



# SHIRE HORSE SOCIETY AUSTRALIA

INCORPORATED

*Forging the future of the Shire Horse in Australia*

## DECEMBER 2012

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER



**GET YOUR COPY OF THE SHSA 2013 CALENDAR NOW!!!**

Details inside or [click here to order](#)

Photo courtesy of Tony Golding and featured in April in the calendar

**PATRON:**

Mr Rob Vickery

Council Member, Royal Agricultural Society NSW

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

# SHSA NEWS...

## SHSA seminar & riding and driving clinics

Prepare for a feast!

A big **THANK YOU** to Sugarloaf Shires and Darkmoor Shires for donating a pig and lamb on the spit and home-made sausages for the event.

12-13 January, Camden NSW

Event details on page 3

### Shire Horse 2013 wall calendar



Featuring 12 stunning images submitted to the SHSA from our members and supporters right around the world.

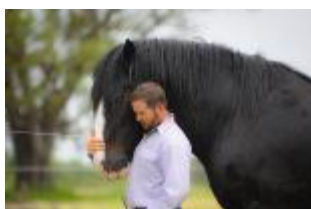
A beautiful addition to your home for the year and an ideal Christmas present for any lover of horses, it is a high quality, ring bound, A4 wall calendar printed on quality heavy duty paper.

At only \$25, it is great value for money, and all proceeds will go towards helping us promote this magnificent breed



of horse here in Australia. The funds will go towards subsidising activities such as our annual members' seminar, bargain membership rates and other exciting member-only services.

Visit the new sale page on our website at <http://shirehorsesociety.com.au/content/shire-horse-calendar/view> to see some sample images and to order.



or cash on pickup (Thirlmere, NSW). Domestic and international shipping available.

You can also see the album with all 12 amazing photos on the SHSA [Facebook page](#).

Orders can be made [via paypal here](#), or [contact the secretary](#) to pay via bank transfer, cheque

### New web services launched!

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

The new services include [Shires for sale](#), [Stallions at stud/Semen](#), [General items for sale](#), [Shire Stud listings](#). Fully self-managed, SHSA members can log in and add their own information simply and easily.

On the home page there is an invitation to log in to 'My SHSA' at the top of the page.

Once you log in details (please contact [secretary@shirehorsesociety.com.au](mailto:secretary@shirehorsesociety.com.au) if you don't have your log in details), you can place your own ads for horses, semen, stallion services, or other heavy horse items you may have for sale.

You can also include a stud listing, either by including your own content and images, or simply linking to your own website. [All listings are FREE for SHSA members](#).

There is a newsletter archive that will contain past newsletters which will be a great resource for information and show results.

There are already some listings in place, but we urge you to log in, check out the new services, list any and all relevant items in the for sale section and, most importantly, list your stud!

The system is very user-friendly, but if you have any problems or need help please contact [Cai Thomas](#), who has been working hard with our webmaster to get the system up and going.

## In this issue....

Seminar & Clinics .....	3
Shires for sale .....	5
Q&A – UK Shows.....	6
Olympic Shires .....	12-13
Deloraine Show report.....	16-17
Grey/Roan debate .....	20
Selling horses tips .....	21-22

# SHSA Seminar and Riding and Driving Clinics

**Where:** Sydney Polocrosse and County of Cumberland Campdraft Grounds Camden (approx. 1 hour south-west of Sydney) at the Bicentennial Equestrian Centre.

*On both days meals are FULLY CATERED with extra snacks and soft drinks available for purchase*

## ANNUAL SEMINAR

**When:** Saturday 12 January 2012

9.30am start

**Members only (membership \$20, new members welcome)**

**\$40/day FULLY CATERED**

### Home horse health care

Tips and tricks for caring for your horse through a range of health issues, including wound management, injection sites, and transitioning horses from one diet to another.

*Presented by: Greg Hogan, Sydney University Horse Unit Manager*

### Harness Innovations

Innovations in driving and affordable harness for better, safer ways to work your horse. Mark and Ross will also be available on Saturday to help check the fit of harness for those taking part in the driving clinics on Sunday.

*Presented by Ross Carbery and Mark Peel*

### Feeding your brood mare and growing horses

How to feed your horses for maximum potential. Reps will be available all day to give you a personalised diet plan based on your own pasture and situation.

*Presented by Ranvet*

### Training and handling workshop

Training horses combining natural horsemanship with classical principles. Scott has had many years of hands-on experience working with the Cedars Shire Horse Stud.

*Presented by Scott Brodie* head of Racing NSW Thoroughbred Retraining Program.

