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Protecting New Zealand's Equine Athletes

The New Zealand Horse Ambulance Trust is an equine welfare charity that promotes and protects the welfare and well-being of racing and sport horses in NZ.

Last season, a horse ambulance attended over 700 race meetings, trials and equestrian events nationwide and was deployed 90 times.

In the 2023/24 season, a horse ambulance attended:

292 THOROUGHBRED RACE MEETINGS

97 THOROUGHBRED TRIAL MEETINGS

242 HARNESS RACE MEETINGS

631 RACE MEETINGS AND TRIALS IN TOTAL
100% attendance at these events

We also attended 29 equestrian events and/or demos in the community.

An additional 55 events were held at National Equestrian Centre, Taupō where a horse ambulance is based

While most race meetings run without incident, there are occasions when a horse is injured or becomes unwell. Prompt access to specialist veterinary care and safe transport in a horse ambulance can be life saving for these animals.

Four-year-old Thoroughbred gelding Groomsman was diagnosed with an injury during a post-race examination for poor performance. The race-day vet suspected a stress fracture of the cannon bone of the right fore limb, which was confirmed on X-ray.

The decision was made to stabilise the horse's injury and safely transfer him to a suitable location for rehabilitation in the horse ambulance.

The horse was transported from Tauherenikau to the trainer's property—a 121-km road trip over the Remutaka ranges and through Transmission Gully to Levin. As the fracture was non-displaced, a large multi-layer bandage was applied to immobilise the limb and prevent further damage during the journey.

Groomsman's care was entrusted to an experienced operator who monitored the animal's condition and behaviour during transport via

video. Horses are often sedated to travel in the ambulance, as racehorses are used to travelling in trucks rather than alone in a horse float.

The ambulance has a hydraulic system that lowers it right down to the ground, so an injured horse can enter on a level gradient, minimising further trauma. The in-built adjustable crush is well-padded and designed to stabilise the animal and relieve pressure on the trachea of a sedated horse.

Groomsman recovered after three months of box rest and rehabilitation and equine vet, Dr Pip Hendron, said that with this type of stress fracture, provided rehab is followed, the horse may be able to race again or have a sport horse career.

"The horse ambulance is an amazing asset. It is an essential component of the race day and enables the highest standard of care for the horse." — Dr Pip Hendron BVetMed Cert (AVP), Equine Veterinarian



Inside the Horse Ambulance

Learn more about New Zealand's world-leading dedicated horse ambulance service at www.horseambulance.co.nz

The NZ horse ambulance Trust is proudly sponsored by Cambridge Stud, Drs Bill & Helen Bishop, New Zealand Bloodstock, the Rodmor Trust, the Salient Equine Trust, SVS, TAB NZ, the legacy of Valachi Downs, Waikato Stud and many of the major equine veterinary practices in NZ.



Rodmor Charitable Trust

Stifle cysts and lucencies in Thoroughbred sales yearlings and two-year-olds

Dr Frances Peat BVSc PhD DACVSMR

This study was designed to improve veterinarians' interpretation and understanding of a spectrum of changes that occur on the inside weightbearing surface of the stifle joint in young horses. It began at the largest yearling sale in the world in Kentucky and involved radiographs from over 2,500 sales yearlings (5,016 stifles) and over 400 sales two-year-olds (872 stifles). Following these sales, the study horses went on to race in the United States and around the world.

The research came about because presale x-rays of young horses can identify subtle, shallow dark areas (lucencies) on the inside of the stifle and, less commonly, some horses develop bone cysts in this location that can cause lameness. The main aims of the study were to categorise the different severities of bone change in this location into clear recognisable grades (grades 0-3, pictured), measure how commonly each grade is seen in sales horses and investigate which grades affect future racing performance. Horses' racing records were tracked for three years until they turned five-years-old, to analyse if they raced and how often, their earnings and overall performance.

Results showed that stifle lucencies or cysts were seen in 10 percent of sales yearlings and 11 percent of sales two-year-olds. Grade 1 (mild, shallow lucencies) were most common, and the more severe grades, 2 (deeper lucencies) and 3 (cysts), were much less prevalent in sales horses. The majority of lucencies did not get worse between yearling and two-year-old age and results showed it was possible to have a one grade improvement in appearance between sales. Approximately 20 percent of lesions did progress to a greater severity between sales, not including horses that may have been withdrawn. The importance of taking high quality radiographs that show the bone structure closely is essential for accurate grading. High quality radiographs are particularly critical for assessing which of the grade 2 lucencies in yearlings are most at risk of progressing to a cyst.

