

# HORSE RIDING CAMP PROGRAM 2025 - 2026



Victorian High Country - Mansfield

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



# GROUP HORSE RIDING CAMPS

FOR SCHOOL AGED CHILDREN

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

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### **WATSONS MOUNTAIN COUNTRY TRAIL RIDES**

*Watson's Mountain Country Trail Rides was established in 1982 by Ian and Jill Watson. In 2000 it was handed down to the next generation Michael and Sally Watson.*

*Rides operate from 2 locations – Mansfield and Camp Howqua.*

*Watson's Mountain Country Trail Rides operate 7 days a week from the Mansfield site and are conducted from their property. Camp Howqua operates Sunday to Friday.*

*We employ approximately 10 staff and all rides are lead by a qualified trail ride leader.*

*We have a comprehensive Risk Assessment Management Plan that is available upon request.*

*More info can be found at [www.watsonstrailrides.com.au](http://www.watsonstrailrides.com.au)*

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## 2. PRICING

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2 Hour Ride	\$70.00 per student
Half Day Ride	\$100.00 per student
Full Day Ride (incl lunch)	\$170.00 per student
Multi Day Rides (3 – 5 days)	\$180.00 per day
	\$200.00 per day fully catered

Customised tours can be discussed and quoted.

These rides are tailored to suit the needs of your group and itineraries are developed accordingly.

**All prices include GST**



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### 3. SAMPLE ITINERARIES

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#### **2 HOUR RIDE**

We ride up to spectacular 360 degree views and along the way, watch out for the wildlife that often takes a look at us, including kangaroos, wallabies and Australia's largest bird of flight, the wedge tail eagle.

We point out where the famous downhill scene from the "Man from Snowy River" movie was filmed and stop for photo opportunities at the highest peak.

After the ride you are invited into our farmhouse for a cool or warm drink to complete your experience.



#### **HALF DAY RIDE**

We ride up to spectacular 360 degree views and along the way, watch out for the wildlife that often takes a look at us, including kangaroos, wallabies and Australia's largest bird of flight, the wedge tail eagle.

We ride to where the famous downhill scene from the "Man from Snowy River" movie was filmed and stop for photo opportunities at the highest peak.

After the ride you are invited into our farmhouse for a cool or warm drink to complete your experience.



#### **FULL DAY RIDE**

We ride from our stables up to spectacular 360 degree views and see where the famous downhill scene from the 'Man from Snowy River' movies was filmed. Along the way, watch out for the wildlife that often takes a look at us, including kangaroos, wallabies and Australia's largest bird of flight, the wedge tail eagle. We then descend to our bush hut for a picnic lunch.

After lunch we climb back up to the 'millionaires view' enjoying more spectacular scenery before riding back down to the farmhouse. Along the way there is plenty of opportunities for trotting and cantering.



## ***HOWQUA 2 DAY BUNKHOUSE RIDE***

**Day 1:** Arrive at our high country farming property that's been in the Watson family for many generations.

We then set off on our 'Man from Snowy River' experience on horseback. We ride up to spectacular 360 degree views and along the way, watch out for the wildlife that often takes a look at us, including kangaroos, wallabies and the amazing birdlife. We ride to our Bush Hut for a picnic lunch.

After lunch we ride through creek beds and bridle tracks to our bunk house accommodation in the Howqua Valley.

Enjoy a relaxing hot shower before a hearty dinner in one of Victoria's prettiest valleys.

**Day 2:** We enjoy a hearty country breakfast that gives you a big energy boost before we set off for "Kate Camerons Peak" where we see the perilously steep hill where the famous jump scene from the movie was filmed. We ride down back to our farm for lunch to complete our ride.



## **HOWQUA 3 DAY CAMPING RIDE**

**Day 1:** Arrive at lunchtime at our high country farming property that's been in the Watson family for many generations.

We ride from our farm up to spectacular 360 degree views and along the way, watch out for the wildlife that often takes a look at us, including kangaroos, wallabies and Australia's largest bird of flight, the wedge tail eagle.

We traverse the bridle tracks through the State Forest through to the Howqua Valley.

We arrive at Camp Howqua and enjoy a night under the stars in canvas tents and swags or have the option of bunk house accommodation.

### **Day 2:**

We follow the bridle tracks and forest trails through Running Creek Reserve for lunch. We loop along the Howqua Feeder Track and Howqua River Trail with it's many river crossings and challenging sections of riding. We then return to Camp Howqua.

