

## Ride to Protect Water from CSG

Saturday the 21<sup>st</sup> of September saw the start of an epic journey on horseback from Grafton to the nation's capitol to protest the ongoing attempts by the gas industry to gain a foothold in northern NSW.

The ride is the brainchild of Mick and Donna Franklin, 5<sup>th</sup> generation farmers from Glenugie, near the site of the historic blockade against Metgasco's attempts to undertake gas drilling operations there earlier this year. It was at that blockade that five members of the Franklin Family were arrested when they locked on to their utility vehicle which they had used to block the entrance to the drill site.



Three Generations of the Franklin Family block the entrance to Metgasco's Glenugie drilling site.

The 'Franklin Horses Ride to Canberra Against CSG', also known as 'The Woop, Woop Ride', will follow the Armidale Road to the Tablelands, and then along the National Trail stock routes, and is expected to arrive in Canberra on 28<sup>th</sup> November, after a trip lasting about 70 days.

To quote Mick Franklin: ***"We are taking a message to the politicians in Canberra that water is our most valuable resource."***



Preparing to leave

***“We in Woop Woop are fed-up! If the politicians don't want to hear what Woop Woop's got to say, then we will take Woop Woop to the Big Smoke”.***

The mail bag on the pack horse, contains letters to the Prime Minister which the family hope to deliver personally. More messages expressing the outrage many in the community feel over the laws that allow mining companies to ride rough-shod over farmers, landowners and small country communities, will be collected along the way.

Members of the community are invited to join the ride along the route and support the protest for a day, a week, or even accompany the Franklins all the way to Canberra.

We wish them well and offer our gratitude for the stance they are taking.



**As the riders set out on the first leg of their epic ride, there is still a long way to go.**

**ITINERARY - Towns and Villages that the riders will visit with likely dates of arrival**

**Nymboida** - Sunday 22nd Arrive in the afternoon, drinks and music at the Coaching Station.

**Dundurrabin** - Wednesday 25th Passing through in the afternoon.

**Hernani** - Thursday 26th Arrive in afternoon. Depart Friday morning.

**Ebor** - Friday 27th September Arrive in afternoon. Rest Day Saturday at Ebor Rodeo Grounds. Depart Sunday 29th.

**Nundle** - Monday 14th October Arrive in afternoon. Stay at Rodeo Camp-draft Grounds, Rest Day next day.

**Gundy** - Sunday 20th October Stay overnight at Recreation Reserve

**Aberdeen** - 21st October Arrive in afternoon. Stay at St Andrews Reserve. Rest Day next day.

**Sandy Hollow** - Thursday 24th October Stay overnight at TSR.

**Glen Alice/Glen Davis** - Friday 1st November Pass through Glen Alice in afternoon. Stay at Glen Davis Community Centre. Rest Day next day.

**Wallerawang** - Monday 4th November Arrive pm. Stay at BNT Camp site, Lake Wallace. Rest Day next day.

**Rydal** - Wednesday 6th November Stay overnight at Showground.

**Hampton** - Thursday 7th November Stay overnight Recreation Ground.

**Taralga** - *Friday 15th November Arrive in afternoon. Stay at Showgrounds. Rest Day next day.*

**Crookwell** - *Monday 18th November Arrive in afternoon. Stay at Showgrounds. Rest Day next day.*

**Collector** - *Saturday 23rd November Side trip from trail for rest day in Collector.*

**Gundaroo** - *Sunday 24th November Stay overnight at Sports Grounds.*

**Hall** - *Monday 25th November Stay overnight at Showground/Pony Club.*

**Canberra** - *Tuesday 26th November Stay a day or two at Yarralumla Equestrian Centre.*

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**24<sup>th</sup> September 2013**