Horses with a grade 3 cyst at a yearling sale were less likely to make it to the races (1 in 5 didn't race). However, those that did make it to the races

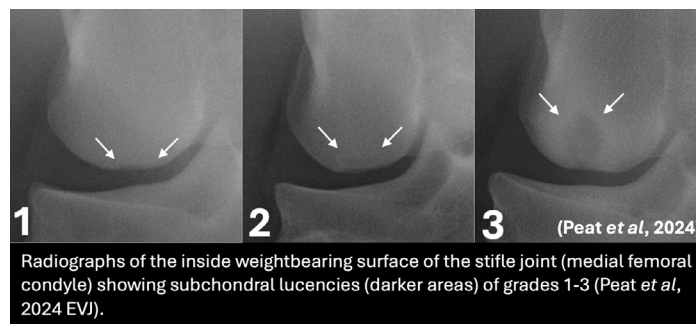
performed as well as their unaffected peers on average. There were a small number of horses with a grade 3 cyst at the two-year-old sales and all of those went on to race well. This suggested that horses that have remained sound through the breaking-in process and two-year-old sale preparation, including breeze ups, were less likely to be affected by the cyst in future.

The study has provided veterinarians and buyers with evidence to quantify their interpretation of these stifle changes on sales x-rays. Importantly, it has shown that mild lucencies (grade 1) are common, often stable or resolve, and can be considered low risk for affecting future performance. Results also showed that circular lucencies in a different location on the inside of the stifle (axial cyst-like lesions) did not affect performance and can be considered low risk on sales radiographs.

The full scientific article is available via the following links:

Peat FJ, Kawcak CE, McIlwraith CW, Keenan DP, Berk JT, Mork DS. Subchondral lucencies of the medial femoral condyle in yearling and 2-year-old Thoroughbred sales horses: Prevalence, progression and associations with racing performance. *Equine Vet J.* 2024; 56(1):99–109.

<https://doi.org/10.1111/evj.13945>



Professor C Wayne McIlwraith, ONZM

On New Year's Day Professor Wayne McIlwraith was honoured with a King's Award - Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit - for services to veterinary medicine and the equine industry.

Wayne graduated from Massey University in 1970 with a Bachelor of Veterinary Science degree and worked for several years in general practice in the South Island. He then headed overseas, initially to pursue his mountain climbing dreams, but ended up completing a Residency in Large Animal Surgery at Purdue University in Indiana and becoming a large animal surgery specialist at Guelph University in Ontario, before joining Colorado State University as a specialist equine surgeon in 1979. He has had an incredible career, being instrumental in the development of arthroscopic surgery in horses. He also founded the Gail Holmes Orthopaedic Research Centre to study early diagnosis of and new treatments for osteoarthritis both in animals and humans. His last major achievement was setting up the Transitional Medicine Institute at Colorado University (the founders insisted it be named after him!). Wayne has co-authored 7 textbooks on orthopaedics and 500 peer-reviewed scientific papers and has presented at over 700 scientific meetings worldwide. He is a life member of NZ Equine Veterinary Association, an adjunct Professor at Massey Veterinary School and the current chairman of the NZ Equine Trust.

It is very fitting that Wayne has received this award and we are all very grateful that he is still contributing so immensely to the NZ equine industry.



Professor Wayne McIlwraith (left) with Drs Brian Anderson (middle) and Brian Goulden (right) at the recent Karaka National Yearling Sale.

British Animal Rescue and Trauma Care Association Conference 2024

Travel Scholarship Report - Patrice Palleson-Putt

In June last year I had the privilege of attending the British Animal Rescue and Trauma Care Association (BARTA) conference in Glasgow, Scotland. I would like to express my gratitude to the NZERF for their generous contribution to allow my attendance at this conference.

BARTA was established to enable first responder training in animal welfare in the UK. They are considered world leaders in technical large animal rescue, especially equine rescue. It is the pioneering work of BARTA over the past 20 years that has formalised technical large animal rescue globally. The BARTA techniques are widely adopted methods for safely and humanely removing an animal from a place of danger to a place of safety.

