Riding for the Disabled Association NSW

"Bits 'n' Pieces"

SPRING/SUMMER 2019

NEWS FROM THE CENTRES

TAMWORTH

We have had a very successful Spring/Summer 2019 with a marked increase in clients.

Three volunteers are training to be Assistant Coaches which will be of great hel

Our dressage team of five, were finalists in the Tamworth Regional Council Sports Awards on the 30 October, which was a terrific achievement.

The dressage team also competed at the RDA State Dressage Championships at the Sydney National Equestrian Centre. They competed in equestrian, show jumping and dressage. All achieved many placings – 1 champion in her category, another runner up champion in her category, also another client's horse was awarded Horse of the Event.

The dressage team also competed four times at Moonbi. All were awarded placings in their category.

On 31 October we held a successful

Pink Ribbon Day for the Cancer Council

Farrer Agricultural High School and Oxley High School continue to volunteer, which has been a tremendous help.

On the 26 October we did pony rides for Teys Australia (Tamworth Abattoir). They constantly donate/fundraise for us and also provide volunteers for us.

We continue to fundraise as much as we can eg Bunnings sausage sizzle to raise money for hay (which is becoming very expensive in the drought) and vet fees. The drought conditions, dust storms and flies definitely affecting the horses.

Our new amenities block is very close to completion. Has taken a long time but will be worth it.

The Harness Section has had a great term and we have a new addition – "Kymba" a pretty palomino Welsh Mountain pony.

CENTRAL COAST

WHAT HAPPENS AT OUR PLACE, is most likely much the same for everyone.

Organising - Dentist, vet and farrier. Paddock care and rotation, weed/pest control (darned rabbits), fence, building and equipment maintenance, purchase of feed, weekend/holiday horse rosters and sourcing suitable horses/ponies.

Administration - Rider registrations, volunteer recruitment, WWCC, WHS, all files (volunteers and horses), correspondence, arena hire, horse sponsorships, grant applications, meetings, and the biggie – fundraising.

Volunteers were asked why they choose to give their time to RDA. Here are just a few examples from the many who participated.

Lyn - The opportunity to assist a range of challenged young people and relate with their families even in some small way. The interaction with other volunteers is a real plus and working with the horses is the icing on the cake.
Neryl - I love helping the children, I miss the horses from home.

Gerhard - There is nothing better than to be able to make children happy and give them a special good time that we volunteers are able to do, thanks to RDA.

Marilyn - Hours of fun, organised interesting activities. Resources are second to none. Exercise for the body and mind.

Jenny - I wanted to groom horses and look where I ended up. Love it.

Maureen - The riders are a never-ending source of inspiration to all who witness their trials and triumphs.

Jackie - I missed my horses and wanted to get back to doing RDA and meeting people in Australia who are involved in this worthwhile cause.

Jennifer - I love the pleasure that my beloved horses give to people with disabilities. It is awe inspiring to see the result of the contact with a 'four-legged furry' form of transport.

Pauline - The challenges faced by people with disabilities are many and I am inspired by their spirit. It is said 'that the outside of a horse is good for the inside of a person'. When I see the happy faces of our RDA children, I believe that is true.

Thank you to all. What great incentive to maintain standards and objectives at the highest level. We are blessed with a great team in a wonderful place of work.

Orange

The RDA Orange Centre community wish a very warm welcome to our new volunteers- Lesley Brown, Jillian Sullivan, Kevin Tattersall, Linda Kelly, Patrick Kelly, Luke Tester, Maria Farrell & Anthea Grahan - sorry if I have missed anyone!
The training of our new volunteers has kept our Coach busy, so a big thank you goes to Merrilyn Mendham.
This has been a very busy term with celebrations for the Horses Birthday on July 31, the annual Cake Stall on 2 August, fundraising BBQs at Ashcrofts Supa IGA in Peisley Street, movie screening of "Ride Like a Girl", and the rehearsals and recording of the Musical Ride with students from Anson Street School.
If that wasn't enough, a working bee was organized to clean up the grounds during September. A lot of metal was recycled and piles of timber prepared. Thank you everyone who lent a hand in making the fence line look better and safer.
A group of volunteers got together in August at The Agrestic Grocer Café for lunch to celebrate Joyce Collett's 80th Birthday. She was presented with the "Golden Glove" award for her years of service keeping the RDA kitchen in order.

Celia Publicity Officer

New Horses being assessed for RDA suitability…

"Dusty"

"Peggy"

"Chook"

Horses' Birthday 2019

Celebrations at the Centre this year, included playing games, feeding the horses carrots and apples and singing happy birthday. We had lots of visitors including family and friends. Thank you to Thornbrook Orchard for supplying us with some delicious apples to share with the riders, horses and volunteers. The Centre also held a cake and plant stall at the Orange Central Square. Thank you to everyone who bought some goodies to take to work or home!

Georgie feeds "May"

Clown Fay gets the party started

Celia, Bella and "Maggie"

Musical ride "I Still Call Australia Home"

"Special Needs"

They say that I have special needs
And while that is partly true
The needs that matter most to me
are the same ones you have too.
I NEED TO BE ACCEPTED
I need friends that make me smile
I need a chance to learn and grow
Feeling valued all the while.
Sure, I need extra help
And some things I cannot do
But I hope you'll see beyond all that
INSIDE I'M JUST LIKE YOU.

anonymous

Raymond Terrace & Lower Hunter

Vale Jan Sharpe OAM

Passed away on 21 June 2019

Jan will be fondly remembered by the many people who have worked with her in various sections of RDA. As a coach at RDA Raymond Terrace and Lower Hunter Centre where she worked for over 36 years and as an Assessor travelling throughout the state assessing coaches.

