



*To Finish is To Win*

# *The 41st Shahzada*

*25th to 29th of  
August 2025*

*Sarah  
Sullivan  
PHOTOGRAPHY*





# Front Cover

Middle - Lydia Rigby and Jake Emerald Rigby and Z'lights Giselle

Bottom Left - Fastest Time 37.35 hours Fia Hasko-Stewart and Blake's Heaven Adventuress

Bottom Right - Best Managed and Conditioned - Julie Brooks and A'landell Pirate



Congratulations to Pippa Henderson riding Bobby - A Victorian Combo & recipients of The Shakista Award (An encouragement award kindly donated by Sue Todd)



Vets Choice Award Sponsored by Radincon - Specialist Medical Imaging given to Faith Johnson on Milandi Smokey



Claire Godwin riding Maringo - recipients of Halifax Hayes Fit and Well Award, Best trot out and Furthest travelled - Maryland USA



Steve Locke Memorial Trophy for last junior home  
Jaya Braddick



Suncrest Arabians First Stallion Award and called up for Best Managed -  
Kylie Jonkers and Girilambone Usain



Mini Marathon Team Winners

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## CONTACTING SHAHZADA

Shahzada Phone at St Albans during the event is 0468 186 217  
Email at St Albans during the event: Email: shahzada400@gmail.com

## ON ARRIVAL AT SHAHZADA

On arrival at Shahzada, please remember to go to Camp Site control in the vetting area in Bulga St (behind the Settlers Arms). Please have your horse health declarations ready. Collect your camp-site identification number and be shown to your camp site by Belinda.



# The Team

President / Co-Ordinator	Haydn Fisher
Vice President	Clare Feary
Ride Secretary / AERA Online	Kerry Fowler Smith and Tom McCormack
Office / Secretary at Ride Base	Tom McCormack and Jo Bailey
Treasurer / Landholder Co-ordinator	Tacye Bice
Volunteer Co-ordinator / Campsite Placement	Kim Stephens and Belinda Hopley
Authority Approvals	Clare Feary
Promotions & Publicity, Website	Cody Nettleton
Merchandising Co-ordinator & Sales	Bonnie Robinson
Sponsorship	Renee Kirk
Ride Entertainment	Alison Knihinicki
Head Vet	Dr Emily Streckfuss
Vets	Dr Georgey Sheridan, Dr Georgia Ladmore, Dr Rhys Powell and Dr Chris Dowey
Head Chief Steward	Haydn Fisher
Assistant Chief Stewards	Tom McCormack & Neil Clarkson
Track Maintenance	Clare Feary
Track Marker Co-ordinator	Neil Clarkson
Plumbing, Water on Course	Garry Bennett
Rescue Float and Firewood	Alex Bice
Pre-ride Booket	Neil Clarkson
First Aid Officer	Haydn Fisher
Most of the team will be at St Albans in the week before Shahzada as well as during the event.	

## RULES OF THE VET AREA

1. Ride numbers must be worn by the horse attendant in the vetting area, including the trot out.
2. No Heart Rate Monitors, Buckets or Horse Feed permitted.
3. Dogs & pushbikes are not permitted, except dogs attending the dog races.
4. Vetting disputes MUST be resolved before you leave the vetting area.  
The Head Chief Steward is Haydn Fisher.
5. 400km entrants will be given priority over Mini Marathon entries in the vetting area.

## SHAHZADA IS UNIQUE.

The Shahzada is a unique marathon endurance horse ride where the emphasis is on completing the whole 400 km course with both Horse and Rider, Fit and Well. We do record the entrant who finishes with the fastest riding time, but emphasise that it is NOT A RACE. The first rider to successfully finish is not considered as a winner any more than the last rider to successfully finish. We want all entrants to successfully complete the Test of horse management, within the time and course constraints, Fit and Well. We expect that riders will help each other if there is a problem and ensure that adequate space is maintained between entrants when on the narrow or steep sections of the course to prevent problems from occurring.

We also look forward to riders in the Mini Marathon event graduating to the 400 km Test in future years. Most importantly, we want your successful Shahzada experience to be fun.



# PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

*All times are provisional, subject to change by announcement on Shahzada PA or at the daily pre-ride talk.*

<b>Wednesday</b>	20/8/2025	12pm to 5pm	Grounds open – Anyone wishing to come earlier please give us 24 hours notice so we can meet and take you to campsite
<b>Saturday</b>	23/8/2025	Start 6pm	The Trevor Knight. Show – Meet & Greet Sausage Sizzle
<b>Sunday</b>	24/8/2025	12 pm to 4 pm 1 pm to 4 pm 6.30 pm	Submit entry forms at Office Tent, collect ride numbers Pre-ride weighing for all 400 km Riders at timekeeper tent Pre-ride vetting for 400 km Shahzada Pre-ride talk (Compulsory)
<b>Monday</b>	25/8/2025	3.00 am 4.00 - 4.15 am 9 am to 11 am 11 am - 2 pm 6.30 pm	400 km First morning wake up call. Start the 400 km Test, <b>RED</b> markers <i>Submit entry forms, collect ride numbers Mini Marathon</i> <i>Pre-ride vetting for Mini Marathon</i> Pre-ride talk (Compulsory)
<b>Tuesday</b>	26/8/2025	4 am to 5 am 6.30 am All Day Afternoon 6.30 pm 7.00 pm	Start 400 km Test, <b>BLACK / WHITE</b> markers <i>Start Mini Marathon, RED markers</i> <i>Odd Sock day in memory of Lynne</i> <i>McKechnie Shahzada Triple crown</i> <i>Strappers Only Race</i> Pre-ride talk (Compulsory) Trivia Night hosted by Trevor Knight
<b>Wednesday</b>	27/8/2025	4 am to 5 am 6.30 am 6.30 pm	Start 400 km Test, <b>BLUE</b> markers <i>Start Mini Marathon, BLUE markers</i> Pre-ride talk (Compulsory)
<b>Thursday</b>	28/8/2025	4 am to 5 am 6.30 am All day  About 2pm 6.30 pm	Start 400 km Test, <b>GREEN</b> markers <i>Start Mini Marathon, Green markers</i> <i>Glow &amp; Glitter/ Glitz &amp; Glam • Masquerade &amp; Masks or wear your PJ's in honour of Tanya Brownlie.</i> <i>Afternoon Dog Races</i> Pre-ride talk (Compulsory)
<b>Friday</b>	29/8/2025	4 am to 5 am 10.30 am Afternoon 6 pm to 11pm	Start the 400 km Test, <b>GOLD</b> markers <i>Mini Marathon Presentation, then return number vest</i> Vetting Area Cheer on the incredible 400km finishers. The Friday Night Entertainment will be around the communal fire in the vetting ring.
<b>Saturday</b>	30/8/2025	8.00 am 8.30 am	Judging of Best Managed / Conditioned Horse Buckle presentation for the Ultimate Test End of presentation riders hand in ride number vest

For a detailed view of what's happening with Entertainment throughout the week please go to page 17

# Riding rules for the 41st 400km Shahzada Memorial Test

1. The entry fee for all divisions of the Shahzada 400km is \$650 per rider which includes horse yard site. All details relating to entries and refunds can be found on the AERAOnline Shahzada page. All entries and requests for refunds must be completed using AERAOnline. Late requests for refunds may be processed after the ride.
2. International riders (not members of an AERA Division), must produce a letter from their official National Federation, confirming their membership, that they are not subject to any sanctions, and that they have successfully completed at least 240km of endurance rides (80km or longer), in their home country. Payment of a day membership fee is required.
3. The office will open between 11.30 am and 5.00pm on Sunday 24 August for finalisation of entries and collection of rider bibs. Times could be subject to change.
4. Changes of pre-entered horses or riders are permitted up until the time of vetting, subject to the AERA Rules. Please advise the office of changes as soon as possible.
5. All horses and riders must present for preride vetting between 12 noon and 4pm on Sunday 24 August. Times could be subject to change.
6. Subject to the AERA Rules, the Shahzada committee reserves the right to refuse entry to any horse or rider.
7. There will be a 'shotgun' start on day 1. Start time will be 4 am or as announced at the initial pre-ride talk. All entrants must be present for departure at the announced time on day 1 and must start the ride within 15 minutes of the nominated start time.
8. After the compulsory start time on day 1, riders can choose their departure times on days 2 – 5, within the daily limits shown in the program and as varied from day to day by the committee in extreme circumstances.
9. Departure times on days 2-5 may not be before 4.00 am. All nominated ride legs must be completed before 5.00 pm each day, except under special circumstances. The maximum allowed riding time allowed each day is 12 hours.
10. There will be a compulsory minimum stop of 1 hour between legs on the same day, however riders may stop in the base camp checkpoint longer if they choose. Horses must remain in the village area, (see page 27), during all rest periods between all legs for the duration of the event, ie, day and night. After the start, riders will not be timed out until they depart on each leg. Riders will not be allowed out on leg 2 until the WICEN Radio Operators and gate stewards are in place. The ride committee will announce each day when the afternoon courses are open.
11. All legs of the course must be ridden in the order as set out by the committee. There will be two legs, totalling approximately 80 km per day. Refer to the daily maps for more detail.
12. Rider numbers must be worn by each entered rider when on the course and by the horse attendant in the TPR and vetting area, including when trotting out. Ride numbers must be worn during presentation and returned on completion of presentation on Saturday morning, 30/8/2025. Rider numbers must not be obscured at any time.
13. All riders must attend the evening pre-ride talks.
14. AERA riding rules apply to all riders and horses at all times.
15. Riders must weigh pre-ride with gear and will be weighed randomly during the week.
16. The ride is under the control of the Veterinary team and the Chief Steward in accordance with the AERA Rules.
17. All horses will be examined at a maximum of 30 minutes after arrival at the end of each leg. Horses may be presented between 15 minutes and no later than 30 minutes after returning from the course. Heart rate recovery levels will be 55 bpm. at the first check on the first day and 60 bpm at all other checks.
18. In the event of an appeal against a veterinary decision, the rider must lodge the appeal with the Head Vet or Chief Steward before the horse leaves the vetting area. The appeal will then be heard by the appeals committee. Once the horse has left the vetting area no appeal will be considered. There will be a \$20.00 appeal fee.
19. Horses eligible for the Best Managed and Conditioned Horse Award are chosen at the discretion of the veterinary team. The presentation of this award will be made at the presentation on Saturday morning 30/8/2025.
20. All horses and riders compete at their own risk. A fastened protective equestrian helmet (when mounted) in accordance with the current international equestrian competition standards is **COMPULSORY** at **ALL TIMES** that you are on your horse at Shahzada. This includes **ALL** riders, in **ALL** divisions of Shahzada.
21. Lit headlights must be worn pre-dawn.
22. Riders are responsible for the behaviour of their strappers and friends at all times. Dogs must be kept on leads and under control at all times. No dogs or bicycles are permitted in the vetting area, except for the dog races. Riders are personally responsible for the payment of all accounts before leaving St Albans, especially accounts for veterinary and farrier services, supply of horse feed and power.
23. The organisers reserve the right to call an ambulance or medical evacuation in the event of any medical incident.
24. Between 4.00 am Monday 25 August 2025 and 5.00 pm Friday 29 August 2025, only horses and riders entered in the ride will be permitted on any part of the course which is in use.
25. Riders not entered in the event or who have retired and wish to exercise their horses, must see the chief steward for information and permission on which part of the course is available to ride daily.
26. Unless specified by the Shahzada committee, crossing on the St Albans bridge is prohibited and will result in disqualification from the ride.



# Welcome from our President Haydn Fisher

Welcome to the 41st Shahzada based in the historic town of St Albans.

I would like to thank Neil Clarkson for his many years as ride director we are lucky enough to have Neil still around helping us out to guide the crew in the right direction.

Shahzada is the best marathon ride in the world it doesn't matter if you have the fastest time or finish at the tail for those who complete are the winners and get to take home a very sort after gold plated buckle to show off loud and proud. For those riders and crews that are attempting the ride of your life for the first time remember no question is a silly question don't be afraid to ask. one of the things I love about Shahzada is the community spirit. The mini marathon can be lots of fun it's a good way to view the tracks soak up the Shahzada atmosphere and maybe find your inner youth and strive to achieve success in the 400.



This year we are extremely privileged to have a great vet team that will be headed by the very talented Emily Streckfuss, the comedian Rhys Powell the mum of the team Georgia Ladmore, Mr reliable Chris Dowey and of course our long time vet Georgey Sheridan, who between them all there is a lot of talent. I would encourage you to listen to any advise given during the week.

I will be your Chief steward for the week. Assisted by the Master himself Tom McCormack and when he has time another with many years

experience Neil Clarkson.

This year has seen me re join the committee as President. I must say I am so proud to be a part of this small but motivated very dedicated group of people along with the club members to make this week possible.

From the committee we wish you all the luck for what is going to be a fantastic week of riding horses, entertainment laughs and a lot more

See you in the vet ring  
Cheers Haydn



## SHAHZADA STATISTICS

The Shahzada Memorial Endurance Test has been held annually in St Albans since 1981. There has been **2672** entries, with a total of **1329** successful completions gives an overall **50%** successful completion rate for the horses entered in this unique 400 km event.

## BEST MANAGED AND BEST CONDITIONED HORSES

Year	Rider Name	Class	Horse Name	Total Time
1981	Patsie Sinfield	O	Juanita (Mule)	39:23
1982	Sue May	O	Nulliga	32:11
1983	Warwick Sinfield	O	Juanita (Mule)	29:08
1984	Patsie Sinfield	O	Juanita (Mule)	35:37
1985	Alan MacKinder	HW	Arabian Park Amierr	26:57
1986	Paul Grieves	HW	Gilgelad	36:14
1987	Alan Lindsay	O	Kintamani Fosta	30:56
1988	Allan Caslick	O	Richard	37:17
1989	Christine Froebel	O	Mulawa True Grit	28:06
	Matthew Walker	HW	Parlour Mountain Petra	28:49
1990	Sue May	O	White Faced Tom (Vanay Park Ambassador)	35:51
1991	Ron Malone	H	Sarchedon	29:04
1992	Robin van der Wegen	O	Callyvah Sailor	38:30
1993	John Thielen	M	Cedardell-Simon	32:48
1994	Alan MacKinder	H	Vanay Park Ambassador	36:47
1995	Paul Grieves	H	Gilgelad	49.35
1996	Otto Van Kampen	M	Melfi	29.45
1997	Robert Ward	H	Hawkesbury Impala	25.18
1998	Robert Ward	H	Hawkesbury Impala	25.58
1999	Jennifer Gilbertson	M	Ralvon Reflex	28.31
2000	Liz McAuley	L	Binda	31.47
2001	April Bonham	M	Abrock Gemma	29.17
2002	Rex Cox	H	Jasmine Minstrel	30.28
2003	Stuart Hitchcock	M	Flash-Lite	31.56
2004	Mark Harvey	M	Judstan Sharwayn	35.25
2005	Laurie Stevens	H	Deravozra	44.54
2006	Gavin Groth	H	Everon Park Krystl	49.04
2008	Melanie Anderson	L	Ausden Kon Tiki	41.04
2009	Garry Bennett	M	Karabil Yaningi	38.40
2010	Sue Todd	L	Shakista	39.36
2011	Melanie Scott	M	Zaar	41.28
2012	Jody Smith	H	Rage On	41.51
2013	John Howe	H	Ashbend Perazzi	47.47
2014	Margaret Boland	M	Rosebrae Cameo	44:11
2015	Stuart Lymbery	H	Garonne Park Walker	42:31
2016	Debbie Pevy	M	Galaxy Mi	43:44
2017	Robert Catlin	H	Avita	41.37
2018	Brad Jones	H	Shellal Jive	53.15
2019	Stuart Lymbery	H	Garonne Park Elmo	38:34
2024	Julie Brooks	L	A'landell Pirate	44.05

Please be considerate of the residents of the St Albans village and the Macdonald Valley whose normally peaceful domain you are entering while you are here for the Shahzada. Please keep to the marked tracks and trails at authorised times, observe all road rules, i.e. riding single file on the left hand side of the road, close gates when required, take only happy memories, a buckle and photographs, leave only hoof prints and with true sportsmanship help to make the year 2025 Shahzada the one worth remembering for residents and participants alike.



