



SHIRE HORSE SOCIETY AUSTRALIA

INCORPORATED

Forging the future of the Shire Horse in Australia

MAY 2010

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER



*Ingleside Lucinda – Best Shire Exhibit 2010 Sydney Royal Easter Show
Pictured with Peter Watt, Sheridan Oxenham and Maurice Irvine
Photo courtesy of Julie Wilson Equine Photography*

PATRON:

Mr Rob Vickery

Council Member, Royal Agricultural Society NSW

www.shirehorsesociety.com.au

SHSA NEWS...

Congratulations to Byron Biffin and Ineke Kuiper – who have given birth to a little boy.

Kees (pronounced Case) Kuiper Biffin arrived on April 1 – almost a month early, seriously interrupting Ineke’s Easter Show plans!



Both Ineke and Kees are doing very well and sent their apologies for the delayed newsletter. Ineke had planned to get it out during her planned three weeks maternity leave before the birth!

Despite Kees’s early arrival, Byron and the Kuipers still exhibited Ingleside Lucinda at Sydney (along with Sheryl Stephens, who came all the way from NZ and did most of the work). With Ineke on the phone from the hospital all day, the stress and hard work paid off, when they went home with the Best Shire Exhibit ribbon.

Ineke and Kees (who was only 4 days old) also made it to the Aisle Party after the Shire classes on their way home from the hospital.



Congratulations to our new judges:

Ann Pinfold



Tony Riley



Mark Peel



Ineke Kuiper



Photos from Shire Horse Society Spring Show Peterborough 2010 –

Tony Golding from England has sent a link to a slideshow on Flickr of his photos taken from the show. They are not ring shots, but were taken outside to give an insight into how much work is involved in getting these beautiful Shires into the ring. <http://www.flickr.com/photos/heavyhorsephotography/sets/72157623541601943/show/>

Date set for SHSA 2011 Seminar – put the weekend of 8-9 January in your diary now, so you don’t miss the best heavy horse seminar in the country!

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Shire Horse Society Australia Incorporated

www.shirehorsesociety.com.au

President's Report

Firstly, congratulations go to Ineke and Byron for their new baby boy Kees. A healthy and handsome future Shire horse enthusiast.

This year began with our Shire Seminar at Kangaroo Valley. We had a record number of participants totalling 50 people.

Ann Gilbert spoke about showing etiquette and what the judges are looking for in your horse. Tim Peel spoke about work harness and showed us quite a selection of harness items and how to fit them on to our horses. Ineke Kuiper taught us the finer details of how to show and present Shires.

The Kuipers bought along Harry the horse that is stationary wooden horse on which people can learn to plait.

Special thanks goes to the Leighton family for bringing a young Shire gelding, Strider, who stood perfectly still for all of the demonstrations.

Graham West our founder and his wife Edna joined us from far North Queensland. We displayed some very interesting items from SHSA history, which included Shire Horse Society Australia's first cheque book from 1978, a personal letter to Graham from Keith Chivers who wrote the history book on Shires in the UK, wishing Graham all the best with the starting of the Australian Shire Horse Society, a few old newsletters from when Ladbrook Edward arrived in 1981 and several other bits and pieces of memorabilia. It's interesting to note that 1978 our year of registration was the 100

year anniversary of Shire Horse Society UK.

The seminar was also the launching place for the new Shire Sport Horse Register, which will provide registration for the progeny of Shires crossed with light horses.

A very big thank you goes to Graham West for designing the new certificate which is a simply beautiful piece of artwork.

Deb Buckland is the registrar for the Australian Shire Horse Stud Book and also the Shire Sport Horse Register and special thanks goes to Deb for the hours of voluntary work in helping to set up and run both of those registries.

This year 11 exhibitors entered 21 horses at the Sydney Royal Easter Show. It is really commendable for existing Shire owners to share their knowledge and take under their wings, new and interested future Shire exhibitors. The number of Shires at the Sydney Royal is growing every year and the presentation of the horses is of the highest standard. Sydney Royal is Australia's most prestigious Shire show and well done to all the exhibitors for putting on a great display.

