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## PRESENTATIONS – BRUCE GRAHAM AND NOEL POWER

Two long-standing NZERF Board members stepped down in recent months – Bruce Graham representing the NZ Standardbred Breeders Association, and Noel Power representing the NZ Equine Veterinary Association. Both were acknowledged in the last Bulletin, but only recently have we been able to present them with a plaque in acknowledgement of all that they did for the Foundation.



### Presentation to Bruce Graham

Tim Pearce (NZERF Chair, left),  
Bruce Graham (retiring NZ Standardbred  
Breeders Association representative, centre),  
and Margaret Evans (NZERF Vice Chair, right)



### Presentation to Noel Power

Tim Pearce (NZERF Chair, left), with  
Noel Power (retiring NZ Equine Veterinary  
Association representative, right)

## NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Three new members have recently joined the NZERF Board.

Dr Megan Reidie, the NZ Standardbred Breeders Association representative, is with Vet South Invercargill and is Invercargill born & bred. Away from the Vet practice Megan's passion is breeding Standardbred horses.

Ms Heidi Bulfin is the representative for Equestrian Sports NZ. Heidi is the National Sport Administrator at ESNZ, which includes a focus on Horse Wellbeing.

Mrs Geraldine Rae replaces Samantha Jones as the NZ Pony Clubs Association representative. Geraldine is a past President of the NZPCA.



### New Board Members

Megan Reidie (left), Geraldine Rae (centre)  
and Heidi Bulfin (right)

## Examination and treatment of a fetlock wound in a Thoroughbred mare

Bex Presow, 2020 Massey Veterinarian Student Scholarship Recipient

### History

An 8 year-old Thoroughbred mare was referred to the Massey University Equine Hospital after injuring herself in the float, with lacerations to the right carpus (knee) and right fore fetlock. Before arriving at the hospital, she had been treated with antibiotic and anti-inflammatory drugs by the referring veterinarian. She was also given a tetanus anti-toxin to protect against tetanus.

### Physical Examination Findings

On presentation the mare was bright and alert, with a normal heart rate, respiration rate and rectal temperature. She had two 3-4cm long lacerations over the carpus, and a 7-8cm long deep laceration over the right fore fetlock (Figure 1). The fetlock laceration had a triangular-shaped skin flap and appeared to penetrate quite deeply into the fetlock. There were multiple minor abrasions on the hindlimbs which were not through the full thickness of the skin.

The mare was sedated, and the wounds were palpated and probed. The wound over the carpus did not penetrate into the joint capsule. As the fetlock wound was much deeper and joint involvement was more difficult to assess, the skin over the dorsal joint pouch of the fetlock was cleaned using a sterile preparation. A needle was introduced into the joint space of the fetlock at a location away from the wound, and 45 ml of sterile saline was pushed into the joint space to pressurise the joint. As the saline did not leak from the wound as the joint became pressurised, with the plunger of the syringe harder to push, it was determined that the wound had not penetrated the joint capsule. The saline was then removed from the joint space using the same syringe and an antibiotic drug was placed into the fetlock joint to prevent infection. The fetlock wound was then thoroughly cleaned with saline and

mechanically debrided with swabs. All the wounds on the right forelimb were covered in medical grade manuka honey and the limb was bandaged from the coronary band to above the carpus.

The next day there was strikethrough of wound exudate (fluids) through the bandage and the mare was again sedated for a bandage change. The wound was cleaned using saline and swabs. Grey discoloration of tissue could be seen in the fetlock wound (Figure 2). More manuka honey was applied and the leg was rebandaged. Treatment with broad spectrum antibiotic drugs continued, and phenylbutazone was given for anti-inflammatory and pain-relieving effects. On the third day of her hospital stay the mare was again sedated for a bandage change and wound assessment. The wound looked healthy so the limb was rebandaged and the mare was discharged. She remained comfortable and weight-bearing throughout the three days she was hospitalised.

At home the mare was to remain in a bandage for at least two weeks, with bandage changes every 2-3 days providing the bandage stayed clean and dry and did not slip, otherwise it would require replacing sooner. She was also on strict box rest for 3-4 weeks to prevent excessive movement of the limb delaying wound healing, and to prevent the bandage slipping. She continued to have phenylbutazone and oral antibiotic drugs for one week. The mare continued to be comfortable once at home.

