



# March 2018

## Next Ride

When: **Sunday 29th April**

Where: Mirrabel, South Australia

*Members of other ATHRA clubs are welcome to join us by arrangement, but will need to bring proof of 2018 membership or purchase a day membership online prior (see [www.athra.com.au](http://www.athra.com.au))*

## Club Contacts

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## Upcoming Ride

Unfortunately the Barmah Forest 3 day camp ride has had to be canceled due to a lack of interest or commitment from members.

Thank you to David for all of his efforts organising the necessary permits and supporting infrastructure for the ride.

## BTR Ride Report

**David has prepared a report on a much anticipated Limestone Track Winery ride held on the 18th of February.**

This time of the year is always a bit hard to predict, but we thought we'd try an evening ride this time, to see if we could beat the heat. And it turned out to be a great ride. Disappointing that so few members attended; understandable with distances to travel home after the possibility of a few wines with dinner! Those who made it though, certainly enjoyed the outing.

It was another warm but pleasant day, with evening breezes forecast to cool us on the way home. Leanne and Robyn were keen and arrived at 1.30pm! So, we sat in the shade, fanned by a nice breeze, and talked of up-coming rides and events, until others started to arrive. There were 7 of us for the ride; lead by David, trail boss Debby S, drag Sally F, with Robyn, Leanne, Annette and Carina joining us from Kyneton club. It was all very casual as we all saddled up and put our wallets in the car for ferrying to the winery.



Some heads were turned as the alpacas came to farewell us on our trip, but nothing reactive. Out the gate and across the highway we went. It was a nice amble through the bush, with a few loops made to kill time and give us the opportunity to do some trot and canter sections. The thing I like most about BTR rides is that they are unhurried and very social. Lots of time to chat and swap stories along the trail.

## BTR Ride Report Cont.

We arrived at Limestone Track Vineyard right on time at 5pm, and Markus soon had our meal cooking, while the rest of us enjoyed the air conditioner and a wine tasting and talk from John Burford, mine host. John and his lovely wife Judy, have been making award winning wines at their winery on the edge of the bush for some 20 years now, and our riders all enjoyed the fruits of his labours.

The meal of BBQ gourmet sausages, shaslik selection, home made potato salad and green salads was well complimented by a lovely glass of red, as we looked out onto the sunset and the hulk of Mt Tarrengower in the distance. The day had cooled and the colours in the sky had intensified, and the riders were all well fed, thanks so much to the organisational skills of Markus. John joined us for the meal and had time to answer our questions. David had baked some nectarines for dessert, and these were the perfect cleanser for the palate after the meal.

Water bottles were refilled, and we checked on our trusty steeds who'd lazed under the trees while we supped. We had had a lazy 2 hours of food and wine and conversation, now it was time to head home. Our route home was through the bush, which was coming alive with birdsong again after the heat of the day. And kangaroos abounded around every corner, it seemed.

We arrived back to David's about 7.45pm, collected our respective wine purchases, washed down our sweaty horses and prepared to leave. It was a fun afternoon, with smiles all round, And some very full tummies too! Thank you everyone for coming along and enjoying the ride with me. It was about 8pm by the time everyone had left and headed in various directions.



*Find us on Facebook!*

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/BTR.ATHRA/>

## Ride Report

**David attended a four day camp ride at Fry's Flat on the Howqua river run by the Mansfield & District TRC.**

After my attendance on a ride at Mt Stirling with the Mansfield and District TRC last month, I was excited to attend their ride this month at Fry's Flat on the Howqua River. So, on Friday I set off with some friends, Yolanda and Annette from Kyneton club, for 4 days of relaxed camping at the majestic Fry's Flat campground.

The weather was warm, so a splash in the river after set-up was most welcome. The campground was rather deserted on Friday when we arrived, so had no problems finding a good camp spot for us and the horses. But by Sat 8am it was getting very full of like-minded campers. Our group of 17 riders had the hard yards booked and had set up around those. There were lots of laughs and stories around the campfire on the Friday night, before we all retired early, ready for a 9am ride out on the morrow.