A big thanks to Jane Greenman who displayed Luscombe Nodrum (Noddy) at the Sydney Royal Easter Show for the general public to get a glimpse of the World's Tallest Horse.

Lastly thanks to our new members – we now have well over 100 members in this society!

Helen Scarf

Sydney Royal Easter Show Report

The Show was again a great success with 19 Shires forward for judging – a great number for such a rare breed. The day was finished off with the very successful Heavy Horse Aisle Party (instigated by the SHSA). Mr Maurice Irvine, who judged the Percherons and Shires, said the quality of the Shires put before him, especially the young stock, indicated Shires have a bright future in Australia.

Thank you very much to Delwyn Moss who has supplied these photos – to see more and to purchase photos, visit www.dmossphotos.com.au.

Shire Colt Or Filly, 2yrs & Under

- 1 K H & I Kuiper
Ingleside Lucinda
- 2 K H & I Kuiper & C & C Perdikaris
Ingleside Elsa
- 3 Mrs Helene Scarf
Cedars Magnolia

Shire Colt Or Filly, 3yrs.

- 1 Peter & Marylou Mc Keon
Southern Cross Diamond Princess

Shire Stallion, 4 Yrs & Over

- 1 Mrs Helene Scarf
Cedars Majestic

Shire Mare, 4yrs & Over.

- 1 Peter & Marylou McKeon
Dothan Stewardess
- 2 Mrs Helene Scarf
Cedars Lady Aspen
- 3 Peter & Marylou McKeon
Ballafayle Sonata
- 4 Amanda Glasser
Southern Cross Brittany
- 5 Mr Robert Hood
Muwarra Black Opal

Best Shire

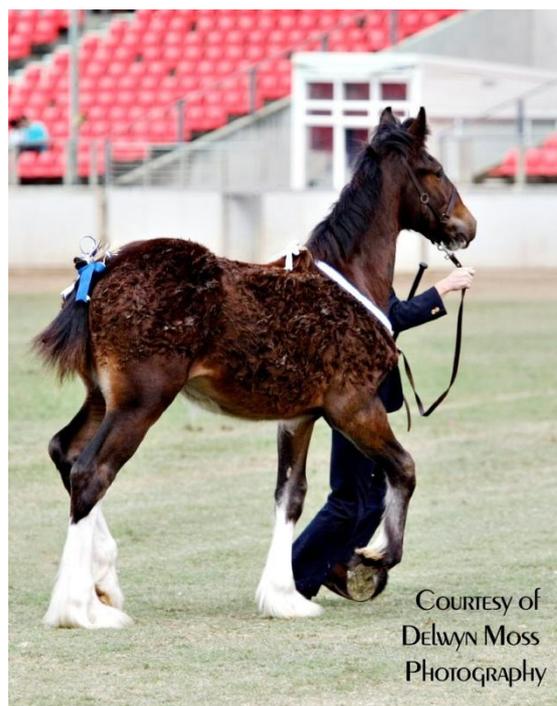
K H & I Kuiper ***Ingleside Lucinda***
Also winner of the SHSA Perpetual Trophy in memory of Kathryn McKay and Greg Hosa.

