

Don't scare the horses

Everyone has noticed that our open spaces have become very busy as housebound walkers, runners and cyclists seek exercise and fresh air.

Over the Anzac weekend horse riders, trying to do the same thing around horse paddocks in the Weston Creek area reported heavy falls, encounters with barbed wire fences, and being driven into trees by mountain bikers travelling at ridiculous speeds.

Some didn't even bother to stop to check out the carnage they left behind; one paused momentarily to announce that it was a shared path and he was well within his rights. We were lucky that no one ended up in hospital. Shared paths mean just that and all

users should get home safely.

There are rules for behaviour around horses for everyone's safety. They apply at Stromlo Forest Park which cyclists share with horses, and with which the majority happily comply.

Don't ride up horses' bums at speed; slow down as you approach and speak; if the horse is upset and the rider asks you to stop - stop. And don't be a jerk.

And if you want to race, go to Stromlo. It is designed for that.

**Christine Lawrence, president
ACT Equestrian Association**

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