



Drought is still about.

Drought Update

Rural Lands Protection Boards drought figures released at the beginning of July state that 87.3% of NSW is currently in drought, 6% is classified marginal, and only 6.7% is satisfactory.

It is not looking good for NSW farmers at the moment, now in the middle of winter, and anticipating a scorching summer.

Southern Tablelands, South Coast & Illawarra and Sydney Metropolitan districts are being quite hard hit also. Dams are at an alarmingly low capacity in the Sydney Metropolitan region and water restrictions are now permanent. Sydney's rainfall total for the year-to-date is nearly 400 mm below average.

With a cold snap and the onset of snow in some regions, horses are once again dropping weight as they battle cold winter days and nights.

East Gippsland and Lakes Entrance recorded the lowest rainfall across Victoria throughout June, and are still experiencing considerable drought conditions.

Drought figures according from the beginning of July 2004 according to the QLD Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries state that 54.7% of QLD is currently drought declared. This figure is set to decrease with good rain forecasted for August. Livestock are in generally good condition and feed is currently available at reasonable prices.

On a wider note on 12 July the Federal Government announced \$100 million in extra aid would be made available to farmers in Australia's worst-hit drought areas.

This is good news for some farmers, and we hope that the Federal Government will continue to make further considerations like this in the future.

Volunteers / Members needed

Australia's history is filled with many stories and years of struggle through drought. As one of the driest continents on this earth, drought touches all of our lives in some way.

Horses in Drought Incorporated volunteers and resources are considerably stretched at present. If you would like to lend a hand to help provide assistance to horses suffering in drought effected areas then we would love to hear from you. Our membership drive for 2004/2005 has commenced, and we welcome anyone that would like to become a member, or who would consider being nominated to be on our committee and be an integral part of a very rewarding organisation.

Annual General Meeting

Horses in Drought Incorporated will be holding our Annual General Meeting for 2003/2004 on Saturday 21st August 2004, at 8:00pm (EST). To be held at Kurrajong, NSW & via teleconference to VIC. For enquiries, please contact Nicole Pearce, President, on telephone 0410 573 124. We are looking to fill the positions of Secretary and Fundraising Coordinator. All members welcome.

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Special points of interest:

- Horses in Drought has now opened its Membership register for 2004. Contact us to find out how to become a member!! ...p2
- Spring/Summer cleaning?? Why not donate those old winter rugs that are taking up too much space in the corner of the tack room!! ...p4

What's been happening!!!

Web site Launch

Horses in Drought are proud to launch our new Website. Check it out at <http://www.horsesindrought.org.au>. We value your comments, and would love to hear your ideas on any improvements we could make, or information, stories, or articles you would like to see. If you have an interesting story that you would like to submit to be included on our site, please let us know.

We still have a long way to go, and a lot of information to be included on our site, so be sure to check back regularly for update stories, successes and information.

To celebrate the release of our site, we are running a fundraiser raffle. To find out how to receive your free tickets in our raffle, check out our Fundraising Calendar on our site.

VIC Team Report

Busy, busy, busy. Over the past couple of months, more hay and feed has been delivered throughout VIC. Sam and Mark enjoyed a trip to Sydney to be present at the Great Hawkesbury Duckrace, and try out some Krispy Kreme Doughnuts.

Our Mascot, Spirit, has just been broken to harness, and is currently trialing a miniature pony No Bit Bridle. He is doing really well, and we hope to have him out at shows in harness later in the year.

Check out our Website at
<http://www.horsesindrought.org.au>

Fundraising/Calendar July 2004—August 2004

- MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION FOR 2004/2005—contact us now for a nomination form and further information. Or you can download the forms from our Notices Page on our Website.

Membership Fees for 2004/2005:

Single Members—\$15.00

Family Membership—\$25.00

Business Membership—\$200.00

Horses in Drought Incorporated rely solely on fundraising and memberships for continuation of our existence. Without your help, we simply cannot help the horses that are suffering in drought effected areas. Please consider becoming a member, every little bit counts.

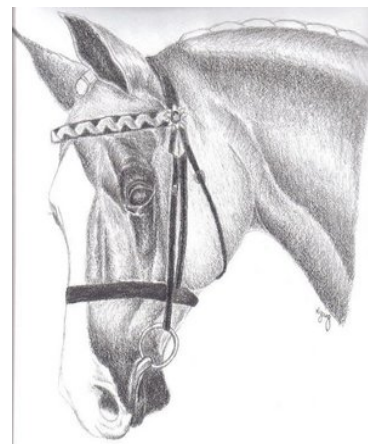
• HORSES IN DROUGHT DRAWING RAFFLE

To celebrate the launch of our Website we are running this special fundraising raffle. You could WIN a beautiful hand drawn picture of your pet, by this talented artist.

Tickets: \$0.50cents each, or 3 for \$1.00

As a bonus, if you visit our Web site at <http://www.horsesindrought.org.au> before 1 August, 2004 and purchase your tickets through our Website you will receive one free ticket for every ticket you purchase. Become a member and you will receive three free tickets in this great raffle.

