

HAMMERIN' STEEL

MARCH, 2009 ISSUE

Editor: Brooke Graham
110 Harwoods Rd
WALLOON QLD 4306
Ph: 07 5464 5771
Email: secretary@afba.org.au

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A.F.B.A. EXECUTIVE

President: Bob Sim - 02 4990 9779, 0408 437 818
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South Australia: Tim Hill – 08 8388 6256, 0411 480 253
New South Wales: David Cookson— 02 6373 3617, 0427 253 925
Secretary/Treasurer: Brooke Graham - 07 5464 5771



A.F.B.A. BRANCH SECRETARIES

P.F.A NSW Desarae Sim, Lot 505 Ferguson St, Abernethy NSW 2325
Ph: 02 4990 9779 Email: bsim@bigpond.com
F.B.A.V. Donna Lewis, 2087 Coimadai Rd, Toolern Vale 3337
Ph: 03 9746 1368, Mobile 0402 905 128.
Email: ddlewis@bigpond.com
A.F.B.A. (Qld) Tricia Court, 48 Schulz Rd, Coolana, Qld. 4311
Ph/Fax: 07 5426 8276. Email: trishcourt@bigpond.com
S.A.F.B.A. Melissa Paech, 35 Jacaranda Drive, Woodside SA 5244
Ph: 08 8389 9062 Mobile: 0422 070 963
Email: smpaech1@bigpond.com
W.A.F.A. Robert Smith, 20 Acheron Rd, San Remo, WA 6210
Ph: 08 08 9581 7118 Mobile: 0448 895 725
Email: farriersmith@bigpond.com

2.

PRESIDENTS REPORT

Hello again!

What a month this country has dished up for its people. The North is flooding, with losses of livestock expected to be in the 000's and clean up in the millions. But the South has been left in ruins. Last count was 181 lives lost in bush fires and 700+ houses lost. The enormity of that is so hard to get our heads around. It's almost surreal as I sit here in the middle of those two states and think about the devastation that has happened. It's also hard to be so far away and not be able to help, but sit and watch the TV and the people and families lives that lay in ruins.

But thats not the case for many of our member. In fact it makes a person very proud to be Australian when he sees fellow farriers living in and around the affected areas jump in and donate not only time, but services and food to horses that have been left homeless, injured, waiting for owner to claim them. Farriers from SA and Vic have organised trucks with hay to be taken to starving horses. I know I speak for all members of the farrier world, when I say – Well done guys!!! We haven't heard of any farriers that have been directly affected by the fires, but we offer our condolences to those that may have lost friends or knew of people who lost friends and family. It's a horrible time.

On another sad note, I received news that Edward Martin died on the 14th February 2009. Edward was an inspiration to all farriers. He will be remembered always.

Comps are not that far away, they all seem to happen within a few months of the year. Heavy Horse World Cup 4-5th April, Gatton on the 2-3rd May, NSW championships 4-7th June, Beaudesert on the 13th June, Caboolture 14th June, Brisbane 12 – 14th August. So its time to start those practice nights!!! Time will fly.

Till next time,
Bob Sim
President.



Vale Edward Martin

The many friends in Australia of Edward Martin will be sad to learn of his recent passing at the age of eighty five. Edward made several visits to Australia and New Zealand where he both judged and gave seminars and workshops. He imparted wonderful skills and philosophies gained from a life time of experience as a blacksmith and farrier. Edward was awarded an MBE for his services to the industry in the UK. He will be missed.
Keith Swan, QLD.

AFBA MEMBERSHIP FEES NOW DUE! Renewal forms can be downloaded from www.afba.org.au



QUEENSLAND NEWS

Farrier Accreditation through Recognition of Prior Learning

University of Queensland, Gatton Campus will be instigating an RPL programme early in 2009. The exact form the programme will take is presently being formulated and a brochure with all relevant details will be circulated as soon as possible. All farriers considering undertaking this programme should immediately contact Keith Swan on 07 5464 5218 or swanslaguna@bigpond.com

New Instructor for Apprentices

The new instructor for 2009 will be Craig Jones, who will be assisted by Wade Graham.

Amalgamation of MFA and AFBAQ: The initial meeting of the two organizations to discuss this matter will take place early in March. Thank you to those members who sent in their thoughts about the amalgamation.

