

W.A. Horse Council *News*

July 2007

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Representing a united horse community in Western Australia.

President's Report

I am pleased to report that over the past twelve months, due to the increased awareness of the WA Horse Council, there have been many requests from individuals and organisations from the horse industry to assist them in a number of issues. Fortunately, our committee and portfolios are administered by some very capable volunteers, who have experience in many sections of the industry. The issues that we are involved in are extremely diverse, so meetings are never dull. We are producing quarterly newsletters to keep you all up to date with matters of concern and also information about what is happening in the industry and we welcome contact from you with news of horse happenings and issues in your area. As the current workload now exceeds any generous donation of time, the Council has employed a part time secretary. We therefore ask for your support by becoming a member of the W.A.H.C. By doing so you will be helping us to assist the industry with the ongoing issues that are creating concern now or have the potential to do so in the future. *Diane Bennit*

AGM and INFORMATION EVENING

7 PM MONDAY 30TH JULY - State Equestrian Centre

The WA Horse Council is having their AGM (20 minutes !) and information evening with speakers:

- from South Australia re the new **Horse, Land, Water** project and the new **Horse Alert Code**;
- Senior Detective John Oag from the **WA Stock Squad**, who found the large cache of saddles that were stolen from local horse owners, will speak on **security, identification of saddlery** etc;
- Mary Ipkenanz who will be back from the **ParaEquestrian World Championships** in London and will talk about how Australia did.

We are inviting representatives and individuals from all sections of the horse industry to attend. If you or any of your group's members could give us some idea of numbers, that would allow us to arrange seating!

STATE TRAILS SEMINAR March 07

Linda Perkins and Janet Cameron attended the 2007 State Trails Seminar on 22/03/2007 at the Department of Sport and Recreation on behalf of the WA Horse Council's Trail Working Group.

The seminar started with up to date news and the latest developments in Tracks and Trails from the Chairperson Hugh McLean from the Department of Sport and Recreation. Hugh was followed by a series of interesting and very well prepared speakers:

1) Bibbulmun Track marketing – Linda Daniels, Executive Director of the Bibbulmun Track gave a very professional and most interesting presentation about how the Bibbulmun Track is being marketed. The benefits of the track to the community and how it has been promoted.

2) Mountain Bike – technical trail and building. Rod Annear from Department of Environment and Conservation gave an entertaining presentation about Mountain Biking and the very specific needs for building trails for this sport.

3) WA Equestrian Tracks and Trails Study – Cyndi Mulders reported on the results of the Tracks and Trails Study she finished last year on behalf of the WA Horse Council. It was

made apparent that this document has become a very important instrument for equestrian tracks and trails, being the only up to date reference available to government authorities locally.

4) Canoe maps project – Lindsay Wiland, Executive Officer, Canoeing WA spoke of the problems associated with maps for canoeing. Obviously rivers and coastline change™ and it is very difficult to keep these maps current.

5) Heritage Trails- Anne Brake, Manager, Golden Pipeline Heritage Trail, National Trust WA spoke about interpretation of Heritage and how different people have different Heritage values.

6) Tracks and Trails Community representation- Kathleen Lowry, Manager, Recreation Department of Sport and Recreation spoke about the demographics of people using tracks and trails.

7) Trails Grants – Hugh McLean gave tips on completing application forms.



The seminar provided a very good opportunity to network with people from Lotteries West, Department of Environment and Conservation and Department of Sport and Recreation. It was also an opportunity to learn about the requirements of other trail users and to hear how they have obtained and managed grants received.

HORSES VOTE TOO



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KEP

Linda Perkins is representing the Council on the KEP Track Events Steering committee, which is under the umbrella of the National Trust.

PERI URBAN WORKSHOP

The Peri- Urban Workshop, attended by David Lloyd representing the WAHC, discussed the following issues - loss of high value agricultural land, incompatibility of commercial farming and peri-urban lifestyles, supply of suitable infrastructure (including water), increased fire risk and a plan to minimize environmental risk.

National Resources Management issues included limited ability of the planning system to account for NRM in rezoning, introduction and proliferation of weeds, pest and diseases, nutrient contamination of the waterways and groundwater, erosion issues, increased vehicle use and production of emissions and depletion of water resources.

ADVENTURE ACTIVITY STANDARDS SEMINAR

Janet Cameron and Diane Bennit recently attended a seminar held by Department of Sport and Recreation, Outdoors WA (Inc) regarding the setting up of Adventure Activity Standards.

The aim is to provide a statewide benchmark for organizations and leaders conducting outdoor adventure activities for groups.

