

WORKING EQUITATION YARRA VALLEY



NEWSLETTER

MAY 2017

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Club Website – www.workingequitationyarravalley.org

Club Facebook page – Working Equitation Yarra Valley

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TREASURER – Kerry Pitcher
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EVENTS CO-ORDINATOR – Lindy Whitfort
RALLY CO-ORDINATOR – Lisa Saunders
INSTRUCTORS AND VENUES – Anna Gust
UNIFORMS – Julia Colman
OBSTACLE CO-ORDINATOR – Julia Colman
FUNDRAISING – Fay Diamantakis
RISK MANAGEMENT – Fay Diamantakis
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MAY RALLIES

Jason McInnes kindly stepped forward to instruct both the Wednesday and Saturday rally days as the advertised instructor Natasha Jones was not able to attend the Wednesday.

Jason seemed to be quite popular with the members that filled out the feedback forms. He worked on lots of different things with each group that presented on the day and to me seemed to be much more at ease later in the afternoon once he'd got into the flow of things.

On the Saturday we had a special occasion – Deb Clow celebrated her 60th birthday on this day and was happy to spend it with us. We were very honoured Deb. She brought a cake and I heard there were some cupcakes and other yummy goodies to eat, the candle blowing and happy birthday song as well.

Below are a few words from the birthday girl herself.

Another birthday and another milestone being my 60th! Now what to do? Do I invite friends, acquaintances and relatives that I only see at special occasions that otherwise I never speak with for the rest of the time? Another headache, what restaurant, venue and the amounting costs. I had a long hard think, what do I really want, the answer was simple. I wanted to be with my horse riding friends and as my birthday was on Saturday 6th May WEYV Rally day I wanted to celebrate at lunch time after my lesson. I baked a Gluten Free Cake, and what a surprise, members turning up with Gluten Free Muffins and wonderful tasty goodies. I had the best time a fabulous lesson with Jason McInnes and such great members (some that I don't even know) singing happy birthday. WEYV, what a great riding club!

That evening I had close relatives drop by and the next day being Sunday I rode at Tooradin Estate over the beginners Cross Country Course and my lovely mare "Yazmin" not putting a foot wrong. I was on such a high and this was a great finish to the best weekend birthday ever. Looks like life begins at 60!

A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL THE MEMBERS FOR THE BEST TWO DAY BIRTHDAY THAT I HAVE EVER HAD.



JUNE RALLIES

We have added another rally day in June, to make the most of a full obstacle course we have added Sunday 4th June to enable members to practise the obstacles, either as a full course, or those obstacles in particular that you may need more help with.

Please ensure that you book in early for these days as they will be sure to fill fast.

Wednesday's rally will have a focus on POLES, so it is sure to be a fun day.

Saturday and Sunday will have the full obstacles course set up.

We will need extra help setting up on Saturday morning as well as packing up on Sunday afternoon. If anyone is able to volunteer their help on either occasion please let Susie or one of the committee know.

RALLY FEEDBACK FORMS

Don't forget to fill in the Rally Feedback form at the end of your lesson on rally days.

They should be located on the lunch table upstairs. Your thoughts on the lesson and anything else relating to the club is much appreciated.

RALLY BOOKINGS

Just a reminder when you are filling out the online booking form. Please remember to put your **SURNAME & DATE OF RALLY** so that Lisa can match up the payments to the booking form.

This months bookings were a bit all over the place due to no dates/incorrect surnames/other odd information?????

Lisa's pretty good at mind reading but even she has her limitations!

RALLY DUTY

It is up to those members on duty to work out between you who will be doing the morning or afternoon duty. The contact details will be on the rally schedule that Lisa will send out to all members prior to the day.

Our club is fortunate to have the use of the indoor arena and the beautiful PRIVATE property at Gruyere, we do not have working bees as such, only rally duty. This consists of supplying milk and some nibbles for morning tea, helping the instructor set up in the morning or pack away at the end of the day, ensuring the poo barrows are emptied and everything is in order before leaving.

There are 2 of you on duty each rally and most members offer to help at some stage during the course of the day so it's not a hard job by any means.

