

W.A. Horse Council *News*

October 2011



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Our mission statement is to have the interests of horse owners recognised before local council and government decisions are made and policies formulated.

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ANOTHER WELL ATTENDED AGM

The WAHC's Annual General Meeting at the Bunkhouse Brookleigh Equestrian Estate, attracted over 50 horse enthusiasts, some of whom travelled from as far as Dardenup, in the south of WA. Three new committee members were elected; Rebecca Thomas (NCAS Coach), Chris Horvaath (10th Light Horse) and Jo Longman (WA Connemara Pony Breeders Action Group).

Committee returned for 2011 were:

Diane Bennit - Chairperson; Alan Parker - Vice Chairperson; Robert Hawes, Margaret Langan, Nikki Brooks, Dr Kathy Klein, Michelle Wilkie, Janet Cameron, Sandy Hannan, Tracy Talbot and Ian Huntington

Guest speakers included DAFWA Principal Veterinary Officer Dr Richard Norris who spoke about the significant changes to the Australian Land Transport Standards for horses. These are mandatory, the fines for non compliance range from \$2,500 to \$50,000 so it is something that all horse owners need to be aware of. For more information you can go to the web site:

www.animalwelfarestandards.net.au/land-transport

FESA Regional District Manager, Syd Bignell, gave a very informative overview on Bushfire preparedness and the importance of having a plan for all eventualities, and to act on that plan as early as possible - in case you find that the roads are closed by the rangers or police and you cannot get back to collect the other horses, family or to defend the property if that was the intention.

The range of speakers always creates interest in the AGM, and while the official business is kept as brief as possible, it is a great way for horse owners to get involved and keep up to date with what is happening within the equine community.

WINE AND CHEESE INSURANCE NIGHT

WAHC held a free wine and cheese evening at the Bunkhouse, Brookleigh Estate, in the Swan Valley. The night included a presentation and open discussion on the topic of insurance, which was presented by Paul Davenport from Victoria, who is the manager of Risk Management with Affinity Insurance Brokers.

There is obviously a lot of interest in this topic and a need for more information as questions came thick and fast from the over 40 people who attended from all section of the horse community. The questions covered areas such as personal accident, professional indemnity, what the insurance component of memberships with different clubs covers you for, procedures



Paul Davenport from Affinity Insurance Brokers was the Presenter at the WAHC Wine and Cheese night.

for reporting and claiming injury and accidents, how many clubs you could claim from etc.

An interesting line from Paul was 'Risk Management is only written down common sense.....'

The evening certainly clarified a number of 'grey' areas, and it was decided to hold another evening in 2012, covering risk management for clubs, contracts for agistment centres etc. This will be well promoted but to ensure you receive information register with the WAHC to receive updates and newsletters.

The evening was a great success and a special thank you goes to Jim and Jenny Neilson from the Neilson Winery, who donated the wine.

EMERGENCY EVACUATION CENTRES

A list of Emergency Evacuation Centres for Short Term Temporary access in the event of a natural disaster is being developed by the Council. The response from groups with facilities that could be used as emergency centres has been very positive and offers have been received from a number of equestrian centres including Perth Racing, the Larkhill and Byford training complexes and Brookleigh Equestrian Estate. These venues will be available as short term facilities only and it is hoped that further venues will be added from across the state.

If you have a venue or can suggest one that you feel would be suitable, please contact the Council on 92910202 or bennit@optusnet.com.au The list, once finalised will be displayed on the Council's website at www.wahorsecouncil.com.au, however it is

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suggested that a printed list is easily accessible - perhaps stored in the stable emergency First Aid kit.

METRO TRAIL FORUM

The Council has been invited to attend the 2011 Metro Trails Forum, which is being convened to address issues relating to the increased planning and development of Metro trails that cross several local Government boundaries.

ENTREPRENEUR OF THE YEAR

Congratulations to successful WA Show Jumping competitor Sophie Tedeschi, who was named 'Next Generation Entrepreneur of the Year' at the Family Business Australia's Annual National awards conference recently. Sophie is the Marketing Manager at Quickmail, the Kenwick mail, design and printing company, which regularly sponsors the WAHC with printing material.

LACK OF GENETIC DIVERSITY

An international team of researchers has used ancient DNA to produce compelling evidence that the lack of genetic diversity in modern stallions is the result of the domestication process.

