



DAYBORO TRAILRIDERS CLUB INC

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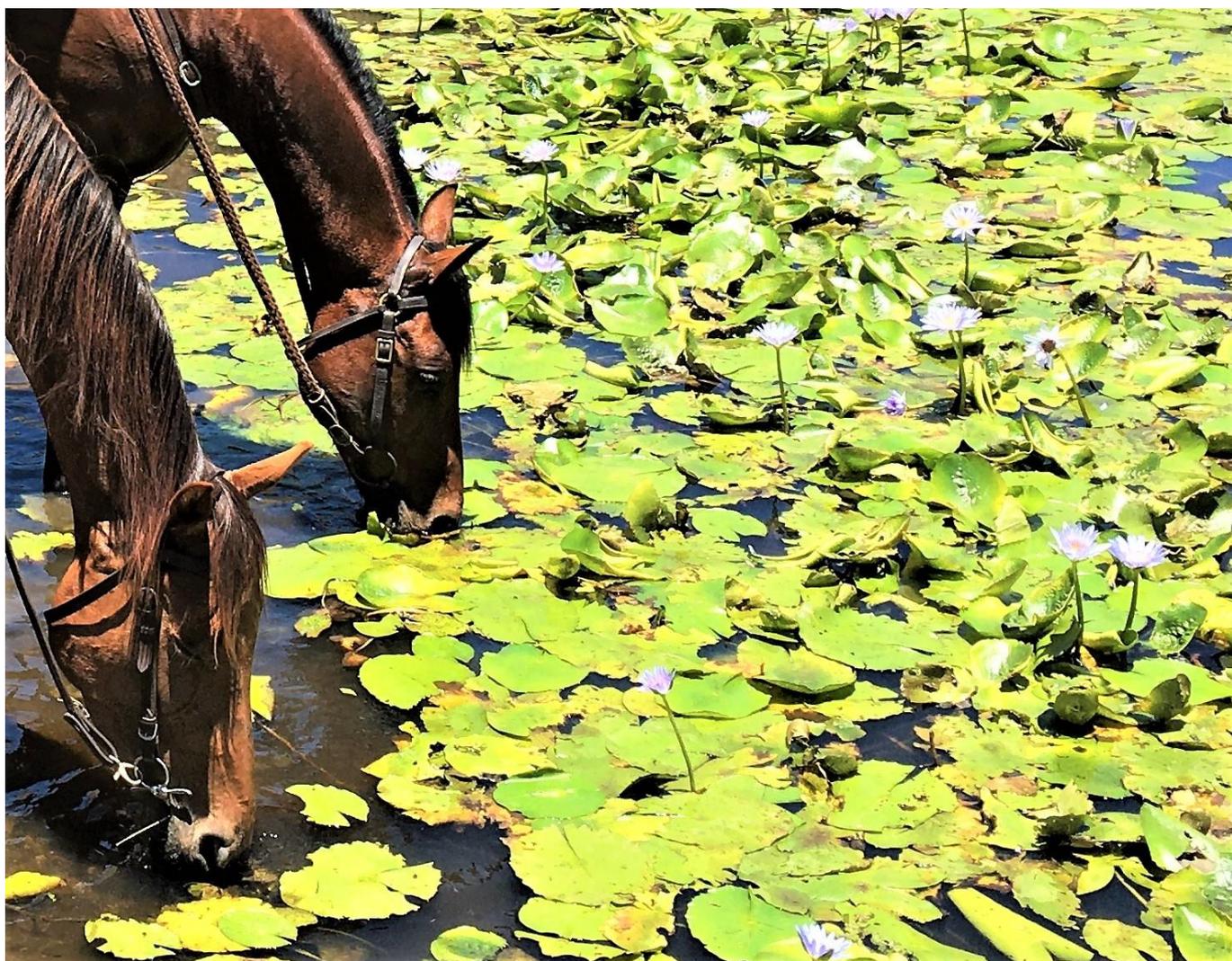
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Newsletter – December 2020



Enjoying a well earned drink on our November ride.

CHRISTMAS BREAKUP LUNCH



Social gatherings were limited during the year because of COVID-19 restrictions, so it was great to end 2020 with a relaxed luncheon at the clubhouse. It was hot, but those who attended (some pictured here) made the most of the opportunity to catch up with each other and enjoy a cold drink and delicious food. Thank you to all who helped out.



