

TASMANIAN MOUNTAIN

CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION



NEWSLETTER

www.tmca.net.au

Welcome to the TMCA newsletter

We know its been a while since we circulated newsletters however, we plan to release them quarterly going forward - providing we have a editor available.

We are proud to let our members know that our memberships forms are now online, our website relaunched and in the process of being updated. We appreciate your tolerance during this process.

Your current committee 23-24:

Patron - Ross Jones

President - Tania King

Vice presidents - Ben Howe & Jess Whatley

Secretary - Chloe Browning

Treasurer - Katee Bullman

General committee - Judy Kilby, Ari Boss, Nelly Jaehne, Karen Bird, Tim Davey, Tracy Boon, Patrick Wadley, Craig Von Stieglitz, Daniel Davey.

We are seeking contributions to future newsletters- articles, ride reports, event updates etc. Please forward anything you might like included to our secretary

secretary@tmca.net.au or message our vice president Jess Whatley on FB or Ph 0408573274



PRESIDENTS REPORT

I first attended and competed at a TMCA Get Together in 2004 at Cluan Homestead, after returning to Tasmania from living in NSW for 8 years. Our past patron, Darrell Vernham was my great uncle, and I was fortunate to share a port or two with him and Auntie Eunice at subsequent Get Togethers, prior to her suffering a medical episode rendering her unable to attend any more events.

I have been attending the Get Togethers every year as a family since 2016 with daughters Gemma and Marli, who have since become strong and enthusiastic competitors in the Challenge events. After joining the committee in 2018, I have stepped into the President's role this year.

A strong advocate for better land management via fuel reduction and keeping alive the values of our organisation while taking the Association forward is a delicate balancing act that, with the support of the committee, I think is achievable. We are looking forward to a family focussed get together at Harveyle in January and have already had a great gathering at Connorville last month, that was very well received, something we will do more of in future.

TANYA KING

OUT AND ABOUT

THE BIG DEN TRAIL RIDE

Our most recent event was an trail ride and overnight stay at Roderick oConor's magnificent BIG DEN - connorville station.

Meeting at Longford we made our way into the mountains, set up camp and left on horseback in good time, Led by our patron Ross Jones on his quad bike and what a wonderful job he did for us all, we covered lots of ground and a few challenges but nothing we couldn't cope with, a lovely river crossing and a few creek crossings, some small hills and a spot by the creek for our lunch stop. Back at camp we enjoyed a bbq dinner and communal campfire including some stories, songs and fun poems
A wonderful weekend enjoyed by all who attended. We thank Roderick for having us and Ross for leading our ride and look forward to next time.

We thoroughly enjoyed our trial ride at the big den, the scenery was great and the terrain was so much fun, especially the ditches and the rivers to ride through. My daughter and I met new people to talk to and it was great to catch up with everyone at the barbecue that night. We are very keen to have a weekend like this again and so are our ponies hopefully soon, great fun.

