

SUMMER 2020

John Drinnan & Glennlawrie Rosemaree, Supreme Heavy Horse Camden
Show 2019, Exhibited by Mark Scarce

CCHS NSW
NEWSLETTER



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2019/2020



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SUMMER 2020

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Supreme Champion Harness Exhibit
Josh Taylor with McMurchie Blair
NCHHF 2020



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President's Report From Erin Lewis



Welcome to 2020, with the ongoing Drought, high cost of feed and labour intensified workloads, coupled with the catastrophic fires we have seen, its a year to be remembered.

My thoughts are with all those who have been impacted.

The loss of life to both human and animal has been horrific and I take my hat of to all members that are involved in RFS, SES, Defense and Emergency Services, Thank You.

A Special mention to committee member and CCHS NSW Branch patron Dick Adams for his appointment by NSW State Premier as Recovery Co-ordinator for Southern NSW, Congratulations.

It is with great sadness that I announce the passing of John Drinnan. John was a Past President and Treasurer of the CCHS NSW who gave countless hours to the society and was very devoted to the Clydesdale Horse, the breed he had a great passion for.

I am proud to say I called John a friend, and he will be missed by all who knew him.

December 14th saw the branch hold a "Special General Meeting" at Penrith, where we met the requirements of a quorum to hold this Special Resolution and it was a favourable meeting with the members unanimously in favour of Special Resolutions 1, 2 and 3.

We as a State are now in line with Federal which will help with decisions in the future.

I am delighted to reveal that we will be re-establishing the "CCHS NSW Foal Show" for 2020. This show will be held in conjunction with Hawkesbury Show on Saturday the 2nd of May.

The Committee agreed that the Foal Show is a major part of our NSW Branch, and holds tradition to our Breed Society.

The Land Cup will be a Major prize at this show, presented to the Best Stallion over the age of two (provided rules/requirements for this award are met).

We hope to see you at this show enjoying your horses.

We are also currently working on organising a State Show to be held at a later date, which will not only focus on our led classes but a show to promote the versatility of this wonderful breed, focusing on Disciplines such as Riding, Ground Driven (obstacles) and Harness, catering for Traditional and Non-Traditional Styles.

A Special Congratulation needs to be made to our Federal Vice President and Branch Secretary Colin Brown. Colin has been appointed to Judge the Males at the "Royal Highland Show" held in Scotland in Late June. The Females will be judged by Max Marriott of Aarunga Stud in Victoria.

It is an honour to have Australian Judges held in such high regard world wide, especially in our breeds country of origin.

Sydney Royal is well and truly just around the corner, Judging of Clydesdales is on Saturday April 4th. For all those attending, Members and Exhibitors there will be an aisle gathering kicking off around 7pm in Grace Pavillion. I wish to personally welcome you to all attend, and I look forward to seeing you all out and about around the Show Circuit.

Erin Lewis

CCHS NSW President

Vale John Drinnan

Sadly our Clydesdale fraternity farewelled John at a Memorial Service held in Camden on Monday 3rd February 2020. John was 82 years old. John had been breeding and showing his Glennlawrie Clydesdales at Cobbitty, in both led and harness classes for decades. He was a driving force behind the our Society serving as its State President, Federal Council delegate and State Treasurer over many years.



John always focused his passion on showcasing the traditions of the Clydesdale breed. For those who knew 'JD' he was highly respected for his managerial expertise, clear values and honest friendship.

John was a well known identity in his local Camden region, both within his previous accounting business and in his role of Local Government Councillor. John was integral in the establishment of the Camden Bicentennial Equestrian Park that has enriched the equine industry in the Sydney region. It was most fitting that at the 2019 Camden Show, he was presented with a specially crafted cane from the NSW CCHS Branch for his many years of dedication and contribution to the Society.

Our sincere condolences go to his daughter Lyndal and son Richard and the extended family. Along with their mum Maureen, now passed, Lyndal and Richard stood by their dad over these many years and saw him bring smiles to many with his beloved Clydesdales. Farewell good friend.



Camden Show Society past president Hugh Southwell, John Drinnan, current show president Greg Wall and past president David Head.

Moss Vale Heavy Horse Show 22nd February 2020

Following a very successful inaugural event last year at Moss Vale under extremely cold conditions, this event will now be staged on a one day basis. This decision has been based on the impact of the bushfires in NSW and the continuing drought. A full Schedule of classes for our Clydesdales has been set down and members are asked to support this event now held a little earlier than last year being **February 23rd**. Full details are available on the Shire Breeders webpage and facebook sites.

NSW Branch now part of the National Incorporation banner of the CCHS.

Following The Special Meeting held in Penrith on Saturday the 14th December 2019, it was unanimously agreed that the CCHS NSW Branch dissolve its Incorporation status held under the NSW Department of Fair Trading and be protected under the Federal Incorporation model. Many thanks to all those who were able to attend this important meeting. In recent years the CCHS Constitution has been upgraded along with the By Laws that support the day to day governance of our Society. Each State Branch still manages their events and finances and is protected under the Federal Insurance policy. Members are encouraged to review the Constitution on the Federal website. As our Commonwealth Clydesdale Horse Society continues into its second century of management, may we continue to promote, educate and share the culture of the 'Horse that Built the Nation'.

Clydesdale Judging Policy

The process of becoming a Clydesdale Judge takes both time and effort on behalf of the candidate. In NSW, they are required to shadow several Judges, both Federal and State, to gain knowledge and experience under a variety of tutors. Their role as 'Apprentice Judges' is to ask relevant questions and listen to advice on elements of conformation, unsoundness, movement, presentation, and ring etiquette, always with the underlying understanding of our traditional Clydesdale Breed. This process may take several years and candidates are encouraged to gather opinions and understanding from a broad range of discussion and exchange. The Clydesdale Resource Book would be the best source of information when first considering the process. When considered ready for assessment, the candidate must be then nominated by two of their tutors and then be assessed by three Judges, one of whom is drawn from the Federal Panel list.

