



W.A. HORSE TREKKERS CLUB INC.

Website: www.watrekkers.info/

ABN 77 820 635 660

TREKKERS TRIBUNE

May 2011

Hi Everyone

Here is the latest newsletter and hope everyone is enjoying this fine weather and has had a good break over Easter. Anna Sheehan's son Travis has been involved in a car accident causing some very serious injuries. We are all wishing for his speedy recovery and are thinking of him and Anna's family. Karen and Tracey are temporarily assisting with the club secretarial work.

Previous Ride

The ride at Easter was organised by Irene Taaffe and held on Glen and Janine Simcock's property in Manjimup. We had the use of a fantastic cottage on the property and Irene had done a brilliant job of organising each days rides and the ride notes were extremely well written. The riding was around the Simcock property and through native forestry, blue gum plantations, around Kepalrup freshwater lake and there were even wineries in the area. Thank you to Irene and the Simcock family for organising the ride and allowing us the use of both property and the cottage.

A special welcome to new club members Susan Moss and Olivia Dinis who participated in this ride.

Next Ride: Lewana (Balingup area)

The next ride will be on the June long weekend on 4th, 5th and 6th June. It will be at Lewana Cottages once again in the south west near Balingup. All the details for this ride are on the attachment with this newsletter.

This year we are going to be involved with the Brumby Ride. This is being held on Saturday 4th June and coincides with our weekend ride at Lewana. This event has been organised with the Australian Brumby Alliance by Athra and Cavallo to assist in the recognition, management, preservation and welfare of the Australian Brumby. It is also in conjunction with the American Competitive Trail Horse Association to be part of the biggest trail ride in history.

Riders will be required to pay a small donation of \$10.00. This is included in the cost of the entire weekend at Lewana.

Please send your forms and payment to Irene Taaffe one week prior to this ride. We need to know the expected numbers as space is a concern for this weekend.

Annual Two Week Trek

The annual two week trek will be held at Challa Station out of Mt Magnet this year. The official date for the trek is from **Monday 5th Sept to Friday 16th Sept.**

This year the trek will not be a progressive one. We are looking at two base camps in 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. Then the trek will move to another shearing camp approx 60kms to the north still on Challa Station for the second week. Debbie Dowden (station owner) is assisting with mapping rides and will accompany the group on occasions riding.

All trek meals / food will be supplied. The club trailer and cooking equipment will go. We are not sure if we have a designated cook this time and there may be a system with everyone being on a roster to assist with cooking.

All participants will need to supply their own horse food requirements. The cost for the trek will be still be around the \$500 mark for the two weeks.

There will be further details on the trek coming out soon so please stay posted.

July & August Treks

Whitby/Mundijong – 9th & 10th of July.

Hosts: Richard and Karen

Address: Lot 111 Keirnan Street Whitby/Mundijong Perth area.

Two rides of approximately 10 - 15kms each on Saturday and Sunday. Sunday's ride can be made longer if people can stay later into the day. The current plan is to ride out from the property around the Mundijong Cardup area. The Sunday is yet to be confirmed but may involve a ride in a different direction or a 10 minute float ride to set out through the beautiful Wungong Valley.

More ride details to follow shortly.

Byford - 13th & 14th of August

More details in the next newsletter

Pack Horse Ride – Challa Station, Mt Magnet, April 2011

[Thanks to Greg Steemson for these notes received following his recent ride]

I left Perth on Saturday 23rd April for Challa. Bitumen all the way to Mt Magnet and then to the Challa turn off on the Sandstone Rd. The trip took about 8 hours from my place in Perth. The track from there is gravel but a well formed road and only 10km or so. We had a nice meal at the station on Saturday night and met the family. Pipa and Kate were home from uni/school. The younger children, Emily and Michael do home school. Deb and Ash run the station which has recently been de-stocked (dogs) and Ash does work for the various mining businesses in

the district. The homestead was built in the 1950s adding on to the original house built by Ash's great grandfather in the 1880s.