~ Rebecca Brooks and daughter Eliza ~

~TMCA Big Den weekend ~

Hanging out with family and beloved horse

In a beautiful peaceful location beside a water course

Salt of the earth, authentic good sorts

Sharing songs, poems, advice and support

Simple camp food warmly provided

After riding through country and wild deer sighted

Kelly Gang



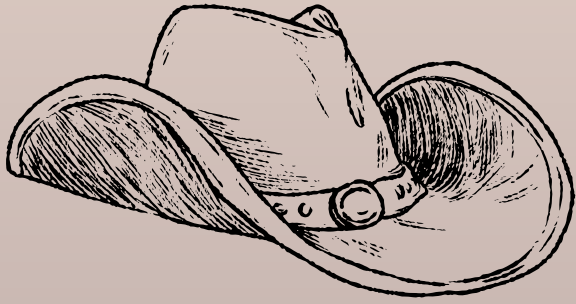
What a magnificent view as we drive into ' The Big Den' plain Memories of get togethers gone by mingle with the mountain mist as we park & the horses snort & stamp in the cool. Yards quickly set up & ponies big & small saddled , some nervous youngsters as well as the tried & true . Us who chose not to ride & had set up the luxury of our caravan watched as heads were counted and our president Tanya & Jude gave a rousing welcome speech to be led off into the distance by Ross our Patron on Can Am & Mick on Yammy ! Sandra & I then sorted the fire pots & wood & positioned the bbq trailer ready for the evenings camp & feast. Even when you're not riding it is such a privilege to be welcomed to a historic property, take in the views & be with like minded friends. At lunch we jumped in the Ute to meet the riders whose lunch spot got rearranged due to the weather. Once everyone made it home some walking, some ponies lame as well as riders our camp chefs Patrick & Marcus cooked up a storm on the bbq & willing volunteers cut up coleslaw. What a great chance to meet newbies, catch up with mates & enjoy a couple of beverages all while being entertained with campfire singing & poetry renditions which were by the whole reasonably accurate ?? Unfortunately the weather took a turn for the worse so by 830 our camp kitchen was bare ! Sunday morning's beautiful Sun allowed packing up in the dry. What a great weekend at an amazing property, rider or not didn't matter at all & great camaraderie from all who went. Thanks for the memories great effort committee & friends Looking forward to the next one

Cheers Trace

TRAIL RIDE - THE BIG DEN CONNORVILLE 2023



THE BIG DEN TRAIL RIDE



KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR THE NEXT OVERNIGHT STAY AND TRIAL RIDE PLANNED



Horses and Story time in the mountains

- Time and a Story shared with a child is the most valuable gift you can offer -

At the recent trial ride in the Big Den, Elsie and I ventured with horse and pony in tow, even though I forgot the camp chairs (not the tea bags) we had a fabulous time, that familiar feeling of horses, camps, and fresh mountain air surrounded us.

Elsie fought some very strong nerves and worry (at one stage telling me "mum my heart hurts") however, supported by the lead rope and mum for the first bit she soon overcame her nerves and blazed the trial for me, asking for another lap at the end! Our evening was amazing, tea time at the communal bbq, huge thanks to Patrick Wadley for organizing. We went on to share some laughs, some poem sharing and songs. My most treasured memory is seeing my child be supported and encouraged every step of the way and those who take the time to share our traditions, values and care for the younger generations are special people in this world and I thank them for simply being who they are.

Looking forward to our next adventure -

Jess Whatley

Elsie Jones, Judy and Jeffery shared a iconic children's story
Clancy of the overflow



Crossing the bridge over the Lake River brought back memories of the first of the four Get Togethers held at Connorville.

Held on The 5th & 6th Feb 1994 at the Big Den, the Examiner reported there were up to 4000 people there. Tracey Boon & I competed in the Championship. The course took us through the quarry & then the River above the bridge. The results were 1st Mike King Rosie 2nd Tracey Boon The Colonel 3rd Judy Kilby Arniston Castle. Tracey, 20 years my junior was too fast for me mounting her horse on calf pick up.

Picture through river . Me in fore ground

Judy Kilby

OUT AND ABOUT

On invitation of Mark Shelton MP and Guy Barnett MP, our committee member Karen Bird attended a drinks and nibbles afternoon on Monday the 18th September.

"Upon invitation, I represented the TMCA (along with other Meander Valley community members) on the 18th September at the Deloraine Bowls Club for drinks and nibbles with the Premier, the Hon Jeremy Rockcliff MP, and all the Tasmanian Cabinet members, for a lovely social evening with a few speakers.

Mark Shelton welcomed everyone and thanked everyone for being there.

