



AHRC (WA BRANCH) NEWSLETTER

A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

It is with great pleasure that I present the inaugural newsletter of the Australian Horse Riding Centres Association (WA Branch) which will serve to ensure that all members are kept up to date with developments in our industry and assist you to better understand industry issues.

The year 2006 has been another successful one for the AHRC and although our industry has gone through rationalisation resulting in several riding centres closing their doors recently, an encouraging increase in those taking up equestrian activities has ensured our association's continued growth - despite the limited resources available in WA.

The AHRC provides a vital forum for the collection and exchange of information amongst members and represents and advances the interests of our industry before government and its relevant departments. But most importantly perhaps, our members foster the highest levels of services and experience which will ensure that the riding public will continue to enjoy their equestrian pursuits safely and pleasurably.

The Association continues to build a strong relationship between its members and we are here to assist you in identifying a clear path forward for your business.

Happy Teaching.
Roz Tippett

BACKGROUND OF THE AHRC

In 1971 a public advertisement was placed in the West Australian asking all interested parties to attend a meeting at Springfield Riding School to discuss the forming of a Riding School Association. Seven schools were represented, guidelines and standards were set and the W.A. Riding School Association was established. In 1986 Sir Ernest Lee-Steere K.B.E. became Patron and has remained in that position.

Victoria formed a similar NSW in 1992. In 1993 John and Angela Anka from National Body and in 1994 with representation from Queensland, and the AHRC a member in 1999, though after a few years. The members, and is continuing

"If you go to a dentist or an accountant, you expect them to be qualified. It should be the same with riding instructors"

Association in 1982, and W.A. was contacted by Victoria regarding a meeting was held in NSW W.A, N.S.W, Victoria and was formed. S.A. became their participation lapsed AHRC now has over 100 to expand.

The majority of the founder members were either very experienced riding school proprietors, BHS or EFA qualified instructors with substantial investments in land, facilities and horses who aimed to improve professionalism and felt the need for networking and cooperation. There was combined advertising and a group insurance scheme was formed.

One of the problems encountered was staffing. Generally, the EFA instructors were not trained in teaching beginners in a riding school situation and on weekends were usually involved in competition. As a result the AHRC wrote up their own syllabus, similar to the EFA Level 1 but including a number of teaching hours, selection of horses, teaching beginners, lunge lessons, trail riding and business principles.

The course was put through the Australian Sports Commission and NCAS, under the banner of the EFA and named the Level 1 in Equestrian Coaching (Recreational). In 2003 the trail ride section was taken out and developed as a separate Level 1 course.



For any enquiries contact Diane Bennit – AHRC National Coaching Co-ordinator on 9291 0202

Update

from our National Coaching Co-Ordinator, Diane Bennit



AHRC Updating Seminar

The mandatory 2 yearly updating AHRC Seminar was held in 2006 at Brookleigh and was attended by close to 40 people, made up of riding school members, instructors, trainees, personal members and interested persons. Chairperson Roz Tippet gave well researched lectures on risk management practices covering lesson plans, coaches' responsibilities, occupational health and safety regulations, suitability of horses to riders and incident/accident reports.

Nadine Merewether did her famous Arena Commands lecture and practical demonstration, which is so popular and amusing and really makes it easy for people to understand and learn how to communicate in their lessons and incorporate safety guidelines and group control.



Alison Logan gave a very comprehensive update on the changes to the "Working with Children Act" and Public Liability. Diane Bennit discussed prevention and safety precautions for bushfires and brought people up to date with the latest information on the N.C.A.S. Instructors Courses.



Cross Country Training & Assessing Workshop

Trainees and Level 1 coaches who wished to update their skills, attended the very successful Cross Country Training & Assessing Workshop, which was held at Brookleigh on Monday 4th December. The coach was EFA Level 2 Coach Educator Philippa Collier, a very successful event rider who is also conversant with AHRC methods and standards.



The morning session consisted of training and assessing Personal Riding Skills, and the trainees who had brought their Lessons Plans were able to have a practice for some of their Coaching Topics in the afternoon. The trainees who had asked to be assessed, were all able to be marked off for some of their Coaching and Personal Riding Learning Outcomes. Kerry Upton has nearly completed her Study Guide, and had applied for a final assessment for her Coaching Topics. A Final Assessment requires two assessors, so Diane Bennit, the AHRC National Coaching Co-ordinator and convener of the Workshop assessed with Philippa. Kerry gave an excellent, thorough and safe demonstration and passed with flying colours.

Many thanks to Brookleigh for providing their fabulous facilities and for the horses who were so well educated and had such good attitudes. This made it so much easier for the riders and coaches.

AHRC (WA Branch) OFFICE BEARERS

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- President:* Roz Tippet
- Vice-President:* Nikki Brooks
- Secretary:* Diane Bennit
- Treasurer:* Alison Logan
- Committee:* Roxanne Balchin
Alisa Dodds
Jennifer Brockman
M'liss Henry
Julia Rumsey
Dee Rawlinson Shelton



Cross Country topics are the most difficult to gain experience in, as the majority of Schools do not have the facilities or include jumping lessons in their lessons. It is planned to hold another of these Workshops in March. All trainees will be notified and as numbers for training and assessment are limited, it is essential that you reply ASAP.

There will be another AHRC Trainee Level 1 evening course that covers 16 Topics. The course will be early in 2007 and is one night a week for 5 weeks. Topics to be covered are 1, 2.4, 3, 11.1, and 13 to 13.12. Any trainees who have previously missed doing any of these topics are able to come in and be assessed for that particular evening. Please let Diane Bennit know if you are interested on 9291 0202.