Jan also worked on the Coaching and Safety Panel (CASP) team for 25 years. In 2003 Jan was elected to the RDANSW Board of Directors where she took on the responsibility of Finance Director.

In 2005 Jan played a key role in the development of a new coaching system when RDANSW became independent of Riding for the Disabled Australia (RDAA).

When in 2009 RDANSW made the decision to become a Registered Training Organisation (RTO), Jan was asked to undertake the training necessary for us to move forward with setting up as an RTO.

In 2012 single handedly, Jan developed the syllabus/workbook for a Hippotherapy Course for RDANSW.

Each year at the Royal Easter Show event and the State Dressage. Jan was there with her riders.

Jan was a truly outstanding and dedicated volunteer for RDANSW

She will be sadly missed by all who knew and loved her.

Ryde

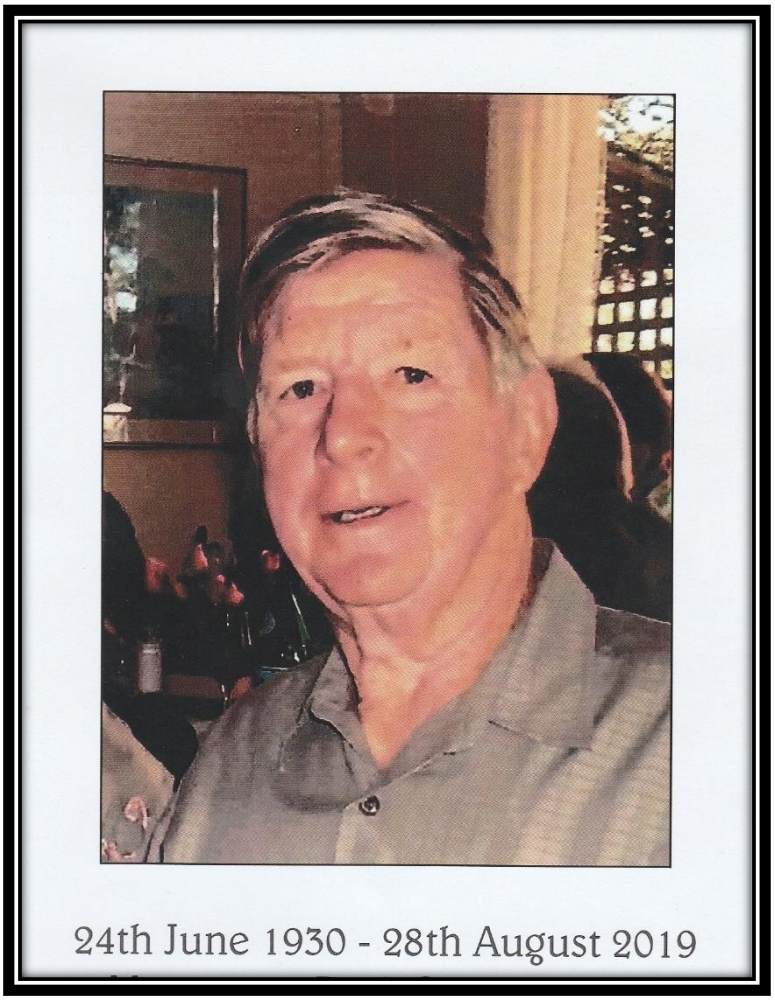
Vale Don Davies

Passed away on the 28 August 2019

Don was Horse Manager of RDA Ryde Centre for 20 years.

He spent many hours selecting and training the horses and getting them "just right" before handing them over to the coaches.
Volunteers and Coaches all benefited from his many years of experience which he gladly shared with them.

A true gentleman and horseman. He is sadly missed.



Vale Wall Scott - Smith

Wal Scott – Smith passed away on the 17 August 2019
Wal was a long serving volunteer at RDA Ryde Centre for a remarkable 28 years.

Farewell to a legend of Anzac tradition

DAVID BARWELL

TRIBUTES have poured in for the longest-serving caretaker of the Martin Place Cenotaph, Walter Scott-Smith a man who worked for eight decades to ensure the Anzac legacy lives on.

Mr Scott-Smith, known affectionately as "Wally", died on Saturday after retiring from his duties as the chief custodian of the CBD cenotaph at the age of 96 last year.

Community leaders paid tribute to a man who not only served as the custodian of the memorial but a custodian of the Anzac legacy.

NSW Veterans Minister John Sidoti said Mr Scott-Smith worked "tirelessly" at the memorial come "rain, hail or shine" and "always provided a friendly face for those who came to pay their respects to the fallen" during remembrance ceremonies.

Mr Scott-Smith began cleaning the cenotaph in 1940 after he was diagnosed with bowel cancer at age 18, bringing his dream of military service to an end.

The army's loss, however, was the cenotaph's gain. In 1946 he took over as custodian.

RSL NSW said he was "a treasure in our community" who would be dearly missed.

