	LOCATION
17 February	Kambah
17 March	Uriarra Forest
21 April	KNP
19 and 20 May	Jugiong
16 June	Tallaganda Forest
21 July	Arboretum
18 and 19 August	Berry and Beach weekend
15 September	Winery Ride
20 October	Gunning
17 - 18 November	Corn Trail or Monga Forest, Braidwood
8 - 9 December	KNP

Ride Notices will be circulated via email with further details and contacts, generally one week out except where more definite numbers are required in advance for weekends away.

Occasionally rides may need to be postponed or dates changed due to weather conditions or ride coordinators other commitments. Therefore, we do have alternative or additional rides planned such as Red Hill, Mt Ainslie, Daffodil ride at Uriarra (Aug/Sept) and Mt Stromlo. We will also be looking into arranging another cattle clinic at Hoskinstown.



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