



# SHIRE HORSE SOCIETY AUSTRALIA

INCORPORATED

*Forging the future of the Shire Horse in Australia*

## NOVEMBER 2008

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER



*Ingleside Flash Dance, Ingleside Elouise & Ingleside D'Artanion  
of  
Mountain Bred Shires, Chris & Cindy Perdikaris, Oberon*

**PATRON:**  
Mr Rob Vickery

**[www.shirehorsesociety.com.au](http://www.shirehorsesociety.com.au)**

# SHSA NEWS

**SHSA fund raiser** – was extremely successful, raising over \$6,000! It will certainly help with our studbook setup costs.

Thanks to committee member Liz Williams who hosted the event at her restaurant. We also thank everyone who donated auction prizes, Chris and Cindy Perdikaris for their donation, as well as Jane Geenman and Don Gray.

The Camden newspaper The District Reporter wrote a great article on the event – you can see a copy on p12

**Brisbane Royal** – we are pleased to announce the SHSA, with support from our Qld members, successfully lobbied the Brisbane Royal Show, who will now hold Shire Classes in 2009, with the SHSA sponsoring the Championship.

The future of the classes depend on support, and the Brisbane Royal views sponsorship of classes as important, as well as entry numbers, so members might like to consider supporting a class.

If you would like to support a class or request a hard copy of the schedule be posted to you when it comes out, email Andrew Tudor at:  
atudor@rnashowgrounds.com.au.

**Stud Book** – don't forget that for a limited time you can dual register for free in The Australian Shire Horse Stud Book.

Go to  
www.shirehorsesociety.com.au, click on 'Stud Book' then 'Dual Registrations' for instructions.

Many thanks to Deb, our Registrar, who is doing a great job.

**Proposed Horse Levy** – the committee has passed a resolution opposing the introduction of a horse levy by the Federal Government. Secretary, Helen Kuiper, has lobbied the Federal Minister's office, the Australian Horse Industry Council (who support it) and other breed societies. At least one major breed, The Australian Stock Horse Society, is also opposed.

Helen has had great press coverage, recently interviewed on WIN television, broadcast in the Illawarra, Wagga and Orange regions (with some nice Shire horse shots) as well as a letter printed in The Land – see p12.

**SHSA 30th Anniversary** – from the 1920's, registered Shire Horses died out in Australia. In 1978 a group of enthusiasts: Grahame West; Stuart Hulbert; and Clyde Cook; decided to do something about it and formed the Shire Horse Society of Australia. They worked on promoting the breed, with Grahame designing our great logo and producing some newsletters.

One of their first supporters was Helene Scarf, who imported the first registered Shire, Ladbrook Edward in 1981. From then on the Shire has gone from strength to strength in Australia and 30 years later we now have our own Stud Book with a beautiful certificate wonderfully designed by Grahame himself.

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Helene and Greg Scarf would like to invite all SHSA members to...

# SHSA MEMBER SEMINAR/SOCIAL WEEKEND: THE ART OF DRIVING SHIRE HORSES

SATURDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> & SUNDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2009

9.30AM START

VENUE; THE CEDARS, KANGAROO VALLEY

## PROGRAM:

### SATURDAY:

*Presented by heavy harness expert & SHSA Judge  
Ross Carbery*

Basic safety and harness types  
Fitting the harness  
Long-reining (practical session)  
Putting to a wheeled vehicle

### *\*Special reproduction session\**

Your breeding questions answered, by Karim  
Kooros, vet & reproduction expert

**SUNDAY:** Shire Horse Society Australia AGM

The usual *gourmet catering* will be provided, with BBQ  
breakfasts & lunch and a *Lamb Spit Roast* on Saturday night.

### SPECIAL EVENT

This year we will be featuring a '*Campfire Talent Challenge*'.  
Please bring along your *poem, song or other  
performance* if you want participate. There'll be prizes!