The published results suggest the almost complete absence of genetic diversity in modern male horses is not based on properties intrinsic to wild horses, but on the domestic process itself. Researchers sequenced Y chromosomal DNA from eight ancient wild horses dating back from around 15,000 to more than 47,000 years and a 2,800 year old domesticated horse. The results were compared to DNA sequences from Przewalski horses – the only surviving wild horse population – and 52 domestic horses, representing 15 modern breeds, which had been sequenced previously.

Domestication of horses dates back approximately 5,500 years. DNA from the skeletal remains of a 2,800 year old domesticated stallion from Siberia, showed that in contrast to modern horses, Y chromosomal diversity still existed several thousand years after the initial domestication event for horses. The study was carried out in Germany by Sebastian Lippold from the Max PLankinstitute for Evolutionary Anthropology in Leipzig.

DECLARED PEST AND BORDER REGULATIONS

The Council has been invited to join DAFWA in a regulatory reference group advising on the Declared Pest and Border regulations, which are primarily concerned with

- (a) the management of pests (including the categorisation, the keeping, the transport and the controlling of pests)
- (b) barrier fences,
- (c) quarantine
- (d) importation, and
- (e) fees, charges and costs.



In attendance at the RAS Emergency Large Animal Rescue workshop were L-R Chris Horvaath, WAHC; Robert Hawes, RAS Councillor in Charge; Don Chipper, RAS Councillor; Michelle Wilkie, WAHC; (Presenter) Dr Jude Medd, RWWA; Helen Turner, RAS Horse Section co-ordinator; Craig Donnelly, RAS Chief of Arena Party; Gordon Grey, RAS Groundsman; Margaret Langan, WAHC and Rebecca Bonetti, RAS Horse Section co-ordinator.

EMERGENCY LARGE ANIMAL RESCUE

The Council organised a private Emergency Large Animal rescue workshop for personnel of the Perth Royal Show and committee members of the Council. The briefing was given by Dr Judith Medd Chief Racing Veterinarian for Racing and Wagering WA (RWWA), and was held at Ascot Racecourse.

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Training was given on the treatment, handling and removal of horses with broken bones, euthanasia methods, horses that may have suffered a heart attack etc.

The Council will be holding future workshops on the appropriate procedures for these incidents, as it has been found that in a lot of cases the damage caused by the rescue methods is more substantial than those injuries sustained in the accident.

Apart from equestrian organisations, the workshops will be open to FESA, RSPCA, Mounted Police, Fire Brigade, Shire Rangers etc. For more information contact bennit@optusnet.com.au

CLARIFICATION OF HENDRA VIRUS INFORMATION

There are four species of flying foxes that carry the virus – the yellow headed, red headed, black headed and the spectacle species. The black and red headed species are in the north of WA. However they do not appear to be shedding the virus and there are no confirmed cases of Hendra in WA.

Whilst Hendra is a notifiable disease (as is Strangles) and both are endemic in Australia, the procedures in the event of it appearing in WA are quite different to those implemented when the exotic disease Equine Influenza, arrived in Australia.

Properties that have infected horses will be quarantined, as is happening in QLD, however there will not be a total lockdown or standstill within WA, such as was seen with EI.

MATTERS BEING DISCUSSED NATIONALLY

- Why no formal application has been made to have Hendra re categorised as a Category 1.
- The Bligh Qld government has made \$7 million dollars available for research into Hendra.
- The proposed amendment to the Animal Welfare Code of Practice to ban fire and freeze branding
- Compulsory vaccination for the Hendra Virus
- National standards and guidelines for horse welfare
- National Emergency Response training for an exotic disease incursion
- How the Carbon Tax will affect the horse industry

TALKING HORSES

Listen in to WA's only equestrian radio show every Wednesday from 6 to 7pm. Go to www.91.3sportfm then Talking Horses, click listen live or for a previous show, click podcast.

Send in your news or any requests for specialised information to bennit@optusnet.com.au

WHITEMAN PARK REOPENED TO HORSE RIDING

The area for horse riding in Whiteman Park has now been reopened. This area is 215 hectares of fenced land that has been designated for recreational horse riding by the Whiteman Park BRIDLE PERMIT HOLDERS.

Recreational riding is defined as recreational and leisure riding, and does not include competitive riding, riding with equipment (polo equipment, carriages etc).

Horse riding was previously prohibited due to riders who abused the rules and did not have a permit. If these practices keep happening, it is probable that the park will be closed to riders permanently so everyone is asked to respect the boundaries.

Riders outside the free riding area will be handed infringements under the Planning and Development Regulations 2009.

