

Equine News

WA College of Agriculture-Denmark

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Ready for a trail ride...

Students get to enjoy all areas of our farm out on our trail rides. They learn how to handle horses in different environments, to cope with different situations, how to spot potential dangers and hazards. Of course, courtesy is a must to other riders and students out on farm in farm vehicles.

Students learn how to control the horses in a group and to be aware of distances between the horses. Control of horses cantering around paddocks is important, stopping the horses is even more so.

Once students can safely do all of this, they are then able to learn how to muster cattle and sheep on horseback. Exciting!

Above: Mae Tarpay on Mozzie,
Jessica Pike on Timbey and Kayla
Emmertton on Skye

THIS ISSUE
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Making Progress

We are well into Term 2 and we are making good progress with our Equine Certificate II competencies. The majority of our year 10 and 11's have passed the riding part of their Certificate II and students are learning points of the horse, breeds and colours. For those students yet to pass the riding competency, don't worry, you still have plenty of time.

Our Year 12's are busy studying anatomy and physiology of the horse, although we still find time to have fun mustering sheep and cattle. Some of our students are having fun learning advanced dressage movements, leg yield, turn on the haunches, acute transitions, others are doing pole work exercises and serpentines in preparation for jumping.



Safety for our Students—Understanding Horse Behaviour

The horse is a flight animal and easily spooked. What may seem just a rustle in the hedge to us, to a horse, it could be a predator waiting to jump out and kill it. Vehicles or farm machinery may simply be trying to pass a horse and rider but to a horse, it is a noisy, scary predator approaching that potentially could kill it.

A horse's natural instinct is to run from the danger, either bucking or kicking as it goes to dislodge the other 'predator' on its back.

The horse is also a herd animal so when one horse runs or bolts the other horses' instinct is to run with it. There is safety in numbers and there must be danger present if one horse has run, so to a horse's mind it must go too, to stay safe.

To overcome this, we train our horses to obey us, to ignore its natural instinct so we may handle and ride our horses safely. Whilst we can train our horses, its natural instinct is always there, so we need to practice our good horsemanship skills, be aware of our horses' behavior so we may react accordingly and avoid potential accidents. In the dark, the danger of a horse bolting or kicking is magnified as we cannot see our horses' reaction to anything and the horse cannot see us. So to keep all of our students safe we ask everyone to finish rugging and handling horses before dark and when riding in groups, ride to the least experienced rider's pace.

Above Left : Ben Snell with school horse Timbey

Left: Lily Bunton-King with school horse Jack



Certificate II Equine Studies

Students work towards achieving industry competencies:-

- * Work effectively in the industry
- * Handle Horses
- * Work safely in an equine organisation
- * Provide daily care for horses
- * Implement horse health and welfare practices
- * Implement and monitor a horse feeding program
- * Relate equine form and function
- * Equine anatomy
- * Equine physiology
- * Demonstrate basic horse riding skills



Above Left: Tahnee Montgomery helping out while horses have their teeth rasped.

Left: Tennika Gibbs helping horse dentist Tony Riley

Below: Working hard in the stables



COMING EVENTS

Narrogin Interschool

Equine Carnival

Blackwood Marathon

Albany Show

Coming Events

- ◆ Narrogin Interschool Equine Carnival will soon be here with classes from hacking to jumping.
- ◆ We will shortly be starting training for the Blackwood Marathon. Any interested students should come and let us know as soon as possible, we need the horses at peak fitness by the time we compete. Our training will consist of around the farm and offsite on weekends making use of the local riding trails and hills.
- ◆ We will be entering a team in the Albany Show, in the jumping and dressage. Most of our students have already been practising dressage tests and we will shortly be starting jumping training.



Above: *Te'anna Bain riding school master Platty*

Below: (left to right) *Zeanna Roney-Sutherland on Skye, Estacia Lang on River, Ashleigh Prichard on Connor, Caitlin Wilson on Earl.*



WA College of Agriculture—Denmark

872 South Coast Highway
Denmark WA 6333

08 9848 0200 ph
08 9848 2997 fax

Denmark.AC@education.wa.edu.au email