

W.A. Horse Council News

April 2010

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THE AUSTRALIAN HORSE INDUSTRY

COUNCIL (AHIC) has a policy that Equine Influenza (EI) vaccination should not be permitted in the absence of an incursion of the EI virus.

The recent meeting of AHIC's Industry Advisory Committee held on February 26th in NSW, unanimously endorsed the AHIC Board's policy.

Present at this meeting were representatives from:

**ARABIAN HORSE SOCIETY
AUSTRALIAN PONY STUD BOOK
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EQUESTRIAN AUSTRALIA
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WA HORSE COUNCIL INC**

Closing Whitfords Beach To Horses

The Council presented a submission to the City Of Joondalup asking them to reconsider the decision to close the Whitfords Beach to horses, and attended and addressed two rallies, organised by the 'Whitfords Horse Beach' committee.

The closing date for the community consultation period for 'Save Whitfords horse beach' ended on the 6th April and over 4600 responses were received to the draft beach management plan.

The views expressed, issues raised and results of the consultation will guide elected City Of Joondalup members in making a decision at a future Council meeting.

However, because of the amount of work required to process such a large number of submissions, it is anticipated that the results of the survey will not be presented to Council until later in the year.

Right: The beach protest

25 March 2010

EQUINE INFLUENZA DECISION UNJUSTIFIED

Australia's peak veterinary body has urged the federal government to reverse its decision allowing voluntary vaccination against the equine influenza (EI) virus.

"We completely oppose this decision to allow vaccination when there's no outbreak," said President of the Australian Veterinary Association, Dr Mark Lawrie.

"There can be no justification for this decision on scientific, economic or practical grounds.

"All inquiries into vaccination against EI have indicated that it is an expensive option, which would have a negative impact on the way that the Australian horse industry operates.

"The government's approach won't prevent an outbreak and it won't save jobs. If there is an outbreak, vaccination will only delay detection.

"Vaccinated horses will still need to be subject to movement standstill because they can still spread the disease. In order to ensure long-term security for the industry there needs to be a proper emergency disease funding arrangement for the horse industry. This is important because the threat to the industry is bigger than EI – a funding agreement will deal with any horse diseases that might affect the industry," said Dr Lawrie.



*Left:
Photo courtesy
Andy Evans,
Gormaymax
Photography*

CITY OF SWAN PARKING POLICIES

The Council has been in touch with the City of Swan over a draft of a revised parking policy for commercial vehicles – that has been put out for a period of public consultation.

The proposal is to require planning permission if more than two light trucks or commercial vehicles are going to be parked on a property for more than two hours, even in rural districts.

Proposals for residential and other zones are even more restrictive.

The Council has established there are a number of equestrian events, competitions or gatherings, where there would be a number of trucks in the parking areas, and so far this has not been taken into account therefore this policy has far reaching implications for the horse industry.

The Council has prepared and delivered a submission to the City of Swan, which seeks an exemption for the need to have planning permission for each venue hosting an equestrian show or event.

The WA Horse Emergency Communication Database

The website is a free initiative setup by the WA Horse Council Inc to aid all those involved within the WA Horse industry to be kept up to date in the event of an emergency affecting horse owners in Western Australia. It will ensure that you can and will be contacted in the case of an outbreak of any exotic horse disease entering Australia.

What joining the data base provides for you:

- Direct notification of an outbreak of exotic disease,
- Direct notification of potential "standstills",
- Direct notification of biosecurity measures to be taken,
- Direct notification of border restrictions.

To sign up to for this free information and notification visit the WA Horse Emergency website and sign up.

www.wahorseemergency.com.au

Trails Talk

The Council wants to bring to your attention an excellent resource for trail users, groups and organizations. The website www.trailtalk.com.au is an excellent tool for anyone in the trails community as it provides an easy way to communicate with your members and promote your activities to the wider trails community. Groups can be formal - e.g. Horse riding, bush walking and mountain bike clubs, or informal - e.g. a group of friends that paddle/walk regularly and wish to post photos and discuss where to meet next. A new guide has been created to show you step by step how to set up your own Group and how easy it is to use the site. To download the guide go to [www](http://www.trailtalk.com.au) (link to DSR website) or find it under 'Quick links' on the home page of <http://www.trailtalk.com.au>. Over 200 individuals have joined Trailtalk with 29 discussions and over 40 events currently posted on the site. Hear from you on Trailtalk soon. The Council plans to set up a forum for the horse trail riding community to discuss trails rides, events, equipment and allow for discussion in the public domain.

Small Farms Expo

Lilac Park in Guildford resembled the Dowerin Field day on the 10th April and was a great venue for the Small Farms Expo, which highlighted the range of equipment and accessories available to small landowners, including horse property owners. It was the ideal venue for those interested in sourcing information on products that would best suit their property and to have the opportunity to chat to distributors about fertilizers, tractors, solar gates, fencing requirements, additives for the soil, or speak to the producers of chaff, a range of kelp and seaweed products and shed manufacturers. The Small Landholders Information Service was also there and they had a range of information to suit all sized properties.

More information can be seen on their website www.agric.wa.gov.au/small_landholder. With over 3500 visiting the Small Farms Expo last year it shows the interest and desire from horse and other property owners to care for their land and enjoy the lifestyle offered by living on a rural property.

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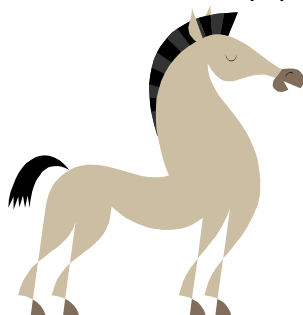
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Below: At the Small Farms Expo there were stalls offering everything a horse property owner could wish for.... from tractors to solar gates to wine tasting!



EQUESTRIAN RADIO SHOW

Listen in to 'TALKING HORSES' 91.3 SportFM Broadcast every Tuesday from 6 to 7pm, "TALKING HORSES" can also be downloaded, on www.sportfm.com.au, click on podcasts and then click equestrian.

To ensure that your event, club, sport, breed or business receives coverage, of if you are interested in taking 'sponsorship spots' which can include an interview

contact - presenter Diane Bennit 92910202 or email bennit@optusnet.com.au

If you are unable to listen to the show on your radio go to www.sportfm.com.au then click 'listen live'

Remember you can download the show on www.sportfm.com.au then click podcast.

WAHC FREE Landcare Field Days

The very successful partnership between the WAHC, Perth Natural Resource Management (NRM) and Chris Ferreira from Landcare Solutions for presenting free sustainable land management workshops (Horse Land and Water) field days for members of the WA horse community will recommence in May. These free workshops/field days are undertaken on strategically selected soil types and property conditions found throughout the horse industry region would be represented - from small private holdings through to commercial 'flagship' horse enterprises - effectively covering the scope and needs of all those involved in the horse industry. The FREE field days cover weed control, perennial pasture establishment, rotational grazing, creating compost, break the worm cycle and good effective windbreaks, with previous field days attracting close to 400 people. Plenty of handouts and samples are available free of charge and include detailed information on proven product and service providers, such as seed merchants, pasture establishment contractors, soil testing companies, soil improvement companies and holistic worm burden control. These free workshops start in May and to register, ring the hotline 1300 369 833

WAHC MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION FORM

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(per annum)

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The Horse Council portfolios includes Membership and Funding, Equine Research and Environment, Marketing and Public Relations, Legislation and Policy. Please tick if you would like to be involved in a working group for one of these.

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WA Horse Council

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