BELMONT UPDATES STABLE LAWS

The City of Belmont has approximately 2000 stables based in a residential zoned area and is in the process of updating their Health (Stable Premises) local law.

The Council was asked to provide input into horse welfare, stable design, size of stalls, yards, proximity to habitable dwellings etc. If any relevant stake holders would like to comment, contact Steve Harling – A/Coordination Environmental Health. steven.harling@belmont.wa.gov.au

BRANDING

Identification of livestock (including horses) by fire or freeze branding on the near/left shoulder is required by law in WA and all horse owners must obtain a registered brand.

In the South West Land Division, horses must be branded before

they reach 6 months of age. In Pastoral areas horses must be branded prior to 18 months – in both areas horses must be branded before being removed from the property.

Foals less than 6 months, that are removed from their birth property while accompanied by their dam, do not require branding, if the mother is correctly branded. Horses can be identified by a breed society, using whatever system they use to identify their horses. Micro chipping will be accepted provided they are recorded on a breed society approved database to the correct owner.

If they are not identified by a breed society, then the horse must be branded. The penalty for a breach of the legislation may be up to \$3000.

HORSES IN MAGIC AND MYTH

The Irish believe that the horseshoe is magical because the horse and the ass were in the stable where Christ was born.

The people of Delve in Holstein, allowed a horse to decide where they would build their church. They tied a portrait of the Virgin on the back of a paint mare, the mare was allowed to wander freely. The church was built where the mare was found the next morning.

PROFILE: ALAN PARKER

Deputy Chair of the WA Horse Council



Born in 1953 and educated at Wesley College and the University of Western Australia, Alan Parker has been a member of the WA Horse Council for more than 15 years and served as Chairman for a period leading up to 2001 when a family tragedy forced a change in priorities.

He re-joined the committee of the Council in 2007 as a result of the national outbreak of EI and a perceived need for closer liaison between the racing and broader equestrian industries and is presently the Council's Deputy Chairperson.

Currently employed by Racing and Wagering Western Australia as Assistant Harness Racing Manager, Alan has worked in harness racing administration for more than 33 years in a number of capacities including roles with the WA Trotting Association as Registrar and Racing Manager.

He authored the successful book 'The Village Kid Story' in 1996 and has collected a considerable number of Harness Racing Australia awards for articles and stories on the history of harness racing in this State.

Regarded as a leading harness racing historian, Alan has one of the country's most extensive collection of harness racing publications and maintains a large database of Western Australian race results stretching back to the commencement of organised harness racing in Perth in 1910.

His extensive records have proved invaluable to the research into the harness side of the Western Australian Racing Industry Hall of Fame which was inaugurated in 2007.

In addition Alan has an even larger database of Standardbred pedigree information, which is utilised to produce yearling sale catalogues each year in Western Australia and in a number of the Eastern States. This database also provides a wealth of information to assist people with selection of stallions for their mares.

His knowledge of computers and databases has helped the Council with the establishment of the WA Horse Emergency website and its attached database, which he hopes is never needed in the case of a real emergency along the lines of EI.

Alan maintains a hands-on interest in Standardbreds through his wife Dot, a successful harness trainer and driver, who presently has a couple of horses in training and a mare in foal. This hands-on experience revolves around cleaning the boxes, which provides a ready source of material for his vegetable garden's compost bins.

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Name: Address: Ph: Fax: I would like to receive the Horse Council's email updates on equestrian happenings <input type="checkbox"/> Email: Signed Date		Please make cheques /money orders payable to the Western Australian Horse Council and post to: Western Australian Horse Council, 29 Ashurst Drive, Lesmurdie 6076 Ph: Diane Bennit 08 92910202	
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. <input type="checkbox"/>			



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Community issues lobbied towards successful outcomes



SVRN channels their energy into resolving issues raised to them by the community through dialogue with key players in Local, State and Federal Government. SVRN also promotes local businesses through introductions, networking and organising social functions to promote social interaction and stimulate advocacy for local products and services.

Premiers Australia Day - Active Citizenship Award - City of Swan 2010
Nominated for Australian of the Year 2010
Nominated for Pride of the Nation 2010
Finalist for Active Citizenship Award - City of Swan 2007

Australian Horse Riding Centres

Horse riding is a recreational activity the whole family can enjoy. Ride at accredited Centres, with well trained horses and experienced, qualified instructors.

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Information 08 92910202

LET'S GO RIDING!!!



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