




# December 2019 Newsletter

 athra.com.au

Find us on 

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**GENERAL MEETING** (1st Thursday of the month) **8pm Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2019**

All welcome **Southern Hotel** (next to Cafe Nova)

Come early for tea – 7pm

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## November Meeting

- Ride Calendar.
- SA Water – complete – sadly no horse access within SA Water land.
- Thankyou letter to Catninga owners – Tamara
- Christmas Dinner Details finalised.
- GTHRC to re – Affiliate with ATHRA - fees remain the same for 2020

# A happy and safe Christmas to all

## 2020 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS & FEES

Membership for 2020 is now due - fees remain unchanged =  
Adults \$110, Junior (under 18) \$50, Social (non riding) \$40.

Renew your membership online via [www.athra.com.au/membership/membership-renewal](http://www.athra.com.au/membership/membership-renewal) & don't forget to have your membership number handy – the ATHRA website say

*“ If you do not know your membership number, please contact your Club Secretary or [membership@athra.com.au](mailto:membership@athra.com.au) . Once renewed please print or copy your membership details which will be emailed to you at the completion of registration for future reference.”*

So please do 😊

*Kath McCullagh*  
Secretary – Gawler Trail Horse Riders Club

## Coming Events

### December Ride: KERSBROOK - Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> Dec 2019

Host – Michelle Day  
Trail Boss – Michelle Day.  
Sunday – Arrive 9am for a 10am ride out. (Pre ride meeting 9.45am without horses)  
RSVP by 11<sup>th</sup> December to: [gawler.thrc@gmail.com](mailto:gawler.thrc@gmail.com) (if you have any queries please email.)



**Description:** This ride will take in forest tracks with hills. The time for this ride will be about 2.5 hours. The terrain should be suitable for barefoot horses. Riders can expect a mostly pleasant walk and some trot ride. After the ride members are invited and encouraged to stay and enjoy a packed BYO lunch together. BYO chairs etc.

**Hazards:** occasional possible wildlife (kangaroos), fence line sty(s) to step over.

**Directions:** full directions to those who RSVP by 11<sup>th</sup> December 2019.

**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.

**January Ride: OSBORNE BEACH - Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> Jan 2020**

Host & Boss – Tamara Godfrey ph 0417869695  
arrival ~ 6am ride/swim - off beach by 8am

Ride description - We can ride south as far as Wigley St, Largs Bay. This is a short ride but those what are enthused can do it twice or just stop for a dip in the ocean back at Osborne.

Horses are only permitted on the foreshore between the hours of 4am and 8am. These times must be strictly adhered to as we would not want to jeopardize any future beach rides. The car park **must** be left spick & span:- All manure and hay **MUST** be removed prior to departing for home.



We will be cooking egg & bacon 'sangers' on the BBQ – so please BYO & join in.

Directions- Go down the Port River Express Way over the bridge onto Victoria Road. Turn left into Strathfield Tce or Gedville Rd; turn right into Lady Gowrie Drive (the Esplanade). Car park is opposite Moldivia Walk. There are toilets & a playground there and a walkway down onto the beach.

Cost:- Nil. As the beach is an unrestricted site there is "no ATHRA day membership" on this event & therefore all non ATHRA members ride at their own risk in this public area.

**RIDE CALENDAR FOR 2019**

<b>Ride Date</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Host</b>	<b>Club Meeting Dates for 2019</b>
Dec 15	Kersbrook	Michelle Day	5 December

**RIDE CALENDAR FOR 2020**

**Looking forward to another super year of riding in our great state**

- We are seeking ideas from our riders for the 2020 year's trail rides.
- 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 start to fill the calendar.
- Contact a committee member or email your thoughts and ideas to [gawler.thrc@gmail.com](mailto:gawler.thrc@gmail.com)

Rides can be Saturday or Sunday  
Some of the ride areas and types of rides that the club has had are:- Beach rides, Birdwood, Tarlee, Leisingham, Mt Crawford Forest, Kapunda, Barossa Winery Tour, Humbug Scrub, Tungkillio – all suggestions will be welcomed.