## In Year Order

## FASTEST TIMES

Year	Rider Name	Class	Horse Name	Total Time
1981	Darren Slattery	O	Conradclo	29:30
1982	Darren Slattery	O	Dunwingeri Djharda	30:46
1983	Paul Chandler	O	Cyclone	26:44
1984	Paul Chandler	O	Cyclone	28:35
1985	Paul Chandler	O	Cyclone	26:57
	Alan MacKinder	HW	Arabian Park Amierr	
1986	Campbell Wood	O	Andarra Shareef	26:01
1987	Mark Freeman	O	Cedar Ridge Rob Roy	26:42
1988	Bill McMillan	O	Merridown Tasha	29:28
1989	June Petersen	O	Abbeline Lady Rebecca	27:22
1990	Alan Lindsay	O	Kintamani Fosta	31:22
1991	Allan Caslick	O	Richard	26:40
1992	Mark Freeman	O	Cedar Ridge Rob Roy	29:33
1993	Geoff Hurt	M	Kejome Komet	28:53
1994	Helen Lindsay	M	Kintamani Fosta	32:20
1995	Anne Jones	L	Kim Dande Tara	35.09
	Len Law	H	Pilgrim Star	
1996	Robert Ward	H	Hawkesbury Impala	27.32
1997	Robert Ward	H	Hawkesbury Impala	25.18
1998	Robert Ward	H	Hawkesbury Impala	25.58
1999	Jennifer Gilbertson	M	Ralvon Reflex	28.31
2000	Philip (Jock) Haworth	M	Sawaan Rose	30.01
2001	Stuart Hitchcock	M	Flash-Lite	26.47
2002	Rex Cox	H	Jasmine Minstrel	30.28
2003	Stuart Hitchcock	M	Flash-Lite	31.56
2004	Melanie Finch	L	Jasmine Minstrel	34.27
2005	Dianne Luker	L	El Jannah Rafiq	35.28
2006	Brad Dillon	M	Evonglen Holmgaard	31.44
2008	Ken Bradley	H	Phoenix Park Epona	35.00
2009	Courtney Freeman	L	Cedar Ridge Magnetic	36.34
2011	Linda Jonkers	M	Girilambone Orion	35.06
2012	Kim Hagon	M	Diamond R Boston	34.00
2013	Talea Hasko-Stewart	M	Blake's Heaven Bombora	34.29
	Fia Hasko-Stewart	L	Wantley Kaliph	
	Ian Curtis	M	Blakes Heaven Summer	
2014	Ian Curtis	M	Reign Blakes Heaven Summer Reign	35.02
2015	Matthew Gadsby	H	Ra Silver Dancer	34:08
	Marion Lengronne	M	Kalkadoon Vienna	
2016	Melissa Longhurst	L	Pioneer Park Wings of Sudan	38: 00
2017	Melissa Longhurst	L	Pioneer Park Wings of Sudan	38: 56
2018	Tammy Woodgate	M	Castlebar Galaxy	41.21
2019	Fia Hasko-Stewart	L	Blake's Heaven Adventuress	35.16
2024	Fia Hasko-Stewart	L	Blake's Heaven Adventuress	37.35

## In Riding Time Order

Total Time	Rider Name	Year
25.18	Robert Ward	1997
25.58	Robert Ward	1998
26:01	Campbell Wood	1986
26:40	Allan Caslick	1991
26:42	Mark Freeman	1987
26:44	Paul Chandler	1983
26:47	Stuart Hitchcock	2001
26:57	Paul Chandler	1985
	Alan MacKinder	
27:22	June Petersen	1989
27.32	Robert Ward	1996
28.31	Jennifer Gilbertson	1999
28:35	Paul Chandler	1984
28:53	Geoff Hurt	1993
29:28	Bill McMillan	1988
29:30	Darren Slattery	1981
29:33	Mark Freeman	1992
30.01	Philip (Jock) Haworth	2000
30.28	Rex Cox	2002
30:46	Darren Slattery	1982
31:22	Alan Lindsay	1990
31.44	Brad Dillon	2006
31.56	Stuart Hitchcock	2003
32.19	Marion Lengronne	2010
32:20	Helen Lindsay	1994
34.00	Kim Hagon	2012
34:08	Matthew Gadsby	2015
	Marion Lengronne	
34.27	Melanie Finch	2004
34.29	Talea Hasko-Stewart	2013
	Fia Hasko-Stewart	
35.00	Ken Bradley	2008
35.02	Ian Curtis	2014
35.06	Linda Jonkers	2011
35.09	Anne Jones / Len Law	1995
35.16	Fia Hasko-Stewart	2019
35.28	Dianne Luker	2005
36.34	Courtney Freeman	2009
37.35	Fia Hasko-Stewart	2024
38.00	Melissa Longhurst	2016
38: 56	Melissa Longhurst	2017
41.21	Tammy Woodgate	2018

Photos by Sarah Sullivan



# A Welcome From our Head Vet



Photo of our 2024 Vet Team

Photo by Sarah Sullivan

Our vet team this year consists of Emily Streckfuss, Georgey Sheriden, Georgia Ladmore, Rhys Powell and Chris Dowey.

It will be a challenging and emotional ride through some beautiful country and a fabulous week full of camaraderie.

We are all really looking forward to being a part Shahazada 2025. Welcome to all of the riders who have travelled to take on this challenge some of you have done it all before, some of you have unfinished business and for some of you it will be your first time.

Try and stay relaxed, take one leg at a time and don't be disheartened but minor setbacks along the way. Do your best to look after your horses by walking up and down the hills and having lots of stops to pick along the way.

The vet team are here to help you all complete your mission, we want to see as many of you complete as possible. Please do not be afraid to approach us with any issues that you may have during the week, we are here to offer advice and help you manage issues as they arise.

Attention to detail between legs and managing issues when they first appear will also stand you in good stead.

Wishing you all the best of luck and remember to enjoy the ride of your life!

Emily Streckfuss Head Vet 2025



Photo by Lisa J Photography



Photo by Sarah Sullivan



# Biosecurity & Temperatures

Every horse attending Shahzada must have a properly completed Horse Health Declaration, in accordance with the AERA Rules. Three day temperature logs (plus additional travel days)/horse health declarations are required for all horses before arrival at Shahzada. These must be presented at the ride office on arrival and before going to your camp.

In addition to the temperature log before arrival, all horses must have their temperatures taken and recorded from arrival at the ride base until the day of preride vetting. On arrival, you will be provided with a temperature log sheet to be used until pre ride vetting.

With over 120 horses expected at Shahzada this year from most states of Australia, there could be some horses that will become unwell in the week or so before the ride.

The "Pre Ride Temperature Log" may appear overly cautious, but it could indicate sub-clinically ill horses who are actually unwell without showing any clinical signs. Recording temperatures each day may alert you to a problem which otherwise may have gone unnoticed and resulted in either a vet-out or worse.

Please take this seriously and contact the vets as early as possible with any temperatures over 38.5 degrees (for those horses already at St Albans). Please don't bring an unwell horse to the ride base. If your horse experiences an elevated temperature before you reach the ride base, please have it examined by an external vet prior to arriving.

## Fire Ant Biosecurity Notice for People in Northern NSW and Queensland

You probably already know that due to concerns about Fire Ants, NSW currently has restrictions on the movement of various materials. Please make sure you're aware of the current government advice and requirements before leaving home, if you're in an affected area. Advice from the NSW Government is that if you are moving manure, soil, hay, straw, chaff, silage (and other non animal related materials) from the parts of QLD and NSW shown in pink, red or green on the map at this link, [www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/dpi/bfs/insect-pest/rifa/maops-of-infestations-and-zones](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/dpi/bfs/insect-pest/rifa/maops-of-infestations-and-zones) then you must comply with the current Fire Ant Emergency Order. Please make sure that you follow any requirements and advice relevant to your location, including thoroughly checking your vehicles, horse feed and bedding, and other equipment to make sure there are no Fire Ants present. Thanks from your Shahzada Cornnittee.

*Photos by Sarah Sullivan*





## WICEN RADIO COMMUNICATIONS

Radio communications for the Shahzada are provided by volunteer amateur radio operators who are members of WICEN. The Shahzada provides a valuable training exercise in a geographic area which presents variable and difficult radio communication conditions. The support of endurance riding by WICEN in the Macdonald Valley almost 40 years has proved to be beneficial in training operators for assistance with radio communications in emergencies such as bush fire and flood. In the process of gaining this training, WICEN members continue to provide quality communications for the Shahzada and a degree of peace of mind for those in the base camp. The radio frequencies in use by WICEN will be in the amateur radio bands.

The WICEN radio operators will pass radio messages from the check points to base, provide announcement of horses returning to base on each leg of the event, take drinking water and disposable cups out to specified check points and bring clothing discarded at the "drive in" check points back to the base camp. **(Please use name tags in all clothing)**. If there is a problem with the horse, please remember that the radio operator is not a vet and that his/her prime function is to pass messages. At times the radio operators may not be familiar with some of the "horse" terminology that riders will take for granted.

### All Riders please remember:

- **To provide identification markings on all of your property before you go out**, so that you can pick up the correct property back in the base camp.
- Ensure that you are wearing the correct rider number on your front and back, on the outside of all clothing being worn.
- Always call your number clearly so that the radio operator can record it correctly.

## How WICEN Radio Operators can help you!

This is how the WICEN radio operators can help you and in particular what we require from you should something happen to you or your horse out in the middle of nowhere.

Often when an incident happens out on the course, the first information the ride organisers and your strappers receive is from the WICEN radio operators. This information has been passed to us generally from another rider. This information is often vague and sometimes inaccurate due to it being third hand information. If you think that you need help out on the course due to an incident or accident, stop and think about what sort of help you need and what is the best way to get it, keeping in mind the limitations of vehicle access to some parts of the course.

As radio operators, the sort of information we need to act quickly includes:

- \* what has happened.
- \* who you are and where you are
- \* the nature of any injuries sustained to you or your horse
- \* what your intentions are (ie, where are you going or are you staying put?)
- \* what special requirements you have (ie, you need a float, an ezy-boot, farrier or vet, ambulance etc).

Finally, one of the big problems we have found in the past is riders asking for specific things, eg, a float to a specific location, and then changing their minds and continuing on to a different location without telling anyone. This causes confusion and wastes time looking for you. So, in conclusion, if something happens to you out on the course and you need help, have a think about what sort of help you need and how that could best be obtained and pass that information onto another rider to give to the WICEN radio operators.

## ELECTRICAL SAFETY

Everyone wanting to plug in to the **limited** electrical power at Shahzada is required to use a Safety Switch power cord. A Safety Switch will have **both** a **TEST** and a **RESET** button. **If it does not have a TEST button, it is not a Safety Switch.** Safety Switch power cords are available at larger hardware stores.

***Please note that Credit Card facilities are not available for Shahzada.***



## TIME KEEPING PROCEDURES

At Shahzada your committee does everything possible to make the event run as smoothly as possible and to try to keep the best possible records of the event. This year we plan to use the electronic timing system. We ask that all riders take note of the procedures for the time keeping and request everyone's co-operation as follows.

1. **First morning procedure:** all riders are expected to start at the official start time for their ride. Riders who start after 4 am on the first day of the 400km Shahzada or 6.30 am for the *Mini Marathon*, will be on their own riding time. All riders will be entered on a list as they start, please make sure the entry number recorder hears your number called. If any 400 km rider decides to start or withdraw after 4.15 am or 6.45 am for the Mini Marathon, they must advise the Chief Steward promptly.
2. **Second and subsequent morning procedure:** riders must scan their RFID cards at the ETS departure gate before starting the course. The departure gate will be activated shortly before the course opens each day. Riders who scan before 4am will see a red light and must rescan until they see a green light. Riders must ensure they see a green light before they depart.
3. **Afternoon (second) leg procedure:** riders must scan their RFID cards at the departure gate before starting the course. Riders who scan before the afternoon course is officially open will see a red light and must rescan until they see a green light. Riders must ensure they see a green light before they depart.
4. No rider is allowed to leave on an afternoon leg until the course is declared open by the Chief Steward. This will ensure that checkpoints and other officials are in place.
5. **Completion of leg procedure:** when returning from any leg of the 400km Shahzada or *Mini Marathon*, riders must scan their RFID card at the arrival gate. Riders or their strappers must collect their timeslip. If riders approach from the Pickled Wombat direction, they must go around the block past the front of the pub and arrive at the timekeeper from the river direction.
6. When leaving on every leg, all riders must ride past the departure timekeeper's tent in Bulga St towards the river.
7. Riders are responsible for making sure that their rider number is visible at all times when riding.
8. All horses must be presented to the vetting area within 30 minutes of their arrival time.
9. If a rider withdraws on the course and the horse is floated back to the ride base, or the rider returns without completing the whole of the ride leg, the rider or strapper must advise the timekeeper and scan the RFID card at the arrival gate. The horse must be presented for vetting within 30 minutes of arrival at the ride base, without exception. If the vet check is passed, the horse will be recorded as withdrawn. If the horse fails to pass the vet check, it will be recorded as a vet out.

## GATES ON THE COURSE

The course of the Shahzada and the Mini Marathon Ride traverses the normal working area of numerous private properties in the Macdonald Valley area, through paddocks where there may be horses or other stock animals. Riders are reminded that they should be sensitive to the fact that they must not be disruptive in any way to the normal workings of these properties. In particular please remember to leave all gates as you find them.

**If the gate was open, leave it open; if it was closed, then close it again after going through.** There should be a Shahzada sign on critical gates. Please take heed of the instructions on the signs.

The course through these private properties is only available during the actual official legs of the Shahzada and the Mini Marathon Ride. If you want to ride through private properties outside of the Shahzada, please do the right thing and obtain permission from the property owners before riding through.



No Bull by Nicki Mantova

## Wearing of Helmets

A fastened protective equestrian helmet (when mounted) in accordance with the current international equestrian competition standards is **COMPULSORY** at ALL TIMES that you are on your horse at Shahzada. This includes ALL riders, in the 400km ride and the Mini Marathon and while exercising horses.



# SERVICES AND CONTACTS

<b>Shahzada Phone</b>	At St Albans, during the Shahzada.- 0468 186 217
<b>EMERGENCIES</b>	Contact Ride Office initially or call 000
<b>POLICE</b>	Wisemans Ferry 02 4379 4920 Non-emergency 13 1444
<b>AMBULANCE</b>	AMBULANCE Emergencies - 000 Routine - 13 1233
<b>FIRST AID</b>	Haydn Fisher Please go to the office
<b>DOCTOR</b>	North West Medical Centre, 5550 Old Northern Rd, Wisemans Ferry 02 8825 8225
<b>HOSPITAL</b>	Windsor 4560 5555 (Hawkesbury District Health Service) Hornsby 9477 9123 Penrith – Nepean 4734 2000
<b>PHARMACY</b>	Wisemans Ferry, River Road, opposite Shell servo, 4566 4999
<b>FARRIER</b>	Haydn Fisher 0428 324 449 - Please go to office
<b>BOTTLED GAS</b>	Alex Bice, Wisemans Ferry Post Office 4566 4273, 0417 275 675
<b>FUEL</b>	Shell Wisemans Ferry Garage, 7am to 7pm. 4566 4635
<b>GROCER</b>	Wisemans Ferry, opposite Shell servo, 4566 4612, 6am to 6pm,
<b>FOOD &amp; RESTAURANTS</b>	see page 36-37
<b>VET SUPPLIES</b>	see Head Vet.
<b>Veterinary Clinics specialising in HORSES</b>	Hawkesbury Equine Vet Centre, 226 Windsor Rd Clarendon 4577 4611 Agnes Banks Equine Clinic, Price Lane, Agnes Banks 4588 5200 Vet Clinic (Small animals) Glenorie Veterinary Clinic 1589 Old Northern Rd Glenorie 02
<b>HORSE FEED</b>	Karen on: 0457 512 451 - stalbansstockfeeds@gmail.com
<b>Showers -</b>	In portable block behind the TPR area. (Water pumped from river – not for drinking). (Showers are not available at Settlers Arms unless staying in rooms.)
<b>Water -</b>	Tap at public toilet block, a tank near the tennis courts and other tanks or taps around the town. These are all bore or river water and are not suitable for people to drink. 'Human drinking water should be brought from home. Local water used for drinking must be boiled before use. (Water NOT available at Settlers Arms)
<b>Garbage -</b>	Please use bins provided or old feed bags. Please tie off the filled bags and place them in the Garbage skips that will be available from Friday 22nd August. Please burn rubbish that can be safely burnt (not bottles or cans) and keep the whole camp tidy.

