



## NEWSLETTER NO 5 November 2008

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| PRESIDENT          | Andrew Bowe         |
| VICE PRESIDENT     | Luke Steele         |
| SECRETARY          | Deb Reid            |
| TREASURER          | Elizabeth Robertson |
| NEWSLETTER         | Deb Reid            |
| EVENTS COORDINATOR |                     |

### President's report

Welcome to another AHCA newsletter – albeit a brief one in the mad rush leading up to Equitana.

A newsletter is only as good as its content so please if you have anything that you think is worthy of inclusion, please forward it to the newsletter editor.

This will be my last president's report as I will not be standing for reselection on the

committee. Having been on the committee since the formation of the AHCA, my tenure as a committee member is well past its expiry date!

Before I proceed with my ramble, I must thank Deb Reid for her tireless work behind the scenes. Deb has more than anyone held the AHCA together through a year when it was in danger of folding up due to lack of numbers (for no other reason I think than every body simply being too busy).

Thank you also to the other committee members who gave up many nights to partake in online meetings.

Thanks also to Carol Layton who resigned from managing the website. Carol has been instrumental in getting the website up and running – a big job!

On the committee we finally got into the swing of online meetings which are proving to be quite an effective way to keep association matters ticking along (apart from all the bad jokes). In recent times we have mostly been organizing our booth at Equitana which should be an interesting time. There is a growing interest in all things barefoot so I predict there will be a lot of visitors to our booth. It will be a great chance, not only for individual trimmers to showcase their own businesses, but also for those of you who can see the bigger picture and promote not only the concept of barefoot riding, but also the value of our association to prospective members.

There are promising times ahead for our association. In Australia there are now two recognized courses producing graduates so membership of the AHCA should continue to expand. Hoof boots are evolving into their next generation which could possibly see barefooting

well and truly established as a mainstream alternative for equine hoofcare.

But there are challenges ahead as well. The AHCA will be challenged to hold onto members from the different courses and stop them breaking off into their own splinter associations. I sincerely hope this does not happen as I am a firm believer in the leverage created by large united 'federations', rather than small, relatively insignificant splinter groups.

The challenge for our association in the next few years will be to grow and evolve in a manner that recognizes the merits of graduates from each of the courses, but at the same time embracing those of us who haven't got an official qualification. Maybe there is scope to develop a tiered membership system?

Apart from Yvonne Taylor who I thank for taking on the job of being our reporter from the west, I didn't get any response from anyone to take on the roles of being state "reporters" – please, it's not a real big job and state based updates really add spice to a newsletter. In an association that is national like ours, we do not get to see and talk to each other very often so the AHCA really is only as strong and effective as its newsletter. Please give it some consideration.

Anyway, enough banging on. It has been a long hard year and I hope that some of the newer membership may be able to take it on to join the committee.

But one last silly quote on my way out the door: "never approach a bull from the front, a horse from the rear or a fool from any direction"

Over and out!  
Andrew

# National College of Traditional Medicine Diploma in Equine Podiotherapy

Twenty one students are well into the first diploma Course in Equine Podiotherapy and about to graduate at the end of the year. When they commenced the course some were already highly skilled professional trimmers, some came from fields associated with equine health and others just had a passion to take on hoof care as a career path.

Coming from as far away as WA and Qld they have formed a strong and supportive unit bonded by their deep interest in equine rehabilitation and I am sure all will have successful businesses in the future and continue to network and support each other in the future.

The initial course has been a great success and the National College who host the course have already had expressions of interest from future Equine Podiotherapists wanting to enrol for next year's course.

Many of the students in the course have already created a network of professional contacts and are working with Veterinarians and using these cases for the case histories. The feed back the lecturers have received from Veterinarians involved has been wonderful. It is a credit to those students who are already presenting themselves in such a professional manner and dealing with difficult cases so well.

The EPT course emphasises not only practical skills but also the development of an understanding of the orthopaedics involved in rehabilitative trimming. Skills grounded in

sound knowledge of the entire Anatomy & Physiology of the equine allow therapists to deal with the many pathologies that our domestic horses suffer and their secondary impacts on the entire horse too.

The EPT course also covers the entire gamut of skills necessary for the running of a professional clinical practice plus horse handling techniques, professionalism plus OH & S issues are also part of the curriculum.

