

W.A. Horse Council *News*

MAY 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.

www.wahorsecouncil.com.au

NATURAL DISASTER RELIEF FUND RAISERS

The WA Horse Council (WAHC), with members of the Carnarvon Horse Community, co-ordinated a financial Relief Fund Raising for those affected by the cyclone and flooding in Carnarvon. Through the generosity of individuals and businesses over \$3,000 was raised.

While Carnarvon was recovering from their flood, Queensland was hit with its devastating flooding. The Carnarvon Organising Committee, which was a representative of the main equestrian groups, asked the WAHC if the funding could be donated to the Queensland Horse Community, as they felt they were in greater need of assistance. This was an incredibly generous and charitable gesture from people who were still dealing with the aftermath of their own disaster.

After considerable consultation and deliberation, the funds were transferred to the Queensland Horse Council (QHC). The WAHC felt the funds should be available to anybody in need and that it was not necessary to be a member of any organisation, to receive assistance. We have been advised that the money has been used for veterinary fees for horses affected by the floods and to purchase an all-purpose saddle for a 12 year old girl who lost everything, including her horses – she has since been given another two horses.



The floods in Carnarvon left many horse properties and associations with a major task of clean-up and repair. Vick Tremor photos.

The Carnarvon committee and the Council received a very appreciative letter from the President of the QHC and it was pleasing to receive their notification that the funds have been fully utilised so quickly.

The Council would like to express their appreciation to Sophie Tedeschi from the 'QUICKMAIL' printing company in Kenwick, for the very generous offer to donate the printing required for the fund raising – and also to the Friends of the State Equestrian Centre (SEC) who gave the Council a free stall to promote the fund raising at their recent, very successful, six day Show Jumping and Dressage Summer Series.

ASSISTANCE OFFERED TO THE HORSE INDUSTRY

Then came the Lake Clifton, Kelmscott and Upper Swan bushfires.....

Early in 2011 the Lake Clifton area was burnt, and this was followed in February with the Kelmscott and Upper Swan bushfires. The horse community swung into action and offered support to those affected. The Council emailed our list of over 10,000 contacts, to ask for their help and an 'Emergency Assistance List' was developed. People offered all means of horse transport and in



The aftermath in the Upper Swan area. Photo supplied by Sue Hurt

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a number of cases, personally relocated horses for their owner. Relocating horses was a priority and many offered to take one two or more horses during the emergency. There were also offers of temporary accommodation (2 houses !), horse feed, paddocks, yards, stables, kennels, an aviary and even an aquarium. The horse community may be fragmented into small groups that follow their own paths at times, but Western Australians once again showed that when there is an emergency it makes no difference which discipline or sport you are involved with, everyone joins forces, shows their generosity and supports other horse owners.

The Emergency Management Unit contacted the Council to make the horse community's list of offers of accommodation, stabling and feed available to the Dept of Environment and Conservation and FESA, and we worked closely with these organisations. The list was also placed on the www.wahorsecouncil.com.au website.

To be kept up to date with any emergencies affecting horse owners register on our free website www.wahorseemergency.com.au

EMERGENCY EVACUATION CENTRE SUGGESTIONS

The Council is in the process of developing an Emergency Evacuation Centre list – suitable venues would be showgrounds, race tracks, equestrian centres, sale yards etc from around the state. These Centres would only be available for SHORT TERM use in an emergency and there may be specific times when they may not be available.

To help develop the list we would appreciate hearing from anyone who knows of, or has a suitable venue. Phone Diane on 92910202

WA STATE TRAILS CONFERENCE



Back row L-R: Anna Sheehan - ATHRA Regional Manager and WAHTC, Kristi Holloway ATHRA Regional Manager and Albany Natural Trailriders, Maryke Beveridge - WAHTC, Leone Marsh - WAHTC, John Allert - Boddington Riding Club, Richard Threnoworth - WAHTC President, Roger Sweeney - Denmark Riding Club, Diane Bennit - WA Horse Council. Front Row L-R: Nicole Chalmer - WAHTC and Esperance Riding Club, Anita Davis - Albany Natural Trailriders, Angela Davies - Boddington Riding Club, Beryl Eatts - WAHTC, Nancy Riley - WAHTC.