He was named Anzac of the Year in 2013.

Weekend Telegraph

The long-serving and much-loved keeper of Sydney's iconic Martin Place Cenotaph has died.

Walter Scott-Smith, also known as Wally, voluntarily served as chief attendant of the CBD memorial for 78 years before retiring on Anzac Day 2018 aged 96.

He spent decades cleaning it and guiding those who lay wreaths during commemorative services - rain, hail or shine.

"Wally Scott-Smith helped keep the Martin Place Cenotaph spotlessly clean, arranged the floral tributes, stood guard and always provided a friendly face for those who came to pay their respects to the fallen," NSW Veterans Minister John Sidoti said in a statement on Saturday.

"The passion and dedication he showed to his job made him such a treasure in our community and he will be dearly missed."

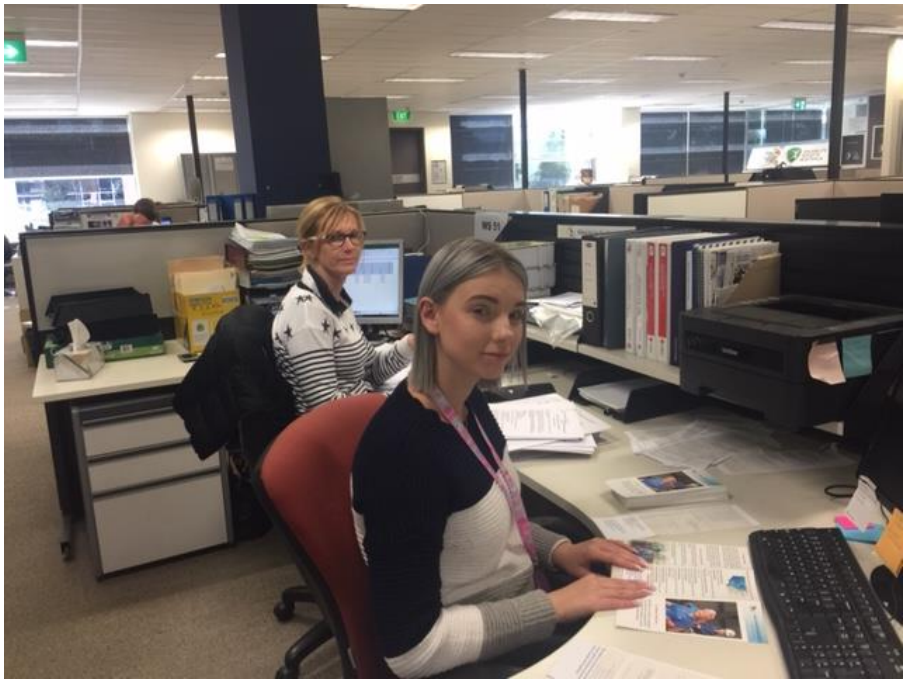
The Bellingen Shire Courier-Sun


TO OUR GLORIOUS DEAD
NEW ZEALAND


NEW SOUTH WALES
GREAT WAR

AON Charitable Foundation

This foundation has volunteered to send to State Office volunteers to help out with data entry and other duties at the office They volunteer a day occasionally at the office as required. We have had five volunteers so far helping out. Far left is the photo of Fiona Norris who is the Manager of Aon Charitable Foundation. On the right is Susan Barnby. Another volunteer helped out a couple of days in 2019 was Rebecca Pressick (no photo of Rebecca).



Fiona Norris, manager of Aon Charitable Foundation (L) and Susan Barnby

Rebecca Pressick also assisted – no photo of Rebecca

RDA State Office Manager, Lucy, and Shanan Nath

Lucy and Amisha Valghela

Newspaper News

Colt's big idea born out of horror accident

JACK MORPHET

INVENTORS are inspired for many reasons but Colt Croser came up with a design for safety horse reins after losing his fingertips in a freak riding accident.

The Cobargo boy lost his fingertips back to the first knuckle, despite a marathon six-hour surgery to try to save them — and decided to use his recovery to find a way to ensure nobody else went through that horror. So when he competes for the first time in the nine months since his horrific mishap, at the Shoalhaven All Breeds show on the South Coast today, he will use Rein Angel.

"I decided I was going to ride again because you can't hide from being scared," the 11-year-old said.

"With my invention, if the horse pulls away and you have your fingers caught, the reins snap apart and release your hand."

Colt is one of the three brightest young inventors in NSW, picked from 1000 hopefuls who entered a competition run by Origin Energy.

Another finalist is Zari Boyd, 10, from Coogee, who dreamt up "whiteboard glasses" that allow the wearer to decorate plain frames with Textas.

Inventor Colt Croser.

LTV2 - TELE01Z01MA

FUNSPOT

A MULE left with a long face after being banned from dressage competitions will now be allowed to trot, canter and leap daintily with the best equestrians after a stubborn fight from rider Christie Mclean. Wallace was initially refused entry into competition on the grounds that he is not a horse. After Christie publicised Wallace's plight, governing body British Dressage amended its rules to define a horse as "born of a mare" — which covers mules, as offspring of a male donkey and a female horse.

Booties to arrest falls

City too slippery for police horses

JACK MORPHET

SYDNEY'S changing streetscapes have forced the fitting of special booties to the city's police horses.

