
TAREE VETERINARY HOSPITAL

DECEMBER NEWSLETTER

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The fires were very bad for some of our clients, losing houses, sheds and animals, and for others they took the focus away from the drought for a while. We were very proud of April and her fire fighting, and a number of clients in the RFS and many who have been in the RFS and just got on with it. Lack of water in creeks, dams and now possibly town water has become critical. Many bores have been sunk with mainly good results. I had a go at water divining last week and I can say with complete certainty that the water doesn't talk to me. Farmers are now looking at filtering water

and desalinating systems, demonstrating necessity being the mother of invention.

Looking back over the year it has been a story of lack of rain. Early weaning beef calves has become the norm now. There are no passengers in dairy herds. Disease conditions that we don't normally see, such as urea poisoning, tetanus, or plant toxicities, have been an indirect result of this. Last week one dairy farmer was feeding out bought-in hay and found a weaner lamb carcass had been baled up. So we had a discussion on Botulism risk. Most unusual times indeed.

From a practice point of view this year has had its challenges. On the positive side, our two recent graduates have developed well and have been tested with some difficult calvings. April has finished her practice management course and has taken on greater responsibility, a bit like trying to herd cats and make them all purr. Attending the cattle vet conference and buying the iSperm unit has been a highlight for me, improving the bull and stallion semen exam process. We also upgraded our blood testing machine that will benefit large and small animals.

Cattle Diseases of the Month
lame cows and bull
osteomyelitis in the hip of a cow
calvings
prolapses, uterine and vaginal
milk fever
ticks, paralysis in calves
RSPCA cases, sadly

Tail Paint 20% off, while stocks last !

We have vet students this month and in February, so if you want farm cats or dogs desexed at a very discounted price please let us know.

And in the Horses.....

The stud season for the thoroughbreds is just about over. In the AI mares we have seen some poor semen quality, no doubt due to heat and poor conditions. This always happens as we get closer to January, especially when the semen is from Qld.

The year has been tough for horse owners, having to exclusively hand feed and to see paddocks degraded, and possibly burnt. The cost of feeding quality feed, if you can get it, has been very expensive. Unless you have a quarter horse or pony that seem to do well on fresh air and sunshine.

As with the cattle we have had to see some RSPCA cases in horses, with one client claiming the drought had crept up on him, which impressed nobody. Horses need to be fed approx 2% of their body weight in dry matter per day. This varies a little depending on breed, pregnancy, feed quality, exercise demands etc.

Diseases of the Year

several geldings done where one testis was in the abdomen

tetanus

Ross River Fever

fractures from setaria pastures

Hendra case over near Scone

Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, from all of us. We value your enterprise and your businesses, and are full of admiration for the strength farmers show in these tough times. Difficult decisions are being made on a daily basis that many people don't understand. Thank you for your custom, and next year will have to be better.

RUN DATES FOR DECEMBER

LANSDOWNE.....	THURS 5TH
OXLEY/MITCHELL'S IS.....	TUES 10TH
HANNAM VALE.....	THURS 12TH
DYER'S CROSSING.....	TUES 17TH
WINGHAM.....	THURS 19TH
LORNE/COMBOYNE.....	TUES 24TH
COOMBA AND THE DEEP SOUTH.....	FRI 27TH