On Sunday I packed up and headed north for Max's Bore about 36km arriving there around 3pm. I rode Bacchus and packed Mistral. Not a great combination as the mare always wants to be boss. But Bacchus is quite tall to be loading packs all day. Quite warm and the flies were friendly. The family came out and camped with me that night and we enjoyed damper made by Emily and roast potatoes and stew. The horses didn't settle in the yard so I ended up tying them to a tree which solved the problem. Nice warm evening with a few clouds.

Monday morning we had eggs "a la toad in the hole" cooked by Emily. Ash headed off to do a few jobs. I packed up and left the same time as the rest of the family. I rode north to Foleys Bore and then east to Nyuing Well. I had some lunch there and then rode north to Top Camp Well and decided to camp there as there was plenty of grass and the water was good. I hobbled the horses for a few hours then put them in the yard made of timber for the night. I had a nice dinner of Johnny cake, rice/peas/dried sausage (home made of course).

I could see a weather system moving in but Ash had loudly stated that it wasn't going to rain which encouraged me to leave my wet weather gear at the station! However, a couple of hours later some large drops started to fall, enough to get me out of bed and putting my tent fly in place and getting the horse gear under cover. This is the best example of a tent versus a swag. It didn't rain that much on Monday night.

On Tuesday I rode north to Monkeys Well, a nice ride. Coming back I went via the range of hills to the west. Warm and humid that afternoon and the weather system continued to build. I was camped near the timber yards which, had I thought it was going to rain, would never have done so. It obviously would flood. Anyway, after a nice dinner (same as the night before) I went to bed at dusk. Then it started to rain. I was there wondering what the night would bring when lights appeared. It was Greg Scott from Wondinong who had been at Challa all day preparing dogs baits. He had my wet weather gear. I said I would invite him in but it was a little cramped with the saddles so he departed for home.

Not sure how much rain fell but say around an inch. Not bad around the tent where there was grass. However, around the trough it was like grease. After breakfast which was difficult as all the wood was wet, I decided to get out of there and head south. It was wet! The track was under water so I left it but the bush was no better. I decided to camp at Nyuing Well as there was grass and water. I unloaded and then went for a ride north west to the range of hills and the creek system. Very wet! Again the weather looked threatening so wandered back to the camp and made ready for the evening. Soon after dark it started raining again and rained all night but not as heavy as the previous evening. The horses had a dry yard south of the mill and they were happy.

Next morning I had to be up early to meet Deb at Foleys Bore. It was wet and slippery. We met up as planned but Deb had been advised by Ash to go south and not north for the day which had been the plan – too much clay. So off we went – south around the hills near Windsor Station to Paynesville and then across the Sandstone Rd to Jones yards. We had lunch there and Deb then rode back to her float north of the road and I went south to Jones Dam.

Jones Dam is a well made turkeys nest dam, full of rain water. I set up an electric fence yard for the horses and they were happy with the hay Deb had brought out for them. No rain that night, clear star filled sky and very cool.

Next day, Friday, was the last day. There hadn't been the rain in this area that had fallen to the north. I set off to the southeast to meet up with a corner suggested by Ash and duly arrived there. Then I followed the north-south fence line back to the station, a distance for the day of around 30km.

Greg Steemson
8 May 2011

Other News

To those that know Arthur Collins, a long time member of the club, his health has now much improved and he has moved permanently from the home in Harvey. He would love to have contact from club members. To obtain his new details please call Nancy Riley on 9734 1521 or email her at alice_riley@bigpond.com

A note from the Acting Secretary

I will keep Anna's seat warm for as long as needed so any correspondence or enquiries can be directed to me for the time being on healingwithhorses@hotmail.com or 9525 5165.

That's it for this month. Thanks to all who contributed to this newsletter. It was a real team effort. Thanks to Tracey for completing the first and most time consuming draft, and to Margaret, Richard and Greg for further editing and contribution. I am sure there were others in the background that I have missed. Yet another example of how our club quietly "mucks in" when needed or one of our number needs some help.

That's Trekkinn'!!!

Regards
Karen Singleton (A/Secretary)
Tracey Hawken (Assistant Secretary)