

Summer 2019

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Mayfield Barehoofcare Centre
470 Middle Creek Road. Yarck Vic 3719

In with the new year, out with the old

“Last new year’s resolution was to lose 10 pounds by the end of the year....I’ve only got 20 to go!”

Here at the Barefoot Blacksmith, this old farrier is getting a bit gun-shy about making new year’s resolutions. Can’t seem to keep them.

I think last year’s resolution was something along the lines of working under horses for only three days per week, leaving four whole days working at Mayfield on all the other manifestations of the day job – the college, the farm, the rehab horses and a bit of journo stuff on the side. All deadlines to be easily accounted for. Yeah right. In the end nothing really changed - as usual - so apologies for another late newsletter.

We usually have our summer edition out well in advance of Christmas, but here we are putting a slow pen to paper well after the festive season is all done and dusted and Santa has

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Palamino Elle and Audrey (BFB’s Workaway Backpacker from France) take advantage of the shade.

BFB Summer

peeled off his fat shirt and is dangling his white feet in the pool, the old year has become history and 2019 is sputtering to life.

Not to worry, there is still a whole lot more summer to come.

But first, back to Christmas for just a moment. Apart from giving us all the time to catch up with the family and old friends we never see during the hurly burly of the year's daily grind, the annual lay-off from our day jobs gives us the first world luxury of a circuit breaker. Just stop the never ending schedule for a couple of days and just be.

As Christmas turns into a celebration of the new year, time is ripe for a bit of reflection; to ask "Where to from here? What have we learnt from last year? How can we do it better this year?"

Of course, such introspection is actually quite easy when one is staring at the world from under a shady tree.

So, drawing a line in the dust of 2018 and looking forward now to the sweetly innocent new year of 2019....

Here at the Barefoot Blacksmith, 2019 looks like being another busy year with hoof trimming workshops. There seems to be a whole new wave of horse owners seeking the rare independence of maintaining their horses' hooves themselves. With the constant evolution of sustainable hoofcare options and tools and equipment advances, just about anyone who really wants to keep their horses barefoot, can do so.

Apart from workshops in most states, we may even venture as far as New Zealand and one or two other overseas destinations.

We will actually try to fit any (reasonable) destination into the calendar. If you think there is enough interest in your local area (we usually need a minimum of 6 full participants to make it viable) and you would like be a local co-ordinator to help get a workshop up and running, just let us know.

So, to the new year ahead (sans resolutions):

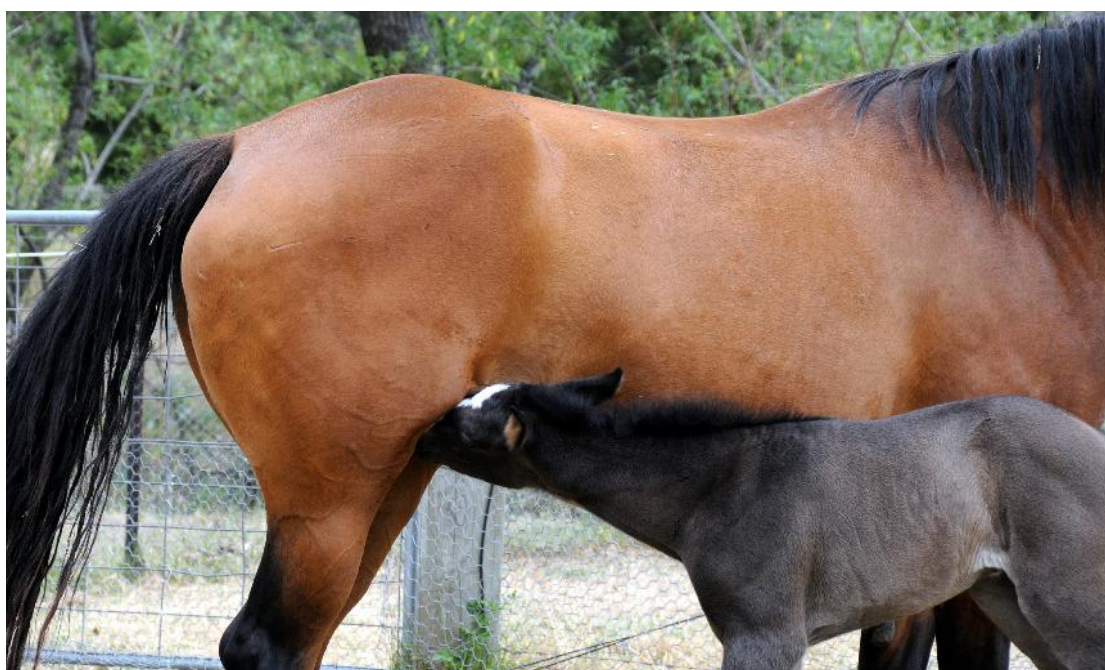
Here's hoping everyone passes unscathed through the inevitable trials and tribulations of the Australian summer, be it bushfires or cyclones or every other damn thing in between (just for something different we have the beginnings of a grasshopper plague);

Hopefully everyone gets to do with their horses what they want to do with their horses, an hopefully everyone's horses have someone speaking on their behalf; and finally, here's hoping we all get the chance to sit on the veranda and either watch it rain or watch it stop raining! **BFB**



Ever vigilant Pakky (alias Fang) the Alpaca stands guard, a lot lighter after being shorn by a camalid stylist

A longed for drink to bring in the new year.



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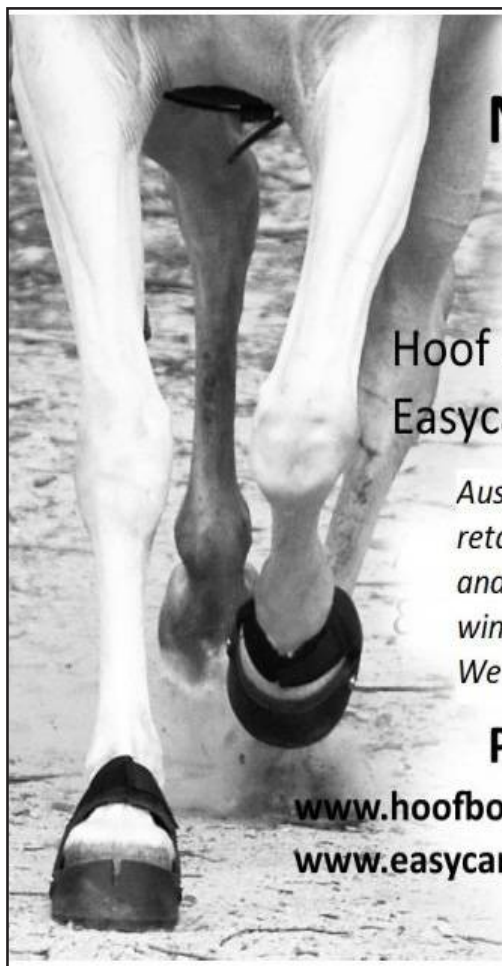
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Nicky captures the beauty that is Mayfield at sunrise



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Jester's Joke



**Q: You're riding a horse full speed,
there's a giraffe right beside you,
and a lion nipping at your heels.
What do you do?**

A: Get off the carousel and sober up.

What's happening at Mayfield

By Nicole Bowe

On the Farm - Lots of Hungry critters!

There are not many years that we feed out daily to the horses so early in the summer, the seasons have been so unkind, as there is just NO dry standing feed left.

The failing Spring break has been harsh on the farm. Our hay crop was only 1/3 of what we normally get, despite extra fertilizer.

Our Top weaner calves that we sold first made reasonable prices, ones we actually weaned and were forced to sell later due to no feed, didn't sell as well. We held on to a few late calves out of the heifers as they were just too light and are Lot feeding them silage.

