



# SHIRE HORSE SOCIETY AUSTRALIA

INCORPORATED

*Forging the future of the Shire Horse in Australia*

## NOVEMBER 2007

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER



*Ingleside Elise with owner Marty Hayward at Rockhampton Show  
Elise won Champion Shire and then Grand Champion Heavy Horse*

**PATRON:**

Mr Rob Vickery President Royal Agricultural Society of New South Wales

**[www.shirehorsesociety.com.au](http://www.shirehorsesociety.com.au)**

# SHSA Members **NEWS**

**Congratulations** to our committee members Anne Coull and Darren Somerville on the arrival of their baby girl Abbey. On returning home from hospital, they added to their successful breeding season with a long awaited shire filly foal out of their mare Polly by Cedars Majestic.



**Congratulations** to Rob and Heather Young, who were the first people to exhibit Shires at Perth Royal. Great work on getting the classes in the programme and thanks from all of us for your active support of the breed!

## **Shows in 2008**

It is hard to predict exactly what impact the equine flu will have on the agricultural show circuit in NSW and Qld 2008. We have heard that several of the coastal shows south of Sydney, held in January and February, have already been cancelled.

The Royal Agricultural Society of NSW told us that they will be making their decision about horse classes at the 2008 Sydney Royal in the first week in December. They have taken entries but no fees and have notified entrants there was no guarantee that the Show would go ahead.

Of course we're all hoping that things will get back to normal as soon as possible but no-one can predict when that will be. We recommend

that members contact show societies to confirm whether their show is being held or has been cancelled.

We will notify members of the decision about the Sydney Royal as soon as we hear.

## **SHSA Seminar - 12-13 January**

Don't forget about the annual seminar/social event/party. It will be held again at The Cedars in Kangaroo Valley (thanks to Helene and Gregory). As usual, camping is free and ALL MEALS are included in the fee - \$30 for the weekend. Please make sure you book early so we can organise catering for everybody. The weekend is so great, that we have had people travelling from Qld, Vic and NZ to attend. We always have a FABULOUS time, so we really hope to see you there.

**Cottage Accommodation** is still available at the Cedars for half price. Please contact Helene if you are interested in booking for the weekend.

If you have any information, photos, articles, requests or comments regarding the newsletter, please contact the editor. All contributions are welcome!

*Ineke Kuiper (ed)*

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# 2007 Season Shire Foals





## Shire Horse Society Australia Incorporated

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

### President's Report

Shire Horse Society Australia is breaking new ground by launching The Australian Shire Horse Stud Book. This is an Australian first and now you will be able to register your Shire Horses here in Australia.

The Royal Agricultural Society of New South Wales has officially recognised our stud book and all horses registered with the Australian Shire Horse Stud Book will be eligible to compete at the Sydney Royal Easter Show. Melbourne Royal Show also accepts horses entered in The Australian Shire Horse Stud Book and they have at long last, after a lot of lobbying put on classes for Shires.

Our Annual Seminar will be held again in Kangaroo Valley on the weekend of 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> January; all members are welcome and I hope to see you there.

We are lucky to have Rob Pashen BVSc, PhD, MRCVS as our main speaker talking about applied reproductive technologies with an emphasis on equine embryo transfer. Rob has a company called Australian Animal Genetics (AAG) based in Mornington, Victoria, Australia.

Rob has more than twenty years experience in the field. He has worked in private veterinary practice, research and development and has been involved in the development and implementation of ET procedures in domestic animals. Rob is looking

forward to coming and has a lot of experience with Shires as he did a lot of embryo transfers working with them in Davis, California USA (for more info visit [www.aagenetics.com.au](http://www.aagenetics.com.au))

Read more about our seminar later in this newsletter.

The first bit of good news about the warmer weather is that Equine Influenza Virus doesn't like the warmer weather, so there is light at the end of the tunnel. Our secretary Helen Kuiper is constantly in touch with the Equestrian Federation of Australia NSW Branch (EFA NSW) and she has attended a forum on the subject of Equine Influenza and has had first hand experience with the virus so please call her with any questions you have. The second is that springtime always brings new foals. Congratulations to all the families of new foals born and yet to come and also to committee members Ann and Darren who have a new little girl

The numbers of Shires has grown to almost 200 horses in Australia so keep spreading the good news about the marvellous joys of owning one of our gentle giants.