**ACCOMMODATION** – Camping facilities available for tents,  
swags and trucks/floats. Bathroom & kitchen facilities provided.

**BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL** as the event is **FULLY CATERED**

Cost: \$25pp Kids free

Only \$25  
head

FULLY  
CATERED



# SHSA **NEWS** cont...

**Congratulations** – to Rob and Heather Young who won Champion Shire Horse at the Perth Royal Show. They took out the championship and SHSA trophy with Bewholme Edward, judged by Mr Tim Peel, one of the SHSA Official Panel of Judges. The Commonwealth Clydesdale Horse Society WA wanted to encourage Tim to put on a seminar while he was there, and Rob and Heather generously made their beautiful property available after the show for the event. It was a great success with owners of both breeds attending.

**Our sympathy** – to Tracy and Bruce Lyons, who recently lost their horse Champagne Charlie.



*A portrait of Charlie commissioned by Tracy & Bruce*

**Australian Shires Database** – John Edwards of Toora Shires thanks everyone who has provided information to enable him to update the database “Australian Shires” at [www.heliograph.net](http://www.heliograph.net) and requests that all owners check the listing for errors and omissions and advise him of any changes required by email to [J.Edwards@heliograph.net](mailto:J.Edwards@heliograph.net). If he doesn't have a photograph of any of your horses listed, he'd be grateful to receive one.

## **Message from the Sydney Regional Branch of the Australian Pony Stud Book**

We thank the Shire exhibitors who attended our show in August at Luddenham Showground. The classes were relatively well supported and an attraction on the day.

For 2009 (date TBC) we have extended the program, and hope that your support will be continued.

Our show relies on sponsorship for success. If you would like to sponsor the Championship event please email [stenbury@bigpond.com](mailto:stenbury@bigpond.com) with your sponsorship offer. We will of course recognise your support in the program.

*Melissa McVeagh*

## **Letter to the editor**

Dear Editor,

I recently received my newsletter and I wanted to say how fantastic the registration certificates look. Job well done to all involved!! I think it's great that our Society is moving ahead with new ideas! I am proud to be a member.

*Michelle Miles*

## **Did you know?**

There was a Tom Hanks and Jackie Gleason movie made called 'Nothing in Common' – it starred the famous Shire stallion **Ladbrook Aristocrat**.

**Famous Shire Horse painting** – in the Australian National Gallery by English artist William Nicholson (1872-1949).



*The Shire horse*

# Images from the SHSA Fundraiser





## Feature your Shire stud on the SHSA website

The SHSA is offering featured stud webpages for members, hosted on the SHSA website, for an annual fee of only \$200.

The SHSA website is generating an ever increasing amount of traffic, with numerous inquiries from people interested in buying Shires, looking for stallions or meeting other Shire Horse enthusiasts.

The featured Stud pages hold about five photos or images, a stud logo, a full A4 page of text and your contact details. Each stud has its own click through link for enquires, going directly to your email address.

The annual \$200 fee (plus GST) covers all set up costs, minor changes throughout the year, and an annual revamp of your content and images if requested.

The SHSA website is a first port-of-call for people interested in Shire Horses, and offers the opportunity for you to promote your stud to a wide audience of other enthusiasts.

Studs already on the site are receiving regular enquires via their webpage, and find it a valuable service for promotion and sales of Shire Horses.

These pages are run as a service to members and to promote the breed. The \$200 fee solely covers the cost of administering the page, with the SHSA making no profit on the placement.

For more information about the benefits of the service, talk to Helen Kuiper at [hkuiper@bigpond.net.au](mailto:hkuiper@bigpond.net.au) or 02 4683 1664. To place your page, please contact Andrew Gunter – 07 5599-4463 or [andrewg@ita.com.au](mailto:andrewg@ita.com.au)

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# Caterpillars causing pregnancy loss in mares

*Research has found a link between hairy caterpillars and a syndrome associated with pregnancy loss in mares in Australia.*

Research funded by RIRDC and the Hunter Valley Equine Research Centre has discovered a link between the processionary caterpillar (a type of hairy caterpillar with the scientific name *Ochragaster lunifer*) and pregnancy loss in mares, similar to a syndrome recently identified in the United States.

