



Trail Head Information

Overnight camping and day yards

Ride Walk Cycle



Kidman Trail



Willunga

-35.268516, 138.551308

Willunga to Jack's Paddock 24.3 km

YARDS: 4 day yards

WATER: Yes

CAMPING: No

CAMPFIRE: No. Mt Lofty Fire Ban District.

FLOAT/TRAILER PARKING: Yes

TOILET: Yes, within walking distance in public park

HOW TO BOOK: Advise Southern Hills Pony Club to avoid clashing with pony club rallies. Free to use.



Located at the end of Station Road, Willunga. Ride the Kidman Trail or use it as a base to ride along the Shiraz Rail Trail and Coast to Vines Rail Trail. The Kidman Trail leaves the rail trail as it goes up into the ranges and onto Kuitpo Forest. The rail trail continues into Mc Laren Vale before going through Seaford and onto Marino Rocks. Horses are permitted on the rail trail from Willunga to Reynella. i.e. sections within the City of Onkaparinga. The Kidman Trail yards are located on the grounds of Southern Hills Pony Club, located on the historic old Willunga Train Station site.

There is no overnight camping. Please contact Horse SA to sort out options if you would like to camp with your horse in the region as private facilities are potentially available. Large groups or clubs may be considered by the adjacent Willunga Recreation Ground. Horse riders are asked not to use the dressage arena, tie up stalls or any pony club equipment without prior permission.

[Willung Recreation Park](#)

[Southern Hills Pony Club](#)

[Coast to Vines Rail Trail](#)

[Rail Trails Australia](#)

[Kidman Trail- City of Onkaparinga](#)

Jack's Paddock

-35.231288, 138.685270
Jack's Paddock to Echunga 14.4 km

YARDS: Camping yards distributed in 3 areas; Jack's Paddock, Tinjella Hut and Woodcutters Cottage. There is additional room in all three areas to erect further temporary yarding.

WATER: Yes (tanks)

CAMPING: Yes - ** Camping is prohibited from 1 December to 31 March. Mt Lofty Fire Ban District.

CAMPFIRE: Yes - outside of the fire ban season/days. No fires of any kind are permitted to be lit by members of the public on ForestrySA land, including all Forest Reserves, between November 1 and April 30 in any year

FLOAT/TRAILER PARKING: Yes (caters for very large groups)

TOILET: Yes

HOW TO BOOK: Forestry SA. Bookings are essential in advance. Fees will apply. Ph: (08) 8391 8800

NOTES: Located within Kuitpo Forest Reserve. A permit for horse riders is required. Forests are closed on high fire danger days. After heavy rains, some nearby creek crossings will be difficult or dangerous.

Area 1 : 8 horse yards & one horse shelter. These yards are linked to the Kidman Trail

Area 2 : Tinjella Hut and 8 yards

Area 3: Woodcutters Cottage with 4 yards



Area 1: Kidman Trail use- 8 horse yards



Woodcutters Cottage Photo: Michael Mullen



Area 2: Tinjella Hut & yards



Rear Woodcutters Cottage with 4 yards

Woodcutters Cottage
Forestry SA

Echunga

-35.097409, 138.789311
Echunga to Macclesfield 19.1km

YARDS: 4 yards

WATER: Yes

CAMPING: Yes (no shelter structure)

CAMPFIRE: No. Mt Lofty Fire Ban District.

TOILET: Yes

FLOAT/TRAILER PARKING: Yes

HOW TO BOOK: Mount Barker Council. Camping is free but must be registered with Council. Day time use of the yards is free, no bookings are required.

Located in the old carpark of the Echunga Golf Course, within the Echunga Recreation Grounds, these yards are free to use during the day with no booking required. Why not park at this trail head ride to Kuitpo Forest, or even Macclesfield for lunch, come back and go to the pub for dinner which is about 300 m up the road. The Hagen Arms Hotel is also the starting point for an annual hunt run each year.

[Mt Barker Council](#) Ph 8391 7200



Yards: no bookings are required for day use



Hagen Arms Hotel welcomes horse riders



[Watering points for horses - google map](#)

Photo: Pam Brookman

Macclesfield

-35.169853, 138.829235
Macclesfield to Nairne 32 kms

YARDS: 4 yards

CAMPING: Yes. Shelter under construction.

