



# Campfire

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## Message from the Board

### Welcome to the new look Hidden Valley Member Newsletter – Campfire.

It doesn't matter how long you've been a member of Hidden Valley, 2 or 10 years, we all know how welcome a Hidden Valley campfire is. The bush television welcomes and warms us; a place to share our experiences, knowledge and grumbles. While you're going to be pretty hard pressed to toast a marshmallow on this Campfire, the Board warmly and openly welcomes the contribution of your voices to this newsletter.

Working in tandem with our Hidden Valley Hotlines, we hope Campfire will bring monthly information to our members about our members. The Hotline will continue to be a vehicle for the immediate and urgent voice of the Manager and/or Chairman, advising of last minute changes to schedules, property information and, of course when needed, flood, flu or fire.

Campfire will bring you regular updates of

- activity at the Valley
- member highlights
- committee reports
- activity reminders

and more as your contributions, imagination and needs direct.

If you have suggestions, information or requests for Campfire, please contact Nell Rollinson on [nell@blackbetty.com.au](mailto:nell@blackbetty.com.au)

On behalf of the Board I hope you enjoy this issue of Campfire and we look forward to your comments and contributions to make future issues better.

We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a happy and safe New Year

Hidden Valley Board



Haaappy Holidays



## Trail Blazers....helping to organise better trails

### Just a quick reminder about the process of booking trails at the Valley.....

Please make sure that you book company horses for Saturday morning trails **by 5.00pm the Friday afternoon prior**. Adam needs this information to ensure we have the right horses available for the appropriate riders.

Schedules for Sunday trail rides will be

posted on the notice board in the BBQ area on Saturday afternoon and requests should be listed by 5.00pm Saturday evening for the following Sunday rides.

Horse bookings are managed on a 'First in Best Dressed' system.

While every effort will be made to meet your request, the ultimate decision will be that of the Duty Manager of the day.

*“Now prospective members can Try Before They Buy.”*

## Membership Drive – Incentive Deal

**A Board meeting was recently convened to discuss adopting a Special One-Off Incentive Fee to prospective new members.**

Taking into account the opinions of members at the AGM Open Forum, and subsequent presentations, the Board has agreed to introduce a **One-Off Incentive Fee of \$2,200 for limited access to the Valley for 1 year.**

This offer will be publicised and promoted for 7 months and conclude on July 1 2009.

It will allow participants up to two weekend visits per month and **not include:**

- Agistment rights
- Caravan rights
- EFA Insurance
- Voting rights

Strictly limited to potential members as a One-Off Try Before You Buy incentive, we encourage you to promote this fabulous deal to anyone you know who may need just that little extra encouragement to experience the Hidden Valley at it's best.

If you have any queries or would like to know more about this incentive, please send an email to [manager@hiddenvalley.com.au](mailto:manager@hiddenvalley.com.au) So get out your address book and start spreading the good news.....

## Manager's Report – Property Update

From the staff's point of view, Hidden Valley has been flat out for the last 6 weeks, ODE preparations, guests, trail riding, fencing projects and OH&S. The property is now looking great and as we head into summer it is the right time to be at the Valley and enjoy all the activities the facility has to offer.

The lights at the tennis courts are now repaired thanks to Billy Good, so summer night tennis is now a possibility. The pool pumps have been repaired and the pool is lovely and warm so come along and

enjoy a beautiful swim with your fellow members and friends.

We have the new fencing 90% completed and new water troughs in place, this is a part of a Catchment Management Authority project to protect our creek while providing off stream watering facilities for all our horses.

Up coming projects include erecting a new workshop, shade sail over the pool and creating new paddocks for our horses so we can create a better paddock rotation plan.





## Bike Buzz

**Some members may not realise but Hidden Valley has a comprehensive Motorbike Plan of Management document.**

This document clearly outlines the responsibilities and procedures required of members who use the Motor Bike facilities and track.

Written by Owen Wiseman in 2006, this

document is another example of members working to improve the experience and facilities for other members of Hidden Valley.