## History in the US

In 2001-02, a syndrome of pregnancy loss in mares was identified in the United States' mid-west (Ohio and central Kentucky) after reports of unusually high abortion rates in mares.

Known causes of abortion in horses were ruled out through field and laboratory testing; and monitoring of pasture, soil and climatic factors did not identify any association between these and the pregnancy losses.

The syndrome was named Mare Reproductive Loss Syndrome (MRLS), and symptoms included abortion, foetal death, ophthalmitis (inflammation of the eye) and pericarditis (inflammation of the membranes surrounding the heart).

Retrospective epidemiological studies identified several factors that warranted further study - including the eastern tent caterpillar (ETC), which was eventually identified as the cause.



***Eastern Tent Caterpillar***

Trials were carried out and it was demonstrated that ingestion of ETC exoskeleton, in pasture, feed or by direct administration, would result in abortion in mares.

## History in Australia

In Australia, a number of abortions were reported by Thoroughbred farms during the winter of 2004. Many exhibited unusual and consistent symptoms with abortions detected from mid pregnancy to term. The syndrome was named Equine Amnionitis\* and Foetal Loss (EAFL).

EAFL was the biggest single cause of abortions in the Hunter region in 2004, with 28 out of 76 investigated abortions (37%) identified as being caused by EAFL. Most affected farms had one and occasionally two cases, but a small number of farms were more heavily affected.

EAFL is difficult to diagnose and requires a complete post mortem of foetus and placenta to rule out all other known causes of abortion as well as changes consistent with EAFL.

Similarities between EAFL and the US syndrome MRLS led to the consideration of hairy caterpillars as a possible risk factor for the Australian condition. Although eastern tent caterpillars are not found in Australia, there are a number of caterpillar species found in EAFL affected regions, including processionary caterpillars, white cedar moth caterpillars and the mistletoe brown tail moth caterpillar.

Processionary caterpillars were the most common and numerous species reported in areas where EAFL cases had occurred and experimental studies on the effect of these caterpillars on pregnant mares were carried out.



*Processionary caterpillar nest in tree*

### Research results

The first study involved intubating mares at six months of gestation with 100 grams of whole caterpillars in distilled water. Another experiment was carried out where mares at seven months gestation were given shed processionary caterpillar exoskeleton the same way.

Abortions occurred in treated mares in both experiments, and examination of tissues from the placentas and foetuses of aborting mares indicated changes consistent with EAFL. In addition, foals from treated mares that were carried to term showed abnormalities such as evidence of bacterial infection similar to those seen in the aborted foetuses.

These experiments provided evidence that processionary caterpillars can induce pregnancy loss in mares and that shed exoskeleton can cause abortion with similar symptoms to cases of EAFL.

Further experiments are being completed to continue to investigate the mechanisms by which caterpillars may result in abortion in pregnant mares.



*These hairy, grey caterpillars are the larval stage of the bag shelter moth (Ochrogaster lunifer). Large numbers of the caterpillars rest together in a silken bag, leaving it to forage for leaves.*

*In coastal areas, the bag is located on the ground at the base of the trunk of the food tree; while in inland areas the bag is located up in the canopy.*

*As they move around, each caterpillar lays a trail of silk from the spinneret near its mouth. Other processionary caterpillars follow the trail nose to tail, and form a trail to find a new food source or a suitable pupation site.*



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# SHSA Registration Certificate Design