2020 Planning decisions by your State Committee.

Based upon the prevailing drought and the consequent bushfires, the Committee have decided to cancel the SIEC Heavy Horse Show set down for June. Our first main event will be our National Foal Show, including a full Schedule of Classes to be held at the 2020 Hawkesbury Show on Saturday 2nd May 2020.

Our Judge on the day will be Andrew Marriott of the Aarunga Stud in Victoria. The Aarunga Stud without doubt is the most successful stud in Australia in both Led and Harness events. With a major upgrade of stabling and facilities, the Hawkesbury Show will be a showcase for our Clydesdales.

The Hawkesbury Region was integral to the early development of the Colony of NSW, known for its rich river flats and soil, the Hawkesbury was a cornerstone for the development of horticulture, dairying and beef production. The famous Hawkesbury Agricultural College, now part of the University of Western Sydney, was for many years one of the main sites for the NSW Dept. of Agriculture's Clydesdale Stud, where many horses were imported and bred in the 1900's. Each year thousands of people pass through the gates of the Show.

This year we have been asked to be part of an educational programme on the Friday to promote the Clydesdale horse and remind people of the heritage that is available to them. Clydesdale exhibitors will have access to the newly built block of stables at a cost of \$25 day/night basis. Entries will be online through the Hawkesbury Show Society via "Global Entries" online but entries will be accepted on the day. Exhibitors are requested to have their registration papers with them to indicate Sire and Dam, as the online process will not cover this.

The Land Cup

The Land Cup will be a Major Prize at the "2020 National Clydesdale Foal Show" being held on the 2nd of May at Hawkesbury Showgrounds, in conjunction with Hawkesbury Show.

"The Land" Cup is for competition :

- Between Registered Clydesdale Stallions and Colts, two years of age or older.
- Bred in the Commonwealth of Australia.
- The Animal not having been a previous winner.
- For a valid contest to be staged **a minimum of three eligible animals** shall parade before the Judge.



Land Cup Winner 2010, Shaun Moloney of Samarah Park Clydesdales and their Stallion "Tullymore William"

CCHS Federal Council

All federal enquiries should be directed to:

The Secretary

Mr Rod Bowles

PO Box 1053, Bendigo VIC 3552

Phone: 03 5442 8890

Fax: 03 5442 5264

Email: fedsec@clydesdalehorse.com.au

Web Site: www.clydesdalehorse.com.au



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<i>Federal Secretary</i>	Rod Bowles	03 5442 8890	fedsec@clydesdalehorse.com.au



COMMONWEALTH CLYDESDALE HORSE SOCIETY

NSW BRANCH

~ PRESENTS ~

The 2020 National Clydesdale Foal Show

Returning to Hawkesbury Showgrounds
as part of Hawkesbury Show

SAVE THE DATE

SATURDAY 2nd MAY 2020

- ❖ Most successful sire of the day
- ❖ Groups of 3 classes
- ❖ Classes for Fillies, Mares, Geldings, Colts and Stallions
- ❖ Classes for Filly Foals and Colt Foals, as well as pairs of foals
- ❖ Official home of The Land Cup to be awarded on the day
- ❖ Over 5 Championship awards

To be judged by Andrew Marriott

Entry Conditions

- Open to all members & non-members
- All exhibitors must complete a "record of attendance at Horse Event" form before competing, and an insurance waiver must be signed by all persons entering the ring.
- All horses competing must be registered with the Commonwealth Clydesdale Horse Society.
- Horses must be presented in good, clean condition
- Exhibitors must be suitably attired while in the ring.
- Colts and Stallions, 1 year and over, MUST be shown in suitable headgear and bit.
- Competent Adult (18 years and over) must be in charge of the Colt/Stallion at all times.
- Exhibitors requested to have Copy of Registration Papers with them on the Day

Entry Process - entries can be made either by:

- Online at www.globalentriesonline.com.au/ Equestrian Showing/Hawkesbury Show, by 9.00am on Monday, 27 April 2020; **OR**
- downloading the entry form from www.hawkesburyshowground.com.au/show/schedules, complete and mail for receipt by Friday 24 April 2020

Best Presented, Delivery and Turnout and Working Classes – Please refer to www.hawkesburyshowground.com.au/show/schedules for class details

Stabling - Stabling is available on the Showground and, if required, bookings should be made direct with the Hawkesbury Showground Office by completing the Hawkesbury Show Stabling form, and emailing or posting to the Show Office

Grand Parade – This is not a mandatory event, however with the return of the CCHS to Hawkesbury, all participants have been invited to participate in the Grand Parade at 1pm



COMMONWEALTH CLYDESDALE HORSE SOCIETY

CCHS NSW Branch *presents*

2020 NATIONAL CLYDESDALE FOAL SHOW

Hawkesbury Show Grounds - SATURDAY 2nd May 2020

Judge - Andrew Marriott

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Best Presented Heavy Horse

Commencing at 8.30AM in RING 7 (Run by Hawkesbury Show)