Please review this document, particularly if you use the bike facilities a lot. If you have any suggestions for amendments or inclusions, drop Adam an email:

[manager@hiddenvalley.com.au](mailto:manager@hiddenvalley.com.au)

*“Click on the book to upload a Word version of the Hidden Valley Motorbike Plan of Management”*



*“Click on the clipboard to load the PowerPoint of the Hidden Valley Survey”*

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## Membership & Marketing Update

**Did you know that there is a reward for existing members who introduce a new member to join the Valley? Yep, for each new member you introduce to the Valley you can earn \$300 off your Annual Levy.**

So as we enter the summer months and the Valley starts to shine, think of inviting some friends up to the Valley – it could be a Win Win thing. Also, **if you have an opportunity to distribute some Hidden Valley collateral at School Fund raisers or Club Nights drop me an email [nell@blackbetty.com.au](mailto:nell@blackbetty.com.au)**

I have prepared a brochure and lunchroom poster promoting our Weekend \$245 for a Family of Four deal. These are great for leaving in common rooms for picking up casual interest by potential members. This type of promotion is extremely efficient because it's introduced at a very personal level, and is significantly cheaper than mainstream advertising. **We will prepare one soon for our new Try Before You Buy offer.**

If you have an idea or suggestion to help promote Membership at the Valley please drop me an email.

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## ODE Wrap Up

Well the 2008 ODE has being run and won with the event being called a success. **We took in 143 rider entries with only a handful of riders not turning up on the day.**

Riders attended the event from all over the state, including Tamworth, Scone, Sydney and the South coast. We have received some very positive feed back from the riders about the event and most said they will be back for the ODE that will be held in March, 2009.

The best thing about the weekend was that there were no injuries to any riders or horses and that the rain stayed away for most of the weekend. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all the organisers, officials and members who gave up their time to make the event successful again.

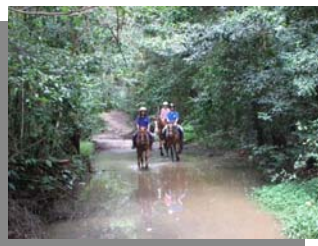
See you all again at the 2009 event.

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**Discover Hidden  
Valley with the Whole  
Family**



## Glory Grrrls

**Steffie Collins, Silvia Gordon, Becky Gordon and Sarah Gough**

recently competed at the Berrima event, against challenging weather of sleet, rain and high winds.

Congratulations to all these riders for competing in an outside event which you could say was not your average ODE!!!.



Stephie Collins on a sunny day in the HV Tack Yard, dry and clean... Steffie placed 3<sup>rd</sup> in Newcomers at Berrima



Batteling sleet in Berrima, Sarah Gough takes on the XC challenge and placed 11 in 1\* class SJ!

## Berrima Report by Sarah Gough

**For those of you who, like me, also enthusiastically dragged your horses all the way to Berrima two weeks ago, excited about yet another event to finish up the season, you will agree with me that when Campfire says the weather was bad, it's a massive understatement!!!**

In my whole eventing career, I have only ever once before come across weather like that (also in Berrima!!!). Not only was it cold and rainy, it was transitioning between hail and sleet, combined with gail-force winds throughout the weekend. I'm sure I was not the only one who found it very difficult to warm up for Dressage when my horse (who as you know is no small creature to maneuver) was being physically blown nearly into a fence! As for me, I wish I had brought snow goggles - yes I would have looked like a freak, but at least I would have been able to see where I was going.

As I was warming up, a rather wet and bedraggled looking Becky Gordon came past on Prince, and I could tell that the discomfort of the weather was mutual!

By day two it was amazing to see how the field had halved. All the sensible people had packed up and left, and I think deep down, most of us HV's were wondering why in the world we weren't doing exactly the same! But we battled on, and one by one we all did what we had to. I have no idea what it was like for everyone else, but the 1\* class was last to SJ and by the time I got to warm up, it was like thick chocolate sludge - you couldn't jump out of it or turn in it, so naturally my SJ round was a little scary, particularly when the wet conditions were teamed with hail!

It was really great to see the dedication in the riders from the Valley, because when everyone else was pulling out, Becky, Steph and myself took up the challenge and rode the XC, as you may see from the pc above, I timed my round perfectly to tie in with a huge Hail storm which just made it so enjoyable!

But none the less, we all finished in good spirits and just as enthusiastic as when we arrived - except this time it was enthusiasm to get home! Congratulations to all the other riders who went, it was really great to see you all out there giving it your best shot!