



Life is a Ride

Some spend their lives writing about sunsets.
Others spend their lives riding them !!



Newsletter

January 2014



President Report

G'day all, hope everyone had a happy Christmas and New Year and looking forward to the upcoming year of riding.

The Snowy trip was a great success and all that attended had a fabulous time! New Years Eve was pretty special with everyone getting into the spirit of it all and dressed up to the nines to see the New Year in. Well done.

Just a reminder about the AGM coming up in February. It is most important that all members try and attend. This year it will be held at our house with BBQ and shed party to follow for those who want to stay on for a bit of fun, details in this newsletter.

Don't forget about the upcoming " Ride for Madi" , coming up in March. It would be great if as many club members, Athra members and non riding attendees could attend to help raise money for a great cause- Goulburn Options " Go Get Living Fund". Further details in this newsletter.

Again welcome to the new year

Hope to see you on the trail

Cheers Simon

Secretary Report

Hi all,

Happy New Year and I hope you all had a great break. I'm looking forward to this year and it is shaping up to be a busy one for me already with 3 50ths, 2 weddings (incl ours in April!) an 18th and a 21st and throw in the ride calendar, farm work, social rides etc. etc. etc.

We still need some members to volunteer to conduct rides and as I said in the last newsletter there is plenty of support to help out if needed.

Even though the weather hasn't really been summer yet it's been great for riding. I've been to Bendigo/Maldon and Lake Bolac. For anyone who is interested there is a fundraiser pleasure ride at Great Western on the weekend of 10/12 Oct. Glen and I are going, here is the link to view www.gwpleasureride.com, our friends from Lake Bolac are riding as well.

If any one else has any info re non club rides to share send them through, also don't forget to look on the ATHRA web site.

See you all at the AGM.

Kim Fawcus
GDTRC - SECRETARY



RIDE CALENDAR



2014

PLEASE NOTE – MARCH & APRIL RIDES HAVE ALTERNATED

DATE	HOST	DESTINATION
January 25-27 (Ride notice attached)	Joe Curmi 0417 016 079	Elaine (Camp Over)
February 1 "NO RIDE" Just meeting followed by dinner	A G M 4PM BBQ Dinner to follow	Simon & Allison Mason 15 Jeffereys Lane Broadford
Feb 28-March 2	"Ride for Madi" (Simon & Allison Mason) All enquiries to:- Chris Kujus 0407 316 711 Linda Bottom 0422 057 097	Flowerdale
March 29-30	Nikki Hearne 0401 173 042 Dave Falzon 0402 083 502	Healesville
April 27 (Can arrive Saturday evening, but ride is on Sunday 27 th)	Tony Maiolo 0418 324 360	Eden Park (Near Whittlesea)

IMPORTANT NOTICE: If extreme weather conditions are forecast for the day of a planned ride, it is your responsibility to phone the ride host and re-confirm that the ride is going ahead !!

Newsletter Stuff

Hi Guys,

Hope you all had a wonderful safe Christmas and New Year celebrations, and I hope you are all looking forward to 2014.

- Don't forget to put in your nominations forms, waiver & payment for the "Ride for Madi" on February 28-Mar 2, 2014, **no later than February 1, 2014.**

Nominations **MUST** be paid before the ride.

They **WILL NOT** be accepted the day of the ride - you will be turned away !!

Anyone can contribute items for the Auction on the day, so if you want to hit your local area for donation of products, please do so. They don't have to be horse related products eg. Dog Food, Sports gear, Electrical goods etc. Or maybe the business you work for may want to contribute their items.

We have a standard letter that you can hand out to local business's explaining the Fundraising Ride, so if you want a copy of that emailed to you, please contact myself on 0407 316 711 or Linda (Marshy) Bottom 0422 057 097, and we will email you the letter.

- Now that Christmas is over, you have no excuse to renew your late Membership Fee's (forms attached). Please remember that you must be a financial member to attend the rides.
Payments are preferred PRIOR to ride events, not on the day of the rides.
- The ride notice (and mudmaps) for the Elaine Ride on January 25-27 is attached. If you are arriving on Friday night, please ring Joe and let him know. You must be completely self sufficient for you and your horse(s) for this weekend. There is water in the dam for the horses, so bring sturdy buckets. Sundays ride will be a bit steep so breastplates are recommended.
- **PLEASE NOTE**
The AGM is on February 1. It will be held at Simon & Allison Mason's property.
115 Jeffereys Lane Broadford.
Meeting time is 4pm Sharp !!
Followed by BBQ dinner.
THERE IS NO RIDE ON THIS DAY - JUST THE MEETING / DINNER !!!

