



2024 MFSR RILEY'S RIDE INFORMATION SHEET

MONDAY 8TH – FRIDAY 12TH APRIL 2024

Welcome to the 2024 Riley's Ride run by the Man from Snowy River Bush Festival.

We will be retracing the final journey of Jack Riley, The Man from Snowy River. You may catch up with old mates and hopefully make some new ones whilst having a great time and enjoying the scenery of the amazing Upper Murray!

EVENT DETAILS:

You **MUST** have your own horse!!

The annual ride is held to commemorate Jack Riley's life, the part he played in the early days of the Upper Murray and to laud the efforts of those men who selflessly sought to rescue him under hard and trying conditions. Jack, and his meeting with Banjo Patterson is reputed to be the inspiration which led to the penning of "The Man from Snowy River," Banjo's epic ballad. Riley's Ride was first instigated in 1989 and offers spectacular views and the chance to meet people from far and wide who come from many different walks of life, share a love of the Australian Bush, and have a deep respect for the pioneering families of the area. It is a challenging ride and a character-building experience.

ENTRY FEE:

Riders \$1500.00

Support crew \$500.00 (Support crew costs include full catering for the ride)

ALL riders must have support crew as unsupported places are no longer being offered. Support crew names and numbers **MUST** be confirmed by 31st October 2023.

A \$300 deposit is to be paid when registering for the 2024 Riley's Ride. This deposit becomes non-refundable once your Registration is accepted and you have submitted your completed Application Form to the MFSRBF office. Invoices for the remaining amount will be sent out in August 2023, with **final payment due on the 31 October 2023**. If you have not paid the outstanding amount by 31 October 2023, your place will be offered to rider on the Reserve List.

CANCELLATION FEES:

\$300 DEPOSIT IS NON-REFUNDABLE ONCE YOUR REGISTRATION IS ACCEPTED AND YOU HAVE SUBMITTED YOUR COMPLETED APPLICATION FORM TO THE MFSRBF OFFICE.

PLUS

RIDERS

More than 42 days (more than 6 weeks) = 30%

42 -15 days (6 – 2 weeks) = 50%

14 days or less (2 weeks or less) = 80%

SUPPORT CREW

\$50 cancellation fee

Cancellations must be notified in writing to rileysride@bushfestival.com.au

IMPORTANT NOTE:

All horses and riders must be accustomed to steep mountain trail riding with no fear of heights, water or bush terrain. Riders must be able to confidently control their horse in a large group environment and cope with stepping over fallen logs, river crossings, boggy conditions, heavily timbered country, and wide-open spaces. Part of Riley's Ride involves participation in the Man from Snowy River Re-Enactment and Street Parade. We strongly recommend that horses are shod. CRUPPERS or REAR BREECHING ARE MANDATORY.

You will be travelling on average about 30km a day. You can expect to spend between 5 and 8 hours in the saddle. Riders are broken into groups of about 8 to 10 for most stages of the ride, but your horse does also need to be able to be managed properly in large group situations.

DISCOUNTED WRISTBANDS & WRISTBANDS:

All participants and their participating support crew are offered a discounted Festival wristband should you intend to stay for the duration of the Festival. The number of discounted wristbands cannot exceed the number of riders/support people on your form. **Discounted Wristbands are \$100 each** and will be handed out when you check-in at Tom Groggin Station on the Monday of the ride. Please note – the wristband will also allow entry for participating support crew into the Re-enactment on the Friday of the ride.

Anyone who has not pre-purchased a wristband will be able to buy their wristband at the gate price when they arrive at the Festival.

If you are leaving your vehicle & float in Corryong and travelling on to Tom Groggin Station with another participant, you will receive your vehicle sticker on arrival at the designated Riley's Ride Camping Area. Unlike years gone by, there is a manned gate where you enter the camping area. You **MUST** have a sticker on your vehicle to gain entry.

SHIRTS & MERCHANDISE:

All riders are presented with a commemorative shirt as part of ride. There is no scope to swap shirts as we only order what we know we will need, so please consider this when ordering your shirt size.

Support crew can order a shirt when the Riley's Ride Merchandise order form is launched. They will cost \$55 each.

VET AND FARRIER:

The Riley's Ride crew carry some basic first aid supplies and a vet is available for emergencies. These services are available on a user pays basis. Many riders like to have a basic first aid kit which they are familiar with. We are fortunate enough to have several qualified First Aid Crew, some of whom will be riding and some of whom will be on the ground in camp.

The vet crew also rides out and therefore is not available for minor problems in the morning. If your horse is sore or unwell, please see the vet sooner rather than later. The vet much prefers you to see them soon after getting back to camp than when it is dark. If you think you may have a problem in the morning, let them know the night before or first thing in the morning. Remember that they must prepare for the day too.