The 2024 BARTA conference was held at the University of Glasgow Veterinary School, and the conference theme was 'Global solutions to tackle local issues – creating a community of practice'. The presenters and delegates were truly international, representing the UK, USA, Canada, Australia, Chile and NZ. The delegates were a mixture of first responders (trained fire fighters with animal rescue capability), veterinarians and paraprofessionals, lecturers, and representatives from allied animal groups. I was invited to present and share the experiences of the Massey University Veterinary Emergency Response Team during several disaster deployments, including Cyclone Gabrielle.

The conference was held over three days, and topics included technical large animal rescue, and animals in disasters. Several breakout sessions highlighted considerations when rescuing animals from water, vertical lifting of horses, and scenario simulations. At the conclusion of the conference, selected delegates from member nations were invited to attend the International Joint Education Coalition summit. During this meeting, there were two clear themes that emerged. First, the need to increase educational offerings and collaboration between Veterinary Schools. Second, the need to connect responders, agencies and groups as a community of practice.

Learnings from the conference included several novel equine rescue techniques and alternative ways of approaching an incident. The biggest take home was the sense of community and collaboration. The animal response community encompasses two very different professions, first responders and veterinarians. Neither can complete a safe and efficient rescue without the other, so continuing to foster these connections is imperative. We have some way to go in New Zealand to connect the first responders to local veterinarians, and to proactively establish an understanding of roles and responsibilities.

Another key learning was the power of community. We are facing unprecedented challenges with climate change and an increase in emergency events involving animals. In California, they have adopted a model to organise and train community volunteers. They equip these groups with training, PPE and equipment, and ensure they have the capacity to respond to events. In California, the wildfires are immense, and personnel resources are limited. This model offers a sensible and viable solution. In New Zealand, the two animal response teams are voluntary; however, it is recognised there is a need to increase capacity in this area. The Californian model provides an interesting concept, and recognition that there is a need to engage the wider community and build capacity at this level.

Importantly, the conference was an opportunity to connect and collaborate with the international animal rescue community. The 'community of practice' is an exciting concept, and a way to share experiences and collaborate with colleagues. I am fortunate to have had the opportunity to attend this event and am excited for the implementation of these learnings in the future. Thank you NZERF.



Simulated horse rescue



Patrice Palleson-Putt (left) with Dr Josh Slater (University of Melbourne, middle) and David King (NSW SES, right).



Dr Matt Mackee (left) and Kane Clayton-Greene (right) with champion NZ sire Savabeel.

2025 Vet-Farrier Scholarship Recipients

The 2025 NZERF Vet-Farrier Scholarship winners are Dr Matt Mackee and Kane Clayton-Greene. Both Matt and Kane are based at Waikato Stud as head vet and farrier respectively.

Matt would like to progress his career in equine stud medicine by gaining experience from specialists around the world. Kane would like to advance his skills as a farrier and pass on his knowledge to his apprentice, Harry Chittick, to improve the performance of horses in their care.

Using this scholarship, which is generously supported by the NZ Equine Veterinary Association and the NZ Farriers Association, Matt and Kane are looking forward to the opportunity to expand their knowledge base in podiatry and related veterinary issues. We look forward to hearing more about their travels.

Tail Amputation in a Pony

Case Study - 2023 Massey Veterinary Student Scholarship Recipient Nicole Johnston

History

A 21-year-old Welsh Mountain Pony cross-bred mare was seen at her home property for a complaint of a "flyblown tail". The mare had not received any veterinary attention in the previous four years with the current owner. Her vaccination status and deworming history were unknown. The owner reported that the mare was seen rubbing her hind end against gates on a regular basis and had been known to get her tail hair caught on the gate.

Clinical findings

On presentation the mare was bright, alert and eating. Her temperature was 37.9°C and other vital parameters were also within normal limits. The mare's body condition score was 8/9 with a healthy coat. No other abnormalities were noted on physical examination other than the tail.

The distal three quarters of the mare's tail was cold and discoloured, with areas of hair loss (alopecia) and a notable odour. The end of the tail had a wound exposing the last tail bone, and the surrounding tissue was infested with fly larvae (maggots).