Our next rally days are on Wednesday 31st MAY, Saturday 3rd JUNE and Sunday 4th JUNE

Duty roster says that the following have duty for June:-

<u>Wednesday</u>	Kerrie Sperl and Letitia Moore
<u>Saturday</u>	Bronwyn Farrar and Jen Jardine
<u>Sunday</u>	To Be Advised

A MESSAGE FROM THE HRCAY OFFICE

If anyone is interested in joining this sub committee please let Trish know, her email is at the bottom of these few words.

Dear Club Secretary,

You are no doubt aware that the HRCAY has recently established a new Sub Committee to develop the sport of Working Equitation within the HRCAY.

The Sub Committee currently has a vacancy and is seeking expressions of interest from HRCAY members.

The work that the sub committee is currently undertaking involves:

- Establishing rules for Working Equitation (HRCAY)
- Establishing guidelines and Level Assessment processes
- Developing judging criteria for the Style/Speed phases, including for individual obstacles
- Developing Event/competition Rules
- Working towards judges and officials training

Ideally the subcommittee member would have a good knowledge of HRCAY rules/guidelines and have keen interest in Working Equitation. Could you please include this information in your club newsletter.

Closing Date for Expressions of interest **Wednesday 23rd May**

Please forward any expressions of interest to Working Equitation Sub Committee Chairperson.

Trish Kruse

kuse.patricia.p@edumail.vic.gov.au

NEW CLUB POLO SHIRTS - \$25 EA

Julia has advised that the new batch of shirts is available for collection, either at her place or at the next rally days. If you have ordered and paid for a new shirt please contact Julia on 0437 741871 to arrange collection or alternatively to discuss the option of postage.

There are a number of 'spare' polos in various sizes for purchase 'on the day' for those that didn't place an order.



At each of the rallies there will be some 'samples' of our new polo shirts for members to try on prior to ordering and purchase. They come in sizes 8-10, 12-14, 16-18, 20-22, we have these sizes to try on but I think they may come in 24-26 if required. They are a small fitting so don't be alarmed if the size you would normally take won't fit! The shirts are only available in black but we are looking into a white alternative.

CLUB CALENDAR

For info and bookings email Lisa Saunders at lisandian@bigpond.com.au

Book early: Closing dates for bookings & payment is 5 days prior to event.

PLEASE NOTE THAT RIDING PLACES FOR RALLIES ARE LIMITED SO DON'T LEAVE YOUR BOOKING TO THE LAST MINUTE OR YOU WILL BE DISAPPOINTED.

Lisa will have a waiting list available for those that have missed out.

This is a new and updated calendar with the new entries highlighted

MONTH	VENUE	DAY	DATE	INSTRUCTOR/S
MAY	GRUYERE	Wednesday	31 st	Susie Walker
JUNE	GRUYERE	Saturday	3 rd	Susie Walker (obstacle weekend)
JUNE	GRUYERE	Sunday	4 th	Anna Gust (obstacle weekend)
JULY	GRUYERE	Wednesday	5 th	Susie Walker
JULY	GRUYERE	Saturday	8 th	Susie Walker
AUGUST	GRUYERE	Wednesday	2 nd	Natasha Jones
AUGUST	GRUYERE	Saturday	5 th	Susie Walker (obstacle course)
AUGUST	GRUYERE	Sunday	6 th	Susie Walker (obstacle course)
SEPTEMBER	GRUYERE	Wednesday	6 th	Anna Gust- Garoccha
SEPTEMBER	GRUYERE	Saturday	9 th	Ro Jelbart
OCTOBER	GRUYERE	Wednesday	4 th	Natasha Jones
OCTOBER	GRUYERE	Saturday	7 th	Susie Walker (obstacle course)
OCTOBER	GRUYERE	Sunday	8 th	Anna Gust (obstacle course)
OCTOBER	TO BE ADVISED	Wednesday	25 th	Social trail ride
NOVEMBER	GRUYERE	Wednesday	1 st	Susie Walker

NOVEMBER	GRUYERE	Saturday	4 th	Susie Walker
NOVEMBER	GRUYERE	Saturday	18 th	Natasha Jones(clinic)
DECEMBER	GRUYERE	Wednesday	6 th	Anna Gust Garrocha
DECEMBER	GRUYERE	Saturday	9 th	Anna Gust xmas break up fun

GOODWILL WINES

Our club has a charity account with this company, if any wines are ordered through Goodwill Wines and our account is nominated we will then benefit from the order by having cash paid into our account. Easy money, we already have \$70 odd credited – just for drinking wine!