Thank you for your support and welcome to our new members. SHSA is your society so please share your news with our members through the newsletter. *Helene Scarf*

The SHSA recently received a letter from HRH Prince Charles (current President of the SHS) with his warm encouragement for the continued success of our society in Australia. We wrote to him, as well as the SHS Council letting them know about our Australian Shire Horse Stud Book. We have received nothing but positive feedback from England, with several letters from councillors and judges congratulating us on moving forward with the breed here in Australia.

Helene and Gregory Scarf would like to invite all SHSA members to...

# SHSA MEMBER SEMINAR/SOCIAL WEEKEND: YOU & YOUR SHIRE HORSE

SATURDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> & SUNDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY

2008 10.00AM START

VENUE; THE CEDARS, KANGAROO VALLEY

## PROGRAM:

### SATURDAY: WORKSHOP SESSIONS

**Breeding Technology** by *Rob Pashen (vet)* - World leader  
in equine artificial breeding research & practice

**Selecting your Shire** by *Max Marriott* -

Experienced Heavy Horse breeder & exhibitor in both in  
hand and harness

**Ringcraft - showing your horse to its best advantage**

By *Col Brown & Tim Peel* - over 70 years of showing experience  
and more Royal Show Champions than you can count between them

### Breakout Sessions:

The truth about Equine Influenza - *Kristen Marriott*

Latest trends in the UK - *Tim Peel*

Shoeing Shires in England - *Mark Peel*

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\$30/pp

### SUNDAY: Shire Horse Society Australia AGM

**ACCOMODATION** - Camping facilities available for tents,  
swags and trucks/floats. Bathroom and kitchen facilities available.

**BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL** as the event is FULLY CATERED

*This year there will be a FABULOS camp oven dinner prepared by Tim Peel. Yippee!*

Cost: \$30/per person \$50/per couple Kids Free

Please contact Ineke Kuiper to for your booking package BEFORE

Monday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2008

Ph: 0408 669 638

ine\_kuiper@hotmail.com

# Australian Shire Horse Stud Book Launched

The Shire horse community in Australia has come of age with the launch of their own Australian Shire Horse Stud Book.

“The Shire Horse Society Australia Inc (SHSA) decided that it was time to take the next step and offer Shire owners in Australia the opportunity to register locally,” said Helene Scarf, SHSA President.

“We are very excited about the launch. By having our own stud book we will be able to offer reduced costs and greater accessibility, which should encourage even more registrations of our rare breed. Australian Clydesdale owners started their stud book in 1917 and haven’t looked back since.”

Until now all Shires in Australia have been registered with the Shire Horse Society in the UK (SHS). The SHSA intends to continue the close relations they currently enjoy with English breeders and the SHS. “We have great respect for the high standards set by the SHS and plan to maintain these stringent requirements within The Australian Shire Horse Stud Book,” said Helene.

The registration rules follow the standards of the SHS, but the Australian Stud Book also accepts horses from the US and Canadian stud books.

“This will increase the pool of genetics available for Australian Shire breeders, which can only be a good thing for such a rare breed. Our stud book will also be open to accepting horses from other international studbooks, as long as their registration requirements are aligned with our own.

“We think that having a registrar that works within our own time zone is a great step forward for our breeders, making it easier to liaise with the Society. Our focus is to promote the interests of Australian breeders, which will lead to greater responsiveness to the needs and circumstances of our members,” said Helene.

The Australian Stud Book will also phase in microchipping in line with modern trends, allowing greater security and accuracy in horse identification. Helene said “Microchipping is the most reliable method of identifying horses. While sketches will be maintained in our records as a backup, microchipping means that horses can be identified with the swipe of a sensor. This makes recovering stolen or lost horses easier, and makes it possible to identify a horse even if their papers are lost.”

The Australian stud book is now officially recognised by The Royal Agricultural Society of New South Wales (RAS of NSW), organisers of the Sydney Royal Easter Show. As Australia’s largest agricultural society, the RAS of NSW sets the standard nationwide, with all other Royal and agricultural shows now following suit. This means that Australian registered Shires are eligible to compete alongside English registered horses on equal footing.

“The SHSA has a young and vibrant membership with aspirations to take the Shire Horse into the future,” Mrs Scarf added. “We look forward to seeing the Shire Horse go from strength to strength in Australia and all around the world.”