CCHS FOAL Show

commencing at 9.00AM in RING 8

801	Led Clydesdale Gelding	3 years & Under
802	Led Clydesdale Gelding	4 years & Over
Champion & Reserve Champion Clydesdale Gelding		<i>Sponsored by</i> Sanctuary Park Clydesdale Stud
803	Led Clydesdale Dry Mare	4 years & Over
804	Led Clydesdale Brood Mare (<i>in foal or with foal at foot</i>)	4 years & Over
Champion & Reserve Champion Clydesdale Mare		<i>Sponsored by</i> Ahern Shires & Clydesdales
805	Clydesdale Colt	Yearling
806	Clydesdale Colt	2 years
807	Clydesdale Colt	3 years
808	Led Clydesdale Stallion	Over 4 years & Under 8 years
809	Led Clydesdale Stallion	8 years & Over
810	The Land Cup	Males 2 years and over bred in the Commonwealth
Champion & Reserve Champion Clydesdale Stallion		<i>Sponsored by</i> Evansands Clydesdale Stud
Junior Champion & Reserve Champion Clydesdale Colt		<i>Sponsored by</i> Elemer Clydesdales
811	Clydesdale Filly	Yearling
812	Clydesdale Filly	2 years
813	Clydesdale Filly	3 years
Junior Champion & Reserve Champion Clydesdale Filly		<i>Sponsored by</i> Hadrians Wall Clydesdales & Shires
814	Junior Horse Handler (<i>8 < 18 Years</i>)	<i>Winner to be awarded</i> Glen Denholm Perpetual Junior Handler Trophy
815	Clydesdale Colt Foal	born prior to 1st November 2019
816	Clydesdale Colt Foal	born after 1st November 2019
Champion & Reserve Champion Clydesdale Colt Foal		<i>Sponsored by</i> Juzta Clydesdale Stud
817	Clydesdale Filly Foal	born prior to 1st November 2019
818	Clydesdale Filly Foal	born after 1st November 2019
Champion & Reserve Champion Clydesdale Filly Foal		<i>Sponsored by</i> Headlands Clydesdales
Grand Champion Foal		<i>Sponsored by</i> McMurchie Clydesdales
819	Pair of Foals	Owned by the same Exhibitor
820	Pair of Foals	Bred by the same Sire
CCHS NSW Perpetual Supreme Clydesdale Exhibit <small>ALL CHAMPIONS ARE ELIGIBLE INCLUDING GELDING AND GRAND CHAMPION FOAL</small>		<i>Sponsored by</i> Vaughan's Hay Supplies
821	Group of 3 Clydesdales Owned by Exhibitor but not necessarily bred by the Exhibitor	<i>Sponsored by</i> Ernest Park Clydesdales
Most Successful Sire of the Day Award		Awarded & Announced at the Presentations

Maintaining Your Breeding Records

The drought and devastating fires over past months have brought a reality check to many of us struggling through this time. In recent months we have seen several breeders dispersing stock and in some cases those managing deceased estates trying to establish the pedigrees of stock. Persons buying those animals need proof if they are to be accepted into the CCHS Studbook.

A checklist of your own practices may assist:

1. Are your horses all **appropriately branded**? This does not verify the authenticity of your genetics but it is a good start for others to identify the animal.
2. When you registered your horses did you **microchip** them? Our Royal Shows require this identification but again it simply identifies that particular animal, with no reference to its breeding. Again it is a great help if this microchip is done, even if you “haven’t got around to branding yet”! How many times has your Vet needed to identify your animal?
3. Given that all Breeding Stallions born after 1st August 2010 must be **DNA’d** at the time of their Provisional Certificate of Inspection, we now have a partial chance of identifying the breeding of subsequent foals. But what if you have left the registering of progeny too late? Possibly lost the dam at foaling or in recent times under the prevailing harsh conditions, or sold the mare? How then do you correctly identify and register your progeny? Maybe you do have a photo of mare and foal together, but this is not sufficient evidence of their breeding.
4. As a breeder, what documentation do you maintain? You do not have to provide a **Stallion Certificate** for your own foals if you own the Stallion, but you must for any mares not owned by you, covered by your Stallion. Do you have a simple breeding notebook/computer file, detailing when you served your mare(s); when you put the stallion in with the mares if preferring to paddock serve; when a foal was born etc. How important those details would prove to be, if for whatever reason, someone else had the task or responsibility of identifying and verifying the breeding of any particular horse!
5. Have you taken up the **option of having your mare(s) DNA’d**? For example, if you have the Grand dam DNA’d by your Vet, then You are able to DNA her progeny, and her entire female line yourself, at a far lower expense and thus have on record proof of all your breeding formally registered with the CCHS Federal Secretary.

Out of the difficulty of such harsh climatic times, we are stimulated and reminded of how we can set up things more efficiently when the next big dry comes back to test us again. How many times have you now decided to set up a better watering system? Divide paddocks into a more manageable design? Erect shedding or shade facilities? Plant trees when it does start to rain!? **Can you tick off these suggested practices? Are you confident that someone else could truly verify the pedigree of your stock if it were challenged? It may be beneficial to all concerned to be able to say “YES!”**



Dick Adams Appointment .

Our thoughts are with our NSW Branch Patron Dick Adams APM OAM, who has been appointed by the NSW Premier, as the Recovery Coordinator for Southern NSW, following the disastrous bushfires in that region of our State.



Dick was similarly appointed by the Premier a few years back to coordinate the Newcastle Bushfire Recovery. Not an enviable role, but Dick in his usual style said 'that the determination of the amazing people he is working with and for, makes his long days even more worthwhile.' We all wish him well throughout the next few months.


Sydney Royal 2020

Clydesdales will be on Exhibit on **Saturday 4th April** in the **Main Arena from 8.00am** and are being Judged by Pat Stokes of Ontario, Canada.

All Members and Exhibitors are invited to join the committee for an Isle Gathering held in **Grace Pavillion** around 7pm.

