



# NOVEMBER 2008

## 2008 AGM during Equitana, Victoria

The **Annual General Meeting** is due for Horse Safety Australia, and we are planning to hold this during Equitana on 22 November. Unfortunately there are no meeting rooms available at Equitana during normal hours, so we are going to meet at the accommodation where a couple of us are staying for the duration of the event. The details are on the attached Notice of Meeting. Please come if you can.

## SITE ACCREDITATION

We had a clinic in Cairns recently and the site there, Crystal Cascades Horse Park (CCHP) is on its way to fulfilling our site accreditation requirements, along with the few others which have made this effort. Already accredited are Wirraway Homestead in SA, and Watson's Mountain Country Trail Rides in Victoria. Both Billabong Trail Rides and Camp Howqua's horse program are in the last stages of compliance. It would be great if more sites could consider applying for site accreditation. The process involves going through the paperwork and giving us your evidence of how you meet the requirements, and paying a fee of \$660. The next step is a site visit by a Horse Safety Australia auditor. This results in a report which assesses your procedures and management systems, and summarizes the areas which need attention.

To achieve site accreditation, you don't need expensive equipment or fancy buildings, you just must run in a safe and effective manner, and your paperwork needs to be comprehensive. If you are interested, give Nina a call in the office. You may be surprised that you are already well on the way to compliance!



**CCHP clinic in October, Cairns  
(indoors!)**

## WEBSITE CHANGES to come soon!

At the moment we are working on the website and hope to include the following very soon:

### Instructor listings:

We will be displaying on the website the names and qualifications (by state) of all instructors / trail guides on our current membership lists. As a general rule, we will not include other details at this stage.

However, if for business reasons, you want further information placed on this list, including your contact details and the type of organisation you are running (e.g. instructional riding in the various disciplines, trail riding, clinics, horse handling) we will include these at the cost of \$44 (incl GST) per annum. The site is getting around 300 hits per week.

If you want this service, send Nina your information (business name, address, phone number, website and details of services provided : in 50 words or less) and she will invoice you and update the website with your extra details. Email these to :

[nina@horsesafetyaustralia.com.au](mailto:nina@horsesafetyaustralia.com.au)

## Employment:

From time to time the office receives calls from horse riding providers who are looking for qualified staff. Please let Nina know if you are looking for work, the area in which you live, (or if you are willing to travel to get a job) and your availability. She can then put you in touch with the sites which need help.

## THE NATIONAL OFFICE

Horse Safety Australia is very busy these days. We have been involved with giving input into the development of the Adventure Activity Standards in each state as they are either introduced or reviewed. We have been investigating endorsement issues for items including Toestoppers, SmartRider stirrups and Aussie Rider helmets; and spent time on our involvement in Equitana (banners, brochures, shirts with out logo) and putting together a demonstration we are doing on "Safety around horses" (Saturday afternoon if you can make it!).

Plus there are always more clinics to organise.

We have had a number of calls regarding award wages for staff. Unfortunately we cannot give advice on this for two main reasons...1. There is not an award that covers exactly what we do, and 2. each state has different awards & regulations (in addition to national awards) and we are not equipped to source this information.

However, there are a number of other documents available through the office that could help you with your operations. Many of these are provided in hard copy in the pack now supplied to each site with representatives attending a clinic.

Please email and ask for any of the following if you think they could assist you...

### Examples of documentation available to members:

- OHS Policy template
- Risk Management Plan template
- Waiver for clients to sign
- Helmets and how they work
- Drought feeding
- Emergency procedures: sample
- Biosecurity planner
- Sample agistment agreements
- and many more.... Just ask!

## **A review of the national Code of Practice for horse activities (Australian Horse Industry Council's HorseSafe) is currently in progress.**

The key changes that have been proposed are as follows:

- Horses used in commercial operations should have minimum condition requirements
- Remove the EN helmet standards from those acceptable to the code
- Equipment to be checked by staff before riding commences
- Fence heights for beginner riders to be a minimum of 1.05 m
- Instructors working with minors must have the relevant working with children check
- Inclusion of requirements for commercial carriage drivers: with these having similar requirements to instructors (i.e. that they be qualified, be a minimum of 18 years old and have first aid qualifications).
- Instructors must now have a qualification, not just be enrolled in a course and experienced
- Instructors 'in training' must be a minimum of 16 years old and have first aid qualifications, and when working to gain experience, must be under the direct and visual supervision of a qualified instructor.
- On all commercial trial rides there should be a minimum of 2 staff, regardless of the number of clients, one must be qualified, the other must at least be formally in training. (Minimum of 2 qualified staff for trail rides for minors)
- Minimum of 2 people with first aid qualifications on any trail ride
- On commercial trail rides, children under 10 years old must be led unless they have demonstrated that they are experienced horse riders and are riding suitable ponies.
- On commercial trail rides, side walkers (on foot) , when required, may not lead two horses at a time, or be counted into staff ratios
- If it is known before the commencement of session that a client needs to be on a lead from horseback for the ride, the staff member involved must not be counted in ratios of staff to clients
- Exclusion of dogs from all horse activities (other than stock rides where the dogs are an integral part of the event)

Full details can be sent to you if you are interested. Please email your comments back to us before the 19<sup>th</sup> November, when we are going to Equitana. At that event, on the 20<sup>th</sup>, we are running a presentation on behalf of the Australian Horse Industry Council on this subject, and it will help to include any more industry feedback that you can provide.

Contact Nina on this or any other Horse Safety Australia matter....

by email at [nina@horsesafetyaustralia.com.au](mailto:nina@horsesafetyaustralia.com.au) or ring her on 0411 685 211.