

# MONARO HORSE TREKKERS INC

## HOOF PRINT - IN BRIEF

Hi Everyone,

The weather has been just great for riding lately & hopefully you have all had a chance to get out there & enjoy your horses.

There are a couple of points I need to raise & it was probably very remiss of me to not mention in the newsletter the discussion that took place at the AGM regarding the Code of Conduct (COC) & whether we continued as an ATHRA affiliated club. Obviously the decision was to continue as we are but there are always rumblings about the difficulties with abiding by the COC when conducting rides. For the Trail Bosses it is the paper work & then of course the responsibility of making sure everyone on the ride complies.

The Code Of Conduct is to eliminate the risks to enable low premiums for members so that they can ride with insurance. Many of our rides last year were social rides which means we were not covered by insurance and that was why we raised the possibility of continuing as a social club rather than with ATHRA. As we continue with ATHRA we must ride by the COC & you have all signed your membership forms to say that you are abiding by those rules.

The 2 rides so far this year & on previous rides it is obvious that some members have not read the COC and that will only risk another member from not being covered if we have an accident on a ride.

There is a lot of information of which the most relevant is Point 3. Ride Rules & Point 6. Horse Health & Welfare, **PLEASE read at least these two sections in the COC before your next club ride.**

- 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.
- 6.3 Members have a responsibility to regularly monitor the health status of their horses and to ensure that they do not take a sick or ill prepared horse to a trail ride or event.
- 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.

The next ride Mount Clear is a perfect example of why the above points need to apply to your horse, it is not a leisurely ride and is 30 km & both rider & horse needs to be conditioned & fit. My horse has never had shoes & has great conditioned hooves but on this particular ride I would still take a pair of boots just in case, so that I am not responsible for ruining everyone else's ride with a lame horse.

Being a member of a club is great that you have company to ride with but this does not mean taking out a young green horse on its first ride. When I started my horse I rode with a few friends for 12 months before I took him on his first club ride. Consideration for your fellow club riders is all that we ask & should expect as being part of a club apart from the COC rules.

If you have views on the future of the club by all means come to the next meeting & have your say! If you can't get to the meeting send an email or post a letter.

**The Belconnen Soccer Club is booked for the Tuesday 28th May** for our next meeting to finish the ride calendar for the year. We have new members very keen on more Canberra day rides so if our Trail Bosses in that area could please think about that ready for the next meeting that would be terrific.

I hope you all have a safe & happy Easter and we wish Lisa all the best on her 5 week overseas trip!  
Regards Karen & Jeff