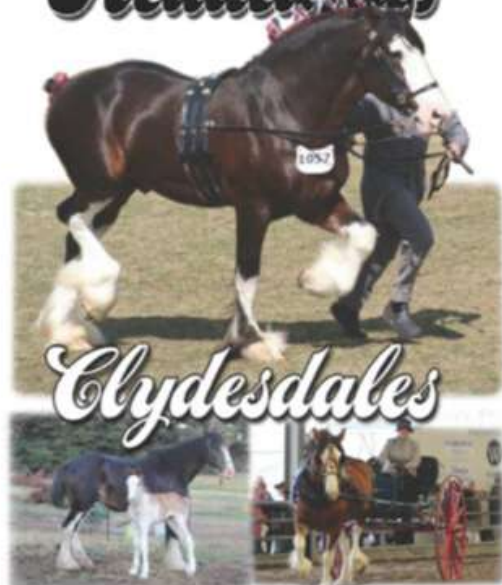
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Headlands
Clydesdales



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CCHS Registration #: 2812

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Phone: 02 6385 6266



CCHS Reg. #: 3717

Member Profile

-Meet Jayden & Alex Beesley

Hi! We are Jayden and Alex Beesley, from the northern Central Coast area.

We are what would be considered “newbies” when it comes to owning and showing Clydesdales, but I have to say we have come a very long way in a few short years!

It was April 2017 when we first caught a glimpse of the Grace Pavilion filled with beautiful Clydesdale horses at the Sydney Royal Easter Show. We decided then we HAD to have one! Through a friend we got in contact with Jan Pierce of Headlands Clydesdale Stud in Crookwell. We travelled down to have a look at 2 year old gelding Headlands Wellington (McMurchie Edinburgh X Aarunga Lady Jubilee). It was love at first sight. We looked over the fence and he chortled and trotted over to us and at that moment he was sold. He was transported the next day to Mandalong NSW where he would begin his new life. Now Wellington was pretty quiet but we had no (and I mean NO) horse experience other than being able to tell the back from the front. When he came off the truck after a 9 hour journey we were told that horses are walked on the left hand side – we gained our first bit of knowledge.

Over the next 6 months through the help of friends we learnt more and more about not only Clydesdales but general care and handling of horses as well. We had beautiful friends that allowed us to learn to ride on their quiet older horses and offered us help or even a shoulder to cry on at times! Wellington was broken in to long reins and chains by Gary Cullen during this time and has always enjoyed this work since. In the summer of 2017 he was sent to Piaffe Equestrian Services to start his career under saddle. Boy was he the opposite to his work in chains! He was moody, pig headed and generally un-enjoyable to ride. But through our dedication and the help of Tereza we are now successfully competing under saddle at shows and in dressage. Most importantly we are a happy horse and rider combination. Mid 2019 it was decided that it was time for the big guns, HARNESS! We had a little bit of awareness now about how this whole “heavy horse” thing worked so we decided to try and put him in harness ourselves. To our great surprise he was a natural! Clear headed and compliant, waiting for his next cue, a true pleasure to work with. Since then we have continued our work in harness relatively successfully at local shows.



Member Profile Cont.

In April 2019 we were playing with the idea of a second horse. We had a chat with Jan again and she told us that she had a very special filly who needed a special home. So we were back to Crookwell to look at Headlands Claudia (Aarunga Wisconsin X Aarunga Lady Jubilee). Claudia has a beautiful story. After losing her mother Claudia was hand raised by Jan and her late husband Bob. She would only drink from a bowl which has made for some interesting tongue movements nowadays but we love her, quirks and all. She was the last foal raised by Bob and therefore will always hold a very special place in Jan's heart. It is an honor to own her. Claudia will begin her working career mid this year but is currently enjoying life as a "paddock ornament" (she doesn't understand why anyone would work a day in their life!).

More recently Wellington and Claudia also represent their namesake business "W & C Events" specializing in visiting aged care facilities, working with disabled children and visiting preschools. Particularly the aged care visits have highlighted the vast role that Clydesdale have played in the development of Australia. Many of the residents reminisce about having their bread delivered and working with their parents to plough the fields on their properties. Both Wellington and Claudia have been the epitome of even headed and I believe this truly credits the great qualities of the breed we all love.

It was been quite a journey for the past 3 years and one that we have gladly been able to share together. There were times when we wanted to give up but boy am I glad we persevered in times of doubt. Because there is no greater love than that of a Clydesdale Horse.



Tim Peel, collar-maker and horseman, has bred and worked horses in Australia for over 60 years. He shares top tips on how to ensure horses are as comfortable as possible at work

The right fit

This article is about how to fit collars correctly for working horses. The collars referred to are Australian, open-top, long-straw, hand-made collars. They originated from the English closed-top collar, but by the 1890s the majority of collars made were open-top, long-straw style because they suited the Australian horses and conditions.

The Australian collar is made with a 'pipe-iron' in the throat to maintain rigidity and shape. The pipe-iron in draught collars consists of a length of $\frac{3}{4}$ in diameter rod, 10in long, inserted in the rim (forewale) during construction (Fig 1 shows types of rim).

Horses working in the bush, especially in the big wagon teams of 18-20 horses, would maintain their condition in good seasons and lose condition in drought years, but their head size would never change (some droughts lasted six-eight years). Consequently, a closed-top collar that went over their heads and fitted perfectly in good times became too long and wide in drought years when a smaller and much narrower collar was needed.

Collar fitting

The long-straw collar is the most efficient means by which a horse can exert the maximum amount of power with the minimum amount of discomfort.

