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# TAREE VETERINARY HOSPITAL

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## MAY NEWSLETTER

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Further to my comments about foot and mouth last month, a week ago on ABC radio I heard a presenter and guest discussing border controls and restrictions on what can be brought into Aust. in an ignorant and flippant way. I just don't think city people get it, or at least people who don't directly have cattle. They also don't realise it would be a national disaster affecting everyone. I also think my sense of humour stops at FMD.

With mandarins hitting the IGA shelves I declare this year's mandarin competition open, after I don't remember how many years. Could be a milestone. The winner will get some fish.

One of our dairy farmers with a mixed breed herd this week told me he was paid \$1 a litre, something of a milestone for him. I reflected on the supermarkets and their retail \$1 per litre milk war. Then I thought back nearly 25 years ago to when if you had 50% quota and surplus the farm price was about 35 c/l. This equates to a 4.2% rise in price every year since then. Before you think that's not bad for milk, I wish I could remember how much input prices were then, such as diesel.

Sophie saw an ill-thriftly Angus yearling this month that had theileria, liver fluke and pestivirus. Not sure why it didn't have worms and stomach fluke ! Theileria I can understand in a young animal, especially in a tick prone area. Liver fluke is not normally seen in young ones and it is probably more common than we think. The only way to diagnose it is with blood samples. And as far as it being a pestivirus persistently infected (PI) animal, it makes me think more that we should be vaccinating heifers and bulls even in endemic coastal areas.

### Cattle Diseases of the Month

Coccidiosis

Theileria

calvings, one removed in pieces, some from over fat heifers

pink eye - in one farm that had vaccinated and been using Pilgard for years. This is being investigated.

possible 3 Day cases

down cow on setaria paddock

calf pneumonia

pestivirus  
stomach fluke at Killabakh  
prolapses  
serious mastitis in a couple of cows infected at drying off  
lots of preg testing this month with very good results.

squamous cell carcinoma on sheath, frozen with nitrogen

In staff news we employed two new receptionists and an experienced qualified nurse this month.

And in the Horses.....

This month we diagnosed a pony with Equine Metabolic Syndrome, a condition where the horse can't regulate its insulin levels. This pony is very fat and at higher risk of liver disease and laminitis, and is now on a diet.

We also have a horse that has moved here with PSSM, which is a genetic condition that affects glycogen storage in muscle resulting in cramping and muscle pain.

A UQ vet student, Emma Lewis, was doing her large animal rotation here this month and was telling me about a grey horse at UQ being treated with a melanoma vaccine, so far successfully resulting in the tumours shrinking. It's early days and expensive but hopefully will become mainstream treatment.

### **RUN DATES FOR MAY**

<b>LANSDOWNE.....</b>	<b>THURS 4TH</b>
<b>OXLEY/MITCHELL'S IS.....</b>	<b>TUES 9TH</b>
<b>HANNAM VALE.....</b>	<b>THURS 11TH</b>
<b>DYER'S CROSSING.....</b>	<b>TUES 16TH</b>
<b>WINGHAM.....</b>	<b>THURS 18TH</b>
<b>LORNE/COMBOYNE.....</b>	<b>TUES 23RD</b>
<b>COOMBA AND THE DEEP SOUTH....</b>	<b>THURS 25TH</b>

Horse diseases of the month

Cuts  
Colics  
lamenesses  
foot abscesses  
sarcoïd