The 2nd WA State Trails Conference held in April was attended by 120 people, a significant increase on the 40 that attended the 2010 Inaugural Event. Another great improvement was the number of horse organisations that sent members. Last year, only the Australian Trail Horse Riders Association (ATHRA) and the WA Horse Council (WAHC) were there to represent the Horse Industry.

This year, however, as well as ATHRA and the WAHC, the WA Trekkers (Darkan), Albany Natural Trail Riders, Esperance Pleasure Riders, Boddington Riding Club, Beryls Riding School (Collie) and the Denmark Equestrian Club were all represented.

Guest speakers covered a number of different trails and also issues pertaining to Trails, i.e. insurance, government funding, maintenance, multi use etc. ATHRA President, Anna Sheehan, gave a well resourced and very informative presentation on the Horse Trails Strategy ATHRA is developing. It was also noted that the focus on the acceptance of horses using existing trails has shown dramatic improvement.

The Council urges any individuals or organisations interested in trail riding to attend the 2012 WA State Trails Conference.

HORSE DISEASE OUTBREAK

The Australian Veterinary Association is investigating a number of cases of horses showing symptoms of neurological disease, in Victoria, South Australia and New South Wales. Symptoms may include depression, mild colic, facial paralysis and ataxia or 'wobbliness'.

Dr Christine Smith – of the Equine Veterinary Association said these case are still under investigation, however they may result from a mosquito borne virus in the Kunjin-West Nile group. The coincidence of these cases with a period of extraordinarily high mosquito activity, after a heavy rainy season, and the apparent association with proximity to water bodies is highly suggestive of arbovirus infection ('insect borne' infection)

As there is no association with a bat population and the course of illness is unlike the Hendra virus infection. All of the horses tested have thus far been negative for Hendra virus so there is no risk to humans from direct contact with horses.

This outbreak is a reminder to everyone to keep up good biosecurity practices.

EMERGENCY ANIMAL DISEASE RESPONSE AGREEMENT (EADRA)

Early this year a meeting of all Australian governments and major livestock industries, agreed that the Horse Industry should be a signatory to the Emergency Animal Disease Response Agreement (EADRA) – which will provide the Horse Industry greater certainty in a rapidly mounted response should there be an exotic disease affecting horses in Australia. Under this agreement, the Commonwealth Government is committed to underwrite industry's share of the costs of an emergency response, enabling swift and effective action to control and eradicate a disease threat.

The four organisations to sign the EADRA on behalf of the racing, performance and recreation sectors are; Australian Horse Industry Council, Harness Racing Australia, Australian Racing Board and Equestrian Australia.

Animal Health Australia hosted a ceremony to enact the official signing of the document in the forecourt of Parliament House, Canberra.

The large invited group, consisted of politicians, members of government departments, veterinarians and horse organisations.

Invited from Western Australia were Senator Chris Back, who has spent so much time and effort in advancing the sustainable interests of the horse industry in the Australian Parliament, and Diane Bennit, Chair of the WA Horse Council.

FREE FIELD DAYS

The first of the Free Field Days run by the WAHC was an extremely useful and very popular morning seminar that was held at the RDA Centre in Wanneroo.

Funded by Perth Region Natural Resource Management and presented by Chris Ferreira from Heavenly Hectares, those present were shown how to transform sick and tired paddocks, establish perennials and nutritious clovers, manage grazing to break the worm cycle and control weeds.

Each Free Field Day is held in a different location so the information given, always applies to the type of soil and pasture where the seminar is held.

