

HOOOF PRINT

Monaro Horse Trekkers Inc Newsletter



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Kosciusko Huts Association co-ordinator: Nic Webb 62311887

Australian Trail Horse Riders Association information

Code of Conduct & Insurance coverage info: www.athra.com.au

MHT website & membership forms & photos can be found within the ATHRA website. Go to clubs, then NSW, click on Monaro Horse Trekkers.

Next MHT Meeting: Tuesday 29 May 2012, 6.0pm Belconnen Soccer Club

Monaro Horse Trekkers ATHRA accredited trail bosses:

John Went, 4849 4618
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Jane Hedges 6291 6568
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Angela Dulhunty 62979096
Keryn Kefous 62885159
Helen Palmer
David Tassicker
Raylene Garwood (Tassie)



MHT riders arrive at Schofields for the working party, Jan 2012
From Left: Mick, Adele, Andrew, Ian and Karen. Photo provided by Nic Webb

A MASSIVE THANK YOU to the following people who donated their time last year to organise rides for the club (also see photos of our ride organisers at the end of the newsletter):

Karen Carter (also our hard working treasurer), Louise Armour, Sally Willoughby (our hard working Secretary and ride calendar co-ordinator), Helen Locke, Jodie Bain, Beth Stone, Angela Dulhunty, Jenny Costin, Hilary Gunn, Lynda Folkard.

MHT AGM and general meeting 24 January 2012

We had a great turn-out for the MHT AGM with 13 club members in attendance. On behalf of the club, thanks to everyone for coming along. Our club secretary Sally organised the soccer club's board room which was perfect for the club meeting. The bistro meals were pretty good too.

Just email Sally if you'd like the official minutes. I'll only provide a very brief summary here. In the AGM the committee members were re-elected and the committee remains unchanged with everyone agreeing to continue in the absence of any new volunteers. We had a discussion regarding the proposed changes to the MHT constitution, and it was decided to circulate some further changes to members leading up to the next trekkers meeting. Thanks in particular to Karen Carter and Beth Stone for looking carefully at reviewing our constitution which needs updating. The purposes of these changes is to make things more flexible for the club and committee members with respect to when the AGM is held and a couple of other minor things which will make the constitution easier to follow. Everyone is encouraged to take a look at the changes, and if you have any concerns, you can raise them at the next meeting.

Club event summary for 2011:

The club ended 2011 with around 40 members, and holding approximately 12 rides over the year. There were no serious incidents on any of the rides (hooray). Thanks goes again to all those people who put effort into organising rides for the club.

Ride & event reports:

“Wattle ride” Mt Majura - 3 September 2011

14 attended this ride to kick off the spring season. More were coming, with new inexperienced horses, so opted out to ride elsewhere. It was great to meet so many people who have been on the email list, but not seen regularly on the rides.

Thanks to Beth's hospitality the ride went well in still warm weather. There were a variety of wattles blooming, aside from the usual acacias (which is all I can recognise). The new horses handled the pistol range, busy road crossings, & higher than usual cavaleties without incident. We had the trail to ourselves which made it even better.

Thank you to all riders for making the day so pleasant. It was good to meet you, but frustrating that my fresh horse prevented me from getting close to you so I could have a decent conversation.

Sally Willoughby.

Cook to Dunlop loop - 17th September 2011

6 riders enjoyed an easy but long ride in beautiful spring weather with a slight breeze to keep us cool. We started off from Tulley's paddocks, & followed the BNT through the top part of the Pinnacles, past vineyards, a golf course & paddocks soon to be covered with suburbs, (enjoy the country while we can).

We reached Dunlop ponds where our coffee & tea person was waiting for us (such bliss). Amanda's little hardy mare kept up with Keven's big quarter horse as we made a fast return to Cook. Thankyou to Keven, Jenny, Amanda, Lynda & Ian for making an ordinary ride into good fun.

Sally Willoughby

Tallaganda Forest, Forbes Creek - 23 October 2011

This was a wonderful ride organised by our highly valued and dedicated trekker and trail boss, Angela Dulhunty. It was a rather warm but picture perfect spring day with 5 riders in attendance (Angela, Sue, Nic, Jenny & Simon), all but one with fairly green horses. This was a beautiful 15km loop mainly on quiet trails through native forest starting from Forbes Creek. Angela has befriended a local who very kindly allowed us to park our floats in an area adjacent his property. All horses behaved splendidly given their level of experience. For Nic and I, this was our horses 1st trekkers ride so we both felt relieved it had gone well



Thanks Angela for organising a lovely half day ride.

