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

Executive:
We had our AGM in July this year and the following people were elected to the Executive: Paul Davenport (continued as President) Nina Arnott (continued as EO) Jamie McLean (Publicity) general members: Liz Foster, Jane Myers

Margaret Mooney and Russell Mathews. (...Thanks for your excellent work as past Treasurer, Russell)

We may still co-opt one or two more, but are very grateful for the willingness of these people to steer our organisation in 05/06.

The first HARNESS qualifications at an AHSE clinic

At Echuca in September this year we held our first clinic that included qualifications for those involved in the commercial harness areas of the horse industry. It was a challenging time, with a very large group (16) even by normal standards! However, everyone was very helpful and obliging, and willing to go the extra mile to swap around from harness, to trail riding to lessons as required. At the end of the four (hectic) days we were able to meet most people’s needs, and honestly say that, even with out these distractions, they would probably not have achieved more during the clinic in terms of qualifications. Everyone received something that they were hoping for, and a number were sent away with work to do to reach some of the higher levels. Noel Wiltshire headed up the harness section of the clinic and his input was greatly appreciated by all involved. We ended up with 7 having the new “Commercial Carriage Drivers” (Singles and/or pairs) qualification, in addition to the usual Instructor and Trail Guide accreditations.

The qualification was requested by those wishing to prove to insurance companies that they know what they are doing. It will also be offered in the future (in a cut down version) to private drivers, needing a ticket (like a license) to compete at shows and events. We probably will not combine it with ‘normal’ clinics in the future as it created too many logistical nightmares!!! Thanks to ‘Billabong Ranch’ for their hospitality...there are very few places which could have accommodated all our needs as they did!
Reframing the Future Grant
A course for the Clinic Instructors was held near Werribee in Victoria in July, using monies from this grant. The three day workshop was attended by Paul Davenport (as facilitator) Nina Arnott (as trainer) and Jamie McLean, Liz Foster, Noel Wiltshire, Jane Myers, Margaret Mooney, Sandy Doig and Maxlyn Flint. We spent the time going through the work of the clinic staff and their responsibilities to the Registered Training Organisation in their processes. The idea is to be consistent across Australia in our assessments, to be fair and equitable, and to find ways to accommodate those with literacy problems. We spent quite some time on the details of clinics and how to ‘recognize prior learning’ effectively. We all felt that the time was worthwhile and that it should assist make clinics run more smoothly in the future.

Books through AHSE
In our last Newsletter I talked about an AHSE Manual being on the way. Well, its not ready yet, but Jane is finalizing another book that may be of interest to many of you: called Horse Safe. It features safe practices around horses. It is suitable for Instructors and their clients and anyone who is interested in horse behaviour; and safe interactions between humans and horses. It is hoped it will be published before Equitana and available there at both the Australian Horse Industry Council and Affinity Risk Partners booths. It will also be available through the office at a slightly discounted rate in the near future.... if you are interested email me and I will let you know the deal!

Toestoppers
We have been able to arrange for a special price on (bulk orders) of Toestoppers, which we are happy to recommend as a safe addition to stirrups to prevent riders being dragged. The normal retail price is advertised at $90 and we are able to arrange for bulk orders (6+) at a rate of $68 including GST for members of our organisation. This price is for the rest of 2005; to be re-negotiated early 2006. Order through Nina at the office; they will be delivered direct to you with an invoice from Bonnetts Saddlery in S.A.
- (no $$ taken for AHSE)

Why no $$ for our organisation you ask...? Well, we are here to serve you, and adding to the cost of this product may make you less likely to buy it!

Measuring Toestoppers size
There are two different types: English/ Stock or Oxbow/ Western
Measure exactly between the uprights of the stirrup (see illustration)
if unsure check at your saddlery, or on the website www.toestoppers.com

Affinity Risk Partners
Affinity has again generously sponsored our Public Liability Insurance, and also arranged a cheaper Professional Indemnity Cover for us... This means there is more in the bank for things we want to do for our members! Again our thanks go to this company for their support. It is a great help, and we are happy to be associated with them, as they remain true to their requirements that clients undertake risk management and develop safe practices... If only all insurance companies took that approach, our industry would be a great deal safer! If you need insurance contact our sponsors: Affinity Risk Partners, and ask for Jane Martin: 03 8587 7777

Please feel free to contact me with any queries,

Cheers! ......Nina Arnott
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