



NEWS: June 2005

THE ASSOCIATION FOR HORSEMANSHIP SAFETY & EDUCATION IN AUSTRALIA INC. ABN 44 215 962 886

The time for this year's AGM has arrived (set for 12/7/05), so here are the papers, plus some other information that might be of interest to you. This includes news of some grants we have received over the past months, either on our own, or jointly with the Registered Training Organisation we are linked with (Wirraway Training). These have

made our existence more sustainable, as the membership fees really only cover the professional indemnity insurance for the clinic instructors and general office expenses (e.g. this newsletter!). Most office functions are still largely honorary...and the grants will allow for some paid work at last!

Nepabunna and Leigh Creek: Trail Guide - Pilot Program

One of our exciting projects over the past 6 months has been our involvement with a group of indigenous people from Nepabunna and the surrounding districts (a 6 hour car drive North of Adelaide). They approached us wanting a trail guide qualification, so they could run trail rides for tourists and share their beautiful country and their stories with them. The process has involved training them, familiarizing them with the Code of Practice, and the general standards required by the industry, as well as some serious coaching in what tourists are like and what problems might arise. All who receive this newsletter will have attended a clinic and understand role playing...so you will know what I am describing when I talk about a 73 year old aboriginal elder, Ron, who said with a glint, "I will be the tourist for this group" and went on to be completely annoying! He did a good job...It was a bit of shock to the rest...but Ron knew what he was talking about, having run tourist rides before...

The project has been sponsored by a number of different bodies including a local indigenous group, the SA Department of Recreation and Sport; the Adelaide Bank Charitable Foundation, and a WELL project (see over the page about this project)

At this stage Paul and Nina have been involved with Stages 1 and 2, and in a couple of weeks another Clinic Instructor Liz Foster (from NSW) will help with Stage 3, as they travel up to Leigh Creek to work with the group on the workbooks and a 'practice' trail ride. There has also been interest in 'an indigenous trail guide qualification' from a number of other areas (especially in Northern Queensland). A great tourism opportunity for them, and also potentially for others in the industry to employ trained indigenous guides, who can join their staff and add an extra dimension to their program. SA statistics show that 28 % of tourists want a guided tour in Australia, and 80% are interested in something involving the indigenous culture.



Nina with a 'pre trail ride assessment' demonstration at the Leigh Creek Pony club with workshop participants...

WELL Project

One of the grants that we received was a Workplace English Language and Literature (WELL) grant to re-write the workbooks that form a significant part of our qualification process. A number of the clinic instructors (with outside specialist assistance) are producing these, and the Nepabunna Pilot Group have kindly agreed to having the books trialled with them to provide us with feedback on their effectiveness. This will mean that the workbooks

on the subjects of handling horses, supervising others around horses, first aid for horses, OHS, food handling, environmental matters, + others (7 in all), will be in a format that will be suitable for participants with literacy problems. This will be useful for many in the horse industry in general, not just for the indigenous members of the community who have difficulty reading and writing. We are also re-writing our paperwork on the Code of Practice, emergency procedures and risk management.

Reframing the Future Grant

We were also pleased to receive (with Wirraway Training) a grant for "up-skilling" our Clinic Instructors. This will occur at a special workshop planned for 12-14 July in Victoria, to link in with the AGM. It will focus on introducing them to the contents of the new Training Package that we now use (it supersedes the old one). We will also cover the areas of flexible learning, equity and issues relating to access, i.e. how we can adapt to allow everyone possible to gain the AHSE qualifications (while still maintaining our standards...) This group will also review the WELL documents that will be written by then, talk about making them available as required and how to use them to assist those with specific literacy problems.

AGM

You will note that there is an agenda for our Annual General Meeting included with this newsletter. It is self explanatory. Please make the effort to send in your proxy voting form to the office, so that we can properly represent members in the election of the next Executive.

AHSE Manual

Frequently at Clinics we are asked about the availability of manuals or text books that talk about safety around horses, and common sense horse handling. Many are familiar with the book 'Horse Sense', a general book on horses that has been around for a while and published in Australia. Recently one of our Clinic Instructors, Jane Myers, was involved in re-writing this book and making it relevant to Australian conditions and current views on horse keeping. She did a great job, and introduced some common sense into the

industry! She is now in the process of writing a manual for AHSE instructors, and we hope it will be printed and available by Equitana in November 2005. It explains horse behaviour in some detail (her speciality in her University training) and is very interesting. Look out for this, it will most likely be produced by the CSIRO, and copies will be available from AHSE... More on that next newsletter.



Future Clinics

From the start of 2005, AHSE has begun setting the clinic dates, with the office (not the sites) taking responsibility for all the organisation of these events. In theory this means that participants can plan well in advance, and the clinic staff can plan to set aside the dates as they are required.

Those set for the rest of 2005 are as follows:

Wirraway Homestead, **South Australia**:

10-14 June

Mill Valley Ranch, **Victoria**:

4-8 September

Tunnel Ridge Ranch, **Queensland**:

3-7 October



Please feel free to contact me with any queries, and if you need insurance contact our sponsors: Affinity Risk Partners.

Talk to Geoff Ellis: 02 8587 7777

Cheers!*Nina Arnott* 6/6/05