



TRAIL

Winter
2011

North Shore Horse and Pony Association

PRESIDENT'S REPORT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2011

Gillian Eagles

The North Shore Horse and Pony Association was formed in 1975 to ensure that horses and horseriding activities continue to form a vital part of the community and lifestyle in Terrey Hills/Duffys Forest and in Ku-ring-gai and Garigal National Parks.

Please become a member and join us in our efforts.
<http://www.nshpa.org.au>

I welcome all our Members and Visitors to the North Shore Horse and Pony Association Annual General Meeting for 2011. Good to see you here, and a special welcome to Susanna, Vicki and Chris, our Equine Experts for the Panel Discussion later this evening – something we are all looking forward to very much!

Recently NSHPA was asked by a local School Student and horse rider for some information about the Association for a Senior Geography Project. The questions the Student raised were very pertinent to us right now, with wider implications related to what NSHPA does, how the Association goes about doing it, and our strategies to achieve future aims.

NSHPA is a community representative group. As such NSHPA frequently liaises with local Councils, National Parks and Wildlife Service and the Rural Fire Service to help maintain local trails in a variety of ways, both formally and informally. The latter includes reporting fallen trees, non-authorised usage such as motorbikes in National Parks, erosion damage, trail and roadside verge obstructions, and the need for maintenance, often due to vegetation overgrowth, along trails. We also participate in, and organise meetings to discuss issues and ideas with representatives from different bodies to help maintain and promote safe opportunities for horse riding in the area. NSHPA's main focus of activity historically has been in Terrey Hills and Duffys Forest, but not exclusively so. For example, for many years, due, and with great thanks owed, to the time, effort and enormous commitment of Sally White, NSHPA has participated in the Belrose Waste and Recycling Centre, better known as "the Belrose Tip", Community Advisory Committee (or CAC) meetings to represent horse riders in discussions and plans for the future use of the site.

On a more formal basis, NSHPA also takes the opportunity to respond to calls for public submissions to highlight issues and horse riding needs. For example NSHPA has put in submissions to Warringah Council in response to Discussion Paper *Horse riding trails and facilities in Terrey Hills & Duffys Forest October 2009*, the draft *Warringah Local Environmental Plan (draft WLEP)* and draft *Warringah Development Control Plan (draft WDCP)* (both December 2009), and the *Draft Warringah Bike Plan 2010 – 2015* (March 2010), the *Warringah Pittwater Bush Fire Management Committee Draft Bush Fire Risk Management Plan* (April 2010), and the *Draft Strategic Community Plans* (which are the *Draft Budgets* for the Warringah Local Government Area), including the most recent *draft Plan 2011* released in April.

For those particularly interested to see an example of an Association horse riding submission, the NSHPA submission to the *Draft Warringah*



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Bike Plan 2010 – 2015 is reproduced in entirety in the Appendices of the final *Bike Plan* which is available on the Warringah Council website www.warringah.nsw.gov.au.

NSHPA responded with a submission to the NSW Government Environment, Climate Change & Water Discussion Paper: *National Parks and Wildlife Service Cycling Policy Review and Sustainable Mountain Biking Strategy (October 2010)*. We followed up on this with letters to several Local Members of Parliament as you may have read about in the *Summer 2011 TRAIL*.

NSHPA continues to try and take advantage of all opportunities to raise awareness of horse riding and the need for more and safer trails in Terrey Hills, Duffys Forest, Ingleside and Belrose at all levels of bureaucracy and decision-making. By this we hope to raise our credibility and profile, and therefore to be involved to represent horse riders at all stages of the consultation process. Progress is slow and tenacity is needed! Plans of Management (or POMs) for NSW National Parks such as Ku-ring-gai Chase and Garigal, are legal documents. New draft POMs are due for both Garigal and Ku-ring-gai Chase National Parks.

Currently the increase in mountain biking activity is focusing attention upon recreation activities in National Parks generally. Changes often provide opportunities. NSHPA believes, from reviewing the literature, that the evidence supports the view that responsible horse riding on suitably designed and constructed trails, such as the management (or “fire”) trail network around the area that has been hardened for vehicles, is ecologically manageable and sustainable. Indeed the *Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park and Lion Island, Long Island and Spectacle Island Nature Reserves Plan of Management (2002)* notes: “...*The Perimeter and the Long Trails have been hardened to cope with vehicles and providing horses keep to the trails, the impact of horse riding on the surrounding vegetation is minimal. ...*”. It almost goes without saying though, that it is important however that horse riders ride on the trails, and that the making of new informal trails and “bush bashing” is avoided, or we horse riders risk the loss of even more trails.

Overall, personally I believe that we are succeeding in raising awareness but it is a long process to achieve changes. In the coming year NSHPA will continue to pursue these strategies and initiatives with local Councils, other bodies and the State Government.

The rest of 2011 and into 2012 provides more opportunities for NSHPA to pursue. It is exciting and very pleasing that in the most recent *draft Plan Budget 2011*, Warringah Council allocated \$150,000 for Roads, Traffic and Waste Capital Works for Terrey Hills / Duffys Forest Horse Trail in 2011 – 2012! NSHPA thanks Warringah Council. I believe that the allocation of this \$150,000 represents what can happen when horse riders and various groups work together in a cohesive and clear way to establish a dialogue.