For a horse to be able to carry out its work for years trouble-free, owners and drivers need to be familiar with the correct fitting and working of a collar.

The 'collar bed' on a horse is made up of living tissues, e.g. muscles, nerve endings, bone, skin etc., so it is important to minimise any damage to this area (Fig 2). If you take a riding saddle for example, it will carry in the vicinity of up to 300lb; a pack saddle approximately 400lb; but a collar can be asked to bear a load of up to 2,250lb or more, so you can see why it is critically important that the collar is constructed and fitted correctly.

The collar is the first line of contact with the horse, followed by the hames. Once the collar is built, there is not much scope for adjusting it, but it is the hames that allow you some leeway to move up or down on the collar, seeking the all-important 'point of draught'. It is

through the hames, then the hame hooks, that the forward momentum of the horse is transferred via the traces to the load being moved. The 'point of draught' does not change on an individual horse, so the collar has to be manufactured and the hames adjusted as required to suit that particular animal.

The 'centre of draught' (as distinct from 'point of draught') on the collar and hames should be adapted to suit the particular horse's anatomy, taking into account its size, condition, age and work to be performed. As a general rule, most horses of a similar size conform to a set formula for the 'centre of draught', and as a consequence, it flows through the 'point of draught', i.e. at the hame hooks.

I will give you an example of the formula a collar maker uses to build a 23in \times 10in \times 7in draught collar (this is quite a small draught horse, as most heavy horses in the UK would require a 27-28in collar). If you measure the rim from the inside of the centre of the throat to the inside of the draught turns, it should measure 8in. For 8in draught turns, that gives you a 9in 'centre of draught'. This last measurement is taken from the inside of the rim at the throat to a horizontal straight edge laid across the rim of the collar above the draught turns. This horizontal line will be the centre of the hame hooks, which gives you the 'point of draught'. The 'centre of draught' on the hames should be 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ in measured

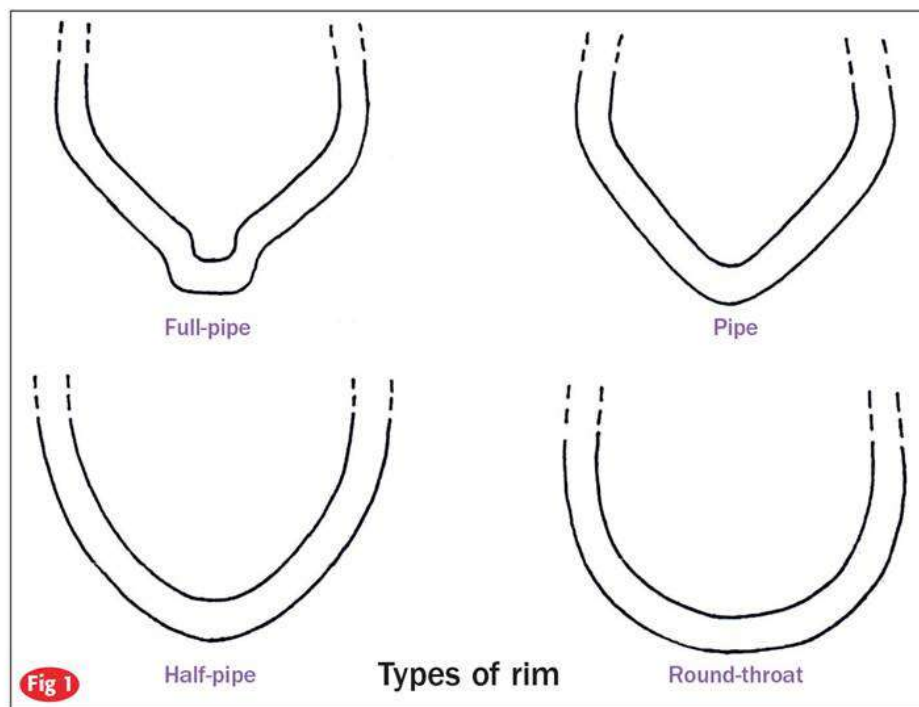


Fig 1

TIM PEEL is an Australian horse collar and harness maker who has spent a lifetime practicing his craft and is highly regarded for his knowledge, skills and expertise, says Shropshire harness-maker **Terry Davis**. "He has spent the past 10 years writing a guide to horse collar sizing and fitting. I understand all too well the points Tim is making," Terry says. "He describes clearly how collars 'work', are designed, constructed, and importantly, how they should fit in relation to the horse and their sometimes puzzling point of draught. Although speaking from an Australian point of view, Tim's explanations are well-founded, of long standing, and applicable in any language, to horses everywhere, including donkeys and mules, even camels". The history of collars dates back some 1,000 years, Terry points out. Their introduction to the British Isles transformed farming methods leading to greater productivity and improvements to commercial and private transport. "The skills and the principles of collar sizing/production that Tim refers to remain largely the same today for the simple reason that they work – a case of 'if it isn't broke, don't fix it'".

in a straight line from the bottom of the hame to the centre of the lug for the hame hooks, for this size collar.

The formula changes for different length and width collars, also for light horse collars or horses with very straight shoulders. Australian collar makers use these formulae when measuring and manufacturing collars for horses, donkeys and mules.

