

## LAST MEETING.

The last meeting of AFA was held at Bendethera. Some arrived by car and some on horse-back. Most camped the night and enjoyed the magnificent surroundings and the good camp fire yarns.



Those who arrived by horse.



The Meeting in progress.

Our newly appointed secretary, of the younger generation, was so impressed with the experience of riding to the

remote location, she put pen to paper. Her story provides us with hope for the future.

## Down the beaten track

By Ashley Trushell

Standing among tall trees and powering up the steep shale covered mountain side, this is my sort of adrenaline rush. As I sit upon my horse's back I see the horse in front lose its footing and I think for sure it will go down, however it collects its footing so sturdy and sure as if we were on level ground and not on a foot wide trail on the angle of the mountain. I never have enough faith in these strong magnificent animals. My seventeen year old standard bred carries me confidently up the mountain side up until my imagination runs away with me and I feel the need to get off and feel my own two feet slipping amongst the shale. I have great admiration for the young boys (one of which is leading an extra horse ) and girls who are brave enough to ride all the way to the top including a very narrow section which my mother has labelled 'The Goat's Trail.' Even though riding up this side of the mountain fills me with fear and adrenaline I also find myself filled with pride and satisfaction. I know there is a great deal of people who couldn't handle doing what I am doing and even more who will never in their lifetime get to experience the beauty, the ruggedness, the thrill or the sense of achievement that comes from riding a track like this with only your horse beneath you to get you to the other side.

Our group that day was made primarily of a younger demographic (under the age of thirty) with the watchful eyes of Garry and my mother, Sonja to keep us on the track and out of trouble. We were all riding our own horses which we all consider our own responsibility, I know my horse trusts me completely and utterly which is why we accidentally got stuck on a log which Garry so kindly had to help us off. We all know it is our responsibility to keep our horses out of unnecessary danger otherwise we don't have a horse to ride, this was why at the end of our long exhausting ride we all help each other out to feed, water and rug our horse for the night

ahead. Then as a group we were all able to sit around with our support team and discuss the incredible ride we had that day and the antics the support team had setting up camp and Garry's circus sized red tent. The boys spent the evening constructing make shift bows and arrows out of sticks and baling twine, they didn't operate quite as well as they looked. And even though it didn't seem like much, that sort of clean fun, the tricks they learnt from the old boys and guidance they received was invaluable helping to mould them into men that will love and appreciate places like Bendethera. As young people this is exactly what we need, to have these experiences in the bush and to be told the stories of the bygone eras of our ancestors. We need to be shown the beauty of the surroundings and the damage that can be caused so that we can chose to not do things like burnouts and instead educate against those who do. And so we can appreciate and love places like Bendethera in an attempt to keep them open to future generations. However as young people we cannot do this alone, we need the careful guidance of mothers and fathers, uncles and aunties, grandmothers and grandfathers. We need to have these sorts of places shared with us so that they become a part of us and a part of our lives, so that we feel it's our duty to keep places like Bendethera alive and the tracks open for all, and so that one day there is another generation to fight for those tracks to stay open. I know every time I go to Bendethera I gain a greater appreciation for not only the environment but also the history, my responsibilities, my horse and the people and group who make it all possible, Access for All.

## FROM THE COMMITTEE

Trademark Registration. We have been successful in gaining registration under Class 16 which provides for printed materials, books, pamphlets, calendars, instructional and teaching materials.

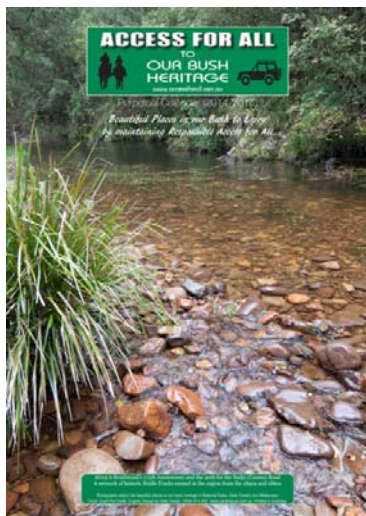
The work involved so far has been very time consuming and there is still more to do as we seek additional registrations. We owe a debt of gratitude to member Hugh Hodgkinson who is a Patent Attorney and continues to donate his time on our behalf.

The opening of the bridle tracks for trials through selected wilderness areas is progressing, albeit very slowly. It is difficult to understand why it is taking so long. However, we have had reassurances from the Minister, Robyn Parker and Bob Conroy, Director Conservation Program Division of NPWS, that they are committed to implementing the program.

We had a great response to the proposed alterations to the Plans of Management to enable the wilderness trials to proceed in the far south coast region with an overwhelming number of submissions supporting the wilderness trials. We wish to extend our thanks to those who put in a submission.

It is important to keep up the pressure but in view of the current difficult situation for NPWS with the bushfires, and their underfunded and limited resources we have to be patient for the present. At the time of writing there are 'out of control' fires north of Belowra and The Corn Trail.

**THE PERPETUAL CALENDAR-** featuring places of natural beauty- Now available at \$15 each, from AFA and selected outlets in Braidwood and Moruya



Our thanks to Peter Kneen for his efforts and producing such a great result. This is a 'must have' for everyone who appreciates the beauty of the Australian bush.

**THE DEUA RIVER TRACK BOOK- Now Available.**

The original print run sold out some months ago, but due to high demand from those who missed out, the book has been reprinted. Copies are available at meetings or can be ordered through a Committee member, or by post to Access For All, Locked Bag 10, PO BRAIDWOOD NSW 2622. The cost is \$22 plus \$1.40 postage.

**MEMBERSHIP:** Family \$20.00. Pensioner \$5.00. Individual \$10.00. Corporate \$100.00 includes GST.

Your membership is important to us but, if you have not renewed your membership you cannot expect to continue to receive the benefits including this Newsletter.

**AFA WEBSITE & E-MAIL INFORMATION:**  
[info@accessforall.asn.au](mailto:info@accessforall.asn.au)

**NEXT MEETING:** Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November, 10am at Araluen Hotel. As this will be our last meeting for the year, please make the effort to attend.

**AFA 2013 – 2014 COMMITTEE**

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