

# Celebrating the Horses' Birthday with HORSIN' AROUND

BEGA DISTRICT NEWS ADVERTISING FEATURE

## Bega on the trot

Brooke Ormes

**T**HE Far South Coast National Show is set to become one of the first shows in the state to welcome back the trots.

The trots, or harness racing, were banned from agricultural shows almost 15 years ago.

However, recently Harness Racing New South Wales (HRNSW) decided to revive this popular attraction in Bega.

While there will be no betting or prize money, it's sure to be a winner with punters based on pure entertainment value.

New Bega AP&H Society president Norm Pearce has been working

hard to bring back the trots after the idea was floated by fellow committee member Peter Ubrihien.

"It's certainly created a lot of interest," Mr Pearce said.

"Everyone has been asking Peter about it."

Mr Pearce and Mr Ubrihien have been busy meeting with trotting officials from Sydney while making sure the facilities at Bega Showground are up to standard.

"Yeah, we're getting there," Mr Pearce said.

Harness officials from Sydney visited the showground this month to inspect the track and gave it the thumbs up.

While it still hasn't been given the official go-ahead



• Inspecting the track at Bega Showground are (from left) Peter Ubrihien, NSW Harness Racing steward from Wagga Wagga Anthony Pearce, Don Spence, Jim Hergenhan, Clyde Steward, Norm Pearce and Gerard Bateman.

by NSW authorities, Mr Pearce is very hopeful.

The Bega Show will most likely feature night-

time harness racing, with each race having a maximum of four horses.

Mr Pearce will present

the idea to the next Bega AP&H meeting, but is confident the committee will approve the idea.



• Jeff Smith, on Rex, negotiates the showjumping course at the Bega Showground last weekend.



• Emma Donnelly, on Sam, and Rebecca Breust, on James, check out the competition at the Bega Showground.



• Danielle Beresford enjoys the sunshine at the Bega Showground on Sunday.

## Health care for your horse

• Hoof and leg care of your horse is extremely important.

Unlike humans, it is hard to treat serious leg and hoof injuries in horses as you can't tell a horse to "keep your weight off it".

The number one priority for a horse owner's daily check of their horse is to quickly glance over all four legs and hooves and to observe for any signs of lameness when walking.

Lameness is shown by limping, short stepping or irregular movement.

By running your hand down the length of the horse's leg will quickly show up any cuts, swellings or foreign objects that may have found their way into the leg.

If your horse experiences any of these symptoms, it is worth your while asking an experienced horseperson for advice or calling your local vet.

• Hoof care differs for each horse, depending on their age

and what they are used for.

A horse that is used for competition or consistent riding should be shod by an experienced farrier approximately every six weeks.

This will keep the horse's hoof in correct shape, prevent cracking, and prevent painful bruising of the sole as well as absorbing some of the shock that the leg receives from activities such as jumping.

Constant care is vital as the horse's hoof, just like fingernails, grows at a fast rate and needs to be trimmed back for ultimate comfort.

Horses that are just in the paddock or are only lightly exercised can get away with the occasional hoof trimming.

This can be performed by your farrier or experienced horseperson about four times a year or when required.

• Feeding your horse is a subject that can go into huge depth. A horse can healthily survive

on just grass, but quality grass all year round is hard to come by.

The most important thing to remember is that the majority of your horse's diet consists of roughage (grass, hay or chaff) and the appropriate amount of concentrate depending on your horse's work level, age or stage of lactation if pregnant.

Make sure to keep an eye on your horse's eating habits so that you know that what you are feeding is enough to maintain good health.

• Additional but equally as important health care measures for your horse are drenching and visiting an equine dentist.

A horse should be drenched for worms at least four times a year (or every season or school holidays for easy remembering).

Signs of a horse that may have a bad worm infestation is the inability to gain weight, dull coat and itchy behind (tail rubbing).

It is important to regularly rotate the brand of wormer you use to prevent a chemical resistance in the parasites.

Calling a qualified horse dentist regularly is very important as, unlike human teeth, horses' teeth grow continually and need to be floated (rasped down).

If left unattended, horses' teeth grow long and sharp, which make chewing feed and grass difficult and having a bit in their mouth painful.

It is recommended that a horse's first check-up should be just after they are broken in.

Older horses may be able to go as long as two years between check-ups.

Obvious signs that your horse may be due to see the dentist are dropping feed out of their mouth while eating, losing weight, and suddenly becoming sensitive in the mouth when riding or "one-sided" with their steering.

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