

# AUSTRALIAN HOOFCARE ASSOCIATION

[www.ahca.org.au](http://www.ahca.org.au)

## **NEWSLETTER NO 3 November 2007**

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### ***President's Report***

This doubles for the AGM president's report!

### **The Year Behind**

It has been a year of slow but steady progress with our small group.

The year started off with Darren at the helm , but he passed the baton to me at the halfway mark when time constraints with his studies became too great. Thanks Darren for putting your hand up at a time when no-one else could either!

At the same time we gathered for a special general meeting in Wodonga to mobilize the committee. The main problem has been the great distances involved in getting together for face to face meetings. Well, thanks to the technologically advanced members of our group (Darren and Luke) we now have in place regular on-line virtual meetings. Regular communication!! Once we get our protocols sorted out and try not to all 'talk' at once, I think they will prove very successful. Apart from the bad jokes!

This year we also managed to organize and host a couple of whole horse dissection clinics with Sharon May Davis that proved to be not only superb learning experiences, but also a successful fund raising venture. Your association now has a kitty! Thanks to Sharon for very generously sharing the proceeds with us. I believe that all hands-on equine service providers would benefit from attending a horse dissection clinic. Sorry I'll rephrase

that – all horses in the care of these service providers would benefit from their greater understanding of the equine body!

Sharon will hopefully be running some more clinics – probably some ‘advanced’ ones that will build on the anatomy basics and be more slanted towards functional anatomy. I highly recommend all members to participate in a dissection clinic if they can.

In the wider barefoot world, this year has seen a major advancement in official hoof trimmer education with the launch of a Certificate III course at Tasmania Tafe (see Marg Ricardson’s report). Now there is an officially government recognized and accredited qualification.

But every silver lining has a dark cloud! Now to the **downsides** of the year.

One disappointment this year was the failure of the Australian Racing Board to change the rules for thoroughbred racing to allow horse to race barefoot. Despite some solid work from Dr Steve Roberts who puts a heck of a lot of work into his submissions, race horses will need to be ‘tipped’ at the very least. Being a race track farrier myself, the irony really ‘sticks’ me because on several occasions when a horse has lost a plate at the barriers and has been ‘reluctant’ to have the plate replaced, this farrier has been under starter’s orders and been instructed to remove the other plate - whether front or hind - so the horse runs half barefoot (invariably without any trouble)!

After the ruling, our association put forth a further submission (developed mainly by Chrisann –thanks), but in true racing industry style, a reply has not been forthcoming.

Another downside to this year has been the loss of a few members who have chosen not to renew their memberships. The number of new trimmers appearing in the market place is increasing exponentially so hopefully our membership can be turned around, especially now that we have some momentum.

Any talk of the year just gone just couldn’t be complete without mention of *Equine Influenza* which has cast a rather dull light over the equine industry (see other reports by those who have had to live and work in the middle of it). Down here in the great state of Victoria where it is cane toad free, horse flu free and unfortunately rain free, it hasn’t quite been business as usual; more like getting on with life when there is a bushfire on the horizon. Hopefully, the outbreak will disappear in the heat of summer.

Invariably, there will be positives to come out of the EI debacle. Probably the main positive from the AHCA perspective is that the Australian Horse Industry Council now recognizes not only the existence of equine hoof trimmers as a group of service providers distinctive from farriers, but also that the AHCA is the peak industry body representing trimmers in Australia – equal to the farrier organizations. Anyone who has even the briefest understanding of the politics behind the scenes in the Australian equine hoofcare industry will know that this is a pretty big achievement in our short time together – well done guys.

The EI outbreak has also been the catalyst for many horses having unscheduled time out from competitions, providing a great opportunity for them to have their shoes removed – if only for a relatively short break. But there are many I know of who will hopefully be attempting to stay barefoot.

As this ‘term’ comes to a close, I would like to give special thanks to secretary Kerry and treasurer Marg who will not be standing again for their posts. They have been on the executive since the formation of the association and are very much deserving of a break. Thank you both for jobs well done.

## **The Year Ahead**

### **Trimmer Education**

Education for equine hoof trimmers in Australia will continue to develop in the coming year with the launch of a *Diploma of Equine Podio-Therapy* through the National College of Traditional Medicine at Sunshine, Victoria.

