

# W.A. Horse Council *News*

December 2012

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## LARGE ANIMAL EMERGENCY RESCUE WORKSHOP

The Equine Veterinary Association (EVA) organised a workshop at Brookleigh Equestrian Centre in the Swan Valley, which was open to all horse owner and was attended by 25 delegates and organisers. The workshop covered essential skills necessary in dealing with equine emergency situations. Presenters were Dr Christine Smith from Agnes Banks Equine clinic in NSW and Anthony Hatch from Fire and Rescue NSW. Run over Saturday 27th and Sunday 28th October the event attracted vets, police, FESA, RSPCA and rangers.

One of the outcomes of the workshop was the recognition of the need to teach horse people how to act in an emergency to achieve the best possible outcome for the horse.

Dr Joan Deetman, who attended a WAHC meeting in the planning stages of the workshop, attended the event and discussed the coverage of horse rescue techniques using Bruce, the horse dummy. Joan highlighted the extraction techniques used for horses in situations such as in water, float accidents or even horses down wells.

Joan will co-ordinate the possibility of future events being run in conjunction with EVA and WAHC in 2013.



## EQUESTRIAN LANDCARE ASSOCIATION

After many years as the 'trail blazer' of the concept of land care for horse properties and running events to educate the equestrian public to the needs for landcare along with practical application of this, the Equestrian Landcare Association (ELA) is closing.

Co-ordinator Chris Sharpe contacted the Horse Council as the decision had been made to donate the association's existing funds to the WAHC to help with further promotion of landcare within Western Australia.

## FREE FIELD DAYS

Nearly 50 people attended the Council's final free Field Day at Brookleigh Estate on the 1st Dec, which was funded by Perth Region Natural Resource Management. Special guest presenter, Regional Landcare Facilitator Sandy Pate, gave an insight into 'Managing horse properties to benefit the environment'. It is interesting that a number of people attend regularly when these Landcare days are held, and this is no doubt due to Chris Ferreira from Landcare Solutions, our regular presenter. Chris is the leading person in this field and varies his presentations so that he covers different soil and weed types in each workshop. He also invites questions from those present regarding their problems, so people are able to get a personal evaluation of what to do.

The Western Australian Horse Council committee and members wish all horse owners and riders a very Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy and safe 2013.



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### HORSE PROPERTY MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

Horse owners that keep their horses on their own, rented or leased land are recognising more and more the value of good environmental management. They are facing increasing scrutiny of their environmental management performance from regulatory government agencies, local shires, from external stakeholders, and from neighbours and industry peers. All would like to see horses kept in a sustainable manner with minimal adverse impact on the environment.

The WA Horse Industry Council and Perth Region National Resources Management (NRM) have developed an information hub containing best practices for horse property management along with links to hundreds of technical and locally relevant resources to support property planning and implementation.

In addition to best practices for horse property management, there are sections on pasture establishment and management, soil management, weed and pest management, legal requirements, contacts, seasonal calendars, events and more.

Check it out at .. <http://sustainableagricultureperth.targeton.com/> or Google the words "Horse management perth"

### FUND RAISER FOR SEC

The very successful 'Spectacular' fund raiser for the SEC on the 1st December. The WAHC was kindly offered the opportunity of having a table with information which was manned by WAHC chairperson Diane Bennit who handed out information and stickers to over 450 horse enthusiasts.



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### EQUINE INDUSTRY REPRESENTATIVES JOIN TOGETHER OVER LOSS OF GROUNDS FROM URBAN DEVELOPMENT

More than 40 West Australian Equine Industry representatives converged on the State Equestrian Centre early December for the inaugural meeting to tackle the issue of rapidly expanding urban housing areas that are resulting in the closure of equestrian facilities and riding trails across the state.

Despite being an industry not traditionally known for its internal co-operation, representatives from a wide range of key groups have banded together to tackle this issue and aim to complete an urgent and comprehensive investigation to assess the socio-economic value of the horse industry to the State, with estimates of in excess of \$650 million per year. More than 40,000 West Australians rely on the Equine Industry for their livelihood.

Ron Fleming, President of Riding for the Disabled is quoted as saying, "There is a clear lack of understanding by government of the economic value of the Equine industry in WA." His thoughts have been echoed by Rose Pieter, Pony Club WA President stating, "Not only is there a gross under-estimate of the socio-economic value, there is clearly confusion about the structure and the needs of the wider equestrian community." Martin Shaw, CEO of Equestrian WA identified that whilst the focus of groups within the industry may vary, a "unified approach and representative group" was desperately needed.

*Equestrian facilities and riding trails across the state are closing due to expanded urban housing developments.*

A number of well-established crucial facilities and access areas have been lost across the State in recent years due to urban sprawl as the demand for housing dramatically increases. This has forced hundreds of sporting clubs and recreation user groups to either relocate to venues that are under developed, ill resourced and unsuitable or cease activity entirely.

Since the concept was launched in August 2012, WAHC Chairperson, Diane Bennit has been contacted by a number of affected groups right around the state and she believes that the number of people currently affected by the threat of urban encroachment could easily exceed 20,000.

This group aims to become the industry's representative and advisory peak body, providing advice to both affected parties and local and State Government bodies with current issues, and also for the forward planning of facilities and access areas to allow for continued economic and social well-being growth in WA. Further meetings are scheduled in the southern metro area in January 2013.