As seen in Figure 3, 20 days after the original injury the fetlock wound had filled in with a granulation tissue bed, which is an important step in wound healing as it precedes skin migration over the wound. The granulation tissue may require some debridement down to the same level as the skin margins to promote healing.



Figure 1. Image of the right fore fetlock injury (provided by the referring veterinarian).



Figure 2. The fetlock wound on the second day after injury showing grey discoloration of tissue, and the proximity to the deeper tissues of the fetlock.



## Examination and treatment of a fetlock wound in a Thoroughbred mare *continued*

### Discussion

Horses are prone to injuries of the lower limb and there is little soft tissue overlying and protecting important tendons, ligaments and joints. This means these structures are more likely to be involved when wounds occur. Most cases of joint infection in adult horses occur secondary to trauma leading to foreign material and bacteria being introduced into the joint space (Ludwig & Harreveld, 2018). This case highlights the importance of a full assessment of wounds over joints to ensure that the injury has not compromised the integrity of the joint. The treatment of wounds without joint involvement is much less complex, and the prognosis is much better for a return to full athletic function. If the fetlock joint had been penetrated treatment would have needed to be more aggressive, possibly including regional and intra-articular antibiotic treatment. Should joint infection occur, systemic antibiotic treatment may need to be continued for 2-4 weeks. Treatment should also include flushing of the joint and/or arthroscopy to remove foreign material, as well as anti-inflammatory treatment (Ludwig & Harreveld, 2018). The prognosis of wounds involving the joint is better if assessment and treatment of the wound occurs within 24 hours (Baxter, 2004). As such, all penetrating wounds over joints should be assessed by a veterinarian promptly.

### References

- Baxter, G. M. (2004). Management of wounds involving synovial structures in horses. *Clinical Techniques in Equine Practice*, 3(2), 204-214.
- Ludwig, E. K., & van Harreveld, P. D. (2018). Equine wounds over synovial structures. *Veterinary Clinics: Equine Practice*, 34(3), 575-590.



Figure 3. The fetlock wound 20 days post-injury (image supplied by the referring veterinarian).

## Jonathan Hope Young Equine Veterinarian Scholarship

Dr Stephanie Brooks from Matamata Veterinary Services Equine Hospital has been awarded the 2021/22 Jonathan Hope Young Equine Veterinarian Scholarship

Stephanie has a significant interest in equine internal medicine, specifically neonatal foal care. She is a graduate of Sydney University and completed an equine internship at Matamata Veterinary Services Equine Hospital in February 2022. She used the scholarship to undertake an externship in the UK during their spring season this year and next year she is planning to do a similar externship in America.

Dr Hope established this Scholarship to encourage a New Zealand-based equine veterinarian to travel overseas in order to gain practical skills that will be valuable in their work within the New Zealand horse industry. NZERF is most appreciative of the financial support we receive from Dr Hope, without which the scholarship would not be available.



Stephanie Brooks and sponsor Jonathan Hope

## NZERF Video Library

Currently there are 3 videos available –

- Learn about Strangles – presented by Dr Paul Fraser and available here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pbbXQ347LbU>
- Learn about Laminitis – presented by Dr Paul Fraser and available here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FKZQs2d7Tx4&t=16s>
- Learn about Gastric Ulcers - presented by Professor Ben Sykes and available here [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eQT-2\\_wij4M](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eQT-2_wij4M)

Two new videos are due to be released in the near future on Equine Dentistry and Equine Metabolic Syndrome respectively.

All videos produced by NZERF are available to view on its YouTube site.

NZERF wishes to thank the Rodmor Charitable Trust for supporting the establishment of the Video Library.



## What do we know about incidents during Thoroughbred racing from stipendiary steward reports in NZ?

**Dr Michaela Gibson**

Dr Michaela Gibson, a post-doctoral fellow in the School of Veterinary Sciences at Massey University, has been investigating the reasons for and outcomes of race-day veterinary examinations of Thoroughbred racehorses in New Zealand. Stipendiary stewards request veterinary examinations of horses that are involved in incidents during a race (such as when a horse falls during a race) and as part of routine screening of horses in each race, including horses that may not have performed as well as expected. The veterinary examination focusses on the reasons why the horse may have had an incident or why it has not performed up to expectations.

Dr Gibson examined stipendiary stewards' reports for racing Thoroughbreds during the 2015/16 and 2016/17 seasons, for a total of 5143 races. Of the 1020 stipendiary steward reports most were part of routine monitoring (841 reports) and only 179 reports were related to incidents. Most veterinary reports for horses that were examined as part of routine monitoring did not find any observable abnormality.

