

W.A. Horse Council News

APRIL 2017

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SKILLS IMPACT WORKSHOP

The WA Horse Council was represented by the Chair Diane Bennit at the Inaugural Skills Impact workshop, which was held at Ascot Racecourse in March. The workshop focussed on safety in equine training and the reviewing of units of competency across two training packages that sit within FutureNow's remit: ACM Animal Care and Management (Farriery only) and RGR Racing. Skills Impact are seeking feedback on the content of 156 units of competency, which include three new proposed units on embedding safe practice in the training environment.

The Base qualification is proposed to be a Certificate 11 in Horse Care with electives that show industry specialisation. Feedback on the viability to deliver and meet industry training needs was sought from industry up until March 31st.

The Council will keep you up to date with the outcomes of these proposals.

BOLD PARK TRAIL RETAINED

Bold Park, a 437 hectare urban bushland area in the suburb of City Beach, has a designated 7 km trail (of which horse riders have a limited access of approx 1 km) that has been the subject of much controversy in the past when The Botanical Gardens and Parks Authority decided the horse riding aspect of the trail should be closed. Friends of the Bold Park Trail disputed the decision and presented information and research that allowed it to remain open. The WA Horse Council supported the retention of the trail. The question has always been how long this situation would remain.

With the Bold Park Management plan for 2016-2021 being compiled last year there was a large question mark over whether even this limited access for horses would remain.

It is a note of confidence in our organisation that again the WAHC was invited to make a submission to the Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority concerning a draft management plan for Bold Park, which will be valid until 2021.

The bad news was that the document recommended access to the only Bridle Trail in the Inner Metro area be closed. The Authority has been aware that less horses than in previous years have been ridden along the trail so it is understandable the monthly average of less than 2 horses does not encourage the Authority to maintain the trail.

The usage is not a guess – there were apparently a number of raked loose top surface areas, which were inspected weekly for hoof prints before being raked clean. Cameras that record anything that moved in their line of surveillance were also used.

In December 2016 it was announced that the Minister for Environment; Heritage, the Hon. Albert Jacob JP MLA, had approved the Bold Park Management Plan 2016 - 2021 and the associated Audit of Public Submissions on the Draft Plan.

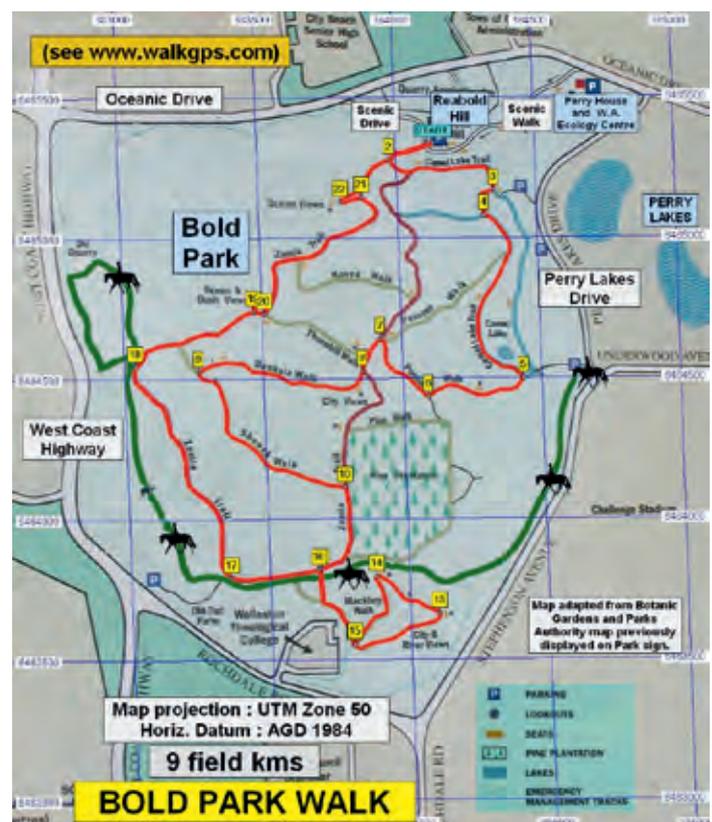
For interested readers go to <http://www.bgpa.wa.gov.au/Draft> Horse riding gets a tiny mention on page 9 (out of 20) but on page 15 we have two mentions.

They intend, as a result of the current plan which ends this year, to manage the horse riding facility by phasing it out!!!

While it is not very exciting being limited to such a short trail and then having to retrace your steps to return to the start, it is the only Metro trail and if the trail was closed it would be very difficult to get it reopened.

If riders want to support the retention of this trail then they can record their personal use of the trail with date and number of horses for possible future submissions. It may well be a case of use it or lose it.