Don't forget to order your special wines for our club fundraiser. Go to www.goodwillwine.com.au to place your order.

EDITORS CHOICE READING

Angie has written a wonderful piece about her adventures along the Bicentennial trail, see below, so she has saved me looking for an article this month! Thanks Angie.

MEMBERS ADVERTS

I am happy to take adverts from members to appear here in this spot. I generally send out an email a week before the newsletter is due out calling for anyone that would like to make a contribution (of any sort)

Susie Walker
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RUG CLEANOUT TO HELP FUND MY NEW SADDLE!!!!!!

I have the following rugs for sale. Pickup only or can deliver if local. I will be at the Wednesday rally in May so I can bring any of them along if you'd like to have a look.

Pics are available so if you let me know which rug you want more info on I'm happy to send a photo or ring me. Most rugs are in very good condition unless stated otherwise but I can elaborate on enquiry. Some have a minor repair but all are washed and ready to go.

6'0"

- 1 x green canvas rug, underlay lining, \$30
- 1 x green Full size neck rug, hardly used, on the small side. \$10
- 1 x purple 'Champion' canvas rug with wool lining, \$60
- 1 x purple with white stars synthetic combo, \$40
- 1 x white airflow mesh combo, \$15
- 1 x 'Canta' white cotton with purple edging, \$15
- 2 x white cotton/airflow combo, VGC, \$20 one has a few small repairs, GC \$15
- 1 x 'Petstock' white cotton combo, \$15
- 1 x white heavy duty cotton rug with matching neck rug, hardly used, \$60
- 1 x blue padded bib \$10

6'3"

- 1 x Four Seasons Trojan canvas rug, GC \$60
- 2 x Four Seasons cotton rugs, GC \$15 ea
- 1 x white cotton/airflow combo \$20

6'6"

- 1 x Four Seasons cotton, extra drop, \$20
- Call Helen on 0419030137 or email helenjsharp@bigpond.com

MEMBERS OUT AND ABOUT

Again, here is a spot that you could tell us all about your fabulous ride last week on Neddy, with your friends. Or about a competition or clinic that you recently attended.

Angie's adventures along the Bicentennial Trail

Barefoot and Bitless on the Bicentennial National Trail

Day 1. Marysville to Kepples hut- 32km

Arrived at Anderson's mill in Marysville about 7.30am, unloaded the car, saddled the horses and was on my way by 8.20am. The ride into Marysville is pleasant along good paths through the bush, a little slippery after the rain and both horses were fresh. Brandy just walks along at a good pace with Magic trotting to keep up. I altered the route as the wind and rain made part of the BNT doubtful so I rode up Lady Talbot drive from Marysville, a beautiful ride beside the Taggerty River. Reasonably uneventful but it's a deceptive track with the constant climb (while not steep) tired both the horses after they had done about 3 hours so I got off and walked beside them allowing them to graze on the lovely grass along the way.

About a klm from the turn off to Kepples hut I got back on, rode around the corner to find a huge gum freshly fallen across the road, I was stuck, couldn't go around it, over it or under it...all my thoughts of isn't it a lovely day, aren't the Gang-gang cockatoos great, oh look at the robin, wow the river is beautiful all disappeared into a mess of unprintable verbal dummy spitting and then the wasp attacked and stung me....

As this was going on around the corner came a very fit lovely lady on a bike, she had reception on her phone so she rang the parks people and sweet talked them into sending someone up to clear the tree. Until then I was imagining riding back to Marysville arriving in the dark. As it was the delay meant that when I finally arrived at Kepples hut I was glad to see the excellent facilities and just had time to sort out the horses before it got dark. So now Magic is on the long line, Brandy is just wandering around (don't you love horses that are strongly bonded) I'm sitting in the hut with a fire going and eating sate' noodles and very glad tomorrow is only 18 kms

Day 2 Kepples hut to Royston River -18km + 8km

Well it's just on 6.30pm and today went well mostly... Brandy has decided she's gone far enough several times today and just refused to go forward including through a couple of deep puddles which is why I'm sitting by the fire drying off my boots and jodhpurs. It didn't help that today's planned camp at no 5 was hopeless. Not a blade of grass anywhere so no good for the horses and frustratingly it was a. Km down a track so I had to retrace my steps and together with 2 very tired horses we trudged along the trail towards Big River. Climbing over Bull fight hill was steep and rocky so I walked most of the way. I was hoping that the girls would have a good long rest this afternoon as tomorrow will be a big day but in the end we made camp by the side of a road about 4.30pm unfortunately there is no clean water so I've had to make do with the little I had left in the camelback and tomorrow I will stop for breakfast when I pass a clean creek. At least I'm about 8km along the trail that was planned for tomorrow and I've passed the worst of it. It's only 6.30 but pitch black and to be honest I feel ready for bed. I was up early this morning.