CONTACT: WA Horse Council Chair Diane Bennit on 9291 0202 email: [bennit@inet.net.au](mailto:bennit@inet.net.au) or Pony Club WA Executive Officer Ben Vering on 9296 1500 or [office@pcawa.com](mailto:office@pcawa.com)

# HORSES VOTE TOO!



WA Horse Council

## EQUESTRIAN AREAS UNDER THREAT

**STAMPEDE ARENA:** On 4th October 2012 the West Coast Rodeo Circuit was informed (by letter from DTZ) that the Commonwealth of Australia (Department of Defence) was withdrawing all offers to lease its Bullsbrook property where the Stampede Arena, 'home of rodeo' in WA is situated. This requires Stampede Arena to be vacated by 28 February 2013.

Without these facilities the Western Australian rodeo community will find it extremely difficult to introduce new people, support the up-and-coming junior competitors, and maintain the standard of sportsmanship required as the foundation of this sport.

A petition, asking the renewal of the lease for a further 5 years is being circulated and can be found on the WAHC website.

**SWAN VALLEY:** On the 14th November 2012, The Swan Chamber of Commerce hosted a community forum at the Swan Valley Oasis to discuss the Swan Valley Land Use and Management Discussion Paper. Janet Cameron and Robert Hawes attended on behalf of the WAHC.

A discussion paper has been released that says: "A large section of the community within the Valley have expressed the view that its future role could be as a destination for food and wine tourism set in the historical context of its viticultural underpinnings" and it completely misses the largest single group of users – horse owners!

Apparently horse owners or groups do not lobby enough to be on the radar of those who make decisions on the future of the area. So, everyone who own horses or has a horse businesses in the Swan Valley is encouraged to send a submission letting the Shire know that they are in the Valley for horses.

## TRAILS WA WEBSITE FORUM

During 2008-2009 the Western Australian Horse Council represented the Equestrian Community on a selection panel for the Top Trails WA website. This website is being expanded to include ALL trails, provided they are legal and maintained.

A forum attended by WAHC Executive Committee member Janet Cameron, was held on 6th November 2012 at the Department of Sport and Recreation to explain the changes to the website and to ask for any other ideas. Changes already proposed include:

- Increase capacity to allow a second tier of trails to be added (walk, cycle, motorbike, equestrian, paddle, snorkel, trail bike.)
- Visitors can still search for TopTrails, which will be identified with the top trails icon (orange circle with signpost)
- The map of WA will become the key way to search for trails and will have a higher profile (home page)
- Ability for users to interact (sign-in using Facebook) - report a problem, review a trail, save favourites, socially share/like the trails
- Implement a mobile website to suit smart phones and ipads.
- More Everytrail guides (already developed for the TopTrails).
- 'Back-end' of website will allow trail managers to upload information including management info not visible to the public.

This new website should provide a much needed "one stop shop" for all trail information incorporating the use of new and user friendly technology for mobile devices.

## BRIDLE TRAILS SURVEY

Due to the decreasing number of trails available to horse riders, the Council has send out a survey form requesting information on bridle trails that horse riders are using. This is the first time that this type of survey has been done.

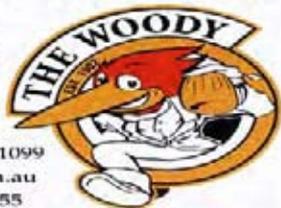
Questions cover the name of the trail, length, condition, parking, condition etc. The response has been amazing, nearly 100 forms have been returned. This information will give the Council some 'ammunition' when we approach DEC, Shires and Local Governments requesting an increase in the number of bridle trails, and the maintenance and upgrading of existing trails.

The Council will be collating this information and it will be available on our Website or Facebook .

The survey forms, which are on the Council's website and facebook are continuing to arrive, so we will be updating the information as necessary

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## WAHC MEMBERSHIP - JOIN NOW

*and support the Council that is supporting the Horse Industry*

### WAHC MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION FORM

Organisation Membership  Renewal   
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Organisations (per annum):  
1) Under 50 members - \$40 per annum  
2) 50 - 100 members - \$80 per annum  
3) 100 plus members - \$100 per annum

Individual: \$40  
(per annum)

Name: .....

Address: ..... P/Code .....

Ph: ..... Fax: .....

I would like to receive the Horse Council's email updates on equestrian happenings  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

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.

### DONATION / SPONSORSHIP

#### ADVERTISING

Ads in WAHC newsletter: \$80 (4 issues a year)

**DONATIONS** are accepted to help the Horse Council continue their work with the horse community.

Donation enclosed \$.....



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The Western Australian Horse Council is asking for your support to carry out a State wide bridle trail survey by filling in the attached form. This information will supply some figures that can be used to show the number of recreation users of these facilities when government departments are approached. Thank you for your help with this research.



## **WAHC Bridle Path Survey**

**NAME**.....

**EMAIL**.....

**NAME OF BRIDLE TRAILS USED** .....

.....

.....

**AREA/S**.....

**LENGTH  
OF TRAIL/S**.....

**CAR PARK ?**.....

**CONDITION  
OF TRAILS**.....

**COMMENTS/SUGGESTIONS REGARDING TRAILS**

Email to [bennit@iinet.net.au](mailto:bennit@iinet.net.au) Ph: 92910202

Please pass on to your contacts.