Sue

Forbes Creek, Tallaganda Forest Ride, 23 Oct 2011. From L, Simon, Jenny, Angela, Nic. Sue is taking the photo.

Tallaganda Forest – 27 November 2011

This ride was another wonderful ride organised by our dedicated trail boss Angela. There were I think 11 in attendance.

This was originally planned as a 20km loop via the historic Tallaganda Forest water wheel. However due to a large tree blocking our access, we investigated an interesting detour.

We followed minor tracks and forestry roads which led us through contrasting parts of the forest from exposed felled areas adjacent forest, to luscious temperate rain forest and fern trees. We rode approximately 20km according to my GPS.



Tallaganda Forest ride - from Left Sally, Ian, Lynda, Angela & Hilary

Although there were no incidents, please remember to bring your boots if your horse is barefoot and tender-footed. Shoes or boots are recommended on all trekkers rides for the welfare of your horse. More information on this issue under reminders.

Schofields Hut Working Party, 21-22 January 2012

As indicated in the last newsletter, MHT have agreed to be caretakers of Schofields Hut in KNP in collaboration with the KHA.

Hut History:

Schofields Hut was constructed around 1943 by Stan and Wally Schofield from second-hand materials on snow lease 50-65 of 1,240 acres. It was constructed for use by stockmen as part of the grazing activities of the area. There are old fence lines and stockyards within this area associated with the past use of the hut. It is a simple gable ended corrugated iron hut with a single room, with dimensions of approximately 6 metres by 3 metres. It has a fireplace and chimney which have recently been restored. The hut is located in the Tantangara area in the northern part of KNP.

Thanks Nic for volunteering again this year to co-ordinate this activity for the club. This is likely to be an annual event for the club for general maintenance. Any specialised structural work is done by KHA or national parks experts or contactors, while we will look after the easy stuff once a year.

Our first working party was held early this year over the weekend 21-22 January 2012. This was a popular weekend with about 10 keen MHT members. We attended to some general maintenance including 2 coats of paint on exterior woodwork. All of the work we do on the hut is approved before hand with the NPWLS, and done with the guidance of our KHA co-ordinator David Mitchell in accordance with the Heritage Action Statement. Nic looks after all the paperwork and approvals which is a rather arduous task. If you'd like any further info, Nic is the one to contact.

Thanks also goes to Karen and Mick who led a ride into Schofields on Saturday to help out with the working party. Karen also led a most excellent ride from Wares yards on the Sunday. There were 5 riders, including Adele and Andrew from Cumberland Club.



Left: Karen & Mick painting the gables of Schofields hut. Right: Schofields Hut briefing prior to work on Schofields. Photos provided by Nic Webb

See more photos of the Schofields working party weekend on the trekkers website.

Rides cancelled due to weather and/or insufficient riders:

“Mill Post” ride, Kowen Forest 10 July 2011. Thanks goes to Angela who organised this ride for the club.

“Yanununbeyan National Park” 14 August 2011. Thanks Hilary for organising this ride for the club. Although the ride didn’t go ahead – your effort on behalf of the club was much appreciated.

“Glenrock” 1-3 October 2011. Thanks goes to Louise for organising this ride for the club.

Belconnen Pony Club 4 December 2011. Thanks goes to Lynda for your efforts in organising this event for the club.

Once again – a big **THANK YOU** to all those people who donated their time to organise rides for the club. It is our ride organisers who keep our club alive!!!

Everyone is welcome to come to the next meeting to put forward a ride idea. Or email your ride idea to our ride co-ordinator, Sally Willoughby. We have lots of accredited trail bosses in the club to assist (see listing at the top of the newsletter).

REMINDERS:

Membership renewals

If you want to come on a ride – please don’t forget to rejoin the club in plenty of time before the ride. Only MHT members are allowed on rides for insurance purposes. The membership form and waiver are attached. Send membership fees and forms to our wonderful treasurer, Karen Carter who is eagerly awaiting your renewal. Karen’s address can be found on the form. These forms can also be found on the MHT ATHRA website, go to clubs, NSW, and there is a list of all clubs in NSW, click on Monaro Horse Trekkers. If you get a map of NSW, go back a step, and try again, until you get a list of clubs. Membership and waiver forms can be found by clicking documents at the top of the MHT page. Or send myself or Karen an email and we can forward you the forms again.

Feel free to email me your photos from rides if you’d like me to put them on the website. Otherwise we only see the photos from the rides I manage to attend.