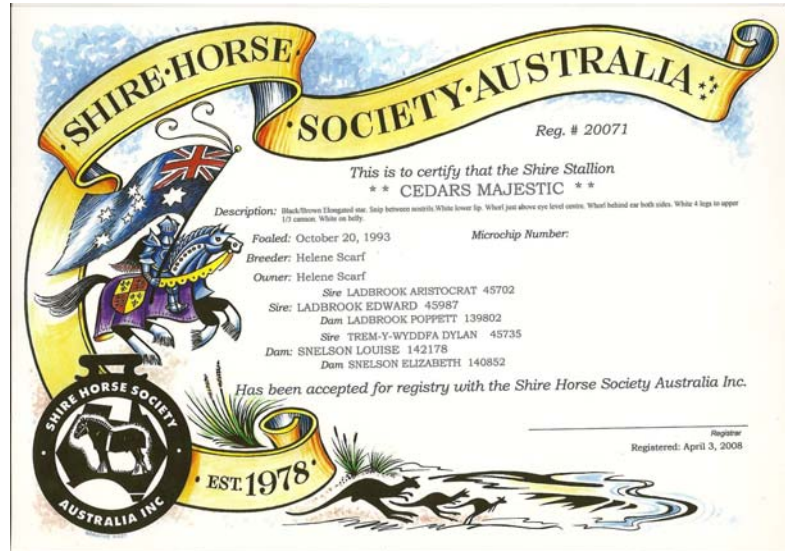
There have been many enquirees regarding the significance of the design of our Registration Certificate, so here is an outline of the elements and their meaning... Ed

The origins of the Shire Horse are based in the Great Horse of England, which was used by knights in armour as a war horse throughout the middle ages. This is represented by the knight riding the Shire Horse on the Certificate.

The colours and insignia on the horse are those of King Henry VIII of England – a big, heavy man who liked battle chargers. He enacted legislation to encourage the breeding of larger horses.

These horses were the first army tanks, and Henry decided to name them after the Shires of his nation – The Horse of the Shires, or The Great Horse, which went on to become the Shire Horse of modern times.

On the certificate however, King Henry is riding a modern Shire and holding a large Australian flag to symbolise that this is an Australian registry in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century of the English Shire Horse.



The native Australian wildflowers, and the kangaroos moving across the page with the King, are in the brown of the outback, but they lead down to the water and beaches which are so much a part of Australia. The banner is of course the Australian gold of our wattle, and the blue at the top represents our beautiful blue skies.

# The Clydesdale

incorporating INTERNATIONAL  
**SHIRES Today**

**PUBLISHED QUARTERLY**

By John ZAWADZKI

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# New stud – Deacons Gate Shires

By Katrina Deacon

*Dawn brings an exciting agitation to Deacons Gate Shires. Chooks get busy, roosters crow, dogs get walked, cats fed, and our five miniature horses and our magnificent Shire horse Pearl with her foal Rebel, wait at their gates in anticipation of their morning fare...*

It's taken seven years to reach this point. In 2001, we attended the Gatton Heavy Horse Field Day where the highlight was watching these huge animals being ridden. We were hooked and I wanted to be one of those riders from that moment on.

We spent years looking, and while we had a few opportunities to buy our first Shire, through various circumstances it didn't work out, and we started to doubt.

Was the Shire horse for us? Perhaps we should look at other breeds that are not so expensive. We went through the process again, re evaluating all breeds only to discover that we came back to the Shire time and time again.

In 2008, and just as we thought we'd never find our Shire, a mare, in foal, came on the market and we decided we'd better get down to Melbourne and make sure she was coming home with us.

Seven years was a long time to be looking for a horse so when Southern Cross Celestial Pearl finally arrived home on June 6, it was a magic time. We spent hours after her arrival that day just sitting in the paddock watching her investigate her new home.



**Pearl's arrival, 6th June 2008**

Adding to our bliss, Deacons Gate Quantum Rebel was born on September 9 without witness or problems and while we watch him explore his new world, we have to remind ourselves how lucky we are. Soon we will have to decide, do we sell him or keep him when he's of age?