## GAS REFILLS AT ST ALBANS.

The last bottled gas filling point is Alex Bice, Wisemans Ferry Post Office, phone 0417 275675. Ask at Shahzada office for refills. The last portagas filling point is Alex Bice, Wisemans Ferry Post Office, phone 02 4566 4273 at Wisemans Ferry

## DEFINITION OF ST ALBANS VILLAGE AREA

For the purpose of rule 10 on page 4 and rule 11 on page 24. The limits of the village area are as follows: The grid in Settlers Rd; the St Albans Bridge and the old Church at Espie St.



# WISEMANS FERRY GROCER/CAFE

Wisemans Ferry Grocer / Cafe is located at 5557 Old Northern Road, Wisemans Ferry (within the Wisemans Ferry Village shops). They are open 7 days a week from 6.00am to 6.00pm. Contact (02) 4566 4612. It is a family run business providing fresh fruit and vegetables, milk, bread and a large variety of dry, refrigerated and frozen grocery lines. Yummy bakery and deli items, hot and cold beverages, freshly made sandwiches, wraps, pies and sausage rolls. Ice, tobacco and an ATM facility is also available.

## HORSE FEED for Year 2025 SHAHZADA

To order please phone Karen on: 0457512451 Email: [stalbandsstockfeeds@gmail.com](mailto:stalbandsstockfeeds@gmail.com)

Message us via Facebook : <https://www.facebook.com/stalbandsstockfeeds>

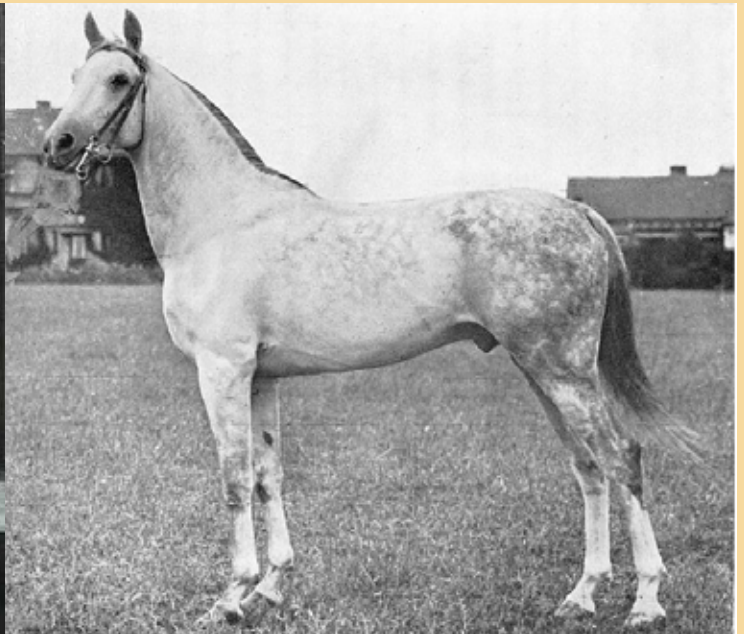
Horse Feed Price List is available at the office. Please pay Karen when your order is delivered.

## ICE

Available at the Fire Brigade Shed will have bags of Ice for sale Daily From 5 to 5.30pm.

Or at the pub with proceeds going to the Fire Brigade.

3 old Presidents Halifax Hayes - Shahzada Founder (Left) Greame Gilbertson (Bottom Right)  
Neil Clarkson (Bottom Centre) and a Photo of Shahzada the Horse



# SHARING THE ROADS

When travelling to and from St Albans please stay on the left hand side of the road.

Remember that the roads are there to share and having to apologise to locals who own the land that you ride through after they have been run off the road is not a good look for Shahzada and in particular and horse riders in general !!

As a condition of gaining approval to run Shahzada both the Council and RTA have stated that road rules also apply to horses, so please ride on the left hand side of the road and obey the road rules.

# UNLOADING HORSES

Sometimes the entry to camp sites is more uneven than anticipated. In the interest of ensuring your horse is not injured, it is suggested that you unload your horse in the Vetting area or a safe roadside area before driving into the campsite.

# WATER IN TOWN

Water must not be drawn from the taps in the Settlers Arms Inn property, else there will be insufficient water for the Inn to operate. Shahzada water taps are available on the south side of Bulga St almost opposite the Fickle Wombat (D-E fence), at the toilet block in the park (between A & B), the tank near the tennis courts in F, the vetting area T in addition to area J near U and on the corner of Bulga St & Wollombi Rd. (The letters refer to the blocks in the town camp site map). Water from these taps must be boiled before use as human water.

# DOGS

Dogs are not permitted in the vetting area or National Parks. Dogs are not completely banned from the Shahzada, but we would prefer that dogs be kennelled elsewhere during the Shahzada.

Please note that National Parks are using 1080 poison in the area for foxes and wild dogs.



"NO DOGS IN THE VETTING AREA"  
Sketch by Colin Rutherford

# PLEASE MAKE SHAHZADA A GLASS FREE ZONE

All participants at this year's Shahzada are requested to bring in drinks in cans rather than glass bottles, in the interest of everyone at Shahzada and especially the people who have the thankless task of the final clean up after everyone else has gone home. Please place all glass for recycling in the appropriate bags in the vet area.

# RESPECT FOR PROPERTY

We would ask that all participants in the Test, their friends and all others, show due respect for other people's property. In particular the Settlers Arms Inn, The Pickle Wombat, the privately owned properties and those areas of National Park which the Test traverses. The Inn has much historical significance and the building was never intended to cope with the numbers of people we inflict on it. In the private properties and the Yengo and Dhahrug National Parks, please ensure that you stay strictly on the tracks and that you do not leave any litter (including tissues, fruit peelings or any other object) or cause damage of any kind. Gates should be left in the condition that they were found. You will appreciate that if problems occur either in the National Parks or indeed on any privately owned properties, that the ride may well be placed in jeopardy in future years.





Grace Coaches offers personalised coach transfers, charters and tours for all events and occasions including weddings. Being locals we have expert Newcastle, Hunter Valley and Vineyard knowledge. Combined with our professional drivers and modern coach and mini bus fleet your event will be a success. Grace coaches are locally family owned and operated - and are great supporters of the community.



Sponsor -Suppliers of our Comunal Firewood

## PUBLIC ADDRESS

The Public Address system will only cover the area around the vetting area. Please note, the evening Pre-Ride talks will not be on the PA radio, riders and strappers must personally attend the Pre-ride talks.

## SHAHZADA FM

Shahzada FM is back in operation again this year. For those wishing to hear strapper calls & other announcements in your campsite tune your radio into FM Channel 90. As per the public address this will be turned off during the Pre- Ride talks where riders and strappers must personally attend the compulsory Pre-ride talks.

## TELEPHONE & EMAIL.

St Albans is now covered by the Telstra mobile service. The phone box opposite the pub is free to use. For those without mobile service should someone need to contact you urgently please use the Shahzada phone number: 0468 186 217 or email: shahzada400@gmail.com and we announce you have a call by Shahzada FM.



Lainie Ray - Shahzada Lollies Sponsor

**A special thank you to the residents of the village of St Albans, the Macdonald Valley and surrounding area for your involvement in helping the Shahzada to be held. The local residents provide camp sites in St Albans, access for trails, staff the hotel, tea house and provide numerous “behind the scenes” services which together make this unique event possible. Once again a special, big Thank You to the village and Macdonald Valley residents**



# TRACK MAINTENANCE AND MARKING

A huge thank you for all that attended our track clearing weekends. Without you this iconic ride would not happen. A Special thank you to all who have helped with the preparation and marking of the tracks for the Shahzada this year.



## FIREWOOD AND CAMP FIRES

Firewood is available for purchase at ½ cubic meter for \$110 or \$220 for a full cubic meter. Please see the Shahzada Office about purchasing firewood. Please note firewood should have been ordered before you came to St Albans and we will only have a small amount left at the ride base for sale. Delivery to St Albans may take a couple of days. We may need a hand to load and unload.

## RIDE BASE CO-ORDINATOR AND JOBS ROSTER

We need your help, please. Volunteers are needed during the week at both Ride Base and on Course

The Ride Base Co-ordinator at Shahzada will help to solve problems affecting your camp at St Albans. Problems like water supply, power, cold showers, issues with the position of camps, fencing, restocking toilets, co-ordinating shopping trips, etc The Ride Base Co-ordinator is Belinda Hopley and she will usually be found in the Vetting Area or near the tennis courts. If you can't find Belinda, Kim at the vetting area.



# A Week of Festivities



Photo by Lisa J Photography

## Saturday

Muswellbrook Auto Body Repairs – Meet & Greet  
Sausage Sizzle – 6:00 PM. Join us for a relaxed evening to kick things off, featuring a sausage sizzle and live music from the amazing Trevor Knight.

## Sunday

Pre-Ride Meet & Greet  
BBQ, Nibbles, Friends & Fun – a chance to reconnect with old friends and meet new ones before the ride begins.

Entrant Draw (400km only)

All 400km entrants go into a draw to win prizes – 1st, 2nd, and 3rd. You must be present to win, or we redraw!

## Monday

POP & BEEZZZ Happy Day

Get buzzing! Judges will be on the lookout for the happiest riders. Dress up, smile big, and win one of the fantastic honey hampers. Prizes awarded Monday night.

Silver Fox Hunt – 1:00 PM @ Vetting Area

Help Foxy, the fabulous and flamboyant character, find his perfect match – the elusive Foxett – plus a rabbit and chicken for dinner. Join the fun and frenzy for a chance to win 1st, 2nd, or 3rd place.

## Tuesday

Lynne's Odd Sox Day

Pull out your wackiest, brightest, oddest socks or leg warmers. The more sparkle, glitter, and fun – the better! Prizes awarded for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd. Lets celebrate a wonderful women in true Lynne Style. Trivia after preride around the campfire hosted by Trevor knight

## Wednesday

Shahzada Hump Day

Celebrate getting over the hump with your best horse hump creation! Whether it's painted, braided, scary, or themed – show it off.

Darrell Lea Gift Boxes

Rewarding standout efforts and energy with delicious luxury gift boxes. Prizes awarded Wednesday evening at Pre-Ride.



Party Starter Sponsors

Muswellbrook Auto  
Body Repairs

Mick and Margie Boland

## Thursday

Shahzada Dress Up Day 2025

This year's theme includes:

- Pyjamas Day (in memory of Tanya Brownlie)
- Glow & Glitter / Glitz & Glam / Masquerade &
- Masks OR your favourite costume

### Categories:

- Dress Up in Camp – 1st, 2nd, 3rd
- Horse & Rider Combo (120km Mini Marathon) – 1st, 2nd, 3rd
- Horse & Rider Combo (400km Ride) – 1st, 2nd, 3rd

### Dog Events

\$5 entry covers all dog events. Dogs must be on lead in the vetting area and muzzled if not social.

### Categories:

- Glam Dog – Glo/Glitter/Sparkle/Shine
- Best Masked or Costumed Dog
- Dog & Owner Look-Alike
- Mini Dogathon (120km) – Short sprint
- Dogathon (400km) – Long run
- Supreme Champion – Place in any event to qualify

## Friday

Mini Marathon Presentation – 10:30 AM @ Vetting Area

Celebrate the achievements of the 120km Mini Marathon riders with a special presentation.

Track Trotters Day – 1:00 PM @ Vetting Area

Cheer on the incredible 400km finishers.

### Wearing your very best ..Think Black Tie!

The Ultimate Test in Endurance – To Finish Is To Win!

Hosted by Trevor Knight

- Vet Novelty Races – Afternoon
- Vet Team Roll & Giddy-Up Race
- Vets Novelty Horse Race
- Lucky Draw – Must be present to win

Party Night – 6:00 PM @ Vetting Area

Celebrate a week of achievement with music, fairy lights, food, dancing, and shared stories. Everyone's invited!

## Saturday

Presentation Morning – 8:00 AM @ Vetting Area

Horses and riders presented under saddle. Buckles, rugs, trophies, and awards given in honour of your endurance achievements.

# Trevor Knight

We are again privileged to have Trevor attending Shahzada for the week, For those that dont know Trevor also rode the very first Shahzada and has achieved 3 buckles.

On the Saturday night before Shahzada starts there will be the Trevor Knight Show after the Shahzada Meet & Greet Sausage Sizzle.

On Tuesday night Trevor will be hosting the trivia night around the main camp fire.

Then on Friday afternoon we will see Trevor being our MC as riders and horses finish the 400km and to top it off he will also be performing at the Shahzada farewell party on the Friday night

Plus expect to hear Trevor and his guitar at preride briefings

## The Shahzada Song

1)

They say back in old England long years ago  
a young Arab stallion put on quite a show  
by running his rivals right into the ground  
now through Australia his name is renowned

(Chorus)

*Here's to Shahzada one hell of a ride  
Here's to the riders, the strappers who tried  
Here's to St Albans, the committee and crew  
Here's to the horses all honest and true*

(2)

1981, well that year found us there  
the first of the riders and strappers that dared  
to take up the challenge, rewrite the rules  
14 brave horses and one long-eared mule

(Chorus)

3)

Now Winton to Longreach they say was pretty  
tough and down there in Tassie well the going  
gets rough and some say the Quilty's a pretty  
good test you keep the others cos we've got the  
best

(Chorus)

(4)

The years have rolled by and we're still on the trail  
sometimes we win and sometimes we fail  
but to hell with the failures we'll be back next year  
give the riders who made it a bloody good cheer!

(Chorus)

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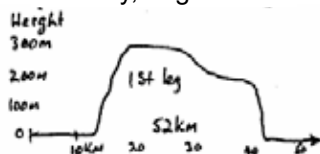
The Shahzada Song, words and music by Trevor Knight and copyright Knightmusic Productions  
Printed by permission of Trevor Knight, 25/6/2013.



