



COMMUNITY

INDEX



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Booking Deadlines

Tuesday's Edition

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PARTNERSHIP: Wayne Gillingham and his horse, Willie.

Respectful partnership between horse, rider

JENNY DENTON

"I'D BEEN riding since I was a kid and I always thought I knew all there was to know about horses until I had a horrible stack about 15 years ago," Cohuna horseman Wayne Gillingham says.

Deciding he needed to find out more about "what was going on" with his horse, Sando, he enrolled in a Pat Perelli natural horsemanship clinic in Kerang. "In one day I learnt more about horses than I did all the time I'd been playing with them before that."

"Number one is respect. We

want the horse's respect so we can respect the horse. And then we want to make a partnership. And the rider and horse both need to be safe."

At the demonstration at his Island Rd property staged as part of this year's Big Cohuna festival, Mr Gillingham put his 15-year-old palomino, Willie, through his paces on a lunge line, rode him with only a neck strap, and had him kicking a big rubber ball around the arena.

Mr Gillingham talked through what was happening and fielded questions from attendees with a variety of issues,

including steeds that take off, won't be tied up or don't like being loaded into trailers.

Although he tends to see these issues as "horses with people problems", he understands the owners' predicament too, having come from a conventional horse handling perspective.

Throughout it all, Willie was patient and attentive despite 30-plus people crowded around to watch and driving rain which started up during the session.

With a day job in agriculture, Mr Gillingham hasn't had time to "start" many horses lately - he prefers to avoid the nega-

tive connotations of the term "break" - but is doing clinics and lessons, and "getting good results from teaching people to teach their horses".

Sadly, last year the horse that sparked his interest in a change of approach all those years ago, Sando, had to be put down.

"He was the main reason I got into this game. He was my mate, my best mate, old Sando."

By the look of things, he and Willie are pretty good friends these days as well.

The Cohuna Progress Association is hoping to book Wayne Gillingham for the Big Cohuna Festival again in 2019.

Weather

Temperatures

Thursday: minimum 9.5 degrees, maximum 19.4 degrees.

Friday: 8.4, 18.9.

Saturday: 11.1, 25.5.

Sunday: 10.6, 25.6.

Monday: 10.9.

November minimums: lowest 4.4 degrees [8th], highest 22.1 degrees [20th], average 12.3 degrees [long-term average 11.5 degrees]. Lowest on record: 2.6 degrees 4th, 1980]. Highest on record: 25.5 degrees [20th, 2009].

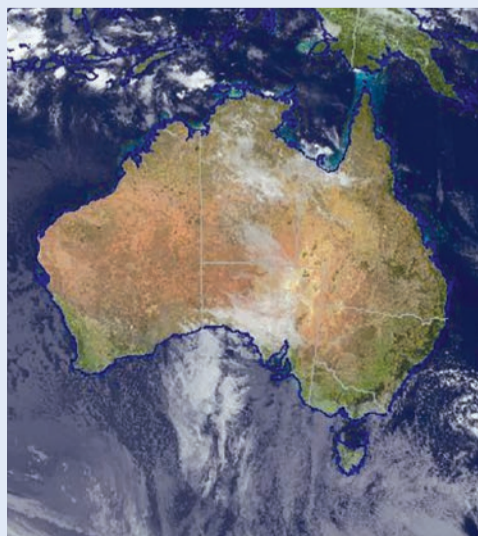
November maximums: lowest 18.9 degrees [23rd], highest 38.7 degrees [1st], average 27.9 degrees [long-term average 26.6 degrees]. Highest on record: 44.0 degrees [29th, 2012]. Lowest on record: 13.1 degrees [15th, 1970].

Rainfall

Thursday: 1.8mm. Friday: 1.6mm. Month to date: 25.8mm [long-term average 29.5mm]. Year to date: 181.0mm. Last year to November 26: 344.4mm. [long-term January-November average: 343.9mm]. Highest on record: 120.6mm [1887]. Lowest on record: 0.0mm [1885].

Evaporation

Weekly pan evaporation: 39.6mm.



Source: Bureau of Meteorology.

Forecast

Today: Late showers, 13-30

Wednesday: Showers, 15-26

Thursday: Mostly sunny, 13-29

Friday: Sunny, 13-32

Saturday: Mostly sunny, 16-36

Sunday: Partly cloudy, 13-26

Daylight

Today	sunrise 6.03am sunset 8.21pm
Wednesday	6.02am, 8.22pm
Thursday	6.02am, 8.22pm
Friday	6.02am, 8.23pm
Saturday	6.02am, 8.24pm

Ultra-violet index

Sun protection recommended from 9:10 am to 5:10 pm, UV Index predicted to reach 11 [Extreme]

Fire danger

Mallee: Low-moderate. The Shire of Gannawarra is in the Mallee fire district. Northern Country: Low-moderate. The Shire of Loddon is in the Northern Country fire district. Fire danger and restrictions information is available from www.cfa.vic.gov.au