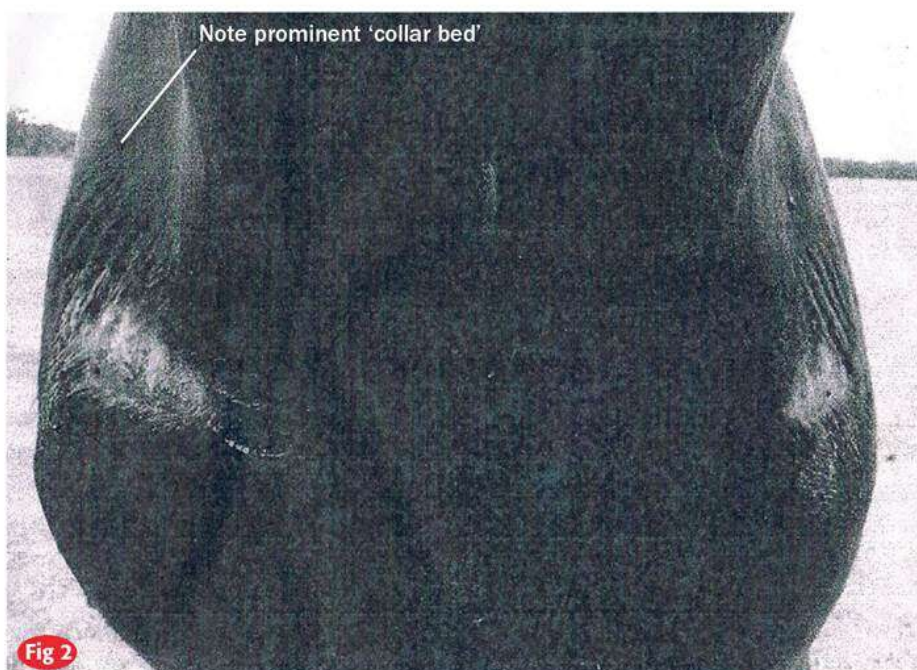
Hame fitting

Hame manufacturers, during the working horse era, worked in conjunction with collar makers to manufacture hames that had the hame hooks at the correct 'point of draught' to suit the majority of horses in their weight, size and range. On most hames, you can get minor adjustments by lengthening or shortening the links/strap at the bottom. There was a brand of hames made in Australia from pressed steel called the 'Downee' woodless hames. You could get whatever adjustment (up or down) you wanted, simply by removing two rivets and moving the hame hook lug to where you wanted it, then inserting two new rivets and rivetting up again. There was also another style of hames available with adjustable hame hooks. You could achieve four settings with this style and it gave you a three-inch range of hame hook adjustment.

There are certain work-related activities where you have to pay particular attention to the 'point of draught'. One of them is when working horses are in an implement or vehicle with a pole, whether a swinging pole in a four-wheel vehicle, or a fixed pole in a two-wheel vehicle/implement. If the collar has a tendency to be dragged down by the weight of the pole, you may have to lengthen the bottom links/straps so that the hames can be lifted up the collar slightly so the hame hooks remain at the correct 'point of draught'. Alternately, if you have the hames with adjustable hame hooks, you can achieve the same result by moving the hooks up or down to suit.

This particular style of hame, used in conjunction with backband and chains, was often used when constructing a

Fig 1. Types of rim (forewale), including the 'full pipe' collar referred to. **Fig 2.** The collar bed, and showing what can occur with an ill-fitting collar. This was after two days of work with an ill-fitting collar, which was too long and wide. **Fig 3.** 'Parts of a collar' and 'Measuring a collar' drawn by Australian harness-maker Mark Porter in the 1980s. The drawing showing the various parts uses Australian terms.



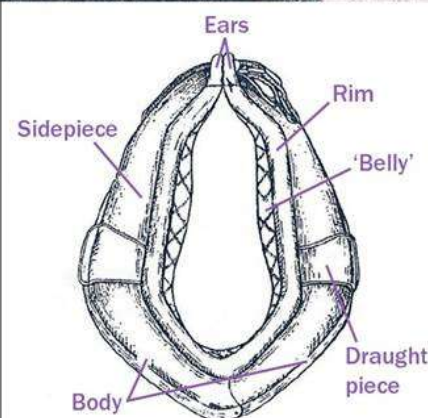
water hole for stock drinking purposes, with teams of eight or 10 horses, especially on the last ones in the team: they were the ones that bore the bulk of the downward pressure on the collar when coming up and over the dam wall with a big scoop-load of soil behind them.

Hame straps should always be buckled up over the top of the collar in an 'arc' configuration, similar to the links/straps at the bottom of the collar. If the hame straps at the top and the links/strap at the bottom of a collar are secured in a horizontal configuration, you will often end up with a 'scissor effect', where the top of the hames are pulled together and the bottom spread apart, which can result in the hames 'popping off' the bottom of the collar, especially with pole work going downhill or stopping abruptly. Another point to remember is that the little hook at the very bottom of the hames always goes on the nearside of the collar, and the twisted links on the offside. The twisted links must be manipulated until they all lie flat in the channel at the bottom of the collar.

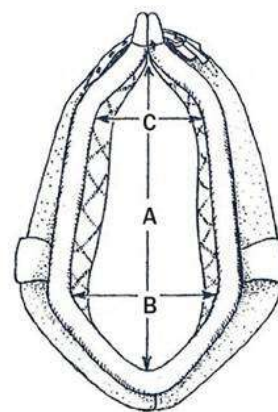
Measuring for a collar

The correct way to measure a horse for a collar is with a collar gauge, but as considerable experience is required to use one correctly, the easiest way for the horse owner is to find a collar or borrow one from a friend that fits; and take the measurements from that. The other option is to engage a collar maker to measure your horse or use an accredited collar fitter. (Fig 3)

The three main measurements a collar maker requires to build a well-fitting collar are: length of the collar from the inside of the rim at the throat to the inside at the top with the collar buckled



Parts of a collar



A = Length of collar (in inches)
B = 'Draught-turn' measurement
C = 'Neck-turn' measurement

Measuring a collar

Fig 3 up tightly; the width across the inside of the rim at the widest part (draught turns), and the width across the rim towards the top, just where it starts to narrow in (neck turns). On some collars for horses in hard constant work, the width across the 'bellies' is also required. →

→ The right fit

Horses especially in past years that were in hard, constant working condition would have quite prominent 'collar beds', with a depression on each side of the neck just forward of the 'collar bed'. That is why 'bellies' are built into some collars, to fill these depressions and hence further stabilise the collar.

