



**Horse Safety Australia**

## NEWS Sept 2007

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

### Equine Influenza ...frustration and heartache!

The Horse Safety Australia office has written to the Minister to make sure he understands there are others besides those in the thoroughbred and standardbred industries hurting from this crisis! Here is a copy of the letter we sent:

*"Horse Safety Australia is an organisation which has 350 members throughout Australia, many of whom are involved in the commercial area of the recreation horse industry.*

*Our members run tourist related businesses (trail riding-both same day and overnight, through to week long, all requiring movement of horses off their properties) and other members run clinics and lessons for horse owners (involving the movement of riders and horses to a venue). Others involved in Horse Safety Australia own riding schools providing lessons for hundreds of members of the public on a regular basis. A number of our membership have businesses with multiple horses and many low paid casual and part time staff. In a number of these cases their businesses have been devastated by the equine influenza epidemic.*

*Many businesses have had no income as they have been unable to have the public on their facilities since the tracing of the people movements and contact would be close to impossible.*

*Our members have shown commitment to safety and good practices by requiring qualifications of their staff, and implementing good standard operating procedures for their businesses. Our members voluntarily apply the Australian Horse Industry Council Code of Practice in their operations (even though this is not required by law and there are no licences for this type of business).*

*In your deliberations regarding assistance for those in the horse racing industry who are disadvantaged by the Equine Influenza restrictions, we would greatly appreciate it if you considered the needs of our members also. Our sympathy is with the stable hands and jockeys in the thoroughbred and harness sectors of the horse industry, but it is important to remember that the commercial recreation horse industry has also being hit hard with bills to pay and mortgages due with little or no income available from their normal employment."*

The Australian Horse Industry Council has also written a letter to the Minister on behalf of those in trouble in the recreation sector of the horse industry. They also provide information on their website.... and their Horse Emergency Contact Database SMS service is excellent in an emergency like this. You can sign up for this for free on their website: [www.horsecouncil.org.au](http://www.horsecouncil.org.au) . It would also be good if you joined them to support their work. The link: [www.outbreak.gov.au](http://www.outbreak.gov.au) lets you know the current situation on restrictions, general information about EI, including precautions to take if you could be in contact with the disease. If you have not been receiving emails from our office please **send me your current email address** so you can be added to our lists. We are regularly sending out any important information we receive . For updates on Equine Influenza: ring the National hotline: 1800 234 002 (daily 8am to 8pm).

Do you have a **biosecurity plan** for your horse activities...? See the attachment for information you could use to develop these. They will vary by site and situation, so we cannot provide 'one size fits all'.

Email: [nina@ahse.info](mailto:nina@ahse.info)

### Annual General Meeting

Also attached to this newsletter you will find the AGM papers, including an agenda, the minutes of the previous meeting (2006) and a proxy form for this year's meeting. We had a face to face gathering of all clinic instructors and the Executive in July to discuss issues of Horse Safety Australia's future, our role in the industry, links with Bonnetts Saddleworld, changes to the school requirements, maintenance of standards of assessments at clinics, etc. We could not have the AGM then as the end of our financial year was 30 June and the books needed auditing. So this AGM will be a phone conference only.

**Equitana** Look out for Horse Safety Australia in the Affinity Insurance Brokers 'mall', and also check out our involvement in the Saddleworld section. If any of you are attending and can take your turn on our stand for a couple of hours, please let Nina know so she can add you to the timetable. (Of course, all this is subject to the control of the Equine Influenza outbreak and the event going ahead.)

### Education Department Guidelines

The education departments in most states have either released, or are completing, new guidelines to schools for camps. Horse Safety Australia (at this stage still called Association for Horsemanship Safety and Education in their documents) is mentioned in all. If you are involved with school students it is worth having a look to see what is required of you.

In most cases the guidelines are applicable to independent schools also.

### Adventure Activity Standards (AAS)

These are being considered by governments across Australia as guides for adventure activities. Horse Safety Australia is currently looking at assisting in the writing of suitable standards for arena riding, as the existing standards only cover trail riding activities.

### CLINICS:

More clinics are planned for the next few months:

Camp Howqua, near Mansfield Vic	10-14 September (trail riding clinic)
Teen Ranch, near Camden NSW	21-25 October
Black Mountain Hideaway, near Cairns	2-6 December

+ possibly an arena clinic in Victoria before the end of the year....to be advised. If you are interested in this one (or any others) please let Nina know so she can make sure you are 'in the loop'.

Clinics now cost \$990 per person, with an additional cost of \$110 (once per site) which includes the provision of a copy of Jane Myers' book "Horse Safe" as well as a 75 page Horse Safety Australia document containing useful resources for horse businesses.

### New Website

Have a look at the new look website...by the time you receive this it should be accessible through either the old address: [www.ahse.info](http://www.ahse.info) or [www.horsesafetyaustralia.com.au](http://www.horsesafetyaustralia.com.au)

List of instructors/guides;

As mentioned in the last newsletter, in our new website we want to include a list of those qualified through AHSE. We will be putting in your name, and the list will be divided up by states. If you do NOT want your name included please let me know. If you want full business details also included (contact and business details, qualifications etc.) it will cost you \$22 per annum. Please contact us immediately if you **do not** want your name to appear, or if you want the extra details for your business.

Apologies to those who sent a note to say they want the full details...I haven't had time to do this yet... There are a few logistical issues of names and addresses that are out of date etc.

### Strong links with Bonnetts, Saddleworld

We have previously had a great deal with Saddleworld (through Bonnetts in SA) getting bulk orders of Toestoppers at a significantly reduced price. We now have contacts there which will mean most bulk purchases should provide good savings. Additionally they are willing to promote Horse Safety Australia and its objectives through their catalogues and other means.

We are also looking into endorsing products and through this gaining some income for the organization (to help with administrative costs and the provision of more extensive member services). If there is a product you think we should consider for endorsement, let us know. We are currently investigating 'Ammo' saddles, which are lightweight and good on the horse's back, improving OHS for both horse and staff as well as comfort for riders !!!!

To contact Nina at the office:

[nina@ahse.info](mailto:nina@ahse.info)

Horse Safety Australia, Box 209, Strathalbyn 5255  
(08) 8536 3274 or 0411 685 211