## HEAVY HORSE RIDING & DRIVING CLINICS

**When:** Sunday 13 January 2012

9.00am start

**Come with your horse for individual instruction \$100/day**

**Come without a horse, watch the sessions, receive training notes and ask questions etc.**

**\$50/day**

**(instructors broadcast by PA system)**

### Heavy Horse Riding Clinic

**Professional instructors across a range of disciplines and topics including:**

**Wayne Biffin** – former Head of the NSW Mounted Police

**Michelle Kelly** – national showjumping rider, winner of the Australian Grand Prix.

**Sue Lowe** – EFA Level 1 instructor, 21 years Mounted Police Officer and instructor.

### Heavy Horse Driving Clinic

**Harness driving as a base for competition BYO horse (no vehicle)**

**Mark Peel** – *experienced with light and heavy horses, currently competing in combined driving with a 4 in hand team. Mark just spent 5 months in the UK with World Champion Combined Driver Boyd Excell*

Mark will be working on all aspects of driving 'on the ground', from getting your gear fitted correctly right through to more advanced techniques including increasing contact and control and getting you and your horse's technique right before moving into shafts or agricultural vehicles.

### **Harness driving for show and pleasure**

**BYO horse and wheeled vehicle**

**Ross Carbery** – *Ross has competed successfully in harness for more than 25 years ranging from singles through to 6 in hand teams. He breeds, breaks and trains his own horses and has mentored many successful harness exhibitors*

Ross will cover the theory of driving, improving contact and control and setting and achieving training goals

**Bookings essential for both days**

**For more information and to book contact Helen Kuiper**

**hkuiper@bigpond.net.au**

**02 4683 1664**

**Camping for you and your horse available**

**Meals provided all weekend**

**Local accommodation available in and around Camden**

## Online for sale horses

*(click the name to go to the ad)*

### [Rumneyhill Holly](#)

Weanling grey filly by Goose Green John Wesley(U.K Premium) out of Wincanton Wilhemina \$16,500 – Tasmania



### [Ingleside Rockwell](#)

Weanling bay gelding by Longcopy Helvetica Black out of Ingleside Anastasia \$4000 – NSW



### [Viewfield Gina](#)

5 year old bay A Registry mare by Ingleside Dancer award winning harness horse \$9000 – Tasmania



### [Viewfield Ruby](#)

Bay Filly, 18 months old, A registry shire by Ingleside Dancer, \$4000 – Tasmania



### [Rumneyhill Jasmine](#)

3 year old bay filly by Acle Duke (IMP U.K) out of Wincanton Wilhemina easy to Catch,Float & Lead \$12,000 – Tasmania



### [Turnara Lodge Ellie](#)

Shire sport horse by Southern Cross Boxer out of a Paint mare. Professionally started under saddle and never put a foot wrong. Excellent riding prospect for intermediate rider.



For tips on selling horses, see the article on page 21-22 supplied thanks to [www.horseyard.com.au](http://www.horseyard.com.au)

## SHS UK & SHSA strengthen ties

By Helen Kuiper

Earlier this year, while in the UK, Korrie and I met with David Ralley-Davies, Secretary of the Shire Horse Society UK (SHS), to discuss relevant Shire Horse and Stud Book matters. This meeting was in my capacity as SHSA Secretary.



David gave us a warm welcome at the East of England Showground, and we had a productive meeting which built on the warm relations that we already enjoy with the SHS. Those of you who attended the 2010 SHSA seminar will remember that David and his wife Helen, attended the seminar while in Australia, and we very much enjoyed their company.

While we were in the UK on an extended visit, Helen and David had a lovely little baby girl

born to them, and we congratulated them on her birth on behalf of our members.

I was very excited when David took the time to show us some extremely interesting historical documents he had found in the archives, including the actual original minutes of the inaugural meeting of the Shire Horse Society from over 120 years ago. They were hand written, in a bound book and recorded the aims and objectives of the Society which would lead to the creation of our wonderful breed of horse, the Shire!




David has put up a painting in his office of Honest Tom 1865-1885, which he also found in the archives. Honest Tom won a total of £526 in prize money, which was a fortune in those days.

We also met with the SHS UK Registrar, Angela

Whiteway to discuss various registration issues across both stud books. We were pleased to have the opportunity to personally thank her for her positive and constructive working relationship with our Registrar, Deb Buckland.