When assessing a horse for conformation, I like to see a horse with ample width across the chest, i.e. from point of shoulder to point of shoulder. This not only allows for plenty of heart and lung room, but also gives a broader bearing surface for the 'collar bed', which in turn spreads the load over a larger area.

Even though I like to see plenty of width from point of shoulder to point of shoulder, I still like to see the legs under the body, not out on the points.

Common sores

Collars usually cause sores through friction, whereas riding saddles usually causes problems through pressure.

The two most common positions where sores occur on a horse are at the point of the shoulders and in the withers/neck region. Sores on the point of shoulders are often caused by a collar being too long or wide. Occasionally, young, fat or out of condition horses can develop 'wrung shoulders', even with a well-fitted collar until they 'harden up' with work (similar to a girth gall on a young horse, or out of condition saddle horse).

Not every 'wrung shoulders' injury is caused by an ill-fitting collar, but you have to eliminate all the possibilities and learn how to detect and identify the early stages of any developing problem and what is causing it.

Sores on the withers or neck region can be caused by a collar being too narrow or tight, and pinching or rubbing, or by being too wide and moving back along the neck too far and causing problems by too much movement and friction.

Pole work, especially in agricultural implements, can cause sores on the top of the neck/withers, with the constant 'drag' of the pole. Try to balance the pole better or use a forecart where possible.

Ensuring the collar fits

Fitting the collar to the horse correctly takes a certain amount of knowledge and experience. Once the collar is unbuckled, pull apart 3-4in and quickly and gently slip it up from underneath the horse's neck just behind its jaws. Reach over the top and grab the strap and pull



Fig 4a



Fig 4b

Fig 4a, b & c. Ultrasound imaging, a scapular on the horse for comparison, and where the point of draught crosses the spine of the scapula on the horse.

it to the near side and buckle up. Then lift the collar upwards and forwards to make sure there is no mane caught under the top, then slide it back into position on the 'collar bed'.

Stand back a little and observe from both the front and side of the horse for fit. It should fit on the shoulders snugly, but not give the impression of being too tight. There should be enough room to run two fingers on edge, or the flat of the hand, through the bottom of the collar between the rim and the horse's windpipe.

Next, check that you are able to pass the flat of the hand between the horse's neck and the body of the collar, midway between the bottom and top of the collar, one hand at a time, testing each side in turn. Occasionally you will get a collar that is too short for the horse. The issue

here is when in draught under heavy load, the rim will bear on the horse's windpipe and in severe cases, cut off the flow of air and choke the horse down. To rectify the problem, select a slightly longer collar, or in some cases where the horse has a very large or prominent windpipe, use a full pipe collar.

Conversely a collar that is too long, not only causes sores on the points of the shoulder, but it also drops the 'point of draught' of the hame hooks below optimum position for efficient draught.

If you study a horse pulling, you will notice as the horse moves forward into draught, one leg goes forward and other leg goes back, and naturally the points of shoulder follow. With a collar that is too long, with every step the horse takes, the point of the shoulder collides with



the region of the collar that hangs too low, which will then create a sore. In a well-made, well-fitting collar, the point of the shoulders should travel back and forward in a free and natural motion without any impediment from the collar.

The tell-tale signs of the above problem, especially after a day or two of constant work, is tenderness in the point of the shoulder area and skin starting to wrinkle and blister.

Other symptoms that may appear in the horse are: an unwillingness to go forward into the collar and pull; lugging to one side or the other, especially in pairs to avoid the pain, and rearing when asked to start a load. Remember the horse can't verbally tell you when it is in pain; often the only way they can communicate is through their actions or responses. (Note the above actions in a horse can also be caused by other issues.)

Another test worth conducting when practical, in low draught (e.g. ploughing, logging, etc.), is to get someone to drive the horse while you walk beside the animal and observe the 'point of draught' area. When the collar is under heavy load, you should be able to walk along with the flat of your hand between the traces and the horse's body in the vicinity of the hame hook.

There should be no pressure from the traces on the flat of your hand, for the more pressure on your hand, the more likelihood of creating a sore with the constant rubbing. When the traces start touching/rubbing a horse in this area it is usually because of one of the following reasons: the stuffing in the draught area of the collar is too soft; there is not enough stuffing in the body in that area to keep the traces off the horse, and the collar is getting old and flat and needs either restuffing with new straw or the collar replaced with another one. You can try the above test with high draught, e.g. wagons, carts etc at the walk, under load.

Care of the shoulders

Next, we come to the care of the shoulders in the harness horse. As soon as the collar is removed from a young or 'green' horse, hose/wash the shoulders with cold water, feel for any hot spots

with your hand and if present, leave the hose running on that area for a few minutes or until the heat starts to dissipate.

Older, seasoned horses in constant work may only need a quick brush of their shoulders at the end of a day's work, especially in cold weather.

In hot, sweaty weather, it does no harm to give all horses a hose down in the shoulder area, even if it is only to remove sweat, and make them feel comfortable. Sometimes, in hot weather, if the sweat is left to dry on the shoulders, it creates little salt crystals that can cause irritation the next day.

