

The benefits of shelterbelts for your horse property

A shelterbelt is a line of trees and bushes designed to provide shelter and shade for the horses that live on a property.

They also provide habitat for wildlife, such as insectivorous birds and bats which make horses (and humans!) more comfortable by eating pest insects by the thousands.

Well-designed shelterbelts improve the micro-climate on a property by cooling the air in hot weather, both through shade and the evaporative cooling effects of transpiration; and warming the air in cold weather by slowing the wind.

By choosing the correct plant species you can also create a firebreak with a shelterbelt.

Shelterbelts can help protect new pasture crops, reduce the loss of topsoil and minimise erosion through slowing the wind or helping to disperse additional water flows.

Shelterbelts with a range of plants at different heights provide increased value for wildlife, horse shelter and land management benefits.

Having a line of trees and bushes between paddocks and between neighboring properties reduces fence injuries as horses cannot then play with one another over the fence. In some cases, it can also reduce the incidence of "fence walking".

A fenced shelterbelt, on property boundaries, and between paddocks of different age groups of horses or species of animals also has the additional benefit of acting as a type of biosecurity barrier.

Shelterbelts also enhance the look of your horse property, improving aesthetic appearance and even potential resale value.



An example of shelterbelts formed each side of a drainage line. Wet weather roadway stormwater runoff makes its way through this natural drainage line to a dam. The drainage line is then usable for dry weather grazing by horses."

To create good shelterbelts you may need advice from local experts who can advise on which species of trees and bushes to plant. See the list of suggested contacts below.

- 1 Your local council www.alga.asn.au
- 2 Your local Natural Resources Management Board/Catchment Management Authority www.nrm.gov.au
- 3 Your local State Government Department of Primary Industries or Environment
- 4 Your local landcare group or Greening Australia

HorsesLandWater: Peri-Urban Project:

National Forum on Horse Keeping and the Environment

Representatives from National and State horse groups and individual organisations – including the Australian Horse Industry Council, Pony Club Australia, Equestrian Federation of Australia, Australian Endurance Riders Association, Victorian Horse Riding Clubs Association, North East Thoroughbred Group, Association for Horsemanship, Safety & Education, Australian Commonwealth Clydesdale Society, Australian Pony Stud Book Society, Macedon Lodge Stud, Bendigo Harness Racing Centre – met in Melbourne on June 1 to become engaged in sharing the horse keeping and good land management message.

A report outlining presentations and outcomes from the National Forum will be available soon on www.horseslandwater.com

State Forums are scheduled for NSW, Tasmania, Perth and SA. For further information and registrations, visit www.horseslandwater.com



Did you know you can contact the Greening Australia Exchange Program to receive free advice about land, flora and fauna?

HorsesLandWater Peri-Urban Project

Field days for horse owners:

Kangaroo Ground Pony Club leads the way in sharing good management practices with their members!

Kangaroo Ground Pony Club, Victoria, is leading the way nationally in showing how easy it is to provide the good land management message to members at a local level through a free field day scheduled for June 30. Visit the club at www.ponyclubvic.org

A series of no-cost field days has been scheduled for NSW, Tasmania, WA and SA over coming weeks. These informal, interactive days are open to any horse property owner and aim to provide an introduction to easy ways to improve their horse properties.

For further information about times, dates and venues please visit www.horseslandwater.com

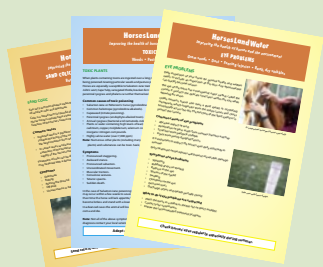
Registrations are also accepted online or by contacting the HorsesLandWater office.

New resources

You can download a series of six horse health brochures from www.horsesa.asn.au

They cover problems with eyes, mud, sand, founder, plant toxicity and horse condition.

Do you have other horse health/management resources which you are prepared to share online? If so, please contact HorsesLandWater at the address below.



Research now available:

Environmental Management on Horse Properties research report now online.

Prototype Environmental Management System (EMS) for the Horse Keeping Community – Implementation, Auditing and Monitoring, was a three-year RIRDC-funded research project that explored the value of an environmental partnership approach between South Australian horse industry representatives and government to achieve environmental improvements on horse properties on a voluntary basis.

The report can be downloaded from www.rirdc.gov.au/fullreports/hor.html

What's coming up?

For more information about these, and other upcoming events visit www.horseslandwater.com

HorsesLandWater: Peri-Urban Project State Forums

New South Wales	Friday, July 6
Tasmania	Friday, July 13
West Australia	Friday, July 27
South Australia	Friday, August 3

HorsesLandWater: Peri-Urban Project Field Days

New South Wales	Saturday, July 7
Tasmania	Saturday, July 14
West Australia	Saturday, July 28

If your club, Council, training organisation or agency is conducting a horse course, field day, workshop or any other educational activity these can be promoted at no cost on www.horseslandwater.com Just email Julie at horsesa@horsesa.asn.au to have it included.

www.horseslandwater.com

Project Partners:– Harness Racing Board (AHRB), Australian Pony Club Council (APCC), Melbourne Water, Environmental Protection Authority SA (Watershed Protection Office), Greening Australia Exchange Program, Tasmania South Natural Resources Management Board, Adelaide and Mt Lofty Ranges Natural Resources Management Board, [Baulkham Hills Shire Council](http://www.baulkhamhills.nsw.gov.au), [Australian Trail Horse Riders Association](http://www.australiantrailriders.com.au)... with more joining in!

Please promote the Peri-Urban Project through your club or horse-related business website, noticeboard or newsletter.

HorsesLandWater

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The HorsesLandWater Action Planner for Horse Properties is supported by:



The HorsesLandWater Community of Practice website was built through funding provided by