This year is the first time we have been faced with selling our old cows as they are at the end of their productive life. Their teeth are not much chop anymore! Some just have stumps, some no teeth at all and some loose. It's very sad, as they have been very good cows over the years.

On the up side, the sheep are thriving, they don't seem to mind the dryer hotter conditions and we are happy not to have any wool breeds as the summer storms are perfect for flies! I even found one ewe that had been struck the other day, but she had healed herself.

The Aussie whites are tough!



The boys rest in the shade after being relieved for summer from stud duties. (Aussie Whites and Poll Dorest breeds)

BFB Mayfield

The Australian Stock horse stud - its growing !



Foaling our mares this year was un-eventful. Interestingly Sassy, Inca, Matilda and Spanner are all the proud mothers of BLACK fillies. The fifth foal, from our beautiful palomino mare Flame is a bay colt. It's the S year for names, Sassys foal is called Shadow, Incas foal Salem, Flames foal is called Samurai, Spannas foal is called Savannah and Matildas foal, Sabrina.

We also have a few newbies in our broodmare herd. Elle, one of our girls' ponies who has been at the RDA, returned home as she is having hormonal issues and phantom pregnancies. She is Flames' full sister and such a beautiful soul, she yearns for a foal of her own. WE tried to breed her BUT things didn't go so well. A week after breeding she became suddenly ill with no prior or obvious signs we found her sitting in the paddock like a dog severely dehydrated, with a high temperature and Toxic. She was on a drip for two days and is still on antibiotics. Alice the vet who examined her believes it to be due to complications post service. So poor Elle might not be a broody after all.

Our broodmare numbers seem to be growing. One of our workers, Anna Schaeffner, brought to my attention a plea for help from a lady breeding Australian Stock Horse who was in drought. We ended up purchasing four mares, 2 with foals at foot and two due to foal, as they were going to be sent to Benalla Horse Sales. I didn't want mares and one week old foals going through the yards. I was at the Sales Yard not long ago selling gear and I really do not think it is the right place for such young foals, let alone mares due to foal anytime!

Anna took home one of the mares with foal at foot and

Mayfield
welcomes
Scottie and
his dam
Violet. Sire
HSH Branxton
Collect

I kept the mare with the lovely taffy filly foal at foot who we named Sahara.

Both Mares foaled this week, one lost her foal due to mal presentation even though I was there to help and pulled the foal as soon as she was down. He was coming head only which means his legs did not start dilation of the mare in time and he separated from his placenta before being delivered. Its such a shame and I feel for the mare. We will try to re breed her this season.

The other lovely mare worried me as well as she was running milk for two days. However we now have a lovely bay colt foal who I named Scottie. We now have 7 foals! Just a few more than we bargained for. (Pictured above)

The poor spring and unusual large variation from high to low temperatures has made breeding mares difficult this year. They are not cycling well at all and not implanting.

We are waiting on some more scans but so far there are two in foal, one who's pregnancy did not implant properly the first time, and one with twins. Mares rarely successfully carry twins, so we had to remove one. We are still to find out about the others. **BFB**

New to the paddock

Samuri: out of Flame by
our own HSH, Mate



BFB Mayfield Foals

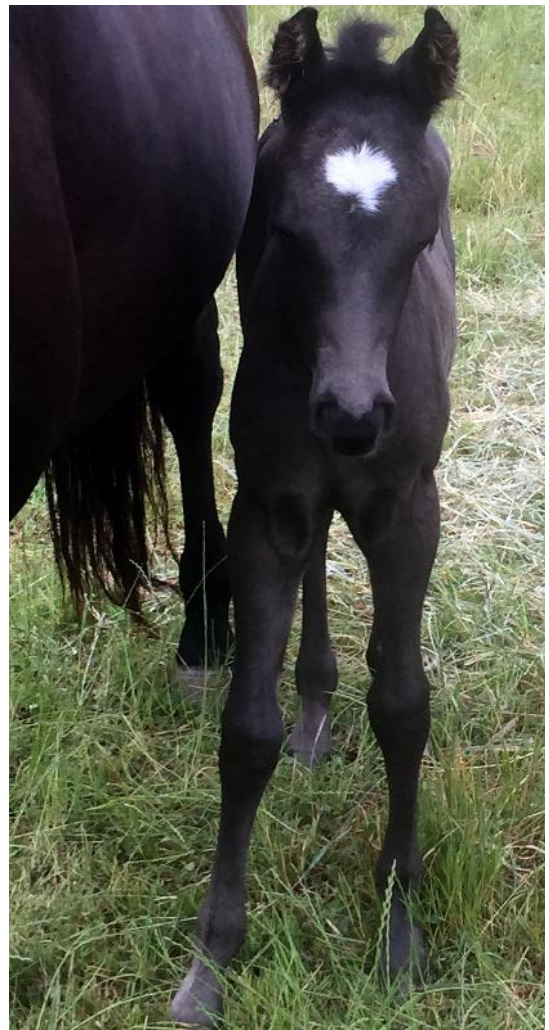


Left:
Savannah:
out of
Spannar
by our own
HSH, Mate



Right:
Salem:
out of
Inca RQH
by our
own HSH,
Mate.

Left:
Sahara:
out of
Sunny
an aged
ASH HSH
mare we
rescued.
Sire was
a 6yo
ASH HSH
stallion



Right and
below:
Sabrina: out
of Matilda
WBTBx XWB
Clyde by our
own HSH,
Mate



Right:
Shadow: out of Sassy
by own own HSH,
Mate. Salem the filly
with the longest legs,
our own supermodel.



BFB Mayfield additions



Hagrid the cat, jealous of the new dog, Diesel, is sleeping in his bed. Diesel (a rescued pet) just gets a blanket.

Below: Billy meets Nanny goat. She is definitely pregnant. We await new arrivals. Is she excited?



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2 kg bags - \$20 (\$10/kg)
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17 kg Bag - \$100 (\$5.88/kg)

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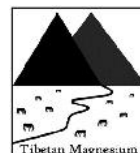
(Must be picked up from Mayfield)
25kg bag - \$140 (\$5.60/kg) can't be posted

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This human grade magnesium chloride is certified Food Grade.

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Typical Independent Aust. Analysis

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Sodium - 0.15%
Potassium - 0.09%
Bromides - 0.0024%
(almost negligible) Iron <50 ppm
Lead - not detected
Arsenic - not detected
Mercury - not detected
NOTE: Do not confuse
Magnesium Chloride
with Magnesium Oxide



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BFB Mayfield REHABILITATION

Some big challenges in rehabilitation

We currently have some very interesting Rehab cases here at Mayfield Farm, which are keeping me very busy.

I am spending a lot of time with the cutest Riding Pony mare that had penetrated the soles in all four hooves after being shod with bar shoes. She is up and about but still having a few soreness issues due to damage that occurred from being shod whilst so laminitic. The lever forces from the shoes have affected regrowth and tissue esp nerves. We wish she had come here before the bar shoes went on as we strongly believe that with our help, she'd be happily back home by now.