There were 3.3 incident reports per 1000 horse starts. Most incident reports did not include a

description of the event (64.8%) but for those that did, the most common incident descriptions included horses that were pulled up (8.4% of reports) and horses that fell (7.3% of reports). Veterinary examinations in these horses revealed no observable abnormality (38.6%), followed by cuts and abrasions (21.2%).

Dr Gibson concluded that musculoskeletal injuries (including fractures) occurred at a lower-than-expected rate compared to overseas studies. The high level of reporting as part of routine monitoring and examination of horses that did not perform as expected (not related to incidents) reflects the important role stipendiary stewards play in maintaining racing integrity.

More detailed information from stipendiary steward reports is expected to be available from the online reporting system adopted in 2018/19, replacing the paper-based system. Dr Gibson is currently analysing this new information.

This research was funded by the New Zealand Equine Trust.



*Dr Michaela Gibson*

Gibson MJ, Bolwell CF, Gee EK, Legg KA, Rogers CW. Race-Level Reporting of Incidents during Two Seasons (2015/16 to 2016/17) of Thoroughbred Flat Racing in New Zealand. *Animals*. 2022; 12(8):1033. <https://doi.org/10.3390/ani12081033>

## Vet / Farrier Scholarship

In the past recipients of the Vet/Farrier Scholarships have generally spent time in a major Vet/Farrier practice in the USA and/or attended a symposium/lecture series. With access to these being very limited the scholarship conditions for 2022 were amended to enable pairs of veterinarians and farriers to attend the Vet PD wet lab run at the conclusion of the NZVA Conference in Hamilton in June 2022.

Scholarships were awarded to Petra Hazlitt (Vet) & Ryan Lim (Farrier) from the Auckland area and Katie Grant (Vet) & Marshall Miller (Farrier) from Wairarapa. In addition, Rebecca McKenzie (Vet) & Laine Cameron (Farrier) elected to utilise the Vet/Farrier Scholarship awarded to them in 2020, which hadn't been taken up because of Covid, to attend the Hamilton course.

Feedback from the attendees has been very positive. One of the attendees reported "I gained so much from this course and would rank it as one of the best I have been to ever. I got so much from the course and have already started putting it into practice. I found the lecture series to be incredibly informative and combined practical information on how to trim and shoe feet for different conditions with advice on how to diagnose and medicate different conditions, including a very thorough review of the medications available. The practical day was awesome – giving you something to take away that you can immediately start to roll out in your own practice."

Another team reported "It was really good to have a visual representation of the dynamics of ground reaction force and the direction as a vector, the associated centre of pressure and the forces on individual structures. It helped when assessing conformation and balance as to how these forces are represented in an individual and then how the trim and subsequent shoeing can be addressed. Because we were both attending, we were able to discuss multiple cases that as a Vet-Farrier team we have assessed, radiographed and then adjusted shoeing to improve biomechanics.

"There was a great discussion in our group around what constitutes the description of laminitis, the normal concussive forces within the hoof capsule, how the laminae respond to that and how that precedes what occurs later in life with what the public perceive to be laminitis."

The concept of having teams from the same geographical area attending the course together is to maximise leverage when cases are being dealt with locally.

Both the NZ Farriers Association and the NZ Equine Veterinary Association have come on board to financially support the recent Scholarships which is appreciated.



## Valachi Downs Young Achiever Scholarship

The 2021/22 Valachi Downs Young Achiever Scholarship has been awarded to Eleanor Thompson, a Vet Nurse at Matamata Veterinary Services Equine Hospital.

Eleanor has had a lot of experience on studs and in Equine Veterinary Clinics in the UK, especially as a neonatal intensive care nurse. Eleanor intends to use the Scholarship to spend time overseas gaining experience in equine neonatal care and to promote the education and status of Equine Veterinary Nurses within the NZ Veterinary Nurses Association. She recently organized a continuing education session for equine veterinary nurses in the upper North Island that was extremely well received and supported.

NZERF is most appreciative of the financial support we receive from Valachi Downs and the Hickman family. Without this support it would not be possible to continue to offer this scholarship.



