

Good Gossip



**Good Farriers
Services Ltd**

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Jock, Ryan & Tui

Welcome!

Welcome everyone to not only a new season but to the first edition of Good Farrier Services' new quarterly newsletter. Upon a recent visit to our accountant, it was suggested that our clients receive a newsletter. We thought this would be a great way to let you all know what services our business can offer and to also let you all know what the staff is up to.

Staff Yarns

Apprenticeships

Ryan Harris-Hayes has been a member of the team for about a year now and has recently returned from Cambridge after completing the second block course of his apprenticeship; which he passed with flying colours.

At the end of July, Laine Cameron completed his fourth block course with National Tutor for the NZ Farriers apprentice school, Kim Hughes. This was followed by final exams for his Certificate in Farriery Practice. Laine studied really hard for

these exams and we are pleased to announce that upon passing all his exams, he is now a qualified farrier.

Competitions

As part of gaining an apprenticeship, it is encouraged that our employees participate in competitions. Competitions are an excellent place to learn the craft of farriery and they also create an opportunity to gain knowledge from the old timers.

In May, Laine went to the Gatton Heavy Horse Field Days in Queensland, Australia. He was joined by two other New Zealand farriers, Colin Brewer of Carterton and Richard Thompson of Wellington to compete in the shoeing competition. They all did excellent and finished third.

Ryan, Laine and I have recently returned from Ekka in Brisbane (the Royal Queensland Show). We competed in a variety of events from forging to heavy horse teams events. Ryan was placed

2nd in his forging class and placed 4th and 5th in all other competitions he entered. Laine won the Eagle Eye class (competitors have 5 seconds to look at a horses foot, then measure steel and make a shoe to the exact shape of the hoof) and finished 5th in the Shoeing class. This competition is strong in Australia and it was a great experience for the boys to compete amongst such a great calibre of farriers.

We will also be competing at shoeing and forging competitions in Gladstone, Masterton this month, in the Waikato in October and in the Manawatu in November.

Hoof Health

Frogs

At this time of year it is common for horses to have exfoliating frogs and / or thrush. Exfoliating frogs are not always a problem, but can look untidy. The process of new frog regeneration can take up to 6 - 8 weeks. Sometimes while the frog is exfoliating, it can be quite tender.



hesitate to give us a call. There are products which can help too.

Round-Up

As you may have noticed, our business has flourished and consequently outgrown our car shed!

At the end of last year we built a new shed. If you're driving past and see the shed door up, please do not hesitate to pop in and visit.

The boys have been making hand made shoes over the winter - if you're interested in seeing them in action, give us a call to see when they'll be doing it next You're welcome to come and watch.

Hey, if you're new to owning a horse or just haven't used our services before, please don't hesitate to call us NEW CLIENTS ARE WELCOME!!!!!! If you have an emergency and can't get hold of me on my cell phone, please call Laine on 021 299 215.

Cheers,
Jock
(and the team)



Hoof Oil

Hey, remember too that we have hoof oil available for purchase.

It is extremely important that hooves are regularly oiled to maintain their good condition and to promote healthy hoof growth.

Just ask us next time we see you or give us a call.

Ryan displays a selection of specialist hand made shoes

Laminitis

(Thanks to Greg Hall of Inglewood Veterinary Services for supplying the following piece)

Although Laminitis simply means an inflammation of the lamellae (connection between hoof wall and pedal bone), the clinical condition referred to as "Laminitis" most commonly manifests itself as a horse reluctant to move due to pain in all four feet. This is typically seen in horses, and especially ponies, grazing short lush pastures in late spring and summer. This is a serious condition which can have major long term effects on the horses' feet.

Because of the foot's anatomy, the consequences of this particular inflammatory process can lead to a serious weaken, or even separation of the attachment between the pedal bone and the inner hoof wall. If the attack is severe enough, or after repeated attacks, the weight of the horse can result in the boney structures sinking into the hoof capsule resulting in chronic pain. In some cases the pedal bone can even rotate within the hoof capsule making the condition even worse.

The mechanisms behind why and how this condition develops is complex, and knowledge to date does not offer any specific avenues for treatment. There are however clear associations with feeds and feeding, and some types of infection. Being aware of these associations and appropriate feed management are therefore important in preventing laminitis occurring.

Laminitis in ponies is most commonly associated with grazing fresh spring / early summer pasture following horses coming off winter feeding regimes. Other associations include infections following retained afterbirths, over feeding carbohydrate rich feeds, colic and diarrhoea. Overweight ponies seem to be prime targets. During periods of high risk, strict control over access to pasture and feeding safe feeds like quality pasture hay or silage and other high fibre low soluble carbohydrate feeds is essential for prevention in susceptible horses.

When symptoms appear, veterinary advice should be obtained to determine how to best manage pain, feeding, and to minimise long term damage. A farrier will also need to be involved to ensure that the hooves are functioning correctly, and if necessary applying frog support of the internal boney structures with special shoes. This can play an important role in pain control and preventing pedal bone complications.

Greg Hall
Inglewood Veterinary Services