In its inaugural year, the course will be featuring Dr Robert Bowker, an internationally renowned research veterinarian from the USA. This is quite a coup for the students and has been made possible by the continuing generosity of Easycare Hoofboots. See the article by Chrisann for details.

In addition to Dr Bowker, the course will also be featuring Dr Alison MacIntosh who is a Queensland based veterinarian and has been one of the pioneers of the development of ‘barefooting’ in Australia, particularly in the field of barefoot rehabilitation of lame horses; and also Wayne Anderson who was a master farrier of high regard and is now one of Australia’s foremost educators of horses and horse riders.

The *Tasmanian Certificate III course* will also be up and running with its third intake of students in early 2008.

### **Robert Bowker Clinics**

While Dr Bowker is in Australia, the AHCA will hopefully be able to organize a couple of seminars to help Dr Bowker communicate his latest research to the wider hoofcare industry. I envisage these seminars (probably 2 days of lectures and demos) will be very popular, but they will take quite some organizing – Rebecca is our events co-ordinator and is very good at doing so, but she will be needing help, so please don't be shy! It will also be a great opportunity for our association to put itself right out at the forefront of equine hoofcare industry in Australia.

### **Equitana**

The postponement of Equitana – whilst disappointing – has given everyone involved a chance to be better prepared. This is good, because even though your committee was busily preparing to have a presence at Equitana (thanks to Mike and Chrissann for the very generous offer to share some space in their Easycare Downunder booth), it was all a bit rushed.

We are planning on putting together a 'showbag' of information to promote not only our association, but also the concept of riding barefoot horses in general. Once again, if anyone would like to be involved in the planning of our Equitana 'experience', just put your hand up!

I'm not sure why, but I feel the urge to close with a classic quote:

“Fool proof systems don't take into account the ingenuity of fools!”

Andrew Bowe

Coming events....

**The Australian Hoof Care Association proudly presents....**

## **Horse Handling for Hoof Trimmers**

With leading Australian Horsemanship trainer

**Wayne Anderson**

**&**

**A Hoof Boot fitting workshop with**

**Mike Ware of Easycare Downunder**

**at**

**November 17<sup>th</sup> – at 470 Middle Creek Road, Yarck, Victoria**

**10am to 5pm**

The Australian Hoof Care Association has organised a *one-day clinic* with Wayne Anderson, former champion farrier turned barefoot advocate, on handling, reading and understanding the horse. Wayne has spent many years training and traveling with American master horseman, Buck Brannaman. Those who have attended Wayne's clinics say he makes working with horses safer, easier and more fun.

He opens a window in the human mind which encourages us to truly consider the horse's point of view. But more than that, he teaches people to harness equine psychology for the mutual benefit of horse and human.

He is refreshingly frank, recalling his own journey from conventional horsemanship to respectful equine communication. He was – he admits – an aggressive farrier. Not nearly as severe as many. But harsh with the horses. He'd been put through stable doors, booted in the teeth by frightened, cornered animals. And he wasn't going to take any nonsense. At the time he was a highly regarded Australian farrier.

But when he saw how people like Tom Dorrance and Buck Brannaman were approaching horses, and the results they were getting, he was humbled. He started attending Brannaman's clinics, learning from and working for him over many years both in the US and here in Australia. These days Wayne no longer shoes horses. Instead, he teaches humans to better understand the equine mind and how to gain the cooperation and trust of the horse.

This is a clinic for all trimmers – and potential trimmers – who want to improve their ability to work with horses. It will also be a great opportunity to network with other trimmers. Bring a friend. Make a day of it.

Due to Equine Influenza and the cancellation of this year's EQUETHY Barefoot Trimming clinics, we've been able to secure the services of hoof boot distributor Mike Ware, from Easycare DownUnder, to run ***Hoof Boot fitting workshop*** booting barefoot horses. This is a great chance to come and learn first hand about how best to boot those hard-to-fit horses. To see for yourself what a tremendous difference boots can make to the gait of a horse which is transitioning out of shoes. And to find out about boots in development. Mike has more experience than anybody else in Australia in booting horses. *We are very lucky to have him with us. Normally he would be travelling Australia running barefoot trim clinics.*