Horses must be sound and shod prior to arriving on Monday. If not shod, horses must be conditioned to all types of terrain including very rocky steep country. Horse boots must be carried and used at the first sign of any problems. A farrier is on the ride and is available for minor problems. You should not turn up with a horse that will need to be re-shod during the ride.

HORSE FEED:

The Riley's Ride crew will provide you with 1 bag of feed per rider plus 1 bag of chaff, which is adequate for most horses' needs. The feed available for the 2024 ride will be supplied by our generous sponsors at Hygain. Riders can bring their own feed but due to strict guidelines which must be adhered to, no whole grain feeds are permitted. Riders are not permitted to bring their own hay due to the potential for weed introduction onto the private properties that we camp on and travel through. You are permitted to bring commercial, grain free horse feeds and good quality seed free chaff as a bulk, if you feel your horse will need it. More information about feed allocation will be provided closer to the ride. The Riley's Ride crew, who have done this ride many times, are confident in the feed allocation being sufficient. A fit horse will be well maintained on this amount of feed across the 4 days with ground feed in abundance along the trail.

CONDITIONS:

- All riders and support crew must be 18 years or over.
- All riders must have full ambulance cover.
- Riders are to obey designated trail guides in all instances for the safety of all.
- Horses and riders should be accustomed to mountain trail riding and riding in a large group.
- Each rider is responsible for their horse, including injuries incurred to either themselves or their horse and will be responsible for any costs associated with treatment or transport.
- Riders must ensure that their horse is fit and educated to a standard which makes them capable of handling the terrain and stresses of group riding in mountainous terrain and in wide open spaces.
- All horses are to be enclosed at night within an electric yard or secure panel yard supplied by the rider and hobbled or tethered if required.
- All riders are responsible for their own camping gear and will need to bring their own plates, mugs, cutlery, chair etc.
- All rubbish is to be deposited at the catering tent for removal. Under no circumstances is litter to be left where you have camped.
- Any group with three or more riders is recommended to have their own back up vehicle and driver as a support crew.
- All equipment is to be loaded prior to breaking camp.
- Absolutely no arrivals at Tom Groggin Station prior to the designated times on the Monday.
- It is recommended that horses are fully vaccinated prior to participating in the ride. Check with your local vet for more details.
- All horses must be sound and shod, either with horse boots or shoes. If barefoot, horses' hooves must be conditioned to all types of terrain, including very rocky areas. Properly fitted horse boots must be carried and used at the earliest sign that the horse is not coping with the terrain.
- No alcohol is to be consumed whilst riding or attending to horses.
- No stallions permitted.
- No grain feed or hay is to be taken on the ride.
- Riders must have appropriate riding attire.
- The Man from Snowy River Bush Festival reserves the right to refuse an entry without explanation.
- \$300 Deposit taken at the Festival each year is non-refundable once Application Forms have been submitted, all other refunds are as per conditions set out above
- NO pets permitted.

SUPPLIES:

RIDER

- Camping arrangements and gear – tent, swag, folding chair, plate, mug, eating utensils, tea-towels, torch etc.
- Horse gear including hobbles if required, rug, nosebag (optional), buckets, electric fencing etc.
- Saddle, bridle, breastplate, crupper and saddle bag/s.
- Waterproof & warm riding apparel – weather can be extreme and can dramatically change very suddenly
- Sunscreen & chapstick
- Drinks – cans where possible, bottled wine permitted
- Drink bottle holder to attach to saddle – you will be supplied with an aluminium drink bottle.
 - NOTE – Plastic disposable water bottles are NOT allowed in the National Park.
- Bring a great sense of adventure and respect for the Australia Bush and fellow riders.

YOU WILL BE SUPPLIED WITH THE FOLLOWING

- All meals & non-alcoholic beverages (for riders & support crew) from Monday evening to Friday lunch will be provided (please note, Monday lunch is not provided)
- 1 x Bag of Hygain or Mitavite Feed & 1 x bag of Chaff to each rider
- 1 4.5m x 3m MFSR Marquee per 6 unsupported riders
- Toilet and shower facilities at each camp
- Drinking water for yourself & your horse at each camp
- Entertainment
- Limited transport
- High quality coordination of ride and the camping sites.
- PLEASE NOTE THAT NONE OF THE CAMPSITES ARE POWERED

MORE INFO:

Riley's Ride

The Man from Snowy River Bush Festival

Kerryn Jackson – Riley's Ride Event Coordinator 0459 164 428

PO Box 144, CORRYONG VIC 3707

rileysride@bushfestival.com.au

ITINERARY

MONDAY 8TH APRIL

ARRIVE Tom Groggin Station

Signs will be in place prior to and at Tom Groggin Station to direct those traveling under their own steam down to the campground. Riley's Ride Crew will be arriving from around midday, and it is best for you to plan to arrive between 12:00pm and 3:00pm.