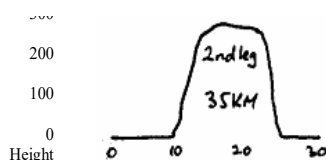
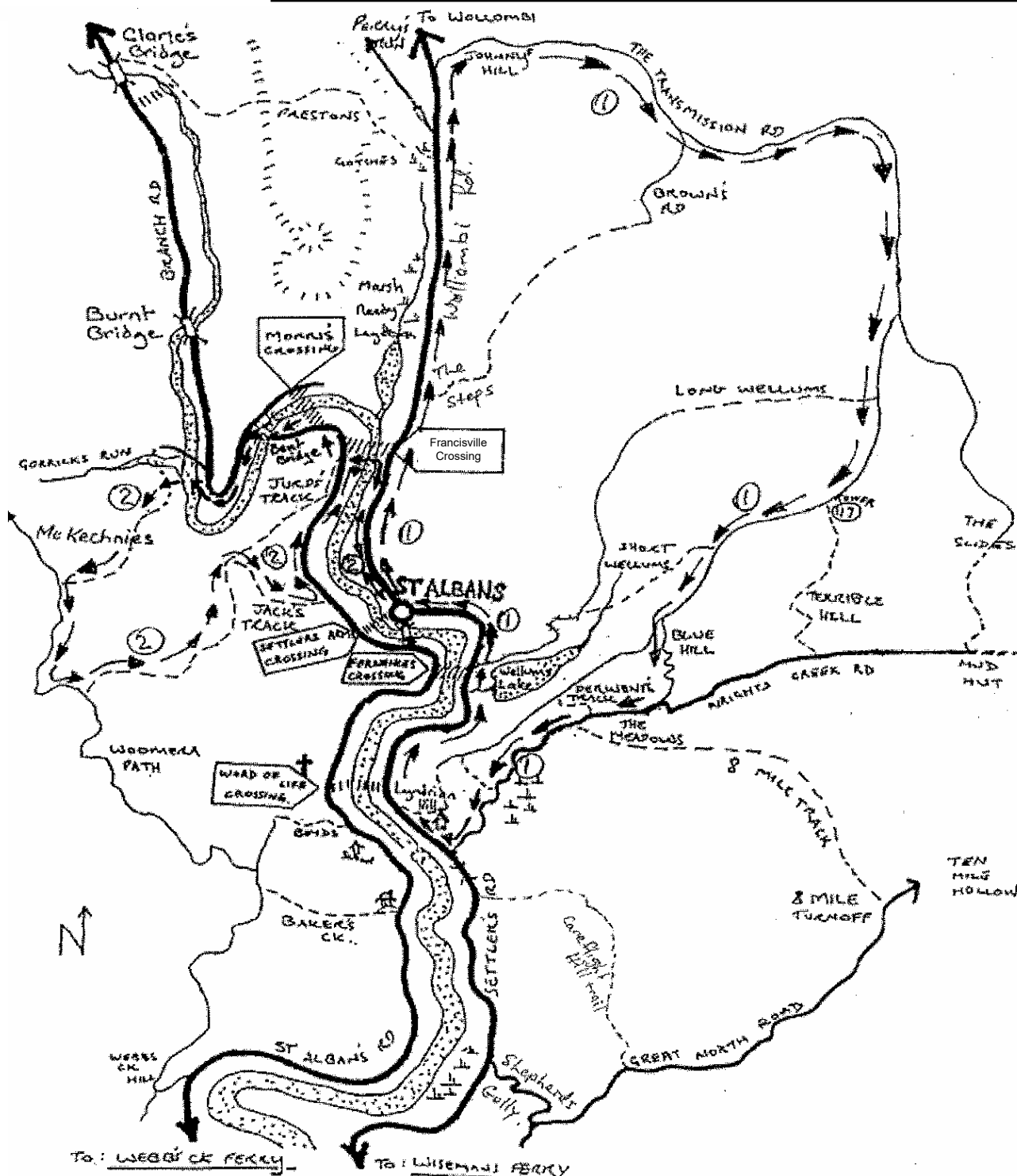


# 400km ride Map, Monday 25/8/2025, Markers are RED

Monday, Leg 1 - 50 km



Turn right out of Bulga St into Wollombi Road for 12 km. (There is a grid at the entry to the Common.) Turn right up Johnny's Hill and follow the Transmission Rd until the Blue Hill. Down Blue Hill and along Wrights Creek Rd using the bypass gates at the grids. Turn right into Settlers Rd and follow Settler's Rd for 8 km into St Albans. Don't forget to go past the front of the Settlers Arms to enter the time keeper in Bulga St via Wollombi Road.



across Francisville Crossing, then right into the Branch Rd (Upper Macdonald Rd). Turn left into McKechie's, up the big hill and left into the Woomerah Path. Left into Jack's track, down the big hill and left into the Branch Road. Turn right into Francisville Crossing then right into Wollombi Rd for the 4 km back to St Albans. Turn left into Bulga St for the timekeeper.

**Riders must allow spacing of several horse lengths on steep or narrow sections of the course.**  
**When a gate on the course is closed, always close it after going through.**

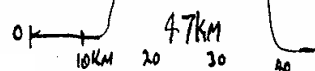
# 400km ride Map, Tuesday 26/8/2025, Markers are Black & White

Tuesday, Leg 1 - 47 km

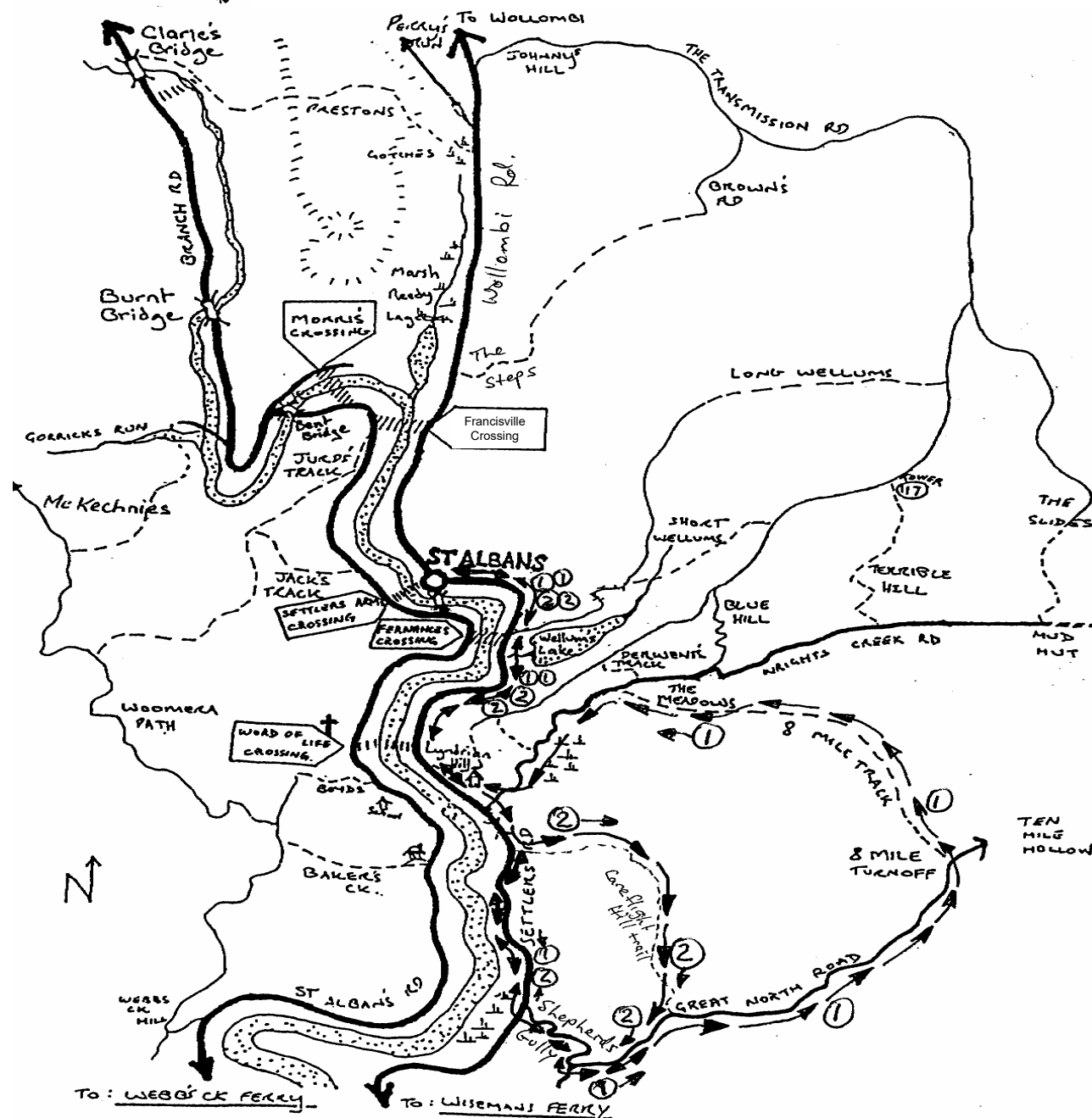
Height  
300m

200m

100m



Starting at the time keeper, left into Wollombi Rd and past the front of the Settlers Arms. Left into Wharf St and right into Bulga St past the Fickle Wombat. Use the bypass gate then along the Settlers Rd for 12 km to Shepherd's Gully. Turn left up Shepherd's Gully to the Great North Rd, left to the 8 mile turn off. Turn left into the 8 mile track, through the Meadows and left into Wright's Creek Rd. Turn right into Settler's Rd for 8 km back to St Albans. Don't forget to go past the front of the Settlers Arms to enter the time keeper in Bulga St via Wollombi Rd.

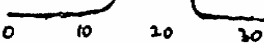


Tuesday, Leg 2 - 33km

2nd  
Leg

33 km

300  
200  
100  
0  
Height



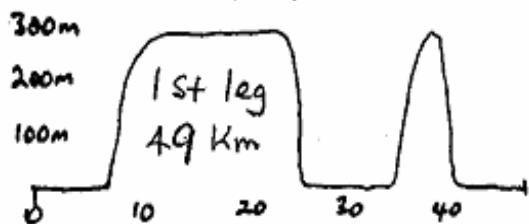
Starting at the time keeper, left into Wollombi Rd and past the front of the Settlers Arms. Left into Wharf St and right into Bulga St past the Pickled Wombat. Use the bypass gate then along the Settler's Rd for just over 8 km until Froggly's driveway about 100 metres past the Wrights Creek bridge, turn left then up 3 Mile Hill. Turn right into the Great North Rd then right down Shepherd's Gully and right into Settler's Rd and return 12 km to St Albans on Settlers Rd. Don't forget to go past the front of the Settlers Arms to enter the time keeper in Bulga St via Wollombi Rd.

**Riders must allow spacing of several horse lengths on steep or narrow sections of the course.**  
**When a gate on the course is closed, always close it after going through.**

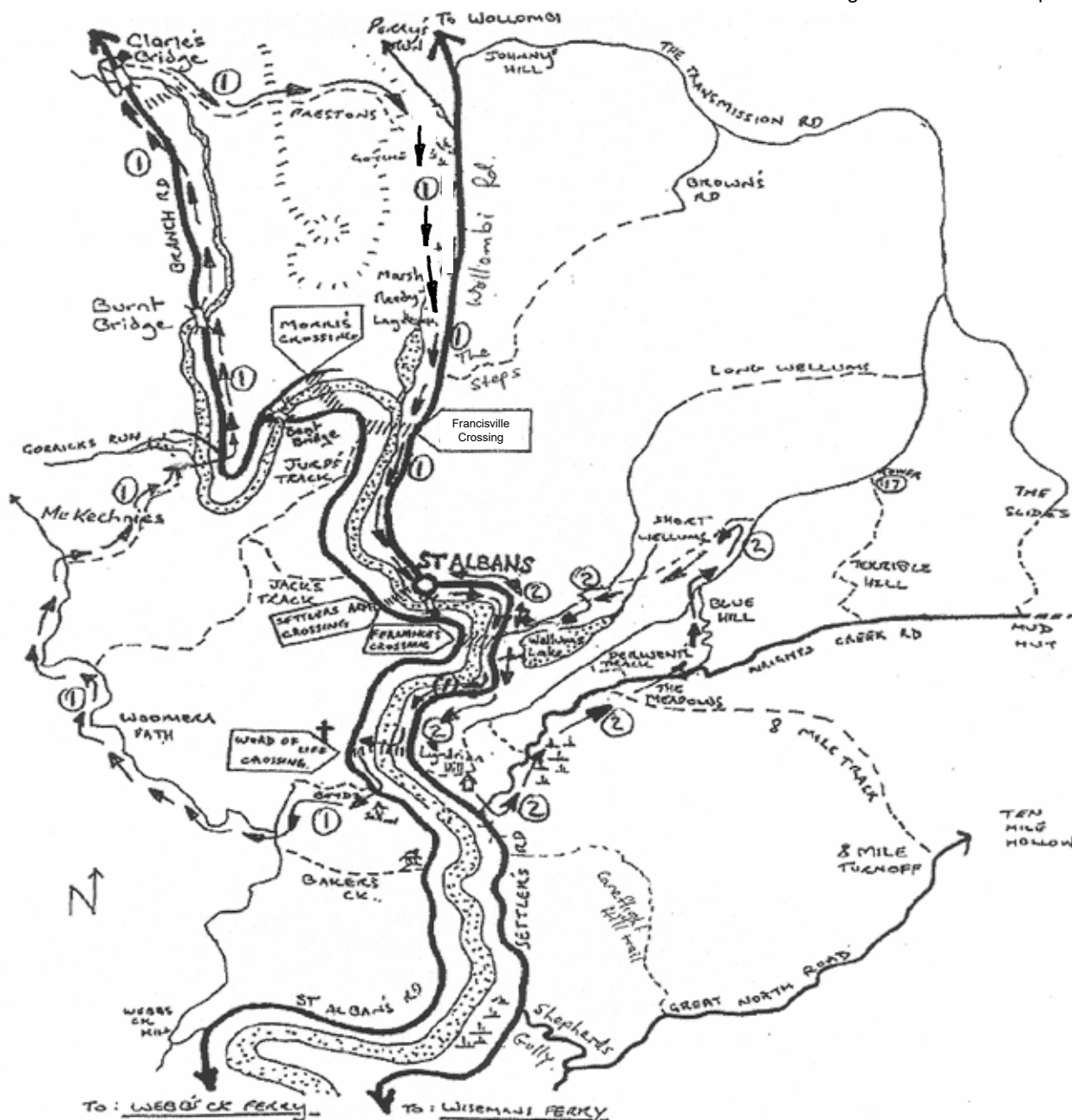


# 400km ride Map, Wednesday 27/8/2025, Markers are Blue

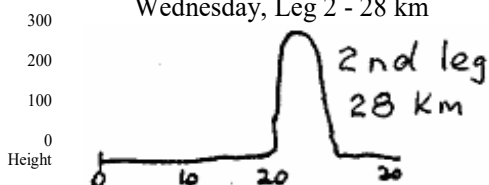
Wednesday, Leg 1 - 49 km



Starting at the time keeper, left into Wollombi Rd and past the front of the Settlers Arms. Left into Wharf St and right into Bulga St past the Pickled Wombat. Use the bypass gate then along the Settlers Rd for 4km and right into the Word Of Life crossing. Left into St Albans Rd for 2 km (sealed, no verges) then right up Boyd's hill to the Woomerah path. Turn right and along Woomerah path and turn right down the big hill in McKechnies to the Branch Rd. Turn left into the Branch Rd and right after Clarie's bridge, over Prestons and and follow the markers along the Common turning right into Wollombi Rd north of the lake to return to St Albans and left into Bulga St to the time keeper.



Wednesday, Leg 2 - 28 km



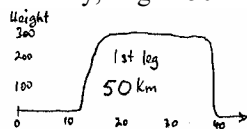
Starting at the time keeper, left into Wollombi Rd and past the front of the Settlers Arms. Left into Wharf St and right into Bulga St past the Pickled Wombat. Use the bypass gate, then along the Settlers Rd for 8 km and turn left into Wrights Creek Rd. Up Blue Hill and right into the Transmission Rd, left to Short Wellums. Right on Settler's Rd for 2 km and return to St Albans. Don't forget to go past the front of the Settlers Arms to enter the time keeper in Bulga St via Wollombi Rd.

