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# TAREE VETERINARY HOSPITAL

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## DECEMBER NEWSLETTER

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The last newsletter for this year. Looking back through this years' newsletters made me remember the drought and how bad it was. When the drought broke we had nitrate poisonings and the worse season for 3 Day in years. And then the start of Coronavirus, and splitting the staff into two groups for 9 weeks. Things gradually returned to near normal. Some farmers had the further challenge of vibrio in their herds that had to be sorted. Then we had great bull sales and cattle prices soaring. Liam Mowbray came to work here and Mark Murray won the mandarin prize.

After all these years there are still firsts for me, and in the horses this year I removed a grass seed in a tear duct, removed a testicular teratoma - a type of tumour, had a successful treatment of a fungal mass with a new pithyosis vaccine, and lastly my favourite, Skippy the horse with an erection that wouldn't go away that we treated with drugs used in men that had taken too much Viagra. The result was a text from the owner after a week of crushing tablets and administering them, Skippy Floppy ! What a year.

Remember back to 3 Day. Calves born now were conceived through March and April, when the insects were bad. This week we had on two separate farms calves born with head tremors and one has a high stepping gait. These CNS symptoms may well be due to infection of the foetus with insect borne viruses, like Akabane, in the first third of pregnancy.

This month we have had several cases of Theileria in calves that we have had DNA testing carried out on to confirm. One case was near where there had been an outbreak of Qld cattle tick and tick fever previously, so we were extra cautious in testing anaemic calves. Ticks are the natural host on the coast, but any biting bug has the potential to spread it.

If your farm was in any way affected by fires there is LLS funding for disease investigation, feed and water testing, parasite testing . This is available for the

next few months or until the money runs out.

#### Cattle Diseases of the Month

calvings  
prolapses, including one where the prolapse had been lacerated allowing the bladder to prolapse as well  
eye cancers  
lame cows  
left displaced abomasum  
bull with deviated penis, resulting in no pregnancies  
Theileria in calves  
pink eye

And in the Horses.....

Worms are always a problem in horses on the coast, especially if overstocked or no paddock rotation available. Use a paste that will do all worms, and dose the volume appropriate to the weight in one go, not over a few days. If in doubt about the worm burden your horses may have, you can drop a faecal sample in and we can do a faecal float on it, which will give you a rough idea. We can send samples for culture, where a quantitative worm count is done and then the worms grown to get identified for a more precise answer.

It is always the small puncture wounds that wreak the most havoc. This month we had a horse tread on some wire that speared straight up into the sulcus of the frog into who knows where. Two days later it was three legged lame with a nasty discharge and pain from a tiny hole. We assumed the worst and treated him with

antibiotics that would get into the pedal bone, and he has recovered luckily.

#### Horse diseases of the month

Cuts  
Colics, one caused by worms  
foot abscesses  
seedy toe  
choke  
weight loss  
foal with a fatal necrotising wound to the rump

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to everybody. Thank you for your business and support in this most unusual year.

### **RUN DATES FOR DECEMBER**

<b>LANSDOWNE.....</b>	<b>THURS 3RD</b>
<b>OXLEY/MITCHELL'S IS.....</b>	<b>TUES 8TH</b>
<b>HANNAM VALE.....</b>	<b>THURS 10TH</b>
<b>DYER'S CROSSING.....</b>	<b>TUES 15TH</b>
<b>WINGHAM.....</b>	<b>THURS 17TH</b>
<b>LORNE/COMBOYNE.....</b>	<b>TUES 22ND</b>
<b>COOMBA AND THE DEEP SOUTH....</b>	<b>THURS 24TH</b>