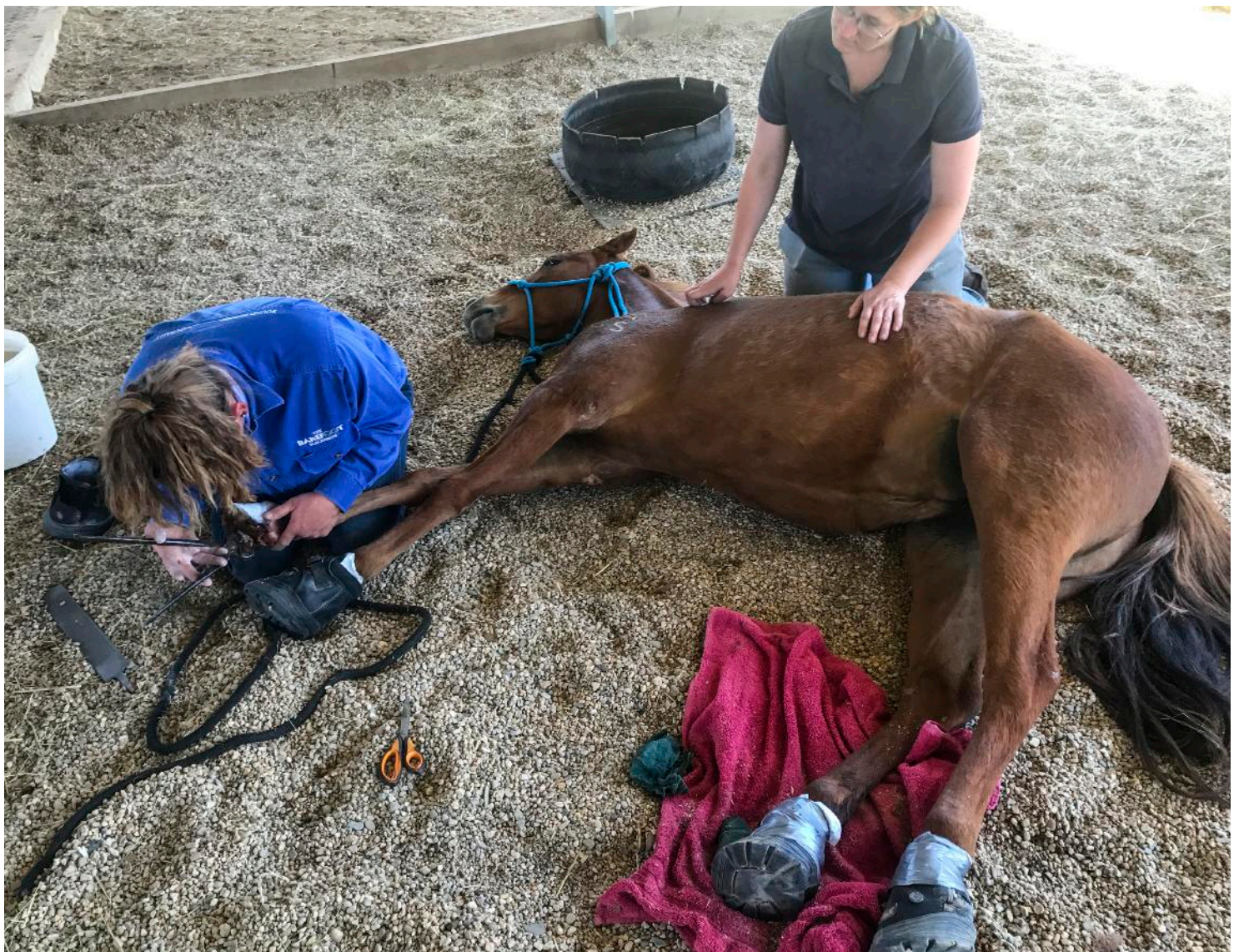
An interesting old Bay gentleman came here for help with management of ongoing laminitis, but this proved to be the least of his problems, his ongoing abscess on his caudal pastern has been confirmed as a Quittor and our

vet has just operated. Quittor is not an easy one to cure so fingers crossed. (See overleaf)

There is also the sweetest warmblood mare that came for management of long term persistent seedy toe and laminitis. Just moving to a better environment has helped her laminitis, but the seedy toe ended up being a type of Keratoma/infection high up close to the coronary band. Once again, our great vet Pos Thompson helped us operate and work out a management plan and fingers crossed it will grow out ok.

Finally we are working on rehabbing the feet of a young promising Polo Cross pony which were thin and sore and separated. When he arrived he could barely walk. He is coming along nicely and after another session with Christine Gee, our veterinary chiropractor. He will be going home with a training program to build him up again. **BFB**

A very compliant patient lying down for cleaning and dressing of her penetration wounds.



Rare but nasty

QUITTOR

- Quittor is an old term used to describe necrosis (death and destruction) of the collateral cartilages of the hoof.
- The condition of yesteryear was referred to as treads in draft horses because horses pulling loads in teams would tread on the feet of the horse to their side. The draft horses wore large caulks or studs on their shoes and this resulted in damage to the skin over the coronary band which introduced infection.

CAUSE:

- It's usually an infection of some sort in the region of the coronary area.
- Complications arise if the collateral cartilages are affected, then it becomes very difficult to treat. It's when this occurs that the condition is generally referred to as quittor.
- The infection can be a result of a blow to the coronary band or an infection of an abscess that has its beginning at the sole of the foot through a suppurating corn or even a pricked foot or a quarter crack which has become infected.

DIAGNOSIS:

- Lameness may be intermittent varying from mild to very severe. Lameness can subside after the infection discharges. But will return as infection starts again, ie: cyclic regular infections.
- It usually intermittently discharges on the hoof over the collateral cartilages. The area is usually warm, swollen and painful which is consistent with infection. A number of small sinuses (holes) may appear in the pastern over the collateral cartilage.

TREATMENT:

- It's a veterinary case
- Cases usually respond to long term topical and systemic antibiotic drugs which are active against aerobic and anaerobic infections. Quittor frequently recurs because initially collateral cartilages have a poor blood supply, ie: shod horses have under developed cartilage.
- In most severe cases the dead and infected area including any infected cartilage is removed by surgery.

PREVENTION:

- It's a rare condition nowadays.
- Feet should be regularly trimmed to prevent quarter cracks.
- All puncture wounds, either nail pricks or other accidental injuries should be treated immediately by cleaning and applying antibiotic foot spray and poulticing when necessary.
- Don't take any suspected infection of the foot lightly. **BFB**



Pustulating



Chronic infection



Surgery



Post surgery

BFB Workshops / Clinics

Learning

Hi Everyone.

I'm pleased to say that we have been very busy sorting out our workshop calendar and working with our wonderful workshop hosts.

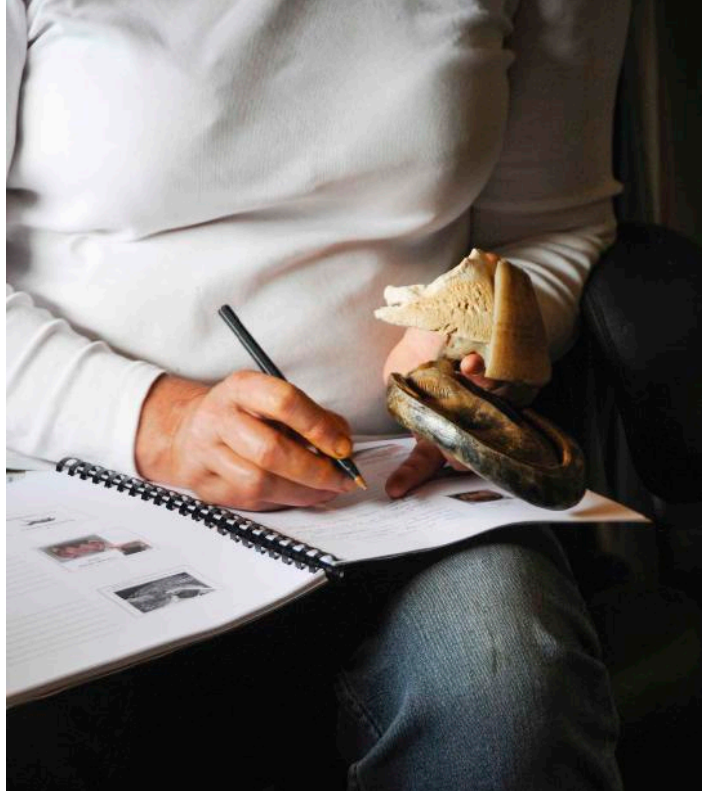
So presently we have 13 workshops on the go, predominantly hoof trimming workshops before the end of this financial year, including a two day one on beautiful Norfolk Island! I wish I could go with Nicky and Andrew but someone has to watch the office. ;)

In the latter half of the year we have tentative dates for Caboolture and Stanthorpe in Queensland and are even looking at heading across to Western Australia in November/December.