Skin sensation and blood supply to the affected area were assessed using needle pricks and there appeared to be a clear demarcation between the healthy and dead portions of the tail, with no sensation or blood present in the dead portion. There was also a small area of superficial skin infection towards the base of the tail. The recommended course of treatment was immediate partial tail amputation to remove the dead portion of the tail, and the mare was transported to nearby equine veterinary facilities for further treatment.

Treatment

On arrival, the mare was first administered a tetanus antitoxin. Following placement of an intravenous catheter she was given an anti-inflammatory drug and sedated for standing surgery. Additional sedation was given as required.

The mare's tail was clipped and the skin was aseptically prepared over the first two tail bones. Local anaesthetic solution was placed under the skin and a spinal needle was inserted perpendicular to the skin and advanced into the space between the tail bones, and anaesthetic drugs were administered to achieve an epidural nerve block.

The distal half of the tail was placed in a rectal glove which was held in place using a sterile cohesive wrap. The surgical site on the proximal half of the tail was aseptically prepared, including a thorough cleaning of the infected skin at the base of the tail. A sterile drape was then placed over the rump.

An incision was made through the skin, circumferentially around the tail, in the proximal healthy part of the tail (Figure 1). The incision was extended proximally on both sides to create two square skin flaps. The tail tissue was bluntly dissected and severed between the sixth and seventh tail bones, leaving about ¼ of the original tail. The wound was sutured closed and dressed with a non-adherent dressing held in place with adhesive elastic bandage.

Post operatively the mare was administered antibiotic drugs due to the contaminated nature of the surgery. She was kept in a stable overnight and the following morning she was given a long-acting



Figure 1. Incision site on the tail

antibiotic and pain relief. She was also given a dewormer. The mare was then discharged home where she would be kept in the paddock with daily pain relief continued for 4 days post operatively. Irritation around the exposed rectum and vulva was managed with daily application of Vaseline to the skin.

At the revisit 4 days post-surgery, some of the skin sutures had pulled out and the skin infection was still present (Figure 2). The mare was otherwise healthy. A second dose of long-acting antibiotic was given at this time. Bandaging was discontinued due to it being difficult to maintain for the owner.

At the revisit 14 days post-surgery the sutures were removed. There was still some evidence of purulent discharge from the area of skin infection. The mare was started on a 10-day course of antibiotic given orally twice daily.

At the revisit 24 days post-surgery the wound had completely healed with no evidence of skin infection in the remaining tail. Hair regrowth had also begun.

Seven months post-surgery the mare continues to do well and is performing light ridden activity. The tail has considerable hair regrowth that is now covering the rectum and vulva (Figure 3).

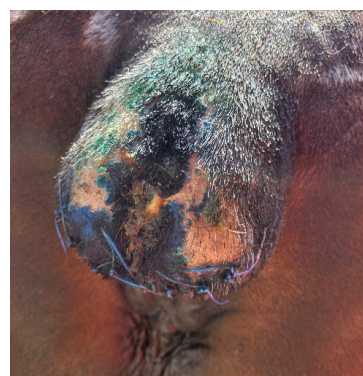


Figure 2. Tail wound 4 days post-surgery with skin infection still present.

Discussion

Tail injuries are uncommon in horses. In this case the exact cause of the injury is unknown but is suspected to be due to getting the tail caught whilst scratching it. Pruritis (itchiness) of the hind end can be associated with parasite infestation of *Oxyuris equi*, and the lack of drenching in this case could have been associated with a parasite problem. Analysis of sticky tape impressions from the peri-anal skin region could have been used to obtain a definitive diagnosis.

The selection of medications in this case was strongly driven by practicality and availability. The standard recommendation for post-operative antibiotics for a contaminated surgery is a combination of penicillin and gentamicin for up to 5 days (NZVA 2018).

Unfortunately, the clinic did not have facilities for the mare to stay onsite for a prolonged period of time and the clients were unable to perform injections, so the decision was made to use a long-acting antibiotic for ease of administration. In an ideal situation, this mare would have been housed under veterinary care for 5 days following surgery to receive appropriate medications.

However, despite these circumstances, the surgery produced a positive outcome for this mare.



Figure 3. Mare 7 months post-surgery

2025 Massey Veterinary Student Scholarship Recipients

Congratulations to the 2025 recipients of the NZERF Massey Veterinary Student Scholarship, Jemma Fenton and Grace Bleach.