A procedure that is quite helpful in detecting early signs of a problem once the collar is removed, and the shoulders washed, is to run your finger nails in parallel lines across the skin of the shoulders in the main pressure areas. If the horse is developing a sore or tenderness, it will flinch from this test. If your fingernails are too short, use the end of a match stick or similar item. You can also use the same test on the back area of a saddle horse to detect soreness.

Probably one of the cheapest and simplest treatments once a sore has developed is to use water with a dash of salt in it, about the consistency of sea water. Bathe the affected area each day for a few days. After you have bathed it, dry the area with an old towel, then apply a drying agent such as methylated spirits or one of the lines of dust-on powders or solutions. If possible, the horse should be allowed to rest for a few days, then put back into light work until the area 'hardens up'.

Warning signs:

- Area tender to touch (use finger nail test)
- Areas that have 'hot spots' (feel with hands)
- Areas of skin that stay wet or damp after surrounds dry
- Areas where the skin shows numerous small wrinkles or appears to be blistering
- Small patches where the hair is rubbing off
- Any unusual lumps or fluid-filled blisters

The correct fitting of collar and hames, and the care of shoulders, applies to all the harness horses, from the smallest pony through carriage horses to the heaviest draughts.

The collar as a protective capsule

Think of a well-fitting collar as a rigid, protective capsule designed and built to fit and follow all contours of the horse's

shoulders, whilst providing a broad bearing surface for the horse to 'push into', to move loads.

It's much the same as a well-designed, well-fitting pair of rigid hiking boots which are the capsules that cover and protect your feet from the elements during a long trek. A collar that is soft and flexible, one that can be pushed or pulled from its original shape, especially when under load, has the capacity to distort and bear on the vulnerable area of the horse's anatomy. This unwanted contact can cause injury or sores or impede the free flow of a horse's natural movement, or in some cases, air to the horse's lungs.

The collar also serves the purpose of protecting the horse from external forces, i.e. the hames. The hames are the critical 'go between', the mechanism that connects the power generated by the horse through the collar to the load being moved. Therefore, their ability to be adjusted up or down to a certain degree, either by moving the hames or adjusting the hame hooks, gives you the chance to get a correct match with the particular horse's 'point of draught'.

Where is the 'point of draught'?

It has always been problematic for a lot of horse owners to detect exactly where the point of draught lies in relation to the scapula and the spine of the scapula on a horse.

Recently, I was able to access an ultrasound unit at our local veterinary centre, to conduct an experiment on a 16.3hh draught gelding in work condition. The collar that was used was a correctly fitted draught collar – 23in x 10in x 7in with hames to suit. The collar was built and the hames fitted to the formula Australian collar makers use when manufacturing collars as explained earlier.

Figs 4a, b & c show when the scapula on the study horse had been mapped and marked by ultrasound imaging. The vet then overlaid a scapula from a deceased horse of the same breed, size and weight, and photographed the result. As can be seen the line of draught crossed over the scapula down a distance of 6½in approximately from the centre (tuber of spine) on the spine of the scapula.

The ultrasound was carried out on 1/3/2018 by veterinarian, Dr Edwina Wilks, and staff at Charles Sturt University, Equine Veterinary Sciences Faculty (Veterinary Clinical Centre), Wagga Wagga, NSW, Australia, 2650. I am indebted to them for their interest and help in this matter.

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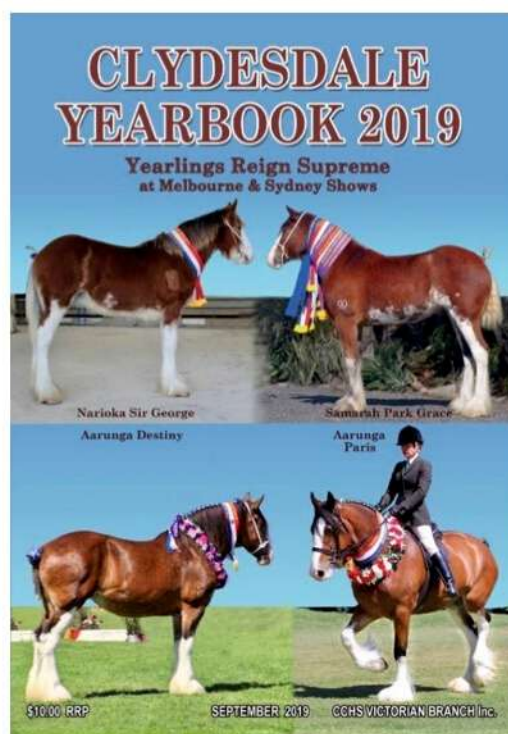
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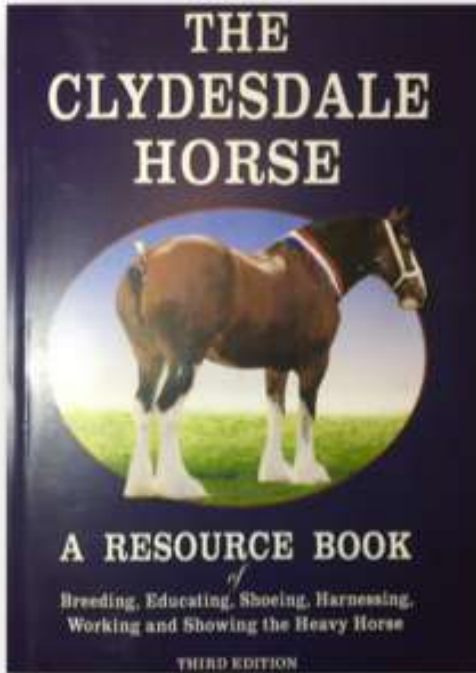


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