



Horse Safety Australia

Hi Everyone!

Equitana 2011

We are expecting to attend Equitana in Sydney this year, and will have a panel to discuss and answer questions on some of the burning issues on safety around horses. This will include :

- Which helmet should we buy?
- What do I need to have in place if I teach others to ride?
- What should I look for in a riding school for my child?
- When do we need insurance?
- How should we set up our agistment site?

...plus: any audience questions related to safety will be welcome.

Phony Pony will make an appearance or two in the main exhibition areas as well.

New endorsements

The newest product we have endorsed is Champion Helmets, which are distributed in Australia by Southern Stars Saddlerys. (We have enclosed a flyer about these helmets in with this newsletter for you.)

They are a very comfortable helmet, and a quality product. They are lightweight, look good, and are often the choice of top competitive riders. We have been able to negotiate a substantial 20% discount for our members for these. We can endorse this EU helmet, because it boasts the 'Kitemark', which indicates that this product undergoes regular monitoring for quality and consistency. (You will remember from previous newsletters that following information from SAI Global, who organise testing for horse riding helmets in Australia, we are suggesting that members should not consider purchasing EU helmets without the Kitemark for their clients.)

We still highly recommend the ASNZ 3838 Standard helmets of course, especially for those bulk purchases for use by clients, as their safety is excellent and they come in a lower price range.

Annual General Meeting of Horse Safety Australia

The Executive plan to meet in Victoria on 1-2 April (Yes, we know it is April Fool's Day...!) and, scary as it might seem, that is the chosen day for our AGM!All welcome.....

Current members, or interested people, are invited to join us on the evening of 1 April at Mill Valley Ranch, 525 Tynong North Road, Tynong North (SE of Melbourne 15 minutes past Pakenham towards Warragul). The meeting will begin at 8pm and run for around 1 hour maximum, with time afterwards to chat. We will report on the last year's activities, the current state of the organisation, our financial situation etc. and elect a new Executive for 2011.

Please note the attached proxy form and information about the current members of the Executive. If you are interstate, or cannot make the meeting, please fill in a proxy form to show your interest, and either fax or post it back. We will have the newly endorsed products there on show, along with some we are still considering.

The other thing we need is new member (s) for the Executive. An Executive Member needs to be someone who has done at least one clinic, and has achieved more than the very basic level of accreditation (so you have more experience in the industry and a wider knowledge base.) Many of the issues discussed require a depth of understanding which comes from handling a variety of horses in a number of different areas. People who also have organisational skills, or expertise in marketing would be good. We need to share the load more.

This year, sadly, we are losing Liz Baillie from the Executive. Liz has served us well for many years, keeping us positive when we meet, contributing behind the scenes, and being a well loved and capable clinic instructor. We will miss her humour and positive input to both clinics and our Executive meetings.

Current members of the Executive, eligible for re-election include:

Jamie McLean	Margaret Mooney
Paul Davenport	Noel Wiltshire
Jane Myers	Nina Arnott
Debra Lovett	Liz Baillie (retiring)

As far as we have been able to determine, the rest of these people are willing to continue on the Executive, and details about their backgrounds can be found on the attached sheet, which also gives you formal notice of the AGM.

If you are considering being involved with Horse Safety Australia at the Executive level, you will need to know what we do! Our main interests for the past few years have been linked to:

- The Australian Horse Industry Council Code of Practice (most recently in its review stages)
- General policies and procedures for safe handling of horses
- New equipment and endorsements of products
- The Outdoor Recreation Training Package and the units used for our qualifications
- Representation and sessions run at Equitana and other events
- general marketing & publicity
- Fees for clinics and ensuring the organisation stays solvent and accountable
- Site accreditations & standards
- Clinics (where, costs, changes needed)

We usually meet once per year face to face and twice more on phone conferences,. New members of the Executive would be welcome.

Some feedback from clinic graduates:

Recently received this from "Horses and Horsemen" in southern WA, who were fairly new to this part of the horse business:

"The trail riding has been a real revelation. It is great. We thought tourists would be bad with the horses. We thought they would get that kamikaze way about them. We thought we would be bored. We thought it would be scaryNone of the above actually occurred. Tourists are fundamentally happy. They are uncomplicated. They are simpler than pure horse-people, even though we do get horse people too: but they allow themselves to be in tourist mode. They happily submit to our initial coaching. It is a bit like a pre-flight briefing, so could put them to sleep, but it doesn't. Even if they are thinking it is a bit basic, a bit 'lowest common denominator',

we now know that we get the other 1.5 hours to balance it up. And that is the point. As a result of a good arena session they get more freedom out and they are more in control of themselves and their horse... And the response?: "Awesome, that's unbelievable. This is the best trail ride I have ever been on and I have ridden all over the world"

What a wonderful endorsement of the concept of teaching the riders before they set out on the trail! Thanks for the feedback Sam and Sascha...glad you are enjoying this and that business is going well!

At the other end of the world, we have horse businesses in Queensland who have struggled through horrendous weather conditions: floods and cyclones...Our hearts go out to you. There are some really good operators and lovely people whose businesses have suffered enormously...We hope you recover quickly and can go back to doing what you love, very soon.

Continuing Registration with Horse Safety Australia: re-register now if you have let this lapse....

As websites are being used more and more, we see the value of making our membership list more detailed. We will only do this for those CURRENTLY registered with us, and will include their area of certification, location and contact phone number and email addresses. If you do NOT want you details included please let us know. This will be a free service provided by us.

Entries in bold fonts and including business names, will attract costs of \$33 per annum.

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name.....

Please do **NOT** place my details on the website (i.e. name, location and mobile phone number)

Please send me details of payment for my name to be in bold letters and my business details to be included on the website.

Email details for reply:

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Send to Horse Safety Australia: details here.