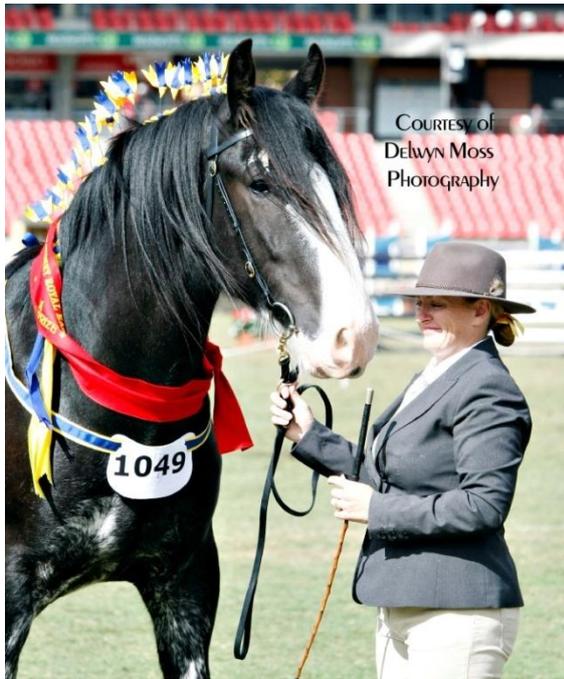
Shire Gelding, Any Age

- 1 Peter & Marylou Mc Keon
Southern Cross Nickolas
- 2 C & C Perdikaris & K H & I Kuiper
Ingleside Snap Shot
- 3 Ms Samantha Leighton
Ingleside Strider
- 4 Shandell Park
Mingara Jack
- 5 C & C Perdikaris & K H & I Kuiper
Ingleside Flash Dance

Ridden Shire Stallion, Mare or Gelding, Any Age

- 1 Mr Ian Scarborough
Muwarra Digger
- 2 Peter & Marylou McKeon
Ballafayle Sonata
- 3 Shandell Park
Mingara Jack
- 4 Peter & Marylou McKeon
Dothan Stewardess
- 5 Mrs Helene Scarf
Cedars Majestic





And thanks to our members who supplied these photos...





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New Judges appointed to the SHSA panel

We are pleased to announce that we have appointed four new judges to the SHSA Official Judges Panel.

Ineke Kuiper, Tony Riley, Ann Gilbert and Mark Peel are the first to be formally assessed under our new comprehensive judges' assessment scheme. In order to pass, judges need to pass a verbal exam, plus a written component, that covers judging Shires both in breed classes and harness.

Senior panel judges Max Marriott, Tim Peel, Colin Brown and Ross Carbery – all experienced in judging both harness and in hand classes – carried out the assessment and were pleased to pass all four applicants. (Tim Peel stood aside while his son was being assessed).

The assessment consists of three segments:

1. Assessment of the Shire Horse and a description of the breed;
2. A description of unsoundness and conformation faults and where on the horse you would find them;
3. A written test on judging breed and

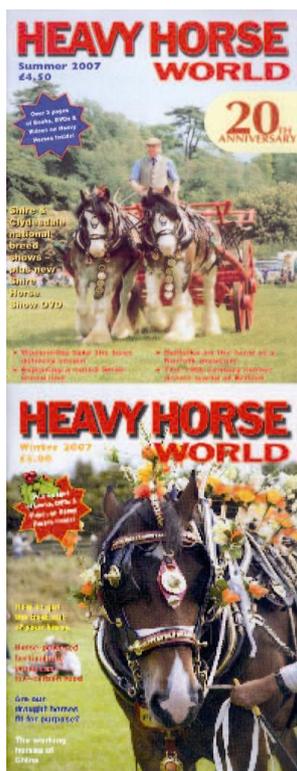
harness, including Australian vehicles and harness.

Tim Peel, spokesperson for the panel, commented, "It was a very thorough and rigorous test of the probationers' knowledge and capabilities as well as the first official test involving harness judging. The four new judges are not only worthy additions to the Shire Horse Society Australia Official Panel of Judges, but also to the fraternity of Shire judges world wide."

The committee thank Ann, Tony, Mark and Ineke for their interest in the Shire Horse and their desire to maintain the breed standard in Australia through their role as official Shire judges.

Like all SHSA judges, they are also capable of judging the other heavy horse breeds.

The Committee would also like to thank Tim, Col, Max and Ross for their involvement in the assessment scheme, but particularly Tim for his invaluable input and oversight of the assessment scheme from the beginning..