An increase in slippery surfaces — pavers lining the light rail track in the CBD being the latest example — has been stopping police horses turning or starting a pursuit quickly.

Sergeant James Fox from the NSW Police Mounted Unit said promenades outside shopping centres in Sydney's west and tiled footpaths through inner-city green-spaces, such as Hyde Park, also pose a challenge to horses with metal horseshoes.

"With the recent changes to the Sydney CBD infrastructure there has been an increase in areas that can be slippery to police horses wearing steel shoes especially in the wet weather," Sergeant Fox said.

"When the tiles are wet and the horse needs to react quickly or suddenly go fast, horses with shoes struggle."

The same rubber boots used to stop police horses losing their footing have historically been fitted to protect the animals from injuring their hoofs from broken glass and discarded bottles, especially on New Year's Eve.

Building sites with their stray nails are also environments which warranted safety footwear for the steeds.

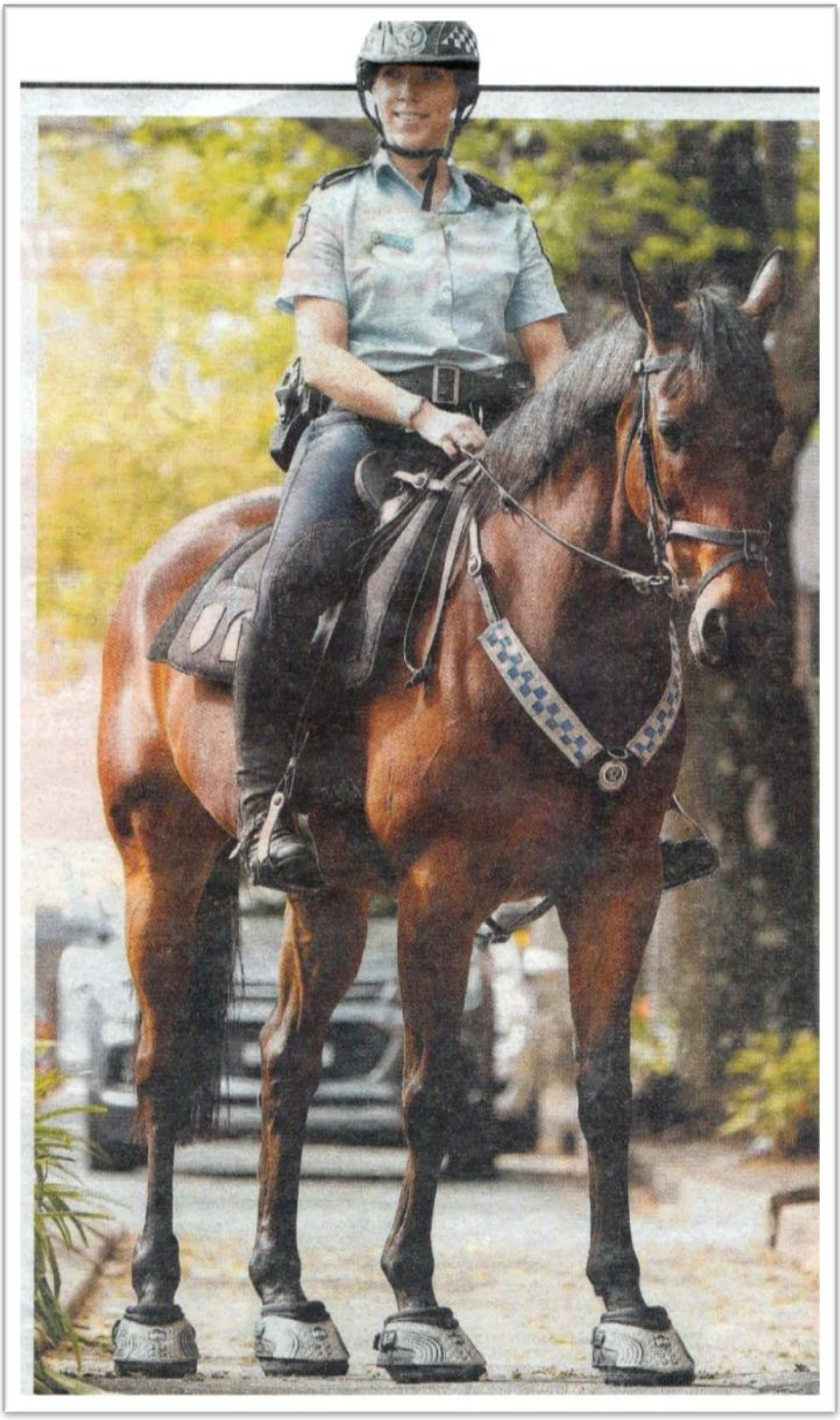
The mounted unit, which was once consigned to ceremonial duties, is being trotted out more often as local area commands realise the effectiveness of managing crowds from horseback.

"There's been an increase in protests and demonstrations," Sergeant Fox said.

"We're up higher which makes it easier to talk to a crowd and we're more identifiable if people want to report something."

Half of all police horses are unshod, based on advice from farriers that the need depends on the breed and how strong the individual horse's hoofs are.

Just like the Youtube videos with millions of views where dogs walk awkwardly the first time they are fitted with shoes, the police horses exaggerate their first few strides as they come to terms with their new footwear.



