

Please remember . . .

BE SAFE

Riders should consider safety matters when riding the bridle trails in the Serpentine-Jarrahdale Shire, and should:

- ◆ Wear an approved safety helmet.
- ◆ Be aware of the terrain and their horse's capabilities.
- ◆ Be aware of the hazards of riding in very hot weather. Make sure water is available for both horse and rider if on a long ride, and ensure there are plenty of shady rest spots to get out of the hot sun.
- ◆ Familiarise themselves with plants in the area so that they can recognise plants which may possibly be poisonous to horses, or which are endangered species. Avoid grazing horses if you are not sure of the plants' identity.
- ◆ Avoid riding in times of high fire danger, both for your own safety if there is a fire and to avoid accidentally starting a fire yourself.

BE COURTEOUS

- ◆ Avoid riding on private land.
- ◆ If it is necessary to go through gates, follow the golden rule of the bush – close any gates that were shut before you used them, and leave open any gates that were already open.
- ◆ Be thoughtful when around other riders – if a rider is in trouble or on a misbehaving horse, avoid rushing past them and further upsetting the horse.
- ◆ When riding on or near the public trotting and racing tracks, give way to the horses already working there. Work on the same rein (in the same direction) as those already using the track.
- ◆ Avoid damage to the environment, particularly around drains and creek beds. Avoid trampling small trees and shrubs. Keep to the tracks.
- ◆ Observe local rules and public notices.

BE INVOLVED

The Shire of Serpentine-Jarrahdale welcomes all comment and feedback on the brochures, and information regarding bridle trails, their condition, possible hazards or tips for riders. Please contact the Shire on (09) 525 5255 if you have information you can share with other riders.

BRIDLE TRAILS

The Darling Downs



No. 1 in a series of brochures on the Bridle Trails in the Serpentine-Jarrahdale Shire

Produced by the
**DARLING DOWNS
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**



in conjunction with the
**SHIRE OF
SERPENTINE-JARRAHDALE**



Bridle Trails in the Serpentine-Jarrahdale Shire & the Peel Region



THE PEEL REGION – from Byford to Waroona, from the sea to the scarp

The Peel Development Commission is actively involved in promoting and upgrading the extensive network of bridle trails throughout the region, in conjunction with local shires and user groups.

Existing trails will be maintained and upgraded with signage, BBQ and picnic facilities and work on trail surfaces and river and drain crossings. It is also planned to create new trails and to link trails, where possible, to provide access to facilities for users.

Bridle trails are not only for horses – many can be used as multi-use trails for bushwalkers and trekkers. Increased use will mean improved facilities, and where suitable, camping and picnicking facilities will be built.

The Peel region of Western Australia is ideally situated for such recreational facilities, both for horse owners and for the general public. It is on Perth's doorstep, and covers a range of terrain from the coastal tracks of Lake Clifton to the beautiful scenery and rugged trails of the Darling Range.

It is planned to produce maps of these trails in the near future, however in the meantime, information on bridle trails may be available from the Peel Development Commission or local government bodies.



THE SHIRE OF SERPENTINE-JARRAHDALE

The Shire of Serpentine-Jarrahdale must be one of the best regions for horse enthusiasts, and has extensive facilities to cater for the equine industry and recreational horse riders. The Shire takes into account the needs of horse owners in its planning for the development of suitable subdivisions, and has available information and advice on landcare issues relevant to horse owners.

Information on other bridle trails and walking tracks is available from the Shire offices in Mundijong. The Shire plans to produce brochures on other equestrian facilities in the near future.

THE DARLING DOWNS AREA

The Darling Downs Bridle Trails are located in the Shire of Serpentine-Jarrahdale, in the locality of Darling Downs. The trails are managed and maintained by the Shire of Serpentine - Jarrahdale.

