



# JULY 2008

*Hi Everyone!*

## **Lots of clinics!**

The period *after* Equine Influenza has been crazy for Horse Safety Australia, with many people, who were waiting for clinics last year when EI hit, keen to have one straight away.

In the past 2 months we have run clinics in Victoria, SA, NSW and Queensland, and to date we have another planned for Northern Queensland in October (details on the website).

## **Government support for Horse Safety Australia during EI**

We received significant support from the government for the work we did during the EI crisis. They provided Horse Safety Australia with two business grants (which helped us with ongoing costs when we were getting no income from clinics), and then a not-for-profit association grant of \$20,000 to cover all the costs and work done during the 6 months that were so intense with EI related work. Horse Safety Australia was involved in meetings around Australia, and the office was bombarded with questions and requests for information and guidance. We also sent out two extra newsletters, informed people through our website and directed people to the Australian Horse Industry Council, which was having daily website updates. Additionally, both Paul Davenport and Nina Arnott were doing lots of work for the Australian Horse Industry Council assisting with various areas of the national response.

Sadly, some Horse Safety Australia members stopped their businesses permanently. Even in the non infected states many were significantly affected by movement halts and other restrictions.

We all hope we will never see a repeat of these circumstances!

## **Re-registration for members**

Many have asked how this works or why they haven't received renewal notices. Most importantly: you cannot lose your qualification...it is yours forever! However, re-registration with Horse Safety Australia is another matter....

1. Most qualifications require that your registration is current with an organising body, which checks on things like: first aid, professional development, and current experience in the industry.
2. Renewal is therefore to maintain membership of Horse Safety Australia and to be registered with us, should anyone enquire about your status.
3. We delayed renewals for a few months, because of EI, to provide relief from costs.
4. If you are due for re-registration the paperwork will be enclosed with this newsletter.
5. N.B. Re-registration now includes a Statutory Declaration which covers *how* you are working - we need to know that you continue to acknowledge our basic principles and maintain our standards.

*Quoted from the Melbourne Age 5/7/08*

National coroners' statistics show that horses are the most likely animals to cause human deaths, followed by cattle, dogs, and sharks. Crocodiles and spiders account for only slightly more deaths than emu, cats and fish. Between 2000 and 2006, of 128 deaths linked to animals, 40 were caused by horses (31%). Cattle were linked to 20 fatalities (16%) - usually people swerving to avoid a collision. Dogs caused 12 deaths (9%) - 2 swerving to avoid a collision, 2 when people tripped over them, and 7 after a dog attack. Sharks caused 11 deaths (9%), snakes 8 (6%), crocodiles 4 (3%) and spiders 3 (2%) deaths.

## Mounting Blocks

These seem to be an ongoing problem for many sites. I have sourced a stool from IKEA which is very cheap and does the job beautifully, but for some reason is only available in SA and WA stores! I can get these for \$9.95 but Australia Post is charging \$37 postage for one!!! I am currently investigating bus company freight as an alternative... If you are interested in one or more please email me and I will see if I can organise more reasonable freight costs.

Please be careful with what you use, milk crates are dangerous. (I know of a group which was sued and lost, when someone tipped off a crate when mounting a horse at their place.) The IKEA ones look like this and work well... They seem to survive OK in the sun too.



Make sure when you use something as a mounting block that it is stable, and if you move it to the rider, it is secure when they step on it.

## Adventure Activity Standards

The original version of these was written a few years ago in Victoria and Horse Safety Australia was involved in their production. Currently both WA and Queensland are using this original version as a basis for the guidelines for trail riding in their states.

It is likely that the resulting documents will be of great significance to your businesses if you

run trail rides. If you can attend a consultative meeting when it occurs near you, it would be good to be there and have your say. We have emailed our Queensland members with details of meeting times and places and Horse Safety Australia continues to be involved with feedback on the drafts. Let us know if you need support for your views on these issues.

Currently the following AAS are in place:

**Victoria :**

[www.orc.org.au/aas/view\\_standards.htm#](http://www.orc.org.au/aas/view_standards.htm#)

**Tasmania:**(the final version is due to go online any day, the draft is there at present)

[www.development.tas.gov.au/sportrec/projects/advenactstandards.html](http://www.development.tas.gov.au/sportrec/projects/advenactstandards.html)

**Western Australia:** (keep an eye out for the draft on the following website...again we are in communication with them as they progress)

[www.outdoorswa.org/page.php?id=7](http://www.outdoorswa.org/page.php?id=7)

**SA:** They did theirs a few years ago, and are virtually a copy of the Victorian ones, but are in limbo due to the current state of their Recreation Services Act ...If SA people want the 'low down' on this give me a ring. (It's too complicated to explain it here!)

## EPIRBS (Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacons)

At clinics we normally talk about the possibility of using these for emergencies in remote trail riding situations. Just so you know, if you did invest in one, the international council that controls the search and rescue satellite system has decided to cease processing the *121.5 MHz analogue* EPIRB signals on 1/2/09. From that date only *digital 406 MHz* beacons will be detected by satellites. They recommend that we replace the older version as soon as possible, as there is likely to be a rush on the digital ones at the last minute. They are available on line for sale and hire if you Google EPIRB.

Please note that I will be on leave till 18 August... For any emergencies of the Horse Safety Australia type during this time: please ring Paul Davenport on 0418 595 002  
Cheers  
Nina Arnott