As not all members can travel/camp the camp nominations are mostly scheduled as additional weekends (~5<sup>th</sup> weekend of the month or 1<sup>st</sup> if we have nominations) we also try to schedule road rides in winter (forest rides have to be when ground is not too wet or fire bans in place) - camp weekend dates are negotiable

Camp destination examples: - Catninga, Benson Park, Melrose, Bendleby Range, Morgan, Bria-Glen, Truro Gorge, Waterloo, Flinders

We will be continually discussing our monthly ride calendar for the next couple of months, **so get those ideas & dates to the committee** ...Please make suggestions of rides that you would like the club to do and maybe some new rides, pretty rides, bush, forest, country or just a favourite ride you would like to share. Remember it does not need to

be from your home, but the start of the ride need to have parking of floats. So give it some thought and let us know. Or even just let us know which of the rides the club has done that you would like to do again.

**Remember it's your club, so vote for a ride you want to do & we will find a volunteer to host**

Rides are usually held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> weekend (Sunday calculated) & 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month (if there is one).  
Camps held ~1<sup>st</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> weekend of the month (negotiable) Meeting dates are held on the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of the month

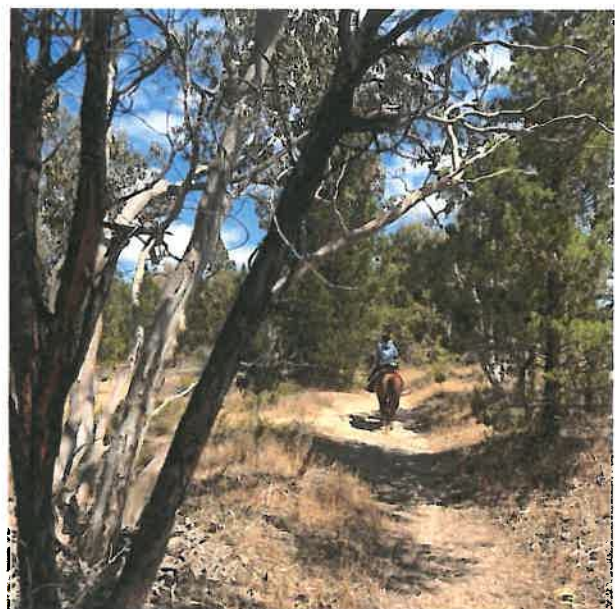
**The following is a work in progress – dates, location & hosts to be continually confirmed**  
**Please nominate a date if you have nominated to host rides**

<b>Ride Date 2020</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Host</b>	<b>Club Meeting Dates for 2020</b>
Jan 19	Osborne Beach ride	Tamara Godfrey	2 January
Feb 16	Pt Parham Beach ride	Sandra East	6 February
Feb 29-1 Mar	Camp		
March 15			5 March
April 19	Cockatoo Valley	Di Schaefer	2 April
May 17			7 May
May 30-31	Camp		
June 21			4 June
July 19			2 July
Aug 16			6 Aug
Sept 20			3 Sept
Oct 18			1 Oct
Oct 31-1 Nov	Camp		
Nov 15			5 Nov
Dec 13			3 Dec

**Past Events**

**November Ride – ROSEDALE – Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2019**

Everyone was ready to ride out a little later at 9:30am. We set off along Adrian & Chris’s long driveway, and then headed out on the dirt road past vineyards and beautiful



scenery of rolling hills with



vineyards in full leaf and fruit forming well for the vintage – always nice to see the green everywhere at this dry time of year.



The group enjoyed a trot along the dirt road leading to the winding sand track; it was as always lovely to meander along the 2km or more of shady tree covered track. All horses were really well behaved and riders enjoyed the trail by the sounds of yakking and laughing going on. We made our way through the vineyards and back up the dirt road and back to the Dahlenberg’s farm.