**Riders must allow spacing of several horse lengths on steep or narrow sections of the course, especially Boyds, McKechnies and Prestons.**

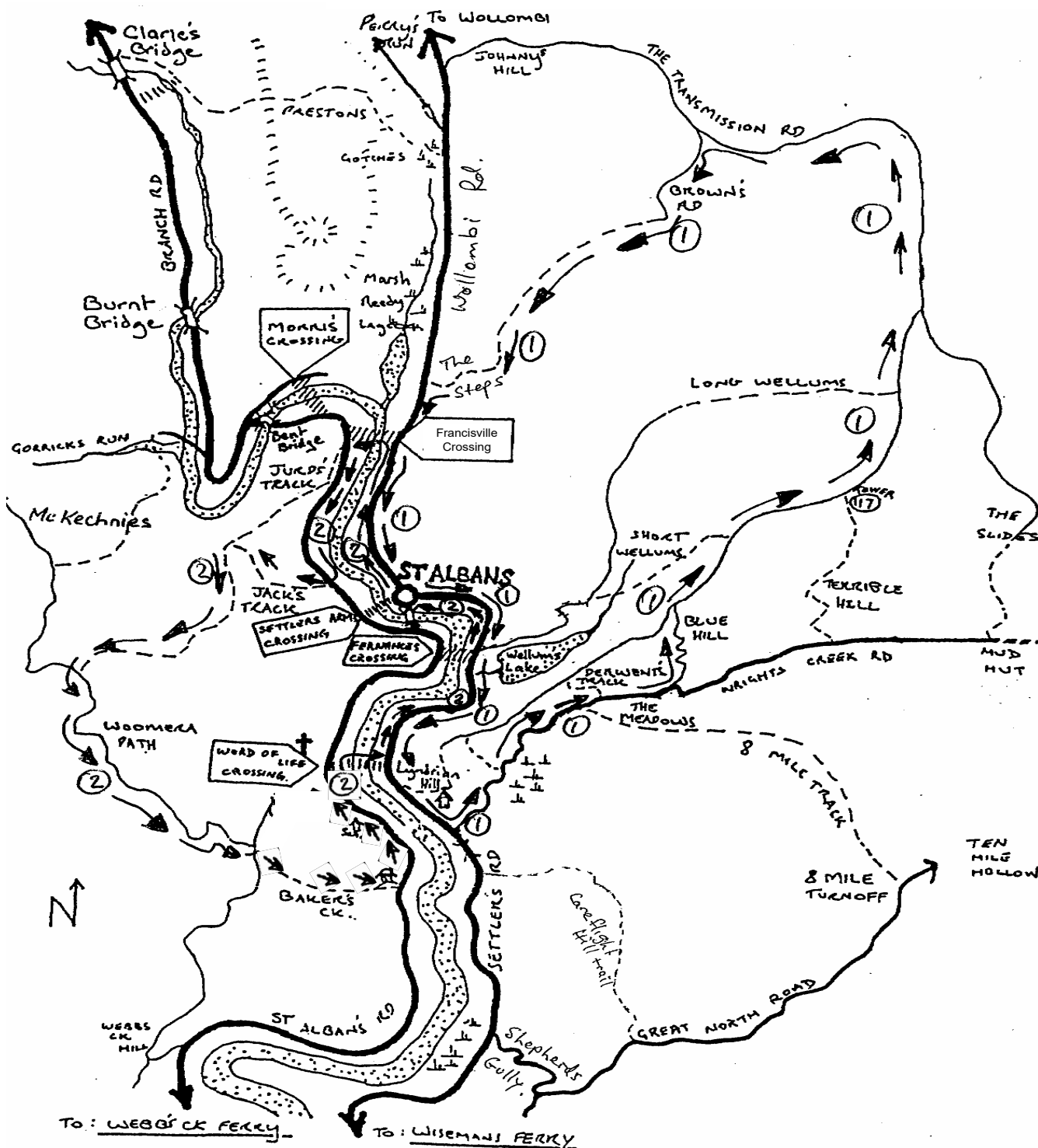
**When a gate on the course is closed, always close it after going through.**

# 400km ride Map, Thursday 28/8/2025, Markers are Green

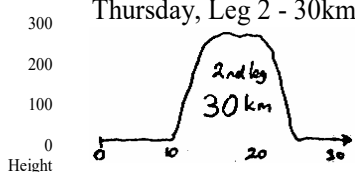
Thursday, Leg 1- 50 km



Starting at the time keeper, left into Wollombi Rd and past the front of the Settlers Arms. Left into Wharf St and right into Bulga St past the Pickled Wombat. Use the bypass gate then along the Settlers Rd for 8 km and turn left into Wrights Creek Rd. Up Blue Hill and right into the Transmission Rd until turning left into Brown's Rd. Go down the Steps, then left for 5.5 km down Wollombi Rd and left into Bulga St.



Thursday, Leg 2 - 30km



Turn right out of Bulga St into Wollombi Road for 3.5 km. Turn left across Francisville Crossing, then left into the Branch Rd and right up Jack's track. Turn left into the Woomerah path then left down Bakers Creek track and left into St Albans Rd for 5 km (sealed no verges) then right across Word Of Life crossing. Left into Settler's Rd for 4 km and return to St Albans. Don't forget to go past the front of the Settlers Arms to enter the time keeper in Bulga St via Wollombi Rd.

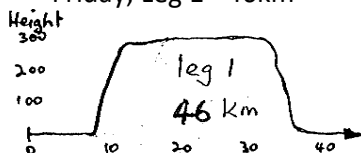
**Riders must allow spacing of several horse lengths on steep or narrow sections of the course, especially The Steps.**

**When a gate on the course is closed, always close it after going through.**

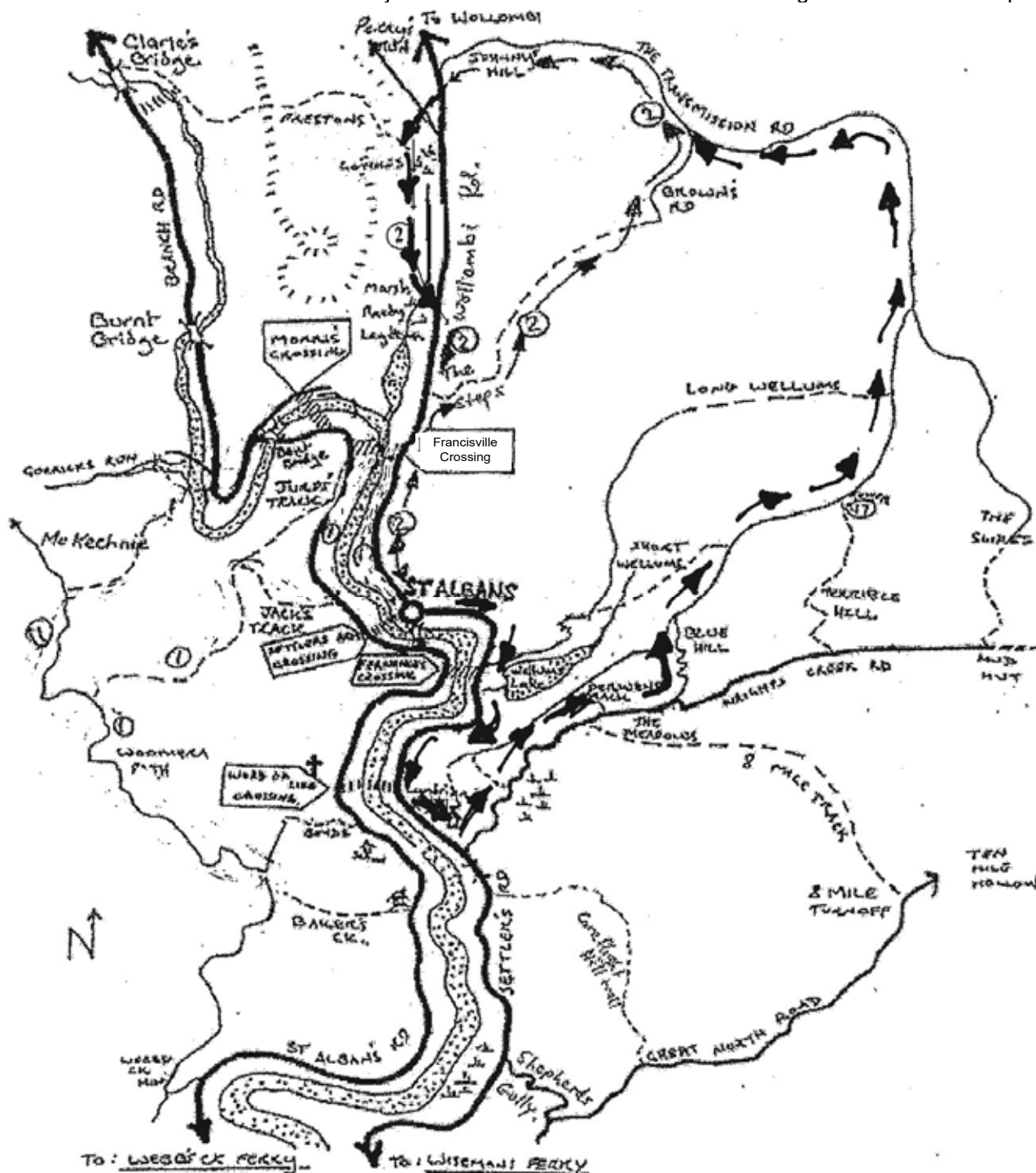


# 400km ride Map, Friday 29/8/2025, Markers are Gold

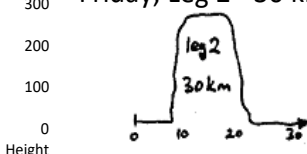
Friday, Leg 1 - 46km



Starting at the time keeper, left into Wollombi Rd and past the front of the Settlers Arms. Left into Wharf St and right into Bulga St past the Fickle Wombat. Use the bypass gate then along the Settlers Rd for 8 km and turn left into Wrights Creek Rd. Up Blue Hill and right into the Transmission Rd coming down Johnny's hill left into Wollombi Rd & right onto the common then re-join Wollombi Rd for 5 km and left into Bulga St for the time keeper.



Friday, Leg 2 - 30 km



Turn right out of Bulga St into Wollombi Road for 5.5 km and right at the old quarry, up the Steps and along Brown's Rd, left into the Transmission Rd, left in to Wollombi Rd. 12 km to St Albans, right into the Common off the Wollombi Road. After a few kms, back onto the Wollombi Road left & right onto the common then re-join Wollombi Rd for 5 km and left into Bulga St for the time keeper.

**Riders must allow spacing of several horse lengths on steep or narrow sections of the course, especially The Steps. When a gate on the course is closed, always close it after going through.**

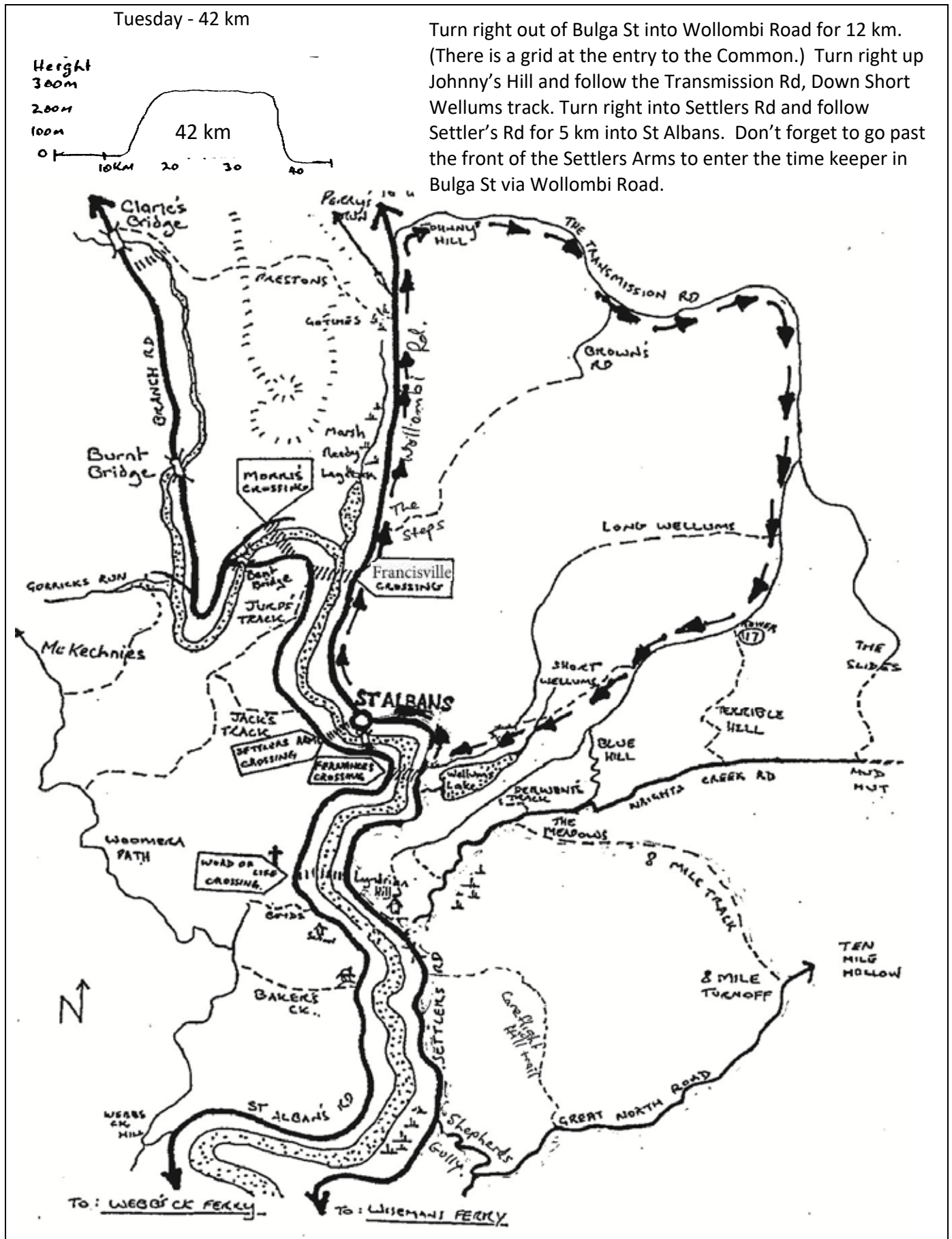
## Riding rules for the 3 Day Mini Marathon

1. The entry fee for the 3 Day Shahzada MINI MARATHON is \$380 per rider aged 17 and older during 2025 and \$280 for riders under 17 years of age in 2025, which includes horse yard site. All details relating to entries and refunds can be found on the AERAOnline Shahzada page. All entries and requests for refunds must be completed using AERAOnline. Late requests for refunds may be processed after the ride.
2. Riders must be a riding member of a division association and horses must have an AERA logbook.
3. International riders (not members of an AERA Division), must produce a letter from their official National Federation, confirming their membership, that they are not subject to any sanctions, and that they have successfully completed at least 240km of endurance rides (80km or longer), in their home country. Payment of a day membership fee is required.
4. The office will open between 11.00 am and 4.00pm on Monday 25 August for finalisation of entries and collection of rider bibs and RFID cards. Times could be subject to change.
5. Changes of pre-entered horses or riders are permitted up until the time of vetting, subject to the AERA Rules. Please advise the office of changes as soon as possible.
6. All horses and riders must present for pre-ride vetting between 11am and 3pm on Monday 25 August. Times could be subject to change.
7. Subject to the AERA Rules, the Shahzada committee reserves the right to refuse entry to any horse or rider.
8. The start times will be 6.30am on each Mini Marathon ride day, or as notified at the daily pre-ride talk each evening. Each day, all riders must leave St Albans before 6.45am. If MM entrant numbers exceed approximately 60, a second start time of 7am may be used with the second group of riders to be out by 7.15am.
9. The maximum allowed riding time each day is 6 hours.
10. All legs of the course must be ridden in the order as set out by the committee. Refer to the daily Mini Marathon maps for more detail.
11. Horses must remain in the village area during all rest periods between the daily legs, for the duration of the event.
12. Rider numbers must be worn by each entered rider when on the course and by the horse attendant in the TPR and vetting area, including when trotting out. Ride numbers must be worn during presentation and returned on completion of the presentation on Friday 29/8/2025. **Rider numbers must not be obscured at any time.**
13. All riders must attend the evening pre-ride talks.
14. AERA riding rules apply to all riders and horses at all times.
15. Mini Marathon Ride horses must in all cases give way to 400km Shahzada horses on the course and in the TPR/Vetting area.
16. The ride is under the control of the Veterinary team and the Chief Steward in accordance with the AERA Rules.
17. All horses will be examined at a maximum of 30 minutes after arrival at the end of each leg. Horses may be presented between 15 minutes and no later than 30 minutes after returning from the course. Heart rate recovery levels will be 55 bpm at all end of leg vet checks.
18. In the event of an appeal against a veterinary decision, the rider must lodge the appeal with the Head Vet or Chief Steward **before** the horse leaves the vetting area. The appeal will then be heard by the appeals committee. Once the horse has left the vetting area no appeal will be considered. There will be a \$20.00 appeal fee.
19. All horses and riders compete at their own risk. **A fastened protective equestrian helmet (when mounted) in accordance with the current international equestrian competition standards is COMPULSORY at ALL TIMES that you are on your horse at Shahzada.** This includes ALL riders, in ALL divisions of Shahzada.
20. Lit headlights must be worn pre-dawn.
21. Riders are responsible for the behaviour of their strappers and friends at all times. Dogs must be kept on leads and under control at all times. **No dogs or bicycles are permitted in the vetting area, except for the dog races.** Riders are personally responsible for the payment of all accounts before leaving St Albans, especially accounts for veterinary and farrier services, supply of horse feed and power.
22. The organisers reserve the right to call an ambulance or medical evacuation in the event of any medical incident.
23. Between 4.00 am Monday 25 August 2025 and 5.00 pm Friday 29 August 2025, only horses and riders entered in the ride will be permitted on any part of the course which is in use.
24. Riders not entered in the event or who have retired and wish to exercise their horses, must see the chief steward for information and permission on which part of the course is available to ride daily.
25. Unless specified by the Shahzada committee, crossing on the St Albans bridge is prohibited and will result in disqualification from the ride.