Contact us now to purchase your tickets. Raffle will be drawn 1 August, 2004.



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The Great Hawkesbury Duckrace



On Saturday 27 March, 2004 approximately 4500 plastic ducks were set loose on the Hawkesbury River at Macquarie Park, Windsor.

The Great Hawkesbury Duck Race was organised by the Rotary Club of Kurrajong North Richmond Inc.

Local community organisations (including Horses in Drought Inc.) were invited to participate by selling certificates of ownership for the event, each ticket generating \$2.50 to the selling organisation and an additional 25% being passed on to the selling organisations nominated RFS or SES group in the area. Horses in Drought were pleased to nominate Tennyson RFS as our recipient.

Hawkesbury community organisations that participated, received a total injection of just over \$17,000 generated by the sale of tickets.

The race was officiated by TV personality, Diana “Bubbles” Fisher, who enthusiastically had the crowd quacking (yes quacking!!) to start the race.

The morning commenced with a corporate race, with Kathy McManus Real Estate North Richmond taking out line honours after an exhausting half hour race to the finish.

Then the big event we had all been waiting for, the ducks were all ready and lined up behind in the barriers. Unfortunately, the track was downgraded from fast to very slow on the day as there was a large accumulation of weed and algae that formed quickly behind the barriers.

Happily there were no reports of any drowning, however several entries decided that it would be better to sit on the bank and watch the proceedings than to get caught up in the excitement of it all.

The SES crew did a great job from their boats scooping up the stragglers, and directing all to the finish line.

Horses in Drought congratulate the organisers on such a successful event, and look forward to participating in an even bigger and better event, again next year.

NSW Team Report

We have been busy distributing more feed to drought areas in NSW. A huge thankyou to Rebecca from Hygain for her support in donating some much needed bags of mixed Hygain feeds.

We were able to source a large amount of lucerne chaff and wheaten chaff for a very reasonable price. This was all distributed along with some winter rugs, Equilibrium Vitamin & Mineral supplements (kindly donated by Equilibrium), and some Yeast (kindly donated by Alpha Animal Health) to

Dubbo and Dunedoo in NSW. Thank you to David Schoer for delivering the feed for us.

We have another load of hay ready to go in the next two weeks.

Stay tuned for the launch of our Krispy Kreme doughnuts fundraiser in August. (NSW only!)



Contact HID

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ALL DONATIONS ARE GREATFULLY ACCEPTED

Horse Rug Appeal

Running out of room in the tack shed.....why not donate all those old winter rugs that are piled up, collecting moth balls.

Winter has begun, and we have a lot of horses that need some much needed help to keep them warm through these cold days and nights.

We are also on the look-out for any cotton lined sleeping bags (thank you Jeanie for inspiring us!!) So if you have any old ones lying around, or stumble across them in the op-shop, please consider donating them, they make fantastic horse rugs.

Sand Colic

We have had a number of reported cases of sand colic in the last few weeks, so thought some timely information may be of use to our readers.

Sand colic kills many horses in Australia every year. Sand accumulates in the horses hindgut, causing considerable pain and can lead to impaction colic causing twisted bowels, and in a lot of cases unless treated or emergency surgery is performed, death is a possible outcome.

Common signs of sand accumulation include dark scouring manure, weight loss or difficult to put weight on. A good way to test for sand accumulation is to collect a fresh specimen of manure (before it hits the ground) in a jar, add water and shake up the jar until it all separates. Sand will fall to the bottom, it is a good indication that they have sand in their gut if there is more than one teaspoon of sand present in the jar.

There are many theories on the best way to remove sand. The most common practise is drenching with paraffin oil to lubricate and remove sand, however this will only pick up the sand on the surface, and will not remove all. One good method is to feed your horse large quantities of hay, about 4 -6 biscuits per day, along with a combination of psyllium husks, at a rate of a quarter of a cup every second day for three weeks. Avoid feeding straight from the ground, instead, place hay in tyre feeders and feed in an area that is free from sand.

Should your horse present with signs of colic, you should stop him or her from rolling as this will cause twisted bowels. It is ok for them to lye down to rest as long as they do not roll. Call your vet immediately for assistance, as early treatment is essential.

Thank you

Horses in Drought would like to thank the following people and businesses for their support.

Donations

Hygain—horse feed

Equilibrium—Vitamin & Mineral supplements.

Alpha Animal Care—Yeast

Katey, QLD—Portrait (fundraiser raffle)

Supporters

Ms Catherine Bird, Author, A Healthy Horse the Natural Way. Thank you for including us in your February newsletter.

Mr David Schoer, St Marys NSW, thank you for delivering feed to Dubbo & Dunedoo.

Horses in Drought Incorporated's main aim is to provide farmers in drought effected areas with an alternative to euthanasing or selling on their beloved equines by giving them the opportunity to moves horses to homes with good pasture who have kindly agreed to offer temporary agistment in good faith. We have extended our aims to providing assistance with sourcing fodder. Horses in Drought would like all Australian horse owners to know that we can and will help if they are in genuine strife. Horses in Drought Incorporated promote responsible horse ownership and encourage owners to take action before it is too late.