

TOM ROBERTS HORSE TRAIL

Tom Roberts was born in 1900 in India. He travelled to England as a child, and at the age of 14 joined the British army as a trumpeter. Then, at 16 years of age he became the youngest certified riding instructor ever in the British Army.

In 1919 Tom went to India training polo ponies, hunters, hacks and chargers. It was at this time that Tom's special skill at reforming bad and difficult horses became noticeable.

Tom migrated to South Australia in 1925, and he joined the South Australian Police Force, in 1927. In 1940 he saw service with the AIF in Palestine, Syria, Lebanon and Libya. On return he was

appointed instructor to the South Australian Mounted Police. Until later in his life he hunted and played polo, always on problem horses.

He founded the Adelaide Dresssage Club in 1959 (with Miss Doroiily Mansom), and instructed at the club for many years. Tom inslucted riders in most states, and also judged at many Royal Shows. He will be remembered for laying the foundation for good horsemanship through his instruction, and perhaps even more for the love of horses and riders he carried in his heart. A whole generation of South Australian riders were influenced by his kindly manner, his generosity and his search for a better understanding between horse and rider. In 1982 he was awarded the O.A.M for his services ID equestrian sport. Tom died 1989, and

TOM ROBERTS HORSE TRAIL cont...

the trail which now bears his name is tribute to the respect and affection in which his memory is held.

The Tom Roberts Horse Trail was conceived, and named by the Adelaide Trail Horse Riders Club as a statewide trail, for the recreational enjoyment of all rides. It was to complement the walkers' Heysen Trail, and cyclists' Mawson Trail.

Subsequent voluntarily work has been under taken by the Horse Owners of the Southern Mount Lofty Ranges and Horse SA.

The first section of the Tom Roberts Horse Trail was opened by Tom's widow, Pat Roberts, and the Mayor of Mitcham, Yvonne Caddy, at Blackwood Reserve, in 1993. The Cherry Gardens section

was opened by the Minister of Recreation, John Oswald, a few months later.

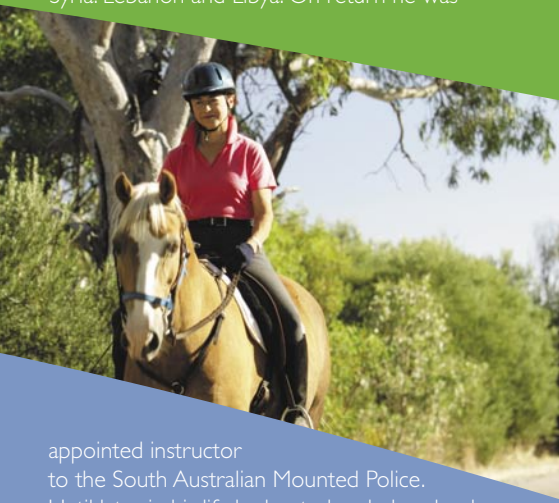
The trail is marked by standard trail markers, and allows riders in this community safer riding opportunities. While part of the trail meander along road verges, and are most suitable for 'traffic proof' horses, other parts are quite unmade road reserves, or low traffic unsealed roads. Most riders living adjacent to the trail are now able to access more, and safer riding opportunities.

The Tom Roberts Horse Trail

and other horse riding opportunities in the City of Onkaparinga, South Australia



City of
Onkaparinga



ACKNOWLEDEMENT

The following organisations have made valuable contributions to the planning, development, support and funding assistance to further the interests of users in the region.

City of Onkaparinga

Horse SA

Office for Recreation & Sport

South Australian Trails

Horse Owners of the
Southern Mount Lofty Ranges



Government of South Australia
Office for Recreation and Sport

TRAIL RIDER CODE OF CONDUCT

Keep trails open by setting a good example of environmentally sound and socially responsible horse riding

- 1 Ride only on designated trails
- 2 It is not environmentally sustainable to take short cuts or form new trails
- 3 When muddy or eroded avoid using trails
- 4 Comply with signage

- 5 Respect the rights of other trail users
- 6 Politely indicate to other trail users how to pass
- 7 Ride appropriately to suit the terrain, visibility and possible interaction with other trail users
- 8 The best way to minimise impact on plants and animals is to stay on the trail
- 9 Remove all rubbish, manure and excess feed from the float parking area
- 10 Let others know of this Code

WHERE TO RIDE in the CITY OF ONKAPARINGA

The City of Onkaparinga has an active horse community. Horses are primarily found in urban clusters, on the peri-urban fringes and in the rural districts. The City of Onkaparinga will continue to work together with Horse SA and engage with other agencies to promote horse activities, trails and horse initiatives within the region.

Map of horse trails in PDF format can be downloaded from the City of Onkaparinga website www.onkaparingacity.com.
Hard copies of maps are available from Horse SA and may be purchased online at a small cost (postage and packaging fee only) or by sending a self-stamped addressed envelope to Horse SA at PO Box 483, Plympton SA 5038.

Tom Roberts Horse Trail
Coast to Vines rail trail (formerly known as the Willunga to Marino Rail Trail)
Kidmant Trail
Menage Horse Arena (Oakridge Road, Aberfoyle Park)

CONTACT DETAILS

For further information regarding horse trails please contact the relevant organisation below.

City of Onkaparinga
Ph (08) 8384 0666
www.onkaparingacity.com

Horse SA
Ph (08) 8294 2460
www.horsesa.asn.au

Office for Recreation & Sport
Ph (08) 8416 6677
www.recsport.sa.gov.au

South Australian Trails
www.southaustraliantrails.com
or email
ors.SouthAustralianTrails@saugov.sa.gov.au

Horse Owners of the
Southern Mount Lofty Ranges
Ph (08) 8270 5935