# MINI MARATHON MAP FOR TUESDAY 26/8/2025

Markers are RED and have the number 1.



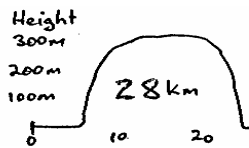
Riders must allow spacing of several horse lengths on steep or narrow sections of the course.

When a gate on the course is closed, always close it after going through.

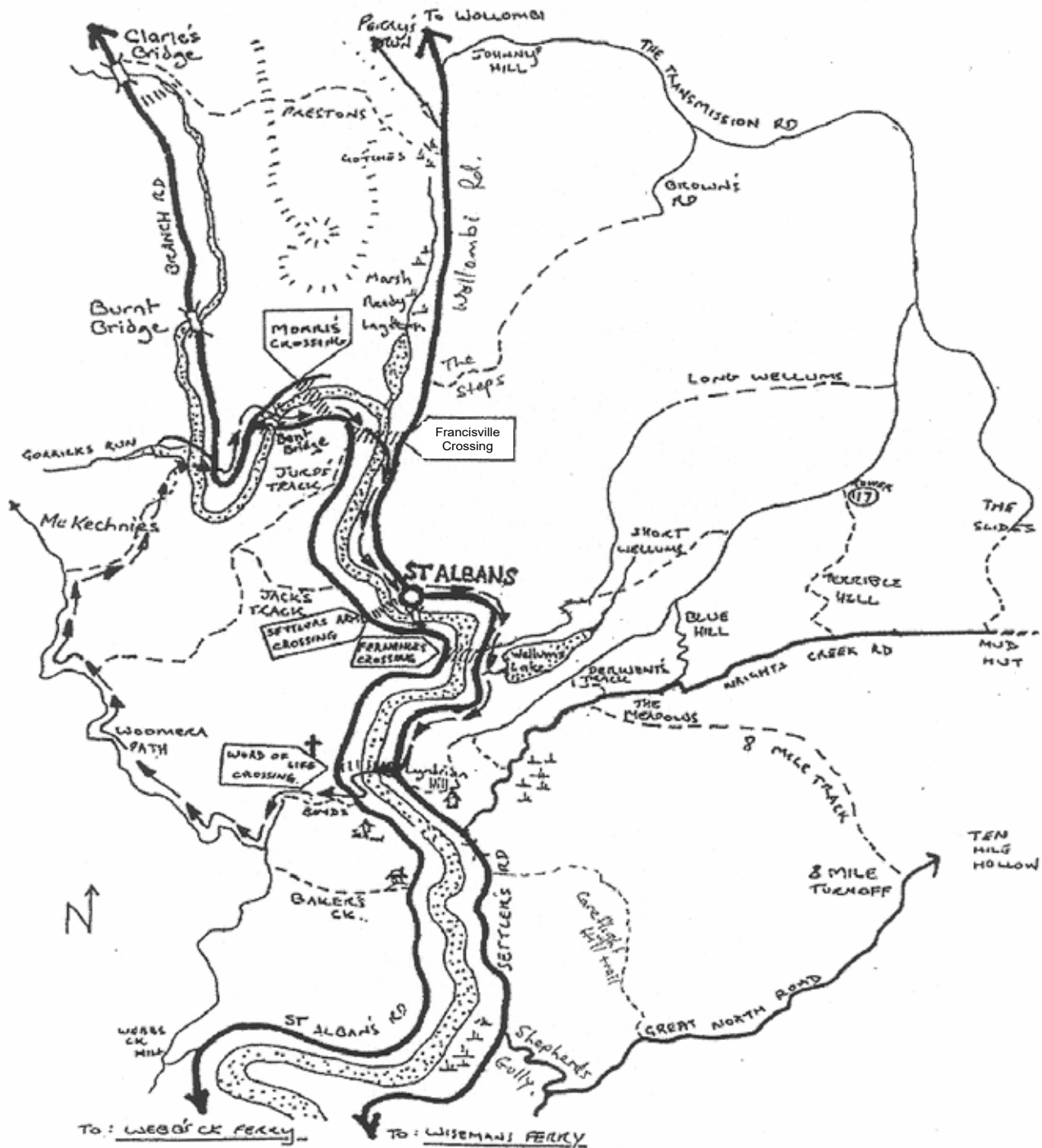
# MINI MARATHON MAP FOR WEDNESDAY 25/8/2010

Markers are BLUE.

Wednesday – 28 km



Starting at the time keeper, turn left into Wollombi Rd and past the front of the Settlers Arms. Left into Wharf St and right into Bulga St past the Pickled Wombat. Use the bypass gate then along the Settlers Rd for 4 km and right into the Word Of Life crossing. Left into St Albans Rd for 2 km (sealed, no verges) then right up Boyd's hill to the Woomerah path. Turn right and along Woomerah path and turn right down the big hill in McKechnies to the Branch Rd. Starting at the Branch Rd, start following the **MINI MARATHON ONLY** sign. Turn right into the Branch Rd, left across Francisville crossing & right into Wollombi Rd for 4 km to return to St Albans and left into Bulga St to the timekeeper.



Riders must allow spacing of several horse lengths on steep or narrow sections of the course, especially in Boyds and McKechnies.

When a gate on the course is closed, always close it after going through.

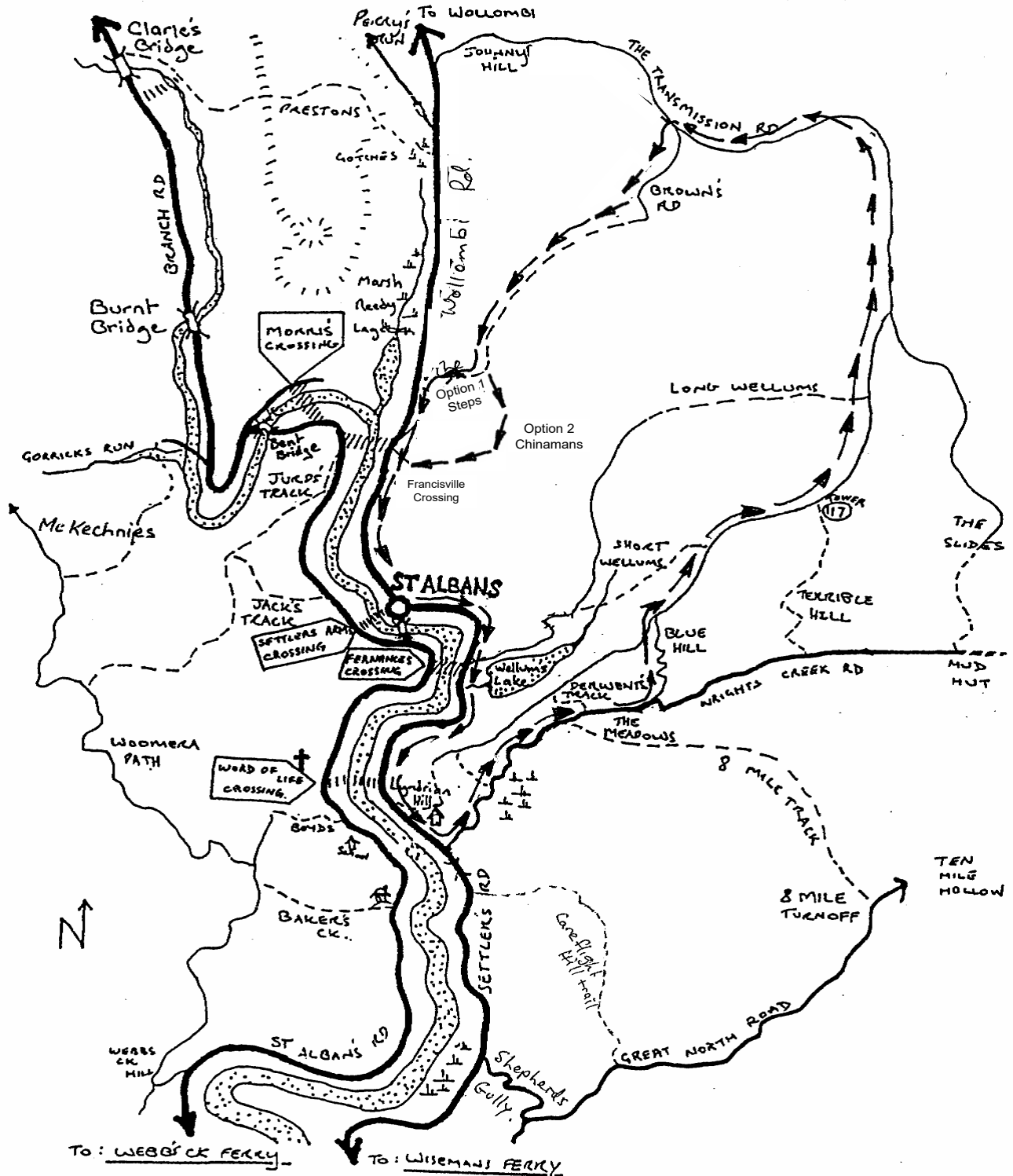
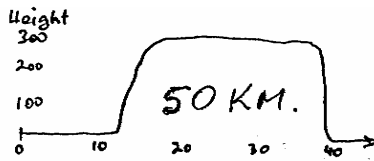


# MINI MARATHON MAP FOR THURSDAY 26/8/2010

## Markers are GREEN

Thursday - 50 km

Starting at the time keeper, left into Wollombi Rd and past the front of the Settlers Arms. Left into Wharf St and right into Bulga St past the Pickle Wombat. Use the bypass gate then along the Settlers Rd for 8 km and turn left into Wrights Creek Rd. Up Blue Hill and right into the Transmission Rd until a left onto Brown's Rd. Mini Marathon Riders have the option of either coming down the Steps or Chinamans, (a sign will advise of this option) then left into Wollombi Rd for 4.5km and then left into Bulga St to the time keepers.



Riders must allow spacing of several horse lengths on steep or narrow sections of the course, especially on The Steps.

When a gate on the course is closed, always close it after going through.

# SHAHZADA BEST MANAGED AND CONDITIONED TROPHY

The Shahzada Perpetual Trophy for the Best Managed and Conditioned Horse is donated by Sharyn and the late Rex Cox.

This prestigious award is judged by the Veterinary team and all horses that successfully complete the 400km, 5 day Shahzada are included in the deliberation. Factors such as fastest time, are not considered to be criteria for this award.

This award recognizes the horses and the work of the rider and strapping team. This achievement may require years of preparation and an ever-vigilant awareness by the rider and horse and the horse management while covering a gruelling 400 Km course over 5 days. The award will only be available to Lightweight, Middleweight and Heavy-weight entrants. It will not be available to Junior entrants. The award applauds the fundamental Shahzada principle of "To finish is to win".



The large cup is the Perpetual Trophy which the winner holds for 12 months. The small "replica" cup is retained by the winner of the award.

## DEPOSIT ON RIDE NUMBERS

- Your Horse Log Book and your buckle for successful riders, is your deposit on your ride number.
- If your horse is withdrawn or vets out, please return your ride number promptly to secure the return of the Log Book.
- Successful Mini Marathon Riders must return ride numbers after the Friday presentation. 400 km Test entrants must return ride numbers at the end of presentation on Saturday morning, 30/8/2025. Please note that ride numbers MUST be worn to presentation.

Photo by Sarah Sullivan





# A Horse Called Shahzada



Shahzada was a grey Arab stallion, foaled in 1913 at Mr H.C. Stephens' stud in England. Shahzada's sire Moot-rub, was purchased by General John Hills in India soon after he arrived from Arabia. He won races in India and numerous championships and prizes in the U.K. Shahzada's dam Ruth Kesia (descended from the desert bred mare Kesia), was acquired from the Gomassa tribe of the Sabaa Anazeh by Major Robert Upton. The mares from the tribe were noted for their fine free-trotting action.

In Endurance Tests Shahzada had few peers. Tests were held in 1920, 1921 and 1922 over 250, 300 and 500 miles; each ride was held over a five day period. Shahzada won the first and third tests and was second over the 300 mile distance. It is reputed that he covered this distance in 37 hours and 29 minutes riding time carrying 14 stone (88.90kg) in weight.

On two other occasions Shahzada won mile races carrying 10 stone (63.50kg). On yet another occasion he was able to win a seven furlong race in open company two weeks after winning a 310 mile Endurance test.

In 1925, Shahzada was imported to Australia by Mr A.E. Grace a Sydney businessman and pastoralist, to stand stud on "Woodlands Grace" near Denman. In his later life he was bought by Mr R. Williams of Booralong where he spent the remainder of his days.

Shahzada was used extensively at stud and the Arabian Horse in Australia Volume 1 reports that 40% of the 394 horses registered at the time of publication were descended to some degree from him. Some of his famous progeny are Sirdar, champion at the Sydney Royal in 1934, Genghis Khan, Ishamael and a daughter of Judith. The well known sires Delos and Aethon (who was Champion Arab Stallion at the "Royal" on four successive occasions from 1970 to 1974 and again in 1976) both trace back to Shahzada, as do the well renowned Endurance horses - Stony, Shieke, bred by R.M. Williams, Oonoonba Leo and Ralvon Aeneas and many others.



## CAMP SITE IDENTIFICATION NUMBERS

All entrants will be provided with a Camp Site Identification number when you arrive in St Albans. These numbers are the same as your ride numbers. The number will be enclosed in a plastic envelope. The Shahzada committee asks you to display in a prominent position in your camp site, eg, near the entry door to caravan, tent, etc. The purpose of these numbers is to correctly identify you when visitors are looking for you and when supplies are being delivered to your camp site. After Shahzada is over, please remember to return your Camp Site Identification Number to the box outside the office shed.

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*Top Quality Supplements for all Horses* Voucher Sponsor

# SHAHZADA TEAM EVENTS

This promises to be another fun way to enjoy the Shahzada week. Enter a team, with a prize for first place in a 400 km Shahzada team. 400km teams can be mixed divisions. The winning teams will be the teams which finish with the largest number of riders still in the event with the lowest pulse rates and the best metabolics. Entries for the teams events will be taken on Sunday 24/8/2025 at the Secretary's tent. Entry in the teams event is \$20 per team. There will also be a Team event for the Mini Marathon with the same entry and conditions as for the Shahzada 400.