See You on the Trails

Chris Kujus

STUFF OF INTEREST!!

Whittlesea
Country
Music
Festival

Saturday
February 8
10am-10pm



- *Street Party
- *Busking
- *Stalls
- Featuring-
- Glen Shorrock
- Greg Champion
- Jetty Road
- Just to name a few



**Costco
Is Coming
To
Epping!!**

BUSINESSNEWS



Costco sets its sights on Epping

American discount supermarket giant Costco has put in a planning application to open its third Melbourne store in Epping.

Shoppers pay an annual membership fee of \$60 to shop at its stores which specialise in discount groceries and household goods in bulk, as well as whitegoods, furniture and luxury items such as jewellery.

The proposed store will be located behind the Northern Hospital and Epping Plaza and would include construction of additional roads to increase access in and out of the shopping complex.

The Costco proposal includes a petrol station, optometrist, hearing centre, tyre outlet, bottle shop, advertising signs, together with car parking and landscaping. The store is expected to open late 2014, employ around 300 workers and sell over 3600 products.

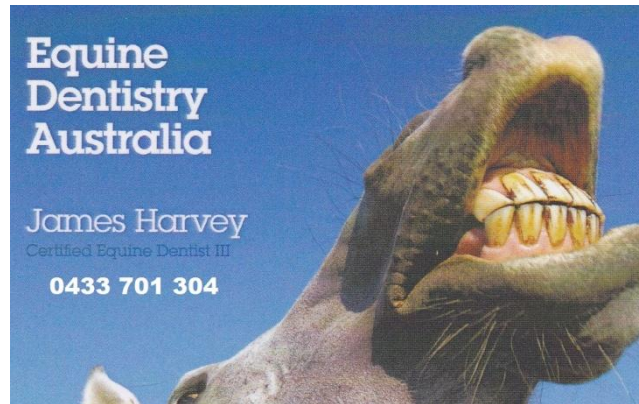
At the time of going to press Council was still assessing and negotiating details of the proposal with the developer. Check Council's website for the latest update
– www.whittlesea.vic.gov.au.



Costco's proposed store will be located on vacant land behind the Northern Hospital and Epping Plaza. Access to Costco is supported by a number of road improvements. These include the construction of the planned Deveny Road (between High Street and Edgars Road) being brought forward several years, as well as a new road extension to be built to allow traffic to move between the Costco development, Epping Plaza and the Northern Hospital.

Club Classifieds

If you have something to sell or advertise, contact me christine.kujus@bigpond.com
All ads must be in before the 27th of the month.



**Equine
Dentistry
Australia**

James Harvey
Certified Equine Dentist III

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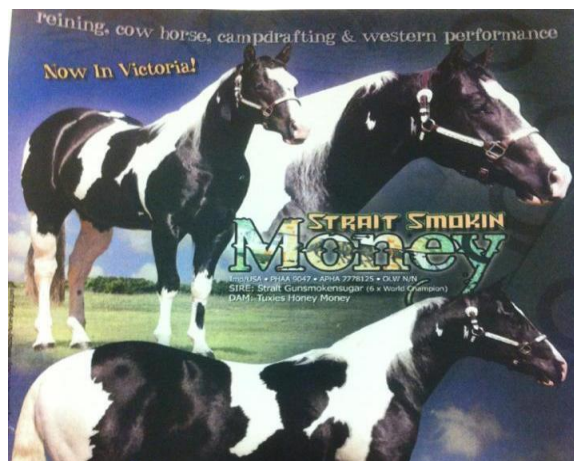
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DAM: Tuxedo Money Money

STRAIT SMOKIN MONEY

Service Fee \$1000 all inclusive

Call Dave 0402 083 502



ELAINE CAMP OVER WEEKEND

January 25-27, 2014

HOST – Joe Curmi

ADDRESS – Angees Road, Elaine, VIC 3334

GDTRC FINANCIAL MEMBERS ONLY

You are welcomed to arrive Friday night also, please ring Joe and let him know.

This is a self contained weekend, so please ensure you bring ALL food for you and your horse(s), bring water for yourself, camping is available in one of his paddocks.

Keep yards small to accommodate everyone.

Please bring electric yards and feed for your horse.

Water available from a dam for horses, so bring sturdy buckets

JUST BRING WATER FOR YOURSELF.

There is a communal shed available on the property with 2 BBQ's which you can use, if the weather turns, and shelter for those to cook in etc.