CAMPFIRE: No. Mt Lofty Fire Ban District.

FLOAT/TRAILER PARKING: Yes. (Max. 4)

TOILET: Yes, located on the main grounds

HOW TO BOOK: Mt Barker Council when camping overnight. No bookings required for day use. Free.



*Thank you to
the Adelaide
Trail Horse
Riders Club
who sponsored
installation of
a water tank
for horses in
2012.*



Photo: Kathy Diener

Campsite entry located on the corner of Walker Street & Magpie Lane, Macclesfield. Set up in the corner of the Macclesfield Oval & Sporting Complex there are four horse yards and a drive in/out area. Horse float area fenced off with gates. Horse riders are requested not to ride through the sporting oval complex or camp outside of the designated Kidman Trail yards. Large groups or for camping options other than the Kidman Trail yards may be available, contact the Macclesfield Oval & Sporting Complex. Fees may apply.

Note: no horses are to access the rest of the grounds outside of the campsite without permission.

[Mt Barker Council](#) Ph 8391 7200

[Macclesfield Oval & Sporting Complex](#): Ph: 8388 9302 (Sporting complex) or Ph: 8388 9258

[Battunga Country](#)

SUPPORT THE KIDMAN TRAIL

The Kidman Trail relies on donations, volunteer hours and community support to stay in good shape.

Trail users and users of Cowell Rd Trail Head are invited to [join Horse SA](#), make a suggested \$20 donation (or more) or there may be an asset that is able to be donated e.g. gates. Clubs/businesses may consider larger donations to support the development of further infrastructure or trail loops.

Direct debit: The Horse Federation of SA Inc ANZ BSB 015-025 78929

The Horse SA [online store](#) has donation and memberships with VISA & PayPal options

Nairne

-35.037314, 138.935443
Nairne to Rockleigh 32.6 kms

YARDS: 4 yards

WATER: Yes

CAMPING: Yes. No shelter structure. Mt Lofty Fire Ban District.

CAMPFIRE: No. Mt Lofty Fire Ban District.

FLOAT/TRAILER PARKING: Yes

TOILET: No. Lots of scrub or 600 m approx. to Nairne Oval Complex or onto main township

HOW TO BOOK: Mt Barker Council when camping overnight. No bookings required for day use. Free. Note that at the time of writing it is difficult to drive into the site due to the road verge being regraded incorrectly. This is under rectification. Horse water is provided in a tank. If the tank is getting low contact Horse SA to arrange refill.

[Mt Barker Council](#)



Photo: Neil Jamieson

Kidman Trail management structure:

The Office for Recreation & Sport coordinates with the asset manager, the Department for Planning, Transport & Infrastructure (DPTI). Horse SA provides an on-ground service for the general day to day tasks associated with the trail, which is undertaken in partnership with the land managers using a Memorandum of Understanding tool. Thank you to the following land managers and owners who host the Kidman Trail.

ForestrySA

DPTI

City of Onkaparinga

Alexandrina Council

District Council of Mount Barker

Rural City of Murray Bridge

Mid-Murray Council

Barossa Council

Light Regional Council

& three private landholders



Kidman Trail maps are available from the Horse SA online store, Cartogaphics, Bike SA, Kapunda Visitor Information Centre, Friends of the Heysen Trail, SA Visitor & Travel Centre, The Map Shop & Bonnetts Saddleworld stores.

Rockleigh

-34.958608, 139.088640
Rockleigh to Mt Pleasant 30.9 kms

YARDS: 4 yards

WATER: Yes

CAMPING: Yes. Shelter available. Mt Lofty Fire Ban District.

CAMPFIRE: Yes

FLOAT/TRAILER PARKING: Yes

TOILET: Yes (long drop)

HOW TO BOOK: Mid Murray Council when camping overnight. No bookings required for day use. Free. This popular campsite is located on council land. A base for the Kidman Trail or to do loop rides in the district. Horse water is provided in a tank. If the tank is getting low contact Horse SA to arrange refill.

Note fire ban information. The Old School House is currently undergoing remodelling to a camp shelter.