## HORSES TRAVELLING ON ROADS

All normal road rules must be observed in all cases, please remember that you don't own the road! Always stay on the left hand side of the road and do not ride side by side across the road width. Please extend the courtesy of the road to all other road users at all times.



# CAMPSITE ETIQUETTE

Please ensure that you give top priority to any rider/strapper who is strapping a horse or on the way to strapping a horse after return from any leg of Shahzada. This period of time can be critical to keeping a horse in the test. Any case of anyone hindering strapping or presentation to the vetting process will be dealt with very seriously.

Radios & music can be distressing to other campers & competitors. Please ensure that your own entertainment does not distress others around you, especially during strapping or when others are trying to sleep.

Please remember that there are virtually NO powered sites at Shahzada; there are a few sites where very limited power can be made available for people with medical conditions, etc, for lights, electric blankets, respirators etc.

As a courtesy to your neighbouring campers, we request that generators be turned off by 9 pm. Generators can also be used between the hours of 3am to 4.30am

If you bring a battery for lights, bring a battery charger as well. Limited power points will be available to charge batteries during the day, please see the office.

Any dogs must be kept on a leash at all times and must not be constantly barking, especially at night.

Please avoid loud parties and/or domestics in camp, because the top performance required to achieve a coveted Shahzada buckle needs adequate rest for all concerned.

## WATER ON THE COURSE

There is plenty of natural water around the course. Water in tubs on the course is strictly for horses to drink and not for washing of horses. Be very careful washing horses in the river since the river bed is always very soft. Please avoid washing horses or stirring up the mud in the water close upstream of the town pumps.

It is expected that all riders will allow the horse to have water where it is naturally available.

You will be advised if and when the river is safe to cross at the pre ride talks.

Shahzada provides self serve drinking water and disposable paper cups for riders at check points on the course.

## TRAVELLING TO ST ALBANS

Roadworks on roads leading to St Albans might affect travel for heavy and long vehicles. Please make enquiries to decide the best way to travel.

Travelling to Shahzada – Please note that due to the floods in 2021 & 2022 there are still roads being repaired and conditions have been placed on them.

Wisemans Ferry Rd from Spencer to Wisemans 15ton limit.

Settlers rd from Wisemans 42ton limit AND 12.5 meters Max AND no articulated vehicles.

St Albans Bridge limit 15 ton

If towing please don't even attempt Greens Rd / Wheelbarrow Ridge Rds.

Wolleme Rd is a long gravel road which as of the 25th July is in bad condition. A couple of narrow corners so vehicles towing long floats beware. If coming this way please check with us before leaving for Shahzada as it is a dirt / gravel road and conditions can change.

**A special thank you to the residents of the village of St Albans, the Macdonald Valley and surrounding area for your involvement in helping the Shahzada to be held. The local residents provide camp sites in St Albans, access for trails, staff the hotel, tea house and provide numerous “behind the scenes” services which together make this unique event possible. Once again a special, big Thank You to the village and Macdonald Valley residents**

## A Big Thank You to our IBC Sponsors



"A horse gallops on his lungs, sustains his speed on his heart, but wins on character."



[ereborminiaturegoats@gmail.com](mailto:ereborminiaturegoats@gmail.com)

Located in Mudgee NSW, we are a small hobby farm breeding Australian Miniature Goats. Please get in touch if you are interested in adding miniature goats to your property



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Our Main Checkpoint Sponsor



# SHOWERS

Shahzada has 6 showers (3 ladies & 3 mens) with limited hot water and we are asking everyone to keep their showers as brief as possible. You may need to break your daily routine if you wish a hot shower. Strappers and Mini Marathon riders please utilise the showers during the day or at night.

# NO RUBBISH ON TRACK

Please do not leave any rubbish on the roads, tracks, private property or National Parks. Items such as discarded tissues, drink bottles, orange peelings etc should be returned to boxes or containers in the check points before continuing or carried back to rubbish bins provided in the base camp.

# COLLECTION OF GARBAGE & RECYCLE

This year we are asking everyone at Shahzada to please make a special effort with the garbage situation. We would prefer non combustible rubbish to be bagged up and compacted into old feed bags and tied at the top when full. Please bring a few old feed bags for your garbage. Shahzada will have four skip bins in St Albans where you should deposit tied off bags of garbage. There will also be a number of old feed bags on star stakes in the vetting area. Clean burning combustible items should be put on the camp fire.

We would prefer that there were no glass bottles at Shahzada, but if you do have bottles, please do not break them or try to burn disused glass bottles. We would like all recyclable glass and cans to go into the appropriate bags in the vetting area.

*Photo by Sarah Sullivan Photography*



*Called up for Best Managed*

**ALL YOU NEED AT SHAHZADA 2025 IS HERE!**

**SADDLEWORLD SHOALHAVEN SHOP STAND**  
SHAHZADA August 2025  
400km Endurance Marathon  
120km Mini Marathon

**TRADING:**  
from Friday 22nd to 29th August 2025  
Taking **PRE ORDERS** via **Phone**  
**All your Ride needs at our stand:**

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**WE ARE TAKING PRE ORDERS NOW** ☎ 02 4450 5200

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**BRING YOUR OWN REFILLABLE WATER BOTTLE**

Let's cut down on single-use plastic and ride toward a cleaner future.

- ✓ Bring and use your own refillable bottle
- ✓ Refill at checkpoints

**RESPECT THE RIDE. RESPECT THE LAND.**  
SYDNEY REGION ENDURANCE – RIDING WITH HEART, CARING FOR COUNTRY. #SydneyRegionEndurance

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## PULSED ELECTRO MAGNETIC FIELD

Assists with muscle fatigue and discomfort following travel or exercise.

Increases range of motion.

Increases blood flow to muscles, tendons and ligaments.

Decrease inflammation and increase circulation may support the extension of muscle fibers.

Amplify athletic performance.

Generates natural cellular energy.

Supports general relaxation.

PEMF generates energy at the cellular level without medically invasive procedures. This amplification of natural energy encourages the body to function more effectively for overall wellness.

Call 0437 774 946 to  
Located in J Block

Get  
**PULSED**  
with PEMF

Give your horse the very best chance at successfully completing this very challenging event.

Treat your horse to a PEMF treatment . PEMF is great for relieving tight and fatigued muscles from either the long journey to ST Albans or from one of many of the technical tracks that Shahzada is renowned for.

Jen from Get Pulsed will be at the Shahzada ride base leading up to and inclusive of the whole event. Located in J block, Jen will be happy to help your horse.

Give Jen a call or send her a message on 0437 774 946

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barryglass@bigpond.com

[www.aewhorsewalker.com.au](http://www.aewhorsewalker.com.au)

## Masur / Massage Therapy at Shahzada

**Michelle Hansen - 0432 062 864**

I will be there from Sunday until Thursday and back for late Friday and Saturday.

Normally a full massage and assessment session is \$125.00 and takes about 1-1.5hrs.

However, for Shahzada horses will be offering pre and post massages that will focus on preparing the horses doing for the day and/or helping them recover.

These would be \$70.00 per session, but is prepared to offer a full session

### Light Touch HArmony

**Lee Brown 0418 912 755**

I am an Emmett technique practitioner, offering a fast effective, light touch muscle release therapy for human and horse. I enjoy participating at events and clinics and would love the opportunity to share my experience at 2025 Shahzada to help each individual. I can assist in relieving pain & discomfort to help with performance and balance for both.

For this event, 1 treatment will be 1/2 hour for \$50, for 2 treatments \$80.

**Maurie 0424 576 365**

will be available from Friday before the ride.

### Training Performance

**Jenny Carroll 0416 010 497**





## Sarah Sullivan Photography

**SHAHZADA - The Ride of Your Life!**

Knowing that this is an iconic ride, I applied year after year in the hope of photographing the incredible terrain in and around St Albans. I was so fortunate to be invited to photograph Shahzada for the very first time in 2024. YES! Finally, a chance to experience this massive event. Leading up to the event, I had many conversations with Kerry Fowler-Smith about what to expect. I worked alongside Lisa Wyatt. We planned to photograph at different locations to ensure we captured as much of the terrain as possible. This 400km marathon tested the limits of both horse and rider .... and photographer!! 7 days photographing in total from pre-ride to presentations and five days out on track. I managed to capture the 400km marathoners twice a day and three days of photographing the 120km mini marathoners, once a day. This was a lot to process for starters and I wasn't even sure where to begin looking. Thanks to Neil Clarkson, I succeeded in finding ideal locations and all riders on track.

The ultimate test for both horse and rider ... and did I mention for the photographer? I encountered ... wild winds with branches falling around me, bull ants attacking me and biting/stinging up my legs and back while standing waiting for riders at The Steps, and did anyone catch my post about being swallowed by a sinkhole in the creek after helping a rider through? It certainly was a journey.

To sum up, Shahzada is one of the most challenging and rewarding events on the endurance calendar that I have ever photographed. AND .. I can't wait to do it ALL again (maybe without the sinkhole and bull ants haha!).

Bring on Shahzada 2025 - I'll see you there! Sarah Sullivan

## Shahzada Moments Through the Lens Lisa J Photography

I'm pleased to be returning to photograph the 2025 Shahzada Endurance Ride, after capturing the event in 2024. Based just down the road in the Macdonald Valley of St Albans, it's a real privilege to document such a special event within my own community.

As a horse owner, rider, and equestrian competitor myself, I understand how much heart and hard work goes into every kilometre. It's a joy to be able to quietly capture those moments – the small details, the big milestones, and everything in between.

I was fortunate to have both images and an article from the 2024 ride published in Arabian Horse Lifestyle Magazine. If you get a chance, grab a copy and take a look – it was a lovely way to share the spirit of Shahzada with a wider audience.

For the 2025 ride, I'll also be looking to feature rider and horse teams in the Summer 2025 edition, so if you'd like to share your story or nominate someone, I'd love to hear from you.

I'm also available for portrait sessions before or after the ride – these can be a great way to celebrate your journey or just enjoy some quiet time with your horse in a beautiful setting.

You can browse past galleries or get in touch here:

Website: [lisajphotography.zenfoliosite.com](http://lisajphotography.zenfoliosite.com) and on socials Facebook and Instagram.

Email: [lisajphotography@gmail.com](mailto:lisajphotography@gmail.com) Mobile: 0423480775

Looking forward to seeing familiar faces and meeting new ones – and as always, feel free to wave or smile if you see the camera! ..... Regards Lisa

**A huge Thank You to both Sarah and Lisa for supplying most of the photos in this booklet**

## CLEARING UP AFTER HORSES

Stringent conditions have been imposed by the local council to maintain the public park areas.

- If any horse is likely to excavate the horse yard, please advise camp site co-ordinator so that a suitable camp area can be arranged. Camp areas A and F are totally unsuitable for horses which are likely to excavate due to the council conditions.
- Horse Poo must be raked up and bagged, please. Disposal of droppings into nearby long grass or the river/riverbank is totally unacceptable. Please remember to bring your own shovel, rake and spare bags. Please place bags at the nearest roadside.



## SHAHZADA CANTEEN

MENU From Early AM for breakfast!

Brekky Wrap from \$6; egg, bacon, hashbrown. Add Cheese 50c

Roast Beef and Gravy Roll \$12

Chicken Schnitzel Roll with Lettuce and Mayo \$12

6 x Spring Rolls OR 6 x Dim Sims with Dipping Sauce \$10

Honey Chicken and Fried Rice \$15

Sweet and Sour Pork and Fried Rice \$15

Mongolian Beef and Fried Rice \$15

Satay Chicken and Fried Rice \$15

Combination Chow Mein and Fried Rice \$15

Curried Prawns and Fried Rice \$15

Singapore Noodles \$15

Coffee; Tea; Hot Choc; Chai Latte \$5; Water \$3; Soft Drink Cans \$3



## The Settlers Arms Inn

The historic sandstone 1836 St Albans Inn

Serves lunch daily from 12 noon to 3.30pm

and dinner on Friday, Saturday and Sunday evenings.

Dinner in the dining rooms near the open log fire is from  
6pm to 9.30pm.

The fully licensed hotel bar service is available from  
11am to 10pm Sunday to Thursday and 11am to midnight  
on Friday and Saturday.

Comfortable accommodation is available in the Garden rooms.

Bookings form on web site [www.settlersarms.com.au](http://www.settlersarms.com.au)

Phone (02) 4568 2111



## Storms Coffee Stop

As the pre-dawn stillness of St Albans gives way to the thrum of anticipation at the Shahzada 400, there's an undeniable energy – a blend of unparalleled dedication, sheer grit, and the incredible bond between horse and rider. At Storms Coffee Stop, my trusty border collie Storm and I are incredibly proud to be a small but vital part of this legendary event. We'll be bright-eyed and ready to serve you from 6:00 AM each morning, helping to fuel those monumental days with the perfect cup of coffee.

We know that every rider, every dedicated support crew member, and every spectator at Shahzada brings an extraordinary level of commitment. Whether you're preparing for another challenging leg through the Macdonald Valley or welcoming riders back to camp, a really good coffee can make all the difference over these five demanding days. That's why we're here, brewing up

rich espresso, creamy lattes & decadent hot chocolates designed to give you that much-needed boost for the ultimate endurance test.

Shahzada is more than a race; it's a testament to resilience, stamina, and the deep connection to nature. Stop by Storms Coffee Stop – we're not just serving coffee; we're serving the fuel for your Shahzada journey, with a wagging tail and a warm smile!

Warm Regards,  
Matt Hallows 0412 880 810





We are very excited to let everyone know we will be cooking at the The Pickled Wombat for Shahzada: The Ultimate Test of Endurance. 2025...

Open everyday of Shahzada from 2pm for lunch, afternoon tea, dinner, and drinks till late...

Yes there will be Jodie's FAMOUS Hot Cinnamon Donuts !!!! everyday.

Looking forward to seeing everyone cheers Jodie and Coxy... p.s. formally of the Barn Canteen...



## St Albans Court House

The unique historic restored sandstone Court House, Police Station and Prisoner's Lockup is recognised by the National Trust and available for overnight, weekly and holiday accommodation. The property is an area of 40 acres set on a timbered hillside overlooking the historic hamlet of St Albans and the beautiful Macdonald River Valley.

The court house complex has 4 luxury double bedrooms, open fire, complete country kitchen.

Adjacent homestead has 4 bed rooms with individual ensuite. Tariff includes full breakfast, bed and bathroom linen.

Other meals available at Fickle Wombat Restaurant nearby or Settlers Arms Inn. Guests have unlimited use of all facilities including BBQ and DVD, tennis available nearby.

Phone 4568 2042 Email: [enquiries@courthousestalbans.com.au](mailto:enquiries@courthousestalbans.com.au) [www.courthousestalbans.com.au](http://www.courthousestalbans.com.au)

(The Court House is considered to be part of the Village for Shahzada purposes).



Photos by Sarah Sullivan





### NEW Product

**Veterinarian formulated.**

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**BATHURST VET SERVICES**

**HEALING BALM**

FOR ANIMAL TREATMENT ONLY

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# HANDY HINTS

*The handy hints page may help you to complete Shahzada with ideas to survive the conditions.*

## Before the Ride:

Read the whole of this book before you start in the Shahzada. It contains important information to help you to successfully complete the ride and the trivia quiz

Take this book with you to Shahzada, you will need it there for the maps at least

Please print the entry form you filled out when prenominating. Otherwise you will need to complete it again when entering.