Caroline Humphries and her "bootie" wearing mount: picture Sam Ruttyn

"we love our mane attraction" . .

They might look out of place but Clydesdales "Wellington" and "Claudia" are right at home visiting the elderly...

JOE ATTANASIO

THEY'VE enjoyed visits from dogs and other small animals but on this occasion, the residents of Evergreen Life Care in West Gosford were in for a big treat.

A very, very big treat.

When Wellington and Claudia — two 'therapy' Clydesdale horses — clopped by their retirement centre, the sheer size of their guests left a huge and lasting impression.

"This is actually the first time we've had horses, it was really clear it bought a lot of joy to all the residents," Evergreen chief executive Helen Wilson said.

"I think our staff were actually just as surprised."

It's not hard to see why. The average Clydesdale stands at about 16 to 18 hands high (163cm to 183cm) and weigh an astounding 820kg to 910kg. Some grow even larger, although it's hard to imagine how.

But while their sheer scale may have surprised, and their appearance inside the rooms and hallways of the centre may have shocked, it eventually led to an amazing experience for most of the 98 residents who got to stroke a mane, enjoy a nuzzle or even get a hug.

"There's something about horses, there seems to be a level to which they can intuit and connect emotionally with people, they can sense what somebody needs and they have a very gentle, docile and calm nature," Ms Wilson said.

It was certainly not a random decision to have the horses visit.

Research suggests using therapy animals, like dogs or horses, can help reduce symptoms of depression, PTSD and anxiety and can also have a soothing and calming effect on people.

In fact, the simple act of petting animals releases an automatic relaxation response, especially in children and the elderly.

Ms Wilson said for a lot of the residents, the horses also sparked memories of their younger years.

"Some of our residents used to own horses and others used to ride them, so the experience brought back a lot of fond memories," she said. "Reminiscing is actually really powerful for mental health and wellbeing and the animals can really stimulate that.

"Some patients came in their wheelchairs to see them and we even took the horses into bedrooms and the special care unit as well."

The two Clydesdales are from W&C Events, which was started to allow Wellington and Claudia to visit and educate the community, particularly pre-schools, nursing homes, hospitals and "just about anywhere a Clydesdale bottom will fit".

Resident Victor with "Wellington"

Evergreen resident, Betty, enjoys a stroke of "Claudia's" nose during the visit

Joan gives "Wellington" a nice smooch

"Wellington" makes an imposing sight but is actually extremely calm

Reprinted from Hills & Hawkesbury Equestrian News December 2018

Freezing ticks off!

Everyone visiting or living around Australia's coastline and nearby should be aware of the dangers of ticks to people and animals.

Ticks are dangerous. They carry neurotoxins and their bites can cause allergic responses including allergy to red meat. They spread diseases like scrub typhus.

The worst outcome of a tick bite is anaphylaxis, a severe allergic reaction which in susceptible people is potentially fatal. Horses too, can be very badly affected by ticks, including allergic responses.

Specialists who deal with tick bites recommend that embedded ticks should be killed in place and then allowed to fall off. And the most effective way is to snap freeze them. Ticks should never be squeezed with fingers or blunt tweezers, alive or dead - they are like a syringe full of toxins. When squeezed, they inject.

But how should you freeze a tick?

Until recently there was no product especially designed to snap freeze ticks.

Peggy Douglass is the inventor and owner of Tick Tox®. Peggy said, "I lived on the south coast NSW where paralysis ticks are rife. I also cared for an aunt who lived on the Northern Beaches of Sydney and I usually came home from there with tick bites – the record was 43 nymph ticks. No wonder I hate them!"

There was clearly a need for a convenient and highly effective product that could snap freeze ticks. So Peggy set to and made one.

All proto types needed to be tested on real ticks to find out which design and formulation worked best. The laboratory was a peaceful farm near Murwillumbah. 'Runty', a very big and tame Hereford steer, had plenty of ticks to share. His owner, Helen Douglass, a former vet and GP, was willing to lend him and his ticks to the cause.

"We tried out several prototypes on Runty's ticks" said Helen, "and were astonished at how well the chosen combination worked. Obviously we couldn't infest people with ticks and Runty was a great substitute."

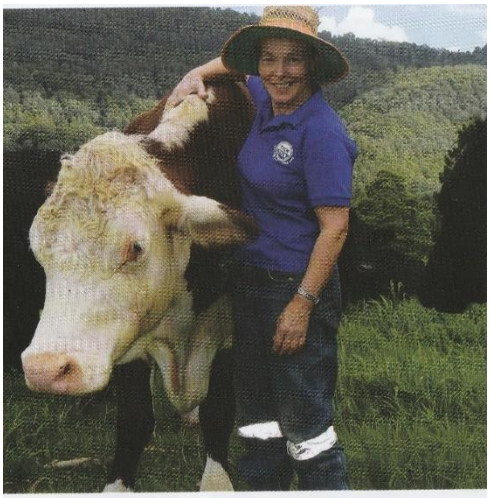
The success in snap freezing Runty's ticks was the initial stage in developing Tick Tox®. Then it was several years of working through regulatory requirements and commercialisation strategies before getting to market.

The research is never over. Peggy said "we're always learning and adjusting advice accordingly". Advice that is constant is to minimise exposure. For horses this means recommended prophylactic treatment, keep grass short, check daily. If you do see a tick on your horse, FREEZE IT with Tick Tox®!

