

# W.A. Horse Council News

February 2010

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## TOODYAY BUSHFIRE APPEAL

The WA Horse Council coordinated a rescue package for affected horse owners, who were unable to move their horses, due to vehicles and horse floats being destroyed.

On the morning of Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> December, a number of equestrian saddlery and feed businesses were contacted, and asked to donate equipment and feed for these owners. The response was amazing, that afternoon by 3pm a car and float load of goods were on their way to a Toodyay local horse owner Christine Maroni's. Christine spent that evening personally delivering the goods to the affected horse owners, from her property.

The Council would like to express their appreciation to Wellstation Chaff, Bio-John, Europa Saddlery, Milnes Feeds, Horseland Midland, Wesfeeds and Thompson & Redwood.

## WA HORSE EMERGENCY CONTACT LIST

The WA Equine Influenza Information Consultation Group (WAEIICG) requested the WAHC to develop and maintain a contact list for communicating horse emergency information to the horse industry.

This is a free service provided by the WAHA; you can register on the database by logging on to [www.wahorseemergency.com.au](http://www.wahorseemergency.com.au).

## AERIAL CULLING OF BRUMBIES

The Council's campaign to ban the aerial culling of horses in WA, not only because it is morally and ethically unjust, but also because the desire to see the end of this barbaric practice is shared by the majority of horse owners in this state, has been extremely successful.

The petition with 3000 signatures demonstrated the depth of feeling within the horse community, and the council believes that the government will realize that many of the voters are against Aerial Culling. The petition has been sent to the Minister for Agriculture.

## HORSE WELFARE ETHICS IN COMPETITION

### Acknowledging: HORSE INTERNATIONAL Editorial

In Bonn there was a very interesting discussion on the ethics of treating competition horses. With the welfare of the horse the priority, the question was raised: How much is too much. That is, where do you draw the line when determining if a horse is fit to compete? Just how much veterinary intervention is acceptable in keeping a horse competition ready. Take the case of Olympic dressage horse 'Harmony's Mythilus'. This 15 year old gelding was euthanased recently, when an inoperable condition was discovered during colic surgery. He finished 13th in Hong Kong with Courtney King before being disqualified when testing positive to the painkiller felbinac.

*"It was revealed in the FEI Tribunal's on this case that the horse received five other therapeutic treatments authorised by FEI officials during the Olympics. In the period of two and a half weeks before this contest the horse was treated for a respiratory disease, vague lameness, muscle problems, a heart rhythm disorder and an inflammatory reaction.*

*I cannot say if this is normal practice or if it is an exception to the rule. With so many problems though, was this horse fit to compete? Were his ailments not signs that the natural limits of his body had been reached, or that the situation was just too stressful? Of course a horse must be treated if it suffers from a physical illness, but there should come a point when a responsible decision must be made that it is not in the interests of the horse to artificially keep it going. Just because medical treatments are available, is it always fair to the horse to carry them out" - end of quote*

### HORSE ALERT WA

This joint industry and government operational project will increase awareness of emergency equine diseases and biosecurity practices in the horse industry.

A working party comprising representation from Racing & Wagering WA, Dept of Agriculture and Food WA and the WA Horse Council are developing a document, which encompasses industry responsibilities, biosecurity messages, disease fact sheets, contingency plans and response arrangements. At the completion of the document there will be a public launch and the document will be accessible WWA, DAFWA and WAHC websites. Hard copies will also be available

## GUEST SPEAKER REGISTER

Due to the increasing demand for Guest Speakers able to give information on a broad range of topics, the City of Swan has set up a Guest Speaker Register. The WAHC was approached to register, as the committee covers a wide range of activities in the horse industry. In the first two weeks following the set up of the Register, 56 topics were covered.

### ASSOCIATION LIABILITY – could you be at risk?

Incorporated associations and not for profit organisations such as community, sporting, social and cultural groups, industry associations may need association insurance.

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To ensure that your event, club, sport, breed or business gets 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](mailto:bennit@optusnet.com.au)

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