[Mid Murray Council](#) Ph: 08 8569 0100



The Old School House is currently undergoing renovation

Mt Pleasant

-34.775705, 139.043847
Mt Pleasant to Starkey Paddock 13.7 kms
Mt Pleasant to Cowell Rd 25.9 kms

YARDS: No dedicated yards, bring your own electric tape

WATER: Yes

CAMPING: Yes,

CAMPFIRE: Yes. Mt Lofty Fire Ban District.

FLOAT/TRAILER PARKING: Yes

TOILET: Yes

HOW TO BOOK: Tallunga Recreation Park. Fees will apply.



Located within Tallunga Recreation Park. Popular regional venue for horse shows, endurance rides, agricultural shows. Footy oval, caravan park and more. Home for Mt Pleasant Pony Club. Walking distance to pubs. Tallunga Caretakers: Mob: 0429 682045

[Tallunga Park](#)

[Tallung Park Caravan Park](#)

[Mount Pleasant Pony Club](#)

Starkey Paddock

-34.731221, 138.990197
Starkey Paddock to Cowell Rd 12.2 kms

YARDS: 4 yards. Lots of room to erect own further yarding.

WATER: Yes

CAMPING: Yes - ** Camping is prohibited from 1 December to 31 March. Mt Lofty Fire Ban District.

CAMPFIRE: Yes - outside of the fire ban season/days. No fires of any kind are permitted to be lit by members of the public on ForestrySA land, including all Forest Reserves, between November 1 and April 30 in any year

FLOAT PARKING: Yes (caters for very large groups)

TOILET: Yes

HOW TO BOOK: Forestry SA

NOTES: Located within Mt Crawford Forest Reserve. Horse riders require a permit. Forests are closed on high fire danger days.

[Forestry SA](#)



Yards



Signage



Toilet



Picnic shelter & water

Cowell Road

-34.683061, 138.998440

Cowell Rd to Ram's Head Corner 27.7 kms

Cowell Rd to Mt Pleasant 25.9 kms

YARDS: The yards belong to Mt Crawford Dressage Club, permission has been given for Kidman Trail users to access the four yards closest to the road.

WATER: Yes. Horse water tap located inside toilet.

CAMPING: Yes. Mt Lofty Fire Ban District.

CAMPFIRE: Yes- outside of fire ban periods

FLOAT/TRAILER PARKING: Yes

TOILET: Yes, includes mobile phone charging point

HOW TO BOOK: Book with Horse SA. Refer to form at the end of this document for conditions of use.

This trail head is located on the Murray Dawson Memorial Polo Grounds Mt Crawford.



Ram's Head Corner

-34.571309, 139.153929

Ram's Head Corner to Stockwell 27.4 kms

YARDS: 4 yards

WATER: Yes

CAMPING: Yes

CAMPFIRE: Yes. Murraylands Fire Ban District.

FLOAT/TRAILER PARKING: Yes

TOILET: Yes

HOW TO BOOK: Mid Murray Council when camping overnight. No bookings required for day use. Free.



This trail head is located on the site of the old Mid Murray Council pound. Camping is welcome under the back verandah of the old cottage. The cottage itself is currently leased. No bookings are required to use the yards during the day. Overnight use is free, but needs to be registered with Mid Murray Council. Horse water is provided in a tank. If the horse water tank, donated by the Adelaide Trail Horse Riders Club in 2012, is getting low contact Horse SA to arrange refill. Note fire ban information.

Stockwell Hotel

-34.435232, 139.055958
Stockwell to Kapunda 26.7 kms

YARDS: Nil. Erect your own in the backyard of the pub

WATER: Yes

CAMPING: Yes. Mid North Fire Ban District.

CAMPFIRE: Yes - outside of the fire ban season/days.

FLOAT/TRAILER PARKING: Yes

TOILET: Yes

HOW TO BOOK: [Stockwell Hotel](#): Ph: 08 8562 2008

Gus the publican



Kapunda

-34.340386, 138.903106
Kapunda to Stockwell 26.7 kms

YARDS: 4 yards have been constructed for Kidman Trail users. Other horse facilities available by arrangement

WATER: Yes.

CAMPING: Yes. Mid North Fire Ban District.

CAMPFIRE: Seek permission from the club

TOILET: Yes

HOW TO BOOK: Kapunda Harness Racing Club . Fees may apply.