If you would like to host a Hoof Trimming Workshop in your area, please feel free to send us an email admin@barehoofcare.com or phone the office on (03) 5773 4306 and we will email you a Hosting Information pack. And remember that our BFB workshop hosts are allocated ONE FREE Full placement as our thanks for hosting! That is amazing value!

For those of you who have already attended a Standard Hoof Trimming Workshop and would like to learn even more, we have a 2 day Advanced Hoof Management workshop locked in for the 7th & 8th September here at Mayfield Farm. We are taking bookings for that one very soon. Keep an eye out on our Website and Facebook page for more updates. Pre-requisite for this workshop is to have attended one of our Standard trimming Workshops.

Learning to trim your horse's hooves yourself can not only save you money but it teaches you to note the early signs of a hoof issue and such things are indeed covered in



Advanced workshop participants take advantage of studying some of the many freeze dried preserved models.



our owner trimmer course. The knowledge gained from our workshops give you confidence and reassurance when looking out for our 4 legged mates.

So with the late half of our calendar still showing gaps on it, please contact us to be allocated a date for your own hoof trimming workshop.

For all upcoming workshops, please visit our website www.barehoofcare.com or check out our Facebook Events page. <https://www.facebook.com/The-Barefoot-Blacksmith-263390200461112/>

Cheers for now, Shannon BFB



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Photos courtesy Nelly Jaehne, Firestone Lodge, Tasmania ©

breeder's REVIEW

My name is Nelly Jaehne of [Firestone Lodge](#), Tasmania. I breed and train barefoot Friesian and Gypsy Cob Crosses. I have been using Agspand's Feedchar with my stallions, mares and youngstock for 2 years now. They are fed hay and grass, with Agspand's Feedchar left for them to self-medicate. I have witnessed it help with loose bowels, ulcers, behaviour issues and founder symptoms. I am a proud supporter of Agspand's Feedchar, and happy to share information if contacted.



Firestone Lodge's stallion, Cees, on hay, grass, and Agspand's Feedchar

Why use Agspand's FEEDCHAR™ for animals?

A quality, Australian-made dietary supplement, **Agspand's Feedchar** is designed to balance an animal's digestive system's pH, enabling microbes to flourish so they can effectively deal with toxins and pathogens, and to normalise feed efficiency and nutrient uptake.

A strong digestive system helps to alleviate mycotoxicity symptoms such as nervous agitation, overheating, skin allergies and scouring. Mycotoxins are compounds in fungi (endophytes) that commonly appear on and in grasses, particularly after dry spells and during spring, summer and autumn rain events. Mouldy hay is also problematic.

Agspand's Feedchar can be mixed with feed but also left for animals to self-medicate. Comprising natural ingredients that animals source for themselves in the wild, it has no other additives and virtually no taste or smell to induce animals to eat it, but they do!

Agspand's Feedchar may be fed continuously and with other supplements.

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Be part of a workshop in 2019

Standard 1 day workshops

Our one day intensive workshop is specifically designed to teach horse owners to maintain the hooves of their own horses.

Horse owners who want to take charge of their own horse's hoofcare; whether they actually want to trim their own horse themselves, or just learn the parameters of healthy hooves so they can make informed decisions about their horses' future hoof management.

Apart from progressive horse owners, our workshops are also attended by farriers, vets and equine therapists of various modalities who want to expand their knowledge in the ever evolving science of bare hoof care.

Andrew has seen equine hoofcare from both sides of the anvil. After working for many years as a traditional farrier, he learnt the benefits of the "barefoot option" and he now works as a specialist equine podiotherapist, using parameters that work in Australian conditions.

Not only has Andrew worked 'down under' thousands of horses, he networks with vets, therapists and other trimmers Australia wide. This adds up to a huge 'database' of experience from which to draw.

Clinics are with - Andrew Bowe

B. App. Sc. | Dip. Equine Podiotherapy
Cert. IV Workplace Training and Assessment
Cert. III Farriery, RVL licensed.

THE BAREFOOT BLACKSMITH



Advanced 2 day workshops

Refresh and consolidate basic maintenance trimming learnt at a previous Barefoot Blacksmith Standard Workshop, or at one of our affiliated trainers' standard workshops, and take your hoof management knowledge, observation and practical skill sets to a higher level.

We aim to help solve any problems you may be having; either with your horse handling/tool skills/trimming or your horse's progression as a barefoot mount. We will also update you with recent developments in the continuing evolution of equine hoof care.

The content over the 2 days includes a mix of theory, demonstrations and supervised trimming over two full days.

These workshops are designed for you to bring your horse (or 2) to work with, but if you can't bring your own due to distance (or other reasons) you can still benefit by seeing how all the other horses in the class have their various hoof issues managed.



Workshop Dates

Feb-Oct 2019

Yarck, Vic Standard Workshop

Sat 23rd February

Kanimbla Valley, NSW Standard Workshop

Sat 9th March (**LIMITED PLACES**)

Temora, NSW Standard Workshop

Sun 10th March (TBC)

Geelong, Vic Standard Workshop

Sat 16th March (**BOOKED OUT!**)

Lillico, Vic Standard Workshop

Sat 6th April

Bairnsdale, Vic Standard Workshop

Sun 7th April

Norfolk Island 2 Standard Workshops

Sat 13th April + Sun 14th April

Yarck, Vic Sharon May-Davis 3 day Anatomy

Class 26th – 28th April

Dayboro, Qld **Bob Bowker Lectures** Functional

Hoof Anatomy. Sun 11th, Sat 12th May

Swan Hill, Vic Standard Workshop

Sat 25th May

Manangatang, Vic Standard Workshop

Sun 26th May

Caboolture, Qld Standard Workshop

Sat 1st June 2019 (TBC)

Stanthorpe, Qld Standard Workshop

Sun 2nd June 2019 (TBC)

Yarck, Vic Sharon May-Davis Biomechanics

Wed 21st - Fri 23rd Aug (Limited places)

Yarck, Vic Standard Workshop

Sun 1st Sep

Yarck, Vic Advanced Hoof Management

Workshop. Sat 7th & Sun 8th Sep

Yarck, Vic Sharon May-Davis 3 Day Anatomy

Class. Sat 5th -7th Oct

BOOK EARLY - DON'T MISS OUT



Host a workshop

"If you are interested in learning more about maintaining horses' hooves, why not host a

One Day Hoof Maintenance Workshop

or host a

Two Day Advanced Workshop.

As the host you are allocated ONE full participant place in the workshop **AT NO CHARGE.**

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THE
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Sharing knowledge

By Tamara Fox

Summer is here, and hot is the word. Having your air conditioner break down (beyond repair) the day before Christmas isn't what you really need. Luckily for us we had ceiling fans that have just gotten us through, until the new unit could be ordered. Now it is just waiting for it to arrive and be put in. To say I am looking forward to that is an understatement!

Hay making for us was a total disaster. With only about a 10th of what we would normally get, just enough to get us through the year. My 10 year old son drove the truck whilst my husband and I did the carting. We are hoping that soon our son will be strong enough to do the carting.