For an information pack about the next course please contact the National College of Traditional Medicine. Their website is [www.nctm.com.au](http://www.nctm.com.au)

## Tassie Trimming Course Cert 4

The next course begins on April. Chris Pollitt and Brian Hampson will be guest speakers and conducting public lectures on the latest laminitis research and their brumby research.

## What's Happening in the West.....

Howdy Y'all !

Well summer can't make up it's mind whether it wants to come over here to Western Australia or not ! And, WA hooves are confused whether to lay down their false sole to make up for the lost dirt plugs or not. Just when the false sole starts to fill in, it rains and a shed occurs and the hoof has to start the process all over again. In the height of summer, non-sand living horses collect a false sole of up to 1.5 centimetres and horse owners start to panick that their horses are losing their concavity. And just as I get through the reassurance barrage, summer is over and the rains come (maybe) and

the hooves do a mass shed, leaving the walls long and then I am getting calls that the hooves are breaking up! Luckily as people over here



understand the process I get less and less calls, (Thank heavens for Dr. Bowker, without whose research, I still would have been trying to understand why the hoof goes through this process).

I spent a half day with the WA Mounties and I must say that the horses are looking marvelous! The transformation of body and attitude of the horses is amazing! Only 12 months ago the horses were uncooperative and less than impressed. For some of the horses, coming out of shoes was a challenge. Now they are more than happy to give their hooves for trimming and the feedback was that their attitudes were much improved and horses coped much better with their sometimes stressful role. Use of boots increased the horses' ability to perform on various surfaces including concrete and bitumen, and also allowed them access to steel edged and concrete steps. A full gallop down the road and a sliding stop were perilous previously, in steel. However, with their boots the horses and riders have new confidence that they can stop safely without little loss of

traction. There is much more attention given to hoof health when selecting horses as well. I can't wait to see how they go in the next 12 months!

We are steaming ahead in our quest for anything that helps the horse. Enter Dr. Bruce Ferguson at Murdoch University. Dr. Ferguson is from the United States and is teaching Veterinary Acupuncture at the university. I had the privilege of accompanying Dr. Ferguson and his students for a day treating horses and I must say I was nothing less than impressed!



Not only is he kind and gentle with the animals, they knew it too! Since then I have sent referrals to him for interesting problems. Further a new client, whose horse is a long time Cushing's sufferer, has had brilliant results with the acupuncture incorporated with Traditional Chinese Medicine. I want to learn more! It is so interesting and I have to thank Dr. Mark Curtis, who gave us two days of his precious time on the last block of the Diploma of Equine Podio-Therapy, for sparking this enthusiasm!

That's all folks.....

Yvonne Heiser-Taylor  
Wild Ponies Equine Podio-Therapy

## Membership Reminder

If you are considering rejoining the AHCA, now is the time. Equitana is on the horizon Your committee has taken the plunge and hired a booth to market not only the AHCA and the concept of 'barefoot' horses, but also the businesses of each and every member; a fantastic opportunity whether you are new to the trade with a growing business or are an old hand who is going down the path of specialisation.

A large number of the Tasmanian written booklets titled Bare Facts have been purchased (with a modified resources section that reflects the national scenario). Inserted into this book will be a list of AHCA members who wish to advertise their businesses.

If you would like to be included in this list (your name, contact details and your service area), there are two things you will need to do by November 10th at the absolute latest: ensure that you are a financial member for this year and send your details with your approval. Please help us out in this busy time and don't leave it to the last minute.

Kind regards,  
Andrew and Nicky Bowe  
THE BAREFOOT BLACKSMITH

## Annual General Meeting

A table has been booked in the bistro of the Douitagalla hotel for 20-30 people on the 22<sup>nd</sup> November.

(<http://www.douttagallahotel.com>).

It is about 500m from the show grounds where Equitana is being held. It is an easy tram ride from there. Please come and support your organization. RSVP to Deb Reid ([dackers@inet.net.au](mailto:dackers@inet.net.au)) by Nov 19th

## Boots of the future- available now!

Catch these at Equitana or through  
[www.easycaredownunder.com.au](http://www.easycaredownunder.com.au)