Bookings: Club secretary Rod Whenan Mobile: 0428 956 462

Kapunda Harness Racing Club: <http://www.kapundaharnessracing.com/index.htm>



Photo Pam Brookman



Photo Kirsty Dudley

A guide to riding the Kidman Trail with backup support

by Pam Brookman

Riding all or parts of the Kidman Trail is a fantastic experience, as you get to ride along quiet back roads, across private property and on forest tracks with spectacular views that normally you wouldn't see. As with most things though, it is essential to do some planning so the trip runs smoothly. The first step is to buy two sets of the Kidman Trail maps from Horse SA (one for you and one for your back-up crew) and also check out the Kidman Trail website for any updates. Maps can be bought online and all the information about the Kidman Trail is on www.kidmantrail.org.au Do not just rely on the markers along the trail as on occasions they have been removed by persons unknown!

Next study the maps carefully; noting distances between trailheads and also which map the trail head is on. For example the Nairne trailhead is on the Echunga/Nairne map and not on the Nairne/Mt Crawford map. Distance from Ram's Head to Mt Crawford trailhead is about 40km, where as Echunga to Macclesfield trail head distance is about 19km.

If you haven't done any full day rides before, gather together the others riding with you, work out a 25 km or more loop somewhere with some hills, a water crossing and where you are likely to come in contact with some traffic, take a packed lunch and ride it, noting the time it takes at the pace the group wants to travel, the time it takes for everyone to saddle and unsaddle, plus the time you take for a comfortable lunchbreak. 25kms will give you a good idea if your gear makes your horse sore, if you can cope with the number of hours in the saddle, if the horses you are all planning to take get on OK and if the group dynamics will make for a happy group of riders on a longer trip. This pre-ride should give you a good basis to access the ability of your group to undertake a longer ride and you can plan according to the group's ability.

If you haven't camped overnight with your horse before, having a trial run will be invaluable, so book one of the trail heads and see how you and your horse cope. At all trailheads there are at least 4 yards that are approximately 4m x 4m. However there is not a campsite established at Stockwell yet, so most people contact the pub and get permission to camp in their back yard. If you do this, you will have to provide your own yards, either portable or electric, so make sure your horse is OK with this type of confinement before setting out from home. Some trail heads need to be booked and others you need a permit from council, so organise this well in advance. Check the Kidman Trail website for those details. There are a group of landholders who are happy to have small groups or Kidman Trail horse trekkers stay at their place for a night or two. Contact Horse SA for details if you wish to make use of some of these places. Generally you will have to provide your own yards and also a porta-potti, but a secure paddock to put your horse yards up in and horse water is provided.

As there are generally only 4 yards at each trail head, limiting the size of the group to four horses is a good idea. Most trailheads have room to erect two more horse yards so a group of six is OK, but I would not advise a bigger group. Always check when booking trail heads if it is possible to erect two extra yards as different conditions apply for each facility

All yards must be left clean of manure and excess feed so make sure you take a quite a few bags to put the manure in to remove it from the site to where you can dispose of it an environmentally sound manner.

Your backup crew is a very important part of your trip. A good backup crew is worth their weight in gold if you have been caught out in a severe rainstorm. To arrive at camp and find your yards ready to just put the horse in and a hot Irish coffee waiting for you on the mud guard of the float totally changes your experience of the day. It is obvious then, that your backup crew must have a copy of



[Kidman Trail on Google](#)
[Kidman Trail on Planning SA site](#) GIS data under ORS Trails



Photos: Michael Mullen

the maps so they can find you and have an estimated time of your arrival so they can get there well before you do. You will also have to work out with them at the start of each day's ride, what happens if either of you have a problem meeting those arrangements. Remember, there are quite a few dead spots along the trail for mobile phone coverage.

You will need to provide all your own horse feed. For a horse, walking and a little trotting 20 -40 kms a day does not use much more energy than just if it is in the paddock at home, so do not feed them up with high energy feed. Generally just feed what you do at home and maybe add a kg or two of concentrated feed a few days into the trip. I work on 1/3 - 1/2 bale of good quality meadow hay a day (depends on the horse size) and 1-2 kg of concentrate feed introduced slowly from day 3 onwards. Don't fall into the trap of thinking your horse is going to do a lot of exercise, therefore feed him up before you go. If you do, he/she will do a lot of exercise on day 1 and 2, mostly up and down on the spot or sideways, or backwards or forwards when you don't want him/her to!

