

Launch of the Arid and Tropic Zone HorsesLandWater resources

The Australian Government Caring for Our Country Program has funded the adaptation of the HorsesLandWater resources to suit Arid and Tropic peri-urban horse keeping areas of Australia.

Project partners also included the Natural Resources Management Board, Northern Territory and the Northern Territory Department of Regional Development, Primary Industry, Fisheries and Resources. The HorsesLandWater team would also like to thank the Darwin Horse & Pony Club and many other horse owners in the NT who assisted through sharing information in forums, workshops and the provision of photographs.

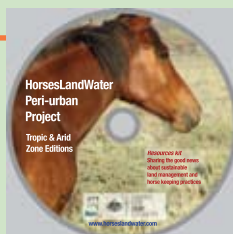
"It has become quite apparent throughout this project that there is precious little information available for horse keepers on small properties in either tropic or arid areas of Australia," said Project Manager Julie Fiedler.

"With increasing population in key regional areas, including Darwin, and with greater government and community expectations putting pressures on small farm managers to care for the environment, further research and extension work is greatly needed in these fields."

The documents are available for free download from www.horseslandwater.com.

Horse organisations and natural resource management advisory groups are invited to link to the site. Organisations delivering workshops or field days are invited to add their logo to the resources for special print runs or distribution to members.

For further information, please contact Julie Fiedler, email horsesa@horsesa.asn.au or mobile 0402 488 306



HorsesLandWater Action Planner and Management Guides

National – Arid - Tropic
Download for free from www.horseslandwater.com



Abba & Tango: Photo courtesy Moonaree Station.

Safe feed storage

It is convenient to store feed close to where it is needed. This will mean either having a feed room as part of a stable complex or in a building near the horse yards.

A feed room should have a smooth concrete floor so that it can easily be kept clean. It is vital that rodents do not get into feed due to the associated dangers. Vermin soiled feed can carry deadly botulism of which horses are very susceptible. The presence of vermin also encourages snakes.



There are many strategies for vermin control including poisoning, trapping and the use of predators. Poison carries a risk to domestic pets so should only be used when necessary. As always, prevention is better than cure so keeping the feed room meticulously clean and all feed stored in vermin proof bins will help keep rodents down. Remember that grain based feeds (and hays such as oaten hay) will attract rodents.

The amount of storage space needed will depend on the number of horses to be fed, their feed requirements and how often the feed supply is to be replenished. Feed bins that are too small will need to be refilled every few days. Too large means the feed may become stale before you use it. Remember that each feed bin should be emptied completely before being replenished so that feed at the bottom of the bin does not become stale and unpalatable. Alternatively when refilling, remove the old feed, put in the fresh feed and then place the old feed back on the top.

Hay storage should not be close to stables for several reasons. Large amounts of hay are a fire risk (both from self combustion and external) and hay can create a dusty environment in enclosed areas. If possible plan to build an additional shed that can be used for larger amounts of hay storage. It is better to bring only the amount needed for each feed (or a few days) into a stable complex at a time. Or better still shake out hay in another area before bringing it into the stables to reduce dust.

Correction: In edition 11 the bushfire story was written by Pam Brookman and the photo contributed by Moonaree Station.

HorsesLandWater

NEW BOOKLET:

Five quick ways to check if your horse property and horse are on track

Are you looking for ways to reduce the potential for hoof problems and sand colic?

Are all the plants in your horses' paddock (pantry) safe to eat?

This booklet gives five quick ways to check if your horse property and horse's health can be improved through good land management practices.

This booklet was produced by the Horse Owners of the Southern Mount Lofty Ranges with help from Horse SA. Funding was provided by the Adelaide & Mount Lofty Ranges Natural Resources Management Board.

Download for free from www.horseslandwater.com or www.horseowners.info



Coming soon!

Buying your first horse. A quick guide for potential new horse owners considering not only essential things to think about when buying a horse, but also considers where the horse is to be kept. After all, how the land is managed is important for ongoing horse health and a better horse owning experience.

To be available for free. Funded by the City of Onkaparinga Environment Grant program.

Coming Events

May 15: Sarina (Qld). Managing Horses on Small Properties
Christine.Peterson@whitsundayrc.qld.gov.au

May 16: Mackay (Qld). Managing Horses on Small Properties
Christine.Peterson@whitsundayrc.qld.gov.au

May 18: Whitsundays (Qld). Managing Horses on Small Properties
Christine.Peterson@whitsundayrc.qld.gov.au

May 29: Bendigo (Vic). Managing Horse Properties
Louise.Scott@dpi.vic.gov.au

May 30: Wondong (Vic) Managing horse properties after fire
Louise.Scott@dpi.vic.gov.au

May 30: Kinglake (Vic) Managing horse properties after fire
Louise.Scott@dpi.vic.gov.au

June 27: Boonah (Qld) Managing Horses on Small Properties
jane@equiculture.com.au

July/August: (SA). Two free field days TBA Gawler & Adelaide Hills areas.
horsesa@horsesa.asn.au

If you are running a workshop, field day or course please contact HorsesLandWater for a free listing on the website.



Perpetual Calendar (Southern Australia)

A full year of ideas for your small property, horse care and trails. Full colour. Download for free from www.horseslandwater.com or \$10 posted anywhere in Australia.
Enq.horsesa@horsesa.asn.au or Mobile 0402 488 306

This newsletter is a key activity of the project 'Managing Horse Grazing Pressures in Peri-Urban Environments' and has been funded by a Landcare Sustainable Practices grant under the Australian Government's Caring for our Country.

www.horseslandwater.com

Please promote through your club or horse-related business website, noticeboard or newsletter.

HorsesLandWater Corporate and Community Programs: HorsesLandWater staff and volunteers are able to offer a range of programs tailored to suit horse keepers in your local area. Specialising in capacity building programs which engage the key stakeholders – horse owners, land management technical advisors, government agencies at all levels, research and educational institutions. The team also has experience in resource development, educational programs and related activities. Contact Julie Fiedler at HorsesLandWater.

HorsesLandWater

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