Tick Tox® is a small canister, easily carried for use as soon as a tick is discovered. It kills ticks in place effectively and accurately. And a tiny amount (less than a second of spray) is enough to kill a big tick.

It works on ticks – no matter whether lodged in human, Hereford or horse. And it works on leeches too.

Freezing a tick



Successfully treating Runty's ticks

Toxins in Ticks

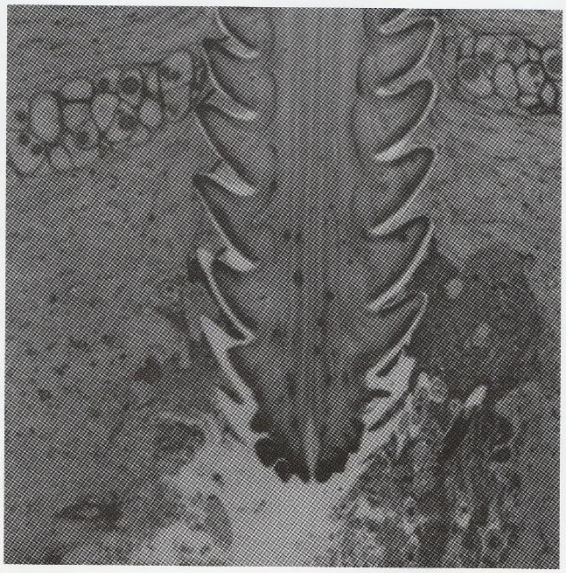
Dr Jennifer Stewart BVSc BSc PhD MRCVS Dip BEP AAIM
Equine Veterinarian and Consultant Nutritionist
www.jenquine.com

The word 'host' is generally used to denote someone who provides hospitality. For over 225 million years, ticks have used animals as hosts. Feeding only on blood, ticks have two major host-seeking strategies — the ambush strategy where they climb up vegetation and, with their front legs held out, wait for passing animals; and the hunter strategy, where they emerge from their habitat and run towards and chase animals. Many ticks lack eyes and instead have a variety of sensory organs, including hair-like structures on the body, leg, and mouthparts that can smell and feel – enabling them to locate their hosts and also to communicate with other ticks.

Tick in ambush mode

Highly responsive to signs that indicate a warm-blooded animal is close-by, ticks can sense body temperatures associated with warm-blooded animals and chemicals such as ammonia, humidity, various aromas and vibrations. Carbon dioxide emitted by animals is an important stimulus that guides ticks to their hosts. They are attracted by feet hitting the ground and, extraordinarily, by the carbon monoxide emitted by a car stopped in the bush!

There are over 869 species of ticks (the largest subclass in the class Arachnida, to which spiders also belong) feeding on the blood of every class of vertebrates (except fish) in almost every region of the world – except New Zealand which has only cattle ticks). Grouped into 2 families, Ixodidae or 'hard ticks' represent over 80% of ticks. They feed on multiple species of animals and are the most important in terms of diseases. They have a life span from several months to 3 years, increase their weight by over 100 times while feeding and are susceptible to starvation and desiccation. The bite of hard ticks is usually painless, allowing them to go unnoticed as they penetrate the skin, anchor themselves with cement-containing saliva and secrete anaesthetic and chemicals to dilate blood vessels, prevent blood clotting and suppress the hosts immune system. Females need to feed for 2–15 days for a complete blood meal – during which they alternate between blood sucking, regurgitation and defaecation.



Mouth part burrowed into skinn. (Provided by Pr. A. Aeschlimann, Institut de Zoologie, Neucha^tel, France).

Argasidae, or 'soft ticks', so-called because of their flexible soft body, live in dry, sheltered areas, feeding briefly and often on their favourite host species. They live up to 10 years, are more resistant to starvation and increase their body weight by up to 12 times while feeding. Soft ticks do not produce cement and their saliva contains anticoagulant substances. They feed frequently in short bouts - up to 10 times within a few hours. The spend just a brief time on their host and after

each meal return to cracks and crevices and just below the soil surface in their habitat.

Ticks rapidly concentrate the blood meal by secreting water and electrolytes in the faeces and saliva. Generally, adult males feed only briefly. Mating occurs on the host, after which females detach and drop off to digest their blood meal — and to lay between 400 and 120,000 eggs. Each tick species has preferred environmental conditions that determine its geographic distribution - and hence the risk areas for tickborne diseases. However climate changes, urbanization and deforestation can increase their distribution and geographical location.

(Provided by www.kmf.org.au Karl McManus Foundation)

Ticks are second only to mosquitoes as vectors of infectious diseases in the world, but the first in importance in North America. The role of the brown dog tick in the transmission of the disease was established in the 1930s and, in the aftermath of World War II, a number of tickborne diseases (TBD) were described in animals and humans. Ticks are the carriers and reservoirs of many pathogens and since the beginning of the 1980s, more than 15 new tickborne bacterial diseases have been described in the world. In the 1980s, Lyme borreliosis due to Borrelia burgdorferi was identified and Lyme disease is now considered the most important vector-borne disease in Europe and the United States. Ticks also carry the micro-organisms that cause such diseases as African tick bite fever, anaplasmosis, babesiosis, cowdriosis, encephalitis, human granulocytic ehrlichiosis, Lyme disease, Q fever, relapsing fever, spotted fever rickettsioses (Mediterranean and Rocky Mountain spotted fever), Thai tick typhus, theileriosis, trypanosomiasis, tularemia and tick-borne lymphadenopathy. Fortunately few of these diseases occur in Australia. The distribution of TBD is identical to that of the ticks that host them. The distribution of ticks is determined by biosecurity, animals movements, migratory birds and climate changes.

