



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Message from the Board	1
Kids Play	1
Polocrosse at the Valley	2
TBYB Information	2
Managers Report	3
Members Pics	4
Marketing/Membership	5
Düsseldorf to DownUnder	5

Recent Riding Adventures

24 hours after her fall we were all very happy to have **Bridget Garlick** back riding her horse and bike at the Valley... but if you wanted a ride in a helicopter that much Bridge, just ask...

After unintentionally clocking an impressive time from the round yard to the cabin block on Hero, **Isabella Olsson** would also like to announce that she's decided jockey life is not for her, and will not be riding in the Melbourne Cup this year!

Message from the Board

Happy New Year Valley members!

2009 has been well and truly welcomed in at Hidden Valley with another memorable NYE party organised by Brandon Keogh and the Social Committee.

Themed as a tribute to the 70's, Valleyers and Valleyites danced the New Year in to the music of Penny Black. Members dusted off a few of their old Glad Rags to honor the occasion, and partied like they used to. If the slow start to January 1 was any indication the night was a huge success.

The New Year sees a few additional improvements to the Valley recreational facilities, not the least of which is the new shade canopy over the pool. A combination of Hidden Valley tenacity, collective co-operation and brute strength

has ensured we can swim happily and safely in the shade from now on.

The paddocks are looking greener, the horses are looking healthier, trails are being reclaimed and Hidden Valley is finally turning the corner from our flood and EI setbacks.

Right now there is no better time to invite friends and guests to experience the Valley and encourage them to sign up – remember the *Try Before You Buy* offer will only be available until the end June 09. (Further details and flyers for you to print out are included in this issue of Campfire.)

We hope you all have a safe, active and healthy 2009 and we see you at the Valley soon.

Billy, George, Philippa, Leigh, Nell, David and Stephen

Kids play ...pictures worth a million

There's nothing quite like the freedom of the Valley to bring out the best in kids play, be it muckin' about in mud baths, tobogganing with Big Ted or just smooching with someone special!



NYE Polocrosse at the Valley ...Jenny MacMahon

Duty Roster:

January 2009

10 th & 11 th	Adam
17 th & 18 th	Jason
24 th & 25 th	Adam
31 st	Adam

February 2009

1 st	Jason
7 th & 8 th	Jason
14 th & 15 th	Adam
21 st & 22 nd	Jason
28 th	Adam

March 2009

1 st	Adam
7 th & 8 th	Jason
14 th & 15 th	Adam
21 st & 22 nd	Adam & Jason
28 th and 29 th	Adam

As the temperatures finally started to cool at about 6.30pm on New Years Eve, a group of intrepid athletes decided it was time to learn some new skills.....POLOCROSSE.

A combination of polo, netball and lacrosse, Polocrosse is played on horseback.

Each rider manoeuvres a ball across the field using a purpose built cane stick made up of a polo stick shaft to which a squash racquet type head is attached with a loose twisted-thread net.

Armed with 6 polocrosse rackets, a polocrosse ball and only a skimpy understanding of the rules of the game, the following riders introduced their mounts to the new sensations of rackets swinging, ball bouncing and enthusiastic cheering:

- Maddie Garlick and Texas
- Bridget Garlick and Lilly
- Caitlin Garlick and Misty
- Renee Langlands and Jake
- Kathryn MacMahon and Ebony
- Ashleigh Wiseman and Mungo

After the horses and riders were introduced to the racket and the basics of the game, a game was commenced.

The only one who has played polocrosse previously was Kathryn's mount, Ebony, who led the charge for each ball only to realise that Kathryn had difficulty in scooping up the ball from on top of her 16hh mount!

There are 3 riders on each team and all riders were needed to field 2 teams. Caitlin Garlick was assisted by her dad, Adam who was on foot and held Caitlin's racket. What a scene as the other 5 horses and riders careered toward Adam at the goal scoring end of the field!

Strong defensive tactics by Renee (on Jake) and Maddie (on Texas) kept the scoring quite low, whilst Ashleigh (on Mungo) was a natural at the game. Bridget (on Lilly) provided a strong central role whilst Kathryn managed to score a few successful goals for her team.