**There's a 10am start. There'll be plenty of opportunity to ask both Wayne and Mike plenty of questions throughout the day.**

- **Please follow Victorian DPI bio-security guidelines and advise if you are coming from interstate.**
- **BYO lunch or duck down to the tea rooms 5kms away. BYO chair & sun protection.**
- **Morning and afternoon tea provided.**
- **Limited numbers. Payment will secure a place. First in best dressed.**
- **Email (or ring) Andrew or Nicky Bowe for directions to their property [mayfieldf@bigpond.com](mailto:mayfieldf@bigpond.com) or tel 03 5773 4306**

**Cost: \$30 for AHCA members, \$50 for non-members.**

Payment by cheque to:

AHCA Treasurer

Marg Van Riet

PO Box 117 Garfield, VIC 3814.

Or via Netbank to:

Australian Hoof Care Association Inc.

BSB #633 000.

A/C #125904425.

Anybody netbanking is asked to email their Netbank Receipt to treasurer Marg Van Riet at [mvanriet@nex.net](mailto:mvanriet@nex.net).

Please tag the payment with your name.

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***From Mike at Equethy...***



News from  
Easycare  
Down  
Under

Hi AHCA Members,

I hope that you have not been driven crazy by all the biosecurity measures necessary at present. I hope that those in other States are not inflicted with this horrible virus it certainly has flattened the horse industry here in NSW. But lets hope that things get back to normal quickly.

**Firstly Really Good News - Equine Podio-Therapy course to have Prof. Robert Bowker as one of the Lecturers.**

**Easycare Down Under** is thrilled to announce that due to the extreme generosity of Garrett Ford from Easycare we have been able to bring Prof. Robert Bowker to Australia next year.

Garrett Ford has given us a grant to help us develop this course, and then generously allowed me to offer it to Dr. Bowker for use towards his “non profit” research in return for his teaching and to get him to Australia. We are very lucky to have such strong support from Easycare who continue to help us develop barefoot trimming in this country.



Now all the students who attend the course can have the advantage of studying with the world leader in the natural hoof care field. I don't need to tell you about his huge list of credentials and years of ground breaking research into the natural hoof as all trimmers will have seen his work written up but to have a course here that will be taught by someone of his standing is wonderful. Dr. Bowker's involvement will certainly give the students some powerful credentials!

The course is scheduled to commence 1<sup>st</sup> weekend in April. For more info please contact the National College of Traditional Medicine. [www.nctm.com](http://www.nctm.com)

Plus! Something for all trimmers and equine therapists.

In conjunction with his trip Equethy & The Barefoot Blacksmith are offering:

## **A 2 Day Workshop with**

### **The Professor, The Farrier & The Bootman (but mostly the Professor)**

**29<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> March 2008**

We felt a visit by Dr. Bowker was too good to be missed and that every trimmer should have an opportunity to discuss his work. The workshop will be two days with Dr. Bowker where he will discuss his research and demonstrate ways you can recognise problems on the cadaver hooves, and on the Sat. night Andrew Bowe will talk about his work with laminitic horses and Mike will demonstrate the therapeutic uses of the Easycare range as they relate to Dr. Bowker's lecture.

This should be a wonderful two days as Dr. Bowker has specifically asked me that we keep this workshop small so that he can really spend quality time with the trimmers and answer all their questions.

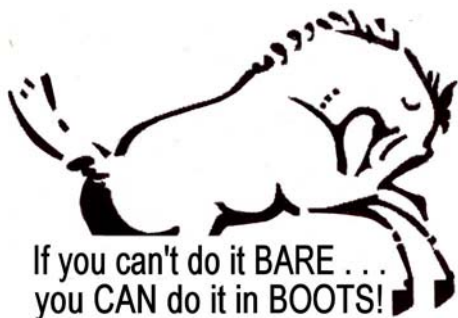
Because of the EI in NSW we felt it was best to hold it the workshop at our own property in Cobargo on the far south coast NSW. We are in a green zone. Yes it's a long drive but we can offer camping facilities and you can arrive the Friday before the workshop and we will do our utmost to make you comfortable. There is a motel in town and Rex flies our way for those who may need to come from Qld. or Vic. or further afield.