**Day 3:** We set off for "Kate Camerons Peak" where we see the perilously steep hill from the famous jump scene from the "Man from Snowy River" movie. We ride down back to our farm for lunch to complete our ride.





## **HOWQUA FOUR DAY CAMPING RIDE**

**Day 1:** Arriving mid-morning we set off on our 'Man from Snowy River' experience on horseback. We climb up to 360 degree views overlooking the High Country on one side and the Delatite Valley on the other that stretches 20km to Mansfield. We ride to our Bush Hut for the night, here we camp in swags and tents (if required) and we have access to a long drop toilet and bush shower.

**Day 2:** We set off for Running Creek through the bush and along remote tracks with beautiful mountain scenery. There are many river crossings and river flats that give opportunities for trotting and cantering. We stop off at Running Creek Reserve for lunch and then journey via the high track that is more challenging looking down over the river. We arrive back at Camp Howqua for the night

**Day 3:** Next morning we fine tune our riding skills with some games on horseback and after lunch we head for Kate Cameron's peak to where famous downhill scene from the "Man from Snowy River" movie was filmed. We then ride down to the Bush Hut for the night.

**Day 4:** We enjoy a short ride before a post lunch departure.



## **HOWQUA FIVE DAY ADVENTURE RIDE**

**Day 1:** Arrive at lunchtime at our high country farming property that's been in the Watson family for many generations.

We ride from our farm up to spectacular 360 degree views and along the way, watch out for the wildlife that often takes a look at us, including kangaroos, wallabies and Australia's largest bird of flight, the wedge tail eagle.

We traverse the bridle tracks through the State Forest through to the Howqua Valley.

We arrive at Camp Howqua and enjoy a night under the stars in canvas tents and swags or have the option of bunk house accommodation.

**Day 2:** Today we journey up Howqua River along the river trail with over 50 river crossings towards the historic Howqua Hills National Park. It is a challenging days riding with cantering sections. We stop for a pack lunch on the river bank surrounded by just mountains.

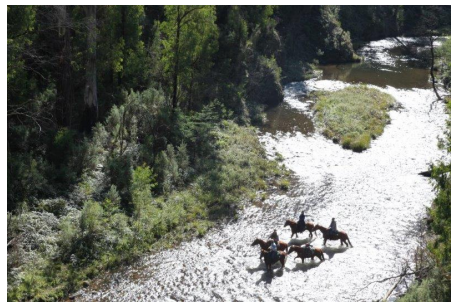
After lunch we ride through Wares Flat, Whisky Flat and Tobacco Flat and into our privately owned bunk house accommodation in the Howqua Valley.

**Day 3:** A quieter day in the saddle where we explore the historic Howqua Hills area including 'Professors Hut' and 'Fred Frys Hut'. We also take the opportunity to fine tune the students riding skills.

**Day 4:** An early rise and then we ride along the Howqua Feeder track with its stunning views over the Howqua River and stop at Running Creek Reserve for lunch.

We then ride onto Camp Howqua for our night's camp

**Day 5:** We set off for "Kate Camerons Peak" to see the perilously steep hill where the famous jump scene from the "Man from Snowy River" movie was filmed before riding down to the farm at lunch time.



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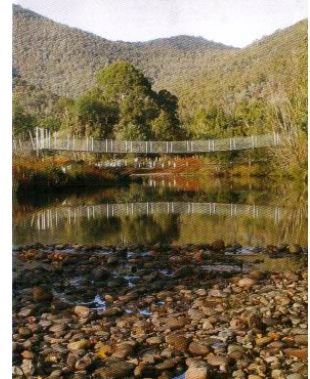
#### 4. ACCOMMODATION

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##### ***"CAMP HOWQUA" – Howqua River Road, Howqua***

Camp Howqua is situated on the Howqua river and offers a camp site with a shower and toilet block. It is a beautiful setting and a real highlight in hot weather to swim in the river.

If the weather turns inclement we have access to bunkhouse accommodation as a back up.



##### ***"HOWQUA VALLEY VIEWS" – Ashwins Road, Howqua***

Howqua Valley Views is situated above Camp Howqua and offers bunkhouse accommodation in a converted stable with lots of character made with timber bush poles and corrugated iron walls. It accommodates up to 24 guests in 4 bunkrooms. It has 2 modern bathrooms and a central living area with open fire and wood heater. Each bunkroom has a column heater so it is an excellent option in cooler weather.