# Carbery Carriages & Harness




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**Harness & Collars:**

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## Your questions answered... Showing Shires in the UK

### How many shows are there in the UK?

The show scene there is huge! Remember that it's a very small area compared to Australia and yet there are about 150 shows in the UK alone which are affiliated with the Shire Horse Society UK and still more shows again which are not affiliated. Almost all of these shows will have a good showing of Shires, upwards of at least about 20, some quite a few more, plus they attract very large crowds. Some of the larger shows expect around 130,000 visitors each day over 2-3 days.

### Which colts can enter the colt classes?

All colts, both Notified and Non-Breeding, are eligible to show in the UK in the Shire Colt classes until they are two years old. The only exception to this is the yearling colt class at the Spring Show which only allows Notified Colts to compete. After the colts are 2 years of age they are expected to split into Gelding and Stallion classes.

### Seeing as there are three female Shire registries, what classes can you show the female Shires in?

All registered female Shires are eligible to compete at all affiliated shows except for the Spring Show. This includes mares and fillies from the A and B Registry and the full registry. However the Shire Horse Society only gives their spoon awards at these shows to horses from either the B Registry or the full registry.

So A registry females can compete and win Champion but they can't win the SHS award in the same way that the B registry and full registry horses can.

### Which geldings can enter the Geldings classes?

All registered geldings are eligible to compete at all shows, including the Spring Show, whether their dam is a registered Shire, a Clydesdale or a draught mare. Indeed some shows in the UK do not even require that the gelding be registered. The Champion Gelding at the Spring Show this year was out of a grading registered Clydesdale mare.

### Are the harness classes for registered Shires only?

Even at the Shire specialty Spring Show, the harness classes only require that the horses be of 'Shire Type', and they do not need to be registered Shires. At other shows, the harness classes are open to all heavy horse breeds. This year there was even an Ardennes team doing the show circuit.

### What is a typical Shire programme like at a UK show?

If you want to see some typical schedules from large UK Shire shows, contact the Secretary who can email you some from this year. It's worth noting that UK shows only have a moderate number of Shire Classes, sometimes only about 4-6 classes, not counting the championship classes, even

though they have thousands of Shires in that very small country. This way they have good numbers in each class and so good competition. Also, because the classes don't run all day, there is an opportunity for all exhibitors to catch up socially, which builds friendships.



North West & Wales Shire Foal Society 2012 Show  
Photo: Carol Stevens



## Breeders of quality Shires & Clydesdales



### Stud stallion—Oakridge Speculator (imp UK)

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### Escrick Extreme (imp UK)

Yearling Shire colt recently arrived from the UK

By Super Premium stallion Penrhos Braveheart



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### Hickory Hill Nitro of the Northeast (US)

Shire Stallion by Super Premium stallion Isles Field Danny Boy



Other services include horse breaking, heavy and light horses to ride and drive and heavy horse supplies for sale including shire sized headstalls, show bridles and riding bridles, unbreakable leads, wood flour, raffia and more

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

0408 669 638

## Aussie Shires experience English style weather!

Last year it was Sugarloaf Shires, and this year it was Darkmoor Shires, but instead of our usual sweltering in the heat, both were left playing in the snow after unseasonably cold weather snaps!



*A chilly day at Sugarloaf Shires, Oberon*



*Sugarloaf horses waiting for breakfast in the cold*



*Wye Jessica and Darkmoor Da Vinci*

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## History in Australia... Shires in Harness at Sydney Royal

Did you know that SHSA President Helene Scarf is the only person to have ever won the Ware Memorial Trophy at the Sydney Royal Easter Show with a Shire Horse?



In 1991 she won it with her imported stallion, Ladbrook Edward. Helene firstly had to win her class and then win Champion overall. What a memorable effort by Helene and 'Jock' (Ladbrook Edward).

The Ware Trophy is awarded at the Sydney Royal Easter Show to the Champion Business Turnout exhibit. The Champion is the best exhibit out of the winners of the 6 Business Delivery Classes, which are all harness classes.

Ineke Kuiper was also very successful in 1997 with her Shire gelding Cedars Edward Mark, when she won Reserve Champion Business Turnout out of the 6 classes.

In recent years, Sugarloaf Shires have taken up the reins and were the first to exhibit a pair of Shires at Sydney. With a string of geldings coming up, it will be exciting to see them take on the harness classes with a vengeance!



Other members are in the early stages of their harness careers, and we are looking forward to seeing some successful Shires in harness in the near future.

Whatever breed of heavy horse you have, come along to our clinics in January if you are interested in improving your harness driving skills from groundwork up.

