

# HAMMERIN' STEEL

APRIL, 2009 ISSUE

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## **PRESIDENTS REPORT**

Hi to you all once again.

It has been very quiet on the farrier front of late. Not much is happening at this point in time to even talk about.

I know Dean Lewis has done a great report about the Victorian Fires and I can't wait to read that. The devastation that happened in Victoria on Black Saturday will be felt by people for generations to come. The stories are horrendous and very hard to stomach. I wish everyone involved much luck and good wishes, we are thinking of you.

There are still so many people in the affected areas that have horses that aren't getting any help from agencies. They are considered hobby farmers and as such are last on the list of priorities. They have no grass, no fences and no feed for their animals; they are starving before their eyes, and there is nothing they can do. You have to remember these people lost their homes, cars and trailers; they can't get out to get feed.

What happened to equality for all? Where have the millions raised gone and why aren't they handing it out quicker?

We know a lot of farriers were quick to jump in and help in the way of donations, help and transport for feed to affected areas. You guys are incredible, I have said it before, but it warrants saying again. Good on you all!

**Memberships are now coming up as due. Please make sure you pay your fees so you remain on the mailing list for the Hammerin' Steel.**

The NSW Championships is being held from the 4<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> June 2009, in conjunction with the NCHA Cutting Futurity again. I hope to see many of you there and also at Gatton at the beginning of May.

Good luck to any of you who are attending the Heavy horse competition in New Zealand.

Bob Sim  
President



**\*\* ALL MEMBERS PLEASE NOTE \*\***

Members from all States should note that Affiliation Fees for membership from the States are due by the end of March.

That means that if you haven't paid your 2009 State Membership Fees you are no longer a financial member of AFBA.

Those who haven't paid please contact your State Secretary as soon as possible to get a membership subscription form. Membership forms can also be printed off the AFBA website, click on Membership.

## NSW CHAMPIONSHIPS

**4th—7th June 2009**

To be held in conjunction with the NCHA Cutting Futurity

A programme has been included in this issue of Hammerin' Steel  
and can also be found on the AFBA website.

### QUEENSLAND NEWS

**Amalgamation of MFA and AFBAQ:** The initial meeting of the two organizations to discuss this matter took place on the 2nd March. Both Associations tabled their concerns, and overall it was a very fruitful meeting. The next meeting will be held in about three months time.

#### **2009 Veterinarian/Farrier Seminar with Ric Redden**

Extra farriers are needed to team up with a surplus of Vets at this seminar, which is being held on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> and Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> April at Wadham Park. If anyone is interested the details of the seminar and the registration form can be found on the A.F.B.A. website, or otherwise you can ring the AFBAQ Secretary Tricia Court and she can email or post the details to you. If you want more information you could contact Rita or Jo at Wadham Park Horse Hospital 1300 467 731 or Emily at Redlands 07 3207 7325

#### **Membership Renewals**

Those of you who haven't paid membership renewal are no longer financial members of A.F.B.A. Qld or A.F.B.A. This is probably the last newsletter that you shall receive. If you have overlooked paying it, please forward it to the Secretary Tricia Court as soon as possible.

#### **Reg Pascoe Award**

Nominations are being called for this award. They need to be made in writing, about half a page in length, stating what the candidate has done, how they fit the criteria and why they should win the award. Past winners of the award are: Alan Morris, Lew Haines, Richard Hansen, Jim Fogarty, Russel Roberts, Ross Chicken, Tom Browning, Dan Davie, Wade Graham, Ian Appleton, Fred Savage, Delwyn Richardson and Jim Urquart. There was no nominations in 2008. **Nominations close on 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2009.**

Criteria: This award to be given annually to a member of AFBA Qld Branch who in the opinion of their peers, has shown the most improvement in work skills and professional attitude and has also shown creative ability in one or all of the four new skills areas in the previous year.

Four skills areas: 1. Farrier Rigs – Layout, practicability, innovative tooling, not the “money” spent to produce the rigs would be important. 2. Blacksmith Shops – Similar criteria to rigs. 3. Competition – Not necessarily to be a winner every or even most of the time, but be seen to be a tryer and to be improving slowly but surely. 4. Continuing Education – Attendance at workshops, conferences, presentation of talks not only to your peers but to your clients, remember a better informed client will understand problems better if explained in advance not after the event.

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**Calendar of Events**

31 March, 2009

**Entries close for Gatton Two-Man Draught Competition.**

**Please make sure you get them in on time.** If you have mislaid your copy of the programme you can print out the programme from the website. Click on the heading events.

4-5 April, 2009

**Veterinarian Farrier Seminar, Wadham Park**

6 April, 2009

**General Meeting**, Brookfield Hall, Brookfield Road, Brookfield, commencing at 7.30 pm.

15 April, 2009

**Entries close for Beaudesert Farriers Competition.**

Enquiries Jonathan Oehm 0421 946 947

15 April, 2009

**Skills Clinic.** Contact Terry Drennan on 0418 209 409 to advise if you are unable to attend.

2-3 May, 2009

**Gatton Heavy Horse Two-Man Draught Competition.**

Judge John Dillon (NSW). Entries close on 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2009.