When long distance trail riding, it is much better to get away as early as you can in the morning and get to camp early, than the other way around. This gives both you and the your horse time to relax, eat and sleep ready for the next day, plus if you do run into a problem you have more daylight to deal with it and get to camp than if you left late. As a general rule I try to get up when the magpies start signing and hope to leave by 9.00am,

Try to take as little gear as possible, but there are some essentials when riding and when in camp. When riding, pommel saddle bags with your lunch and snacks, ½-1L of water, sunscreen, emergency first aid kit, mobile phone with back up crew's numbers and vet's numbers, camera and most importantly your maps in them, plus your wet weather gear and an easy boot tied on the back. It is a good idea to have at least one canvas bucket with you in the group to get water from places you may not be able to get your horse down to. I do not recommend carrying your lunch on your back as it can become quite tiring on your shoulders and if you do fall off, any hard items in your back pack could be a hazard.

Essential items for your horse in camp is, a big bucket for water, a small bucket to fill the big bucket and another big bucket to put the feed in, the feed, a rug, a pooper scooper to collect the manure and a bag to put it in. I do not rug my horses at home, but unless it is quite warm I will rug my horse in the yard as it is harder for them to keep warm in a confined area. I do not wash my horses down when they get to camp, although I may sponge a bit of sweat off, but I do give them a thorough brush down which is good for them and allows me to check for any sore spots or rubs.

Essential items for yourself are a great back up crew, a chair, a comfortable warm swag, your favourite beverage, plus a change of clothes and some money to go to the local pub for dinner.

Each of the trail heads can accommodate four cars and floats easily and six with careful parking. Some can accommodate a lot more. Most riders and crew camp in their floats, or just put up a small tent to sleep in but use their floats for storage, cooking and sheltering out of any bad weather.

Although the Kidman Trail is available all year, the forest sections are closed on fire ban days. The best time to ride the trail is autumn or spring. You will probably get calmer weather in autumn, but there is very little feed or water available along the trail itself. Spring has more grass and water along the trail, but it is likely the weather will change a lot quicker and you have a much greater chance of getting soaking wet which is not much fun. I would not plan to do the whole trail in one hit after early November to before mid March, or in the months of June, July and August, but you can choose sections of the trail during these times, match them to the weather at the time, and then experience some great riding on the Kidman Trail during those months.



*Photos:
Michael
Mullen*

Long Distance Riding with Horses

Many horse riders enjoy exploring local and regional areas on both day and overnight rides. Traditionally routes taken by a stock rider, or for transport or trade, recreational riders now undertake many of these same journeys.

At first glance perhaps there are not many differences - riders on a horse travelling along a roadway or stock route. While tradition and the links to our cultural heritage are strong, like most recreational activities, it is dynamic and ever changing. New materials and fabrics, evolving equipment designs, social opportunity and a greater appreciation of our natural flora and fauna now enlighten our trail experiences.

Riders and Ride Organisers are encouraged to build in “Minimum Impact” principles throughout preparing and conducting the trail activity. This not only enhances the experience for riders but ensures that other trail users also enjoy themselves.

- Plan and prepare
- Travel and camp on durable surfaces
- Dispose of waste properly
- Leave what you find
- Minimize campfire impacts
- Respect our native wildlife
- Be considerate of others
- Consider ethics

1. Plan and Prepare

By planning your ride, regardless of if you intend to ride with a friend or as part of a larger group, you will lay the foundation for a successful and enjoyable experience.

Horses: Training and fitness conditioning for trail riding is important. A horse that is well educated in an

arena will still need to be able to cope with traffic, creek crossings, horse step-overs and other unexpected experiences with minimum of fuss. The rider and horse needs to be matched in ability and temperament. Plan to have any shoeing, teeth checks, veterinary treatment, equipment fitting or practice packsaddle techniques & training well before the ride. Practice training techniques which you may use on the trail eg high -lines, self-erected yarding or hobbles.