# HEAVY HORSE WORLD

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## Upcoming Show Schedule

Show	State	Date	Type
Kiama	NSW	Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> January	Shire, Clyde, DH, driven, harness
Melbourne Summer Royal	Vic	Sunday 27 <sup>th</sup> January Entries closed	Shire, Clyde
Bungendore Judge Colin Brown	NSW	Sunday 27 <sup>th</sup> January	Clyde, Shire, Heavy, driven, ridden
Berry Judge Tim Peel	NSW	Saturday 2 <sup>nd</sup> Feb Entires close 28 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Clydesdale, Heavy Horse
Nowra	NSW	8/9 Feb	
Crookwell	NSW	Saturday 9 <sup>th</sup> February	Clydesdale, Heavy Horse
Kangaroo Valley	NSW	Saturday 16 <sup>th</sup> February	Heavy Horse, ridden, harness
Canberra Royal Entries closed	ACT	Saturday 23 <sup>rd</sup> February	Clydesdale, Shire
National Clydesdale and Heavy Horse Festival (Werribee)	Vic	Saturday 23 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup> February	All
Mudgee	NSW	Saturday 2 <sup>nd</sup> March	Clyde, GC, Heavy, harness
Goulburn	NSW	Saturday 9 <sup>th</sup> March	Heavy, Harness
Camden	NSW	Saturday 16 <sup>th</sup> March	Clyde, Shire, Per, Heavy, ridden, driven, harness
Sydney Royal Entries Closed	NSW	Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup> March	Shire, ridden
Hawkesbury	NSW	19,20,21 April	All
Gatton Heavy Horse Field Days	Qld	4 <sup>th</sup> 5 <sup>th</sup> May	All
Biloela Heavy Horse Feature Show	Qld	17-18 May	Shire, Clyde, DH, GC, other, ridden, driven

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## Committee Contact Details

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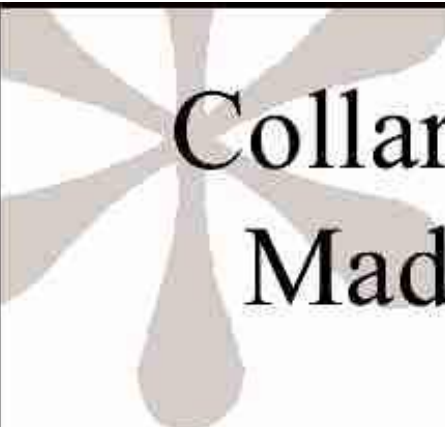
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## Shire Horses star at Olympic Opening Ceremony!

*By Nara Stevens*

Drayhorse shires Olympic dream began back in September 2011 with a phone call from the Olympic organisers, asking whether we had Shires and dates available for 2012. Not knowing what the Shires were needed for the diary was checked and we confirmed that we could supply Shire horses and carriages for the requested dates.

Then a non-disclosure contract was sent through which we had to sign informing us that anything that was discussed must be kept a secret, knowing that we might be in this world wide event with the biggest viewing population ever estimated at 4 billion people, this was a massive undertaking. We were excited and wanted to tell everyone but couldn't. This was going to be great for the country, The Shire horse and our business. What a great achievement this would be.



This was discussed in great depth from weight and size of horses to carriage sizes etc. Jill Clark from 1<sup>st</sup> choice animals came to visit our Shire



and contracts were signed in February and finally the reality of actually being involved became apparent. There was a lot of emails, phone calls and meetings to follow, without the organization of all of our wedding which we already had booked, so we needed to keep our business running alongside which took great organization.

We needed to supply six Shire horses with nine members of staff just for the Olympics without the staff needed to run the business.

The first site visit to the Olympic stadium was in March, this was without the horses, the horses rehearsals began on 30<sup>th</sup> June.

We arrived at the stadium not knowing what to expect with the six Shire horses. We took one Shire Jim into the stadium to test the surfaces and they wanted us to test the steepness of the ramp. We had a few issues with the surface as the surface was made of plastic and would be slippery for the horses especially when wet, which you could not guarantee it wasn't going to rain with the English weather.

The organizers and Danny Boyle and Toby the creative director were fantastic. The surface was changed and we were soon off on our first rehearsal. The horses were fantastic not batting an eyelid at anything. Four more rehearsals to go before we had to stay up there continually for 10 days prior to the opening ceremony.

On July 18<sup>th</sup> all horses, other animals and staff were moved into their own compound, where would be home for the next 10 days. The Olympic dream had finally begun.



The atmosphere was fantastic. Jill who was the organiser was great she had it all under control but there had been so much paperwork, organisation phone call etc., she organised this all herself, and was still smiling! What a great job she did. By the end of the 10 days we were all one big family.

