

# Barehoofcare Australia

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## Greetings,

From tropical far north Victoria!

**If this is the first newsletter you have read be sure to look up our back issues on our website.**

Well, it's meant to be the start of autumn, but the seasons are a bit confused around this part of the country. It was hard to tell when spring finished and autumn started. There was no summer, just a lighter shade of green maybe?!



*At least the frogs are happy with their lot! Photo: David Leigh*

Rain has continued pretty much all summer, occasionally interspersed with bouts of stifling

tropical humidity then five minutes later a southerly buster out of icy places across the sea. There is a real shortage of dust around here!

Two years ago this side of Australia was dealing with the tragic after effects of bushfires. This year it has been floods. Fortunately we have been untouched up here above the high tide mark, but we have been witness to the incredible power of floodwater that has been regularly rearranging the 'furniture' in our creek bed – moving around big old tree trunks like chairs and tables in a doll's house. Unbelievable power.

The downside around here has been fly struck sheep. The poor beasts succumbing to the dance of the little green fly. Sheep don't do tropics. Horses don't do tropics that well either. There have been wall to wall rehab patients at Mayfield this summer, mostly laminitis or advanced hoof infections.

Our summer holiday (yeah right!) ended rather abruptly with the resumption of workshops and classes and in February we have had about 90 students of the equine hoof pass through the classroom at Mayfield Barehoofcare Centre, starting with a fantastic 2 day collaboration of Professor Bob Bowker and Sharon May Davis, then a mind stretching 3 day master class with Bob and our past diploma students, and finally another intake of diploma students combined with the October 2010 group with four days of Bob's insightful teachings.

Phew!

**Speak for your horse! AB**



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## What's Happening at Mayfield ? *by Nicky Bowe*

Hi There,

After the buzz of Equitana we have settled down to some serious rehabilitation work.

At one stage we had 12 rehab cases! Lots of soaking, scrubbing, bandaging, feeding and mucking out. As the weather has been very wet the stables have been well used this summer. Consequently we are in the process of building another shed for rehab horse shelter and super comfort. Many thanks to Tom Crombie for organising some super soft rubber for the flooring.

One of Bob Bowker's take home messages was the importance of protection of the sole and especially in inflamed and compromised feet, such as in laminitis and pedal bone infections.

I have plenty of case studies to write up. Pasted below are some sneak previews of some of our current cases.



**Tabby- 7yo Arabian**, laminitis due to too much green grass. Pedal bone penetrated in fronts. Healing well, moving around a lot more.



**Pepe – 20yo Part Welsh mare**, laminitis due to too much green grass. Pedal bone penetration in all four feet. Also healing very well.



**Jet – Black Standard bred gelding**, laminitis due to too much green grass and infrequent hoof care – I seem to be repeating myself!!!! Rotation but no penetration. Gone home with a strict dietary management plan.



**Desi – Arab cross pony mare.** Laminitis and long term infected pedal bone.

Radiographs showed definite bone loss and copious amounts of pussy discharge even though she was on antibiotics indicated an active pedal osteitis.



Many thanks to Pos Thompson who operated on Desi. See pics above. We are very optimistic about her full recovery.

We have been so lucky to secure the help of Sande Cornelius.....a lovely lady who is so passionate about healing; a great asset to the rehabilitation centre. Sande is also doing a great job of helping me out in the office.

It was great to have Sharon and Bob here for half of February. The seminar, master class and student block were well attended and enjoyed by all. Some great reports have been written by students (included in this newsletter). We had quite a few campers and we hope to provide some permanent accommodation in the future (any ideas or donations welcome!!!!) It's a great atmosphere with everyone staying on site and enables everyone to relax and kick back in the evening. The new camp kitchen was a big success and very well patronised.

A special thank you to everyone who helped out with catering, cleaning up and general organisation (especially Bron and Alanna). Nick, who was meant to help out, turned up rather incapacitated on crutches as a result of an unplanned and disorganised dismount. He did however; welcome all the female sympathy and attention that was lavished on him during his stay! We wish him a speedy recovery.



The term "breeding like rabbits" has taken on real meaning at Mayfield of late. Ever since our girl's new pet (female) rabbit was introduced to Champagne, our resident, longlived male rabbit. Champagne has been making up for lost time.

Two litters in six weeks!!

As a matter of necessity, poppa rabbit has been moved to bachelor quarters for the foreseeable future.

Pet rabbit anyone?

# The Functional Hoof Conference, Werribee, Victoria, February 2011

By Mary House, *Health Horses Naturally*

What a unique opportunity students and hoof care professionals had, at The Functional Hoof Conference held in Werribee, in February organised by Rebecca Scott and Marg Richardson, to hear some of the worlds renowned specialists speak on their of knowledge of hooves and hoof care.

Those fortunate enough to attend were treated to four days of excellent information provided by the world's leading forces in hoof knowledge. Prof Chris Pollitt, University of Queensland, gave a wonderful presentation on what wild horse populations can teach us about laminitis, and yes there is evidence showing they have suffered this terrible disease – maybe only the horses who have never had it are the ones we see now out and about in the wild. Dr Deb Taylor spoke on hoof rehabilitation developments in connection with laminitis, and Carol Layton gave an excellent lecture on the importance of correct mineral balance in the diet for optimum health and well being.

There were opportunities for participants to observe dissection and trimming, as well as boot fit.

Dr Kerry Ridgeway spoke on the interesting topic of hoof capsule distortion and how that happens in connection with the general balance and biomechanics of the horse in movement. He emphasised the need for correct hoof care together with bodywork and therapeutic corrective lunging and riding for the horse.

Prof Bob Bowker, Michigan State University, discussed his latest research in his lecture “How does the Horse Sense his Environment?” We were treated to wonderful descriptions of hoof function and the importance of correct heel weight bearing. The horse can ‘hear through his feet’ the frog apparatus is integral with the heel bulbs for correct function of the foot. The second part of his lecture was all about the structure and growth of the hoof wall, some of his findings are so new they have not yet been fully documented.

Brian Hampson together with Prof Pollitt has undertaken some extensive research of the Australian Brumby, in various parts of the country. We were shown the first of hopefully two research DVD's of their findings and wonderful footage of the brumbies in situ.

The afternoon was marred by two fire alarms necessitating evacuation onto the lawns outside the buildings. This continued during the evening with the alarm running for 3 hours during the Conference Dinner. The last one caused by the massive rainfall we experienced in that part of Victoria – the dining room almost flooded, with the staff having to do some very quick mopping up!! Dr Ridgeway however, soldiered on under adverse conditions and gave a most amusing after dinner speech on life in his part of the USA.