The Sunday ride will be a bit steep, so breastplates & cruppers are recommended.

There is a toilet block on site, with one toilet (BYO Toilet paper).

****PLEASE TAKE ALL RUBBISH HOME WITH YOU.**

Saturday.

Ride out time is 10am SHARP on Saturday, **ALL MUST BE** saddled up no later then 9.30am for a horseless muster.

The riding terrain is forest, with some hills, and bridle tracks.

Saddle bag lunch required.

Sunday

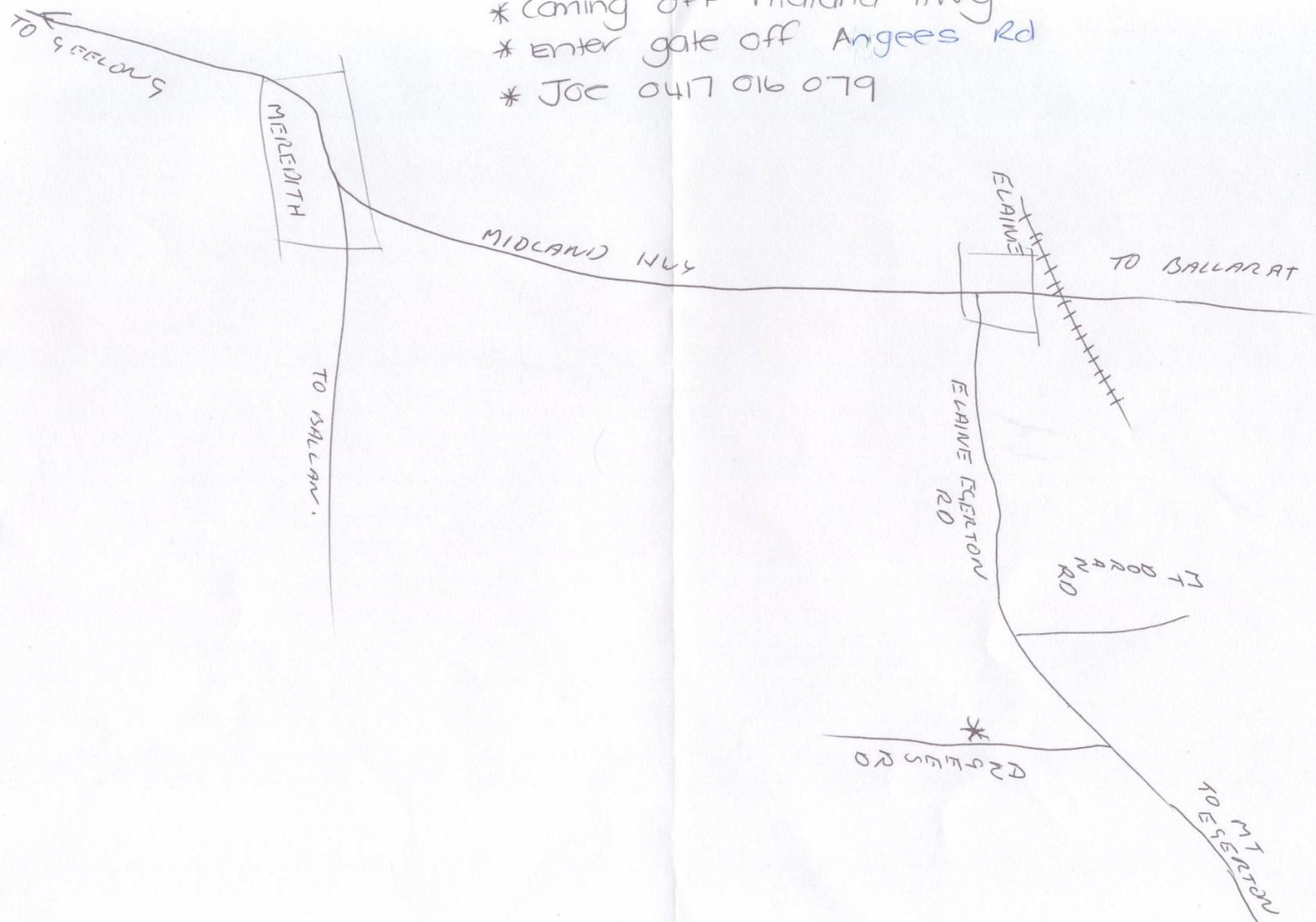
Ride out time is 10am on Sunday. Saddle bag lunch required. (Breastplates recommended)

Please refer any ride enquiries to Joe Curmi on 0417 016 079

- **Strictly NO STALLIONS**
- **NO DOGS ALLOWED ON PROPERTY !!!**

Refer Mudmaps for directions.