This was the only way we could guarantee that the workshop would go ahead without complications. No commercial venue would allow me to book that far in advance as they have all been spooked by EI. We also totally threw the Dept. Primary Industry into turmoil when we sought permission to retrieve 40 cadaver legs from the freezer at the Rouse Hill Knackery. These were slaughtered and frozen for us last March, months before the EI entered the country but apparently the paperwork doesn't cover such eventualities so it took two

full days on the phone being shunted from department to department before some one was brave enough to give us permission. But now at least we have plenty of legs for the workshop all safe and sound!

As soon as I have confirmed the dates with Dr. Bowker I will post more info on how to register on the AHCA chat-list. All monies raised from the workshop are being donated to Dr. Bowker for his non profit research so you will be helping horses as well as increasing your skills. (Workshop dates may be subject to change – I am awaiting confirmation from Dr. Bowker when he works out his travel plans).

## EasyCare Down Under website is up and running!



We are pleased to advise the members of the AHCA that we now have our new website up and running. [www.easycaredownunder.com.au](http://www.easycaredownunder.com.au) Under the Hoof Care Providers page are the details of those members who buy hoof boots through us for their clients. We hope that this brings lots of work to everyone (although most are run off their feet now).

We congratulate any new members who have recently completed the **Tafe Cert III course** and wish them well in the future trimming work. We would like them to know that our role with EasyCare is to offer them boots to on-sell to their clients at a rate below the recommended retail.

This special price to trimmers has been a result of an agreement with Garrett Ford put in place three years ago to help trimmers build their trimming businesses. It allows you to charge a fitting fee and still keep your prices tempting for your clients. The boots carry the full warranty and we can dispatch them directly to your client. If you would like to discuss this please call Mike during business hours and he can send you pricing info or catch up with him at the upcoming clinic with Wayne Anderson & AGM.

We are sorry but we have found due to price constraints we are unable to offer AHCA members online ordering so please continue to contact us by email or to text Mike with your orders and pay by direct credit if you need boots. [easycaresdownunder@bigpond.com](mailto:easycaresdownunder@bigpond.com) Mike Mob 0428 649 369. The prices on the website are our prices to the public so don't be confused as our prices to the trimmers are lower.

## Boots as rehabilitation tools:

As more and more info becomes available on the rehabilitation of serious hoof conditions it is becoming increasingly obvious that boots are a necessary part of the healing process and that rehab with out them, is often very slow and sometimes unsuccessful.

It has been my observation of the horses that we have rehabbed with navicular or those with depleted digital cushions, that they will plateau in their recovery if their routine does not include the use of pads and boots. They reach a stage where the hoof looks good but they are not really sound and will continue to creep over tough terrain. Much of the process involved in re-establishing integrity in the digital cushion/caudal hoof area depends on the horse's own weight in motion landing on those heels. If they do not feel confident about heel first landings they continue to avoid them and do not improve as quickly as they should. The recent research by Dr. Bowker on the damages of peripheral loading to the hoof (shoeing) and the greatly improved circulation from pads and boots explains much of why they are so good. Below is the article featured on the EasyCare Site written by Yvonne Welz.

Looking forward to catching up with everyone at the AGM

## Peripheral Loading and the Pad Effect

(Reprinted with permission from Easycare Inc.)

by Yvonne Welz, reprinted from *The Horse's Hoof*

Before I attended Dr. Robert Bowker's clinic in January, 2007, it never occurred to me that a healthy horse should have pads placed into their hoof boots. Or that a horse without sore hooves would benefit from a regimen of boots with pads! What I learned that weekend changed my mind completely, and I'd like to share that compelling information with you.

Dr. Bowker, a professor and scientist, has no connection with any hoof boot companies, so this is not a marketing gimmick! Bowker simply has some extremely interesting research that we can use to our advantage. Whether you are rehabilitating a lame horse, trying to create a tough barefoot performance hoof, or simply trying to maintain your horse's feet, you need to know this. If you ever use a boot of any kind on your horse, you need to know this. And if you ever ride over flat, hard ground with bare hooves, you need to know this.