Riders: Find out all you can about the Kidman Trail. Not all sections may suit all types of riders, horses or large groups. Plan shorter rides and single night camps to allow skills in both trail riding and minimum impact camping to be developed before attempting the whole ride – which may take a week. First aid knowledge for horse and human, basic cooking and map reading skills are a must. Trail markers can be missed, lost or removed by vandals and always act as a guide only.

The Ride

Permits: Sections of the Kidman Trail located within ForestrySA land require both a horse riding permit. Campsites also need to be booked separately and well in advance.

Campsites: Each Trailhead may need booking or alternative locations for overnight accommodation to suit horses found if camping is not permitted.

Fire bans: Information relating to Fire ban days (when ForestrySA may select to close access to their land) needs to be readily accessed. A small radio is one way of achieving this.

Flood Warnings: These will affect the ford crossings along the route. Heavy rain over a period of days will also see levels rise for a day or two.

Australian Road Rules: under Australian Road Rules horses are a vehicle and the same road rules apply. Additional rules relating to the riding of horses on footpaths (or roadside trails)

Feed & Water: On completion of the trail heads (late 2008), horse water will found at each Kidman Trailhead. Feed will need to be brought in by a backup vehicle or carried on a packhorse. No grazing is available at any campsite.

Scheduling: Avoid times of high use or busy times on the road. Roads are generally busy as people travel to and from work and school. Mc Laren Vale districts will also have additional grape harvest vehicles on the road during February & March. Trail use by all groups is generally higher on weekends and holidays. Provide a friend with your schedule before you leave.

Campfires: Fire-ban periods change from year to year, but generally include November to May. No firewood is kept at campsites and visitors are best to plan for this. Gas stoves are a good alternative.

Pets: It is advised not to bring pets. Please check ForestrySA and Local Council By-laws regarding pets. Dogs of any kind will not be welcome in many rural areas should they chase sheep.

2. Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces

Making a habit of using durable surfaces, resistant to the impact of a hoof, is good minimum impact practice. Formed roadways, sand, gravel, dry grass and designated trails meet these requirements. The Kidman Trail is a route agreed by land managers as being able to withstand horse impact while providing a visually attractive travelling route.

Stay on designated trails - horse riders can enjoy the environment they are riding through with minimum impact on the plants, wildlife, soil and water by staying on the designated trail. Riding in pairs on wide tracks

or roadways is fine. Single tracks (or narrow bridleways) should be ridden in single file. Try to ride in the centre of a narrow trail. Often volunteers, who have built the trails for you, have cleared a “trail corridor” which includes a “berm” (or trail edge to manager water flow) which is easily damaged by horses travelling on the edge of a trail, leading to water erosion and deep gullies forming.

Stay on the trail, even through deeper mud, unless there is a significant safety hazard, to avoid making detour trails (called “plaiting”) Dismount to move fallen branches aside, ride over them, or if large or heavy, report to the land manager for removal.

When taking rest breaks, move off the trail onto a durable surface. This allows other trail users to pass safely. Hand hold, ground tie or use a strong post to tie up horses. Avoid tying up to trees.

Camping with horses – A number of yards are provided along the Kidman Trail for your convenience at an approximate spread of one days ride. Other suitable public or private camping areas may be available along the route. The Kidman Trail campsites have been selected as permission for horses has already been gained, water, shelter, toilets and horse yards are available. If planning to camp elsewhere, you will need to check that the minimum requirements you need are available. All riders should do a hazard check of the site before setting up camp as part of normal practice.

Feed is not provided and loose grazing is not recommended. Staying within the confine of the Kidman Trail campsite area is required, as private land, grey-water dams and other additional hazards may exist outside of the immediate area.

Yards are provided or most campsites have additional space for erection of electric horse yards. Avoid tying up horses to any native trees unless there is no alternative, whereby “high-lining” is the preferred method. Hoof impact around the base of a tree or bark chewing will harm or kill a tree.

Tents should be erected on existing bare areas or swags can be laid out in the shelters where provided. Concentrate your campsite to avoid enlargement of areas already impacted; this prevents the development of “satellite” bare areas. Keep the campsite tidy and consider other trail users. Leave it natural looking when you are finished.