Brent Schumacher, Director of Valachi Downs, Eleanor Thompson and Gareth Downey, General Manager of Valachi Downs during the Karaka Sales

## A Brief report on the Activities of the NZ Equine Health Association

### Dr Ivan Bridge (An extract from the Chairman's Annual Report to the Members)

Despite the interruption caused by two years of COVID, the NZEHA has had a busy and productive time.

The 2020 *Theileria equi* incursion was a prominent feature of that year and we have been reminded of Piroplasmosis on two occasions since. A horse returning from Hong Kong was discovered to have an unreported Hong Kong export IFAT test which was positive, and a Standardbred stallion with a previous history of an initial positive followed by negative *Babesia caballi* IFAT test titres, was imported. The stallion remained in New Zealand for the breeding season, but under strict conditions. Unfortunately, the horse returning from Hong Kong was euthanised.

The identification and traceability of our equine population is considered an important project for a number of reasons. Considerable discussion has taken place with a number of organisations with a view to developing an IT system which can effectively fulfil the traceability requirements. It is recognised that the foundation must be correct before major development and accompanying expense is involved.

The Memorandum of Agreement that was to be signed between the EHA and the China Horse Industry Association (CHIA) in China in 2020 was finally achieved last year. The EHA had previously facilitated educational material for CHIA's use which included the Equine Research Foundation's strangles and laminitis videos and the "How To" sessions from the NZEVA conference.

A wonderful achievement over the year has been the development of the new-look NZEHA website. Alex Roke has done a wonderful job creating a modern, simple-to-navigate, refreshed-looking website which she maintains with up-to-date information.

The Government Industry Agreement (GIA), to which we became signatories in 2015, created certain obligations and the contract employment of Dr Trish Pearce has been instrumental in meeting these.

To further this development we are delighted to have had Sarah Rosanowski agree to work with us on a similar basis. Sarah's passion for horses, epidemiological expertise and considerable international experience will be very valuable to the NZEHA.

The genetically modified equine influenza vaccine Proteq-flu is now the sole EI vaccine available for horses for export where required. The vaccine is imported and stored by the NZEHA at Dr Andrew Grierson's Takanini "Biovax" facility in a specialised refrigeration unit owned by the NZEHA. The importation, storage and distribution of the vaccine are subject to very stringent and time-consuming audits.

The NZEHA levy collection system, based on the importation and exportation of horses and equine germplasm as described in previous reports has been running seamlessly and has now entered its second year. Dr Tony Parsons took responsibility from the start for the unenviable task of collating the information and invoicing the importers/exporters.

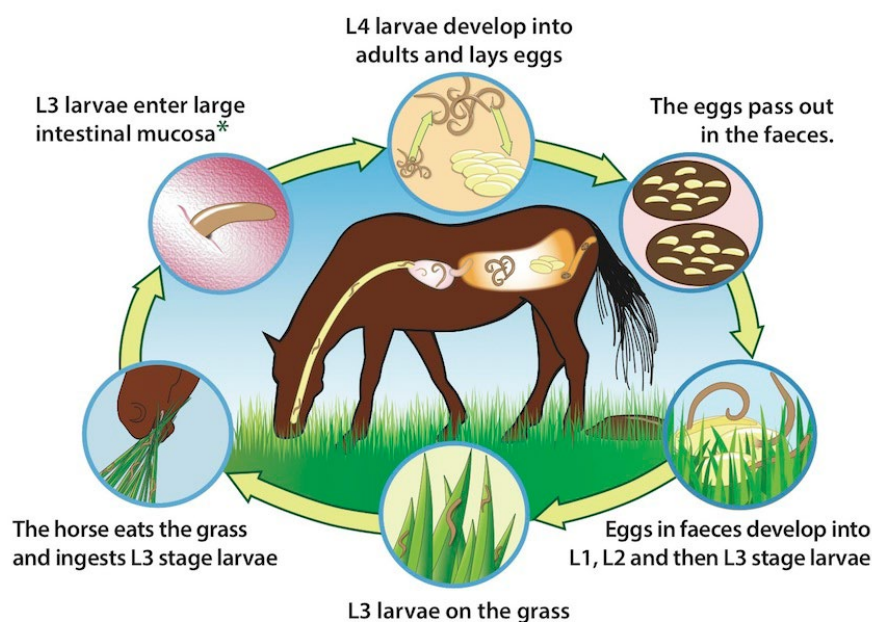
Further information is available from [www.nzeha.org.nz](http://www.nzeha.org.nz)



## Anthelmintic resistance in equine nematodes: do shortened egg reappearance periods show seasonal variation

Dr Ian Scott, Senior Lecturer in Parasitology, Massey University

### Life Cycle of Small Strongyle in Horses



\* They may enter hypobiosis and emerge later as L4 larvae, or immediately emerge as L4 larvae. There is a high damage risk if large numbers of encysted L4 emerge from the mucosa at the same time.