Jemma's passion for the equine industry has motivated her to pursue a career as an equine veterinarian. She has experience working in Thoroughbred racing and is currently visiting equine speciality veterinary practices. With a particular interest in sports medicine, Jemma plans to use her scholarship to gain further experience in equine medicine with the aim to improve the quality of life for horses.

Grace Bleach received encouragement from the equine industry from a young age, which led to involvement in Pony Club and eventing. This solid foundation drove her interest in becoming an equine veterinarian. Grace has gained experience in equine reproductive work and plans to become a general equine practitioner. This scholarship will assist her in gaining further equine veterinary experience during the final year of vet school.



Grace Bleach



Jemma Fenton

Horses in Education and Therapy International Congress 2024

Devon Tretheway-Koppers, 2024 Salient Trust Scholar



Sensory Trail

I was extremely grateful to be awarded the 2024 Salient Trust Scholarship which allowed me to travel to Budapest to attend the 18th Horses in Education and Therapy International Congress (HETI) in June 2024. What an experience it was!

The theme of the congress was "Science to Practice" and with over 237 delegates from 39 countries there was plenty of opportunity for networking and collaboration alongside attending the workshops and seminars on horse welfare and ethics, social licence, rider disabilities and conditions, and education, all of which were backed up by research.

On the final day of the congress, we travelled an hour out of Budapest to the therapeutic riding and education centre in Fóti. The centre is located on 30 hectares of land and has over 30 horses. They also have their own breeding programme, ensuring the next generation of therapy horses exist. The quality of the therapy horses was high, with many warmbloods and native breeds such as Haflingers being used in the programme. The horses were all schooled to a high level and were able to work at an advanced level of dressage (level 4-5) and show jumping (above 80cms). All therapeutic riding coaches also had to be able to ride to this standard.

The highlight for me was their extensive sensory park located in a forest. Throughout the forest were varying activities for riders that enabled sensory stimulation and learning, which combined with the warmth and movement of the horses enables the riders to achieve greater outcomes. This is something that I would like to build here at EquiPotential in Hamilton.

The other highlight was coming away with a sense of validation and pride, knowing that all the programmes that we run at EquiPotential, both ridden and unmounted, for therapy and wellbeing are being delivered to a global level and in some areas, we are more advanced than other international centres. Thank you once again to the Salient Trust for allowing me this opportunity and I look forward to implementing these new ideas and knowledge into the Equine assisted services sector in New Zealand.

Travel Report – Carter Dalgety, 2024 Valachi Downs Young Achiever Award winner

I travelled to America in early July 2024 and based myself at Dexter Dunn's place in Millstone, New Jersey. Each state in America requires its own harness driver's license, so I gained my race-day driving license in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Kentucky, and Ohio, which allowed me to drive at any of the multiple tracks within those states.

In my first week I headed to Harrah's Philadelphia track in Chester, and then The Meadowlands in New Jersey, which is very close to the heart of New York City. There was a significant race on called the Meadowlands Pace for 3-year-olds, which has a prize of \$650,000. It was a thrilling race, as the winner set a new record time.

My first training day was with European trainer Trond Smedshammer at Gaitway Farms, a public training centre that houses multiple trainers. I then had a training day with Ron Burke, who trains over 300 horses across the country. At the barn I worked in there are between 70 and 100 horses. My next training stable was that of New Zealand-born Nifty Normans where I got to work with many other fellow Kiwis and Australians.

I was keen to get an insight into the European style of training trotters, so I headed out to Ake Svanstedt's stable to drive some trackwork. This was an incredible eye-opener. Horses train in groups of 12 to 14 and are sent out on sets lasting over an hour. Each set consists of warm-up, hill work, interval training and deep sand training. This is something I had never experienced before and the discipline and smooth function of both drivers and horses was incredible.

I was introduced to leading vet Dr Steve Dey and was able to spend time travelling around with him, getting to see his day-to-day activities as a vet for many of the top harness racing stables in America. It was valuable viewing many different stables and how the trainers all manage their horses differently, as well as diagnosing problems in racehorses and then finding solutions to improve their performance.