Unfortunately, water also managed to creep into the lecture theatre so it was all hands on deck on the last morning to set up facilities in the Dining Room - there were quite a few hiccups during the session, but that just brought everyone together to help out where and when it was necessary.

The four days culminated with a talk on Cavallo and the stories behind how the company started, by Carole Herder the founder of the company.

Under duress, Dr Simon Collins, the donkey expert, gave an enlightened lecture on “Function related to Form”. Together with amazing computerised diagnostic imaging it is able to see inside the foot, and to ascertain where the stresses and strains occur.

The Conference concluded with a panel discussion on ‘What is a Functional Foot’. It was basically agreed that the functional foot should have a concave sole, running up to the white line with a slight ridge of wall which is then chamfered out with a nice neat roll. Thereby allowing a small amount of wall to support and activate the suspensory system.

Marg and Rebecca are planning to host another conference down the track – so stay tuned. Anyone who may wish to attend can contact me in the meantime.

Mary House [ningana@chariot.net.au](mailto:ningana@chariot.net.au)

# Australian College of Equine Podiotherapy

## The Australian College of Equine Podiotherapy

The Australian College of Equine Podiotherapy campus at Yarck has recently been a hive of activity.

February each year is the time when we are privileged to have Professor Robert Bowker back as a lecturer and while he was here he also shared his latest research findings with our students.

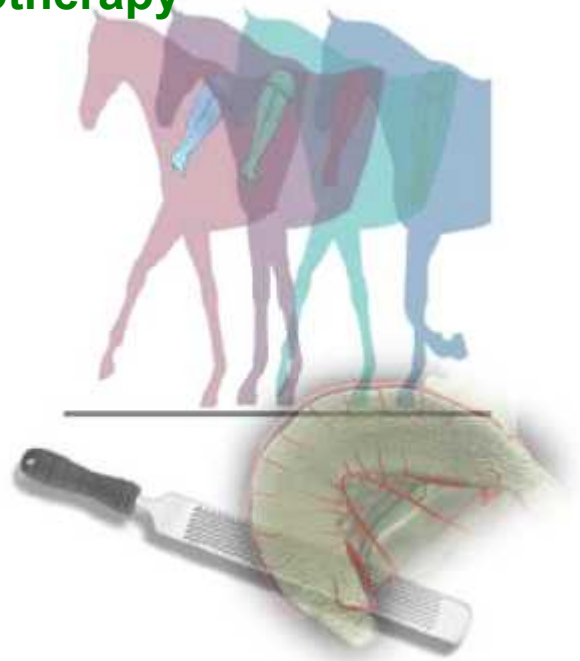
Professor Bowker is the head of Michigan State University's Equine Hoof Laboratory where he and his team delve into the functions of the hoof right down to cellular level. It is this research that is underpinning the breakthroughs in natural hoof care at present.

The Australian College of Equine Podiotherapy is keen to promote ongoing learning opportunities for its students and graduates so was happy to organize a Master Class with Professor Bowker.

The college is also keen to foster a better understanding of barefoot principles in the wider community so a second workshop was offered during this time featuring Professor Bowker and Sharon May Davis. Sharon "The Bone Lady" has an intense interest in the equine musculo-skeletal system and her lectures are a fascinating journey under the equine skin.

Sharon is one of Australia's leading experts on the equine skeleton and musculo-skeletal system and the college is very excited to welcome here to our lecturing team for future EPT courses.

Both the Master Class and the workshop were well attended and many of the students and graduates camped at Mayfield campus during that time and so had fun networking after hours too ;-)



Classroom lectures  
with Professor Bowker & Sharon May Davis



Outdoors with the horses at Mayfield campus

 <p>Relaxing on the verandah at Mayfield Barehoof Centre after class</p>	 <p>The Painted Horse – a great exercise using the “living landmarks” to identify the underlying skeletal structures</p>
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## Considering a career in specialist natural hoof care?

Then the Diploma of Equine Podiotherapy is for you!



**What is Equine Podiotherapy? (*pronounced equine pod-eye-oh-therapy*)** It is the study of specialist natural hoof care practices, based on current research into the correct functioning of the equine hoof and its internal components. Its principles are aimed at enhancing equine biomechanics by applying hoof care methods that promote lifelong soundness. It is NOT “method” trimming. Its paradigm is firmly grounded in equine orthopedics and takes hoof care into the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Lecturers for this course are leaders in the field of equine hoof research and professional barefoot rehabilitative trimming practices.

**How long is the Diploma Course?** The Diploma of Equine Podiotherapy course is delivered by the Australian College of Equine Podiotherapy in blocks of face to face lectures complimented by distance learning modules, over a twelve month period. The four practical blocks are five and six days long and students have an additional twelve months to complete a series of case studies to attain their Diploma.

**Where is the college?** The college campus is based at Mayfield Barehoofcare Centre in Yarck in rural Victoria. Mayfield Barehoofcare Centre is a working rehabilitation centre for horses with serious hoof issues such as laminitis and navicular syndrome. The campus provides air conditioned classrooms, toilets/showers & camping facilities. For interstate students there is the full range of accommodation available at Alexandria which is only 20 mins away.

**What is the fee?** The fee for the Diploma is \$4,900 and there is a payment plan available for those who wish it.

**When is the next course?** The next course is scheduled to commence in October. Don't delay because of the intensive nature of this training we are only able to take 15 – 16 students per course and we already have some deposits for the next course. To secure a place please contact the college now.

**How can I find out more information?** Contact the course co-ordinator Chris Ware by email [equinepodiotherapy@bigpond.com](mailto:equinepodiotherapy@bigpond.com) or 0458 215 601 to speak to her direct. There is also more information available on our website [www.equinepodiotherapy.com.au](http://www.equinepodiotherapy.com.au)





## **If the boot fits!**

### ***Part One***

From Mike Ware Manager & Equine Podiotherapist at Easycare Down Under  
[www.easycaredownunder.com.au](http://www.easycaredownunder.com.au)



Attaining successful boot fit, and therefore long life and good wear from your hoof boots requires that they fit well.

Horses hooves are a living dynamic structure and of course will change from trim to trim, but if they are correctly trimmed and most importantly regularly trimmed (no longer than four weeks) there should be little change and your boot fit should always be good. If you can learn to do a little maintenance between your visits from a professional trimmer then your fit should be exceptional! The [Barefoot Blacksmith](#) can help you learn a simple maintenance trim to set you on

the right path.

