

Horseriding at McPhersons Plains Alpine Retreat

Welcome to McPhersons Plains Alpine Retreat, we hope you have a wonderful time while staying with us enjoying the beautiful surroundings. Please take note of the following guidelines and assist us in providing a safe place for horses and people as well as protecting our unique environment.

Horse Friendly Areas

We have set aside the area to the left as you enter the retreat outside the perimeter road all the way to the horse yards specifically for horses. For the safety of other guests and your horse please do not ride outside this area through the campgrounds or around buildings.

McPhersons Plains Alpine Retreat is among a small group of private properties located between State Forest and National Park. Many of our neighbours are sympathetic to horseriders who enjoy the area in a responsible manner. However, some of our neighbours do not want horseriders on their property because they have had bad experiences with horseriders in the past. Please take note of the map on the back and respect other people's property. Riding alongside Bradleys Drive and the powerline roads west of Bradleys Drive is permitted as long as gates are left as you found them. Fences and locked gates are there for a reason, trespassers may be prosecuted. Your actions may well determine in what capacity horseriding in the area can continue. If you see people doing the wrong thing politely talk to them and report the incident to our retreat staff.

Tethering Horses

While staying at the retreat horses should either be locked in the permanent yards or contained using a tape fence in the designated horse area. Temporarily tethering horses to trees in this area is allowed but please do not tether them overnight, this causes a great deal of ground damage. Hobbles and ground tethering may be used if other facilities are not available. A lead rope from a headstall to the hobble chain can further reduce straying.

Avoid damage to vegetation when tethering. Do not tie horses to small limbs, saplings and shrubs. They are easily damaged if horses pull back. Strong headstalls and leads should be used; lost horses in parks are often the result of broken reins or weak leads. Leads should be long enough to allow use of larger trees.

Avoid tethering horses that do not stand easy or paw the ground. This results in bare ground around trees in a short time.

Feed

Studies have shown horses can retain weed seeds in their gut for up to 14 days and these can then germinate in manure.

Restrictions on the type of feed help minimise the potential introduction and spread of weeds associated with some types of horses.

Preferable feed includes commercial grain, proprietary and processed feeds, eg pellets. Make sure your horse is used to this diet. You can also minimize damage by feeding your horse using a nose bag and cleaning up any spilt feed.

Horses

A maximum of 20 horses (including pack horses and spare horses) is permitted in any horse riding group in Alpine and Sub-alpine (snow gum) zones which are open to horse riding. These limits apply to both private horse riding groups and commercial horse riding operations. The recommended number of horse riders per group is between four and eight. This is the optimum number to ensure group safety, as well as minimising impacts on the environment.

Horses must be easily handled and under control at all times. Don't take young, inexperienced or recently broken horses unless you are confident you can maintain proper control at all times, particularly when near other people.

Ensure that your horse is accustomed to the approved holding method you intend to use. Don't wait until you are setting up camp to find out that your horse can gallop with hobbles on!

If possible, do not shoe a horse before a trip. New shoes tend to cut up the ground more than worn shoes.

Avoid using mares in season or stallions as brumbies do come close to the retreat.

Avoid yarding horses together which are unfamiliar with each other or run them together prior to a trip. Fighting increases ground damage as well as the risk of injury and lost horses from temporary yards.

Environmental protection

Take special care so that others can enjoy our beautiful surroundings.

Avoid crossing areas easily damaged by horses such as sphagnum moss beds, swamps and steep or boggy creek crossing. Apart from the impact caused, these areas can be dangerous to horse and rider.

Do not blaze or mark tracks or routes in any way.

Spread out in open untracked country rather than ride in single file. This spreads the impact and assists trampled plants to recover.