An enormous amount of fun was had by riders and horses (and the crowd consisting of the Pickering and Langlands clan and Kimberly Garlick). Watch this space- polocrosse will be held again at the valley!!

Please help us help our staff... they work hard!

- Names of the duty manager and/or authorized assisting members will be posted on the notice board in the cabin BBQ area. **Please direct all requests and queries to these people only** and allow staff to have well earned downtime.
- The wrangler/staff member in charge of trail rides has the final say as to who rides what horse and their decision overrides that of off duty staff.

Try Before You Buy Details

Just to make sure you know all the details about the incentive, they are:

- \$2,800 for 12 months limited membership at Hidden Valley
- Offer closes on June 30 2009 and payment must be received, in full, prior to the end of the financial year.
- No voting rights or land title attached to offer
- Offer includes \$700 worth of non-redeemable, prepaid accommodation to be used over the 12 month period. This equates to 32 nights at \$22 per night.
- Shed rental is available to participants at the cost of \$220 per year.
- In the event of limited cabin accommodation, priority will be given to full paying members over the request of a TBYB participant. In order to monitor this, we ask that

TBYB participants send accommodation requests via email to the manager@hiddenvally.com.au rather than use the booking system on the website.

- Trail use of the company horses is the same as full paying members.
- Horse day participation is open to TBYB participants but priority of company horse allocation will be given to full paying members if demand exceeds available mounts.

If you or interested friends have further questions regarding this offer please contact the board via manager@hiddenvally.com.au or Nell at nell@blackbetty.com.au

Once again, we welcome the constructive opinion and suggestions of our members; if you would like to comment further on the structure of the offer please let us know.

Managers Report ...Adam Little

Busy, Busy, Busy sums up the last 6 weeks here on the property. Finishing the fencing project for the CMA was high priority and eventually completed on time on the 16th of December.

Repairs to machinery and break downs have cost the staff a lot of time and the general maintenance of the property is a weekly task.

Trail rides have been very successful with up to three rides going out a day over the holiday period.

The age old problem of younger riders wanting to trail ride, was solved with the age limit of ten applied and all younger riders taken and lead in the western arena.

One issue that has presented itself over this holiday period is members and guests questioning the decision of the manager and his appointed staff in regard to trail rides, group sizes and ages.

Trail ride decisions are made at the discretion of the property manager or his appointed staff member at the time. The decision to allow a rider to ride or not is carried out through a series of objective risk assessments so, if the decision is 'no' by the manager, I ask that members respect the call made. These decisions are not made lightly and are made with the safety of all members and guests in mind.

Please also be aware that when you book on a trail ride, you are to wait outside the tack up area until asked by the manager or his appointed staff to enter the tack up area. Again we are asking this for your safety. The tack up area and round yard are dangerous places to be and only qualified persons may be in these areas without supervision.

The major priority at this stage of the works program is the deconstruction of the old workshop and the construction of the new workshop. This is a high priority task and if you can assist us complete this project please call or email Adam.

The rest of the plans revolve around general maintenance of the property and the ODE course as the next event is coming soon. We have also had a lot of interest from other instructors to use our facilities, so we have to keep the ODE course looking its best.

On the 18th of December, 2008, Hidden Valley played host to a CMA workshop, "Managing horses on small properties", the day was held as a field day highlighting the various issues in managing a small horse property here on the coast.

The day was a great success with talks provided by CMA staff, Wyong Council weeds officer, DPI, Jane Myers, the author of "Managing Horses on Small Properties" and myself.

The issues talked about on the day included: general horse health, horse safety, fencing, property design, horse facilities, property management in a delicate environment, erosion and control methods, weed control, trees, manure management, pasture management and resources available to the public through sources like the Catchment Management Authority.

I will be applying for further funding through the CMA to run further workshops out of Hidden Valley, highlighting management issues on small horse properties here on the central coast.

Cheers,

Adam

*Lost Something Lately
Have you checked Lost
Property?*



*Unclaimed
property is held in
the basket in the
Laundry.*

Teepee Trecking ...Erin Beverly

"Thar's Injins in them thar hills!"... Ok, clearly not, but there is a Teepee. Erin Beverly recently rode up on Big Mont accompanied by her friend Bec on Sundance. Great ride. Great views. Great 'bottom work' for Monty and Sundance!