Ticks have 3 basic life stages: the larva, nymph and adult. Adults and nymphs have 4 pairs of walking legs, and larvae have 3. Although each stage of hard tick feeds only once, this can be done on a range of animal species, including man — making them good carriers of diseases, spreading them from one animal (or person) to the next. And once bacteria infect a tick, they not only stay in the tick as it grows from larva to nymph to adult, but they can also multiply in all organs and fluids, including the female ticks ovaries, ensuring that they pass from one generation to the next! Some bacteria are transmitted sexually (passing from tick-to-tick during mating) and others during cofeeding (when several ticks feed close togther on a host). And, that's not all……..ticks can carry

Dr Jennifer Stewart is an equine veterinarian with over thirty five years' experience. She is also a consultant nutritionist and has formulated feeds, custom mixes and supplements for leading international horse feed manufacturers in Australia, India, Ireland, Japan, New Zealand, Philippines, South Africa, Thailand, Turkey and the UAE. Dr Stewart is passionate about equine nutrition and its role in the management, treatment and prevention of many equine disease and she is committed to bringing 'science to the feed bin'.

more than one type of disease-causing micro-organism at the same time, delivering a 'cocktail' of infections when they feed on you or your animals!

In some species of tick, toxins in the saliva may cause paralysis of the host. Tick paralysis is caused by nerve toxins produced in the salivary glands of hard ticks. In Australia, tick paralysis affects humans, cats, cattle, dogs, horses, llamas, penguins, pigs, poultry and sheep. As well as an ascending paralysis, the nerve toxins can also cause heart and respiratory system compromise, lung distension and enlargement and paralysis of the oesophagus (the tube that carries food from the mouth to the stomach). Diagnosis and treatment require finding ticks or evidence of tick attachment; treatment with an acaricide (tick-killing chemical); administration of tick antiserum and ongoing monitoring and supportive care (frequent re-positioning, turning, assistance to stand, assistance to nurse, bottle feeding and treatment of pressure sores).

A survey by the University of Sydney recorded the numbers of horses affected by tick paralysis in NSW and Queensland from 2005 to 2009. Over 100 horses were diagnosed and they ranged in weight from 95 to 450kg. Although there may have been more cases that were undiagnosed or unreported, this valuable compliation of data provides us with a much greater understanding of the best way to look after and care for affected horses. The survey revealed that clinical signs are more common in in horses weighing <100 kg and in horses <12 months of age. However, small-breed horses were not

A tick in in a horse's mane

found to be at greater risk of death than large-breed horses. Horses weighing >100 kg had greater risk of death – primarily due to more complications associated with recumbency. Most ticks were found on the head, neck, axilla (shoulder and armpit area), inguinal region (around the groin and lower belly) and chest. The survey highlighted the difficulty in locating ticks and the need to thoroughly treat affected horses with a suitable acaricide (tick-killer!). The study also showed that delayed diagnosis and treatment reduced, and high doses of anti-tick serum increased the chances of recovery.

Ticks may travel to new areas by walking, but rarely cover more than 50 metres. Most often, they are dispersed by attaching to hosts that travel long distances, including migratory birds and mammals, agricultural equipment, humans, shipped cattle and travelling horses. The introduction of ticks to new areas by horses has occurred several times: in 1914 cavalry horses from Queensland bound for Egypt were diverted via Melbourne - bringing cattle ticks with them; in 2000, live cattle ticks were discovered on horses that returned to Tasmania via Victoria after competing in an endurance ride in Queensland. These examples highlight the importance of inspections and spray treatments for ticks – with particular attention to ears, mane and tail — and not forgetting rugs, tack, trailers and trucks. If an embedded tick is discovered, a thorough search should be undertaken for further ticks.

Ticks release more saliva if disturbed — so removing ticks must be done carefully. Traditional methods, none are consistently effective, include kerosene, nail varnish or a hot match to promote detachment of the tick. Similarly, removing or attempting to kill ticks with the fingers (instead of forceps) or using lighted cigarettes, petroleum jelly or suntan oil can increase the risk of regurgitation and transmission of infectious agents. Traumatizing the ticks body increases the risk of release of toxins — and every effort must be made to prevent this happening. Avoid applying methylated spirits, touching or disturbing the tick as it will inject saliva into the skin, which could make the situation worse. The Australian Society of Clinical Immunology and Allergy have suggested a novel approach and that is to use a freezing spray - such as Aerostart: apparently used for cleaning Carburetors - which instantly freeze dries and kills the tick. They caution however that the product is not registered for such use and is highly flammable.