I then headed to the Hambletonian Race Day at The Meadowlands. This is a thrilling meeting where all the top age group horses are competing, headed by the 99th running of the \$1 million Hambletonian for 3-year-old trotters.

My first day of driving was at Harrah's Philadelphia track, where I was lucky enough to pick up a few drives and managed to get a winner for Kiwi trainer Chris Ryder. After this I had my first race day drives at The Meadowlands, winning with Stonebridge Reef which is also trained by Chris Ryder and setting a new personal best time for the horse in the process.

I then flew to Kentucky where I spent the next three weeks. The main racetrack there is called The Red Mile, named for its surface which consists of an incredible red clay. In Kentucky I worked with and trained horses for trainers Nancy Takter, Domineco Cecere of Lindy Farms, and Brett Pelling. Kentucky is also home to incredibly beautiful breeding farms. I was able to visit Peninsula Farms, Brittany Farms, Armitage Farm and more, giving me a great insight into all things breeding and raising racehorses. I also drove in multiple races at The Red Mile and was lucky enough to score a winner.

After Kentucky I headed to Ohio and had a night's racing at Scioto Downs, followed by Indiana which has a racetrack called Hoosier Park. I then headed to Delaware, Ohio, for the Little Brown Jug. This is a huge two-day racing event at a fair and one of the most amazing experiences I have had. What makes The Little Brown Jug race so special, apart from its amazing atmosphere, is that there are two heats for the race in the afternoon and the top qualifiers from each heat go into the final which is run only a couple of hours later, so the horses race twice in one day.

I finished my driving statistics in America at over 100 drives and 12 winners, with three winners in one day Harrahs Philadelphia. The experience, knowledge and insights I gained while on this trip have significantly furthered my career in the harness racing industry. Learning the American driving style and coming up against the best drivers in the world gave me experience and wisdom I have brought back and implemented in my driving in New Zealand. Being involved with many of the leading trainers has really extended my knowledge of conditioning and managing racehorses in different ways, which has helped me understand programming a racehorse's journey from day 1 in the stable to race day in New Zealand.

This trip was made possible by Valachi Downs and the New Zealand Equine Research Foundation and I thank them immensely for their support and the opportunity to take on this trip of a lifetime.



Carter Dalgety



Mitigating the risk of exotic disease introduction to the NZ equine industry – role of the NZ Equine Health Association

The NZ equine industry is particularly vulnerable to the risk of exotic diseases being introduced because it is the only NZ agriculture sector that allows the importation of live animals. Exotic diseases such as Equine Influenza, African Horse Sickness and Equine Infectious Anaemia have the potential to spread rapidly and cause high morbidity and/or mortality rates among NZ horses. However, there are many other diseases carried by horses which, if introduced, would result in significant welfare, economic and trade impacts on the NZ equine industry. Some diseases, like Lyme disease and Hendra virus, have zoonotic potential, impacting human health, or socio-cultural consequences, where the disease may have an impact on the NZ way of life. Should any of these pathogens arrive, the financial burden of containment, eradication, and compensation would cripple the equine industry.

A key part of managing this risk is by maintaining import health standards (IHS), administered by the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI). These standards place very specific requirements on the import of animals and animal products, including pre- and post-travel quarantine periods, as well as required diagnostics and treatments. The NZ Equine Health Association (NZEHA) plays a critical role in ensuring this system is operating effectively and set at a conservative risk threshold that protects our industry. At times this may be at odds with MPI's view of an appropriate risk threshold; therefore, the NZEHA actively reviews IHSs and provides recommendations when inadequacies in the standards are detected.

Because no system can eliminate all risk, it is critical that the NZ equine sector remains vigilant for detecting suspected exotic diseases. NZ biosecurity is reliant on individual horse owners, veterinarians and other animal health professionals raising the alarm if an exotic disease is suspected. In addition, routine effective on-farm and event biosecurity is necessary to limit spread if an exotic disease incursion was to occur. If the resilience of the equine sector to exotic disease introductions is to

improve, a significant change in biosecurity behaviour and practice is required and these changes will need to be led by the equine industry itself, rather than government.