***The final two Free Field Days
will be on Sunday 5th
and Saturday 25th June.***

These events are very popular with horse and property owners with up to 60 people attending each seminar, therefore it is essential to register. Phone the hotline on 1300 369 833 or visit www.greatgardens.info

MATTERS/ISSUES BEING DISCUSSED

NATIONALLY

- The recategorisation of the Hendra Virus to Category 1 (EADRA)
- The National Equine Welfare Protocol
- Proposed Emergency Evacuation and Transport Legislation
- Funding for Rural Research (RIRDC)
- Controlling the Feral Horse Population
- Microchipping Records Standardisation
- Adequacy of current biosecurity and quarantine arrangements
- Banning of Double Wire bits – already established in Tasmania and Victoria
- Proposed Legislation to make horse castration a veterinary act
- The releasing of \$1.4 billion for regional development. Funding allocations to commence on July 1st. www.rda.gov.au/
- Funding applications for the George Alexander Foundation International Fellowship 2011 – several horse related projects recently funded. www.issinstitute.org.au/os/index.html

CITY OF SWAN DRAFT PARKING PERMITS

In December 2009, residents of the City of Swan were alerted by Sue Hurt from the Swan Valley Progress Association, to the implications of the amendments to the City of Swan Local Planning Scheme 17 and draft Planning Policies.

Close study of the draft Policy indicated that some vehicles used to transport horses to shows, camps, competitions, pony club rallies, trails etc, would not be allowed to park at the venue unless planning permission had been granted by the City of Swan. The recommended limits within the Policy would be exceeded, both by the number of vehicles involved and the length of time they would be parked !

Commercial vehicles, apart from trucks in this situation, covers large floats and goosenecks.

It was not clear whether these changes were applicable for equestrian activities, this threat of planning permission – an expensive exercise at the best of times – would be necessary for regular activities, or whether an annual permit could be granted.

Since 2009, WAHC committee person Robert Hawes (from our Government Portfolio) has been having ongoing discussions with the City of Swan Planning Department and has also forwarded a WAHC submission asking for exemptions for the Horse Community from these potential Planning Policy impositions.

Amendments to the Planning Policy were released for public comment in Oct/Nov 2010. The final version of the Planning Policy was accepted by the City of Swan early in March 2011, leaving only the Minister of Planning to sign off on LPS 17 and the Planning Policies. When this occurs equestrian shows, rallies, camps, competitions etc will have an exemption from having to apply for planning permission to park the associated vehicles.

Perth's Voice For the Horse Community 'TALKING HORSES' 91.3 SPORTFM

Listen in to WA's only equestrian radio show every Wednesday from 6 to 7pm, to find out what's happening in the Horse Community. Go to www.sportfm.com.au then listen live, or for a previous show click podcast.

RIDING IN BOLD PARK

WAHC has recently been invited to comment on the horse trail segment of a Draft Management Plan 2011 – 2016 for the whole of Bold Park. The plan shows that their research into the potential impacts of horse riding indicated some adverse impacts, but in discussion with the Park management it appears these are somewhat minimal.

The future strategy indicates they will manage horse riding within the current bridle trail and monitor the activity. This will lead to a decision to be made in 2016 as to whether the use of the trail warrants its continuation or cessation.

The big message is that riders, in their reduced numbers, may need to encourage others to use the trails before a potential "use it or lose it" attitude comes into play. Riders will continue to be asked to stay on the trail and riders will be able to help their cause by ensuring the parking area around their transport is clean and tidy when they leave – a rubbish bin is provided there.

PONY EXPRESS

In 1860, William H Russell inaugurated the Pony Express in the USA. A series of riders took the mail in relays, each riding 60 miles (96 km), going as fast as his pony's legs would carry him. The route was from St Joseph, Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, Colorado, Wyoming, Utah, Nevada, Sacramento – a distance of 1966 miles (3,164km) which was covered using 400 ponies in 10 days. The advertisement for riders in the Frontier papers read 'Wanted young, skinny, wiry fellows, not over 18. Must be expert riders, willing to risk death daily. Orphans preferred.

WAHC MEMBERSHIP - join now

Support the Council that is supporting the Horse Industry

WAHC MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION FORM

Organisation Membership

Individual Membership

- 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)

Renewal

New

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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 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.

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