Lunch is NOT provided on this day, please plan to take something with you.

After setting up camp there is a wonderful dinner to look forward to (which is provided by our Rotary catering crew) and formal introductions around the campfire. It would be appreciated if you could plan to gather at the Rotary tent with your chair and eating utensils etc by 5:00pm (nibbles are provided from about 4:00pm) so that we can begin the introduction and information sharing process.

TUESDAY 9TH APRIL

DAY ONE

After breakfast, riders will break into smaller groups and ride out to the site where Jack Riley's hut once stood. Riders will then continue through the bush to the Buckwong Creek where you will meet the Rotary team for lunch. Don't forget to pack your mug in your saddle bag for a cup of tea. After lunch, riders will again break into small groups to return to Tom Groggin Station. Support crew will not have to move camp on this day, so can plan to relax or even throw a fishing line in. They will need to inform Rotary if they wish to join you for lunch at the Buckwong or if they will be having lunch at camp. This is so as Rotary can cater properly. This is a relatively easy day to allow your horse to settle in whilst you enjoy having a look around the Tom Groggin area. **IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT YOU WILL HAVE A RIVER CROSSING AS SOON AS YOU RIDE OUT OF CAMP.** Please aim to have your horse accustomed to water, especially flowing water. This will help to keep everyone safe and to prevent delays.

WEDNESDAY 10TH APRIL

DAY TWO

After breakfast, riders need to collect their lunch and pack it in their saddle bags. Rotary are unable to follow us to Surveyor's Creek where Jack Riley passed away. Don't forget your mug as the billy is sure to be boiled. You will need to make sure all your camping equipment is packed ready for transportation to the next campsite by the support crew. Riders will be placed in designated groups to follow Harrington's Track over the Hermit Mountain. The country is steep and rough with some wonderful views. Please consider your horse and take plenty of rest stops over the day so that you can both relax at the end of the day. Don't forget your breastplate and crupper for the steep sections of the Hermit Mountain. After lunch you will continue along Harrington's Track through to Bunroy.

There is an element of risk involved. Please consider the capabilities of both you and your horse.

We camp at Keith Whitsed's Bunroy Hut and enjoy a night of entertainment. A great night to let your hair down, kick up your heels and have a fireside dance.

THURSDAY 11TH APRIL

DAY THREE

We break into small groups again to ride out of Bunroy. There are once again steep sections of trail on this day. We camp at "Narrow Leaf" in the Biggara Valley. We have many great awards to present in the evening. No uninvited guests can attend so if you wish to include anyone for this evening you must make arrangements with the RR Manager/Coordinator prior to the ride.

Day 3 and Day 4 may vary due to a change in camping arrangements

FRIDAY 12TH APRIL

DAY FOUR

We ride to the Man from Snowy River Re-enactment in the Thowgla Valley. There is a gradual, winding climb to McCormack's Gap where we then follow the Mt Elliott Ridge Track & bridle trails before descending into the Thowgla Valley. Lunch will be at the Re-enactment. We then ride into Corryong to the cemetery for a graveside tribute to Jack Riley and acknowledgement of the riders. Following this we will make our way to the Festival grounds and enter the Main Arena for presentation to the crowd as the formal completion of the ride, once completed we will make our way to Riley's Ride Camping area, Strzelecki Way, Corryong. The Ride Crew will unload the gear, that belongs to the unsupported riders, in the camp area. Many riders chose to stay for the festival.

SATURDAY 15TH APRIL

STREET PARADE - OPTIONAL

Riders will be asked to assemble at the Riley's Ride camp area, to ride by 9:45am. We will then ride along Strzelecki Way to Donaldson Street in parade formation and await the call into parade. Following the street parade, we will ride a designated route back to the Riley's Ride Camping area

Many riders stay for the festival. The designated RR camping area is within the Competitors Camping area on Strzelecki Way, for those wishing to stay and camp with their horses. You need a festival pass and car sticker to take advantage of this area. Many of the Riders will gather near the bar and food vendors to catch up with past riders, enjoy the Festival entertainment and have dinner.

This is the end of the ride – but definitely not the end of the entertainment and action – as the Challenge to find the *Modern Man from Snowy River* has just begun, so you have two more days of fabulous horse action, bush poetry, art, and photography and much more to enjoy. A visit to the Man from Snowy River Museum is also well worth the effort whilst you're in town.

Please Note: the above itinerary may be altered due to unpredictable weather conditions and/or a change of program to the Re-Enactment. This itinerary is provided as a guide only.