Make sure you contact the ride organiser if you want to come on a ride

Email is not always the best way of contacting the ride organiser, particularly if they don’t check their email everyday, or you send an email to the wrong address. So if there is any doubt please make sure you telephone and make real contact so the person organising the ride knows you are coming and has your phone number in case of cancellation.

Please remember or consider boots for barefoot horses

See ATHRA Code of Conduct paragraph 6.4 which states:

“Participants at ATHRA trail rides or events must ensure that their horse’s feet are adequately conditioned and/or shod to ensure the horse’s soundness and safety.”

We have many barefoot enthusiasts in the club. I am one of them. When deciding to come on a ride with a barefoot horse it is important to consider boots. Even if you just carry them for ‘just in case’. Most rides will have some tracks which are hard and stony. Different horses have different levels of tender

footedness. If you are not sure if your horse will be able to cope with stony tracks or roads, it is essential to either shoe your horse for the ride or bring boots. Alternatively, consider not coming on the ride if you know your horse is tender footed and you don't have boots. This is both a horse welfare consideration, in addition to reducing the possibility of inconvenience for everyone on the ride, should a tender-footed barefoot horse become lame, and/or refuse to go forward and require a rescue float. Barefooting and booting is pretty common place now days, so there is plenty of support from barefoot trimmers on fitting boots. Please note that boots need to fit well. Also boots generally require gradual introduction to avoid rubbing. In addition, the horses feet should be well maintained with regular trimming. Putting brand new boots on your horse for the first time for a 30km trekkers ride is asking for trouble. Introduce them at home first and read all the information and tips which should come with new boots.

Which category of barefoot horse does yours fall into?:

Un-shod and neglected feet. This is not recommended and the horse will not cope if hard stony ground and is likely to damage it's already damaged hooves and go lame on a trekkers ride. Please don't come if this is the category your horse fits into. As an ATHRA member you have agreed to abide by the code of conduct, and unshod, neglected feet is contrary to the abovementioned section 6.4 of the code of conduct. Boots are only suitable for horses with a regular trimming program.

Well maintained barefoot with regular trimming but worked on mostly soft ground. This category is most likely to be tender footed on hard stony ground since the horse is very rarely ridden on such ground. Boots are highly recommended for a trekkers ride.

Well maintained barefoot, regularly trimmed and worked frequently on hard stony ground.

This category would be considered a "conditioned" barefoot horse which has had time ridden on hard stony ground, gradually built up over time in conjunction with work on various surfaces. Such conditioning may also have been done with boots during a transition period from shod to barefoot. A person with this category of barefoot horse will be knowledgeable about what their horse is comfortable with and may or may not require boots depending on the circumstances. For example a lot of wet weather may cause hard conditioned feet to become tender-footed, so boots may be required depending on the situation and the horse. Some horses may also be tender after trimming, however this depends on your trimming style and the individual horse.

Of course there are many in-between levels of barefoot conditioning. **The important thing is to know where your horse is at.** If you don't know, this indicates you don't ride on hard stony ground and as such, your horse will find this uncomfortable, so well fitting boots are highly recommended in this case.

If you would like more information on transitioning a horse from shod to barefoot and barefoot conditioning, let me know and I can email you an article from our local endurance vet, Steve Roberts, who is an expert on this issue. Steve was one of the pioneers for barefoot endurance in NSW.

Sue

Next MHT Meeting: Tuesday 29 May 2012, 6.0pm Belconnen Soccer Club

The meetings are open to all trekkers, their partners, or people interested in joining, so please feel free to come along and bring any issues or ride ideas you'd like to share or discuss. It's a great evening of talking trail rides and general horsie stuff. Please contact Sally if you've got a ride idea for the next calendar. See the list of our accredited trail bosses at the top of the newsletter.

A BIG THANK YOU TO OUR 2011 RIDE ORGANISERS & HELPERS

Karen Carter (also our hard working treasurer), Louise Armour, Sally Willoughby (our hard working Secretary and ride calendar co-ordinator), Ian Shepherd, Jodie Bain, Helen Locke, Angela Dulhunty, Jenny Costin, Hilary Gunn, Lynda Folkard. My apologies I haven't got photos of everyone.