The spurts of rain we have had has just been enough to get that nice rich little green pick of grass through, so it has been quite difficult managing 4 fat ponies even though they are in lock up. They are now all back into work so are finally starting to not look like beached whales. This is also helped by the fact that it is now really hot so the grass has officially dried off.

In October, the 2018 intake had their final study block. Amanda Edwards from the Equine Care Clinic took the students for the first two days, giving lectures and practicals on Equine First Aid. Amanda has produced a wonderful book called *'First response a practical guide to caring for your sick or injured horse'*. It is one of our text books that students receive and a valuable resource to horse owners. The students basically complete a 'first aid' course, learning what to do in the case of emergencies, how to take vital signs, give intra muscular injections, and wound treatment and management. Amanda has a great website with both e learning and podcasts available as well as products, such as her book and equine first aid kits. It's worth having a look: www.equinecareclinic.com.

Our wonderfully knowledgeable local Equine Veterinarian Specialist, Poss Thompson spent a morning with students going over lameness exams and evaluation, our scope as an equine podiotherapist and when we need to involve a vet, medications, how to interpret distal limb radiography, how horses heal and animal welfare principles. These are such important topics for an Equine Podiotherapist to know.

We are very lucky to have such an experienced Equine Veterinarian share her knowledge and experiences with our students.

Nicky and Andrew's heritage stockhorse stud gives students the opportunity to observe and trim mares and foals and their older siblings. Andrew lectured the students on foal hoof management including leg deformities in foals and when and how the equine podiotherapist can make changes to help the foal change for the better as it grows. Students are able to complete observations on progeny out of the same mare and the changes they see in the different ages. The great thing here is that students get to see the stallion, mares and at times up to 4 year olds. This is such a valuable resource in learning Equine hoof development.

Dave Leigh lectured the students on small business management. This gives the students enough knowledge to prepare their own business plan and the basic ins and outs of business management. This is another important topic to go through with the students, many of whom will eventually end up running their own trimming business.

Nicky Bowe went over management of equine lifestyle and trade secrets of running a rehabilitation business. She also covered appropriate diets for horses and why it is important to keep it simple. Nicky runs the equine rehabilitation centre where the college is situated and there are always numerous horses with varying issues in rehabilitation. The students get the opportunity of hands on experience with management of not only laminitis but other debilitating hoof conditions.

As this was the final study block for the 2018 intake, the students completed their practical exams in trimming, observations and horse handling. They will now embark on their case studies over the next 12 months, 15 case studies of horses hooves involving issues with biomechanics, orthopaedics, hoof development and hoof rehabilitation.

Speaking of final we have had some students from 2017 intakes graduate with the 22290VIC Diploma of Equine Podiotherapy.





Cassandra Scaife

congratulations

Congratulations must go to:

Debbie Konig, Dolton, NSW

Mitra Koci, Woori Yallock, Vic

Penny Challinor, Cudal, NSW

Cassandra Scaife, Chatham Valley, NSW

Their details can be found on the web page of the barefoot blacksmith www.barehoofcare.com on the trimmers list as graduated (if they are trimming for clients). Such a huge effort goes into completing a case study portfolio. We are proud to announce that these graduates submitted case study portfolios of an extra-high standard.

The College attended Equitana in November, a biannual equine trade show held at the Melbourne Showgrounds. This meant early and long days combined with too much KFC and Macas for breakfast and dinner. It was lovely to catch up with past and present students and graduates of the Diploma. We made many new contacts and there was a lot of interest in our course. We shared the stand with 'The Barefoot Blacksmith'. General equine industry interest in barefoot trimming and hoof management has escalated. Unlike other years we never had a quiet moment.

After Equitana we saw the return of Jim Masterson and his protégé to Mayfield (and the College). Jim has developed a lovely kind, yet effective system of working on releasing tension throughout the horses body. He uses a combination of Chinese meridians, acupressure points, massage and stretching. He ran 2 x 2day workshops, a 5day advanced workshop and a certification course here. I was lucky enough to participate in the 5 day Advanced clinic, where we did 2 days at Mayfield and 3 days at other venues with different types of horses (1 day with showjumpers, 1 day with endurance horses and 1 day with reining horses). It was lovely to see the horses respond so well to the work we did on them with lots of licking, chewing, yawning, shaking and nearly falling asleep. I cannot stop commenting on how lucky we are to have the use of Mayfield horses and the facilities.

With the dawn of a new year comes a new intake to the course 22290VIC Diploma of Equine Podiotherapy.

With course commencement in February we are in full swing getting organized for an action packed Block 1 for our new students. Due to some last minute cancellations we do have some places remaining.

If you are interested in enrolling, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Monday, Wednesday and Fridays 8.30 – 3.30pm on 03 5773 4358 or admin@equinepodiotherapy.com.au

Happy horsing for 2019. Cheers, Tamara. **ACEP**



Penny Challinor



Mitra Koci



Debbie Konig

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The Legend



In response to popular demand from industry professionals and some of our students from our Advanced Trimming Workshops, we have added Heller Rasps to our range of quality hoof rasps.

The Legend

With large teeth and open angle and structure, the Heller Legend allows filings to move aside and fall, avoiding accumulation on the surface of the rasp and making it ideal for damp conditions and hooves in wet tropical areas.

The Excel Original



But the Legend is an all-round rasp, sharp enough for rapid hoof wall removal and tough enough to last the distance in dry climates. Length 14", width 44 mm, thickness 5 mm, teeth per row 6.

The Excel Original

Designed for maximum efficiency and suitability for all weather conditions, the Heller Excel Original has 30% more cutting surface than a regular Heller rasp, but is thinner so remains comparatively weighted. The larger working surface improves levelling, efficiency and control. With a high concentration of teeth (over 700 in total) the Excel Original is easy for beginners to use. The Excel Original has a coarse side with smaller-sized teeth that feature an open structure to prevent clogging and which is designed to remove material easily. The particular design of this rasp makes it versatile in a variety of climates and with a variety of hoof qualities.

Length 14", width 49.5 mm, thickness 4.4 mm, teeth per row 9.

The Excel Legend

Designed for maximum cut and ease of use, the Excel Legend is suitable in all-weather conditions and is rated as a great professional rasp. It has 20% more cutting surface than a regular Heller Rasp and is light and balanced. The larger working surface improves levelling, efficiency and control. The 'multiglide' pattern which has an overlapping cut and leaves a smooth and glossy finish.

Length 14", width 49.5 mm, thickness 4.4 mm, teeth per row 9.

The Excel Legend



Horse First Aid Bandage Practical

Our beautiful Sally being the perfect model for Amanda's bandaging demos. No it's not fish net it's called stretchy net to help hold on



dressings while one bandages the legs. One of Amanda's genius ideas. **ACEP**



www.equinecareclinic.com

Making a hard job easier

Owner trimmers are probably never going to find the hoof job as easy as seasoned farriers do.

(As we always say at our workshops, if nothing else, when you bend over and trim some hooves you are sure to develop a good appreciation for what a farrier does everyday for a living.)

Hard hooves?

Summer equals hard hooves.

This is good for horses, but tough for trimmers.

There is a simple correlation between moisture content and hoof hardness, the lower the moisture content, the harder the hooves. And the opposite when wet.

It's worth asking the question:

"can ridiculously hard hooves be made momentarily softer for easier trimming?"

Nothing beats trimming the day after summer rain, but there may be some merit in tying a horse up in some layers of wet carpet for a while before trimming (and trimming whilst it remains standing in the wet carpet). If you do have to cut through hard hooves, be sure to use sharp tools and the right tools.

Don't drive a blunt rasp.

