

WA HORSE TREKKERS CLUB
CHALLA STATION TREK 2011
September Mon 5th – Fri 16th

The 2011 trek will be held on Challa station south east of Mount Magnet owned by Ashley and Debbie Dowden. In a normal season the area should have excellent wildflowers, warm days and cool nights.

This year the trek will not be a progressive one. We are looking at two base camps in the 12 days with some rest days. Rides will go out from base camps each day cloverleaf style. The first week will be based at Challa Station itself, at the shearer's quarters with a one night visit to neighbouring Meeline Station. Then the trek will move to north the Top Camp Well approx 60kms to the north still on Challa Station for the second week. Debbie is assisting with mapping rides and will accompany the group on occasions riding. Distances ridden will vary from 20 – 40 km each day.

Directions to get there

Travel to Mount Magnet then take the Sandstone Road turn off at the BP service station and travel 47km east then turn right onto the Youanmi Road. Travel along for about 1 km then turn right at the Challa Station turnoff. The homestead is about 10km and this is the only stretch of gravel.

Trek fees

The fee for all participants with or without horses will be \$500.00.

The fee for members joining part of the trek for one or more days will be \$45.00 per day. Extra fees for insurance for non members of \$25/day for 2 days will also be applicable. Any more than two days and you'll need to become a club member.

Your non refundable deposit of \$250.00 is due by 16th July. The balance \$250.00 must be paid or your formal withdrawal should be received by Margaret Rose by the 13th August. Forms and cheques should be sent to Margaret Rose as per address on the form.

Tracks

The tracks will be station tracks and generally good underfoot although may be rocky in some areas. On occasions a vehicle may go out with the ride as support. Horse water will be available from mills or wells.

Horses

Have your horses and yourself in work and used to your gear before the trek. Have them trained to lead from another horse in case this is necessary. Make sure they tie up well to anything - even shrubs. There might not be substantial trees in the area. It is best to tie horses to live trees or shrubs – never to dead dry trees as they can break easily and cause horses to panic dragging branches. Use quick release knots.

Have halters on your horse at all times in camp and in the bush – day **and night**, so if it escapes it can be caught by others. Fill in any holes your horses might dig and spread manure if it's not required to be picked up.

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Bring along a nosebag for your horse's lunches – this sometimes can be carried in a support vehicle or some days you will need to carry it with you on the horse. This needs to be prepared in the morning as there won't be access to feed or feed tubs at lunchtime.

Ride qualifications

It is recommended that if you are new to doing a long trek you need to attend at least two of the club's weekend rides and ride all of the days with the horse you plan to bring on this trek. This will ensure you and your horse are used to the activity and give some indication of both your fitness levels and highlight any gear or feet problems that might require attending to before hand. Horses need to be able to accomplish 30 to 40kms a day at a reasonable pace and continue on each day. If you're not able to do this please contact the ride organizer well beforehand.

Medical information on forms

It is very important you complete this section on your entry forms properly. List all prescription, non prescription medications and supplements you take, allergies or other medical conditions you might have. If you wish this to be confidential enclose it in a sealed envelope on the back of your form so it could be opened in an emergency.

Refunds

The policy on any refunds of payments if you withdraw beforehand is outlined in the Club rules as follows:-

5. Where a place has been booked, and a member is unable to attend a trek, no refund shall be given. At the Executive Committee's discretion, the place may be allocated to another suitable applicant thus enabling the member to recoup the money paid.
6. If a person is unable to attend a trek and unable to transfer their booking to another applicant, then the final payment made may be credited to future treks for up to two years. Deposits paid are non-refundable and non-transferable to future treks.
7. Where an applicant withdraws from a trek after the due date of final payment of trek fee and where the final payment has not been made, this payment will still be due and payable on demand upon written notice from the Club.

Drinking water

Be prepared with carry sufficient water bottles for yourself on your horse for a full day as a vehicle will not generally go with the rides. The weather will be warm.

On occasions it may be necessary to carry drinking water for people and/or horses on a vehicle. Please bring a robust 25 litre water drum.

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Horse water

Depending on the season, there should horse water available at mills or on the track.

Accommodation

Some 15 beds are available at the shearer's quarters at Challa. Be prepared to camp in a tent or your float if there are more than 15 starters you prefer.

Ablutions

Toilet and showers will be available at the shearer's quarters. Please do not waste water.

Otherwise, a tent for bucket washes will be put up. Hot water will be available from the camp fire. There will be a camp shovel or bring along a small one of your own for toilet trips. Loo paper will be supplied.