We had three live rehearsals one with 45,000 people, the horses and people were great no different to when the stadium was empty. The next live rehearsal was in front of friends and family 60,000 people, the atmosphere was electric! What a fantastic night! The next one was live on TV in front of the world! All coachmen and staff were in costume, the horses were harnessed and the long awaited day was finally here!

Waiting in the voms (tunnels to the stadium) all staff and horses waited patiently for the ceremony to go live on the TV, The curtains opened and it was time for the horses to be in the limelight, with a fantastic reception from the audience, the horses performed fantastically. Where else would you ever get the chance to perform in front of such a massive audience?

The horses left the stadium, were unharnessed and loaded onto lorries for their journey home,

before the fireworks went off. They were back and tucked up in there stables before the



Olympic athletes even came into the stadium. The staff watched the remainder of the ceremony at home.

Our Olympic dream had finally come true! And what an achievement for all horses and staff involved a chance of a lifetime.

### **Coachmen**

#### **Black Shires Jim & Charlie and omnibus**

Coachmen Gavin Stevens (owner of Drayhorse Shires)

Grooms: Nara Stevens (owner of Drayhorse Shires) and Paul Stanley

#### **Grey Shires Honor & Valor and omnibus**

Coachmen Steve Tubb

Grooms Danny Stevens and Michael Hartland

#### **Tip cart and Albert Black Shire stallion**

Driver Daniel Brown

Groom Mark Brown

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## **SHSA Newsletter Advertising**

Full page x 4 issues - \$100

½ page x 4 issues - \$50

¼ page x 4 issues - \$25

*The Classifieds and Service listings are free to all SHSA members and approved friends.*

SHSA welcomes new members for both full and associate membership. Please go to [www.shirehorsesociety.com.au](http://www.shirehorsesociety.com.au) and download an application form if you know anyone who'd like to join.

## SHSA Membership is now due

Membership runs on calendar year and is due 1 January 2013.

There are many member benefits available to you, including our new web services with free advertising for Shire horses, stallions, semen and Shire related items. This is a member only service.

Membership also gives you access to our online stud book, which contains all of the horses registered with the Australian Shire Horse Stud Book, along with many other associated international horses.

It is also necessary to be a member of either SHSA or SHS UK in order to be eligible to exhibit Shires at Royal Shows

To reflect our increasing suite of member services, we have increased our very modest subscription from \$15 to \$20/year.

Payment can be made by the following methods using your name as a reference:

**Paypal:** please make payments to [secretary@shirehorsesociety.com.au](mailto:secretary@shirehorsesociety.com.au) or send an email that address to request a paypal invoice.

**Bank transfer:**  
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## Horse health... Stopping Worms Before They Stop Your Foal

By Karen Briggs [www.horseyard.com.au](http://www.horseyard.com.au)

Internal parasites might be your horse's constant companions, but they're anything but friends. Worms steal nutrients from their hosts and can leave horses undernourished and anemic. Untreated, a parasitic infection may result in an ulcerated and bleeding digestive system, persistent coughing, recurrent colic, damaged and irritated lungs, or blood vessels clogged with tangled masses of worms. At high concentrations, worms can be fatal.

What you may not know is just how early worms can begin to have a detrimental effect on a young foal. Several species of worms prefer the "virgin" digestive tracts of youngsters, and while they're not ranked among the most dangerous of the internal parasites (that distinction goes to the large and small strongyles, or bloodworms, which inhabit the major arteries around the digestive tract), they can still do considerable and lasting damage. A foal with an untreated load of worms will look potbellied, shaggy, ribby, and generally wretched. And because the worms are stealing many of the nutrients in his diet, he may never reach his full growth potential.

THREADWORMS bear the dubious distinction of being the first parasites to invade the system of a young foal. They are passed through the mare's milk, and can be found inhabiting babies as young as four days old. The life cycle of the threadworm is an accelerated one -- they mature in just five to seven days -- so by the time a foal is a couple of weeks old he may already be shedding eggs into the environment and providing the means to re-infect himself.

A five-week old foal's manure can sometimes contain up to 20,000 threadworm eggs per gram. The worms are creative in their means of accessing a foal's system, too; they can even gain entrance by penetrating the skin when the animal lies down on infected bedding.

In the couple of weeks in which a threadworm is maturing in a young horse's system, it migrates through the lungs and the small intestine, creating tissue damage as it goes and triggering

diarrhea, which is sometimes severe. Fortunately, threadworms aren't a lasting threat; they're mainly seen in suckling foals.