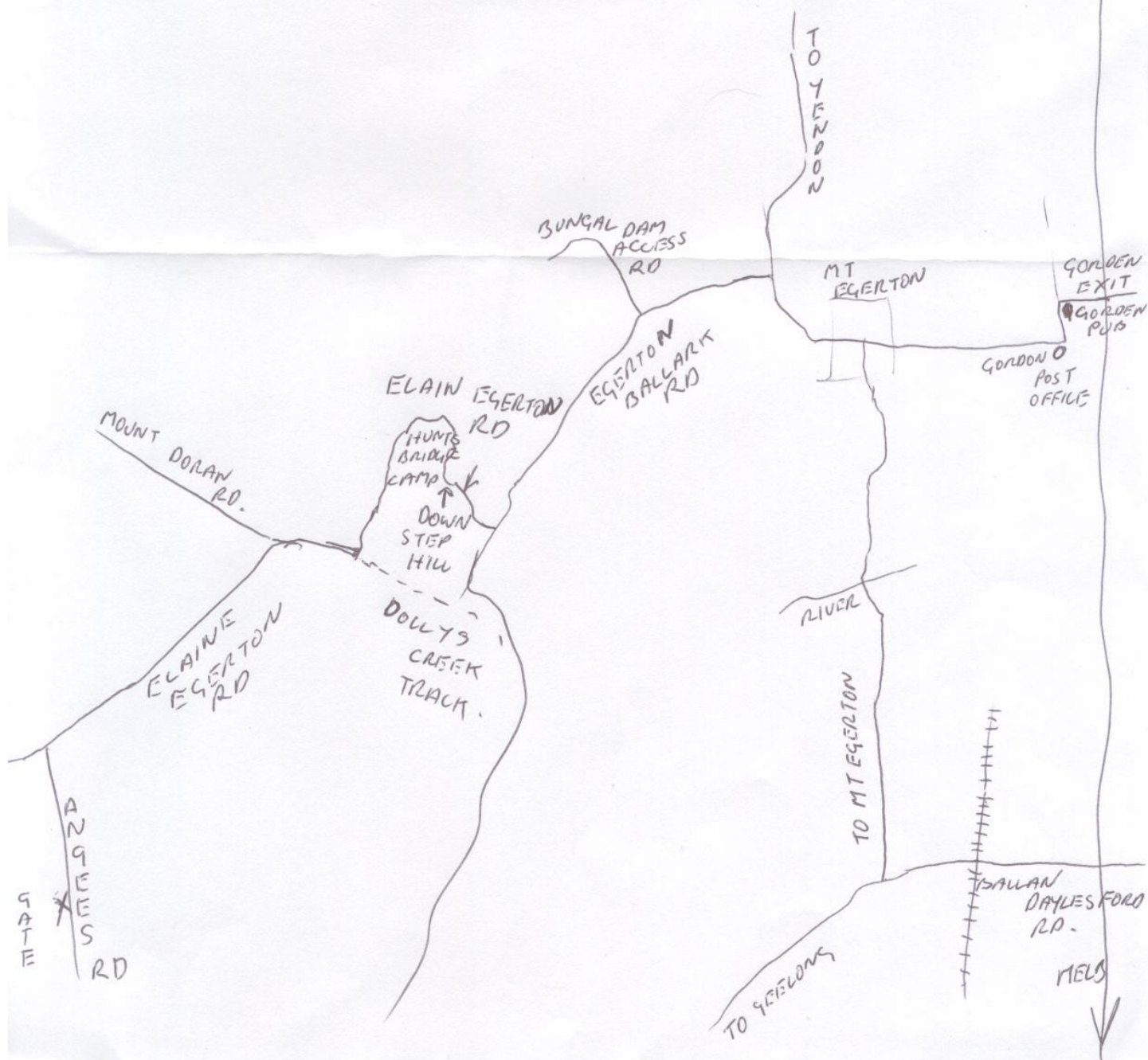
- * Coming off Midland Hwy
- * Enter gate off Angees Rd
- * JOE 0417 016 079



BALLARAT

Western Hwy

If you get lost call
Joe 0417 016 079



SNOWY'S TRIP 2013-2014

This trip we left feeling a little apprehensive after last trip, but still excited that the time had again come around and we were on the road at the usual time of 4.30am !!