Small strongyles, also known as cyathostomes, are now the major parasites of horses, representing close to 100% of the roundworm parasites present in animals kept at pasture in most countries including New Zealand. In recent years these parasites have shown signs that they are becoming less susceptible to the effects of the anthelmintic drugs used to remove them from the gut of horses. Of particular concern is the decline in efficacy of a group of anthelmintics known as the macrocyclic lactones (ML), that for a long time have been the major type of anthelmintic used in horses. The concern is that when these anthelmintics fail, there are limited alternative options for parasite control in the horse. In most cases, the ML anthelmintics have remained able to remove the adult, egg laying parasites from the horse's gut, but it appears that these chemicals now have a diminished effect on the juvenile, or larval stages of the parasite's lifecycle. Following treatment of the horse, the larval stages that were not removed go on to mature and start laying eggs, and because

fewer larvae are being killed this has resulted in a shortening in the amount of time required for faecal egg counts to begin to rise again after treatment – the so-called egg reappearance period (ERP).

It is known that the make-up of the worm populations in horses changes between seasons, with more larval parasite stages present in winter than in summer. The difference has generally been attributed to an accumulation of larvae that are not developing, so called inhibited larvae, in winter and it has been assumed that larvae that are not inhibited take the same amount of time to complete their development at all times of the year. However, so far no studies have examined the potential for seasonal differences in ERP. To this end, a series of 4 tests were conducted to examine the efficacy and ERP of 3 different ML anthelmintics in two groups of horses. Comparison was made between ivermectin and moxidectin (which is historically associated with a much longer ERP due to its greater persistence in the

tissues of treated animals), between ivermectin and abamectin, and also between ivermectin and the anthelmintic fenbendazole, which is a different type of anthelmintic altogether. The 4 tests were conducted in consecutive winters and summers over two years. The tests monitored the numbers of parasite eggs present in faecal samples of the horses before, and then weekly after treatment. Efficacy against the egg laying adults was judged by how much the egg counts declined immediately (one to two weeks) after treatment and ERP was judged by how long it took for egg counts to rise again after treatment to 10% or more of what they had been before treatment.

Treatment with ivermectin, abamectin and moxidectin were all capable of reducing egg counts by close to 100% for at least 4 weeks after treatment. After that, egg counts began to rise with an ERP of approximately 5-7 weeks for the 3 ML anthelmintics over the 4 tests, with no significant differences evident between the different products. The observed ERP for ivermectin and moxidectin were shorter than those initially reported for these products when they were first available, particularly so in the case of moxidectin. No ERP has been published for abamectin.

Egg counts did not reduce to zero after treatment with fenbendazole so no ERP was calculable for this drug.

Over the course of the 4 tests, there was the suggestion that ERP were shorter in summer than in winter and that ERP were shorter in the second year of testing. The reason for a shorter ERP in summer was a faster rise in egg counts, rather than egg counts starting to rise earlier, with the likeliest explanation for this being that in summer there would be more uninhibited larvae present in the gut and hence left behind after treatment than in winter. The further shortening in ERP across the 4 tests could however be seen as evidence of ongoing declines in efficacy against the larval stages.

Shortened ERP are often seen as an early warning of the development of parasite resistance to anthelmintics. However, since larval stages outnumber the adult worms in most horses, shortened ERP likely indicate that anthelmintic resistance is already quite advanced, and at some point even the adults will become harder to kill.

### Conclusions

The ML anthelmintics remain highly effective against egg-laying, adult cyathostomin parasites, but reduced ERP highlight their loss of efficacy against larval stages and there is no difference in

## Anthelmintic resistance in equine nematodes: do shortened egg reappearance periods show seasonal variation *continued*

ERP between ivermectin, moxidectin and abamectin. Efficacy against adult parasites is misleading since the adult parasites typically only represent a minority of the worm population harboured by horses - in many studies the adults are less than 10% of the total parasite burden. Therefore, faecal egg counts may well decline to zero after treatment, but a large portion of the horse's worm burden could still be intact.