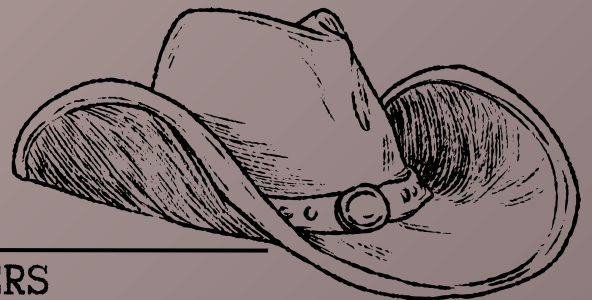
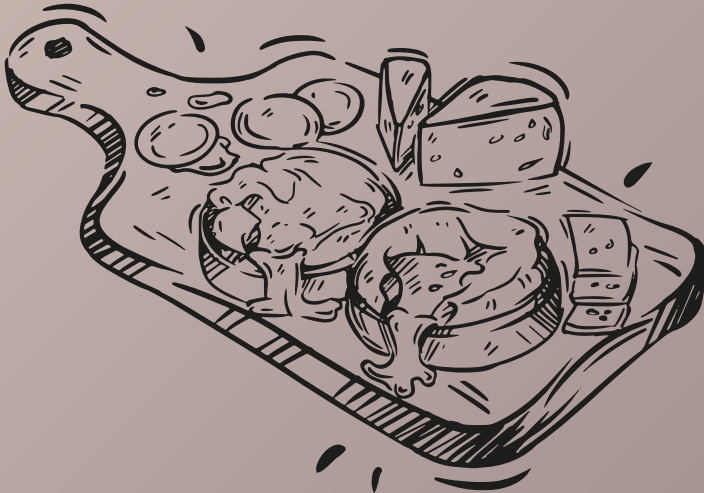
Meander Valley Council Mayor, Wayne Johnson, welcomed the Premier and his team to the Meander Valley area and then talked about what was happening in the Meander Valley from a council perspective.

The Hon Jeremy Rockcliff MP talked about why his members are going around all areas of Tasmania, King and Flinders islands, so every area gets a chance to meet and talk to all Cabinet members and all members get a chance to mingle with the community.

The lovely ladies at the Deloraine Bowls Club put on a wonderful spread for all to enjoy while mingling and talking to community members and the tasmanian cabinet members.

~ Karen Bird

The TMCA would like to thank Karen for her representation and availability to attend this event.



TMCA LIFE MEMBERS

2007 - JUDITH KILBY - ROSS JONES - RON MORGAN

2012 - TRACY BOON - SANDRA RYBARCZYK

2014 - TONY DIXON - SALLIE WADLEY

2018 - SIMON CUBIT

2024 ANNUAL GET TOGETHER

THE ANNUAL GET TOGETHER WILL BE HELD AT
HARVEYDALE WESTBURY 26-27-28 JANUARY 2024

**"HARVEYDALE"
WESTBURY**

**TASMANIAN MOUNTAIN
CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION
35TH ANNUAL GET TOGETHER**



SAVE THE DATE

COMPETITOR ENTRIES OPEN SOON!

We are seeking sponsorship to run this event in 2024 and would appreciate any contribution you might be able to make.

The sponsorship packages are attached to this email for your consideration.

PRESERVING THE TRADITIONS AND VALUES OF THE HIGH COUNTRY MOUNTAIN
CATTLEMAN. WE ARE A GROUP OF LIKEMINDED INDIVIDUALS WITH THE AIM TO
PRESERVE AND PASS ON THE LOVE AND PASSION OF HISTORICAL HIGH-COUNTRY
HORSEMANSHIP, LIFESTYLES AND TRADITIONS;

THE IMPORTANCE OF OLD CAMPFIRE STORIES, POEMS AND SONGS.

A LAUGH SHARED FROM HORSEBACK TO HORSEBACK AND THE PROUD ACHIEVEMENT OF
A HORSE YIELDING TO THE HORSEMAN, IS BEYOND DESCRIPTION.

THERE IS A NEED FOR THIS TO BE PRESERVED



Bendigo Bank



Bendigo Bank Senior Championship Jamieson's Statewide Rural & Coprice Junior Championship Meadowville Farm Stripling Championship Saturday 27th January- Commencing 7.30am

4 Sections

- Handy Stock Horse
- Whip Crack Section - exciting changes!!
- Cattle Handling
- Mountain Horse

Top 5 Open, Top 3 Junior, and Top 3 Striplings will have a final event- Time Trial this will be held Saturday afternoon.

