



## Monday 25th September 2023 – Eualdrie Ride

Monday is a settling in day for riders and their horses. It is the longest ride, approximately 26km, but there are only a few small hills and for most of the ride there is a lot of space to allow everyone to get used to each other and sort out any 'niggles' the horses may have. Our regulars might notice something a little different about this ride. In consultation with the property owners, we have given Eualdrie, one of our oldest rides, a face lift and now ride through a lot more private property than just along the stock route.

We leave the showground and head south-west through part of Grenfell's industrial area then out along a stock route. You'll notice many more homes have been built since our 2019 event - our little town is expanding. We follow the stock route out of town for quite some way before turning south into private property. From here we'll ride through cropped and improved pasture paddocks. Remember to keep to the fence line and off the farmers crops.

Crops grown in the area are mostly cereal (wheat, barley and oats), canola and legume crops. Most properties are mixed farms running sheep and/or cattle on improved pastures as well as growing crops.

We cross Holy Camp Rd and re-enter private land, following farm tracks to morning tea near planted tree lines. At morning tea don't forget to admire the Weddin Mountain, say hello to our helpful Horse Marshalls, and dig into that delicious vanilla slice we've been waiting four years for.



*The view at morning tea, it will be a lot greener this year!*

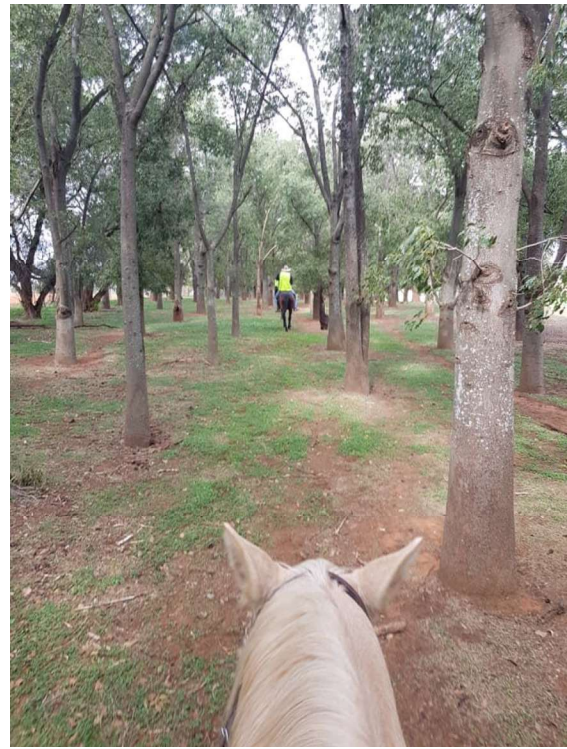
After morning tea we continue along the quiet farm road through a gorgeous grove of Kurrajong trees planted by the owner of the property many years ago. We then cross over Eualdrie Rd and ride through more open paddocks before turning back to the north-east to begin to head towards 'home'. We enter rolling hills with lightly timbered grazing

### **Bushrangers**

*The Weddin Mountain was a favourite hide-out for several infamous bushrangers. Bushrangers were enticed to the area due to the discovery of gold at Lambing Flat (now Young), to the south, in 1860 and at Forbes, to the north, in 1861. Early bushrangers preyed on the travelling population holding up mail coaches which plied between Young and Forbes, forcing passengers to give up their money and valuables on the coach road not far from the present stock route. Large groups of police troopers were in the area trying to catch up with these outlaws.*

*The leader of this bushranging group was Frank Christie, better known as Darky Gardner. In the earlier days, his companions were Johnny Gilbert, a Canadian lad who had gone bad and Johnny O'Meally, the son of a local squatter. As time went on, various others joined the gang including Ben Hall. The most daring exploit of this group (with others) was the escort robbery near Eugowra. The group assembled at Wheoga Mountains (north of Weddin Mountain) and travelled through Forbes before holding up a guarded gold escort, firing on police to drive them off before they robbed the escort of about 14,000 pounds. Legend has it that some of this loot was hidden in the Weddin Mountain and remains there to this day.*

paddocks and some native pastures. As we ride along the hills, you will get a great view of the Weddin Mountains back over your left shoulder.



*The Pine tree line (left) and Kurrajong grove (right)*

### **Weddin Mountain**

*The Weddin Mountain is the iconic backdrop to Grenfell and an incredibly important part of its natural history. A large, crescent-shaped 'island' that rises abruptly from the surrounding agricultural land, the Weddin Mountain range provides an important refuge for unique plant and animal life and offers terrific recreational opportunities for bushwalkers, campers, bird watchers and outdoor enthusiasts.*

*The name 'Weddin' is said to come from the Wiradjuri word weedin, meaning place to sit, stay or remain. The [National Park](#) hosts important Aboriginal sites for the Wiradjuri people as well as European heritage including Ben Hall's Cave and Seaton's Farm, a historical site depicting the life of the region's pioneers.*



*The Eualdrie ride offers great views of the Weddin Mountain*

Lunch on day one will be in a timbered site, alongside the Eualdrie road. Please take the time to chat with our very supportive Horse Marshalls, cooks and property owners – without them, we wouldn't have a Muster!

From here we continue to trek north-east through private property and then re-enter Grenfell along the same stock route that we came out on.

\*Please note: the information provided in this document is correct at the time of writing. The Weddin Mountain Muster Committee reserve the right to change the format of the rides if necessary.