Quite a few skills are required of a camper to practice minimum impact principles. This includes anchoring tents to branches which will not snap off, management of waste, fire etiquette and hoof impact. Novice riders or those new to camping with horses should not hesitate to seek advice.

Tips for Camping with horses

- Keep horses out of the main human camp area for safety and hygiene
- Someone needs to be designated to regularly check on the horses during the night
- Insects bothering horses cause extra stamping and damage. Pack repellent to assist in managing this.
- Observe horse behaviour. If horses dig up or disturb the soil, level it out again. If outside of the dolomite yards, protect the soil with a covering of leaf litter. Well-fed contented horses do little damage. Nervous or bored horses with excessive pawing may require hobbles. Watch herd dynamics, to better match timid or aggressive horses when yarding or tying up will minimize disturbance
- Use taps or water sources provided. Carry a collapsible bucket of water so you can carry water to the horse. Avoid damaging creek banks, dam walls or other natural water supplies that may occur if you take a horse to water.
- Carry or use processed horse feed eg extruded or heat treated pelleted feed (not the “sweet feed/molasses mixes”) Good selection of feeds will not allow weeds to germinate from any spilled or uneaten meals.

Breaking Camp

- Replace rocks and other items you may have shifted for your use.
- Re-cover loose dirt and paw holes, this prevents filling with water or wind damage, which will then commence the erosion process.
- Remove all spilled waste, litter or leftover food including eggshells and cigarette butts.
- Manure needs to be removed into sacks and taken away by the back up vehicle, placed in containers provided or scattered discreetly (not around native trees, which suffer from nutrient overload easily) well away from watercourses and camping areas.
- Any uneaten feed, including weed-free hays, should be collected up and disposed of thoughtfully. Kangaroos and other native animals do not eat old hay and even though you may not think so – it is litter to others trail users!

3. Dispose of Waste Properly

Pack it in – Pack it out. This is probably the single most important message for trail riders.

- Plan meals to have little or no left overs
- Remove excess packaging from food and other items before packing for the ride.
- Garbage needs to be disposed of in provided bins or taken out of the campsite with you. (do not expect a bin at each campsite nor for a fire to “burn up” all kinds of rubbish)
- Practice dishwashing techniques which involves little or no soap (even biodegradable)
- Practice washing yourself using minimal water and biodegradable soap.

4. Leave what you Find

People ride to enjoy the environment and their horses. Other trail users may cycle or walk, but also want to get outdoors and enjoy the natural landscape. Leaving what you find, how you found it applies to

Cultural heritage – both Indigenous and European should be observed and preserved.

Natural heritage – avoid collecting bird eggs, plants or other specimens.

It is important not to be adding weeds or non-native plants and animals. This often happens accidentally. Plant diseases, such as Phytophthora (PC) is found in regions where the Kidman Trail passes through. PC is a soil-born fungus which can cause “die-back” of both native and introduced plants. Good practice when leaving home (if you have PC near your normal riding areas at home) or before returning to home (as you do not want to take PC back to your property!) is important. Follow these simple steps:

- Clean out hooves and mud off of boots and car wheels and spray with disinfectant
- Brush off horse boots, bandages or long fetlock feathers which may contain foreign seeds
- Clean tack and camping equipment after each trip, especially brushing off mud and seeds

A fact sheet about PC and horse riding can be downloaded from www.horsesa.asn.au

5. Minimize Campfire Impacts

Nothing is better than sitting around a campfire after a days ride to share a meal and stories. However, care has to be taken.

- Observe fire ban periods
- Observe any particular Local Council or ForestrySA by-laws relating to sites or seasons for campfires
- Check if campfires are permitted at the campsite you intend to use

- Use a gas stove, even for cooking, to minimize the wood needed on a campfire – or go without the fire
- Bring your own wood for the Kidman Trail campsites which permit fires
- Use an established fire-ring
- Avoid burning foil, leftover food or other garbage that will not be totally destroyed
- Burn any wood completely to ash. This avoids an unsightly half-burnt log for the next campsite user. Saturate the ash with water. Make sure it is cool to touch before leaving unattended
- Restore the appearance of the campsite.