##### ***"STOCKYARD CREEK' – Spring Street, Howqua Hills***

Stockyard Creek is on private land in Howqua Hills next to Sheeppyard Flat. Property is on 400 acres ensuring absolute privacy. Part of the building was relocated from Wares Flat in the 1950's by horse and dray and it is in pristine condition. The hut has power generated from Stockyard Creek and is set up as a fully self sustainable accommodation.



##### ***"HOME STATION LODGE' – Three Chain Road, Booroolite***

Home Station Lodge is on private land and is located 3 kms from our farm. It has horse facilities to overnight a smaller team of horses. The lodge contains 5 bunkrooms and a mezzanine level to cater for groups of approximately 30 students. It has 2 bathroom facilities and operates on generator power. There is plenty of undercover room and a great campfire area. We often use this property as an alternative to Dungeon Hut camping.





### ***"THE HIDEOUT" – Howqua River Road, Howqua***

The Hideout is a basic bunk house accommodation on the banks of the Howqua River. The setting rolls down to the river side and there is a large undercover deck with outdoor kitchen. There are basic bathroom facilities and 5 rooms with bed configuration from 2 to 8 guests. It is also enjoyed by swagging under the stars by the river.



### ***"SEEFORTH STATION" – Spring Street, Howqua Hills***

Seeforth Station is a 100 acre property surrounded by mountains and has been in the same family for the last 7 generations. It has basic bunkhouse facilities and is an excellent base to explore the historic Howqua Hills region.



### ***"WATSONS HUT" – Three Chain Road, Boorolite***

Based on our farm this hut provides shelter from the elements and is located close to our farm departure point. It has a portable toilet and shower available.



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## 5. SAMPLE MENU

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### BREAKFASTS

Cereals  
Toast & Spreads  
Bacon & Eggs  
Pancakes  
Juices  
Tea & Coffee

### LUNCHES

Fresh Wraps  
Ham/Chicken/Roast Beef/Salami  
Lettuce/Tomato/Corn/Beetroot/Cheese/Carrot/Cucumber  
Mayonaise

BBQ Lunch  
Hamburgers  
Sausages  
Coleslaw  
Bread  
Tomato Sauce

Fruit / Water / Cordial

### DINNERS

#### Pre-dinner nibbles

Chips  
Dry Biscuits with cheese, kabana and dips  
Party Pies / Sausage Rolls/ Spinach & Fetta Rolls

#### Mains

Spaghetti & Homemade Bolognaise Sauce  
Beef and Chicken Steaks & Salad  
Roast Beef (and gravy) cooked on our rotisserie and Vegetables  
Chicken Slow Cooker  
BBQ Chicken and Coleslaw

#### Sweets

Ice cream and Michaels secret chocolate sauce recipe  
Honeycomb ice cream biscuit slice  
Trifle  
Fruit Salad  
Apple or Apricot Crumble

We also cater for all dietary requirements ie Vegetarian, Vegan,Celiac and Allergies



## **WATSONS MOUNTAIN COUNTRY TRAIL RIDES**

P.O. Box 207, Mansfield Vic 3724. Phone 03 5777 3552 Fax 03 5777 3068

Email: [info@watsonstrailrides.com.au](mailto:info@watsonstrailrides.com.au)

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

### **ENQUIRY FORM**

I am interested in the following:

**Short Ride**                      **2 hour @ \$70.00pp**                      ☐  
   **½ day @ \$100.00 pp**                      ☐  
   **Full day @ \$170.00pp**                      ☐

**Or**

**Packaged**                      **2 - 5 Day Ride – self catered @ \$180.00pp per day**                      ☐  
   **2 - 5 Day Ride – fully catered @ \$200.00pp per day**                      ☐  
   **Customised tour quoted on request**                      ☐

Group Name .....

Date/s (and time if appl) .....

Number of:      Students:.....      Staff (1 FOC for every 10):.....

Address:.....

Person to: Contact .....

Business phone .....

Mobile ..... Email: .....

If catering, does your group have any special diet requests? .....

#### **Booking Conditions:**

We request a 10% deposit upon booking and the balance of payment 60 days prior to the ride.

On receipt of your booking form, we will send you a confirmation invoice and waiver form. Please bring the completed waiver forms with you.

We will supply a tax invoice separating food supplies from the total cost for GST purposes (if required).

Thank you for your booking.