



In Alice Springs, shade cloth covers the RDA riding arena.

HorsesLandWater in the Northern Territory

Recently the HorsesLandWater message was delivered to the Northern Territory. More than 60 people attended forums and field days held in Darwin, Katherine and Alice Springs.

One of the aims of the project was to adapt the HorsesLandWater Management Guidelines to suit tropical and arid zone horse keeping.

The HorsesLandWater team is keen to hear about any topic and text adaptations which are important, and also to receive photographs of horse keeping in tropical and arid zone areas which could be used in the final document.

Even if you did not attend any of the sessions, but would like to contribute, please feel free to send information. Contact Julie Fiedler on 0402 488 306 or email horsesa@horsesa.asn.au for further information.

The adapted versions are expected to be completed in the early part of 2009 and will be available for free download from www.horseslandwater.com

Survey of Northern End horse owners

As part of the HorsesLandWater NT project, participants attending field day sessions were asked to complete a survey. Some of the findings are:

- 56% of people strongly agreed and 37% agreed that they believe there are linkages between horse health and land management.
- The average number of hours spent on a horse property undertaking manual work on the property is between 5 and 15.
- 97% of property owners had not completed a property management plan.
- After completing the HorsesLandWater field days, 66% strongly agreed and 34% agreed that they were able to set environmental targets for their properties.

Have you done your bushfire emergency plan for your horse property?

Horse owners often think about bushfires; but when it comes to actually sitting down with the family or agistment clients, and discussing what the emergency bushfire plan might be ... many are found lacking.



How do you receive up-to-date bushfire messages? Is your battery-powered radio tuned to your local information service? Do you have a telephone tree of surrounding property owners?

Do you have an agreed plan of action for:

- a when the fire is approaching,
- b during the fire, and
- c after the fire has passed.

As a property owner, you will need very early on to make a decision about evacuation or to stay and fight. There may be – for some people – the need to have a list of people who live in a lower risk bushfire area who can take your horses at short notice. Horse transportation however, needs to take place well before the fire threat reaches your property. It is too late once the roads are closed and emergency services are attending.

It is a good idea to invite your local Country Fire Service or Association to provide members to give a talk at your local horse club or at a gathering of neighbouring horse property owners (perhaps over a bbq one evening) to discuss local actions.

Each area will be unique in geographical features, access and escape travel routes, 'safe' places and available local resources to fight fires. If you can, invite your local CFS representatives to visit your own property. It will help you with bushfire prevention ideas and help the agency with forward planning in relation to potential water supplies, access routes and other local 'intelligence'.

For further information visit your state country/rural bushfire website.

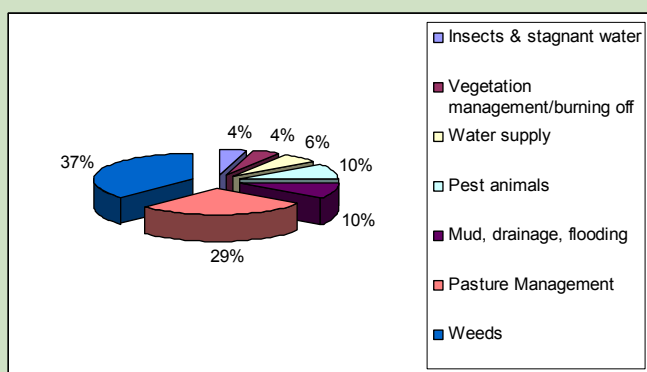
The Victorian DPI has also produced a horse-specific fact sheet which can be found on www.dpi.vic.gov.au/dpi/nreninf.nsf/linkview/ffc5bcfae90eb791ca256bcf000bbe00021564693e5e1d494a256dea0027f15b

HorsesLandWater

HLW in the NT (Cont. from front page)

Most difficult issues to manage – Katherine & Darwin

37 different issues were identified by Darwin and Katherine field day participants. These topics were grouped into similar subject headings related to either natural resources management or horse care. Displayed in the chart below are the top seven responses. Further responses indicated that dust, trees, erosion prevention, the dry season, riparian zones and soil quality were identified as issues difficult to manage on a small horse property.



More horse images from the NT. Above: A racehorse enjoys an afternoon pick at Fanny Bay Racecourse. Below: Community horse yards at Blatherskite Park, Alice Springs.



What's coming up?

Field days and workshops:

SA

Cherry Gardens Dec 11 horsesa@horsesa.asn.au

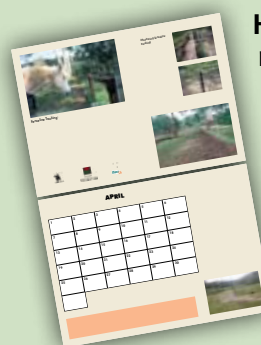
NSW

Bangalow Dec 6 jane@equiculture.com.au



Peri-Urban Project CD available now

Contents include national versions of the HorsesLandWater Action Planner, Management Guidelines, Horse Health Fact Sheets and horse property catchment poster as part of 35 different resources for you or your organisation to use to share the horse keeping, horse health and good land management practices message. Cost \$27.50 inc GST from Horse SA, email horsesa@horsesa.asn.au or download an order form from www.horseslandwater.com



Horse keeping and land management perpetual calendar.

Cost \$10 plus postage from Horse SA, email horsesa@horsesa.asn.au or download an order form from www.horseslandwater.com

This calendar was prepared by the Horse Owners of the Southern Mt Lofty Ranges from a grant provided by the City of Onkaparinga.

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 Initiative.

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.

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