Saturday saw mixed weather conditions, with warm sunshine again to start with, but the prospect of thunderstorms later in the day. We set off for Running Creek campground, about 18kms away, under blue skies. We had crossed the river about 6 times before we started up the side of the mountain to what is referred to as The High Trail, and the rain started. The trail is a goat track clinging halfway up the side of a tall mountain, with steep drop-offs to the river far below. But oh, so exhilarating. Beautiful treetop views to the mountains all around. We arrived at Running Creek about 12 noon and gave the horses a well-deserved drink in the river, before we set about devouring our own lunches.

The ride back took us along the Low Trail, with about 35 river crossings to get us home. By now all the horses were very keen river crossers, and the riders were all rather wet, but all wearing smiles. With all the rain and sunshine, it was quite humid by the time we got back to camp, so another frolic in the river was in order. Another night by the campfire and more reminiscing of the days ride.

Sunday was a cooler day with lovely sunshine. We all needed to have some warmer gear on as we rode out again at 9am, this time, heading up river towards 7 Mile Campground. We headed along the river to Sheeppark Flat where we again went along the high trail to skirt the campgrounds (is a Park's requirement to avoid riding through the campgrounds). Once at Tunnel Bend we dropped back down and started the river crossings again.



## Ride Report Cont.

We got to Gardener's Hut rather quickly, where there is a large grove of European deciduous trees planted around this lovely riverbank hut. It will be a picture-perfect sight come autumn. We continued along the riverbank, through stands of tea tree and under huge ash trees, crossing many times across the river, until we arrived at a nice bush camping area high on the riverbank, where we stopped for lunch. Rather early at 11am but welcome all the same. Our route home was a retracing of our trip out with lots of opportunity for trot and canter sections. A really nice ride indeed, getting us back to camp by 2pm.

As Yolanda, Annette and my self had planned to stay through until Monday afternoon, we had lots of spare time to relax in.

All the campers had left by about 4pm, and so it was just us camped on the flats. That is until the cows arrived right on time at 5pm! A herd of a dozen very brazen cows with calves at foot arrived amid a cacophony of cow bellowing arrived then, intent on vacuuming up all the fallen apples from the huge old Granny Smith tree, and any hay left laying about. And no electric fence was going to stop them! So we hurriedly moved the horses into the hard yards and packed up to move closer to our mounts, while the old cows scoffed everything in sight. They even tried to get into the hard yards to eat the hay; very determined indeed. But after some worrying encounters, the cows moved off, only to return at dawn to try it on again.

They provided us with lots of entertainment, as did some of the other local fauna who came to visit our camp. It was magic to be there alone with Nature in a beautiful setting.

The time away had been full of laughs and highlights, which all made it so special. Our host Jilly Archer had done a great job of putting together this excellent weekend away. A good mix of people from all over Victoria, including some from the Mornington Peninsular. The weather was a mix at times, but the sunshine was lovely. We all enjoyed the trip and had a big egg and bacon breaky before we left for home at lunchtime Monday. Ahhh! The serenity. Can't wait for the next high country adventure.



## Ride Calendar 2018

<b>January</b>	21st January	Campbell's Creek Ride	Sally Foran
<b>February</b>	18th February	Limestone Track Winery Ride & BBQ, Guildford	David Wallace
<b>March</b>	10th-12th March	Barmah Forest Camp (Labour Day w/e)	David Wallace
<b>March</b>	30th March - 2nd April	Easter Holidays	
<b>April</b>	29th April	Mirrabel, South Australia 10 day ride	
<b>May</b>			
<b>June</b>	16th-17th June	Weekend Winery Lunch Ride	Alison Jeynes
<b>July</b>	15th July	Newstead Pub Ride	Debby Sharbaugh
<b>August</b>	19th August	Avoca Day Ride	Jennifer Williams
<b>September</b>			
<b>October</b>	21st October	Mt. Cole Ride, Possible Camp	Cecelia & Vanessa
<b>November</b>	18th November	Taradale Ride	Justine Image
<b>December</b>	16th December	BTR Christmas Ride	TBC

## Horse-i-craft

Hopefully we are done with the really hot days of this summer, but something to consider for next year! Also useful for horses that are being confined or very bored.

- Cut up fruit and vegetables that your horse enjoys such as apple, carrots, watermelon etc
- Freeze in a bowl (or bucket if you have a large freezer)
- We have placed this one in a slow feeder net, but you can freeze a rope into it