Enquiries: Tom Affleck 0427 934 420.

25 May, 2009

**Entries close for Caboolture Competition.**

29 May, 2009

**Entries close – National Championships. NO LATE**

**ENTRIES ACCEPTED.**

7 June, 2009

**Caboolture Competition.** Judge: Jeff Pagden. Entries close 25<sup>th</sup> May, 2009. Enquiries: Ross Chicken 0412 772 414.

Programme enclosed with this Newsletter

13 June, 2009

**Beaudesert Country Horse Festival Competition.** A two man team competition comprising of one open and one intermediate competitor on one work station. Judge: Des

Bosworth. Enquiries: Jonathan Oehm 0421 946 947

farrierscience@yahoo.com.au Entries close 15<sup>th</sup> April, 2009

30 June, 2009

**Nominations close for Reg Pascoe Award**

4-5 July, 2009

**Competition at Toowoomba.** Judge: Terry Drennan.

Enquiries: Wayne Nugent 0419 652 145 or Jeff Pagden 0418 266 465.

12-14 August, 2009

**National Championships – Brisbane RNA.** Judge: Kim

Hughes, N.Z. Enquiries: Tom Affleck 0427 934 420. **Entries**

**close 29<sup>th</sup> May at 4.30 pm – no late entries accepted.**

**CORRECTION**

**BEAUDESERT COUNTRY HORSE FESTIVAL COMPETITION**

Please note that Jonathan Oehm's phone number is incorrect on the programme for the Beaudesert Country Horse Festival Competition. It is 0421 946 947.

**Also please note: in the Blacksmithing event a fireman/striker is allowed.**



**SHOEING FOR PERFORMANCE**  
**Presented by Equine Veterinarians Australia**

Conference for Farriers and Veterinarians, to be held at Twin Waters Resort, Sunshine Coast, QLD on the 24th –25th July 2009. Speakers include: Chris Pollit, Sue Dyson and Carl O’Dwyer. Proudly sponsored by O’Dwer , Mustard and Veterinary Instrument & Equipment Specialists. Phone: (02) 9431 5080. Website: [www.eva.org.au](http://www.eva.org.au). For more information and to download a registration form click on Events (and scroll down to Clinics) on the AFBA website ([www.afba.org.au](http://www.afba.org.au)).



**WA NEWS**

I was recently in New Zealand and unfortunately missed our March meeting but if you’re ever passing through Christchurch and would like a coffee and a good yarn call in and see the boys at New Zealand Horseshoe Co. Bob the Farrier is on the job at the front of the shop. At 72 years of age Bob tells me his shoulders aren’t too good but he comes in on Tuesday and Thursday to pump out a few sets of hand made corked and square toed shoes for trotters. An exceptional detour!

By the sounds of things, back in Perth, the committee got through a lot of business and Lynn informs us our bank balance is quite healthy but our fees to National are due so all members are reminded to be financial ASAP. Matt Smailes hopes to have programs for our comps in hand at our next meeting which could be highlighted by a Perth Royal Show event. Sven has kindly offered to house our trailer and equipment to which we are all truly grateful.

Our younger members have certainly put up their hand in an effort to get our association forging forward. It does not go unnoticed nor the effort of the engine room Lynn (Treasurer) and Robert (Secretary), husband and wife team living about 80 kilometers away, making regular trips to Perth on association business, thanks guys. We also wish Tim Denham all the best for a full recovery from surgery on a severe disc injury to his lower back, good luck mate.

Our next meeting is at Gosnells Hotel on April 14<sup>th</sup> 7pm for 7.30pm

Remember: IF IT IS TO BE  
 IT IS UP TO ME

Cheers  
 Drew Brierty

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### **VICTORIAN FIRES**

As we all know, Victoria has been devastated by the worst bushfires in our history. This has resulted in the death of many horses and livestock through out the affected areas. The one thing that became clear after the first couple of days were that there was a huge need for horse feed and supplies for the remaining horses. SA farrier Paul Scragg rang me and said that he had organized through networks in SA some trucks full of hay and other supplies to be delivered to the fire affected areas and would I co-ordinate the relief effort from the Victorian side.

Fortunately in times of great need it brings out the best in most people, however it brings out the worst in some.

It became evident that no government authorities in Victoria had provided adequately for the horse population. The Victorian Farmers Federation was only interested in sheep and cattle and other groups such as RSPCA were more concerned about blue crested wombats and the like. So we took things into our own hands and through a network of people that only a farrier and horse dentist could put together, we, with the help of 5 exceptional people delivered 400 large bales and 4000 small bales of hay, 1500 bags of chaff and hard feed, and numerous supplies such as medical, rugs, fly veils, head collars etc to 5 locations in and around the affected areas. Places such as Alexandra, Buxton, Whittlesea, Colbinane and Pakenham. It was an extraordinary effort by all people concerned and the support from the National body and President, Bob Sim was greatly appreciated.

