



Tuesday 26th September 2023 – Quandong Ride

After a big first day, riders and horses should be well settled for another day of riding. Today's ride is approximately 24km and takes us in a different direction, this time to the south-west side of town through the Quandong diggings area. After a little trek diagonally across town and through a small section of private property, we head out via the Quandong Road.

We follow the relatively quiet public road, turning east along the old Koorawatha – Grenfell railway line, which is no longer used. This is a lovely road with part of it shaded by lovely old yellow box and grey box trees. Even though the road is wide and relatively quiet, please make sure you stick to the left and only ride 2-abreast.



Ambling along the Quandong Road on horseback – where else would you want to be?

Did you know?

*Quandong (*Santalum acuminatum*) are small native trees to about 5 metres tall, that are found on the hills in this area. The Quandong tree, also known as the native peach, has edible fruits that are a little tart when eaten raw but when stewed with added sugar make very acceptable pies, jellies and jams.*

The fruits were a useful source of food for Aboriginal people and early settlers and the stones were used as marbles in games such as Chinese checkers. They were also made into necklaces and other ornaments. The kernel is also edible and high in Vitamin C.

The foliage of the tree can be eaten by stock. When young, the plant is parasitic on the roots of other plants.

We stop for morning tea in a paddock just off Quandong Road. Our caterers do a great job feeding us for the week, with all the food sourced through local businesses. Be sure to thank them for the spread before heading off again. That goes for the loo-man and the water-boy too!

After morning tea we continue along Quandong Road a little further before heading into property owned by one of our Muster Committee members. We are so privileged to be able to access these properties and thank the owners for allowing us to do so.

The next section takes us into timbered grazing country over shale hills. Make sure you look back over your shoulder from time to time as you will get some lovely views of the Conimbla Range and Mount Sugarloaf. To the south-east you will get a glimpse of the fertile country in the Tyagong valley.



Views of the Conimbla Range and trekking around the hill on the Quandong Ride.

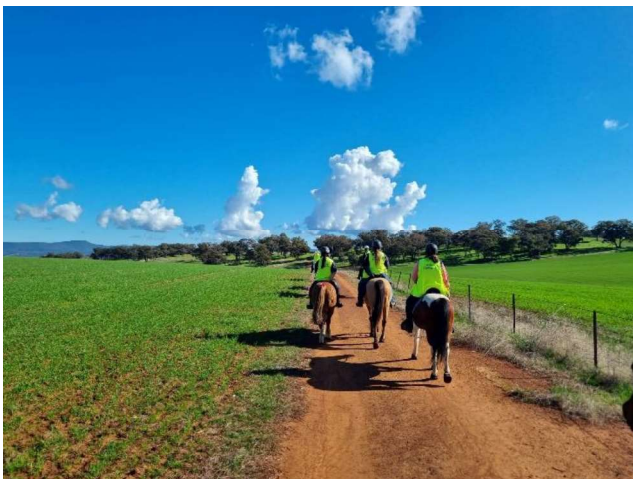
Tyagong valley and [landra Castle](#)

The development of the fertile Tyagong Valley is credited to the Irishman George Henry Greene, who came to the area in 1878 and pioneered the system of sharefarming on his property at 'landra' in 1892. Under this system of wheat growing, the landholder provided the land while the sharefarmer provided the labour to plant and harvest the crop, with both parties sharing the proceeds. He developed this property and encouraged greater productivity with cash incentives. Within a few years there were as many as 50 sharefarmers on 'landra' and the local grain industry began to flourish.

Greene was also instrumental in getting the railway line from Koorawatha to Grenfell, with a siding at 'landra' along the way. The introduction of rail in 1901 opened greater possibilities for the whole Shire, with better access to markets for agricultural commodities.

1907 was a good year for Greene and his sharefarmers and he decided to build a castle as well as a village for the workers, which was based around the 'landra' railway siding. This village became known as Greenethorpe. 'landra' is still a working property, and the castle is a major tourist attraction for the Shire, with open days throughout the year.

We will ride through some cropped paddocks and then head up another hill to our lunch spot where we'll have some great view of the Weddin Mountain again. After lunch we head back through private property before linking back up with Quandong Road and backtracking through town to the showground.



The Quandong Ride offers more great views of the Weddin Mountain, particularly at the lunch spot.

*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.