6. Respect Native Wildlife

Encounters and observations of native wildlife greatly enhance the trail users experience. Our forests and protected bush provide some important habitat. Observe from a distance, take only photographs and travel quietly are three ways recreational horse riders can assist wildlife. Do not feed animals or birds. Pack away all food securely at night as raiding possums or other animals may enjoy breaking in to your food but suffer or die from eating it.

7. Be Considerate of Other Trail Users

Trail use is increasing in popularity, especially in the peri-urban areas to Adelaide through which the Kidman Trail is marked. People use trails for different reasons – some for the social experience, others for the solitude. A trail user should consider themselves a “caretaker” of the land through which they ride. Keep an eye out for problems and report these to the land manager if serious enough, or perhaps pass a word on about a hazard to other trail users.

Simple aspects to observe on a trail, including assisting other trail users to pass you (many walkers and cyclists are afraid of horses) waiting patiently for a turn on a narrow section of trail or preserving the quiet at a campsite make all the difference. Encourage backpackers to step to the lower side of the trail when passing to avoid frightening the horse by appearing to dominate over his head. (by nature horses are prey animals and humans are predators) Talk to other trail users and practice good manners. Motorized transport, sled dogs, led pack-alpacas and mountain bikes are all legitimate trail users like you, the rider, and therefore our respect. All efforts to create a better understanding and appreciation of different user groups will benefit us all.

Leave gates open or shut as you find them. Ride quietly pass any stock as they are the income source for a farmer and must be respected.

Please note that this text is a GUIDE ONLY and every trail user will need to adapt to their own needs, weather, trail conditions and other varying factors.

The **Cowell Road Trail Head** was made possible by support from
Pam Brookman, the Office for Recreation & Sport, Barossa Council,
Mt Crawford Dressage Club and the Murray Dawson Memorial Polo Grounds.
Opened in 2013.



Cowell Road Trail Head

Usage Agreement

The Cowell Road Trail Head is available for use by horse riders, walkers and cyclists who are travelling the Kidman Trail.

Conditions of use:

1. The user(s) enter the designated area entirely at their own risk and Horse SA or the Mt Crawford Dressage Club Inc. or the Murray Dawson Memorial Trust accepts no liability for any loss, damage or injury of any nature to any registered user.
2. The user (s) will indemnify Horse SA, the Mt Crawford Dressage Club or the Murray Dawson Memorial Trust against all claims, demands, loss or damage to any person, animal or property arising out of using the Cowell Road Trail Head.
3. Users agree to keep to the designated area which includes the gravel pad, shelter shed, toilet and the first four horse yards only. Any additional use required for parking, riding, yarding or any other use, must be directed to Mt Crawford Dressage Club.
4. The site is outdoors and for camping, it is basic and subject to natural forces
5. Clubs will need to provide a certificate of currency prior to use of the facilities
6. Individual users are recommended to obtain their own insurance
7. This user agreement does not provide for exclusive rights
8. Users should inspect the site prior to use
9. Users to provide their own first aid kit, food and water and any other requirement for your personal safety.
10. Maximum of two nights stay
11. Use gates only associated with the Trail head.
12. Comply with signage requests, including requirement to adhere to fire ban warnings
13. Agree not to leave anything on site that constitutes a hazard, including fire hazard, health hazard or other hazard that would be considered a danger to persons, animals or plants.
14. Obey all reasonable directions by a representative of Horse SA
15. Follow instructions displayed in the toilet shed in relation to use of the toilet and power
16. Supply own firewood
17. Dispose of all rubbish by taking it off site including baling twine
18. Manure & uneaten feed to be removed from the site or if no other option is available, discreetly spread out on grassed areas
19. Any holes dug by horses or other disturbance to the soil or gravel pad to be filled in prior to departure
20. Report any repairs, hazards, accidents or other matters that may require attention
21. If the site is left untidy or rubbish left behind a \$50 cleaning fee will be charged
22. Any damage to the site will be charged out for repairs or replacement at the hirer's discretion
23. Mt Crawford Dressage Club participants have priority use of yards. Check club program by contacting club secretary www.mtcrawforddressage.com

Contact details for the primary contact for persons using the site:

Name Email

Address Mobile

Date(s) of use:

Yes/No I agree to the terms and conditions above

Signed: Date: / /

Return to Horse SA E: horsesa@horsesa.asn.au