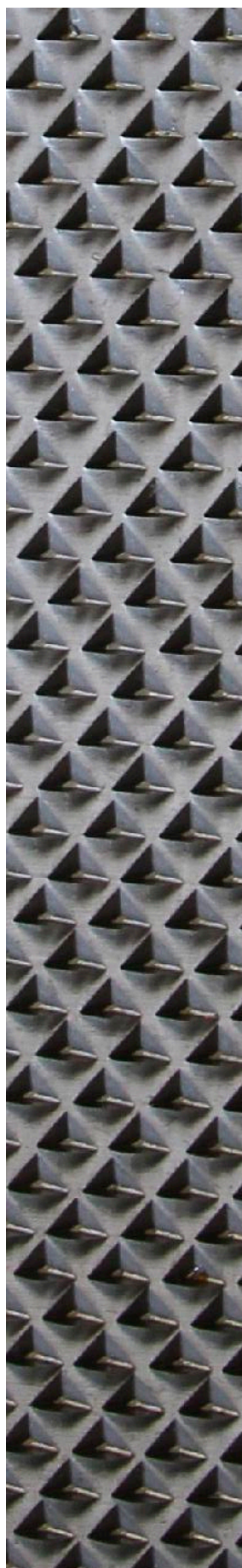
Sometimes you don't realise just how blunt a rasp is until you pick up a new one. A rasp only costs about a dollar per trim (if you look after it), so it's a good investment to buy a new rasp. **On the flipside, it's a bad investment in time and effort and stress on the body to push a blunt one.**

How do you know when the rasp is getting blunt? You will know.

- Use the right rasp for the job. There are now dozens of different rasps available, but the rasps that perform better for hard hooves tend to have teeth that are small but quite pointy and sharp. Ask your rasp retailer for the best summer rasp.

Keep your knives razor sharp.

- A knife that is getting dull actually becomes more dangerous than a fully sharp one because it is more likely to slip over the surface than dig in.



Try to only take narrow and shallow slivers of hoof material and employ the principles of leverage.

Trimming should be done often enough that you don't need nippers.

If you need to use nippers, make sure the cutting edges are sharp and clearly touch when the handles are fully closed.

Long handled nippers produce the greatest cutting pressure. The physics are simple: 15 inch handles have 3 inches more leverage than 12 inch handles which is multiplied several times over.

Cutting pressure can be further boosted by only using a fraction of the total width of the cutting edge (a third to a quarter). Again, simple physics. If you only commit a quarter of the cutting edge, you apply 400% more pressure than if you were to cut with the whole width of the blade.

Heavy work?

A hoof stand with a dual action of post and cradle is a worthwhile investment. In fact, I would go as far as to say a hoof stand is vital for horse owners who want to trim their horse's hooves (and who invariably don't have the core strength of a seasoned farrier).

A hoof stand takes care of the weight of a horse's leg.

That leaves the weight of the horse owner's upper body which comes into the equation when working in a bent over posture and puts excessive pressure on the lower back.

It is best to transfer the upper body weight away from the lower back and directly into the legs or better still into the hoof stand by using the spare arm as a bridge. A bridge is created simply by leaning into a supported elbow or hand. Full time hoof professionals employ arm bridges as often as practical.

Badly behaved horse

"... nothing makes the job harder than wrestling with a horse that doesn't hold itself still and respectful."

(check first to see if biting insects are the source of a horse's annoyance and take them right out of the equation)

There is a time honoured method of horsemanship that can be easily adopted by horse owners who are learning to trim their horse's hooves but are finding their four legged friend is not fully on board with this idea. Horses

just know the difference between their owners and the farrier. Fortunately, it doesn't matter whether the problem is a horse that is fidgety or impatient or bolshy, a sweaty saddle cloth is a cure all for bad behaviour. If it doesn't work, then more sweat is needed.

Ride first and trim second. Straight up after dismounting, pick up a rasp and a hoof and get to work. After a hard ride, your horse will have a new found patience to stand still as a statue while you trim it.

Hoofcare triage?

Some parts of the trimming operation are more important than others.

If you are starting out as an owner trimmer and you are struggling to complete the whole task, then maybe the hoofcare task can be 'triaged'.

This means allocating your limited resource (ie: your unconditioned body) to where it will have the most effect.

- Just do the front hooves (the hind hooves are physically harder and more dangerous than the fronts).
- Roll the outer wall and dip the quarters first. If that is all you can do that is fine.
- Leave the finer points of knife work to last.
- Get in and out as quick as you can. Work with speed rather than perfection. **BFB**



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Milestones and changes



In this office we don't usually dwell on personal milestones, but 2018 saw a fairly significant one pass with the old farrier cracking a half ton (can I retire now?). Age and grey hair are finally starting to reconcile.

2018 also marked 30 years since I first began to shoe horses (seriously, can I retire now?)

So it's only fair that while I'm sitting here in the shade that I start adding up all of the various forms of leave cumulatively owed to the farrier these 30 years long.

By the lofty standards of our progressive society, this would include 3 doses of long service leave, public holidays worked in lieu of time off, overtime worked in lieu, sick days owing and, okay, we won't even count the balance of four weeks annual leave not taken each year.

I reckon I can take the whole of 2019 off and still have time owing.

For those of us born before 'gap years' existed, can we take a mature age gap year? Maybe I can take all of 2019 as a gap year and then come back and pick up the threads in 2020? Surely my clients would be cool with that?! Surely, hooves can't grow

that much in a year?

It's a good thing that hanging out with horses all day every day is a good office to 'work' in and doesn't feel like a job. Might just defer the gap year for a while.

Why are these ramblings news worthy to anyone but myself and the stable cat?

Milestones give us an excuse to dwell on the past and look back much further than just the old year recently departed.

Little changes are mostly woven unnoticed into the fabric of a passing year, but when all the little changes are added together, year on year, decade on decade, change in its entirety is all encompassing.

And haven't there been some big changes in the hoofcare industry in the last 30 years!

When I started in the job, it was before mobile phones, before internet and well before social media.

Answering machines attached to landlines were just starting to appear and it felt like Christmas to be able to leave a voice message by talking to a machine in someone's house in their absence.

All farriers carried an anvil in their ute.

All farriers shod horses, and horse shoes were made of metal. There were no farriers who only trimmed horses and didn't put shoes on (what self-respecting farrier would purvey such nonsense anyway?!).

There seemed to be farriers everywhere and most came from that place where men are men and horses are nervous.

Hoof stands were crude tripods that were called names like 'lazy boy' and 'sissy boy' and any farrier that was caught using one would be considered soft and not up to the job.

It was unheard of that horse owners would do their own maintenance hoofcare. That was the farrier's job, lest you got hurt or you wrecked your horse's hooves.

Those were the days. When farriers only had to nominate the day they would be coming. Only the conscientious guys would give an approximate time that they were planning to arrive ("be there at half past"). There was no stopping to line up with all the other tradies and roadies at the public phone box to update the next client that you were coming.

What's more, farriers were the centre of the hoof universe. If a horse owner wanted to know something – anything – about their horse's hooves, they asked their farrier.

Occasionally a progressive owner might read about hooves in an old text book or a 'hoofs and horns' magazine, but it was the responsibility of the farrier to keep up to date with any developments or evolutions in the world of equine hoofcare.

Horse riders would gather at the local water trough to share state secrets and scurrilous gossip from the stables and that was about as far as it went.

*Ah, the good old days.
When things stayed the same.*

Fast forward thirty years and the changes have been mind numbing.

Someone went and invented the internet. And mobile phones. And emails. And social media.

There aren't just farriers now. There are specialist trimmers who do not put shoes on. Instead of shoes, they prescribe various forms of sustainable hoof protection such as boots. And no they don't even have anvils.