The Australian Shire Horse Stud Book will be open for registrations this year. Deb Buckland has agreed to take on the role of Registrar (thanks Deb!) and as soon as we have our registration forms printed and the management program arrives from the US, we will be open for business. Watch this space....

# The new born heavy horse foal

By Doc Newman

## Care of the navel

Leave the mare to lie down for at least 10 minutes. You will see a section of the chord about 2-3 inches from the body wall will shrink and eventually the chord will break at this area. At that time the part of the chord left on the foal should be dipped in iodine or some other suitable antiseptic.

I pour an amount of 7% tincture of iodine into a Styrofoam cup and place the stump of the navel into it. Push the cup up against the belly of the foal. Soak the navel for 30-60 seconds.

This has both a bacteriostatic and cauterizing effect. It will cauterise and burn which is very instrumental in preventing and treating the "leaky" or "wet" navel. Some navels need to be cauterised once daily for several days with the iodine solution, silver nitrate or powdered alum pastes. Pickling lime is a form of alum and can be purchased from a pharmacy as well as silver nitrate sticks.

*Ed: Doc Newman is a US heavy horse breeder, judge and vet. He judged at Sydney Royal in 1993 and impressed exhibitors with his indepth knowledge of heavy horses. He has kindly allowed us to re-print articles from the Draft Horse Journal.*

If constant dripping or a stream need to be cauterised with nitric acid or small red hot wire or iron just to the tip of the chord, or surgery.

If the foal has a wet or leaky navel it should be placed immediately on antibiotics and stay on these for a few days after the navel returns to normal.

## Foal Vital Signs

### Heartbeat:

- 60 beats per minute or more at birth
- 80 – 130 beats per minute after 1 hour
- 80 – 120 beats per minute after 5 days
- Resting heartbeat: 70 – 100 beats per minute

### Respiratory Rate:

- 60 – 80 breaths per minute at birth
- 30 – 40 breaths per minute after 1 hour

### Normal Temperature:

- 37.5 – 39.1



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## Shires becoming a world breed

A new piece of research has shown that soon international registrations of Shire Horses may soon out number those in the UK.

We all know the home of the Shire Horse has always been England, in terms of both numbers and development of the breed.

The following figures, published in the Autumn Heavy Horse World, show that over the past 10 years, registrations have declined within the UK and increased dramatically outside the UK:

### Mare Registrations

	1995	2006
Within UK	3183	1888
Outside UK	835	1710

### Stallion Registrations

	1995	2006
Within UK	481	363
Outside UK	372	266

*Formulated from the SHS, ASHA and CSHA Stud Books since 1992 using an overall 25% mortality factor*

The dramatic decline in the overall numbers within the UK is a concern. Despite massive financial subsidies from the Betting Levy Board, the Shire has become an even more endangered breed.

We hope that the commencement of our own Australian stud book, along with continued use of the grading register and an increase in available genetics, we will ensure the continued growth of the Shire breed in Australia.

## Shires on a Royal Roll

Congratulations to members Rob and Heather Young who won Champion Shire Horse at the Perth Royal with their home bred stallion Colonial Ambassador.

This is the first time that Shire Classes were held at Perth Royal, and despite being struck with illness at the time, Rob and Heather were determined to support the show.

They also exhibited Bewholme Edward, who came second to Ambassador in the Stallion or Colt

class. Our society sponsored the championship, and the Young's took home the Shire Horse Society Australia Inc Trophy to add to their cabinet.

On another Royal note, Melbourne Royal Horse Show will be holding their inaugural Shire classes in March 2008. One of the goals set by SHSA is the promotion of Shire classes at our prestigious Royal Shows, so we are very encouraged to see these shows showcasing our wonderful breed.

## Free Service Directory

**Equine Supplies** (02) 9688 3220

**Weddings** - Ware's Livery Stables 02 9679 1255

**Cedars Cottages**- Secluded self contained cottages for your weekend away with the Shire Horses. Contact Helene Scarf 0412 400 886.

**Retford Equine Veterinary Bowral Clinic:** Vet Karim Kooros experienced with heavy horses. Ph: 02 48611166 Fax: 02 48621740 email [kooros@optusnet.com.au](mailto:kooros@optusnet.com.au)

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# Treating a hoof abscess – a personal account

*By H. Terese (Terry) Parks*

leg, so Joanna was not at risk of blood poisoning.