Mountain Horse

This section of the competition aims to demonstrate the horses ability to work stock, accept a stock whip being cracked, allow the rider to open and close a gate, pick up a coat or similar items while under saddle without hesitation. The temperament of the horse should indicate a willingness to do the job at hand in a calm and relaxed manner with a good walk and paces on a light rein, as well as athleticism, and be responsive to the rider's commands to complete the pattern as requested.

The pattern may include the already mentioned obstacles, or variances of these, and will likely include some faster work with a hand gallop, roll-backs or haunch turns, and natural (log) jumps.



ENTRIES WILL OPEN 8TH DECEMBER VIA NOMINATE!!

**WATCH OUR PAGE FOR THE LINK-
PLACES WILL BE LIMITED DUE TO
LIVESTOCK AVAILABILITY.**

Cattle Handling

Horse and rider to complete a prescribed course with a beast within a maximum time frame.

Handy Stock Horse

A set course of obstacles including bridges, hobbles, carrying simulated calf and other obstacles you may encounter in a day's work for a stockman.

Whip Crack

Exciting changes in this section, 10 whips crack targets on a set course. This will include natural bush logs. With points awarded to clean cuts! Will be a great challenge for any horse and rider combination.

Meadowville Farm

ENTRY FEES \$75 Senior \$30 Juniors \$20 Striplings

MUST BE TMCA
MEMBER





Get Together Venues...

- 1988 Borradaile Plains, Central Highlands
- 1989 Middlesex Plains, Central Highlands
- 1990 "Cross Marsh" The Steppes
- 1991 "Cross Marsh" The Steppes
- 1992 Middlesex Plains, Central Highlands
- 1993 Borradaile Plains, Central Highlands
- 1994 "The Big Den - Connorville" Cressy
- 1995 "The Huntsman" Meander
- 1996 "Windfalls" Campbell Town
- 1997 "The Avenue" Elizabeth Town
- 1998 Dublin Plain, Central Highlands
- 1999 "Camelford North" Blessington
- 2000 "Boomers Bottom - Connorville" Cressy
- 2001 "The Huntsman" Meander
- 2002 "Bowood" Bridport
- 2003 "Hunterston" Bothwell
- 2004 "Cluan Homestead" Westbury
- 2005 "The Big Den - Connorville" Cressy
- 2006 "Looseleigh" Selbourne
- 2007 "Jumpers Marsh" Central Highlands
- 2008 "Windfalls" Campbell Town
- 2009 "Effingham" George Town
- 2010 "Jumpers Marsh" Central Highlands
- 2011 "Brambletye" Conara
- 2012 "Windfalls" Campbell Town
- 2013 "Boomers Bottom - Connorville" Cressy
- 2014 "Rough Paddock" Penstock
- 2015 "Fonthill" Lemont, Oatlands
- 2016 "Brambletye" Conara
- 2017 "The Big Den - Connorville" Cressy
- 2018 "Burnt Hill Marsh - Windfalls" Campbell Town
- 2019 "Harveydale" Westbury
- 2020 "Harveydale" Westbury
- 2021 Not held - challenge day held
- 2022 Not held - challenge day held
- 2023 "Harveydale" Westbury

Past Presidents...

- T.M.C.A. PRESIDENTS
- 1986-89 Judith Kilby
- 1989-90 Jeffrey How
- 1990-94 Ross Jones
- 1994-98 Peter Guest
- 1998-02 Wayne Hodgetts
- 2002-04 Ian Atkins
- 2004-09 Tony Dixon
- 2009-21 Tracey Boon
- 2021-23 Steven Bye
- 2023- Tania King



TRIAL RIDING ETIQUETTE GUIDE

Like many things, trail riding can be taught, observed or absorbed but there are very few clubs or opportunities to learn the traditional skills in Tasmania. A recent article on social media titled 'Just a Trail Horse' highlighted that, far from being recognised as a multidisciplinary event, trail continues to be seen as a poor cousin to competitive pursuits. The guidelines below are derived from ATHRA Trail Boss training, industry risk management (commercial guiding) and 40 years trail riding common sense.

