

## The good news continues

**Following the successful roll-out of the HorsesLandWater program during 2007, it has been great to get news from around the states.**

In Victoria, Yarra Ranges Shire Council continues to provide a comprehensive program for residents and you will see by the list of courses and field days coming up (see below), that horse keeping and good land management practices are being promoted through courses in a number of states.

Funding applications have been submitted under the last Landcare Community Support round by collaborative groups in Perth, Victoria, Tasmania and one to deliver into the Northern Territory.

Discussions are also progressing for further programs to become established in New South Wales.

South Australia has continued a wide range of horse keeping initiatives, with a field day on 'Pastures in wet areas' filling very fast. There is also a program of information nights with equine vets and land management advisors.

It's great to also see the increasing number of Agricultural Colleges and Registered Training Providers who are utilising the HLW resources for students as part of their horse care curriculum.

A HorsesLandWater Property Management Plan course outline has also been registered with FarmBis.

The HorsesLandWater website has a new Google chat group added so people can register and discuss land management and related horse care information.

Our horses and our natural environment will continue to benefit from sharing the news about horse keeping and good land management practices.

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## What's coming up?

**Register online at [www.horseslandwater.com](http://www.horseslandwater.com)**

**Victoria:** Good land management for horse keepers ...  
June 20, Teesdale Community Hall.

June 21, Bradford Council Chambers, Jane Myers.

June 22, Morac Community Centre.

**South Australia:**

- 'Pastures in wet areas' field day, Meadows, June 21.

- Horse health (nutrition, disease and land management), Willunga, June 11 and 14, 2008. Enquiries to Tash Cockburn 0408 000 842.

- Rural Land Management for Horse Owners. Starts May 20. A 6-week course, \$99 per property. Enquiries to Kim Thompson 8568 1714.

**New South Wales:** A whole swag of one-day and short courses including horse handling, property planning, faecal egg counts, weed identification, heavy horse handling and safety. Details at [www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/agriculture/profarm/courses](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/agriculture/profarm/courses)



## Water quality on your horse property can be improved in a number of ways:

- 1 Provide troughs instead of relying on seasonal creeks and dams.
- 2 Fence off dams and allow livestock restricted access or pump water. This protects the integrity of the dam walls, avoids silting up of dam overflows and stock churning up and muddying their drinking water supply.
- 3 Restrict access to creeks, which also protects stream banks.
- 4 Ensure that your horse paddocks have good ground cover all year around. This acts to 'filter' and disperse water on its approach to creeks and dams or entering the groundwater supply.
- 5 Direct stormwater from stable roofs into tanks, constructed drains or disperse over a grassed area.
- 6 Disperse water from horse wash bays over grass. Ensure that horse wash water cannot enter public drainage systems or watercourses.
- 7 Broom out your horse float. If washing, consider appropriate runoff for wastewater.
- 8 Shelterbelts help disperse and absorb excess water runoff.
- 9 Conduct water quality tests on your property from time to time.

These notes have been taken from the March page of the Perpetual Calendar. Developed by Horse SA through a grant obtained by the Horse Owners of the Southern Mount Lofty Ranges from the City of Onkaparinga. Local horse owners helping each other!



**Horse keeping and land management perpetual calendar.**

Cost \$27.50 inc GST from Horse SA, email [horsesa@horsesa.asn.au](mailto:horsesa@horsesa.asn.au) or download an order form from [www.horseslandwater.com](http://www.horseslandwater.com)

*This calendar was prepared by the Horse Owners of the Southern Mount Lofty Ranges from a grant provided by the City of Onkaparinga.*

# HorsesLandWater

## Monitoring pasture composition

The first step of monitoring perennial grass and clover plants in pastures is the construction of a quadrat (a square sampling frame) within which sampling will take place.

To randomly sample the pasture composition of your paddocks, start from one corner of your paddock, take a few steps into your paddock then randomly throw (gently) your quadrat in front of you.



*Good mix of clover and perennial grasses*

Record the number of each perennial grass and each clover plant within the quadrat along with the percentage of weed species. Repeat the procedure until you have reached the recommended number of sampling points.

Sampling of pasture composition in your paddocks should be conducted on a seasonal basis as there will be natural variations between seasons depending on weather conditions such as rainfall.



### Peri-Urban Project CD available now

Contents include national versions of the HorsesLandWater Action Planner, Management Guidelines, Horse Health Fact Sheets and horse property catchment poster as part of 35 different resources for you or your organisation to use to share the horse keeping, horse health and good land management practices message. Cost \$27.50 inc GST from Horse SA, email [horsesa@horsesa.asn.au](mailto:horsesa@horsesa.asn.au) or download an order form from [www.horseslandwater.com](http://www.horseslandwater.com)

## Monitoring stream bank erosion

The first step of monitoring stream bank erosion in horse paddocks is the establishment of monitoring sites which will be revisited over time for comparative assessment of erosion levels.

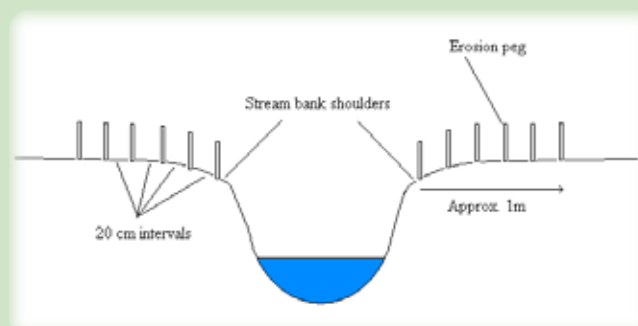
Monitoring should begin once watercourses have been fenced off, preventing access by horses.

Install six monitoring pegs at 20 cm intervals from the shoulder of the bank with the first placed on the shoulder of the bank.

The pegs may simply be wooden stakes or tent pegs that can be firmly located along the bank, progressing away from the shoulder of the bank.

Revisit the sites of the pegs on a monthly basis.

Where a peg (or more than one) has fallen over or fallen into the watercourse, erosion has taken place.



## Horse keeping online discussion group

A discussion group (using Google groups) has now been set up from the homepage of [www.horseslandwater.com](http://www.horseslandwater.com)

You will be asked to register with the website (if you are new user) before being able to access the discussion group.

Horse owners, technical advisors, government, researchers and education providers are all invited to participate.

[www.horseslandwater.com](http://www.horseslandwater.com)

Please promote through your club or horse-related business website, noticeboard or newsletter.

**HorsesLandWater Corporate and Community Programs:** HorsesLandWater staff and volunteers are able to offer a range of programs tailored to suit horse keepers in your local area. Specialising in capacity building programs which engage the key stakeholders – horse owners, land management technical advisors, government agencies at all levels, research and educational institutions. The team also has experience in resource development, educational programs and related activities.

Please contact Julie Fiedler – email [horsesa@horsesa.asn.au](mailto:horsesa@horsesa.asn.au) or phone 618 8294 2460

**HorsesLandWater**

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