If you also follow a few steps when choosing your boots you will be on the right path for success. Even if you have your boots fitted by a professional trimmer/farrier be sure that you are informed on the aspects of achieving good fit and part of this fitting process. Some considerations are:

#### **1 Choose a boot that works for your hoof shape.**

Some horses have healthy well shaped hooves and some sadly do not. Some shapes, especially horses that are coming out of shoes will be greatly improved with trimming to remove flares etc. Their basic shape reflects the internal pedal bone and if it is distorted from years of shoeing then a perfect hoof shape may never be attainable. For boot fit your hoof shape and sole shape must dictate which boot you choose.

There are now many boot styles & shapes available and information on each is available on

[www.easycaredownunder.com.au](http://www.easycaredownunder.com.au) Note: Original Old Macs are no longer being manufactured.

### **Boot Sole Shape**

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Entire Easyboot Line



Boa Horse Boot



Original Old Mac's

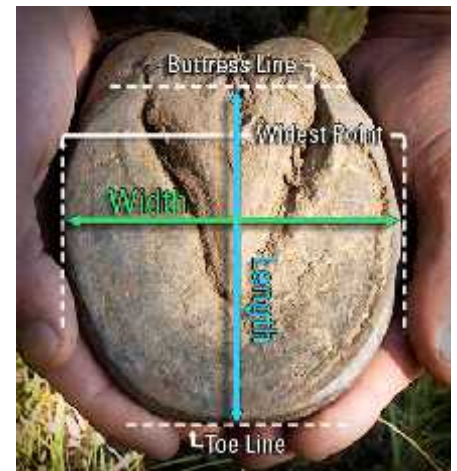


Old Mac's G2

## 2 Measure after a fresh trim.

There is an allowance made in the boot sizing that give a little growth room during the trim period. It is important to measure directly after a fresh trim to get a correct sizing. Sizing charts for each boot can be found at [www.easycaredownunder.com](http://www.easycaredownunder.com)

**Check for asymmetries:** Many horses have different sized feet but they also have different heel heights and shapes. Sounds strange but many owners have horses with slightly club feet which means one forefoot has a steep walled hoof with a high heel and the other forefoot is usually lower, more splayed out and often with under run heels.



Some boots are sold in pairs so they are not suitable for these horses. Plus you must choose a boot that can be adjusted through the fastening system to accommodate the different hoof shapes. Talk to our [specialist boot fitter](#) and Equine Podiotherapist fitter about the adjustments that can be done to accommodate the club footed horse so that you have successful fit with both front feet. [www.easycaredownunder.com](http://www.easycaredownunder.com)

## 3. When fitting a boot:

Various boots styles, especially close fitting ones, have to be hard to apply!

Horses are heavy animals and if a boot moves on the foot then it receives more than its share of wear and tear. Most boot failures are due to ill fitting boots.

If you have selected a close fitting boot style such as The Glove with no fastening system, then applying that boot must take some grunt. Most horses become so used to the fitting process that they happily allow you to push the toe into the boot and then will put their foot down and place their own weight into the boot so the heel slides in!

Glove boot is very popular, but it relies on mirroring the hoof shape to achieve good fit. It must fit both up the walls and in the sole portion. **If it slips on easily, it is not the right fit for that horse.** Although everyone likes the slim line design of the glove it does not work well for all hoof shapes and others in the Easycare range may be better.

**Always use a Fit Kit for sizing The Glove:** [Easycare Down Under](#) offers "fit kits" for hire so customers are able to try The Glove boot on there own horse prior to buying. Many professional trimmers also carry these too. The kit is a sets of the shells which are the base of the Glove boot, and by having a range of these available at the time of fitting it allows you to fine tune your fit. We highly recommend that anyone purchasing The Glove from the net always uses a "fit kit" to select the correct size.

*At left the Glove Boot with a power strap added to the front which ensures a tighter fit.*



No matter what boot you choose it should not move on the foot. If after application you pick up the leg and hold the hoof by the pastern and try to twist and turn the boot with your other hand .....and it moves.....it doesn't fit!

#### 4. Even consider the fastening system:

For hoof shapes that are less than perfect, boots that have fastening systems which allows you to draw in the top of the boot are a good option.

The Epic, Boa, Mac G2 and Edge boot all allow for adjustment to be made.



The Mac G2 (Velcro & straps)



The Boa (Cabling and dial up tightening)



The Epic Cabling & buckle system



The Edge Boot uses a work screw winder system

#### 5 Consider your horse's gait:

As I mentioned before horses are heavy animals but evolution is clever and has given them very good natural biomechanics which makes them the ultimate athletes. When their hooves are kept correctly balanced as they would be in nature, they are as nimble as cats.

It is important that they are not trimmed in a manner that encourages imbalances as then they at war with their own natural biomechanics and that makes them clumsy and easily fatigued. Clumsy, tired unbalanced horses walk on their own feet!

If you have a horse who over reaches in shoes he has imbalances that need to be addressed. You may need to consult an Equine Podiotherapist or professional trimmer to help you with a set up trim so you are on the right track to overcome this problem.

Even poorly conformed horses should not have gaits that cause them to over reach. This problem is usually caused by the horse being left with a too long toe on the forefoot. This causes a delayed break-over so the hind hoof catches the heel of the forefoot (or the boot) before it has time to leave the ground. Ask a professional trimmer to help you address this problem as often it can be overcome with just one trim!

If your horse is paddling or winging this is also a hoof balance problem. This can also be addressed by your professional trimmer.

Easycare Down Under are based in NSW and are happy to assist you with your boot purchases.

We also have available Fit Kits for hire so that you are able to fine tune your fit if you choose a Glove boot.

Our staff are happy to help you if you have any questions. Boots are dispatched by Australia Express Post and you also have the confidence of knowing that any fit issues or warranty exchanges can be dealt with right here in Australia.

Easycare Down Under offer a special advisory service for our Australian customers. If you would like to speak to our Podiotherapist & specialist boot consultant ring 02 4455-2440. Sizing charts and fitting information are available on our website [www.easycaredownunder.com.au](http://www.easycaredownunder.com.au) Retail enquiries are also welcome and should be addressed to Cassandra Carroll our retail sales manager on 0408 627 167.

**Need something for your boots, drinks & munchies:** Try a stowaway bag especially designed for the trail also available from [Easycare Down Under](http://Easycare Down Under).



**Mike Ware Easycare Down Under**

Phone: 02 6493 6944 email: [easycaredownunder@bigpond.com](mailto:easycaredownunder@bigpond.com)

[www.easycaredownunder.com.au](http://www.easycaredownunder.com.au)

## The World Wide Water Trough

Follow this link to view a YouTube video of [Whinnie the Mini](#) – with thanks to Frances Hughes.