ERP tends to be shorter in summer than in winter, most likely because there are more larvae present in the gut due to higher pasture contamination in summer than in winter. Therefore, egg counts rise quicker post-treatment in summer than in winter; however, pre-treatment egg counts showed no variation between the seasons. This confirms that after the egg-laying adult parasites are removed by treatment, the next generation of adults comes from larval stages already in the horse that left behind after treatment, rather than from new larvae ingested off pasture.

The study suggests that no matter how many larvae survive anthelmintic treatment, they still take at least 4 weeks to finish their maturation and commence egg laying. Therefore, ERP is unlikely to decline much further. The next step in resistance development will be the occurrence of resistance in the egg-laying adult stages, but this will manifest not as a further shortening in ERP, but as a failure to adequately reduce faecal egg counts in the first place.

The finding of marked resistance to fenbendazole was not surprising given the historic high levels of resistance to this anthelmintic class thought to be present in New Zealand since the 80s. However, resistance to benzimidazoles may not be as widespread in New Zealand as generally believed. Recent results from the Franklin district of the North Island showed that fenbendazole was effective in reducing egg counts in 19 horses by on average 89% (Blue 2017), although oxfendazole appeared somewhat less effective (77%). Similar findings were recorded separately for oxbendazole, which had efficacy of anywhere between 67 and 99% (Morris et al., 2019).

As mentioned earlier, faecal egg counts give no indication of the numbers of larval stages present and thus are poor predictors of an animal's parasite status. However, egg counts do provide accurate information on the contribution to pasture contamination that any one horse makes. It can take two to three months for a horse's egg counts to return to what they were prior to treatment, but then they usually persist relatively unchanged until the next treatment is given. Some horses maintain a low egg count at all times whilst others consistently yield much higher numbers of eggs. There was no indication that horses that maintained higher egg counts were at a disadvantage clinically. However, while allowing

these animals to release large numbers of eggs onto pasture for extended periods may have no adverse consequences for more mature horses it could be a threat to any young horses grazed alongside them. The syndrome of larval cyathostomiasis, in which large numbers of previously inhibited larvae resume development en masse, is recognised as a cause of illness in young horses. Therefore, mature horses may well be able to be treated only twice a year, perhaps even less, rather than the usual 6 or more treatments per year, and still maintain good health, provided they are not shedding large numbers of eggs. Such lower anthelmintic use should be expected to reduce the risk of further declines in anthelmintic efficacy.

### Future Work

There is considerable scope for further work in equine parasitology, especially since at this point in time it seems unlikely that any new anthelmintics will become available for use in horses should resistance to existing products become widespread. Some of the main points to come from this work include:

- What is the efficacy of the various ML drugs against the larval cyathostome stages? Such work would involve worm counts performed on animals killed after treatment and comparison made to the counts in untreated controls. In particular, what is the efficacy of such treatments against later L4 stages (responsible for shortened ERP) and inhibited larvae.
- Is it possible to discern impacts of parasitism in terms of horse behaviour? Studies have shown how sheep walk less week by week after drenching to remove parasites, as the benefit of drenching wears off. It would be interesting to monitor the activity of horses before and after treatment to see if, as might be hypothesised from the present experiments, horses in contrast show no change in activity patterns.
- Are 2 treatments per year enough to protect the health of horses? Will younger horses be left at risk of developing disease, or performing less well if so few treatments are given?

### Acknowledgements

We would like to thank the staff at the Massey University Large Animal Teaching Unit for their invaluable assistance in running the study.

We would also like to acknowledge the New Zealand Equine Trust for generously funding this work.

<https://www.bimedaequine.co.uk/disease-information/small-strongyles>

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## New Zealand Equine Research Foundation Veterinary Scholarships and Grants

### Valachi Downs Young Achiever Award

\$15,000 available annually to assist an individual under the age of 35 in their career in the equine industry

[www.nzerf.co.nz/valachi\\_downs\\_young\\_achiever](http://www.nzerf.co.nz/valachi_downs_young_achiever)

Closes 31st January annually

### Jonathan Hope Equine Veterinarian Scholarship

\$10,000 available annually to help a "young at heart" New Zealand-based veterinarian gain practical skills that will be valuable in supporting his or her work within the NZ horse industry.