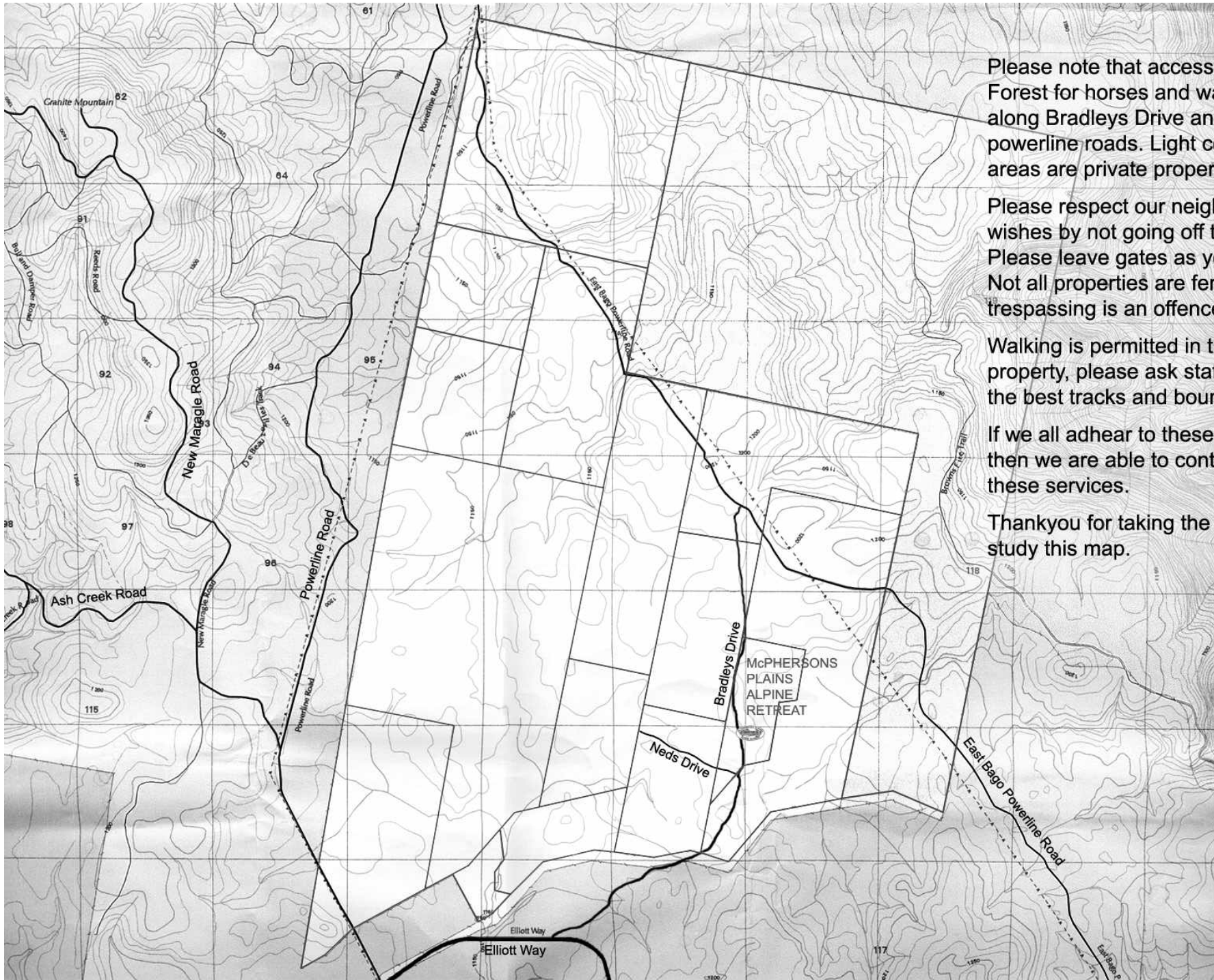
Many brumbies call the surrounding area home, for your safety and theirs please avoid confrontation with stallions and do not chase brumbies.

Courtesy counts

Courtesy and understanding from all people is important to ensure that everyone enjoys their visit. Riders need to be aware that other visitors may be unfamiliar with horses and unsure about appropriate behaviour around horses. Avoid taking horses close to other guests and their camp sites

Ensure that all horses in your party are walking quietly when passing other bushwalkers and thank them for quietly passing nervous or excited horses if the situation arises.

Horse riders may also meet people who are unsympathetic to their means of enjoying the area. Try to avoid conflict in these situations and show them that you are acting responsibly and following this code of conduct.



Please note that access to State Forest for horses and walking is along Bradleys Drive and the powerline roads. Light coloured areas are private property.

Please respect our neighbours wishes by not going off the tracks. Please leave gates as you find them. Not all properties are fenced and trespassing is an offence.

Walking is permitted in the Retreat property, please ask staff where the best tracks and boundaries are.

If we all adhere to these guidelines then we are able to continue these services.

Thankyou for taking the time to study this map.