*This video came first in the Dumb Ass of the Year awards in the States. Click the image at left to see why!  
Thanks to Cliff Bowe.*

**Please note:** Our old email address – [mayfieldf@bigpond.com](mailto:mayfieldf@bigpond.com) is no more. So if you've been emailing to that address and we haven't responded, now you know why!  
Please use [info@barehoofcare.com](mailto:info@barehoofcare.com)

### This month's quote – Pam Brown



A horse is the projection of peoples' dreams about themselves - strong, powerful and beautiful - and it has the capability of giving us escape from our mundane existence.

Clancy's Quote

## Why Do I Like Horses?

Why do I like horses? I think I must be mad.  
My mother wasn't horsey - And neither was my dad.  
But the madness hit me early - and it hit me like a curse.  
And I've never gotten better. In fact I've gotten worse.

I hardly read a paper - but I know who's sold their horse.  
And I wouldn't watch the news - Unless Mr. Ed was on, of course.  
One eye's always on the heavens - but my washing waves in vain  
As I rush to get the horses in - in case it's gonna rain.

I spend up every cent I've got - on horsey stuff for sure  
I buy saddles, bridles, fancy boots - and then I buy some more.  
I can't sew on a button - I don't even try  
But I can back a truck and trailer - in the twinkling of an eye.

It's jeans and boots that I live in night and day  
And that smell of sweaty horses just doesn't wash away.  
I ache from long forgotten falls. My knees have got no skin.  
My toes have gone a funny shape - from being stomped on again and again.

But late at night, when all is still - and I've gone to give them hay,  
I touch their velvet softness and my worries float away.  
They give a gentle nicker and they nuzzle through my hair  
And I know it's where my heart is - more here than anywhere.

*~ Author Unknown - Thanks to David Leigh for this contribution*

## Paddock Companion Needed

My neighbour needs one for her newly acquired six year old Arabian, who has just come from a stud which has about eighty horses. He is feeling very lonely and insecure. He spends his whole day looking over the fence at my little herd. His owner has realised that he needs permanent company and I offered to look around for her.

She is very keen and devoted to her horse. Any companion horse would need to be:

- Calm, friendly and easy to handle
- Reasonably healthy
- A good doer
- Not ancient
- Not too big – a mini, Shetland or pony would be good
- Free to a good home or free long lease

The paddock is not huge, but there is a second, much larger one which may be available. There is a new renovated horse shelter and all new fencing.

Please email Cassandra - [cassandra.douglass@bigpond.com](mailto:cassandra.douglass@bigpond.com)

## Wayne Anderson Horsemanship Clinic - Seymour

19th & 20th March 2011

Don't miss this opportunity to ride with Wayne.  
Riders of all levels and disciplines are welcome.  
Participants \$380 for 2 days  
Fence Sitters \$55 per day  
Camping and stables available.  
Places are limited. For bookings and information please  
phone Bec 0401 200 981



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*When you walk out the door in the morning and see this in the sky.....*



*.....just go back inside, have another cup of coffee, and stay home. It's NOT going to be a good day.  
Thanks to Rae and Raymond Eade*

## Barefoot horses in action



Please feel free to send us your Barefoot Horse in Action story. Don't be shy, we want to include stories from all disciplines so if you have a good yarn about your four legged mate, let us have it!

## Area Reports

### SOUTH AUSTRALIA

It doesn't seem that long ago that I sat down to write the Summer Report! Summer has been reasonably kind to us in SA this year, only a couple of days running over 40, a big improvement on the previous year where we had a stretch of 10 days of over 35, with about 5 of those over 40! But having said that, the feet are still amazingly hard and dry. The biggest thing I notice out trimming is the amount of hoof wall growth that the horses are all having this year. They went from being reasonably easy to trim one week to extremely hard on the following visit four weeks later.

As a result, this most recent bout of rain has caused the well grown sole to drop but the ground is still very hard and some are slightly foot sore when the sole drops out. I am also seeing several horses with nasty laminitic rings on the hoof wall, a result of our lush and very wet spring. Some of these horses were never lame, they didn't even appear to be foot sore but obviously now looking at the growth proceeding down the wall they have suffered changes to the hoof integrity.

Three hardy South Australians made it to the Functional Hoof Conference in Werribee earlier in February – a report features elsewhere in this newsletter. However I have to reiterate that it was four days of excellent hoof care information, and anyone missing it missed a treat.

Last winter there was a photo in the newsletter of two feet both from my Andalusian mares, one who has never worn shoes and one with severely contracted feet who wore shoes for 8 years. An excellent example of what bad shoeing can do, it is with sadness that I have to say that that mare lost her fight with melanomas and was put down just before Christmas. Anyone interested in her story can read it on the website [www.southaustralianandalusians.co.nr](http://www.southaustralianandalusians.co.nr) under the News section titled '17 years of life with DagNag'

We have Andrew coming back to South Australia in March to conduct a basic and an advanced workshop. At this stage there are places still available at both sessions so any one interested needs to contact me or Nicky direct.

Happy trimming folks, I for one look forward to softer feet but not to the necessary wet weather!

#### Mary House

[www.healthyhorsesnaturally.com.au](http://www.healthyhorsesnaturally.com.au)

[ningana@chariot.net.au](mailto:ningana@chariot.net.au)

0407 979 954

### QUEENSLAND

In South East Queensland the summer seems to be a continuum of the past year's spring and winter seasons as far as what the horses are being exposed to. The long wet continues without reprieve but the humidity has increased. We *look forward* to the change when the hooves will harden and dry.... Did I just say that! Roll on Autumn!

On the whole, I have seen and heard of more hoof abscessing and hoof rot this year than in any other since I have been trimming. From my enquiries it seems to be occurring all along the Eastern Border and perhaps beyond. Our thoughts and best wishes are extended to those who have been affected by the horrendous flooding and cyclone in recent times.

Amongst those with horses whose feet are not coping so well are others whose horses feet stay in good health despite what the environment throws up at them. I keep repeating myself but the horses that manage to find some dry ground for some time each day, who are exercised more and who receive a balanced nutrient requirement and appropriate hoof care are better able to maintain functional hooves capable of withstanding microbial invasion.

Recently I attended the Functional Hoof Conference at Werribee in Victoria. It was a great opportunity to meet with other trimmers and interested parties and hear International and Australian guest speakers, pioneers in their respective fields sharing their experiences and research findings.

As an Equine Podiotherapist I also had the opportunity to attend the Master Class with Professor Bob Bowker. Dr Bowker places great emphasis on the importance of caudal (rear) hoof development for the hoof to be

functional. We had some great days of learning. Sharon May-Davis kindly presented her research findings from skeletal studies she has undertaken in the thoroughbred industry which impact on hoof care.

It is great that we have opportunities to learn from these scientists as it broadens our perspective on the things we do in the field.