ASCARIDS, or roundworms, are a problem for youngsters under the age of two years. They're particularly good at robbing a young horse of essential nutrients, leaving him looking rough-coated and undernourished. A horse with a load of roundworms may also suffer from diarrhea, colic, a nasal discharge, and a persistent cough that doesn't respond to antibiotics. If a heavy enough burden develops, the horse could suffer a potentially fatal intestinal blockage that can only be relieved by surgery.

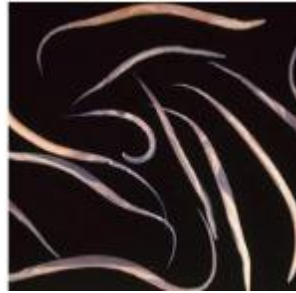


*Ascarid worms in manure*

Foals acquire roundworms by ingesting eggs in contaminated feed or water. (The eggs can remain viable in soil for years after they're deposited there.) The eggs hatch in the small intestine, and the larvae burrow through the intestinal wall, migrating to the blood vessels and then taking a convoluted journey through the liver, heart, and into the air sacs of the lungs, over a period of about a week. During this stage they can create substantial irritation and scarring in the liver and the respiratory tract. From the lungs, the worms travel up the trachea to the mouth, only to be swallowed a second time. They mature in the intestines in two to three months, then lay eggs that are passed in the manure. A female ascarid can lay up to 200,000 eggs per day.

PINWORMS, named for their pointed tails, are a third type of worm that seeks out youngsters. If

you see a young horse frantically rubbing his hindquarters against a wall or fencepost, chances are pinworms are to blame; the females lay their eggs around the anus (they're often visible as yellowish, gelatinous streaks on the perineal skin), where they cause intense itching.



*Pinworms*

The life cycle of the pinworm is relatively simple. Horses ingest the eggs from the soil or surfaces where another horse has scratched himself. The eggs hatch in the small intestine and pass from there into the colon and cecum, where they feed on the intestinal mucosa and mature over a period of about five months. The females pass out in the manure after laying their eggs around the anus.

Though pinworms do cause some irritation of the digestive tract tissues, they're considered the least harmful of the equine internal parasites; the most serious damage from a pinworm infestation comes from the horse scratching himself until his tailhead becomes raw, inflamed, and bald. (This can be a

particular problem if you're in the process of introducing a youngster to wearing a harness.)

Why do worm populations change with the age of the horse? It seems that horses are able to build up an immunity to certain species of parasites, so that as they mature, the worms are less able to gain a foothold and do damage. This natural immune response is related to the duration of infection -- so ironically, well-meaning humans can interfere with the process by administering anthelmintics (deworming drugs) to foals too early. Curtailing a threadworm infestation early on, for example, may actually delay immunity and make a foal vulnerable to the parasites for a longer period of time. Therefore, current recommendations are to deworm foals only at four weeks of age, and again at 12 weeks.

If you suspect your foals may have acquired a large burden of roundworms, you'll also want to be cautious about the way you administer an anthelmintic. There is some danger in treating such foals with a fast-acting deworming drug like ivermectin, because a massive die-off at one time can produce intestinal blockages, or trigger a toxic response to the large quantity of dead and dying worms in the digestive tract. For this reason, veterinarians often recommend using one of the older, less effective drugs, or a partial dose, followed by a second treatment 10 to 14 days later, to ensure a gradual die-off of these worms. Consult your vet before you treat.

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## Deloraine Show Report

*Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> November 2012*

*By Deb Buckland*

The weather was perfect, the facilities looked magnificent, and the competition was terrific. Of the 23 horses entered, 19 presented on the day, and of these, 6 were registered Shires.

Sally Loney from Meadowlane Clydesdale Stud in Victoria was the judge, and there was a full led and working program for her to officiate over. Accompanying her was fellow Victorian Louise Beer, of Beerega Clydesdale Stud. Louise found herself doing commentary on the microphone for much of the day. She did a

sterling job, definitely adding to the atmosphere.

Champion Colt/Stallion was awarded to a very nice yearling Clydesdale colt, Brookhampton Statesman, exhibited by Ian Hodgetts. This colt went on to win Supreme Heavy Horse of the show. Ian also won Champion Female with a yearling Clydesdale filly of his own breeding, Weetreedda Highland Windsong. A most successful show for the Hodgetts family.



Best Shire Exhibit was awarded to Mandalay Realm Magnetine, better known to one and all as Foxy.



*Mandalay Realm Magnetine*

Unfortunately Foxy's owner was bed ridden with illness so he was exhibited on Joe's behalf by a joint effort between Stephanie Clark and Saskia Reitveld. What a successful day they had with him as he was also awarded Reserve Champion Gelding, and Reserve Champion Working Horse. Foxy won the 2 or 4 wheel vehicle turnout on his way to his championship placing and looked an absolute picture with Stephanie in period costume at the reins.