Meals

The club will provide food. There may have to be a roster system for riders to assist the cook on some days. Breakfast will usually consist of cereal of one sort or another and maybe pancakes occasionally. The porridge club will live again. Lunch will be an assortment of delicious items that have a good shelf life. We are planning to have meat for most of the evening meals which will be accompanied by vegetables such as potatoes, pumpkin, dried vegetables.

Weather

Daytime temperatures should be in the 20s so bring sunscreen and night time temperatures below 10 and sometimes nearer to zero. It could be wet. Normally, however, the weather this time of year is perfect!

Horse feed

You will need to provide all your own horse feed. Normally wheaten or oaten chaff with some lucerne added are recommended at the rate of 1.5 bags per week per horse. It is recommended pony cubes are used. (High powered grain is not necessary for this type of steady riding and often creates behavior problems). Hay is waste and not recommended.

Perhaps consider the use of hay cubes and don't forget electrolytes and any suppliments your horse may be on.

Horse yards

You should be prepared to set up your own electric yards. There are horses on the station so make sure that your units work. Tape measuring > 10mm wide is recommended.

Trail rules

Common courtesy should be used.

The trek will be run under club and ATHRA rules. Please read these documents before the ride. There will be a set time of departure from camp that all riders must observe. Riders must stay in front of the drag boss and behind the trail boss for that day.

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Horse shoes

Your horse must be newly shod and you must have a spare set of shaped horse shoes and the right nails. Perhaps carry a boot for emergencies. Booted horses should have boots for all four feet.

Farrier

There will be no farrier on the trek. However, several participants can tack shoes back on.

Support crew

At this stage we have three support crew: Nancy Riley as Chief Camp Cook, Karen Singleton assistant cook & support, and Frank Pinner support. Everyone will be expected to assist with cooking, cleaning up and other camp duties.

Risks

We will be riding through station country. Wire may be a problem and wire cutters are always handy as a safety measure.

Trekkers should wear covered shoes in camp when around the camp fire.

There could be poison plants in the area. These will be pointed out as they appear – be careful. Don't let your horse eat anything you don't recognize.

The club will provide:

Tea, coffee, milk, sugar

Salt, pepper, curry powder

Cooking Oil

Meat (subject to supply)

Vegetables for evening meals (potatoes, onions, pumpkin, peas, beans, corn, etc)

Rice

Breakfast – cereal

Lunch – shelf stable food such as tinned fish, dried fruit, biscuits, scones (on a good day), quesadillas, cheese

Plates, cutlery

Kitchen table

Tea towels

Matches

Gas stove

Camp ovens (2)

Dixies (2)

Satellite phone for emergency use only

Basic medical kit

BBQ plates & fire grate

Horse medical kit

Radios

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You need to provide:

Swag and personal items (remember insect repellent, sunscreen and washing soap for clothes)

Good ground sheet and/or small tent

Alcohol if required

Shelf stable biscuits or cake to your requirements and to share

1 x 25l drinking water container

General camping gear including a chair & bucket/s

Horse and gear

Clearly mark all your gear with your name

Rubbish

Please limit the items you bring that may end up as rubbish. For example, bring a wine cask rather than bottled wine. Organic waste should be either burned or buried. Inorganic waste will be burned and put into chaff bags for disposal.

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TREK SCHEDULE

Day 1 Monday 5th September -

Day ride around jinner and dry paddock, distance negotiable, returning to shearer's quarters.

Day 2 Tuesday 6th September -

Day ride out through Mitheriner and Kyle Kyle paddocks, approx 30km, returning to shearers quarters

Day 3 Wednesday 7th September -

Ride to Meeline Station, 26km. Camp at Meeline, shearers quarters available. No charge. Trekkers to supply all of their requirements. Option to take the "scenic route" and make it 40km ride. Adrian and Karen Morrissey are happy for us to stay at Meeline. Karen wrote the history book for the Mt Magnet area.

Day 4 Thursday 8th September -

Day ride out from Meeline, approx 10-15km. Return to Challa, 26km, camp at shearers quarters.

Day 5 Friday 9th September -

Transport Day. Horses/floats and gear to Top Camp. Remainder is a Rest day

Day 6- Saturday 10th September -

Ride from Top Camp to Jones' and back (is this a full 60km?) Otherwise Day ride out from Top Camp

Day 7 Sunday 11th September -

Day ride out from Top Camp (30km)

Day 8 Monday 12th September -

Day ride out from Top Camp (30km)

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Day 9 Tuesday 13th September -

ride to Wondinong Station for lunch and shower. Return to Top Camp

Day 10 Wednesday 14th September -

Day ride out from Top Camp (30km)

Day 11 Thursday 15th September -

Day ride out from Top Camp (30km)

Day 12 Friday 16th September -

Transport horses and gear to Challa for showers and trip preparation.

Contacts

Ashley & Debbie Dowden

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