Day three Royston river to Big River-30km

last night I was so tired I was in bed by 7.30 and while it was cold enough to need ski suit, tracksuit, sleeping bag and the dryzabone on top I slept ok at least until 4.30am when I heard horse munching grass on the wrong side of the tent sure enough one side of Brandy's enclosure had fallen down and since she was hungry and the grass looked good she had a good feed, I've never been so happy that neither horse will wander far from the other.

The ride today was huge even with starting about 8km along the track it was still a tough 30+ km, Cons gap rd was steep and rocky but with all tough things it came to an end and Hugh's rd was lovely, still tough going (I think the entire Victorian section is hard) but I've never seen and heard so many lyrebirds, the freaked the horses a little but it was great to see such an abundance of them. I had to ride with no breakfast as there wasn't any water at the camp except puddles, luckily both horses have adjusted to drinking from anything. Pity Brandy won't walk through them, she must be stressed as normally she is very obedient but I had to wade through one huge one as leading her is the only way to get her through. Finally found a creek not covered in blackberries and filled my water container but apart from a few nuts and dried fruit I'm only just having something to eat and its 5.30pm still the camp is quite good, I have a fire going and the girls have had a bit of a rest

There has been controlled burning next to Mt Terrible and I don't have phone coverage here in the valley so I can't check to see if it is open, it's too far to attempt and have to turn back so am riding the Big river rd alternate track. A little longer at 34km, poor horses will need their day off after 4 days averaging 30 km each day over tough hills. Magic is being a trooper but both of them don't seem to be happy yet, too much that is different I guess.

Day 4, Big River – Mt Terrible – Knockwood-35km

Started well the 18-20yr olds that I shared the camp with did make a lot of noise all night but I got enough sleep and the horses if anything were reassured by the sound of people around. Up at 6.30 I had breakfast and packed, horses fed and on the road by 8.20. I decided to take the Big River rd as there were signs that Mt Terrible had controlled burns and I didn't want to risk having to turn back. This route is longer at 35km but has slightly less elevation (although not much). Again the track was rocky and after about 10 km Brandy's feet had had enough so I put on her boots and she was happy to continue, Magic has not shown any foot soreness at all. Turning off at Matlock track it was steep but didn't look too bad but if this track was named after Matlock's character he was one relentless unmitigated bastard of a man, it just went on and on for about 8km and I suspect Brandy towed Magic up most of it finally at the top I found a large pond off to the right between Hope and Ryan's tracks so the girls got a good drink and I was thinking that with only 10km to go downhill along a track described as " descends steadily then drops sharply into the campsite" didn't sound too bad should take a couple of hours, except the descends steadily lasted for about 100m and the drops sharply is a rocky track that goats would struggle to cope with, so steep at one point the saddle girth on Magic loosened and the whole pack came off over her head! She is such a gem she just stood still with all the straps around her legs and waited for me to sort it out. To cut a very long story short I walked, leading Brandy, average speed about 2km/hr until Magic slipped a little and bumped into Brandy, who hot, tired and hungry kicked out hitting her hind leg, result Magic is sore and not wanting to move so I put the top pack onto Brandy's saddle and had to tie Magic to the back of the saddle so that Brandy could tow her down and for the next 2 1/2 hours we slowly made our way down a track that alternated between uphill sections and rocky cliffs that needed to be negotiated, with the added difficulty of saddle slippage due to Magic being attached to Brandy's saddle. Arrived at camp just after dark (total riding time today 10 hours, half of it I walked) found a tree to tie the

horses to and wandered around to find Graham. Set up some high lines, put on their rugs and dinner was bickies and cheese with a cup of tea.

Sadly with Magic so sore I have to call a halt to the trip, the next section is described as steep and with a sore hind leg it is unfair to go on at this point so Graham has gone home to get the float and we will stay tonight and go home tomorrow. The good thing about this camp is the grass is plentiful the creek easy to get to and even though it is Easter not too full.