### What is Peripheral Loading?

Peripheral loading of the hoof occurs when the hoof wall bears more of the weight. Peripheral loading occurs by degrees; there is more peripheral loading in a shod hoof standing on a flat surface, versus a bare hoof on a flat surface. There is more peripheral loading in a bare hoof standing on a flat surface, versus a bare hoof standing on turf. Peripheral loading is dependent on both the type of trimming involved (i.e. shoeing, or trimming so that the hoof wall bears most of the weight) and the surface the hoof is standing upon (whether or not there is material to pack into the hoof, to relieve the peripheral load).

### Peripheral Loading Chart

Crude index of blood perfusability:  
(normal horses)

Pea rock.....	90
Foam pads .....	90
Double weight on pea rock .....	85-95
Slight exercise.....	85
Cement.....	50-65
Wood.....	55-65
PDN Nerve Block.....	40-45
Non-Weighted .....	40-50

"Foam pads create greater perfusion of foot."—Dr. Robert Bowker

**Peripheral loading is a negative thing.**

Why? Because Bowker's Dopplar Ultrasound studies have shown that the greater the peripheral loading, the worse the blood flow throughout the hoof capsule! Bowker discovered that with less peripheral loading, the greater the perfusion of blood flow through the hoof. Better blood flow equals healthier hooves.

The best thing we can do for our horses' hooves is to try to relieve the peripheral load. How? By transferring some of the load to the sole. Solar loading appears to promote blood flow through the hoof. Think about it—what is natural for the horse? A wild horse lives on undulating terrain, with dirt, grass and weeds. This

variable terrain provides a cushion that packs into his hoof as he moves across it. Small rocks and debris provide a constant, but changing, source of stimulation to the sole.

Bowker's studies show that blood perfusion through the foot is highest when a hoof is on pea gravel and on foam pads, both rating at 90 on his index. A hoof standing on cement rates at 50, while wood rates 55. Lowest on the chart is a non-weight bearing hoof, at 40.

If you use any type of boot, consider the interior surface of the boot. There is no way around it—a hard, flat surface will encourage more peripheral loading while the horse is wearing that boot. But put a thick foam pad inside that boot, and you've suddenly improved your horse's blood flow to his hooves! Any horse can benefit from greater perfusion of blood flow, so consider boots with pads as a useful tool for hoof improvement. In general, if you plan to ride your horse on a surface that will increase peripheral loading (i.e., hard & concussive), you will be much better off using boots and pads during that ride.

**Message of the day: when using hoof boots, don't leave home without the pads!**



**Easycare's Comfort Pad System, a new concept, provides a large number of padding options—particularly useful for rehabilitation. This set of pads include Frog Support, Frog Pressure and Sole pads in 3 different densities: soft, medium and firm, which can be combined in any way. The full kit includes 18 pairs of pads, and is sold to fit the Easyboot models (Easyboots, Bares & Epics).**



An example of toe first and heel first loading (courtesy of Jenny Moncur)

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## ***Cert III Equine Hoof Care course- Tasmania      Marg Richardson***

TAFE Tasmania have just held their second intake of students with 16 enrolled from all over Australia to complete the Cert III Equine Hoof Care course.

Fortunately the weather was kind on the days we had practical excursions, with trips to a large thoroughbred stud where students trimmed brood mares, an extra cute bunch of Shetlands where trimmers had hands on experience on trimming those little fellas, and the riding horses of Cynthia Coopers – one of the TAFE teachers. These were ideal situations for students to learn not only trimming techniques but concentrate on their horse handling skills as well. Students once again covered a multitude of subjects, including diet, environment, trimming, x-raying, chiropractic treatment, animal welfare, movement and soundness, boot fitting to name just a few.

The two weeks rolled along smoothly, students are now home completing their monthly assignments, case studies and mentorships.

A third course is expected in the first part of 2008, however the location is yet to be decided with possible opportunities that the two week block may be held in Victoria or NSW.

Below was a brilliant opportunity for the students to see a hands on case study of a neglected chronically foundered pony which was rescued just days prior to the commencement of the course.