Adrian (Lisa's Dad) and Craig (Lisa's Husband) had a wonderful BBQ ready for us when we returned. We had extra's come for lunch which was a great effort for everyone at this busy time of year. Thank you to everyone who brought food to share at the BBQ.

Sincere thanks to Adrian & Chris Dahlenburg for having the club at such a beautiful venue and to Craig for cooking up our tasty lunch. The social gathering for lunch finished off a great morning out riding together.

Merry Christmas everyone and a safe and happy new year ☺ ☺ - Happy Trails !

**November Christmas Dinner – SANDY CREEK HOTEL - Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2019**

**End of Year/Christmas Function  
23/11/19 by DRS.**

After doing a magnificent job in hosting the End of Year/Christmas Dinner Function for the Riding Club for the last few years, Chris and Maria Pearce decided to take a rest this year, so ideas were sought regarding another suitable venue.

The members were eager to have a casual venue, centrally located, reasonable cost, with a private outside area where we could mingle and socialise. One member suggested the

Sandy Creek Hotel, so the manger was



contacted and was quite happy to provide their beer garden. The Riding Club had previously held an enjoyable Christmas Function in the beer garden, but that was quite some years ago.

Sandra East did a great job collating a concise list of members who intended to attend, and appreciation is extended to

everyone who listed their choice of meal, and paid by the designated date, so that the Club could pay the hotel, in advance and they could cater accordingly.

Julie was in the area a couple of days prior, as she had arranged to meet someone at the Hotel, so while she was there, she checked on the progress of the beer garden. The lawn had been mowed, the area was clean and tidy, and they were busily repairing the shade-cloth/ wind break in readiness for our function.

Come Saturday afternoon, I was the first to arrive.....I guess I do live the closest.....and I was very pleased to see that the beer garden had been set up in a very professional manner, with a big Welcome to the Gawler Trail Riders Club sign, and seating for the booked amount of people, arranged under a couple of marquees. There were party lights around the marquee, and an ornate Christmas tree, so it all looked very Festive but casual, just as we had hoped.

Sandra East and I had been allocated a small budget to purchase a few incidentals for the evening, so I went about decorating the long tables with platters of nibbles, set up the Door Prize and before long the members began to arrive.



The meal was served very promptly, turkey or pork with roast potatoes and vegetables, followed by ice-cream and fruit salad or Christmas pudding and cream. It just goes to show how versatile some of the riding club members are when they can lend their hand at waitressing at a moment's notice!!

Following the meal Julie did an exceptional job as M.C., and kept the fun rolling. Firstly she organized the Chris Cringle which amounted in great hysteria! Obviously the bottle of red wine was a good vintage as it was highly sought after, and the Intelligent Solar Light was also popular and swapped in a hast of exchanges!! There were many innovative and fun gifts, which brought about a great deal of laughter.



Kath had brought along a game of Skill, where two people had to suck a straw and flip lolly Christmas walking sticks out of their bowls....this was really entertaining, with John and Darren providing descriptive commentary during the competition! Well done to those who competed! We also had a couple of card games and a lucky door prize. By the end of the evening most had either won a prize, swapped a prize, or had a bag of carrots to take home. The evening was a comfortable temperature for outside dining, and miraculously we weren't even bombarded with flies or insects.

At the end of the evening Julie made a Thank You presentation to the hotel manager and staff member, and both received a Club stubby holder, which they accepted with some glee!!!

It is always great to catch up with Club members and to have thirty eight members, family and friends attend, contributed to a fantastic night.

Christmas Greetings to all and Best Wishes for a Happy, Healthy, Horse riding New Year of 2020.

### Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for any items that members want printed in the **January 2020** newsletter will be **Thursday 19 December** so please ensure that your emails reach Maria Pearce on [gawler.THRC@gmail.com](mailto:gawler.THRC@gmail.com) before that date to avoid disappointment.