The Champion Working Horse also was awarded to a Shire, with the honour going to Wollemi Shadowfax (aka John). Nelson and Petrina Lowther had him looking resplendent in a Furphy Water Cart and he performed very well across all classes he was entered in. Congratulations on a wonderful effort.



*Wollemi Shadowfax & Furphy Water Cart*

Runner up Best Shire was awarded to Viewfield Annie, who also came third in the 2 year and under filly class. With Deb Buckland still being in plaster and on crutches, she was most grateful for the help of some friends which meant she was able to have horses present this year.

Special congratulations should go to Ange Burford and Mark Rowe, who attended the show with their 3 year old shire filly Viewfield Jacinda, this event being her first ever show outing and only the second time they had ever been involved in a show. They presented her beautifully and were awarded with a third place in a strong line up in the mare 3 years and over class, and a third place in the registered Shire class. It was most encouraging to see their daughter Jessica leading her in the junior handler class and their other daughter Georgina leading Wollemi Shadowfax. The girls are 7 and 9 years old.



*Viewfield Jacinda*

It was very unfortunate for Steve and Nerilee Saraci that their gelding, Monjes Lodge Saxon King pulled up lame during the led classes and had to be withdrawn from the working classes he was entered in. Having travelled all the way from Hobart to attend the show this was very disappointing for them. They have however vowed to return next year, so Foxy and John should beware!

The day ended with a counter meal at a local hotel with about 15 people attending. It was marvellous to be able to enjoy a relaxing time together and to be able to chat to Sally and Louise.

Sincere thanks from the organising committee and the Deloraine Show Society to the following sponsors: Shire Horse Society Australia Inc, Shire Horse Breeders Australia Inc, Bucca Valley Shire Stud, Toora Shire Stud, Viewfield Shire Stud.



*Taking the show president for a ride*



*Wollemi Shadowfax*



*Monjes Lodge Saxon King*



*Shire placings*



*Shire placings*



*Best and runner up*



*The stalls*



*Viewfield Annie and Elegance*



*Long reins*



*Shire class lineup*



*Reserve Champion Gelding*



*Shire class lineup*

## Hillmoor Double Trouble – the grey/roan debate

SHSA President Helene Scarf recently wrote to the Shire Horse Society UK (SHS UK) regarding the UK stallion Hillmoor Double Trouble, bred and owned by Mr Phillip Moss. The stallion has passed his two year old inspection and is registered as a grey. Grey is a simple dominant gene (if a horse possess a grey gene, it will be grey). As neither of his parents are registered grey, by the law of genetics, something is wrong with that registration. The Australian Shire Horse Stud Book, and the American Shire Horse Stud Book both have a simple rule which reflects what is known from colour genetics, and that is that for a horse to be registered as grey, at least one parent must be grey.

Our Society raised this issue with the SHS UK and requested that in order to maintain the integrity of their stud book they need to request that a simple and cheap colour DNA test be performed on Hillmoor Double Trouble to ascertain if he is in fact grey. They have this power in their rules. If he is not grey, then he is roan which is a colour expressly excluded in Shire stallions clearly marked on the two year old vet inspection form as a colour making a colt inadmissible as a registered breeding stallion.

Breeders of grey horses are also outraged that Hillmoor Double Trouble won the award for Best Grey at the 2012 SHS UK Spring Show when he is most likely no grey at all. Also if Hillmoor Double Trouble is actually roan, then



he is likely to breed more colts of a colour which makes them ineligible for stallion registration. In fact, roan horses by Hillmoor Double Trouble have already been advertised for sale in the UK.

This matter has also been discussed by the American Shire Horse Association with a long time, well known American Shire breeder, also writing to the SHS UK on numerous occasions about the same horse.

SHS UK has reported that they are making investigations into the science behind grey genetics, and will report back to the next Council meeting in March 2013 – 3 months in to the UK breeding season. If anyone would like to read our letter, just ask the Secretary for an emailed copy.

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## Tips For Selling Horses

*By Horseyard Editor*

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

When it comes to selling horses there are some definite do's and don'ts. Here are a few tips.

Buyers say the number one, absolute top thing to consider is photos. Most buyers agree that the photos you include with an ad are almost always the deciding factor that will influence whether or not they call you for further information.