2006 AHRC LEVEL 1 SCHOLARSHIP

The standard of applicants for the 2006 AHRC Level 1 Scholarship, was the highest we have received so far. The applications are received by the AHRC Committee who make the final decision. This is a very worthwhile Award, the winner receiving registration, all the manuals and associated training and assessments totally free of charge. The Scholarship is offered annually and is advertised in the Equestrian Page of the West and all Trainees are notified.

Congratulations to Theresa Belchin who was awarded the Scholarship for 2006. Theresa is from Baldivis and has formed a trainee group who have nearly completed the Horsemastership section. The group meet weekly to discuss the Topics in the Study Guide, they all have families and also work, and are to be congratulated on their determination to make the time to study for this qualification.



Theresa Belchin
Winner
AHRC Level 1 Scholarship 2006



Note from your Editor, Viv Burrows (Instructor at Brookleigh) -

I'd like to use this part of the Newsletter as an ideas exchange. We all come up against brick walls sometimes in our teaching and equally we sometimes(though rarely) have one of those inspired moments when we find a new way of saying something we thought we had been saying for years, only this time it works! If you would like to share any thoughts or queries with other AHRC members please email me at viv.b@bigpond.net.au It doesn't have to be teaching ideas. It could be a quick method to get that tack cleaning done, an interesting book or article you've read, funny or enlightening comments from students etc.

Just to start the ball rolling.....

Q. Does anyone out there have a method of helping riders find how to get a good relaxed lower leg position without endlessly repeating "Heels Down"?





Seen anything unusual?

LOOK.

CHECK.

ASK A VET.

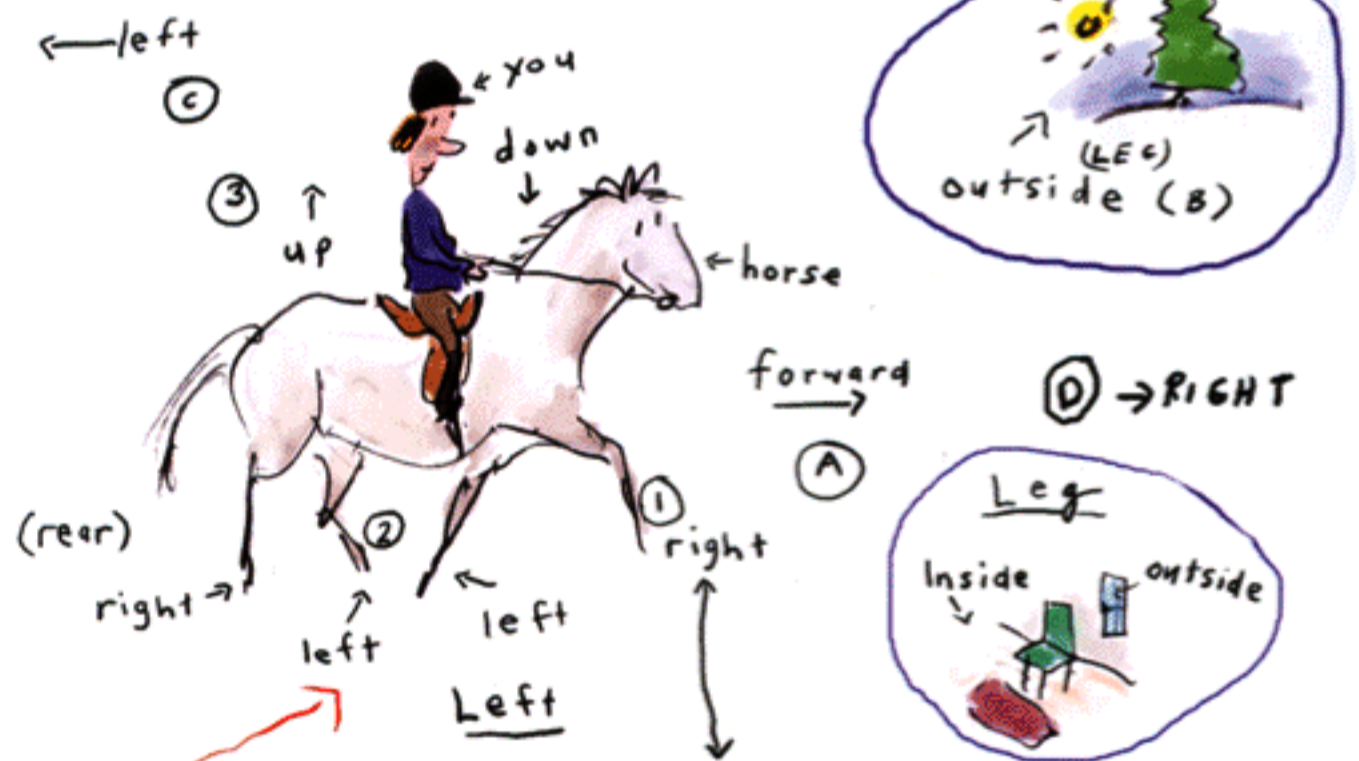


CONTACTS

Secretary: Diane Bennit
9291 0202
bennit@optusnet.com.au

Editor: Viv Burrows
9296 0416
viv.b@bigpond.com.au

Diagonals*



When the horse's left front ① and right hind legs go forward ④, you rise ③ and are on the left ② or outside ⑤ diagonal, tracking right. ⑥ Got it?

* Always used with the word "WRONG!"

Thanks to Bonnie Timmons in her book 'Hold Your Horses' for this gem.