*Happy trimming and horsing around from SE Queensland  
Sue Daniell and co.*

## **TASMANIA**

Like everywhere, we are having the strangest of summers here in Tasmania. The ground didn't really dry off at all and there has been an abundance of feed everywhere. I am now seeing the results of slight laminitic events earlier in the season with separation, gravel bind and seedy toe. Interestingly horses that have been fed mineral additives right through the season seem to be far less prone to seedy toe, unfortunately with all this grass most have stopped feeding altogether. The dusting of snow on Mount Wellington this morning is probably an indicator that things will change soon.

There is plenty happening here this month, THRRO (Tasmanian Horse Rescue & Rehabilitation Organisation) are having their open day on Sunday 6th March at Sanford. The rescue horses will be there to meet along with demos of horse massage, an Equine herbalist, a specialist in electric fencing, talks on Walkabout fencing, trimming demos and lots of trade tables.

We are extremely lucky to have Sharon May-Davis coming down to do a 3 day anatomy workshop from the 25th to 27<sup>th</sup> March. I attended her workshop in Victoria last year and it was absolutely brilliant, making the connections from the movement outside to the mechanics inside gives a whole new perspective to dealing with our horses.

I am taking bookings now so get in quick as there are limited places.

Finally for all his fans and well wishers, a picture of our latest baby....



*Libby Franz  
"dare to go bare"  
Tasmania*

## **FAR NORTH QUEENSLAND**

Rachael has been unable to write her regular report in this newsletter due to the recent cyclone event and her involvement in the organisation of a charity ride. She sends her apologies and will be back to writing next time.

*Rachael Taylor  
Taylor Made Horses Rehabilitation Centre  
Far North Queensland*

## Readers' Stories

### Biomechanical Hoof Seminar



The weekend of 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> February saw the Mayfield Bare Hoof Care Centre hold a unique seminar which combined the incredible knowledge of 'hoof guru' Prof Bob Bowker and the 'bone lady' Sharon May-Davis. The aim of the seminar was to look at how hoof form and function is linked to the rest of the horse's body.

Day one started with Bob talking about how the hoof grows; that cells of the laminae are produced at the coronet band and as they mature and move down, they differentiate into tubules that divide thus giving the wall its conical shape. He disputes the notion that the laminae are primarily attachment structures for the coffin bone.

Then he presented his research about proprioception in the frog of the hoof. He has found touch receptors in the frog and he believes that it is these receptors that control blood flow in the hoof, rather than the frog acting as a pump with the expansion and contraction on the hoof under loading.

He demonstrated the importance of having conforming surfaces by showing us Doppler readings of blood flow with horses standing on different surfaces. Horses standing on hard surfaces have a faster rate of flow, because there is no perfusion into the smaller microvessels of the hoof. Blood flow slows on conforming surfaces because of the perfusion and the horse is observed to be comfortable.

The contentious issue of hoof loading was then discussed. Because Bob thinks that the hoof wall works like a bell boot i.e. a moveable covering, it makes sense then, that the load of the horse should be taken on the sole. Traditional theories say that the laminae are like bungy cords that suspend the coffin bone in the hoof capsule therefore loading should be on the hoof wall.

We then had a look at 'good hooves' versus 'bad hooves' in the form of slides that showed the structure of the digital cushion as well as changes in the microvessels. "Bad hooved" horses have poor digital cushions and therefore less ability to disperse energy through the microvasculature of the hoof.



Then it was Sharon's turn to bombard us with information! She covered the basics of biomechanics looking at insertions and origins of muscles, ligaments and tendons. She explained how all of these "soft bits" of the horse worked and then talked about the "hard bits", the skeletal system. Being the bone lady, we got a very good explanation about the classification of bones and how joints work.

She spent quite a lot of time explaining how the stay apparatus of the horse works (muscle and ligaments which lock and enable the horse to stand in one position).

Another interesting discussion ensued on how correct biomechanics affects movement and therefore long term soundness of our equine friends.

By this stage it was 8:30pm!!!! Incredibly some hardy soles with aid of some alcoholic beverages continued on looking at bones late into the night (not me).

The next day we had a practical session with Sharon, she used coloured chalk to show all of the major muscle groups on one horse and the skeleton on another. We then were able to observe these horses moving and thus get a visual picture of what all of these parts of the horse do and how they contribute to movement.

The seminar wrapped up with a question and answer session from participants with Bob and Sharon. It was a privilege to have these two eminent speakers for two days and we were all were thankful to Bob and Sharon for giving us their time.

Also a big thanks to Nicky and Andrew for organising the speakers, providing the venue, the food, the camping facilities, photocopied notes and of course those wretched roosters that started crowing at 4:30am every morning.

### **Barb Chenoweth**

*Trish Kruse's youngster  
Mayfield Gigolo displaying his  
masochistic tendencies.*

*Here he is giving an echidna a  
kiss!!*



### **Dear Andrew,**

Once I was blind but now I see. I was forced into going barefoot due to farrier troubles but I've always been a firm believer that things happen for a reason. I've been barefoot now for 9 months after having had shod horses for in excess of 25 years - now I can't believe I did that to my horses.

Apart from any physical benefits my horses have had since their shoes were removed, the change in their attitudes has been mind blowing. My once highly strung jig jogging stock horse is now so calm I thought there was something wrong with him and my 5 yo gelding who went through a very cranky stage 12 months ago, which I put down to saddle fit issues, has not had a grumpy day since the shoes came off. He was also very difficult to shoe – obviously he was trying to tell me something! I now trim both of them myself with no issues at all.

I've gone on to do other courses, including a farrier course, in order to be fully informed about where I was going with the future care of my horses' feet but most of all, I wanted to be the one to undertake that work. I've read many articles and text books on barefoot performance and I can't get enough of it. I know I should be overseen by a professional but I feel really confident with what I'm doing and what my horses are telling me is that I'm doing okay.

They're still ridden in boots but where their shod riding companions are getting tired and cranky towards the end of a ride, mine can and do go all day over any terrain and rarely tire, barely raising a sweat. I do feel under a lot of pressure from my riding companions though who have not yet seen what I can see and it has been suggested to me on more than one occasion that I should go back to shoeing my horses.

There is still a lot of stigma attached to going barefoot so I just wanted to commend you for taking what must have been a huge step of putting the idea of barefooted performance out there as even I took some convincing. I've now learned to listen to my horses and I'm hoping that others will follow my lead.

Kind regards,

**Samantha McCormack Clonbinane**

## The Tale of Pongo the Pony

Pongo has had a few close calls in his life time. Early last year he found himself at the Echuca market after his elderly owner passed away. He was destined for the meat market but luckily at the last minute was purchased by a local horse dealer.