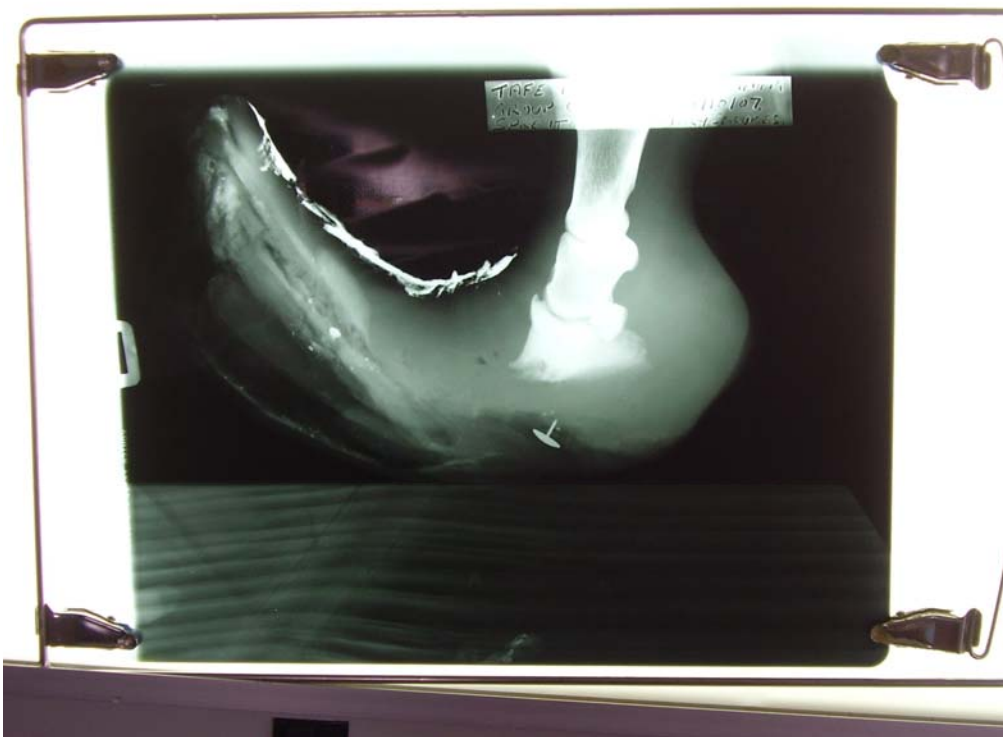
### **Carla's Rescue by TAFE Hoof Care Course**



This 12 year old shetland pony mare was discovered just prior to the TAFE Hoof Care Course. Her sad situation provided the ideal opportunity for the students to observe how to assess, trim and treat a pony with hooves in such bad shape.



Carla's hooves were first x-rayed by vet Adam Richardson, after nerve blocking her lower leg so she could stand comfortably for the procedure.



Then after viewing the x-rays, lecturer and professional hoof trimmer, Jeremy Ford, showed how Carla could be trimmed and padded to enable her to hooves and body start the healing process. She was then able to lie down to rest her hooves and sore legs - something we hadn't seen her do in the days prior to her treatment.



Students then took over her daily care with changing the pads, soaking and cleaning her hooves. Carla was also assessed by Chiropractor, Gaynor Ross who lectured at the course, so that her body stiffness from compensating with her movement for so long, can be treated over time. Carla's entire posture changed over the week the students observed her, a sad situation quickly turned around to a very positive one. Now that the intensive two week section of the course is over, Carla will live with Helen Vagg, experienced pony carer and hoof trimming student from the first TAFE intake in May. Latest reports on Carla is that she is now trotting around her paddock happily. We are sure she has grown a foot in length, now she is no longer all hunched up! A major change to a pony who previously could barely move at all.

Marg Richardson

### **Living with Equine Influenza by Darren Robertson**

What a learning experience this E.I. has been for the horse world and the community at large! I have been one suburb away from the second Sydney hot spot at Cattai, About 2 weeks before the E.I. outbreak I fractured the fibula in my left leg. I had 17 horses booked the next day but I trimmed 140 horses just before the E.I. outbreak.

Once the outbreak was confirmed and stops were put on all horse activities I had a week off to rest my leg minus the cast that lasted about 5 days. The other reason for resting the leg was to determine which properties were infected and which ones were not. Due to the rapid spread of the virus and lack of knowledge as to where the virus was or who had it, I could not risk touching horses or ATM's or anything that might have come into contact with the virus. Even though the stop to horse movements was all over the news and people had been informed not to move horses or enter horse properties horse owners still had to watch out for Electricity line inspectors travelling door to door, Jehovahs out wandering horse property to horse property etc. One local fruit and vege seller decided he would now travel door to door to sell his excess tomatoes. I told him off in nice terms, and warned of the fines involved in spreading the virus.