The two biggest turn offs when it comes to photos in ads, according to HorseYard users, are a photo of a person standing on the back of a horse, "Ridiculous photos of people standing on horses, I hate them. I know you want to illustrate how amazing your horse's temperament is, but it only actually illustrates how quick your photographer is, and how silly, but lucky for 1.5 seconds, you are," says Kimberly.

Or photos of the horse rugged. "When an ad has a terrible picture for a horse that has 'great conformation', says Amy. "Seriously how hard is it to take the rug off the horse and take a half decent side on picture?"

Another is "Photos of the horse at one week old when they are trying to sell it as a four year old!" says Melissa. Most users agree, showing a current photo of the horse is an absolute necessity.

Also good conformation shots are most important. Take photos of the horse stood up nicely, side on, front on, from behind. Photos at odd angles are a definite no no, as are photos showing the horse way off in the

distance. Only uploading a head shot is another turn off. As is no photo at all.

If you are advertising the horse for a particular discipline, show a photo of it engaged in that activity. But also make sure to show it untacked or unharnessed.

Spend five minutes giving your horse a tidy up before taking photos.

A growing number of buyers indicated they also want to see video in ads. Making use of free video sites like [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) is an excellent tool for helping to sell your horse.

When it comes to the information included in your ad Horseyard users are united on one thing: Spell Check, Spell Check, Spell Check (and check your grammar while you are at it!). Nothing turns most users off more than badly worded ads. Abbreviated into "text" form is also a big no no. "When people blame their phones for spelling and grammatical errors ... the phones don't push the 'send' button," Kate notes. (ie. Avoid excuses for laziness!)

Details are important. Make sure you include the age, height, location, sex and colour of your horse. Omitting any of these from your details can put people off calling you. "Too little information and bad photos. I hate not knowing if a horse is a certain height or suitable for something because I can call them and feel like I'm wasting their time," says Hayley. POA (Price on Application) is a real turn off for most buyers, "Straight away I assume the price will be outrageously over my budget, so I don't even bother," Briony tells

us. Emma agrees, “POA, I hate that and won’t enquire.”

“Expressions of interest” (EOI) is another price cop out that annoys buyers as most sellers do have a definite idea of the price they want. Sell with confidence and do not expect buyers to have to guess their way through to a sale. EOI also indicates indecisiveness – as if you are unsure about selling but might do so if an above average price is offered. Most buyers see this as an indication that you will waste their time.

Other phrases to avoid in your ads are “No time wasters”. And “No photo collectors”.

Natalie explains “I really can’t understand if I’m a time waster or not when I’m making an inquiry about a horse. If I’m searching for the right horse it takes a lot of research and time for me and I might not buy that horse because it’s not right. Does that make me a time waster? If you haven’t got time to sell, then I don’t have time to buy!”

Sellers should remember that the “No time wasters” statement works both ways. “I don’t like the “no time waster ads” either,” adds Fiona. “But if something looks suitable on paper then I might enquire further to find out more, if it turns out the horse isn’t suitable then maybe I have wasted the seller’s time but I’ve wasted mine too!”

HorseYard readers also agree that sellers need to be honest in their ads and this includes mentioning the bad as well as the good. Honesty is always the best policy.

Other statements that irritate prospective buyers are “has potential”, “selling well below true value” or “making way for next year’s foals.”

“When people charge for the horses “potential”,” Gemma says. “This is an

extension of my dislike for the “has potential to excel” catch phrase you see popping up. The horse ISN’T a great PC mount yet, you haven’t put the time or energy into training it, so don’t charge like it’s the next Totilas!”

Or “when people say ‘price reduced for quick sale’, ‘grab a bargain’, ‘need this horse sold now/asap!’ This turns me off the horse!” adds Charmaine.

Other emotional language to avoid is “part of the family” (would you sell your family?) and “Will go to doggers if not sold” – this type of statement is seen as emotional blackmail and tends to make buyers angry rather than likely to buy.

Buyers say it is important to update your ad regularly and let people know your horse is still for sale. They also agree that if you are not getting any interest by the one to two month mark you might like to reassess your strategy – have a look at your photos and the information you have included. Also your price. Is it on par with horses of similar age, type and ability?

Finally, make sure your contact details are up to date. There is nothing worse for potential buyers than not being able to contact a seller.

### Quick Tips

- Use good photos. A good photo will go a long way to selling your horse
- Include the important details. Don’t forget height, age, sex, colour, location.
- Avoid negative statements like “no time wasters”.
- Avoid unrealistic statements like “has potential to ...”
- Include a price. Buyers hate guessing.
- Include your current contact details.



**The SHSA committee thanks you for your support throughout 2012 and wishes you a wonderful Christmas and a safe and prosperous New Year**