Spacing:

We all enjoy the ability to ride side by side and have a yarn but often the terrain or, more likely, the rider's ability is the key factor of what is safe. Let's work through the basics:

Single file - if you cannot see the frog of the hind hoof of the horse in front of you, through your horse's ears, you're too close at a walk. At a trot, you want at least a car length (3m) between horses. Canter requires 10m (a Metro bus) between horses on the trail.

Passing on the trail (same direction): rider seeking to pass another rider or group calls out to the last person in the group from at least 10m away, indicating which side they plan to pass on and how many riders will be going past. As common courtesy, you walk or trot when overtaking unless you're in a big paddock and you're a good 25m away from the group you are overtaking. Please ask the riders that you are passing if they are happy for you a pass and at what gait before overtaking.

If you are overtaking a group, be sure to thank first and last riders for their courtesy, especially if they have stopped to let you past. If you are riding as a group, your last rider lets the people being overtaken know that you are all through and does not take off at a canter when level with the first horse's nose but waits a good 10-20m before increasing the pace.

If you have passed a slower group, don't then slow down yourself. Many horses like catching up and will step out quite well but, once up the front, turn craven and end up going slower than the poor steady horse that they overtook in order to be lead rider.

Fit and fast and how to get past- if you are on a big stepping horse or you are content to canter, be aware that not everyone is as brave or lucky as you. Pull up a good 10m behind the tail of the rider you are approaching, make verbal contact and walk or trot past. Do not launch into a canter at their stirrup or even 10m ahead of them but draw away at a trot before stretching your horse back out to a faster gait

If passing in two way traffic, it's just like driving a vehicle - KEEP to the LEFT.

If passing on steep ground or hills, the horse and rider coming down the hill has right of way. This often offends those riders who can only canter up hill but it's a legacy from horse drawn days as it is much easier to stop a horse that is going up hill than try to brake one who is descending.

On that, some interesting observations: Kiwis never ride their horses down hill, they always get off and walk. South American gauchos maintain, quite rightly, that if you are happy to canter or gallop UP the hill, you should also be happy to gallop DOWN the hills and, in the Australian high country, anyone will tell you that zig zagging is the only way to come down a steep pitch. Straight down puts too much strain on the horse's shoulders.

If you must pass, realise that a ridden horse with a pack horse in tow is a LOT wider than just a ridden horse, on average; this combination can rightfully take up to eight feet (3 metres) across.

A rider and led pony is marginally less but, for safety sake, I always work on a led combination being about 8-10' or 2.5m (or slightly smaller than average gate width) across. That means you need at least 12-14' or 3-4m of space to pass them safely. That's a decent sized gateway in width.

Do not assume you can canter up a hill without checking with the trail Boss, teaching your horse to walk up hills isn't just excellent manners but so much better for their backs. An excellent rule of thumb is any hill that you'd probably get puffed if you had to walk up it should be ridden standing up in the saddle, not sitting with your weight back on the horse's last ribs or loins. If you can ride 2 point for a cross country or hunt course, you can stand up going up a hill.

Congested areas (especially gates or road crossings) DON'T PUSH! The gate or road or bridge isn't going to evaporate so be polite, be patient and wait your turn. Two horses abreast is the absolute most you want going through a narrow opening otherwise knees and boots tend to be dislocated as trees, gate posts generally don't give way. Give the rider/s in front of you a couple of metres at least before you head across, this applies to creek crossings too, so that you don't barge up someone's tail when their horse props or baulks.