### Horse Health / Care

#### **Does my horse need a Companion?**

(Extract from RSPCA Australia – Knowledgebase – updated May 2019)

Horses naturally live in herds and a normal horse is never alone by choice. These facts drive the behaviour of horses and cause them to do some of the things that can seem irrational to us – such as panic if they get separated from other horses.

Living as part of a herd has many advantages for horses such as 'safety in numbers'. A horse living alone in the wild would be much more likely to be caught by a predator therefore horses feel safer when they have other horses around them.

Horses take it in turns to watch over each other while they sleep. One horse usually stays standing when the others are asleep on the ground. This horse is more alert than the others (even if dozing) while the others sleep more deeply. This is a good example of how herds operate.

When not eating or sleeping horses carry out many other social behaviours termed 'loafing'. Loafing includes activities such as mutual grooming and playing. Mutual grooming, which is where horses use their incisor teeth to groom each other, is a very important behaviour for horses. Areas that they cannot reach themselves can be scratched by the other horse. It is also a way of maintaining bonds among herd members. Horses regularly simply stand together in the shade, nose to tail during hot weather, using their tails to keep flies off each other. In cold, wet weather horses will stand in a sheltered spot together because their large bodies help to keep each other warm.

Playing and running around together is another very important behaviour for horses of all ages. See the article What are the key things I should understand about horse behaviour?

## **Why is this important for my domestic horse?**

Domestic horses have the same instincts and behave in much the same way that their free living cousins, therefore if we ignore these facts about their natural behaviour we can cause them to be stressed. Domestic horses do not reason that they do not need to worry about predators. Their instincts tell them that there are predators lurking around every corner and therefore they still feel much safer in a herd than alone. Horses that live alone do not get to benefit from the shared responsibilities of herd life and all the benefits of social behaviour.

## **How will I know if my horse is stressed?**

A horse that is stressed due to a lack of companionship may show behaviours that include running around a lot (usually up and down the fence line that prevents the horse from reaching other horses) and whinnying. They may also lose weight. A horse that has been separated from other horses for a long time may show dull 'switched off' behaviour termed 'learned helplessness'.

Can a different type of animal be a substitute for another horse?

A horse will 'bond' with another type of animal if that is all that is available. Horses will bond with many other types of animal if another horse is not available. In a stabled situation horses have even been known to bond with a chicken or a cat, but another horse is by far and away the best companion. Different types of animals behave in different ways which does not usually fulfil each of the animal's needs. For example sheep and cows are ruminant animals which means that they eat more quickly than a horse and then spend more time laying down ruminating, whereas horses spend longer grazing and digest their food whilst grazing.

## **Can a human be a substitute for another horse?**

Horses need other horses. Humans do not make a good enough substitute for another horse. Apart from the fact that a human cannot be with their horse 24/7, they cannot perform the functions that another horse can such as mutual grooming, standing over the horse while he or she sleeps and playing any of the many (very boisterous) games that healthy horses play. It is not acceptable practice to deliberately keep your horse without the company of other horses so that he or she bonds more strongly with you.

Ideally a horse should always be able to see and touch another horse. If horses are separated by fences into individual paddocks they can still become stressed and will often suffer from fence injuries in their attempts to interact with other horses. Keeping horses in 'herds' will give them the companionship they need and also allows you to manage your pasture better because then paddocks can be rested for periods between grazing periods which allows the pasture to re-grow.

Horses can be separated into individual yards or stables for the short time that it takes to eat any supplementary feed both for their safety and the safety of handlers.

For more information please see: <https://www.equiculture.net/responsiblehorsecare>

Updated on May 2, 2019 <https://kb.rspca.org.au/knowledge-base/does-my-horse-need-a-companion/>

## **FIRE PLAN FOR YOUR HORSES**

Friendly reminder to not just plan for yourselves but also for your horses during the Fire Danger Season – don't get caught out with no plan. Arrange you bushfire buddy early, write it down & practice your plan so it all comes easily to you under pressing circumstances.