Once the week had passed I had two types of horse properties, those that were in contact with the affected horses and those removed from contact. The infected horse properties were easy to deal with. They had the virus, so work could happen at these places with no questions. Most of the properties were not infected but I could not be sure, so I had to treat each individual horse property as if they were on the first few days of infection which is the most contagious point. While in this state there are no outward symptoms of infection

Early on this was proven by one horse property that was almost 1km from any infected properties and every one on the farm was being super cautious about what they did and what they touched. I went to the property in the morning and trimmed 3 horses that needed to be trimmed, then I went home going through the full shower,

disinfect etc routine. I even had brand new knives that morning, within 20 mins of finishing work they were rusty, just the time it took to drive home from the property after disinfecting on the way out.

I then went and trimmed another single horse 30mins away and then did some other things on my list of to do's, by 3pm that afternoon the first farm rang to advise that one horse at the front of the property had started coughing. Could be E.I. was the guess, by morning 6 were coughing, so yes E.I. it had been on the property for 4 days or so probably since a huge southerly had hit the area carrying the virus on the wind I think.

Eight to Nine weeks into the E.I. outbreak I still do not have any sick horses at home or any of the properties I have worked at other than obvious cross-fence neighbor infections.

The precautions I have used are

1. to be very careful about not letting horses sniff me or me rubbing against their bodies as I work,
2. resisting the urge to pat the horses.
3. use a new set of cotton gloves at each property so I don't have worry about virus under the finger nails
4. Wash hands and arms thoroughly before and after each property.
5. disinfecting tools in front of the owners before starting work, this is so there is an independent witness to your hygiene routines at least before touching their horses (DPI recommendation). I ditched the leather apron at home as I rarely use it and it takes days to wash and dry. Some local farriers bought extra aprons so they could let each one dry for 3 days before reusing.
6. arrange to have showers at home after each property I trimmed at (disinfecting tools and boots before leaving the property) ). In cases where I could not shower at home between properties I arranged with people to find a non horsey place to shower at, like a yacht club or some such place were traffic from horse people would be minimum.
7. I covered the car seat in a massive towel so as to not transfer any virus from my clothes or hair to the car. When at home I immediately put the towel in the washing machine and then showered and got into a new set of clothes and a towel ready for the next trip.
8. park the car outside the properties so I do not have to disinfect the car body and tyres( also helps when the DPI asks have you driven onto any infected properties, they love a "no" answer.
9. have a number of towels and sets of clothes in their own plastic bags to avoid cross contamination, I also had 3 sets of work boots so I did not wear the same boots onto a new farm on the same day.

I had access to homes of relatives etc in different towns to reduce the time it took in all the extra travelling to go home and shower each time. By half way through the outbreak I had to go out and buy Stainless steel nippers as the rigours of constant disinfecting were telling on the old ones. The knives seem to go OK if a bit rusty by the disinfecting and then spraying with WD, the rasps had to be sprayed thoroughly after disinfecting as the stuff was removing the paint off the Heller black legends even before they got rusty.

I still have not heard from a number of customers who have gone to ground since the E.I. outbreak began meaning that there is around 40 horses that have not been trimmed for 12 weeks or more.

If, as a barefoot trimmer your own horses become infected you have to live at another property to be able to work as you should have 24 hours time away from anything that is definitely infected on the property. This is impossible unless you create a buffer zone where you do not touch any horses at home and anyone that does, does not come into the house. I can't imagine this working and hence the reason a number of farriers are off work for 55 days until their quarantine period is lifted. As for working on other properties I do all the clean ones first then move onto the infected properties and try to leave 24 hours before going onto more clean properties. The term 'clean' is a bit vague One can not be certain that any property is 'clean' unless they have had the virus and are post quarantine. This means the 24 hour rule is a little shaky; any farm you go to that is not infected may be infected. A lot of farriers fell for the trick of trying to do all the "clean" properties one day and the infected ones the next. They quickly spread it from a so called clean place to the next clean place because they did not assume each place was infected. They also took the virus home to

their own horses earning themselves a 55 day holiday.