First stop as usual as Glenrowan where we picked up the Anderson's, had some brekky and again hit the road.

The drive up was uneventful and as pleasant as it is always, this part is as much part of the whole experience as is the riding and camping. People really need to experience it.

Turning into Tantagarra Road we only had 35kms left to travel to our favourite place, "Old Snowy's Camp", driving down into it, we were thrilled that we were the only ones there!!

The horse yards had been improved which was nice to see and some shade trees also had been planted so in future years the horses will be a little more comfy when yarded.

Horses settled, campfire going, early night for all of us.

Day 1

Headed out after lunch for a ride to Pockets Hut and snowy's aquaduct, beautiful running river and waterfalls- breathtaking. Our first timers were amazed at the scenery. Back to camp for dinner and chat about the following day's riding.



Day 2

Some decided to take their boats for a spot of fishing on Lake Tantangarra, those riding headed to the look out spot which gives a beautiful view of the Murrumbidgee River and mountains at the back of camp. We then ventured back out to the road and headed to Curango homestead for lunch and a look around.

Following lunch we headed down to the lake and met up with the boating mob, who had not caught any fish but were having a great time exploring the beautiful lake.

After a short stop and chat we headed toward home, Simon, Jeff and Dave F decided to tackle a what seemed to be a shallowish crossing, but Dave's mare found it a little deeper than expected and dumped Dave into the water where he had to do breaststroke to get to the edge to get out, we all roared with laughter as he climbed out dripping wet!!

SNOWY'S TRIP 2013-2014



Day 3

Today we anticipated a fairly big day as we were going to head to Long plain and to Coonable hut. We headed off across Curango plain and picked up Mosquito creek fire trail to Bill Jones's hut, where we had lunch and a photo opportunity for some. Back in the saddle we followed the Harris Hut trail and picked up a brumby trail which eventually brought us into the back of Coonable hut. By this stage we had a few weary riders but still eager to finish the ride (had no choice !!!) we rested for a bit had a short break then got back on our horses and headed out again on the opposite end of the Mosquito Creek Fires trail towards "Old Curango Homestead", which is one of my favourite huts!.

After another short rest we headed out again across Curango plain, where I came across a Brumby stuck in a bog, right up to it's wither!!!! Jeff, Simon, Dave and Don came to the rescue as we couldn't just leave it to the elements we decided we had to try and get it out! Simon constructed a noose type device with our long lead ropes, which was able to be gently slipped over the brumby's head and after several attempts the boys pulled out the exhausted horse, the rope released and it was able to get to it's feet and trot away. We were all thrilled with the experience and it made our weary bodies a little less weary with the adrenalin now surging and excited discussions occurring about what we all had just witnessed!! Well done everyone!!

Arriving back at camp Simon announced we had just completed a 45km day which we were all pretty impressed about. Everyone pulled up ok and the horses got some extra in their feed buckets that night.



SNOWY'S TRIP 2013-2014

Day 4

Today was our designated rest day, some headed off into Cooma for a look around and counter meal. Some just relaxed back at camp, a bit of sunbaking or alot in Pam's case (her feet were glowing like the embers in the camp fire) Simon and I decided to explore a bit further on and headed over to "Oldfields Hut" chatted to some other riders and walkers and rode up a bit of Lone Pine Trail. We will be heading up that way next trip to hopefully see the top of Mount Morgan, it's on the list!!

Day 5

Blue Water Hole today and easy riding. We headed to a little island down by the creek, had lunch and then set off on foot to explore the cave and pools that were just beautiful to see. The water was green-blue in colour and crystal clear.

After lunch we headed to Coolamine homestead for a look around. We saw Brumbies out on the plain whilst we were sitting around. After the photo opportunities we then headed back over the range and found ourselves in some very amazing country with beautiful steep rocky cliffs. It felt very spiritual riding through.

We headed for home to get organised for our New Years eve Party, which this year had a theme. Girls in dresses and cowboy boots, boys in a shirt and tie and whatever else they wanted to add. The combinations were outstanding, with Nikki hitting the Op Shop in Cooma no one went without!!! We all looked fabulous and it set the atmosphere for a very enjoyable night of dancing, drinking and laughter from everyone. Come midnight everyone had a little reflection on the year just passed, there were a few tears (not Many!) kisses and lot's of hugs, then on we went with the party until the wee hours of the morning!



