

ACCESS FOR ALL®

Locked Bag 10, BRAIDWOOD NSW 2622

www.accessforall.asn.au

AUTUMN NEWSLETTER 2019

It is with great delight that we can announce, “We have our tracks back!”

It took twenty years, determination, diplomacy and thousands of man hours, but our perseverance has paid off.

We learnt many lessons. The most significant was that legislation changes are made by governments, not National Parks managers.

Many will recall the National Parks managers sent to deliver the news in 1999 that there was to be large scale Wilderness declarations. They did not know about our historic bridle tracks and had no idea of the opposition that they would face. It took time to come to terms with the fact that the Wilderness Declarations meant loss of bridle tracks as there was no horse riding permitted in gazetted Wilderness.

It was not until we lobbied politicians that we slowly got the support where it was needed.

The real turning point was the meeting with Andrew Constance MLA. He took up our cause which resulted in the two year trial and assessment of the tracks which proved there was minimal environmental damage from horse riding on the monitored tracks.



Access for All members meeting with Andrew Constance, 2014.

Last week when the Premier, Gladys Berejiklian visited Moruya for the current election campaign, she appeared with Andrew Constance before a gathering of locals. Andrew looked into the crowd and said, “I see my friend Brian [Clarke] back there and this is what the government did for the horse riders, gave them access to their historic bridle tracks through the wilderness”

Julia Short who was present said, “We all clapped!! They also made some announcements but Brian was the main event”.

“Doesn’t that make you feel proud?”



We should also acknowledge the support from Deputy Premier John Barilaro. John has assisted us through the long process.

Another unforeseen outcome of the process is the good relations we have established with NPWS. Rob McKinnon has been a great supporter and was responsible for the publishing of “Tracks through the Wilderness” and generously donated several hundred copies to AFA which were we able to sell as a fund raiser. Tim Shepherd, Lucy Gibson, Chris Howard and Tony Baxter can be counted as friends, although sadly owing to government cuts they are not all currently employed with NPWS.

MEMBERSHIP-Memberships For 2019-2020 are due in June. Please ensure your membership is up to date. Now that we have made some progress in reclaiming our tracks it is more important than ever we stay active. If we relax our efforts now we will certainly lose ground. The bridle tracks are not the only issue that concerns Access For All. It is just been the one that has taken so much of our efforts. It might be time to plan the next campaign.

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

The following is quoted in full as it can be regarded as our official notification that we have the tracks back.

Dear Mr Smith

I refer to your email to the Minister for the Environment, the Hon Gabrielle Upton MP, about horse riding in wilderness. Your email was referred to the Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) and I have been asked to reply.

I can advise that amendments for horse riding in wilderness have now been adopted by the Minister for the Environment and are available on the OEH website. These amendments enable horse riding to continue in the locations that were part of the original horse riding in wilderness trial. The locations include:

- Shoebridge Bridle Track, Deua National Park and Monga National Park
- Georges Pack Bridle Track and WD Tarlinton Track, Deua National Park
- Nine Mile and Ingeegoodbee Trails, Kosciuszko National Park
- Dicks Hut Fire Trail and River Road Trail, Mummel Gulf National Park.

Further information about horse riding in wilderness can be found at <https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/topic-s/parks-reserves-and-protected-areas/park-management/community-engagement/horse-riding-in-wilderness-amendments-to-plans-of-management>

If you have any further questions about this issue, please contact Mr Andrew Growcock, Manager, Planning, Evaluation and Assessment, Partnerships, Planning and Heritage Branch, on 9585 6595, or at andrew.growcock@environment.nsw.gov.au

ANGIE STRINGER
Director Planning, Partnerships and Heritage Branch

National Parks and Wildlife Service



CONGRATULATIONS: Catherine Lawler (stalwart of AFA) has been awarded an Order of Australia Medal (OAM) for Environment and Heritage. It has been a great month for AFA.

YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS- If you have not supplied your current email address you are missing out on announcements and other information from time to time. Update by sending your details to info@accessforall.asn.au

PLEASE NOTE: NEXT MEETING- Sunday 31st March at Braidwood Services Club, Coronation Ave, Braidwood, commencing at 10am.

Access For All inc OFFICE BEARERS 2019-2020

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