There are still farriers of course and nowadays they are mostly extremely well trained and progressive and do professional work, but there has been a significant decline in farrier numbers, with not enough young strong men starting in the game and the men much older and no longer strong are progressively pensioning themselves off.

It is now common place for horse owners to do their own hoofcare (especially trimming). Far from wrecking their horses by pushing a rasp themselves, it turns out that owner trimmers maintaining hooves every few weeks grows the best possible hooves. By far.

Horse owners don't need to wait around all day wondering after what hour the farrier is coming at *half past*. They can just about satellite track 'their' farrier's progress, (it really has become a social expectation to have a mobile phone on your person at all times and to respond immediately to any text you are sent).

Horse owners can even shout text messages now by
TYPING IN CAPITALS WHEN THEY ARE GETTING
PISSED FROM WAITING TOO LONG IN THE
Paddock!!!!

Horse owners are now incredibly connected to other horse owners, not just in their social circle at the riding club or down at the kid's school, but to horse owners around the world.

Information goes around the globe faster than the flick of a horse's tail into a farrier's face.

If someone finds out something newsworthy (or not) about horses' hooves, it will be available to anyone interested (or not) as soon as it is uploaded (that would be why it is called the world wide water trough).

Likewise, if horse owners want to know something about their horse's hooves, they no longer have to extract information from 'their' farrier through a mouthful of nails. They consult Professor Goooogle or the myriad experts who exist on social media (although this author still can't work out, how is it that internet experts find the time to sit down at the computer when surely they are busy being on the tools being experts??).

Of course, the biggest change in the equine hoofcare world has been the rise and rise of what we like to call 'barehoofcare'; aiming to keep horses barefoot in the paddock and if they need hoof protection when worked, using products that do not impede hoof function (ie: boots, tips, polyshoes).

This 'movement' away from tradition has been boosted by researchers who want to test the age old hypothesis that metal horse shoes are not good for horses when used long term, particularly on hard ground.

By using new technology to test old theories, progressive researchers are showing how the twin devils of concussion malabsorption and high frequency vibration are causing chronic lameness (navicular, ringbone, sidebone etc).

With the aforementioned changes in communication channels, this information has been pinging around the world in no time flat and is driving the increased interest in all things barehoofcare.

Getting a bit ethereal now, but there has been plenty of change within change. In the twenty years (thereabouts) that the barehoofcare concept has been in existence, it has almost come full circle. When the concept first began to materialise, there was a determination that it had to be barefoot or bust with no room for compromise. Fortunately as time passed there is a more accepted realisation that a majority of performance horses actually do need some hoof protection when being worked.

This has been paralleled by the rise and rise of alternative hoof protection methods that do not grossly impede hoof function.

Now horses can get the best of both worlds.

There has also been a change towards horse owners learning how to do their own hoofcare so hooves can be maintained and kept perpetually in optimum balance and function.

There has been a sustained focus on making a hard job easier for bodies that haven't been forged by a working life bent down under horses, thanks in no small part to the development of multiuse hoof stands that allow hooves to rest on both a cradle and a post. Instead of being called 'lazy boys' maybe hoof stands should be called 'smart boys'.

Modern tools are also cutting better and easier than ever before.

Hoof boots are better than ever, with better models still on the horizon.

*More horse owners are able to make the
change to barehoofcare than ever before.*

It's a good time
to be a horse.

BFB



Hagrid the
stable cat and
Gem the dog

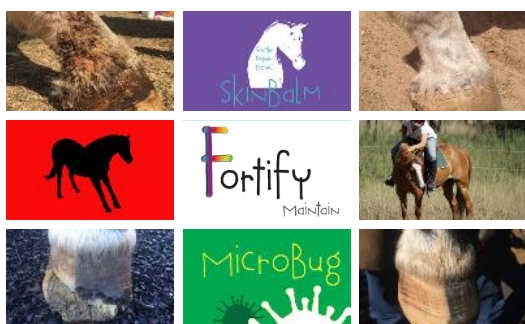


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Kanimbla Valley NSW - 9 March
Orange NSW - 10 March
Geelong VIC - 16 March
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Bainsdale VIC - 7 April
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If you have ever wondered where the photo of the horse's hooves on the front banner was taken; wonder no more. It was taken at the highest point of Mt Stirling in Victoria. BfB's Nicky Bowe is the rider a top one of Chris and Fiona Dunlop's trusty steeds.



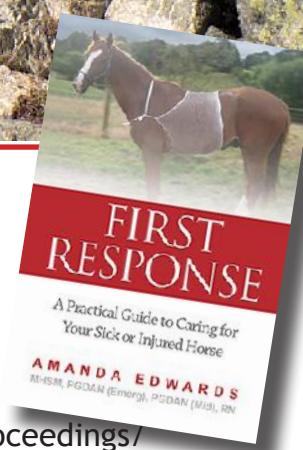
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**Links to information,
articles and more to share.
Send your link to
info@barehoofcare.com**

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BFB Equitana 2018

Just gets better



Interest in the cadaver display was big.

It was timed to perfection (not). We finished hay carting down on the farm the day before Equitana.

For anyone who has never had the 'pleasure' of carting hay bales by the thousands in the sun and the wind, let's just say that it puts most other supposedly hard jobs right back in their baskets. The combination of dust and hay and heat grows the most splendidly puffy bloodshot eyes and a tiredness second to none.

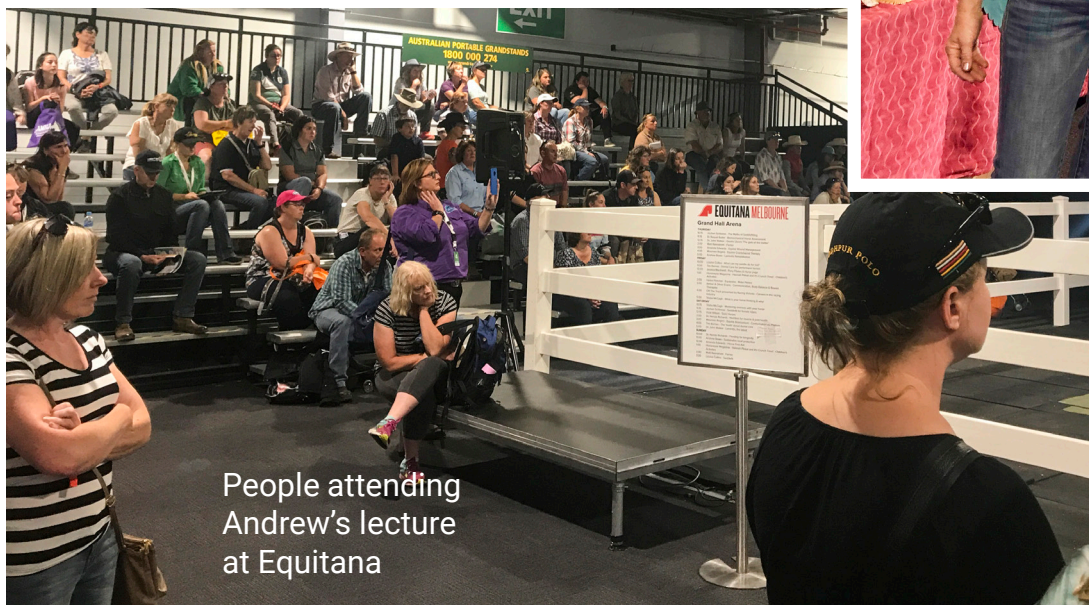
So on the first day of Equitana we had the thousand mile stare and by the last day we probably looked like we had just driven in from the moon.

But despite this and, as usual, we had a socially good time at Equitana.