Our beloved Joanna had a sore foot for almost a month. Neither the vet nor the farrier could find an abscess, despite repeated visits by both. Every day, Joanna would lie down to let me tend her foot, as I put poultices and bandages on each day. She would sit up occasionally if startled by noise, but would lie down again when asked to do so.

Our vet said he thought that the heel of Joanna's hoof may be ready to be lanced. He touched it with his thumb nail and a geyser of puss exploded from the heel. The vet injected Joanna with a mega dose of long acting penicillin and returned on the following Thursday to finish clearing the abscess, as he rightly said that trying to do any more work on it that Sunday would be torture for Joanna. Despite

On Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> September, while tending her front near foot, I noticed that her heel was soft to the touch and red. I called the vet immediately, being afraid that Joanna would get septicaemia. When the vet came, he explained two things, which were valuable for me to learn:

- If an abscess can't be tracked from under the foot, it will eventually come out through the coronet
- Infections in a horse's hoof cannot travel up the



the pain, Joanna flinched and shook, but never constituted a risk to either me or the vet.

The farrier treated her foot again on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> September and she is walking without a limp today, for the first time in five weeks.

Gentle giant might sometimes be a misnomer, but Joanna gives truth to that expression in every way.

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# The Clydesdale

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## SHIRES Today

*PUBLISHED QUARTERLY*

By John ZAWADZKI

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## **A veterinary opinion on the EI outbreak**

*Ed: We received a copy of this email from an equine vet in Queensland. It is a personal opinion of the vet and is not a statement of the position or opinion of the SHSA.*

After spending some time vaccinating horses in the buffer zone and on some thoroughbred studs over the last 3 weeks... I would like to spell out roughly what I think is going to occur over the next couple of months with regard to EI, and why.

Thanks mainly to State and federal Govts substantially under-funding their Departments of Primary Industry, the response to this disease outbreak has been generally too late, and consequently ineffectual. Another substantial factor in this weakened response was the fact that it was a "horse" disease (and not a production animal problem), and that it carried low mortality rates. At the moment, the situation reports from QLD DPI are claiming a reduction in the disease spread. Although this may be true, the disease is still spreading and will continue to move despite the best efforts of all of us. This will happen mainly due to human ignorance or error, as well as via lateral spread of the disease between horse properties. I now believe that the disease has been allowed to progress too far to allow us to realistically think that we will be able to properly eradicate it.

Vaccination in the buffer zone is a "nice" idea, and QLD DPI is about to begin another (possibly more sensible) buffer zone at the southern end of the Sunshine Coast. However, and no disrespect intended

to those who are involved in this effort, the buffer appears to be more of a political "fix" to make it appear as if the authorities are doing something. This theory is completely supported by diversion of vaccine to the thoroughbred industry, and consequently away from where it should have gone 4 weeks ago to try and encircle the outbreak sites. As well, the extension of the purple zone in NSW from Camden to Tamworth (an area that probably contains 50% of the horses in NSW) shows that NSW DPI has almost given up on eradication. A similar thing happened with initial vaccine allocation in NSW, and the vaccinating of Vic racehorses only compounded the problem.

So where are the authorities heading us? Half a million doses of KILLED vaccine from America will help to placate many, but by flooding the country with this relatively useless vaccine, we are only helping to ensure that EI remains endemic. Once people have had their horses immunised, and the NSW/QLD authorities allow movement to restart, the disease will spread far and wide. But will the other states allow this?

Unfortunately, they won't really have a choice, and by then many of their racehorses will have "had their shots".

So, some rough time lines (something the DPI has not been able to put out at any stage). Don't

rely on these, they are just my best guesses;

1. Killed vaccine into Aust next two weeks, with many people who have applied through the DPI permit system then delegated vaccine through their nominated vet.
2. Melbourne cup Nov 6th. Federal Govt announces around this time (probably just after the Cup) that disease no longer "containable", more vaccine ordered for provision to other states. Also be aware that cost of vaccinating at this stage will not be under-written by Govt, but will be responsibility of individual - note this may happen earlier.
3. Racing re-commences QLD Dec 1st. New outbreaks outside Red Zone "confirming" Fed Govt announcement. By then many racehorses in country QLD vaccinated.
4. Early February - general horse movement restrictions lifted in Red Zone. To allow movement, horses must be microchipped and vaccinated.
5. Remainder of 2008 - competition attendance requires Passport signed by vet with current (within 6 months) vaccination. Multiple cluster outbreaks of EI in previously naïve populations of unvaccinated animals across Australia.
6. 2009-2012 - antigenic drift in virus requires change in vaccine strain, and further small outbreaks over these years requires local movement bans.

