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# TAREE VETERINARY HOSPITAL

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## SEPTEMBER

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## NEWSLETTER

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The hot topic this month is the lack of rain and El Nino. What makes it worse is when you get 3mm and 2 km away they get 30 ! Away from the coast conditions are terrible though.

This month we had Auctions Plus declare PTIC tested cows had to be tested within 14 days of sale, then change it to 30 days , a much more practical outcome after some uproar.

This will be the last month for the mandarin competition as the continuing dry weather is affecting their quality !

We had a good dinner date on mastitis and calf health, very generously put on by Norbrook. The presenter was Victorian dairy vet Michael Dhar. The first part was showing the many areas to take into account when estimating the true dollar cost of mastitis, both clinical and subclinical, then practical recommendations on how to minimise those areas.

We then had dinner, and the second part was about calf health, hygiene, and vaccinations. Thanks to Norbrook and the farmers who attended for making it a good night.

Some dairy farmers have talked to me about calf welfare with respect to castrating, dehorning and on-selling, or euthanasia. This is because of some processors' welfare policies and auditing of farms. We have in the past done farm visits where we have shown how to do nerve blocks for dehorning, for example. Let us know if you are interested in this.

There have recently been some cases of grain poisoning and possible urea toxicity as drought feeding becomes more prevalent. Urea will improve digestibility of poor quality fibre, which is great, as long as there is access to fibre and not just grain. Similarly with grain mixes, even when buffered, will still cause problems without fibre.

### Cattle Diseases

calvings

prolapses, vaginal, no uterine

eye cancer and removal

phosphorus deficiency in dairy and beef cattle

Blackleg in a yearling heifer, had been vaccinated once with 8 in 1, a vaccine I'm not familiar with.

liver fluke

LDA

coccidiosis

And in the Horses.....

The stud season is underway and we even have some pregnancies.

This month we've had four cases of allergic reactions, bad enough to have hives, oedema and serous material oozing from the skin. This sort of reaction can only be avoided with prompt treatment, otherwise we just treat symptomatically.

We have been trying to clarify a policy on handling sick horses with regards to their Hendra vaccination status. Animal Welfare and workplace health and safety responsibilities both need to be accommodated.

We have a written policy now that gives our vets guidelines on what to do, by grading the symptoms for better risk assessment. Underlying this are some legal requirements on us when attending possible Hendra cases. We will be putting it on our website and have it available at the hospital. Bottom line is we will always attend sick, unvaccinated horses.

Horse Diseases this month

Cuts

colics

foot abscesses

sarcoid

weight loss

eye ulcers

## **RUN DATES FOR SEPTEMBER**

**LANSDOWNE.....THURS 7TH**

**OXLEY/MITCHELL'S IS.....TUES 12TH**

**HANNAM VALE.....THURS 14TH**

**DYER'S CROSSING.....TUES 19TH**

**WINGHAM.....THURS 21ST**

**LORNE/COMBOYNE.....TUES 26TH**

**COOMBA AND THE DEEP SOUTH....THURS 28TH**

laminitis, in a horse eating from a cattle feeder with the cows, and very little grass, so mixed grain made up most if not all of its diet.

Cushings horses.

An update on Sophie's chest horse that has now had the chest drain out, then back in because there was more fluid and infection, and now out again, and is going well.