**Pearl's and new arrival Rebel**

We are already planning Pearl's next service and hope she will produce another wonderfully leggy bundle of joy next year. By then of course we will have learnt a little bit more about these horses we love so much.

## SHSA Newsletter Advertising Rates

Full page x 4 issues - \$100 ½ page x 4 issues - \$50 ¼ page x 4 issues - \$25

**The Classifieds and Service listings are free to all SHSA members.**

Ed: *Membership.* SHSA welcomes new members for both full and associate membership. Please go to [www.shirehorsesociety.com.au](http://www.shirehorsesociety.com.au) and download an application form if you know anyone who wants to join.



# Recent SHSA Press Coverage

Talking Horses

## The future of the Shire horses



Above: Fierce bidding at the Shire horse fundraiser - (left to right) Byron Biffin, Brad Williams, Korrie Kuiper and Phebe Irwin auctioning the Picton Produce Hampers.



Left: The beauty of the Shire horse - Ineke Kuiper riding Shire Stallion, Oakridge Speculator, who was imported from the UK

With a small number of Shire Horses in Australia, the local society recently held a fundraiser to secure their future.

The Shire horse, which is related to the English Draught horse - is a bigger and heavier animal than the Clydesdale, and can reach 18 hands or more - in Australia there are fewer than 200 horses.

Helen Kuiper, the secretary of the Shire Horse Society in Australia said the fundraiser at Romeo's Restaurant in Port Kembla last weekend was to help raise money to start up a stud book.

"Shires are wonderful gentle horses with long silky hair on their legs, and they were bred originally to carry knights into battle," Mrs Kuiper said.

"They later became work horses, and these days are often ridden for pleasure.

"They are classified as a rare breed worldwide, and in Australia there are only about 160 Shire Horses in total. Until now all Australian Shire Horses have been registered in the UK."

In order to help save the breed and to encourage a breeding program, the society has started The Australian Shire Horse Stud Book.

"This will save people money for registering Shires and also make it easier, but for the society it meant buying an overseas program and doing a lot of web work for our forms and rules, a costly exercise," Mrs Kuiper said.

"The restaurant, where we had the fundraiser very generously donated all their profits to the society and we also ran an auction at the dinner and had as our auctioneer, Phebe Irwin, from radio Wave FM in Wollongong.

"We were overwhelmed by the response and we raised more than \$6000 to help save the magnificent Shire horse and to finance The Australian Shire Horse Stud Book.

"Picton businesses helped provide local produce for some hampers, which were very popular," she added.

24 Thursday, December 4, 2008 ■ THE LAND

### Upfront Opinion

#### Outrageous EI demand

SIR: Following your article on the proposed horse levy ("Heavy levy debate on bearing EI costs", *The Land*, November 27, p20), I feel your readers and federal Agriculture Minister, Tony Burke, need to realise the Australian Horse Industry Council only represents part of the horse industry.

There are plenty of horse organisations which are not members and do not support a disease control levy on our horses.

For Mr Burke to threaten no future assistance for emergencies unless the industry signs up for the levy is outrageous.

First, there would be the animal cruelty issues, especially if there was a dangerous outbreak in our naïve horse population.

Is the Government really saying it would let horses die across Australia because he couldn't get approval for a levy?

Then there would be the economic costs.

And, third, in our island situation any new disease outbreak will almost certainly come from a failure of government quarantine procedures - just as it did last year with the EI outbreak, which has provoked the levy plan.

When does the Government take responsibility for its own failures and stop trying to make others pay?

Trying to collect the levy will be another impossible issue, and levies on breed registrations will only encourage Australian stud books to move offshore.

**HELEN KUIPER,**  
Secretary,  
Shire Horse Society Australia,  
Thirlmere.

#### For fut

SIR: Last wee



industry is s



## New – SHSA Stallion Directory

*Sometimes taking the road less travelled can mean the journey ahead becomes clearer.....*

I am proud to announce that there will be another Stallion Directory produced again in 2009 (and for many more years to come), exclusively for the Shire Horse Society Australia.