Knockwood to Howitts Hut – this section missed due to Magic's sore leg I'll get back to it in Spring

Howitts hut to Wonnagatta Sunday 23rd April 2017-17km

Was some of the loveliest riding but also about 3km of some of the steepest riding down Dry Creek track. Narrow and rocky but thankfully short. Hardest was when Brandy jumped down over rocks pulling Magic off balance – had to untie them and lead separately. Once at the flatter part the track was lovely to ride through.

Wonnagatta plains are lovely with several toilets and a Shed near the creek which was great to store my gear under cover and I high lined the horses over the grassy area. On the opposite side of the creek there is a good horse paddock if needed. We got a good rest ready for the next (long) day. The only overnight drama was a very loud metallic bang at about midnight which scared the crap out of me, luckily nothing more dangerous than a possum on the shed roof.

Wonnagatta to Pioneer racecourse Monday 24th April 2017 -34km

Was by any standards a long day, started out at dawn and riding out at 7.30. Brandy decided that she would try fording the creeks which was a good start and after the larger river I found a nice spot to stop and cook my porridge. Then it was uphill, Wombats spur to precise. Be warned any track called something spur is steep and nasty and this was both but Brandy the super horse trudged to the top (with plenty of stops). Nothing particular to say about the rest of the ride except that it kept going up until it headed down a very steep Station track finally arriving at a basic camp at about 4.30pm with only enough time before dark to set up the lines and tent.

Pioneer-Talbotville-Grant. Tues 25th April 2017-18km

Woke to rain but no shelter and no choice saddled up and headed off. The ride along the river flats amongst the cattle was lovely, fording several rivers and Talbotville campsite was quite busy with campers including several very excited young girls (why do they squeal when they see a horse?).

The road up to Grant is 10km of narrow hill climb with the added difficulty of all the 4wd campers going home but I have to say all of them were very careful to slow down and drive slowly past.

Finally arrived at Grant and the only shelter was an information booth so I set up camp underneath it. Sadly couldn't find the water spring but had just enough water on me to make dinner and the girls were happy with puddles. Spent the evening drying out saddle blankets by the fire. Next morning woke to heavy rain at 5am.....damn not again.

Grant to Dargo - Wed 26th April 2017- 24km

As I said it was wet, very wet, very very very wet! Luckily the gear was "dryish" so I took the girls one at a time under the shelter and saddled up, they were cold with the rain and happy to step out splashing through the puddles. All downhill today and both had great energy. I think being in camp from 1pm meant they had daytime grazing time so slept a normal amount during the night.

I was freezing, with cold wet feet but happy to be moving along. I walked a bit to warm up which helped and the rain stopped after a while. Saw lots of lyrebirds and robins along the track.

The section of Upper Dargo road had no verge so I was riding on the bitumen. Neither girl is traffic shy, and the little traffic I saw all slowed down so no dramas. Ended up arriving in camp about 12.30 looking forward to a change of clothes as this was a rest stop but Graham didn't arrive until about 3.30pm. The camp was a perfect horse camp, lots of green grass and large trees, perfect for high lining them. Oh but then the rain started again...heavily, bummer! There was only one other person at the camp so I went over and asked to share his annex. John was a lovely retired gentleman, my gear was under the tarp so not an unpleasant way to spend the afternoon.

Rest Day Dargo – Ollies Jump up camp Thursday 27th April 2017

Dargo to Dogs Grave Friday 28th April 2017- 25km

Headed off after just one days rest as the girls seemed ready, followed the Upper Dargo road along the river for about 7 km. On the way saw an eagle majestically taking off from feeding on the ground only about 5 metres ahead of me. Yellow tailed black cockatoos sat in a tree nearby watching me carefully.

Passing through yet another fantastic looking campground we forded our deepest river to date, well over Brandy's knees and up to Magic's Belly! I can't believe how far they have come, the first few days ankle deep was too much; now Brandy just took a careful look and slowly and carefully waded across without any drama at all - I've come to realise that their biggest strength is that neither horse makes a difficult situation worse, if it's too much they wait for me to take the lead but generally they have been excellent.