HAVE A HAPPY CHRISTMAS!

NOVEMBER RIDE REPORT

By Debra Shanahan (Trail Co-ordinator)

Our final trail ride for 2020 was held on Sunday 22nd November and it attracted more riders than we expected. Surprisingly the fairly warm 31deg day didn't deter 19 riders from turning up. We had quite a few of our members away, but our numbers were boosted by a big turnout of horse riders who wanted to try a group trail ride. Nothing about 2020 had been predictable; three months of rides cancelled and our Big October Ride unable to go ahead, so the sudden influx of riders on our very last ride was probably partly due to this.

As soon as we rode out of the showgrounds it was apparent that we had more than the usual amount of people venturing a little out of their comfort zone with their horses. Some had progressed from their L plates in the arena but just needed more experience in the saddle to be confident in guiding their mounts out on the trails. One of our riders hadn't ridden in many years and threw herself in the deep end by bringing a horse along that she had only purchased just over a week before our ride. Now, from the Trail Bosses' perspective (Bob, David and I) this was possibly going to make for a very challenging morning.

We had ridden around the massive fence that now divides the showgrounds from the Stewarts Rise Estate and had a little gully to cross, which should have been a simple task considering the dry conditions. But as one horse propped, it was obvious that his rider didn't yet have the skills needed to get him to put his feet where she wanted them to be. Wisely, she had a halter and bridle on her horse, and a lead rope was quickly attached so he was able to be led down the track. That was the only time we had to put the lead on. A little bit of advice on how to best keep her horse moving in the required direction and a bit of jogging along to catch up with the rest of the group helped. As the ride progressed, the horse was no longer trailing the field and his owner was smiling – our assistance was not needed again.

We rode past the beautiful dam in the Tapiolis' property and sighted the black swans with their now teenage offspring. Then we crossed a deep gully by taking an easy route across a culvert to keep us high and dry out of the mud, before making our way to Hamilton Road and across Mt Pleasant Road. We arrived at our first river crossing which was no more than a hole of stagnant water (the much needed rain was still just a promise). It was not very appealing to the horses, which, at this stage would have been keen for a drink and a splash. Once we had crossed Laceys Creek Road, some of the horses were happy to sip from the long cattle trough in the Nugent's property. Surprisingly, given the lack of rain since the previous month, we ended up riding through a boggy gully that everyone's horses negotiated with very little fuss, and most managed to stay clean (just not my grey horse once again!).

On route to Rowe Road we arrived at the Pampling's lovely 200 acre property where we were met by young Oliver (grandson of our club member Colin), on his little grey pony. Oliver's expert directions pointed us towards the gate we needed to find.

A short walk down the road and we turned off into the Baker's cattle property where we were able to give the horses a long drink at the dam, and they were happy to put their muzzles in amongst the flowering lily pads which made for a great photo opportunity.

As we headed down to the North Pine River at Laceys Creek Bridge, the trail, as always, was a little overgrown with vines and long grass which obscure obstacles that can be a tripping hazard. The lead horses are always alert and good on their feet and rarely stumble, which is what makes them invaluable at checking the safety of the tracks before the other horses.

One of our club members rides a lovely old mare, which, even though she has only one eye, is the most amazing horse. She doesn't shy or balk at objects and keeps calm in the group and never kicks out at other horses even though she can't see who is beside her. However, her enthusiasm for being close to the front of the group rather than letting others trail blaze resulted in a bad trip over some rocks hidden by the grass. She was quickly on her feet and continued on without showing any sign of pain; but once back at the showgrounds and being hosed off, it was discovered that she had taken quite a bit of bark off her knee. Thanks to Kym and Marina who both raced over with their first aid boxes and gave this sweet mare some expert wound care.

Our journey continued across the North Pine River, where the water is always deep. It was a great place to cool the horses and to take my very muddy grey mare in up to the stirrups and wash some grime off. A little bit of road riding (and traffic calming) was required as we headed up Cruice's Hill toward the Fire Station and back to the showgrounds.

We had travelled about 16kms, which wasn't a bad workout for the horses on a hot day. Everyone who was riding with us for the first time seemed to really enjoy the trail, including our visitor on her new horse, which appears to have been a very good purchase. We hope to see everyone back out on the trails with our Club in 2021.







We thank those Dayboro residents who allowed us to ride through their beautiful properties!



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AGISTMENT

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