See HorseSA & CFS websites for many helpful hints & Links

**My Horse Disaster Plan** <https://www.myhorsesdisasterplan.org.au/>

**Looking after horses in bushfires - Guide** <https://www.cfs.sa.gov.au/public/download.jsp?id=104503>

## **CLUB UNIFORM**

Just a reminder to all Members – Our club uniform currently comprises of a lime yellow high-vis shirt (long or short sleeve). This is to help promote the safety of our riders especially whilst riding in shared zones such as on roads.

Whilst Hi Vis is mandatory for ride officials (Trail Boss & stewards), it is appreciated if members can look to wear the club uniform at all club rides (on & off road), & whilst it is not mandatory it is preferred for your safety & is also a good promotion for the club. A lime yellow high-vis safety vest is also suitable to be worn in place of a shirt or over the top of other gear (& visible in all weather).

**Club members & their visitors are required to wear Safety Helmets whilst mounted - helmet must comply with S/NZS 3838:2006 safety standard and be no more than five years old. When buying a helmet always check the date of manufacture as this determines the age of the helmet.**

# School Horse Species



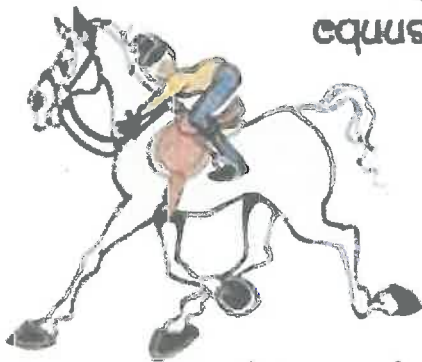
equus  
mondo girthus



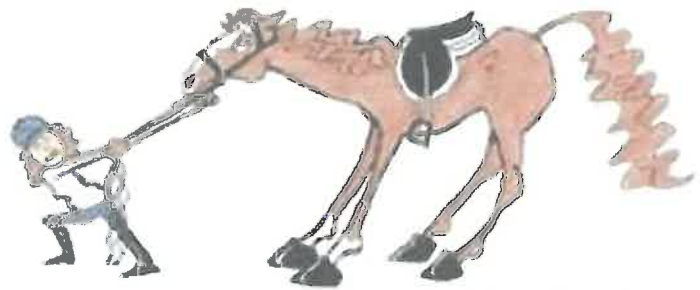
equus ignorus everythingus



equus suddenus  
ravenous



equus trottus horrendous



equus non-cooperativus



equus randomus stoppus



equus ploddus alongus

School Horse Species

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## CLUB PROMOTION



Club Badges are available for purchase by members \$12 each (& yes you can have more than 1). They are available with the sign in book – take your badge from the bag & place your money in the badge bag. You can put your badge on your high vis top or even on your Saddle blanket – it's up to you.

We also have club coolers available for sale at \$5 each – what a bargain 😊.



Float Stickers are also available - \$2 each

Place the money in the bag with the appropriate merchandise 😊

ATHRA also has a selection of items branded merchandise available – visit <http://www.athra.com.au/merchandise.html> to see what is available.

## Notice

### **STILL LOOKING TO BUY MY NEXT HORSE – from Sallyanne Burton**

Hello everyone .....

I am still looking to buy another horse.

I would ideally like to find a coloured horse (painted - piebald, skewbald, palomino, appaloosa, buckskin, dun etc), age to be between 5 & 8 years old and 14.3 to 15.5hh. The horse has to have a good temperament and it needs to float well.

I am seeking a good trail riding horse and one that can do some show jumping as well.

I can pay up to \$2000 for the right horse. If anyone knows of a horse available could you please contact me.

With thanks ....Sallyanne (phone on 04289 158 52).

## 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](http://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!

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### RIDE FEE & DAY MEMBERS

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

Non ATHRA Members (Day Members) – a ride fee of \$25/person/day is applicable (\$10 to club on the day & \$15 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 the 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 on 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.