Camel Lake car park, the most southern along Perry Lakes Drive, provides convenient access to the internal walking trails. This is also the formal entry point for the bridle trail and, as such, the only car park where horse floats are permitted.



STATE TRAILS STRATEGY

The Steering Committee for the State Trails Strategy, "Taking the Reins", re convened last month for a long awaited lunch to celebrate the completion of the Strategy and to discuss the next phase of the project – the Implementation Phase. It is a disappointment that before the Strategy is even implemented; it would seem probable that the Bold Park Bridle Trail will be lost.

The implementation of the Strategy will be the joint responsibility of a number of interested organizations including AHTRA, WAHC, DPaw and Department of Sport and Recreation. Some of the things to be considered in the Implementation Phase are:

- Initial review of Trails Register to develop a priority list of trail infrastructure and facilities that could be improved based on the deficiencies identified in the audit and key concerns raised by riders
- Providing information to and creating awareness horse trails amongst horse riders
- Upskilling local clubs and associations who may become involved in maintenance of trails
- Preparation of policies, procedures and manuals for the development of horse trails

The implementation of "Taking the Reins" will be an ongoing project with the first meeting for this phase be held on Wednesday 3rd May 2017.

STABLE FLY UPDATE

The WA Horse Council represented the horse industry at the recent Department of Agriculture and Food (DAFWA) 'Stable Fly Regulatory Reference Group Meeting', which was Chaired by Kevin Chennell the Executive Director Biosecurity and Regulation DAFWA.

Also invited were the Commercial Egg Producers, WA Beef Council, WA Poultry Producers, WA Pork Producers, Trandos Farms, Vegetables WA, WALGA. Shires of Gingin, Murray, Harvey, Chittering, Capel, Dandaragan, Kwinana. Cities of Wanneroo and Swan and the Stable Fly Action Group. There were also a number of representatives from DAFWA.

Discussions covered Compliance Issues, Approved measures, DG Approvals and other Management Plan issues.

Dr David Cook, the DAFWA Senior Researcher of Stable Fly gave a very comprehensive overview of progress since the last meeting (September 2016). Dr Cook also presented a discussion paper on 'Approved measures for managing vegetable waste under the Biosecurity and Agricultural Management (Stable Fly) Management Plan 2016'

Whilst large growers have the capacity to operate a pit site at least 2 metres deep for vegetable waste, and the capability to cover the filled pit with 500mm of soil, smaller growers do not. An

operation that has been monitored for some time by Dr Cook has been for these smaller operators to thinly spread waste matter, no greater than 30mm, on cleared ground and allow it to quickly desiccate prior to incorporation.

There are a number of very stringent measures for this type of operation, which have been closely monitored.

LARGE ANIMAL RESCUE COMP WINNER

The competition for free attendance at the WA Horse Council's Large Animal Rescue AR3 Masterclass competition which is valued at \$400, was drawn on Talking Horses 91.3 Sport FM and was won by Tod Bergersen. Tod is a Senior Fire Fighter with the WA Fire & Rescue 1C Platoon at the MRP Success Fire Station. The question was "Who is the international Presenter for the AR3 Masterclass" and the answer was Anton Phillips, from the Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service Animal Rescue Team in the UK.

SPREADING THE WORD

Horse Council's two radio programs

The WA Horse Council's two radio programs are proving to be great mediums in passing information on regarding events and issues that are of interest to the horse community

"Horse Hotline" started in February 2017 and is broadcast on Radio VCA 88.5fm from 1.30 to 2pm, fortnightly on Mondays. An interesting concept is that a different Co Presenter is part of each program, and talks about their special equestrian skills and which part of the horse community they are involved in.

The Council's long standing weekly program Talking Horses on 91.3 Sport fm is broadcast on Wednesdays from 6 to 7pm and is now in its eighth year, so far nearly 400 programs have been produced and over 650 interviews held with State, National and International identities. Guest Presenters are a regular feature of the program.

A broadcasting survey showed that Talking Horses has a podcast listener base of 60,000. The program can be listened to on the Internet and feedback is received from listeners all over Australia and other countries.

To provide information or become involved in either radio program, contact WA Horse Council Chair Diane Bennit on 9293 3577 or diane@horsehotline.org.

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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.

NRMA AND WAHC BUS TOUR OF PROPERTIES

by *Graham McAlpine* NRM Landcare Regional Facilitator

Perth NRM and the WA Horse Council have, over the last 5 years, traditionally held field days each year that bring attendees together to hear a range of information based on helping them improve their management capacity. These range from best property management practices, grazing / feed budgeting, horse nutrition and veterinary basics from specialist presenters.

This is usually done at a venue like Brookleigh or a Pony Club or on properties of horse owners and has engaged the local horse community in most cases.