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Hendra Virus – protecting you and your horse

Since Hendra virus (HeV) first appeared in Vic Rail's Brisbane racing stables (in Hendra, Queensland) during 1994, it has made national headlines due to the catastrophic outcomes for the horses and humans infected with the disease.

Within a week of that first outbreak, Rail and 13 of his Thoroughbreds were dead.

Since then, 13 outbreaks of HeV have been recorded, eight of these since 2006 – two each year. Seven people are known to have contracted the virus and four of them have died – two within the past two years.

The recent cases of HeV in horses and humans have put the disease back in the spotlight and reinforced the need for behavioural change to minimise the risk of HeV infection.

Dr Nigel Perkins, RIRDC Research Manager and author of independent reviews into the HeV outbreaks, said that bio-security measures are currently the best way to protect both horses and handlers.

“While there have been positive preliminary results from research at the CSIRO Animal Health Laboratory in Geelong on a range of areas including vaccination, post-exposure testing and rapid diagnostic tests, considerable

further work is likely to be necessary before products may be available in the field.

“Vaccines take years to develop and pass testing for use, and it is not yet clear whether a commercial entity may be willing to invest in the development of a vaccine,” Nigel said.

So far, Queensland has borne the brunt of HeV outbreaks, with the most southern event located near Murwillumbah in NSW.

However, with flying foxes known to be carriers of the disease and found across northern Australia, and along the eastern seaboard to Melbourne, people in New South Wales and Victoria cannot assume they are safe.

The facts about Hendra virus

- Flying foxes are a natural host for HeV. The spread of HeV from flying foxes to horses is not yet fully understood, but it has been found in the urine, placental material, aborted fetuses and birthing fluids of flying foxes
- There are four species of flying foxes native to Australia, and they can be found from the Northern Territory, all along the eastern seaboard through NSW to Melbourne in Victoria
- There is no evidence of Hendra virus spreading directly from native animals such as flying foxes to people
- All human infections have been the result of very close contact with infected horses, in particular direct exposure to tissues and secretions from infected or dead horses
- Flying foxes often visit properties where native eucalypts, bottlebrushes, lilly-pillies, figs and melaleucas are flowering. Blossoms are their primary source of food, but they will also feed on palm seeds and exotic fruits when native food is less abundant

Symptoms

HeV can cause a broad range of symptoms in horses and should be considered where there is rapid onset of illness, fever, increased heart rate and rapid deterioration associated with either respiratory or neurological signs.

“It is important to know that one of the two people infected with HeV in 2008 are considered likely to have been infected while treating a horse that exhibited no clinical signs of the disease,” Nigel said.

“By the end of 2008, experimental trials conducted in Geelong confirmed that horses infected with HeV can begin to shed the virus before they show signs of clinical illness, with viral shedding increasing as the horses subsequently developed signs and became seriously ill.

“While extremely rare, we all know how deadly this disease is so it's important to protect yourself now, regardless of where you live, with simple bio-security measures when dealing with horses – whether they are sick or healthy,” Nigel said.

“General bio-security measures should be a part of the regular daily routine. These should include:

- Thoroughly check the health of all horses before they enter your property
- Always handle sick horses last and using separate protective clothing and footwear between horses
- At the first sign of sickness, isolate horses until the problem has been identified
- Avoid direct contact with biological fluid or tissues such as blood, saliva, urine or faeces
- Always wash hands thoroughly after contact with biological fluids with soap and water
- Wear protective clothing when in contact with any horses showing signs of an

unidentified infection and restrict access to all horses and the property until a diagnosis is made

“Everyone who deals with horses should take the time to educate themselves about HeV and be prepared to take adequate precautions depending on the possible risk of exposure to infective material,” Nigel said.

For more information, visit the Queensland Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries www.dpi.qld.gov.au.

Hendra virus is a notifiable disease and if suspected, you must call your veterinarian, state or territory government animal health authority or the emergency disease hotline on 1800 675 888.