Competitions

Plans are well in hand for this years competitions, and programmes will be published and put on the website as they come to hand. There is a lot of organisation in running a competition and competitors could do their part by getting their entries in for all competitions as soon as possible, remember numbers have to be known so that horses and equipment can be organised etc. so please try to help your fellow farriers by sending your entries in by the due date.

Skills Clinics

Skills Clinics are only open to those wishing to attend for the whole year from 2009 onwards. As it is now being managed from Gatton we are unable to cater for casual attendees. There are 7 permanent attendees for this year, if you are unable to attend a clinic could you please phone Terry Drennan the week before and advise him. His number is 0418 209 409.

If you decide later in the year that you would like to sign up for the clinics please contact the Secretary Tricia Court, who will advise of the amount that you need to pay, payment must be received by the Secretary before you attend your first clinic.

Membership Renewals

Just a reminder to all those who have not yet paid their membership that it is again due, if you have mislaid your membership form you can download it from the AFBA website. Membership is due to AFBA Qld by mid-March 2009.

4.

Calendar of Events (QLD)

- 2 March, 2009 **General Meeting**, Brookfield Hall, Brookfield Road, Brookfield commencing at 7.30 pm.
- 18 March, 2009 **Skills Clinic**. Contact Terry Drennan on 0418 209 409 to advise if you are unable to attend.
- 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.
- 6 April, 2009 **General Meeting**, Brookfield Hall, Brookfield Road, Brookfield, commencing at 7.30 pm.
- 15 April, 2009 **Entries close for Beaudesert Farriers Competition.** Programme included in this newsletter.
- 2-3 May, 2009 **Gatton Heavy Horse Two-Man Draught Competition.** Judge John Dillon (NSW). Entries close in 31st March, 2009. Enquiries: Tom Affleck 0427 934 420.
- 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 0432 946 947 farrierscience@yahoo.com.au Entries close 15th April, 2009
- 14 June, 2009 **Caboilture Competition.** Judge: Jeff Pagden. Entries close 1st June, 2009. Enquiries: Ross Chicken 0412 772 414.
- 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 **National Championships – Brisbane RNA.** Judge: Kim Hughes, N.Z. Enquiries: Tom Affleck 0427 934 420.



WA NEWS

I'm pleased to report that this year will see Apprentice Training officially begin in WA. While our numbers are small at present with your interest and renewed support I am confident they will increase. Phil Dowling has been appointed by TAFE to assess the skills of the apprentices. So to all the Farriers in WA, think about employing an apprentice so the trade can have skilled farriers for the future.

Unfortunately the February meeting had to be cancelled so we are hoping for a good turn out for the March meeting on Tuesday the 10th at Ogden's Gosnells Hotel. Come on Fella's we need your support. Any items to be placed on the agenda can be sent to John or Robert.

We in the West send our best wishes to our Victorian counterparts affected by the tragic bushfires. The emotional and financial impact on you must be very distressing. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your families.

Remember: It's not what the Association can do for us; it's what we can do for the Association.

Cheers
Drew Brierty (WA)



THINGS FROM THE PAST—Des Bosworth

I would like to bring to the members attention of something that I had moved at the National Meeting at the Gold Coast in 2002 (if my memory is correct).

I have not checked the minutes to check the exact wording but it was passed that for competitions especially when we have an international judge that any member could apply to the organizing committee to stand in as an associate judge. He would record no scores but he would gain experience by being able to discuss in private why the respective jobs were assessed and points for and against by the judge. If more than one person were to make application to the said committee that committee would decide who was to get the nod.

I believe anyone who was to do this would get more experience out of this than going to a clinic and it would cost you nothing and hopefully prepare you as a possible judge for the future. Most people will be asked to judge at some time and it would be an advantage to have some prior experience such as this.

Des Bosworth—Queensland.



COMPETITION STATUS 2009

If you have any queries regarding your competition grading for 2009 please contact the National Secretary on (07) 54 645 771 or email: secretary@afba.org.au Due to the new points system, competitors had to be given *one overall grading*. This was not always straight forward. Some competitors had several gradings on their score card, for example: Eagle Eye—intermediate, Shoeing -intermediate, Forging-open; and Blacksmithing-novice. This made it difficult to give a fair grading. Also some competitors were on the borderline between gradings.



6.

HOW TO KEEP TOOLS GOING AND GOING – By Danny Ward and Byron Whitted.