In 2017, Perth NRM with WAHC and property management specialist Belinda Taylor decided to change tack and organise a tour of properties where owners had built management capability. These have been to individual budget constraints and often on properties that were in pretty bad shape when they were acquired. Issues pre start ranged from over grazing of varied livestock types (sheep / cattle) through to unsympathetic clearing relative to land forms (gullies / rock outcrops) and unforgiving soils: sand, shallow sand over clay to all clay.

Also, our planning was to visit a property group in Summer to look at multiplier issues of summer heat and then a winter one to look at building property potential with the cold and wet conditions usually linked to that time of the year.

SUMMER PROPERTY TOUR MARCH 2017

The first event in March, visiting 4 properties in the Perth Hills suburbs of Parkerville, Stoneville and Sawyers Valley, saw properties in very green conditions, a result of our unseasonal wet, cool summer but property management techniques were quickly the highlight.

The properties ranged in size from 23ha down to 3ha and in each case the owner led the visiting group on a property tour explaining their personal circumstances and reasons for driving their property development.

Discussions evolved between the owners, Belinda and attendees whom were drawn through relative property management issues on:

- damage horses can do to soil by overgrazing,
- the benefits and limitations of pasture types Kikuya, Rhodes grass / summer perennials, winter pasture species and even weeds in holding soil structure,
- understanding soils, pasture nutrition, manure management and
- managing paddock areas, rotational grazing, the use of sacrificial areas and laneways.

Belinda also took participants through the importance of calculating feed needs per animal, the balance of some grazing with majority supplementary feeding / feed budgeting, feed availability, price and feed storage.

On each property the principles had been applied relative to local conditions and capabilities with owners happy to discuss how they had got there.

Attendees reported in evaluations the benefit of seeing sacrifice areas and track areas in working situations. Of particular benefit was the use of hot wire paddock partitioning to improve rotational grazing capacity and time on track areas improving animal health through invigorated herd instincts, mobility against sedentary long term yard / stabling scenarios.



The track system, -above and right. Below: Lunch time for the participants.



The winter bus tour of a different group of properties / soil types is scheduled for Saturday 24th June 2017 and will be advertised through Perth NRM and WAHC in May 2017.



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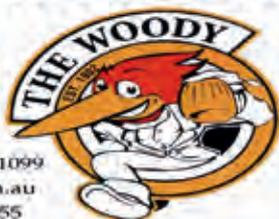
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DISEASE LEVY REVIEW

In Australia, responses to significant animal disease emergencies are coordinated nationally by governments and affected industries, with responses underpinned by the Emergency Animal Disease Response Agreement (EADRA).

The EADRA allows for the costs of responding to be shared by the Australian Government, state and territory governments and livestock industries. The EADRA provides assurance to industries that the necessary resources and finances will be available to mount a response to a disease incursion.

In March 2011, the Australian Horse Industry Council, Equestrian Australia, Harness Racing Australia and Racing Australia signed the EADRA on behalf of the horse industry.

The Horse Disease Response Levy Act 2011 and the Horse Disease Response Levy Collection Act 2011 were introduced in response to the horse industry becoming a signatory to the EADRA. The legislation provides the horse industry with a mechanism to fund its share of a response to an emergency disease that affects horses. A levy was introduced at a nil rate, with the understanding that it would be increased to a positive rate if the EADRA is activated to respond to a horse disease incursion.

Under the EADRA, the Australian Government can agree to underwrite an industry's share of the response. These costs are then recovered through a statutory industry levy. The rate is decided by industry, in consultation with the Australian Government. When the costs have been recovered, the levy is set back to nil.

It was agreed that the levy would be placed on manufactured feed and worm treatments.



The Department of Agriculture and Water Resources released The Horse Disease Response Levy Review in Nov 16. It requires the Minister for Agriculture and

Water Resources to ensure that, at least once every five years, there is a review of the levy to see if it is the most appropriate way of raising money to meet the cost of an emergency response to a disease affecting horses.

Feedback from stakeholders received during the review was analysed and used to reach five findings:

1. The horse industry supports the current levy collection points of manufactured feed and horse wormers.
2. There is strong opposition to the current collection points from stakeholders responsible for collecting the levy.
3. Concerns from stakeholders opposed to the current collection points that potential inequities preventing even coverage of the levy and potential levy leakage are valid. However, there is insufficient data about horse population and feeding and worming practices to quantify this.
4. While a number of alternative collection points were proposed, further data about horse population and feeding and worming practices is required to test the proposed alternatives.
5. Stakeholders opposing the levy also raised concerns that the Horse Disease Response Levy Act 2011 (Commonwealth) might inhibit levy costs being passed on to the end user of manufactured feed or horse wormers. Substantiation of this issue requires further investigation.