He found his way to our Riders Without Horses program after being advertised in the local paper. He was ideal for the children, they loved him and he in turn thrived on their attention.

But his problems didn't quite finish there. After a routine vet check it was discovered that he had an aggressive tumour that needed to be removed immediately. The vet chose to do the operation on site, which initially went well, and the children were very relieved, but unfortunately after only a few weeks the tumour returned.

Pongo needed an operation that would cost thousands, on top of the previous vet care which had already nearly broken the budget. The committee of the riding club thought that financially the best option would be to have Pongo euthanased.

When Pongo was diagnosed with the second bout of cancer quite a few of the children were present. They listened to what the vet had to say and knew that if Pongo got his operation he would be cured and would go on to live a long happy life. So immediately they set out on a mission. They made collection tins with "Help Save Pongo" on the front and set out door knocking the neighbourhood. Within a couple of hours they had collected \$100. One of the children was so passionate about saving Pongo that he had \$500 saved for a bike and was going to pledge his money towards that operation, but thankfully that wasn't necessary.

Having witnessed these kids' determination I decided that the local newspaper should hear about Pongo's plight and so I sent a little email that truly set the wheels in motion. The Leader newspaper came and photographed Pongo with the children and put a small article in our local paper, the response was incredible.



We got calls and donations from all walks of life. Just chatting to people about what horses meant to them was so heart warming. I had a lot of elderly people phone me and talk about what a huge role horses played in their child hood and day to day life.

Horses were their means of transport. They delivered all their groceries, bread and milk, even their ice. They spoke of the war and the horse's huge role with our troops. The respect for horses was huge. Not just an animal you could dispose of, but an animal worth fighting for.

So within a week of the article coming out Pongo was sent off to Werribee where he went through a lengthy operation that was hugely successful.

Now 6 months down the track he's back teaching the children and as happy as Larry. He is also somewhat of a celebrity in these parts. His story has featured on page two of the Sun, four times in the leader and even New Idea. He has also been painted by a well known local artist.

So the best part of Pongo's story is that it has taught our club's children a few good lessons about fighting for what you want, and that if you try hard enough anything is achievable. Especially when horses are involved.

***Mandy Jenkins North East Horse and Pony Club***

## Masterclass – Professor Bob Bowker and Sharon May-Davis

In March this year, 30 lucky students of the Equine Podiotherapy course, past and present, spent three days in a Masterclass with Professor Robert Bowker and Sharon May-Davis at Mayfield. As one who farewelled Mayfield last November, it was great to be back with the legendary hospitality, sounds of horses, sheep and blowflies buzzing around the cadaver legs in the obligatory dissection session.

The Equine Podiotherapy Diploma course is incredibly fortunate to have the input of Professor Bowker, Bob. Not only is he a generous and warm man, but a remarkable thinker and researcher, who exhorts us all to think outside the box. Students begin with Bob's concept of the good and the bad foot - a concept sorely lacking in much equine foot research and theory. Bob freely admits he has no hypothesis when he begins examining the foot's form and function. His meticulous attention to detailed histology draws on his neurobiology background as well as the work of researchers in the human field, giving great depth to his observations.



The content presented was a typical Bob rollercoaster ride, revisiting topics such as the foot as a sensory organ, the good foot concept, adaptation in the foot, blood flow in the foot, and the foal foot and what it tells us about laminitis. Recent histological studies have shown the presence of another specialized mechanoreceptor, the Merkel disc, in the frog and hoof wall. This same structure is found in the fingertips of humans and shows how intricately the hoof interacts with the environment.

Another 'new' finding discussed was the *chondropulvinale ligament* (rechristened the 'pull-my-finger' ligament) previously described in German literature from early last century. Bob describes this as the palmar fibrocartilage suspensory system - a 'hammock' between the pedal bone and the lateral cartilages supporting the horse's weight in the caudal part of the foot. This system only functions if the lateral cartilages are well developed, providing a solid 'tree' to support the hammock, not a weak sapling allowing all the structures to sink downwards.

As usual, Bob's research findings are absolutely relevant to trimming. Take home points for me were the importance of providing COMFORT to laminitic horses to minimise structural damage within the foot, and to endeavour to develop a feel for digital pulses to help assess circulation. When it comes to healing, circulation is THE priority, and is a dynamic situation.

Sharon May-Davis gave presentations on cervical vertebral malformations in thoroughbreds, and developmental orthopaedic diseases. Sharon is a passionate and effervescent lecturer and extremely knowledgeable about musculoskeletal structure and function. The take home message for EPTs was that nearly all off-the-track TBs, and horses from certain other performance disciplines, have significant bony lesions which affect the horse's way of going and thus their hoof form.

The Masterclass was a not-to-be-missed opportunity to learn from the masters, and from each other, to arm ourselves with the knowledge to make good trimming decisions and to counter the multitude of 'foe-yisms' out there in the world of horses' feet.



**Abby Parkes**



### ***More Murphy's Horse Laws***

If you approach within 10 metres of your stable in clean clothes, you will get dirty.  
The number of horses you own will increase to the number of stalls in your stable.  
Your stable will fall down without baling twine.  
Hoof picks always run away from home.  
If you fall off, you will land on the site of your most recent injury.

---

#### **Hay for sale, small square bales.**

Pure wallaby grass. Great for fat pony with low nutrition and great for reseeding paddock with native seed. \$6.00 ea pick up from Bannockburn. Delivery may be arranged.

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#### ***“Melrose Farm” – Boutique Agistment in Yarra Glen***

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- Twenty metre round yard
- River flats to ride on
- Quality improved equine pasture
- Weed free
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- Paddocks rested
- Most paddocks have luxury shelters
- Natural horsemanship playground
- Hot/cold wash bay
- Float storage
- Quiet local streets
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Limited vacancies. Shared, private or semi-private available. Spelling racehorses welcome (sorry no colts). Paddock only or full livery. Feeding/rugging/lunging/husbandry service available. POA to select agistees.

Phone Karen Gillings 0414 927 785 or 9730 2722 – Email : [lgilling@bigpond.net.au](mailto:lgilling@bigpond.net.au)

## Frances Elliot – Horse Trainer and Instructor

I have loved and been involved with horses for a very long time. I got my first horse at 13, and have been breeding horses for more than 30 years – Appaloosas, Quarter Horses and Warmblood crosses.

I've been lucky enough to start training as soon as my foals are born. As babies, they can learn almost everything they will need as a ridden horse, without fuss or resistance. I love the bond I form with horses. When I'm working with a foal, I have to be careful not to overdo it, or it will follow *me*, not its mother! To see mother and baby, lying in the sun out in the paddock, and to be able to go to them without them feeling anxious and getting up, and to be able to lie down *with* them, is very special!