If nothing else makes you want to stay 100% clean the thought of having a 2 month unpaid holiday is convincing.

Luckily this virus is easily killed as washing is enough to control its spread, most soaps and detergents will kill it, hospital grade stuff will make sure but can be very as one has to use so much. The tools will cop a lot of damage from all the cleaning and you may end up looking like a prune from all the showers but it does work and I have been working at a slightly reduced rate due to time constraints. I have seen a few horses with nasty nasty coughs and snotty noses but so far all of my clients horses have pulled through even the 30+ year old cushings boys and other oldies. Some look even better for the kick to their immune systems. In my local area there have many dead horses due to the E.I. that are misrepresented or ignored in the news. So I do not doubt that this is a deadly outbreak and should never have happened. It will take some time and pain to stop the spread but for the horses' sake it is worth trying to control the spread of the virus as it does kill and will leave long term problems for many, many horses.

I have dealt with the various vets at Camden that are co-ordinating the NSW management of the outbreak. It was interesting in that the purple zone was to become a free for all zone. I was told I could work on any horses clean or infected as the purple zone was assumed to be infected. This was something I was not happy about, as it gave the horse owners no choice about keeping their horses from getting sick. I then explained as a specialist I had to travel to places like Mudgee just to do one horse and I needed to define the rules for working on horses between zones. The answer from his manager was that as long as I followed the normal hygiene routines and washed and sprayed the car before leaving the purple zone then that was OK and I could work. My car has never had so many washes, luckily I have dam water for cleaning the car.

The other thing I had to do is document every horse I worked on as to date, place and time. This way the DPI can ascertain if I am the likely cause of a viral contagion. The owners are automatically asked who has touched the horses in the week prior to symptoms, so the DPI will phone you up to see that you are cleaning properly and parking outside.

The rules made by the DPI are a bit confusing as they recommend coveralls of cloth or disposable ones, the chance of transfer still exists as you have to touch your clothes as you change into or out of coveralls at the infected property meaning the effort of covering up is not totally safe. The vets have to do this as they have no time to shower between appointments. I feel the showering has been the key part of staying virus free. Staying away from infected properties was not an option as one of the first infected horse places I went too was my TAFE classes which included students with infected horses. So every class was another reason to shower. Hygiene before water restrictions.

It is the little things like handling the money or cheques from clients that are risky. They touch their horse's nose to clean it then touch the money to pay you, you then pay for fuel with the money then pat your horse when you get home. The silliest little things could bring the virus home, so I have to think about every thing I do from answering the phone while at a clients to scraping the mud out of the tread of your boots before disinfecting.

The virus can live for 8 hours on skin or cloth, up to 24 hours on hard surfaces and many days in water. Sunlight and heat kills viruses so I park in the sun and let the car get hot as hell. Nature's disinfectant.

There are some horrific stories locally of the suffering and deaths of horses. Even horses that seem to have got over the symptoms have bled from the lungs and died after a very short ride but I hope you and your horses stay safe in this troubling event.

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## ***Regarding the ongoing quest for the Logo...***

Luke was collating ideas and votes for a logo for AHCA and says

“I had one response and that was in favour of the galloping legs idea.

Nothing else at all.

We would like to see some progress on this project. Perhaps we could call for someone with graphics skills, or someone who has contacts in that field to finalise the logo.

Regards,

Luke”

Please forward all your brilliant ideas to him at [luke@barefoothorse.com.au](mailto:luke@barefoothorse.com.au) and if you have particular skills in this area we would love to hear from you!

## **Summary of Coming Events**

<b>November 17th 2007 –</b>	<b>Horse Handling for Hoof Trimmers/ Boot fitting workshop</b>
<b>Early 2008</b>	<b>Cert III Equine Hoof Care course- Tasmania</b>
<b>29th &amp; 30th March 2008</b>	<b>The Professor, The Farrier &amp; The Bootman</b>
<b>5<sup>th</sup> April 2008</b>	<b>Equine Podio-Therapy course (date to be confirmed)</b>

## **A big thankyou to all our contributors for this newsletter.**

Andrew Bowe

Rebecca Scott

Mike Ware

Marg Richardson

Darren Robertson

Collated and distributed by Deb Reid