SNOWY'S TRIP 2013-2014

Day 6

Everyone had a little sleep in to recover from the night before. No one was ready for an early ride so we decided to do an afternoon ride to Murray gap, via "Oldfields Hut"

As you can imagine the numbers were dwindling due to the party the night before, but never the less we headed out and needed our drizabone coats as we encountered a sprinkling of rain as we arrived at Murray gap. Not enough time to explore this will be on the list for next trip as well.

The bush smelt amazing as we descended back down the trail back to home.



Day 7

The Murrumbidgee River was our destination today. Down the BNT we meandered toward the river and had a play around in the river. We had heard that there were horses on this side of the mountain but had never seen any, and that there was a beautiful Black Stallion who used to frequent Curango plain but hasn't for a long while, rumour had it that he took his mares up into the bush. Well a couple of us lucky ones saw this Stallion just very briefly as we were riding through the trees on top of one of the small hills. But we were unable to find any trace of him after that!

We arrived at Peden's hut shortly after and got off for some photos and a stretch headed back out again towards Townsends Hut not to far on. Along the way Simon was able to point out where we had the trouble last year, which was a bit confronting at the time. We moved onto Townsends hut and had a leisurely lunch, and look around. While sitting there, a Chestnut Stallion came right in to check us out and see if there was anything worth taking with him. He remain circling us for quite a while then decided to move on. It was amazing!

SNOWY'S TRIP 2013-2014



Day 8

We said goodbye to Dave, Nikki, Emma and Marshy today so camp became just a tad quieter around the camp fire.

We had some visitors ride in to see Jo and Jeff Anderson and it was a pleasure to meet Warrick and Sylvia. Sylvia's family once owned "Oldfields Hut" not far from camp, so it was a real hoot to meet these wonderful people who had a definite connection with this beautiful place.

Jordan wanted to go for a short ride, so Pam rode my horse, I got on Indy (Yes believe it or Not!!!) and Jordan climbed onto big Cooper (Jeff Andersons horse) and Donn Todd came along on Jake. We strolled out and did a short circuit of the plain for about an hour and came back in with Dylan then wanting to go for a ride. We shuffled our mounts around, I was back on Lindy, Jordan then got on Indy and Dylan climbed onto Cooper, with Donn still on Jake. We headed out the other way along the BNT and had an enjoyable bush bash around for a while before coming back into camp. The boys thoroughly enjoyed it as they haven't been in the saddle for a long time now!

We had an early dinner and we decided to drive out onto the Curango Plain to see the Brumbies for the final time. We were surrounded by mobs on all sides, it was amazing. We came across a dead brumby and whilst we were all examining that a snake decided to come along and say hello, I quickly retreated thank you very much as the others were busy taking photos of the little fella.

Quite chat around the camp fire and all off to bed anticipating the trip home in the morning.

SNOWY'S TRIP 2013-2014

Day 9

Up early and getting brekky, we spot a small brumby mob coming up our valley, 3 mares, 2 foals and the stallion bringing up the rear. How much better could this place get???

Again we have had an amazing adventure in the Kosciuszko National Park, we had encountered hundreds of Brumbies, seen lizards, some snakes (3), eagles, Lyre birds, gang gangs, kangaroos and rabbits.

To all that ventured up as well it was a pleasure camping and riding with you all.

To Simon another fantastic holiday, shared with friends and family.

Can't wait till we return again



Allison M and Lindy

G.D.T.R

Would Like To Acknowledge & Thank Our Sponsors

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GREAT DIVIDE TRAIL HORSE RIDING CLUB

Club Rules

- NO STALLIONS allowed on rides at any time.
- Horses are to be reasonably fit, with feet adequately conditioned and / or shod.
- Breastplates and cruppers are recommended.
- Riders under 18yrs of age are required to wear an approved riding helmet.
- Riders under 16yrs must be under supervision of an adult.
- Horses known to kick must wear a red ribbon in their tail / or supplied stickers on their rump.
- Dogs are not permitted on the rides and must be kept securely on a lead around the float parking area.
- Drinking alcohol whilst mounted is strictly forbidden.
- ALL RIDERS must adhere to the GDTR rules which incorporate the ATHRA Code of Conduct.
- Permission must be obtained to ride in front of the Trail Boss or behind the Drag Boss.
- The trail must not be left without permission of a ride official at any time.
- Keep left to the roads.
- The trail must not be littered (this includes cigarette butts.) What you take with you must be brought back with you.
- GDTR recommends that ALL riders have current Ambulance cover.
- All riders must be mindful of other riders at all times.
- All gates must be left as they are found. Keep to the tracks as defined. Respect private property.
- All members are expected to abide by the club constitution, which is available on request.