



Horse Safety Australia

Hi Everyone!

Equitana and the Liberty Horse

Horse Safety Australia was represented at Equitana (Melbourne, late November) by a stall with information about clinics and safety products, and the



Liberty Horse (with the stable name: "Phony Pony"). Liberty Underwriters kindly donated the costs of this 2-person horse costume, which we were able to use to demonstrate the dangers of horses, in a light-hearted fashion. The highlights were our walks through the exhibition centre, calling out 'stand back, horse coming through'...The looks on people's faces were wonderful....We made our point about standing clear of the hind quarters of ANY horse....and emphasised this further during our formal presentation on safety, delivered on the Saturday morning in an arena. Thanks to Emma and Nic who performed as our horse on many occasions over the 4 day event!

New endorsements

Not only was our time at Equitana useful in making contacts with individuals who were keen to attend clinics, but we also met with people supplying good quality products to the horse industry. We are hoping to increase our range of endorsed products in the near future. This includes one which the Executive has already approved: the mounting steps pictured here. As you will all know from our clinics, we view mounting blocks as an important tool for horse riding businesses. The office has access to an interesting article which confirms this, as it explains the negative forces on a horse's back from even well-balanced mounting efforts. Of

course there are also the health and safety issues for the person assisting with the mounting process, and even the riders themselves –if they twist as they mount.

These steps weigh 6 kg, but are not difficult to move around, do not have sharp edges, are UV stabilised, Australian made, and are VERY secure. We endorsed them so quickly because 2 members of the Executive had already been using them for years, and were very happy to recommend them. This product has a 25 year guarantee, so while it is not cheap, it is a one off expenditure that has to be worth it in the long run, and should prevent many human and horse injuries! The special price for members is \$190 for black or \$220 for a number of coloured alternatives. Contact our office if you are interested.



The other products we are looking to endorse include: bit-less bridles (whole bridles and/ or noseband attachments to bridles); treeless saddles; Quality EN helmets WITH the 'Kitemark' (more on this below) horse boots with reflective tape (great replacement for a lost shoe on a trail ride), and we still intend to endorse the Aussie Rider helmets (ASNZS 3838-2006) when this product is readily available...they are having terrible trouble with obtaining these from the manufacturer. Of course, we continue to endorse the breakaway stirrups (as featured on our website and in our last newsletter) and are convinced of the value of these as a safety device.

All new products which are endorsed, will be tested by our Executive, in multiple use situations, and with careful consideration of their quality and durability etc. Once approved they will be featured on the website under 'Endorsements'. Hopefully, as well as the small income from sales that the endorsements will provide the organisation, these products should be available for our members at reduced prices. Also, remember, if you buy any other bulk products from your saddlery, obtain a quote from Bonnetts Saddlery through us first, as they have bettered other prices on many occasions. They support us with good discounts, and are happy to encourage our work on safe habits around horses.

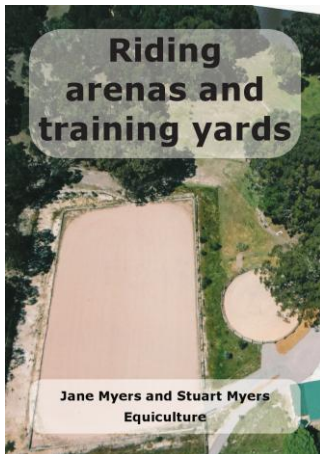
EN HELMETS & the “Kitemark”

(BS EN 1384) To help clarify the ongoing confusion: While all EN helmet are not generally recommended by Horse Safety Australia, the EN helmets **with a KITEMARK** (pictured here) are considered acceptable (as explained by the British Horse Society on their website). The Kitemark is evidence that the helmets are *monitored for quality* and so overcomes the main problem described by the Australian standards authority.



Jane Myers' new booklet: Arenas

Jane has provided good resources for us in the past, and we sell her books already. She has now taken her book: *Managing Horses on Small Properties* and broken it into 9 separate booklets on a number of different subjects, expanding each to include more information.



For example, this one covers arena sizes, fences, footings, uses, surfaces etc.

and is wonderful if you need guidance in this area. We will be selling these booklets through our website, at \$15 each plus P&H. Eventually an electronic format will also be available direct from Jane. Check the website for the rest of the books.

The future of Horse Safety Australia Qualifications

We are pleased to be able to report that the new version of the training package used for our qualifications has been adjusted to meet our needs. At last we have Units of Competency that are more relevant to what we do, in both their titles and contents. (This relates to the list of units you received from the Registered Training Organisation, Wirraway Training when you did your clinics.) It will not change your list, but future graduates will have more relevant names of subjects in their lists, which makes our links with this process more substantial...and reflects well on your qualifications also!

Clinics and Site Accreditations

We had a number of clinics this year as usual, in some cases trying out new sites. We are hoping to travel to WA again next year and run a clinic at the Catholic Agricultural College at Bindoon, 1 hour north of Perth. Congratulations to CAC Bindoon on achieving their Site Accreditation. We are looking forward to running a clinic there.

There was a great deal of interest in clinics at Equitana, so we expect to run many in 2011. The first is likely to be at Ironbark, a college's rural property west of Brisbane, early in February....We will then hold one in NSW and another in Victoria also in the first half of the year, with the regular one in SA over the June long weekend. Dates will be advertised on the website when set. Please contact the office if you want to come, or have anyone you know who may be interested, so that we can make sure everyone knows the details.

Bushfires and Horses

Probably the most important issue for many of us at the moment is the question of what should we do if a bushfire is in our area. For many in the Eastern and Southern states, this is an especially serious question this year, after all the rain we have had...(Sorry, forgive us, those from WA, who are in drought). Check out the flyer on our website which can be printed off and used as a prompt for thinking this matter through in detail....and let's hope there are no fires that impact on any of us this year!

Continuing Registration with Horse Safety Australia

Remember if you want to stay listed on our website, receive information and be registered with us, you may need to re-certify (if it is more than 3 years since you did a clinic). If this applies to you there will be re-certification papers for you in with this newsletter.

Keep an eye on our endorsements which will be listed on the website as suppliers come on board (www.horsesafetyaustralia.com.au).

All the best for the Christmas and New Year period...We hope that they are happy and safe times for all our members and their clients.

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