The next 5 km were hard (typically of the Victorian trail) uphill and steep and rocky, it sucks but every step forward is one less you need to do. Once at the top the ride was more undulating although I have come to recognise that both horses have much less energy at Altitudes above 1000m. We ambled along arriving about 2pm at Dogs grave campsite which now boasts a great hut (complete with Pot belly stove) thanks to the Deer hunter group who built it about 2 years ago, the camp also has a toilet and a lovely bubbling mountain stream down a short path - complete with trout fingerlings. Enough snow grass to keep the horses happy. There is a tribute stone to a stockman who lost his dog to dingo bait and buried him here.

It was in the hut I discovered that the flint in my lighter had ceased to work - plenty of gas but no spark. There was a slight soggy box of matches with just one half useful match which I did manage to light but I was concerned about the next day that was until I remembered a hand flint I had put in my pack in-case of something like this. It was very cold with un-melted snow lying on the ground and overnight a very strong frost. I stocked up the fire and went to bed just after dark (most days I was asleep by 7pm!) At 3am I woke feeling the room had got colder but I was warm enough in ski gear inside a sleeping bag with the dryzabone on top

Dog's Grave to Livingston creek Saturday 29th April 2017 – 17km

A fairly gentle day of only 18 km and mostly a gentle downhill it was one of the more enjoyable. The weather was crisp and cold but fine after the cold frosty night. Again I was up before dawn and ready to ride by 7.30am. Along the first part of the trail I heard a deer crashing through the undergrowth and several wallabies.

Looking across to Mt Hotham I could see a good snow cap on top of the Mountain. I was passed by a few deer hunters all of them friendly and cheerfully slowing down to make sure I was Ok. Coming around a corner I could hear an intermittent, loud metallic banging which I couldn't identify which turned out to be the first of several people I met collecting dead snow gum for firewood.

It was a really lovely ride from there down into Livingstone creek, a few farm gates to negotiate next to cattle grids and a couple of people who pulled over to chat about what I was doing but I still arrived by about 12.30pm to the most idyllic natural campsite next to a bubbling creek. I felt very clever getting my fire going with just a flint and had a lazy afternoon watching the horses grazing. It was a strange feeling to be at my last campsite, I was both happy to have a shower in my view but with all the discomfort and difficulties it had brought life back to the very basic necessities of food, shelter warmth and looking after my horses. While sitting next to the fire I saw a lone native bee flying around looking for food and realised in "normal life" I'm too busy to watch out for anything like this. About 5.30 I heard the sound of several off road motor bikes and sure enough around the corner came a group of about 40-50 of them. The horses who were dozing woke up but no real dramas and with a cheerful wave they were gone and the quiet was complete again

Day Sunday 30th April 2017 Livingston creek to Omeo -30km

I knew this was a long day at 30km but only the first section is steep and then not too bad, following that it's mostly a downhill track into Omeo, finally passing out of the dry forest into the farmland the horses woke up to idea that today was different. Brandy extended her walk to her normal long stride and Magic broke into a trot behind her. A couple of horses in a paddock next to the road kept us company for a while and we finally arrived about 1.30pm at the Omeo caravan park. Very friendly owners are happy for horses to be onsite but no facilities are provided so I set up their high lines and waited for Graham to arrive with my (essential) change of clothes. Sadly he didn't arrive until nearly 4pm but, Oh, that shower was blissful! Dinner at the pub that night then a long 6 hour drive back to Yarra Glen the next morning.

Ok some "observations" I was able to reduce Magic's pack to 12kgs plus the horse rugs on top while still having everything I needed.

High lines are the easiest way of tying the horses while giving the grazing and movement, Brandy was even see rolling while tied to it!

I think on a long trek, days above 25km are to be avoided as it just doesn't give enough grazing time after they arrive at camp. Ditto I wouldn't travel later in the year than this as it got very, very cold and dark by 6pm.

Lastly I found without being hungry I was able to reduce what food I needed, to about 150g of dried food each day, yes I lost weight and I am much fitter. As well as the riding I walked up to 10km each day either to give the horses a break or (often) to warm up.

Barefoot and bitless? I ended riding Brandy in a halter after she caught her bridle on a tree and broke it, that was no drama she was great. Both of my horses are truly barefoot for normal riding - any terrain, stony or not ,they don't normally use boots however I did bring front boots for them both and generally on the 2nd or 3rd day I would put them on for a while. Sometimes they might have not needed them but they were being ridden for up to 10 hours a day and up to 130km a week



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