NSHPA has several times stated in various submissions to Warringah Council that in the Association’s opinion, horse activities are the commercial life blood of Terrey Hills and Duffys Forest. The equine industry is a very important financial contributor and employer in the local area as it directly and indirectly utilises a wide range of goods and services. It is also a major source of inbound tourism and visitation to the area.

For example, how many of you here tonight live outside postcode 2084? How many even live outside the Warringah Local Government Area? And as you all know, we horse riders spend quite a bit of money in order to enjoy ourselves and our horses, and keep them safe, well, outfitted and fed! This money spreads throughout the community.

Horse riding also has a long heritage and is commercially important in other areas such as Ingleside and Belrose, and wider afield such as in St Ives and Narrabeen.

The lack of authorised and safe horse riding trails in Ingleside, including the lack of a safe horse riding recreational link between Terrey Hills and Ingleside, is a concerning issue, and one that NSHPA is intending to more greatly focus upon in the next 12 months. We would like, and need, your input and help so we can bring more attention to this issue with Pittwater Council and NPWS, in a way that may eventually help result in some mutually beneficial and ride-able solutions.

Also in the next 12 months NSHPA will continue to try to represent the needs of horse riders at the Belrose Tip CAC discussions. There is the potential to create a multi-recreational facility at the landfill site after its anticipated closure by November 2014. NSHPA has also had discussions with representatives from local NPWS Management and Warringah Council about some other, separate, potential trail riding initiatives, but these discussions are all at very early stages yet, so we’ll see what develops. Maybe, hopefully, we’ll have more to say about them at next year’s AGM.

SEEKING YOUR SURPLUS CHAFF BAGS

Peggy Brown of The NSW Animal Welfare League is in need of your chaff bags. If you have empty ones lying around the shed she would be grateful for them, they can be dropped off to her at the Manly/ Warringah Animal Welfare, 160 Mona Vale Road, Ingleside, or alternatively give her a call on 9913 8731

For all this NSHPA needs the continued support of its Members and the wider horse riding network of Riding Clubs and individual horse riders if we are to have a loud enough voice to be heard by Councils and the State and Federal Governments. I thank particularly Forest Hills Pony Club, Ingleside Riders Group, Manly Warringah & Pittwater Pony Club and Northside Riding Club for their input and support with various submissions throughout the year. This support has been generously provided, often at very short notice, as issues have arisen and submission deadlines had to be met.

Finally, the Committee of NSHPA has some farewells to make. Sadly, due to other commitments, Lindé Macpherson, Rosslyn Morrison and Sally White have all announced their intention not to restand for election at this AGM. We shall miss them and their valued input and hard work greatly.

Fortunately Lindé will continue to compile and edit *TRAIL* for us – under her stewardship our newsletter is going from strength to strength. NSHPA's loss of Rosslyn and Sally will be to the great gain of all the other organisations, committees, groups, and interests that they pursue in the future. We all wish them well, but I particularly want to thank them for their time, every time, and there have been many, when I have made yet another request for even more information, maps, data, diagrams, illustrations for yet another letter or submission, at yet again, impossibly short notice. So thank you and best wishes to your post-NSHPA Committee life!

But as noted earlier, with change comes opportunity. As a result NSHPA is looking for new Members and Office Bearers for its Committee tonight. Please consider nominating for a position and be more involved in our ultimate aim to leave this area a better safer area for the future generations of horse riders while preserving and enhancing our natural heritage!

Come to the NSHPA Fundraiser 2011 MELBOURNE CUP LUNCH



Save this date:

Tuesday 1 November

**Cooyong Road
Terrey Hills**

12.30 to 4.00pm

**Entry is \$30 and includes
Cold Buffet Lunch
a glass of bubbles**

ENTERTAINMENT

FASHIONS OF THE FIELD

LUCKY DOOR PRIZE

HAT PARADE

**Further information will be in
the next *Trail* Newsletter**

The phone number for the National Parks & Wildlife Service if you encounter motorised bikes, or fallen trees on the trails is 9472 8949 which is a multi answer phone service.



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2011 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL/APPLICATION

Annual subscriptions (beginning 1st January) to the NSHPA can be sent to:

The Treasurer, P.O. Box 333, Terrey Hills, 2084, or
for renewals without any changes of details, you can now EFT your subscription to NSHPA at:
BSB: 112 879

ACCOUNT: 127 223 252

If paying by EFT please send us an email with your name and date of your payment:

Email: nshandpa@gmail.com

\$20 Single \$30 Family \$55 Club

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I would be interested to know about and perhaps participate in working bees! Yes.....No

As most people are aware, we are constantly forced to protect our access to trails in the National Parks. NSHPA needs your support with membership if we are to have a louder voice when negotiating to keep trails open in the National Parks and local horse facilities maintained.

Meetings are held 1st Monday of each month. All members are encouraged to attend.