

This Risk Assessment covers the following activities:

<u>Horse Skills:</u>	Participants learn and practise horsemanship including grooming and tacking horses. Participants also learn the safety and skills to mount, lead, and ride horses in our arena.
Ratio:	1 Qualified HSA (Horse Safety Australia) Instructor and 1 other Instructor per 12 Participants on horseback. 1 Instructor per 10 Participants on ground. 1 Attending Group Staff per 18 Participants.
Age suitability:	Year 4+
Location:	Horse arena
Benefit of activity:	Independence, trust, companionship, skills development
<u>Trail Rides:</u>	Participants learn the safety and skills to mount, lead, and ride horses in our arena, and surrounding forest trails of Ewen Maddock Dam.
Ratio:	1 Qualified HSA (Horse Safety Australia) Instructor and 1 other Instructor per 12 Participants on horseback. 1 Attending Group Staff per 12 Participants.
Age suitability:	Year 6+
Location:	Horse arena and Ewen Maddock Dam trails
Benefit of activity:	Independence, trust, companionship, skills development

Risk Assessment- Programming Overview								
Hazard	Hazard Description	Likelihood	Consequence	Risk Rating	Action and Control Measures	New Likelihood	New Consequence	New Risk Rating
Equipment Equipment Safety and Use	Injury due to malfunctioning/ inappropriate use of equipment	Possible	Moderate	High	All equipment is cleaned and oiled regularly. Records are kept of maintenance and repairs. Instructors visually check as horses are prepared for each ride and as each rider is mounted.	Rare	Moderate	Low
					Other hazards are covered in the GENERAL Risk Assessment			

Risk Assessment- Programming Overview								
Hazard	Hazard Description	Likelihood	Consequence	Risk Rating	Action and Control Measures	New Likelihood	New Consequence	New Risk Rating
Environment Weather Conditions and Onsite Hazards	Trail Rides: General public (walkers or bike riders) interfering with activity or spooking horses	Possible	Moderate	High	Instructors will be positioned at the front and back of the group to watch for other people using tracks, monitor for hazards, and navigate the track safely. Participants are instructed on trail etiquette and respecting other users on track eg: stopping and moving to the side to allow walkers and bike riders past. When safe to do so, allow members of the public to pass the horses where track is wide enough. If deemed necessary, stop the horse while they pass. If not safe, communicate with the persons and keep moving the horses along until the area is safe for passing. Alternatively, if possible where appropriate, stop the person and move the group past- this is best with bike riders or situations that are more likely to spook horses.	Rare	Moderate	Low
	Trail Rides: Injury to due to motorised vehicles on trails eg: tractors, mowers, buggies, sprayers, motorbikes	Possible	Moderate	High	Before commencing trail ride, Instructors are to listen for any motorised vehicles. If any are heard, plans will be made to avoid area in use. If any motorbikes can be heard, then the ride is not to proceed. Ride will instead take place in the arena. If motorbikes are heard while already on trails, Instructors will direct horses riders to dismount if bikes are within close proximity to horses. Instructors will notify Program Coordinator immediately to report.	Rare	Moderate	Low
					Other hazards are covered in the GENERAL Risk Assessment			
People Pre-Existing Injuries and Significant Medical or Behavioural Problems	Chaffing, scraping, pinching on legs	Almost Certain	Minor	High	Long pants are mandatory throughout the whole activity session.	Rare	Insignificant	Low
	Allergy to horses	Possible	Moderate	High	Participants with manageable allergy levels will be advised to dress appropriately to prevent exposure eg: full length shirt and pants. Participant will have the option not to participate to minimise risk. Attending Group Staff will have appropriate first aid measures ready.	Rare	Minor	Low
	Injury due to horse biting, kicking, or trampling	Possible	Moderate	High	Instructors secure horses appropriately in arena or paddock area when not in use. Participants are briefed clearly on how to safely behave around horses. Instructors assess and arrange horses considering temperaments with other horses. Trail Rides – Rides are taken on confined fire trails which restrict horses ability to move out of line.	Unlikely	Minor	Low
	Injury due to overweight participant struggling to mount/ride/dismount horse	Possible	Moderate	High	Maximum weight for horse riders is 95kgs - subject to available horses. Weight limit is communicated multiple times prior to camp to the Attending Group Coordinator and Attending Group Leaders. Upon arrival at camp, the TRR Group Coordinator will observe size/weight of participants and flag with the Attending Group Coordinator if there looks to be any participants near/over the weight limit. TRR Group Coordinator will communicate any information/decision regarding participation to Horse Instructors. Horse Instructors also complete a final visual observation upon group arrival at activity and make a final call if needed. Appropriate horses are selected for each group based on size/weight of participants.			

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Hazard	Hazard Description	Likelihood	Consequence	Risk Rating	Action and Control Measures	New Likelihood	New Consequence	New Risk Rating
People Pre-Existing Injuries and Significant Medical or Behavioural Problems	Trail Rides: Injury due to inability to control horse	Possible	Moderate	High	Instructors assess each riders ability to independently steer and stop their horse before leaving the arena. If a rider cannot control their horse adequately, they must be accompanied by a handler on the ground. One Instructor will walk ahead of the first horse to direct the group safely. One Instructor will walk behind the group, looking down the line of horses, watching for issues and riders. Any Attending Group Staff or additional helpers that are not horse staff must walk at back or front of group with a staff member, not obstructing horses unless they assist with leading a horse.	Rare	Minor	Low
	Participant becomes fearful or panicked	Possible	Moderate	High	Instructors constantly observe riders prior to and during session. Instructors will appropriately match horses with rider's abilities to start the session. If the fit is not correct, Instructor needs to change this immediately. Reassure any riders who are nervous and have placed on lead rope if necessary. Trail Rides – Instructor can lead horse or rider can dismount and walk back alongside Instructor.	Possible	Insignificant	Low
	Participant falls off horse	Possible	Major	High	Helmets are mandatory throughout whole riding lesson. Safety procedures are explained and demonstrated prior to mounting horses. Toe-stoppers, saddles, bridles, and stirrups are adjusted correctly to each rider. Trail Rides – Participants are instructed how to lean with going up and down hills.	Rare	Major	Low
					Other hazards are covered in the GENERAL Risk Assessment			