(American Farriers Journal; Jan/Feb 2003)

Some of us take pride in the fact that most of the tools in our toolbox are just plain old. With the exception of consumable tools like rasps, many of the tools we use will last for years and years if we get in the habit of following a few simple tricks to make them last. And of course, the longer you can get a tool to work before you have to put it out to pasture, the more money you get to keep in your pocket. Here are a few basic techniques that you can use to get more life out of all of your tools.

CLINCHERS – Occasional slipping while using a nail clincher is hard to avoid. When it does, though, nails slipping off the clincher tend to round off the sharp edges, creating a rolled clinch rather than a crisp bend that forms a tighter and longer-lasting clinch. Slipping can be lessened by periodically resharpening the tooth “edges.” A small 6-inch slim triangular taper file does a great job.

CLINCH CUTTERS – To properly cut clinches, the cutting edge should be kept free of nicks and grooves. The most important aspect is to grind back any mushroomed edges on the striking surfaces. This will help prevent the hammer from slipping off and, most importantly, enhance safety. Little chips of sheet metal can break off under stress and be dangerous.

CREASE NAIL PULLERS – It’s easy for pullers to slip off nails, stressing the sharp points. Continued slippage may even bend them up, seriously reducing their performance. The damaged points should be repaired by dressing them cold. Using a mill-bastard file with square edges while the tool is held firmly in a vice is the recommended way to do this. A small gap between the points is not a problem. The tool will work well as long as it is sharp and formed so it can get under the nail head for removal.

DRIVING HAMMERS – Rule No. 1 for extending hammer life (or the life of any tool) is “Use it only for what it was designed for”. A good driving hammer is not made for striking any metal other than a horseshoe nail. Don’t use it to cut clinches, shift shoes, or pull nails. If the face of a driving hammer has “mushroomed” or become rounded, you can dress the edges back square if you keep the face cool (do not heat it). Keeping the face square will extend the life of the hammer by making nailing easier and more accurate. If the face is grooved or checkered, clean it with a wire brush to keep the non-slip face working effectively.

HOOF KNIVES – The key to hoof-knife life is to keep it sharp. A new knife must be rough sharpened and honed, since the new hoof knives are furnished with only a mild edge. Shape the edge to the proper angle with an 8-inch mill file and then hone it to a keen edge using a sharpening steel. Use the sharpening steel to hone both the blade and the hook, making sure to remove the burr from the backside. Repeat this honing process after trimming every two or three horses.

NIPPERS – Nippers are precision tools, so it’s important to keep them clean and well lubricated. An occasional wire brushing of the stops is very important for the blades to close properly. Hoof residue, dirt and other buildup can keep the blades just far enough apart so they will not cut properly without using excessive force. Lightly sand or buff the face of the blades if buildup is apparent. We do not recommend filing or sharpening the cutting edges, since the blades are easily damaged. It’s better to leave that to a specialist.

For joint and rivet lubrication, always use a penetrating/cleaning agent, such as WD-40, for the best results. Once in a while, something a little heavier like 3-In-1 Oil, is also useful.

RASPS – You can even make consumable tools like rasps last a lot longer if you follow a few simple steps. Make sure the hoof you are working on is as clean as possible (small stones and sand on a hoof will severely shorten rasp life). Use proper technique, applying medium pressure on the forward cutting stroke and lifting the rasp from the hoof surface on the backstroke. At the end of the day, clean your rasp with a file card, spray it lightly with rust preventative and wrap it in the rust-preventative paper it came in. Store it where it won't come into contact with other tools or steel surfaces.



MEMBER GET MEMBER

The AFBA has an incentive program for members to introduce new members to the association. So far 22 people have introduced 33 new members. Join in and help your association grow by encouraging someone to join.

Incentives are:

1 member:	Cap (value \$15)
2 members:	Polo Shirt (value \$30)
3 members:	Showerproof Jacket (unlined) (Value \$40)
4 members:	Showerproof jacket (polar fleece) (Value \$55)
5 members:	Rugby Top & Polo Shirt (Value \$70)

HAMMERIN' STEEL - ADVERTISING RATES

- Full Page \$100
- 3/4 Page \$75
- 1/2 Page \$50
- 1/3 Page \$35
- 1/4 Page \$25
- Classified \$2/line

To place an advertisement contact the Secretary on: (07) 5464 5771 or email: secretary@afba.org.au **Deadline for March Newsletter: 15th February.**

8.

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
WALLOON QLD 4306