I believe that with good, correct training, a horse should be able to go between Classical dressage and Western events. We just adjust the speed and the head carriage! I have moved easily and successfully between Western and English showing and dressage, with championships at National level with my Appaloosas, many wins at State level in Western events, and success in EA dressage to Medium level.

In my teaching, I build a repertoire of responses in the horse - he learns to move his hips and shoulders, to back up, and to flex and bend. I reward the horse's smallest try, by releasing the pressure. In this way I teach him not to be afraid, but to *yield* to the pressure. And when he gets it right, I stop, and give him lots of time to relax, as a reward. With the riders, I help them develop their feel and timing. We must constantly improve our co-ordination, so our signals to the horse, and his responses, get ever clearer and lighter!

With each horse and rider combination I work with, I start with something that's achievable, and build from there. I repeatedly come back to the basics - control of the different parts of the horse, and his speed and energy. Over the years I've developed a "bag of tricks" of many flexible ways to help the horse to understand precisely what I want, without directly confronting his resistances, and having a huge fight!

I always work gently - never with brawn or strength. I get the horse's trust, and encourage him to tune into me. A nice bond between us is what I'm looking for!

I want horses to be interested in their work, so it's important to give them lots to do and think about. Don't bore them out of their brains, going in endless circles! We can vary their work with, pole work and jumping, among other things. And using patterns with markers and drums can keep both horses and riders attentive, focussed and accurate in their work. Also, really solid responses with in hand work is not only helping the horse understand movements before trying them under saddle, but can be immensely valuable in different situations, such as treating him when sick or injured.

In general, I think with horses, the more natural the better! So my horses are barefoot, because over the years I have seen too many horses damaged by being shod. They need their feet to grow and function without artificial interference. And I may not necessarily use a bit. Sometimes a halter or bitless bridle can be a gentler introduction to a young horse's education; and some horses will always prefer a bitless option.

I like to keep learning, and hopefully keep adding to my box of tricks. Many people have helped and inspired me over the years, including Virginia Creed, who got me out competing in serious dressage, Tipi Griffin, a fabulous skilled teacher who studied with various American natural horsemanship gurus, and more recently, Steve Brady.

I enjoy seeing horses and riders progress and enjoy their relationship, whatever their goals. Helping people do well in higher level dressage is very satisfying, but then so is helping someone achieve a nice canter, when previously they were too nervous to attempt canter at all, or getting someone safe and confident on their trail rides. I love encouraging horses and riders to develop their communication skills in a gentle and quiet way, so that both are happy in their work.

I'm available for clinics and lessons, and am happy to answer any queries.

**Frances**  
**0407 317 558**

## Product Development - Making a hard job easier

Over summer when the whole world was kicking back in the shade, the Mayfield team has been busy, putting our time, efforts and expense into further product development in our never-ending quest to make a hard job easier for both owner trimmers and professionals alike.

We have new tools and some improved lines as well.

We continue to road test all of our products on a daily basis and – of course – we welcome feedback and suggestions for further improvements.

And there are more developments to come. So stay tuned!

### Professional tools

For some time now we have been asked to cater for the increasing number of professional trimmers operating in Australia; trimmers who are looking for quality tools that will go the distance, but are not way over budget.

Have we come up with the goods or what?!

#### Nippers

We now have the latest model March nippers which we are bringing in directly from the manufacturer so not only can we maintain incredibly competitive prices for a top quality professional grade nipper, but we only get the best of stock. No Friday afternoon builds!

They come in four sizes:

15" for the toughest and biggest hooves

12" for smaller hands and smaller hooves

14" a compromise that covers all bases

14" Racetrack which are sleek and very quick to use – this farrier's favourite so far.

March nippers are a pleasure to use and if you are trimming a lot of horses, they will greatly improve your efficiency.



#### Rasps

The search for the never ending rasp goes on!

Well, we haven't found the endless rasp, but we have found that the choice of rasp by professional trimmers is very much an individual thing. A bit like Holdens or Fords!

It's impossible to find a rasp that suits everyone, so we have expanded our range and have added quality Bassoli rasps from Italy to our line up.

There are two models:

##### ***Bassoli Doppia***

We are quite excited by this rasp which is a new concept, incorporating a unique small tooth rasp pattern on one side with the regular aggressive rasp pattern on the other side. It is like having two rasps in one and seems to be quite long lasting. Even though it is priced a bit higher than the Bellota (we are talking Italian quality here!), it is good value for money in terms of the number of horses that can be trimmed per rasp. I have been using these for a couple of months and they go well.

### **Bassoli Farrier**

This is a standard farrier rasp which is very sharp and easy to start (a very similar drive to the save edge).

For those fans of Bellota and Save Edge, don't despair, we still sell both of these brands as well.

We are currently working on a specific pony rasp by Bassoli (of our own design!) which should be available in the coming months.



### **Loop knives**

Bright colours are here. No more knives lost in the paddock!

Different colours also mean you can tell at a glance what knife you are reaching for.

These are all made of quality steel that is easy to sharpen and maintain.

The large knife has been redesigned for improved leverage and stronger cutting and we have added a small searcher to the line up which is ideal for tracking down small pockets of seedy toe or hoof infection.

The new knives are sold individually or as a complete set which is well discounted.

Individual knives all \$45 except the light blue searcher which is \$50. The complete set of five is \$180 (five for the price of four).



### **Sharpeners**



We have sourced better sharpeners in conjunction with our loop knife development and now have a set that comprises both a large and small diamond grit sharpener as well as the original rat tail file for coarse sharpening. All bases are covered from the biggest knife to the smallest and from fine maintenance sharpening to rebuilding a round blunt edge.

These are sold as a set of three and are good value for only \$45.

### **Resecting nippers**

We have finally been able to source a supply of professional quality resecting nippers for those trimmers who are doing a lot horses.

These are our sharpest and best shaped resecters yet.

### **Hoof stand news**

We have made a significant change to our hoof stands. Due to popular demand (and also for economies of scale) we have 'morphed' both of the original models into one.

There is now only one model hoof stand, but it is good for one horse or good for 100. It suits both owner trimmers and professionals alike.



The stands all come with the popular scalloped base and thicker aluminium post and we have redesigned the sling which is now our best ever and probably the simplest!

The sling consists of a layer of very soft EVA rubber that is protected by a slightly oversized rasp proof layer of automotive carpet. It is very comfortable for horses, well shaped for big foot or small and really holds onto that elusive leg!

If you have one of our earlier models and would like to upgrade (whether for a whole new stand or just parts thereof), ask us about a special deal.