However far more disappointing was the lack of preparation and non-existence of a disaster plan by the governing authorities the likes of the DPI, whom, since the recent EI outbreak have done little or nothing to protect the horse community as a whole.

After going to many meetings since the fires, I, and others in the horse community are pushing for more to be done to protect the animals and people of whom our industry relies upon.

Hopefully we will never see an event of this magnitude again, however in the event that we do, now is the time for us to step up and protect the horses so that they do not slip through beauracratc gaps such as happened on this occasion.

Presently we are working with the horse council and Government departments to address these issues. One thing that would be of great help would be a service provider and industry user database text system for communication. Such system is already in existence but operates on a voluntary enrolment basis only. I will keep you up to date as we progress.

Dean Lewis



### **The Tree Project**

The Australian Blacksmiths Association (Victoria) Inc. is asking blacksmiths worldwide to help us create a forged gumtree as a memorial to the people who lost their lives, to honour the tireless people who defended others and to stand as a symbol of regeneration for the survivors. The ABA (Vic) Blacksmiths will undertake to forge the trunk and branches of the tree and attach each leaf. The tree will be installed in a public place in one of the affected townships.

**What you need to do:**

Forge a gum leaf in stainless steel or copper following the specifications below. If you wish, you may forge a complete branch, a twig with a few leaves or some gumnuts. All contributions will be gratefully received. Please send your finished leaves and your details to:

*The Tree Project*, ABA (Vic) Inc.  
c/o Paul Mills  
255 Hildebrand Road, Cottles Bridge,  
Victoria, Australia 3099

Get your completed leaves to us by 30 June 2009 so we can assemble the tree. For further enquiries email us at: [TheDrift@abavic.org.au](mailto:TheDrift@abavic.org.au)

**Specifications**

Leaves need to be made of stainless steel or copper. Actual gum leaves vary in length from around 60mm (2 ½”) to over 250mm (10”) and are long and flat. The larger leaves are generally no wider than 40mm (1 ½”) at their widest point. Characteristically, the leaves hang down. If you wish, you may like to forge a gumnut. Gumnuts are rounded and hollow. Although there are varieties of large gumnuts, they are generally no larger than a thumbnail.) Ideally, the forged leaves can be about 1–2mm (1/16”) thick. Stems need to be at least 6mm (¼”) thick, no less and at least 50mm (2”) long. As one Australian blacksmith puts it; *“Folks, you have to realise that us Aussies are all descended from a bunch of thieving convicts. If you feel your design is going to go walkabout or fall off at the first gust of wind perhaps the design needs reconsidering.”* So please don’t make your leaf stems too thin, or your leaf may well become a trophy for a local vandal. Please note, that these are guidelines only and we do not want 1000 exact copies of the same leaf! Each leaf will be as individual as the ‘smith that created it. If you have one, we ask that you put your touchmark on your leaves, or at least mark it in some way so we can identify your work and mark your contribution.

Thank you for your efforts in helping us build a lasting memorial.



Please go to:  
[www.treeproject.abavic.org.au](http://www.treeproject.abavic.org.au)  
For forging tips and a step by step  
guide to making gum leaves and  
gum nuts. This website has a great  
deal of information and plenty of  
photos.

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**A.F.B.A. CAPS, BADGES, LOGOS, POLO & SWEAT SHIRTS**

For orders please contact National Secretary on 07 5464 5771. As stocks held are very limited, there may be a short wait while items are ordered.

Postage and Packaging: \$8.00 – one item, \$15 – more than one item.

Caps	\$15.00 + Postage	Rugby Tops	\$40.00
Polo Shirts	\$30.00 + Postage	Logos	\$7.00
Sweat Shirts/Jumper	\$40.00 + Postage	Badges	\$6.00

Shower proof unlined Jackets \$40.00 + Postage or Water proof Jackets lined with polar fleece for winter \$55.00 + Postage.

The caps are bottle green with gold trim, and have the AFBA logo embroidered on front. Polo Shirts, Rugby Tops & Sweat Shirts are bottle green with the Logo embroidered on the front left side, and are available in other colours. Shower proof jacket is navy, red or yellow and designed to fold into its own pocket. The lined jackets have nylon rainproof outer with polar fleece lining and logo embroidered on left front they are available in Dark Bottle Green, Black, Maroon, Navy, Royal.

**A.F.B.A. CAR STICKERS and TRUCK STICKERS**

Car stickers showing the A.F.B.A. logo are available for purchase at a cost of \$5.00 each. Truck stickers are 220 x 220 mm and cost \$15.00 each. Contact Brooke Graham. Ph/Fax: 07 54645 771.



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**CHANGE OF ADDRESS**

If any member is changing his/her address would you please fill in the form below.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile No: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax No: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Return to: A.F.B.A. Secretary  
Brooke Graham  
110 Harwoods Rd  
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