Reducing the risk to humans

People have been exposed to HeV by handling infected horses and not considering HeV at the time. You need to be aware and carefully consider your safety whenever HeV is suspected.

- Treat blood and other body fluids (especially lung and nasal discharges, saliva and urine) and tissue as potentially infectious
- Take precautions to prevent any direct contact with, or splashback of body fluids
- Protect all exposed skin, mucous membranes and eyes from direct contact and cover cuts and abrasions with a water-resistant dressing

Reducing the risk to horses

Minimise horses’ contact with items that may be contaminated by the body fluids of flying foxes:

- Place feed and water containers under cover
- Don’t place feed and water containers under trees
- Don’t use feed that might be attractive to flying foxes (apples, carrots or molasses)
- Remove horses from paddocks where flowering trees have resulted in a surge in flying fox numbers
- If removal of horses from paddocks is not possible, try to temporarily remove horses during times of peak flying fox activity (dusk and night time)

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SHSA 2010 Seminar Wrap Up

The seminar in January was again a great success. More than 50 people attended, travelling from as far as North Queensland and Hobart. The day kicked off with Ann Gilbert talking about ring etiquette when showing your Shire, and what the judge is looking for. Tim Peel followed with a practical display of different types and fitting of Australian work harness. Ineke

Kuiper finished up outlining some tips and tricks for showing Shires.

Graham and Edna West, founding members of our Society in 1978, travelled down from Atherton for the weekend, and presented to Tim Peel a portrait, painted by Graham in 1978 of the famous Clydesdale stallion, Roughlands Telstar, in thanks to him for his work and support of the SHSA.



Graham West enjoying The Cedars



Stephanie Clarke and Lizzie Williams running the registration desk (thanks girls!)



Helene Scarf and Bob Hood



Ann Pinfold and Helen Kuiper



Byron Biffin minding Strider



Tim Peel demonstrating with Samantha Leighton and her horse Strider



Marty Hayward helping Tim Peel



Brook Carrington and Ineke Kuiper working on Harry



Dinner!



Greg Scarf, Edna West, Graham West, Helene Scarf and Tim Peel



Harry the centre of attention – Marty Hayward, Pam and Kelvin Smith, Samantha Leighton and Phil Robinson working on plaiting

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Classifieds

Turnara Lodge Apache Cat



Dual registered: 149290 SHS UK, 20133 SHSA.

DOB: 9th December 2008

Sire: Southern Cross Boxer

Dam: Ingleside Emily

Apache is growing well and maturing nicely. She is kind natured and has had all the basic ground work handling. This purebred 18 month old black filly has a bright future as a broodmare or if educated, as a harness or ridden horse. POA, and is negotiable to the right home.

VIEWFIELD SONATA



Registered Shire Sporthorse (SP 2011) microchipped.

Sire: Ingleside Dancer

Dam: SB mare

DOB: 5th November 2009

Mature around 16hh. Very friendly and trusting filly with a delightful nature. Lovely action, bright future in harness or under saddle. Leads, ties up, easy to trim, catch and handle in all ways. \$1500

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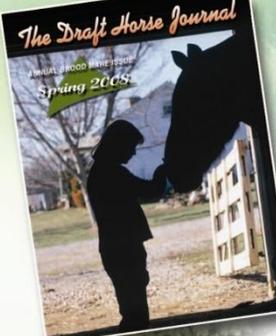
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The SHSA website gets a lot of traffic and many inquiries from people interested in buying Shires, looking for stallions or meeting other Shire Horse enthusiasts.

The Stud pages hold about five photos or images, a stud logo, a full A4 page of text and your contact details. Each stud has its own click through link for enquires, going directly to your email address.

The annual \$200 fee (plus GST) covers all set up costs, minor changes throughout the year, and an annual revamp of your content and images if requested.

If you already have a website, for \$75 you can have a paragraph and a link through to a Shire related site.

To place your page, contact Andrew Gunter, 07 5599-4463 or andrewg@ita.com.au

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