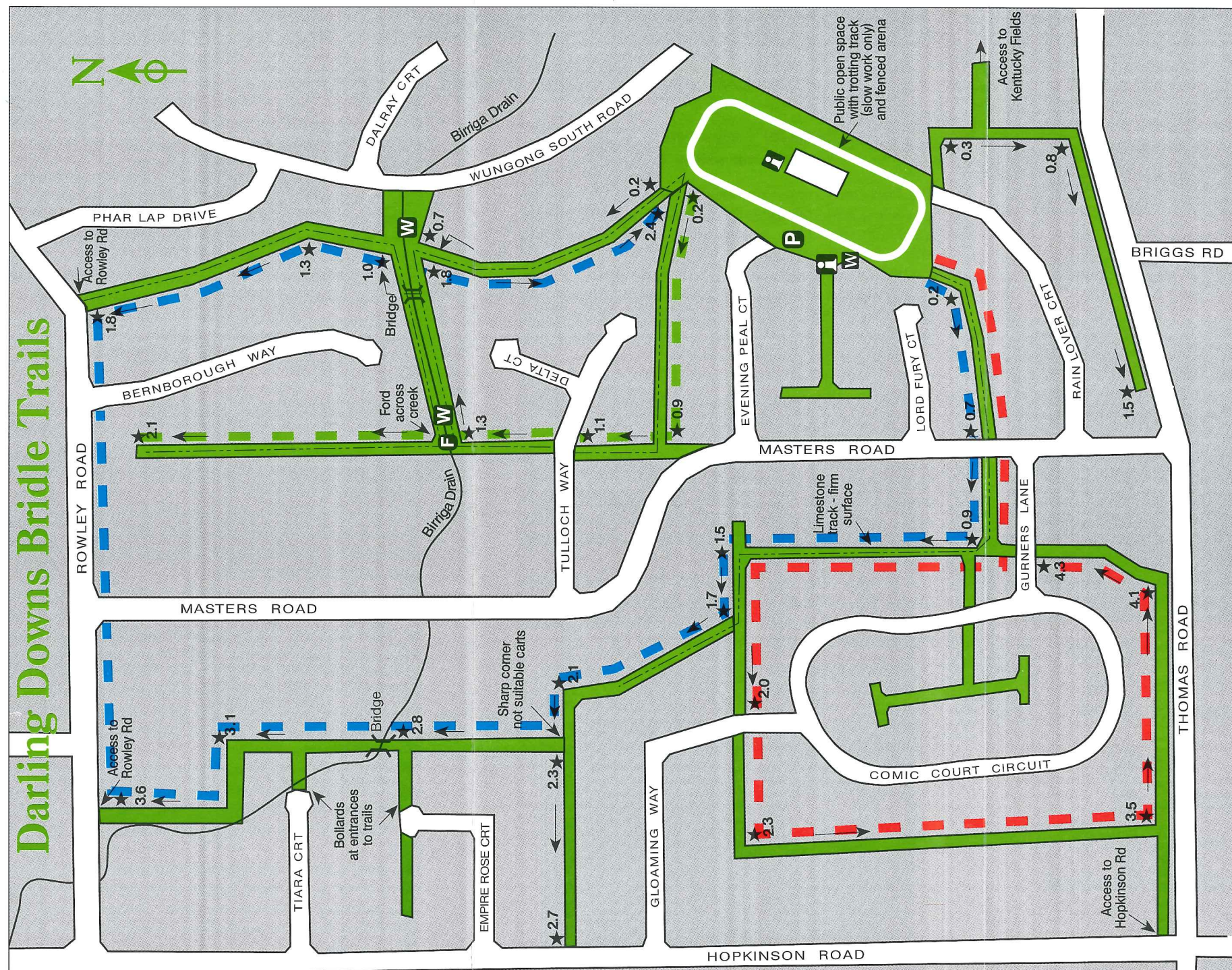
With foresight and planning, and the careful management of the area by residents, the bridle trails present a safe and pleasant environment for riding for locals and visitors alike, away from motor traffic.

The public open space located off Evening Peel Court offers a sand surfaced trotting track, with a circuit distance of 1600 metres, a fenced exercise arena, plus extensive open space for riding in the open or over the small jumps at the southern end of the area. The area is designated as public open space, but please respect the facilities there and exercise consideration for other users. This area is maintained by the Darling Downs Management Committee.

The Birriga Drain runs through the area, and starts as an offshoot of the Wungong Brook just north of the Darling Downs area. It flows through Oakford and Baldivis to join the Serpentine River and eventually empties into the Peel Inlet.

The Darling Downs Management Committee is upgrading the area of public open space. They are planting trees and generally "greening" the area. Please respect the work being done and avoid riding among the young trees being planted.

Darling Downs Bridle Trails



Map Legend

- 1.1
bridle path, with progressive distances
- bridle path suitable for carts/harness
- bridge
- creek and ford crossing
- water (for horses)
- picnic facilities
- parking for floats/cars
- information
- coloured trail markers

Gradient: Generally flat

Trail Surface: All trails have been constructed from trotting fines (metal dust) and can be used all year round.

Type of Area: Special rural sub-division.

Darling Downs Bridle Trails

Progressive distances marked on the map generally show the distance from the starting point at the parking area information bay. Note that vehicles are not permitted beyond the designated parking area.

Suggested rides

- 1. The Comic Court Circuit - approx 5.5 km** ◀
Starting from the car park at the public open space, ride down the trail between Lord Fury and Rain Lower Court, crossing Masters Road after 0.7 km. Once across Masters Road, turn right and follow the track to the end, then turn left and continue across Gloaming Way. The track turns left again and runs alongside a drain, paralleling Hopkinson Road. As the track meets Thomas Road, turn left again. The track is quite wide and separated from Thomas Rd by a drain, so traffic is not too close to horses. Continue around to the left to meet up with the return track back to the car park.
- 2. Birriga Drain Circuit - approx 2.6 km** ◀
A shorter ride leaves the public open space from the northern end, taking the track between Evening Peal Court and Tulloch Way. At the T-junction turn right to cross Tulloch Way and on down to the creek (Birriga Drain). At the creek, you can ride along the good tracks on either side. Either ride across the shallow ford directly ahead of you, then back across the bridge, or simply stay on the one side of the creek.
- 3. To Rowley Road - approx 6.5 km** ◀
For those who can safely ride alongside the road, a ride can be undertaken along the trail leading from the northern end of the public open space, across the Birriga Drain and up to Rowley Road via the trail between Phar Lap Drive and Bernborough Way. Note that there is no marked trail on Rowley Road – it is necessary to cross to the northern side of Rowley Road and ride along the verge until opposite the bridle trail which meets Rowley Road about 500 metres past Masters Road. Follow this bridle trail, which runs parallel to Masters Road, back to the Comic Court trail, then return to the southern end of the public open space by crossing Masters Road.