## The bargain bin is now overflowing.

Due to the introduction of new lines, we have moved a large quantity of old stock into the bargain bin at very low prices to make way for the new kids on the block.

Check it out at [www.barehoofcare.com](http://www.barehoofcare.com)

## BfB Trimming Workshop Dates – March – July 2011

Here is our list for 2011 we have spent much time trying to sort things out so we could cover as much area as possible. It's not an easy task juggling different state school holidays, public holidays, the Diploma blocks and busy times on the farm in Yarck. Most of our weekends are now full but we would be happy to conduct weekday workshops while we are in your area. As we are so busy right, now some venues and coordinators have not yet been contacted and booked hence the TBC. If we have left you out please let us know.

We are still trying to work out the logistics of coming over to NZ. As we mostly travel with our tools and shop and are basically self sufficient it is much harder on ourselves and our co-ordinator if we are to fly. We are hoping to organise something in May 2011.

Dural, Sydney NSW Sat 5<sup>th</sup> March - Fully booked

Medowie, NSW Lower Hunter Sun 6<sup>th</sup> March

Maitland, NSW Mon 7<sup>th</sup> March

Palmdale, NSW Tues 8<sup>th</sup> March

Geelong, VIC Sun 13<sup>th</sup> March

Mt Gambier, SA Mon 14<sup>th</sup> March (labour day holiday)

Echunga "Tilling Hill", SA Fri 18<sup>th</sup> March

**Kersbrook, SA Advanced Sat 19<sup>th</sup> March – Fully booked**

Peterborough, SA Sun 20<sup>th</sup> March

Lake Cargelligo, Friday 25<sup>th</sup> March

Howlong, NSW Sat 26<sup>th</sup> March

**Howlong, NSW Advanced Sun 27<sup>th</sup> March**

Yarck, VIC standard Sun 3<sup>rd</sup> April

Cowra, NSW Sat 9<sup>th</sup> April

Cowra, NSW Advanced Sun 10<sup>th</sup> April

Southern Highlands NSW Sat 16<sup>th</sup> April

Canberra, Sun 17<sup>th</sup> April

Canberra, Advanced Mon 18<sup>th</sup> April

Omeo, Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> May

Lakes Entrance Sun 15<sup>th</sup> May

Yarck, Advanced Sat 21<sup>st</sup> May

Seymour, Sun 22<sup>nd</sup> May

Townsville, QLD Sat 11<sup>th</sup> June

Townsville, QLD Advanced Sun 12<sup>th</sup> June

Cairns, QLD Mon 13<sup>th</sup> June (Queens birthday holiday)

Mt Isa, QLD Sat 18<sup>th</sup> June

Dalby, QLD Fri 1<sup>st</sup> July

Nanango, QLD Sat 2<sup>nd</sup> July

Kenilworth, QLD Sun 3<sup>rd</sup> July

Beaudesert, QLD Thurs 7<sup>th</sup> July

Samford, QLD Sat 9<sup>th</sup> July

Logan Reserve, QLD Sun 10<sup>th</sup> July

Logan Reserve, QLD Advanced Mon 11<sup>th</sup> July

Dural, NSW Fri 26<sup>th</sup> August

Medowie, NSW Advanced Sat 27<sup>th</sup> August

Port Macquarie, NSW Sun 28<sup>th</sup> August

Port Macquarie, NSW Advanced Mon 29<sup>th</sup> August

Tamworth, NSW Sat 3<sup>rd</sup> September TBC

Tamworth, NSW Advanced Sun 4<sup>th</sup> September TBC

Mudgee, NSW Sat 1<sup>st</sup> October TBC

Dubbo, NSW Sun 2<sup>nd</sup> October TBC

Cobar, NSW Mon 3<sup>rd</sup> October (labour Day)

Cobar, NSW Advanced Tues 4<sup>th</sup> October

## Extended learning

The response we have had from people about Sharon May-Davis' workshops has been fantastic and it is great that horse owners want to broaden their equine education for their favourite equine friends. Listed are the dates Sharon is coming to Yarck. If you are keen please get in quick so you do not miss out. Numbers are strictly limited.

Three Day Anatomy Workshop Sharon May-Davis, Tasmania 25-27<sup>th</sup> March 2011

Whole Horse Dissection with Sharon May-Davis, Yarck, VIC 24<sup>th</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup> April 2011

Biomechanics with Sharon May-Davis, Yarck, VIC Sat 30<sup>th</sup> April & Sun 1<sup>st</sup> May 2011

Whole Horse Dissection with Sharon May-Davis, Yarck, VIC Sat 8<sup>th</sup> –Mon 10<sup>th</sup> October 2011

For more information contact Nicky Bowe – 03 5773 4306 email [info@barehoofcare.com](mailto:info@barehoofcare.com) or visit the website [www.barehoofcare.com](http://www.barehoofcare.com) and go to Trimming Workshops.

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 \$5 per bale

Good clean plain grass hay  
 This seasons  
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 Approximately 200 – 300 available  
  
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**Beautiful jet black warmblood gelding.**  
 Dusty is four years old and approximately 15:3hh. Should mature 16hh but finer frame. Very elegant and expressive movement.  
 Started professionally in-hand with Parelli and Classical Dressage principles. Long Reigns (bitless bridle) with Saddle, walks onto float by himself. Training will continue slowly until sold.  
 Always been barefoot, has strong hooves which he picks up nicely. Very friendly horse and dear friend. To approved home only.  
 \$5000. Price reflects that he has a scar on his hind leg (cosmetic only)  
 Contact Sara on [paramythie@yahoo.com.au](mailto:paramythie@yahoo.com.au)

**Brown 16.1hh Gelding**  
 foaled 29 September 2005  
 By ASH stallion Talooona Valley Rouseabout (good campdraft horse) out of a TB mare. Born near Tamworth NSW, brought up in a herd, very good horse manners.  
 Bought by me February 2009, handled, taught to tie up, float, etc.  
 Spent 9 weeks in July-September this year being started with Wayne Anderson, aligned with Buck Brannaman's philosophy. Very solid basics established, green. He is a playful gorgeous character, charming and well mannered. Never shod, excellent feet. Rugged in summer as starting to show signs of itch. Good strong back. Has been known to jump out of his paddock!  
 Price \$3000 neg  
 Contact Abby 02 6687 0460

**Kind honest gentleman**  
 17hh, 13year old. Lovely quiet temperament, established lateral work. Can take anywhere and do anything. Has competed level 3 and would easily progress to level 1 dressage and jumping.  
 A real sweetheart, owner has no time. Regretful sale. Would suit rider with some experience wanting a big quiet horse to go up through the grades with.  
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