Karen with Truman & Louise, Cooinbil weekend, Feb 2011



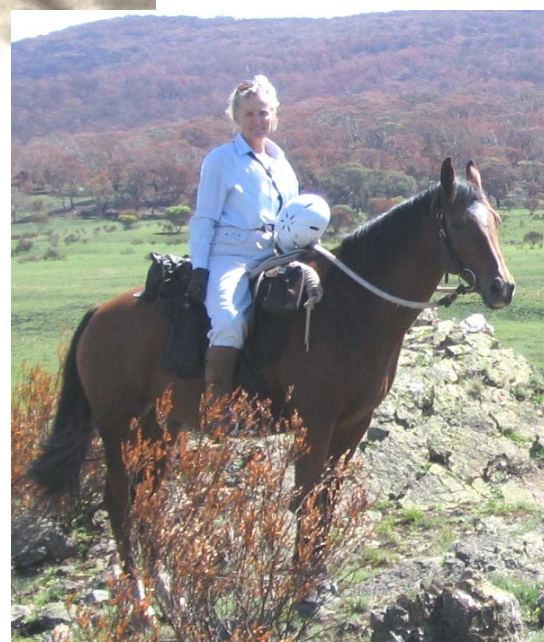
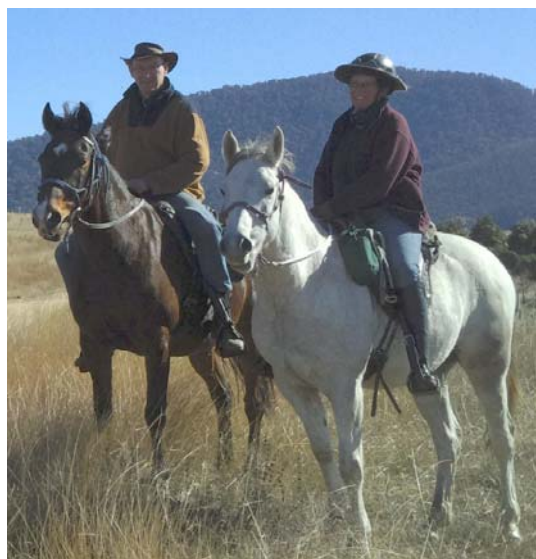
Above right: Angela Dulhunty with Silly Lilly, Tallaganda Forest, Nov 2011



Left: Helen Locke and Elvis (left) and Hilary Gunn and Arafele (right), Tallaganda Forest ride Nov 2011

Below left Sally Willoughby with Riley (right) and Ian Shepherd with Rory (left), Nass Valley, 2010

Below right: Jenny Costin and Marcus, KNP



RIDE CALENDAR FEB – JUNE 2012

MONARO HORSE TREKKERS INC

PLEASE telephone the ride contact at least the Wednesday before the ride, or earlier if possible.

25-26 February: Cooinbil Hut – Kosciusko National Park

Weekend ride riding along scenic trails in the Long Plain area of the park and visiting a number of historic huts. Medium pace.

Contact: Sue Mackenzie 0427 416819

10-18 March: Kosciusko National Park multi-day ride

This ride starts from Wares Yards, riding to the next KNP horse camp. At least 5 riders needed for this ride for safety, so please contact Jenny soon if you are interested. Riders will take turns in providing support to taxi people to collect vehicles for the next camp as the camp will move each night.

Contact Jenny Costin: 6231 9827

21-22 April: Bullocks Hill, Kosciusko National Park

Weekend ride, easy to medium pace.

Contact: Karen Carter 0427279049

Saturday 28 April: Forbes Creek, Tallaganda Forest, Llandenny

Medium paced half day ride, approx. 18km. Starting from Forbes Creek and riding along Bulls Head Fire Trail within Tallaganda National Park to (and around) the lovely Llandenny property and returning to Forbes Creek.

Contact: Angela Dulhunty 6297 9096

4-6 May: Wee Jasper

Weekend ride, contact Jeff for details. Jeff needs an accredited trail boss volunteer for this ride.

Contact: Jeff Thompson 6227 1421

3 June: Cook to Dunlop loop ride

Aprox. 15-20km day ride, medium pace, visiting the beautiful Pinnacle reserve and following scenic trails in the Belconnen region of Canberra.

Contact: Sally Willoughby: 0422405117

Horses should be of reasonable fitness, and have adequate hoof protection or well conditioned feet.

As an ATHRA member you have agreed to abide by the ATHRA code of conduct. See the horse health and welfare section which includes the following points:

6.2 ATHRA strongly recommends to all members that sufficient preparation be put into a horse's training and conditioning before being used in any ATHRA activity or pursuit.

6.4 Participants at ATHRA trail rides or events must ensure that their horse's feet are adequately conditioned and/or shod to ensure the horse's soundness and safety