Creeks/dams/drink points: give yourself some room when approaching a creek or dam if you want your horses to drink, ask your group to slow down and wait. Horses are herd creatures and will often not stop to drink if their mates are moving on without them. If there is room, ride into the creek and let your horse drink from the other side. This means that two horses can drink usually at once from the same creek and both reassured that someone is on 'look out' sentry. If it's a dam, move around the dam so that three or four horses can get in to drink at once. Spreading out must be done sensibly to avoid your horse churning up the approaches. If your horse is a water hog and likes to roll, be prepared and don't splash other riders.

Gates:

You can always tell a rider who has been taught good trail etiquette: they're the riders that don't take off after going through a gate, regardless of whether the gate opener is able to open/shut the gate mounted or dismounted.

Move through the gate, give enough room for the rest of your group to come through without bunching up and politely wait for the gate bunny to shut the gate and/or remount their horse. Then, once they've got both reins and both feet in the stirrups, you can move off.

You cannot go wrong with the old adage "leave a gate as you found it" when passing through anyone's property. If that means dismounting to undo or shut the gate, so be it.

Trail equipment:

If you trail ride by yourself, invest in an EPIRB and register it. This will save SES and Emergency Services a heap of work, risk and stress if you should ever need rescuing. If you do carry an EPIRB, get a shoulder holster or hip pack for it; don't shove it in the saddle bag. It's of no earthly use to you, lying with a busted leg after a fall, if your EPIRB is disappearing over the horizon with your horse.

Carry your own first aid kit, you never ever know when you'll need it and it's no good back in the float or the car. Make the time to build a compact first aid kit that can provide basic first aid for your horse too. A decor lunch box is an excellent size for a comprehensive dual-purpose first aid kit.

Saddle bags vs shoulder/wither bags:

This one is definitely a matter of choice and most prefer behind the cantle or off the cantle dees style however, wither bags offer some real advantages, especially when it comes to ease of access on the move and, if you add a coat roll, are significantly easier to get things out of without gymnastics!

In my shoulder bags you'll find my first aid kit on the off side, lunch and Thermos on the near side, spare hoof boot, small bolt cutters and hoof pick on the offside saddle bag and nose bag and small feed in the near side. I often pop a pull back strap if riding a green horse who hasn't reliably learned to hard tie.

Take the time to learn basic navigation and bush craft – getting geographically embarrassed isn't much fun and can be quite dangerous in areas where there are mine shafts, cliffs, quick sand or bogs.

Know what tack does, not what you think it does. I was horrified to see someone using lunch time hobbles (knee hobbles) around their horse's fetlocks. Incorrect, ignorant and dangerous!

Know your trail ribbons:

- green - young/inexperienced horse (EA Green = stallion)
- blue - stallion or rig
- red - hicker.

Do NOT use the horse in front to slow or stop your horse unless, of course, your horse has genuinely bolted and you know/trust the front rider to help you slow down. It's still much safer and far more polite to take your rushing horse out in a large circle and rejoin the group once you've regained control than barging up someone's tail or charging past them. Sometimes it can't be avoided but only rarely have I seen a legitimate reason for barging.

Ride Briefing:

A good ride brief identifies a number of really important factors that contributes to everyone enjoying the ride. At the minimum, you should learn:

- How far the ride is planned for (distance and time)
- The anticipated terrain and known obstacles
- Whether boots are required for unshod horses
- The pace of the ride – if it's a walk only ride, you are not at liberty to decide to break off to have a trot or 'accidentally' canter up a hill.
- Trail Boss
- Tail Riders
- First Aiders or EPIRB carrier
- Whether there are pack/led ponies
- Actions on an incident (fall, injury, evacuation etc)
- Riders in the group competent and confident to lead another horse
- Whether there's a lunch stop, vehicle support, spectators/photographers, portaloos at lunch stop etc

Take some more time to develop trail horse skills so that you are confident in your abilities, no matter how good a rider you think you are, there's always something to learn

MERCHANDISE IS AVAILABLE TO SUPPORT THE TMCA
CHECK OUT THE MERCH TENT AT THE GET TOGETHER
OR CONTACT THE SECRETARY TO ORDER



WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU AT OUR ANNUAL
GET TOGETHER SOON