Our booth gets busier each and every year, no doubt riding along with the ever increasing interest in all aspects of sustainable hoofcare, but also because our network of old clients (be that old trimming clients, clients whose horses have stayed at Mavfield on rehab or past workshop



Above: Libby and Danee, two of our Equitana helpers. They did a magnificent job.



People attending Andrew's lecture at Equitana



participants) and our body of podiotherapy students past and present keeps growing.

Our talks were well attended and well received. It must have been all that preparation we did when we were haycarting (yeah right).

This was Nicky's first time talking at Equitana, but she was like a seasoned campaigner. Then again she was speaking from experience. Theory is great but you just can't beat on the job experience when it comes to equine nutrition and rehabilitative management and she gets plenty of that managing the many and varied equine patients that come through the rehab centre at Mayfield.

In terms of retail, to break even at Equitana is a challenge because the little booths for four days must be the most expensive rental real estate in all of Melbourne! Fortunately we never have measured success fully in terms of counter sales (even though it is good to be able to pay our fantastic staff). Rather, we look at the ripples created in the bigpond of hoofcare by availing progressive information to anyone who seeks it. Putting a face to the business.

And it's the little intangible things that keep us going back for more, such as when old clients who have attended a trimming workshop – sometimes years before – show us their brag photos of how good their horse's hooves are. And they are good.

Likewise, anyone who has visited our booth will know that we always try to have an arrangement of anatomical specimens in the form of freeze dried cadavers that show both healthy and unhealthy hooves; inside and out. This is a great vessel for learning and there is a constant stream of kids who pore over the freeze dried cadavers in amazement and ask ridiculously intelligent questions (whilst their parents are usually recoiling from 'such ghastly things'). We like to think that there may be some future hoof therapists, maybe even future industry leaders, amongst their rank.

Equitana in its entirety seems to be expanding in all directions, both retail and educational and the range of educational topics and the quality of speakers in 2018 was amazing. Kudos to whomever put the program together.

Equitana 2018 celebrated the 20th year since its inception – quite the milestone – and in this time it has become an institution in the equine industry, creating a huge interface between business and punter.

Calendars are now set around it. Bring on Equitana 2020.

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Equine anatomy & biomechanic clinics

Sharon May-Davis is a world renowned Equine Therapist and Scientist. Her experience with performance horses has spanned nearly 40 years and boasts clients representing Australia in four equestrian disciplines. Her practical applications have been supported by an array of academic qualifications that have been obtained at Tertiary and University levels in Australia and the United States of America. These include a Bachelor of Applied Science (Equine), a Research and Coursework Masters Degree (4 Equine Thesi) and numerous Equine Therapeutic qualifications.

In addition, Sharon has taught equine subjects at various educational facilities for over 15 years and spoken at many seminars, expositions and workshops in Australia and overseas. One particular highlight occurred in 2005, when she spoke at the World Expo in Achii Japan on three equine subjects.

Over the years, Sharon has earned two descriptive nicknames - "The Bone Lady" and "Equine CSI". This was due to her research into equine anatomy and skeletal articulations, and as a direct consequence, Midway College Kentucky awarded her a "Certificate of Honor" in recognition. This was soon followed by her appointment as the Equine Anatomical Consultant for Edu-Corp Inc., America.

Sharon's devotion to performance horses and her comprehensive understanding of associated anatomy and athletic ability has seen her develop specific techniques relevant to various equine disciplines and rehabilitation. As a direct consequence, horses have improved their athletic capabilities and the record books verify their accomplishments.

However, none of this could have been achieved without the knowledge of what lay beneath the outer layer of hair and skin. With this in mind, Sharon is always striving to understand the variations that lie within and thus, is looking forward to presenting this clinic so that we all may gain from the experience. **BFB**

For information and details on Sharon May-Davis clinics contact The Barehoof Blacksmith on:

www.barehoofcare.com

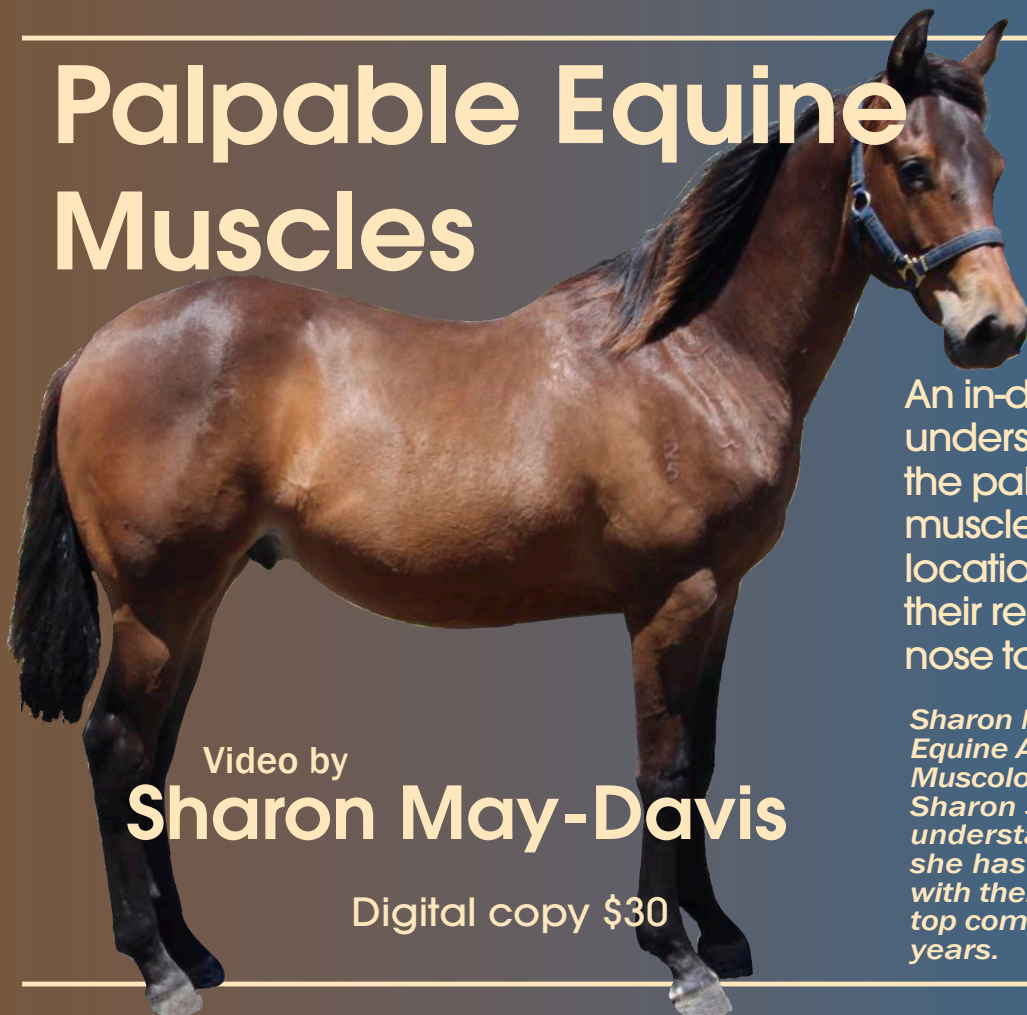
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Palpable Equine Muscles



Video by
Sharon May-Davis

Digital copy \$30

An in-depth understanding of the palpable equine muscles, illustrating their locations and showing their relationships from nose to tail.

Sharon May-Davis is a specialist in Equine Anatomy, Biomechanics, Musculoskeleton and Dissection. Sharon Shares her deep understanding of the horse that she has gained through working with therapists, trainers, riders and top competition horses for over 35 years.