A new name, new look and best of all new stallions!

Open to stallions and semen owned by SHSA member's and registered with the SHSA, SHS (UK), ASHA (USA),

CSHA (CAN). Stallions must be available to outside mares.

To be included in the 2009 edition, please contact:

Michelle Miles

SHSA Stallion Publication Editor

P: (08)9732 2207

M: 0410 340 872

E: [oldworldhorses@hotmail.com](mailto:oldworldhorses@hotmail.com)

Regards,

Michelle Miles

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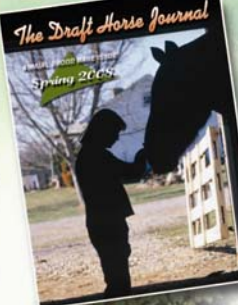
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# Classifieds

## For sale

### **Binnaway Elizabeth Grace**



OB: 14<sup>th</sup> November 2006  
Sire: Wye Archer  
Dam: Wye Princess Grace  
Libby will mature to a very large solid, well put together mare. She is a well bred filly who is also good to catch, float and trim.

**\$10,000**

### **Binnaway Ebony Sky**



DOB: 16<sup>th</sup> November 2006  
Sire: Wye Archer  
Dam: Binnaway Whiskers  
Bes is a solid black filly. She is very intelligent, fantastic to catch, float and trim. Bes will suit riding or harness work as nothing for Bes is a worry. A very easy going filly.

**\$7,000**

### **Binnaway Velvet Rose**



OB: 24<sup>th</sup> November 2006  
Sire: Wye Archer  
Dam: Yarramine Robin (Clydesdale)  
Rose is a well put together light bay filly. She has a lovely temperament and will suit the show ring. Good to catch, float and trim.

**\$12,000**

### **Wye Princess Grace**



DOB 27<sup>th</sup> October 1993  
Sire: Longcopy Cheltenham Old Style  
Dam: Aldreth Becky  
Grace is a solid black 17.2hh mare. She has produced 2 very lovely foals. She is broken to both saddle and harness. She has been show ring many times and used as a wedding cart horse. Grace is a good quiet faithful mare. Good to catch, float and shoe.

**\$9,000**

***For more information, phone Gary or Haley Collis  
(02) 4357 1309, 0417 860660 (Gary) or 0403 525 469 (Haley)***



# New Shire imports to Australia

By Marty Hayward

I recently imported Shire mare Cowerslane Juliette and her colt foal from England. While I found it very expensive, it was worth it when they walked off the truck onto the farm.

As Juliette was in foal, she has to stay in a home quarantine paddock (fully stock proof meshed fence) until she foals in March.

Juliette is in foal to Brownroyd Dark Shadow, owned by Bill and Sarah Bedford. She had an excellent show career in England under the hands of former owner Jim Yates and is from top quality blood lines.



***Cowerslane Juliette***

I liked Juliette for several reasons. She has good confirmation, a solid build, good feather, plenty of bone and is from great bloodlines. Her foal that travelled over with her 'Grandshire Thomson' is a very proud looking colt. He is in excess of 14 hands and is only 6 months old so he looks to become a good size stallion.

Her foal, owned by my mother Sharon Hayward, is now six months old, and is named after the mighty Thomson River, at Longreach in far western Queensland where I spent my early years.

My good friends, and SHSA members, Nara and Gavin Stevens of Drayhorse Shires in England, helped me through this exciting journey and I don't think that I would have been able to complete it without their assistance.

March 2009 will see the arrival of my third import, Drayhorse Grandshire Isaac, a jet black colt bred by Nara and Gav. He is by Ace of Spades, and while only a few months old, he is already something special to look at.



***Drayhorse Grandshire Isaac***

Material for publication is welcome. The opinions expressed in Shire Horse Society Australia Incorporated newsletter are not necessarily those of the editor or publisher.