Erin Beverly and Big Monty.



The Teepee. No place like home?



The view of the Valley from the top of the Golf Course Hill. Not bad!

MS Memories – Sept 08

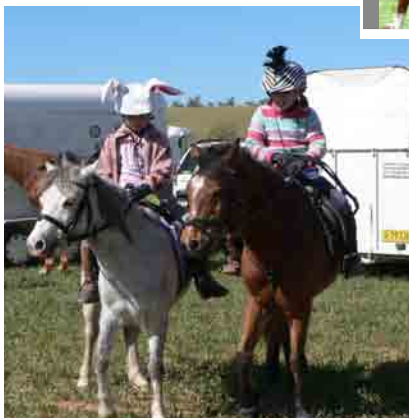
Campfire congratulations also goes to Georgie Moeller for organizing an MS Weekend at the Valley after this ride, not only continuing to raise funds for this worthy cause, but also introducing new people to Hidden Valley.



Eliza & George take off with Clair & Toby



Eliza and Claire go for a paddle.



Brigette "the Bunny" Garlick and Lady

Brigette "the Bunny" Garlick, with Chelsea "The Zebra" Moeller on Lady and Aladdin



...a hard days work deserves...

Hidden Valley Co-op
Ourimbah Creek Road
Ourimbah

Phone 02 4362 1438
Fax 02 4362 2176
E-mail
manager@hiddenvalley.com.au

**Discover Hidden
Valley with the Whole
Family**



Marketing & Membership ...Nell Rollinson

As many of you may already know we have two ads running at the moment in *Kids on the Coast* and *Pittwater Life*, both accompanied by an editorial article singing the praises of Hidden Valley. Both ads have unique incentive identifiers so we can monitor any interest generated by them.

We have also taken a subscription out in the Schools Excursions Register for 2009. This will allow us an ad in their hard copy book sent to all schools in NSW and Qld., and a post on their website for online bookings and enquiries.

While we have had some interest in the *Try Before You Buy* offer there is no doubt that the most successful recruitment strategy we have is also the cheapest – **the active promotion of the Valley by our membership**. Do you belong to a sports club, scouts, and/or guides? Do you have contacts in the media, or friends in retail who would let us leave a stack of our flyers on their counter? All these are opportunities for us to get valuable exposure at the Good Guy price.

New members benefits all members and I urge you to keep your eyes open for

opportunities for us to **promote membership at Hidden Valley...** guests are great, but members are best.

Right now the Valley is looking a treat and our *Try Before You Buy* incentive is active until the end of the financial year. Please print out some of the promotional material available as links in the Campfire email and spread the word, to **Discover Hidden Valley** with your friends and colleagues.

Remember also, Campfire can be printed out and used as promotional collateral as well.

If you have suggestions to further promote membership at the Valley please feel free to contact me via my email nell@blackbetty.com.au or manager@hiddenvalley.com.au

Thank you to everyone who helped contribute to this Campfire. If you have an idea, announcement, pics, or opinions you would like to share with the membership, please email them to me before February 1, and I will include them in the next issue.

From Düsseldorf to DownUnder ...Jenny MacMahon

Josie Steiert is currently on a 12 month exchange from Dusseldorf, Germany. Josie is hosted by a family at Balgowlah and is attending Year 12 at Mosman High School where she is friends with Melissa MacMahon.

The main purpose of her stay is to experience an alternative culture to Germany and to improve her English skills. Melissa invited Josie to stay with the MacMahon family over the Christmas – New Year period and of course, to experience the pleasures of a couple of days at Hidden Valley.

Josie braved a trail ride on the trusty Barney, enjoying the bushland and especially the birdlife. As the temperatures soared the girls spent a lot of time in the swimming pool and generally taking it easy. (Currently in Germany it is around freezing point!).

She really enjoyed meeting different people at the valley, just sitting on the front porch of the cabin and inviting others to join for dinner or a drink. "I am really glad Melissa's family took me to this beautiful place. I had three very nice days at the Hidden Valley I didn't want to miss."