Readiness and proactive measures are also an important component of biosecurity. The NZEHA has recently reviewed and revised MPI's current response plan for equine influenza, which outlines the response actions if an incursion of this disease agent was to occur. Another important NZEHA initiative is to develop tools that can be used during a biosecurity response. The National Equine Identification and Traceability System (NEIT) is an example of this. Implementing a biosecurity response is impossible without an understanding of the NZ horse population. Currently we do not know how many horses are present in NZ or how to contact their owners in case of an emergency. Because the equine industry is small in comparison to other NZ agricultural sectors like the dairy industry, only limited government biosecurity resources are being allocated to the equine sector. Whilst MPI has not contributed financially to the development of NEIT to date, requiring significant investment by NZEHA on behalf of the equine industry to provide this important response tool, the NZEHA is seeking legislative support from MPI to ensure that there is a legal requirement to register all horses in the system. Improved collaboration and shared responsibility for implementing this type of initiative is integral to future biosecurity resilience for the sector.

A more comprehensive paper outlining the risks of introducing exotic diseases, the potential areas for biosecurity improvement, and role the industry plays to mitigating some of the risks can be found on the NEIT website: <https://www.neit.org.nz/supporting-evidence>.



New Zealand Equine
Health Association
www.nzeha.org.nz



National Equine
Identification &
Traceability

New Zealand Equine Research Foundation Scholarships and Grants

Salient Trust Young Achiever Award

\$15,000 available annually to assist an individual under the age of 35 in their career in the equine industry

<https://nzerf.org.nz/salient-trust-young-achiever-award>

Closes 31st January annually

Travel Awards

For any travel relating to research and development in the NZ horse industry.

<https://nzerf.org.nz/travel-awards>

Applications received any time

Equine Research Grants

Applications from interested people for funding for projects in the field of equine research.

<https://nzerf.org.nz/research-grants>

Closes 30th April annually

Jonathan Hope Equine Veterinarian Scholarship

\$10,000 available to help a "young at heart" New Zealand-based veterinarian gain practical skills that will be valuable in supporting his or her work within the NZ horse industry.

<https://nzerf.org.nz/jonathan-hope-equine-veterinary-scholarship>

Closes 31st January annually

Massey Veterinary Student Scholarships

Up to \$3000 awarded to final year students studying full time in the Bachelor of Veterinary Science degree at Massey University who plan to work primarily in the equine industry.

scholarships@massey.ac.nz

Closes 30th September annually

Veterinarian – Farrier Scholarships

\$3,000 each for a veterinarian and a farrier from the same geographic location to attend a suitable course or symposium and/or spend time with colleagues in the USA.

<https://nzerf.org.nz/vet-farrier-scholarship>

Closes 30 November annually

Applicants should apply in writing/
email to The Secretary:

Email: info@nzerf.org.nz

Chairman's Corner

At the time of writing, we have been enjoying a wonderful summer of lovely warm days – great for BBQ's but not so good for the farmers growing grass and fairly hot and sweaty for riding horses! The Karaka National Yearling Sales have come and gone with a new record-high price of \$2.4 million for a filly bought by Chris Waller's team from the Haunui Farm draft. Well done to all involved! Similarly, the Standardbred yearling Sales are now complete with some very good results for some also.

In February we held a very enjoyable and fitting farewell function for Allan Fenwick who has been the secretary/treasurer for the NZERF for 17 years now, and a Board member much longer. Allan's devotion to our organisation and sharp mind have been a wonderful asset for our group and we thank him hugely for his contributions. Allan has always been a great people person and has ensured everyone gets their say. The development of people has always been a huge goal for the foundation, and we are very proud of the many contributors to the NZ horse industry

that the NZERF has helped shape. One such contributor is Frances Peat who has recently completed a significant study on the importance of various radiographic findings in Thoroughbred yearlings and their impact on future race performance. This is ground-breaking work for all involved in the Thoroughbred industry as it helps buyers, sellers, and trainers to make better decisions on how to manage their young horses to ensure they have happier and healthier careers.

The NZERF is confident that many more outstanding contributors like Frances will develop through the many scholarships and research grants that we promote. Our selection panels are currently assessing 6 very good applications for the Salient Trust Young Achiever award, and 5 applications for the Jonathan Hope Veterinary Practitioner scholarship. These are all very capable people and we wish them luck.

Dr Tim Pearce, NZERF Chairman



Allan Fenwick receiving a framed photograph of his racehorse "Plume" as a token of the NZERF's appreciation for years of service.

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