Don't forget your properly completed horse health declaration

Train your horse to trot out on a loose rein **before** you come to St Albans

Fill up your vehicle with petrol or diesel at Caltex Wisemans Ferry (the last fuel), on the way in to St Albans. The last portagas filling point is Alex Bice, Wisemans Ferry Post Office, phone 02 4566 4273 at Wisemans Ferry

If you bring a dog, you cannot allow it into the vetting area or in the National Parks. It would be preferred if your dog could be kennelled outside the St Albans area. 1080 poison has been laid in the area. Dogs must be on a lead at all times

There are very few sites where power is available. Bring a small super quiet generator for power. Camps with generators will be located well away from the general camp because of noise. There is a curfew on generator hours; battery powered lights are preferred. Power available for battery charger use during daylight hours

Don't leave it to the last minute to arrive in St Albans. Arrival on Friday at the latest is a lot less stress on everyone than Saturday

Put name tags on all clothing, helmets, torches etc, which may be discarded at check points to enhance your chances of getting your own equipment and clothing back

## Things to bring which you may not think of:

Medications for greasy heel

A change of saddle should your horse develop a back problem

Sheep skin girth covers

A large sponge on a string for river crossings

Easiboots

Brushing boots for mountain descents

Plenty of fresh drinking water for the people in your camp

Fur lined thongs, (it can be very cold over night)

A material handling barrow (fridge moving trolley) and a suitable sized plastic barrel for moving water from the taps to camp.

A waterproof torch, spare batteries and globes for use in the showers and portaloos at night

A FM 88 to 108 MHz portable radio to hear the public address announcements in your camp.

## After you arrive and before the start:

Trot your horse out pre-vetting to ensure soundness after travel

Practice the trot out on a loose rein in the vetting area pre-ride

## During the ride:

Make sure that you go past the Timekeeper going out and in on each leg

Make sure that your horse is correctly shod before starting in the ride & throughout the ride

Dry under your horse's "armpits" when strapping. This area is prone to rash and may cause lameness

Riders must always wear the correct ride number on their front and back on the course in such a way that the number is not obstructed, outside coats etc

Whoever is leading the horse in the vetting area must always wear the ride number

Riders must always call the correct number at the Wicen radio check points and ensure that the Wicen radio operator has correctly recorded their number before leaving the radio check point

If you are unhappy with a veterinary decision, be prepared to lodge your appeal with the Head Vet or Chief Steward before you leave the vetting area. If you disagree with a decision; talk calmly to the Chief Steward about it

Check the computer printouts each evening, make sure that the correct information is entered and advise the office shed if there is a problem with the information

No dogs in the vetting area, not even on a leash and no push bikes. Keep all dogs on a leash at all times

# ST ALBANS BRIDGE

Unless specified by the Shahzada committee, horses being ridden on the St Albans bridge is prohibited and will result in disqualification from the ride. In the event that the committee specifies use of the St Albans bridge, riders must dismount and walk the horse across the bridge. Failure to dismount will result in disqualification from the ride.



# SHAHZADA FRIENDS

The year 2025 Shahzada Memorial Test is being supported by the following plus the many Logos and Advertisements throughout this booklet.

**IRT (International Racehorse Transport)** - 400km Shahzada riders bibs.

**MAXXIS** – Mini Marathon Ride Bibs

**PETER MCKECHNIE** – The Ride Secretary's shed, the Multiple grounds in the village and part of the course.

**MARK AND BONNIE ROBINSON** – are donating the rug for the best managed & best conditioned horse

**ZONE ONE** – Who not only sponsored but is providing a loan of the Zone one trailer and contents.

**Rex Cox Perpetual Trophy** – has been donated by Sharyn and the late Rex Cox

**SUNCREST ARABIANS - VIRGINIA BLAIN** – is donating the first Stallion to finish award.

**ALLISON & MICHAEL KNIHINICKI** – The Mastermind behind the Shahzada Social Events plus are donating several trophies for these events.

**SARAH SULLIVAN PHOTOGRAPY** – Photos on course

**Lisa J Photography** – Photos on course

**FAITH ROBINSON** – For all the organising and running around she has done for us

**BTW** - Committee Communications

**NSW POLICE, NSW AMBULANCE SERVICE AND CAREFLIGHT** will be available if we need them. Again we hope that we will not need to call for their very professional support.

**HAWKESBURY COUNCIL** – who have continued to support Shahzada since its inception in 1981.

**LOCAL PROPERTY OWNERS AND NPWS.** Without the co-operation of local property owners and the National Parks and Wildlife Service this Test could not take place. We are greatly indebted to all concerned. We impress upon all participants in the Test the necessity to treat all property with due respect.

The committee would ask you to remember these friends and promote their products whenever you can as a means of thanking them for their support of your Sport. The Test could not be run without the generosity of the property owners who allow us access, the myriad of voluntary helpers and the untiring support that our fabulous veterinary team provide. Thank you one and all!

## The Malali and Maureen Shahzada award

To be awarded to either  
someone completing their first 400km  
or last rider successful in 400km

Back in 2009 Maureen and her homebred horse Malali only started and completed 3 rides.

Those being ....

In April the 320km Faraway Marathon, which was followed up a few weeks later by the 400km Pioneer Trek Marathon and finally in August the 500km Shahzada marathon. This pair also planned this magnificent feat back in 2007 when they completed both the Faraway & Pioneer only to be halted when El hit Australia at Shahzada

In 2006 they achieved the Faraway, Tom Quily & Shahzada.

Maureen has 3 x 500km Shahzada completions while Malali has 2.

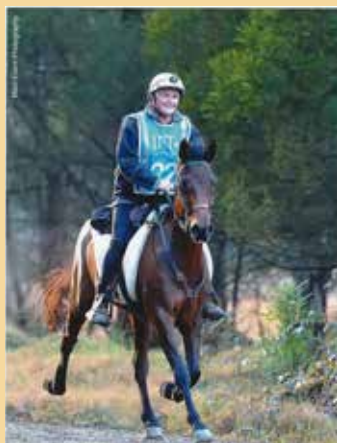


Photo by Main Event

The 500km Shahzada has only been held a handful of times over the last 41 years



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## Thank You

Your Shahzada Committee would like to thank you for coming to Shahzada' we hope you have a fantastic week and we wish you the very best of luck in achieving a successful completion... Have Fun!!



## **SHAHZADA COMMITTEE BIO'S**

**Name:** Haydn Fisher

**Committee role/s:** President and Chief steward

**Real job:** Senior Works Officer Midwestern Regional Council Road (construction)/ Former full time Farrier

**Shahzada history:** I've been involved with Shahzada since early 2000, I think about 21 years doing roles from just a general helper, to Coarse Director, to Vice President now President. I have been the Chief Steward for many years and have a 400km buckle from 2008, I don't need another.

**Best thing about Shahzada:** I love everything about Shahzada. I think the one thing that sticks out for me is the tears of joy or sorrow on Friday afternoon. The funniest thing I have ever seen was another rider going up Prestons who was breathing so hard his false teeth flew out onto a rock!.

**What advice would you give a first time Shahzada rider?:** Keep your horse and tack very clean at all times.  
Listen to your horse and vets advice.  
Come to Shahzada with a positive attitude.  
Never doubt yourself.

Ask as many questions as you want (no such thing as a silly or dumb question)  
Listen very carefully at pre ride and most of all have fun and enjoy the ride of your life.



**Name:** Neil Clarkson

**Committee roles:** Outgoing President/Track Coordinator

**Real job:** For the last few years, I have been self-employed in woodworking

**Shahzada history:** I met Halifax (Shahzada founder) in 1997 who introduced me to endurance and Shahzada. 6 weeks later on a locally borrowed horse named Sterling I entered and completed the Shahzada Mini. Welcome to Endurance!! In 2000 I joined the committee and over the years I have taken on most portfolios including being President from 2006 to 2025 (thank you Haydn for taking this role and allowing me to step back. I also have 2 out of 2 Shahzada 400km completions (2002 and 2010).

**Best experience at Shahzada:** Getting my 400km Shahzada buckles and watching riders complete Shahzada on Friday afternoon. Makes all the effort well worth it.

**What advice would you give a first time Shahzada rider?:** Listen to others but ride your own ride and make sure you have fun doing it. Do the little things and make it is an experience you will never forget!!

**Name;** Clare Feary

**Committee roles:** Vice President

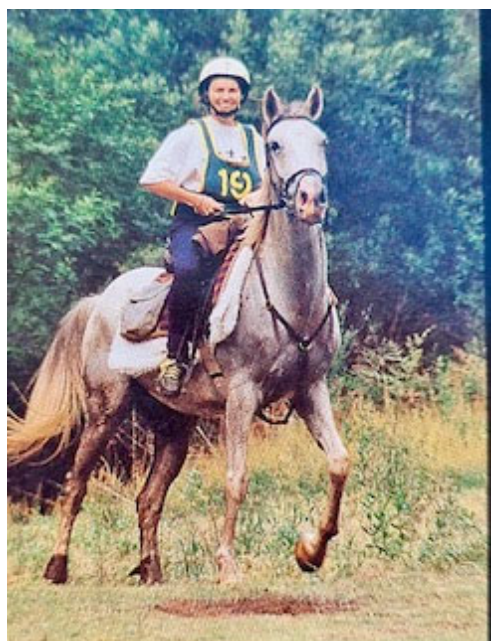
**Real job:** Navy Psychologist

**Shahzada history;** I dreamt of riding Shahzada since I was a kid and, finally, got my first chance in 2009. I have ridden the 400km most years since then, with 6 buckles out of 11 attempts (or 12 if you count the pre-ride vet out!). My volunteering role began by helping out with Shahzada track clearings, but when Shahzada faced the possibility of folding after fire/flood/Covid I was pleased to be asked to assist on the committee for the past 2 years. It's been an enormous challenge, but the reward is seeing the most important ride in Australian Endurance continue to fulfil riders bucket lists.



**Best experience at Shahzada:** Dawn unfolding along the Transmission line, seeing the mist rolling in the folds of the Valley, reaching the top of every climb.

**What advice would you give a first time Shahzada rider?;** Just show up, look at everything around you, be there, don't worry about the rest. Oh yeah, and Curash everything....if your clothes don't end up looking like a Neolithic cave painting, you're not doing it right.



**Name:** Tacye Bice

**Committee roles:** Treasurer / Landowner Liaison

**Real job:** Owner/Manager of Wisemans Ferry Post Office and 2 Mail Runs. Owner of local Elgas distribution business. Volunteer at Lower Macdonald Rural Fire Brigade

**Shahzada history:** Local to Wisemans Ferry. Rode/Strapped/Completed Shahzada (1993). Strapper for 9 years. Many, many volunteer roles, track clearing, grant applications, managing budget, jobs around base etc.

**Best experience at Shahzada:** That amazing feeling at the end !! Thumbs UP. Watching 2 of my children complete with their dad. The connection you get from living with your horse over the week. Shahzada song around the campfire

**What advice would you give a first time Shahzada rider?:** Keep those heels clean and dry. Prepare for all weather because you will get it ALL. Ask questions - Everyone wants you to get through the ride. It's 10 training rides - just take one at a time. Don't just look at the track in front - look ahead



**Name;** Belinda Hopley

**Committee roles:** Volunteers and Camp Coordinator

**Shahzada history;** I have been involved as a rider since strapping for Searle Johnson in '85 then riding, with 3 x 400km buckles (2010, 2001, 1990) and a few 120k completions. I have been running TPR courses as well over the last few years. Last year, I organised the volunteers for the ride and, this year, have added camp coordinator.

**Best experience at Shahzada:** Having a week away from the real world with my horse and husband!



**What advice would you give a first time Shahzada rider?:** Don't rush, take time and make time. Walk down the hills, walk into town and let your pony have a good pick.

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**Name:** Cody Nettleton

**Committee role:** Marketing

**Real job:** up until very recently I was a marketing manager at an AG tech company however now I am a full time mum and it's my dream job.

**Shahzada history;** I have had 1 attempt and managed a Friday club entry I never wanted. So attempting this year for the first time since 2018. However I have been involved with the committee for a few years and intend to make the ride last forever!

**Best experience at Shahzada:** so many but one I can not go past is watching the 400km horses trot out at the end it is absolutely magic to watch them move so effortlessly after such a mammoth effort.

**What advice would you give a first time Shahzada rider?;** ENTER! If you have a qualified horse give it a go! It's the best week of your endurance life. I wish we could take the stigma of how scary it is away. It's a very different ride that you don't need extreme fitness for. You need kindness and compassion and a slow steady completion. It's only 10 training rides! Easy haha and if you vet out that's ok. You have had the best experience with the most beautiful terrain and a bond with your horse that will last a lifetime.

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**Name:** Renee Kirk

**Committee role:** Sponsorship

**Real job:** Manager/Admin/ Driver @ Saxbys Coaches

**Involvement in Shahzada;** I think close to 20 years-rider, sponsor, helper, committee member

**Best experience at Shahzada:** the absolute genuine comraderie and the atmosphere camping for the whole week.

**What advice would you give a first time Shahzada rider?;** Ask for advice- everyone will help you. Take in the sights and sounds, it's all about just getting around.





**Name:** Bonnie Robinson

**Committee role/s:** Merchandise/Landowner liaison

**Shahzada history;** 14 years on the committee in different roles, as well as a long family history of involvement. This includes helping pencilling for the vets in the 90's and family owning multiple blocks in St Albans and McKechnie's Hill. This land is still used as the ride base and during the ride today. Completed multiple mini marathons and the 400km on Forest Dale Dream Catcher in 2015. Sponsor of the Best Managed 4Htsirysji Rug.

**What advice would you give a first time Shahzada rider?;** Try to have fun, it's a serious event but you need to have a laugh, even as its hard to do. Be up at 3am to feed your horse and give them time.

Make sure you're ready to leave at 4am to give yourself plenty of time throughout the day to get the legs completed in time and with a good rest in between. Don't have a cuppa tea/coffee at 3am as its cold and the horses are ready to go, so you wont have time to stop.

### SHAHZADA CLUB MEMBERS

**Name:** Garry Bennett

Garry has been an invaluable Shahzada volunteer for many, many years assisting both on the committee and in the background. Garry not only helps with all the ride base tasks; water, plumbing, digging trenches, mowing and many other hard jobs, but he also spends all of the Shahzada week carting water out on track. Known as The Silver Fox for his rugged good looks and way with the ladies, he also has 2 Shahzada buckles (2001, 2009) including a 1<sup>st</sup> MWT and the very coveted Best Managed Award.



**Name:** April Newman

**Shahzada History:** I've been involved in many of the track clearing weekends over the last few years, including relocating the overgrown tracks in 2023. I have 4 Shahzada buckles and 2 mini's.

**Best experience:** every thing about Shahzada ! The training leading up to it , stunning country side, atmosphere , people involved in the event and the stunning Shahzada sunrises we get to see especially Wednesday and Thursday morning legs

**Rider tips:** organisation in camp and after every leg , attention to detail and carry snacks on track 'cos ya not your self when ya hungry'

**Name:** Alex Bice

**Shahzada History:** Been involved in track clearing since I was a kid, now getting more involved behind the scenes. In 2017 and 2018 I rode the mini then in 2019 I wanted to go for the 400 and completed it successfully to earn my first buckle.

**Best experience:** The rush you get when the vets give the thumbs up at the end

**Rider tips:** Trust your horse, and it will trust you. Don't just look at the track in front. Look at the track ahead





**Name:** Faith Robinson

**Shahzada history:** My volunteering pales into insignificance compared to what others contribute. Track clearing, marking, gate sitting—gosh, you meet some wonderful people! Living nearby, I can help with a plumber, electrician, or water tanks when needed. I love the camaraderie of Shahzada—everyone helps each other. I have 2 Shahzada buckles from 4 attempts at the 400, and 4 minis

**Best experience:** Day 5 of my first Big One—Serena was lame. Alix Jones stopped me, stretched her—and saved our ride.



**Name:** Linda Jonkers

**Shahzada history:** I love attending track clearing weekends. 4x400km buckles, including a Fastest time (1994, 1997, 2010, 2011) and 3 mini's, and have TPR'd at Shahzada most years since 1986.

**Rider tips:** Keep your camp organised. Have a designated strapping table with everything ready before you head out on each leg. Enjoy the ride, it truly is a unique experience.



*Photos by Lisa J Photography*





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