AAS are deemed to be voluntary standards describing what activity experts from across the industry consider a reasonable minimum in terms of planning, leader competency/experience, environmental care and any other relevant information which may be specific to that activity. AAS will be developed for 17 identified activities over the next 18 months, to be done in three phases, with the final one, which includes Horse Trail Riding, starting May 2008 and finishing January 2009.

AAS will affect Pony Clubs, Endurance Riders, Trekkers, commercial Riding Schools and any other organized groups who ride on public property. It is important that the equestrian industry is well represented on the Horse Trail Riding Technical Working Committee to make the decisions as to what are reasonable standards for our industry. If we are apathetic in this regard, we can expect to have standards imposed on us by people in government departments who know very little about horses and have little understanding of our requirements and what is reasonable. AAS will have legal implications for riders and may impact access to land under government jurisdiction by riders in the future. Please urge your organization to nominate a delegate to the TWC for AAS so that we can have a balanced view presented.

For further information: Ph: 9409 5632 / 0412 464 371
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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.

DONATION / SPONSORSHIP

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Ads in WAHC newsletters \$50 per year

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JOONDALUP BEACH CLOSURE

Reports have been published in Wanneroo papers regarding the City of Joondalup taking steps to close the existing horse beach at Hillarys however our enquiries to the City of Joondalup's Environmental Department resulted in their expressing no knowledge of this issue.

NEWSLETTER ON PROGRESS ASSOCIATIONS' WEB

The WAHC newsletter has been posted on the Gidgegannup Progress Association (www.gidgegannup.info) and Save Perth Hills Inc (www.saveperthhills.org) web sites to enable more people involved with horses to be aware of the work carried out by the council. The Swan Valley Progress Association Inc (SVPA) is promoting WAHC through daily e-bulletins and e-listserv membership. If your Progress Association has a web site and would be willing to carry this newsletter then let us know and we can send a copy.

INCREASE IN STRINGHALT

There has been a large increase of Australian Stringhalt this past summer and into autumn, especially in some areas of Victoria. Stringhalt results from damage to the long nerves and is characterized by an exaggerated flexion of one or both hind legs and 'roaring' in some horses. Affected horses may show mild signs only, when backed or stopped suddenly and other cases may be so severe that the front of the fetlock hits the belly with each stride. Australian Stringhalt is thought to be caused by ingestion of flatweed. This weed is prevalent in times of drought, particularly through summer and autumn.

HORSEMAN'S DAY CANCELLED

Due to time constraints with organisation, the proposed Horseman's day being discussed with Equine Veterinarians Australia and Murdoch University, to give horse owners the opportunity to learn from the veterinary experts attending the annual veterinary conference, The Bain Fallon Memorial lectures, will not be going ahead. It is hoped that given more time in future the concept may become a reality for the WA equine industry.

NO HORSES AT PERRY LAKES

After an approach from concerned riders in the Claremont, Cambridge area to the AK Reserve Redevelopment Plan for Perry Lakes, which catered to many sports but excluded any equestrian trails in the area that has traditionally been used for riding, committee member Sue Hurt presented a submission to the Minister for Sport and Recreation on behalf of the WAHC. She also offered strategic options and helpful contacts for those opposing the horse exclusion.

KWINANA HORSE ACTION GROUP

An open meeting with local residents and Kwinana Shire officials in relation to the introduction of an amendment that allows horses to be removed either permanently or temporarily if any lot is 'overgrazed' when no guidelines to identify what this constitutes and no avenue of redress is available resulted in the meeting expressing a loss of trust in the Town of Kwinana's officers. Submissions were subsequently presented.

TRAILS GRANTS PROJECT

Committee members Janet Cameron and Linda Perkins attended the 2007 Trails Grant program as part of the WAHC's continuing role in creating an awareness of the importance of funding to maintain existing trails and develop an integrated network of trails within the state. Both the Labour and Liberal parties have been approached with a request for their draft policy in relation to their position on Tracks and Trails. Once these policies have been received they will be made available to the horse community via newsletter and web site.

HORSE DISEASES

Diane Bennit is representing the Council on a working committee set up by Racing and Wagering WA to develop an operational plan for the management of horse disease emergencies in WA.

There are 65 diseases and they fall into four categories. Category 1 diseases predominantly affect human health and/or the environment (depletion of native fauna) but may only have minimal direct consequences to the livestock industries. Approximately 150 emergency animal disease investigations are carried out each year in Australia

South Australia and Victoria have already produced their 'Horse Alert' The working committees aim is to condense the information from the other States plans and produce a compact and easily readable version, adding sections aimed at addressing the specific and immediate needs of those in the wider horse industry. The plan for WA will take the form of a 'Horse Alert Western Australia Version 1'.

The chair of the committee is Judith Medd RWWA Industry Veterinarian and there are also representatives from DAFF, Dept of Agriculture and E.V.A.

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