The current recommended approaches are to spray with an aerosol insect repellent preferably containing pyrethrin, permethrin or a pyrethroid - the combination of hydrocarbons and pyrethrin prevents the tick from injecting its saliva. The tick should be sprayed again one minute later and, after 24 hours it should drop off naturally or be gently removed with blunt, rounded, fine-tipped forceps pulling upwards at right angles to the skin with a continuous and steady action. A magnifying glass may be helpful. Salvaging the mouthparts helps with identification of the species. Ticks can also be collected by flagging or dragging, where a cloth or blanket is drawn over the vegetation. Dry ice, in a perforated container in the middle of a blanket can also be used as a source of CO_2 to attract and capture ticks. Ticks are attracted to the CO_2 and become trapped in the cloth as they approach. They can be identified using charts, but immature stages are often difficult to distinguish.

But because many ticks require 3 hosts (often including wildlife) complete tick control is rarely possible. Veterinary acaracides are available (e.g. imidocloprid-permethrin, fipronil), and some human products like DEET (N,N-Diethyl-meta-toluamide) are highly repellent but require frequent application. Others, such as fipronil have no repellent but good killing effect. Permethrin kills fast, but has little repellent activity. The most effective products have a persistent effect. Most ticks attach for a few days and protection against continual infestation is needed. Treatment may be needed every few weeks during summer, when the adult ticks are present in situations especially favourable to the ticks. DEET or picaridin can be applied to tack, bandages, boots and skin before going into tick infested areas. Permethrin (a pyrethroid that kills ticks on contact) can be applied to tack in a pressurized

spray formulation - it remains effective for several weeks. Repellants should be applied and re-applied according to the manufacturer's instructions. Never use chemicals after their use-by date or against the manufacturers instructions. Many chemicals break down to highly toxic intermediates. Recently, poisoning of 3 horses with a commercial product that had not been prepared in accordance with the manufacturers instructions, was reported in the Australian Veterinary Journal.

Also, a large number of plants have pesticidal and repellent action and recent reviews provide excellent and up-to-date information on botanical extracts with insecticidal activity (http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0304401712000829).

Feeling your horse and using your hands is often the best way to find ticks. They have a preference for dark areas and thinner skin – the very areas where it is hard for horses to groom themselves or rub/scratch to remove the ticks! So when checking horses pay special attention to the ears, head, under the jaw, neck, axilla (armpit), inguinal (groin), perineal (anus), tail, areas and chest. These areas should be targeted when applying repellents and acaricides – and because its not always easy to find ticks on horses, especially the tiny larval stages, regular application of a suitable acaricide is important. Repellants containing diethyltoluamide (DEET) or picaridin are widely recommended - check the label and follow the manufacturers' instructions regarding how and when to apply. And remember to check saddle cloths, leg bandages, boots etc.

Tick control options are currently limited and reducing and controlling tick populations is difficult . Keeping arenas and pony club grass mown,leaf litter levels low and trimming shrubs and bushes help reduce exposure. Scientists continue to pursue biological control methods – including promotion of natural predators (including beetles, spiders, and ants), pathogens and parasites (bacteria, insects, mites and worms that kill ticks); the mass release of sterilised male ticks to prevent breeding, and vaccines to boost immunity to ticks. Emerging TBDs are expected to increase so vigilance, prevention and early intervention are important for horse owners and riders – not just for ourselves, but for our horses, cats and dogs too.

Some resources can be find at the following sites:

http://www.arc.gov.au/media/LP13/WA_summary_final.pdf
http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/3665389
http://researchrepository.murdoch.edu.au/240/
http://www.agric.wa.gov.au/PC_92915.html?s=0
http://www.nt.gov.au/d/Content/File/p/Anim_Dis/845.pdf
http://www.publish.csiro.au/?paper=ZO9600392
http://dermatology.anzcvs.org.au/dermatology_assets/documents/Proc2013/ANZCVS%20Dermatology%20Chapter%20Proceedings%202013.pdf#page=35
http://researchrepository.murdoch.edu.au/3350/1/Rickettsia_gravesii.doc.pdf
http://researchrepository.murdoch.edu.au/3186/1/Trypanosoma_copemani.pdf
http://nzetc.victoria.ac.nz/tm/scholarly/tei-Bio23Tuat01-t1-body-d4.html
http://journal.nzma.org.nz/journal/124-1339/4785/content.pdf
http://www.daff.qld.gov.au/animal-industries/animal-health-and-diseases/animal-disease-control/cattle-tick/overview/tick-identification-table
http://researchrepository.murdoch.edu.au/3350/1/Rickettsia_gravesii.doc.pdf
http://digital.library.adelaide.edu.au/dspace/handle/2440/12170?mode=full&submit_simple=Show+full+item+record
http://www.agric.wa.gov.au/PC_92915.html?s=0
http://www.tickvectors.com/tick-diseases.html
http://bie.ala.org.au/species/urn:lsid:biodiversity.org.au:afd.taxon:243f1a16-26ff-4539-aac0-eec7928767e9
http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/environment/Publications/tick_alert_brochure.pdf
http://medent.usyd.edu.au/fact/ticks.htm
http://www.karlmcmanusfoundation.org.au/lyme-information/ticks-in-australia
http://www.ajol.info/index.php/sajas/article/viewFile/3784/11788
http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0304401712000829
http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/1742-6723.12093
http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/22305296

Wave goodbye to the old
& embrace the new,
full of hopes,
dreams and ambitions...

Wishing you all a

Happy
New
Year
full of happiness!

Lyn Lazarus
Editor, Bits 'n' Pieces