I am sure I have left a lot out of this time line, but the central message is that EI is here, that Govt (although

still mouthing about containment) is about to give up and change course, and that we had all better get used to life with EI.

So, why is EI so bad??? For a start, it can kill horses, especially foals and older horses. Although the reports have been varied, there is no doubt that many horses have become (and more will continue to get) sick in a population as immunologically naïve as ours, and that a small number of these horses will become very sick. This raises a substantial welfare issue, as the cost of treating a horse with even simple bacterial pneumonia can sometimes be too high for some people's budgets.

The other reason we didn't want EI to become endemic is the compliance cost issue - vaccinating every six months by the vet will stretch the budget for many, regardless of what commercial fee is charged.

All this extra expense comes when many people in the industry have been financially hammered by the lockdown. On top of this, a large increase (upwards of fiftypercent) in the price of feed is scheduled for the next few months.

It is important to note that the killed vaccine (Fort Dodge) is nowhere near as effective as the live vaccine (Merial Proteqflu) currently being used. The latter vaccine is a genetically modified organism, with equine influenza virus sub-units spliced into a canary pox virus. This not only engenders a good (and safe) immune response, it also would have allowed serological surveys to determine naturally infected from

vaccinated horses, and thus allow Australia to re-claim EI-free status later on. Use of the killed vaccine will make this much more difficult, if not impossible.

Interestingly, the horses that came into the country at Eastern Creek were probably given this same killed vaccine, a product described privately as pretty much a waste of

time by a respected Australian Equine virologist.

Another point to note is that current advice on the inter-vaccinal interval is to make it 4 weeks. This is the minimum time to engender reasonable immunity, however studies overseas have suggested that stretching the interval up to twelve weeks can give more prolonged and better immunity.


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## Interesting Stuff

### The Great Clydesdale Migration - a great double DVD

*A review by Helen Kuiper*

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to ride a great Shire or a Clydesdale over the moors of Scotland and England? To stop overnight in picturesque village pubs, with your horses grazing peacefully in nearby paddocks?

Most of us can only dream of doing such a trip but you can come delightfully close to it by watching the 2 DVD's called 'The Great Clydesdale Migration.'

This film was made on the trip made by heavy horse lovers in 2006, riding a Shire and a number of Clydesdales, from their Isle of Skye in the north of Scotland to their new home in the Lakes District, England. The distance covered was 772 kms and the trip took over 5 weeks.

During the trip they climbed to the top of mountains, enjoying magnificent scenery, and descended into beautiful green valleys. They followed ancient tracks and paths which the heavy horses managed surprisingly well. The production is professional and I found the music quite moving in parts.

I really enjoyed the film and. I would recommend it to anyone who loves our

wonderful horses. The DVD's can be purchased from:

Borderway Productions

1 Crummock Place

Abbeytown, Nr Wigton

Cumbria CA7 4TD, UK

The cost is £24 for Australian orders (bank cheque required)

For more information contact Gillian at [gillian\\_f@hotmail.com](mailto:gillian_f@hotmail.com). Gillian herself rode the entire journey.

### American Shire Horse Association Videos Available

The heavy horse judge at the Sydney Royal this year, Mr Brit McLin from the USA, was kind enough to leave the Shire Horse Society Australia some DVD's of the US National Shire Shows. There are 3 sets covering the 2004, 2005 and 2006 National Shire Shows. Copies of all 3 sets are available to members for \$45 including postage. If you are interested contact the Secretary.

### Website Advertising

The SHSA offers stud advertising for members only on our website: for just \$200/year you get a full page promoting your stud with up to 5 photos. We experience many hits on the web site and get numerous enquiries. Visit [www.shirehorsesociety.com.au](http://www.shirehorsesociety.com.au) to see for yourself. If you are interested in participating, contact our President, Helene Scarf for more information.

### SHSA Newsletter Advertising Rates

Full page x 4 issues - \$100 ½ page x 4 issues - \$50 ¼ page x 4 issues - \$25

***The Classifieds and Service Directory are free to all SHSA members.***

If you are interested in advertising in the newsletter, please contact the Editor, Ineke Kuiper at [ine\\_kuiper@hotmail.com](mailto:ine_kuiper@hotmail.com) or 0408 669 638

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