[www.nzerf.co.nz/hope\\_scholarship](http://www.nzerf.co.nz/hope_scholarship)

Closing date 31st January annually

### Travel Awards

For any travel relating to research and development in the NZ horse industry.

[www.nzerf.co.nz/travel\\_awards](http://www.nzerf.co.nz/travel_awards)

Applications received any time

### Equine Research Grants

Applications from interested people for funding or projects in the field of equine research.

[www.nzerf.co.nz/research\\_grants](http://www.nzerf.co.nz/research_grants)

Closes 30th April annually

### Prof CHG Irvine Memorial Scholarship

Research Grant may be used as part of a larger research project or as a standalone award.

### Veterinarian – Farrier Scholarships

\$3,000 each for a veterinarian and a farrier from the same geographical area to attend a suitable course or symposium and/or spend time with colleagues in the USA

[www.nzerf.co.nz/vet\\_farrier\\_scholarship](http://www.nzerf.co.nz/vet_farrier_scholarship)

Closes 30th November annually



## CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

Many years ago I attended a farewell for a highly respected veterinary colleague who made a comment that at the time didn't mean very much to an extremely naive young veterinarian; however, it now does: 'The only thing that never changes is that there will be change'.

For the last 8 years Valachi Downs Stud, and more particularly the Hickman family, have sponsored our Young Achiever Award. The Hickman family took over sponsorship of this award after Waikato Stud generously backed it for many years. The award has provided an amazing springboard for many young talents in our equine industry who have consequently continued to grow and contribute to the industry. Recipients include veterinarians, academics, stud staff and farriers. They are all exceptional talents in their respective fields and are continuing to have a big influence in the equine industry, with all going to new heights as a result of winning the Young Achiever Award. This generosity and vision to aid our young people in the industry has to be applauded, particularly when the Valachi Downs group is currently transitioning through big changes, as many readers will be aware of. On behalf of the equine industry I would like to once again thank the Hickman family for supporting this award.

Recently I was fortunate to be included in a forum focusing on welfare of New Zealand Thoroughbred horses. This issue has been driven for many years now by Martin Burns, who convened the forum. There were 5 key speakers: Professor Chris Rogers (a key researcher from Massey University), Dr Helen Beattie (a veterinary animal welfare consultant), Mr Mike Clements (CEO of the Racing Integrity Board), Anne Galloway (an anthropologist from Victoria University) and Dr Gwyneth Verkerk (chairperson of NAWAC). Representatives from all stakeholders in Thoroughbred racing attended, including breeders, trainers, jockeys, owners, veterinarians, administrators and many agents involved in rehoming retired racehorses.

All the speakers added value but the take home message was the continued need for all equine industry parties to gather good data to benchmark their activities and continue to use this data to improve the welfare of all the horses in their care. This requires the industry to commit to doing good research and educating all people within the industry as well as those outside it i.e. the public. This goal has been a key aim of the NZERF since its inception and remains so today. That is one thing that hasn't changed.

**Dr Tim Pearce, NZERF Chairman**

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## CONTACT INFORMATION

### The current Board Members are:

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Vice Chairman	Dr Margaret Evans	Christchurch	027 447 7358
Secretary	Mr Allan Fenwick	Marton	021 555 954

### Representing:

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HRNZ	Mrs Natalie Gameson	Christchurch	021 936 155
Massey University	Dr Erica Gee	Palmerston North	027 604 0095
NZEVA	Dr Alex Fowler	Karaka	027 364 2277
NZPCA	Mrs Geraldine Rae	Kaiapoi	027 250 0350
NZSBA	Dr Megan Reidie	Invercargill	027 283 3758
NZTBA	Mrs Justine Slater	Cambridge	021 433 107
NZTR	Mr Colin Hall	Wellington	027 563 9526

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Website: [www.nzerf.co.nz](http://www.nzerf.co.nz)

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The New Zealand Equine Research Foundation gratefully acknowledges the following for their support –

Rodmor Charitable Trust  
Equestrian Sports NZ  
Equine Practices  
Harness Racing NZ  
Dr Jonathan Hope  
NZ Equine Veterinary Association  
NZ Farriers Association  
NZ Pony Clubs Association  
NZ Standardbred Breeders Association  
NZ Thoroughbred Breeders Association  
NZ Thoroughbred Racing  
Valachi Downs

THE NZERF BOARD THANK DR ANDREA RITMEESTER AND MATAMATA VETERINARY SERVICES FOR EDITING THIS BULLETIN

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