



ATTENTION

NEWSLETTER FOR ENTHUSIASTIC TARANAKI EQUESTRIANS

BY TARANAKI EQUESTRIAN NETWORK (TEN) FOR 2023 AND LOOKING AHEAD TO 2024

NEWS!

BEST THING EVER!

Our TEN Team is simply sizzling about the best thing ever to happen to equestrian sport in Taranaki – The expert investigation being managed right now by Sport Taranaki into the facilities we have and need for our horses.

For you, this means all horse-riders' needs, from the recreational rider to the top show jumper, will be reviewed and translated into a plan of action. This covers bridle trails to club grounds to competition facilities. When the Equestrian Facilities Plan is complete, Taranaki councils and funding organisations will be able to prioritise and fund our needs logically and progressively. What a milestone year 2022 was!

Being the first region in Aotearoa NZ to have this, Taranaki is leading the way.

Our expectation is the consultant will deep dive into:

- changing horse-rider demographics – who, what and where?
- whether more built facilities are needed and if so where?
- the need for more recreational riding places
- Egmont A&P Assoc's funding needs for a new roof for the Hawera indoor
- Stratford Parks equestrian concept
- do we have the people power to make things happen?

Equestrians – watch this space, your inbox, and your news feed. Doing the surveys and attending the meetings will make a difference for decades to come. Happening from now until August 2023.

More on the Equestrian Facilities Plan in the next pages.

Enjoy our articles from outstanding equestrian supporters, The Tack Shack (now Highfields Equestrian) and Energy Vets. Highfields growth especially reflects great confidence in the horse scene.

Plus, we now have a dedicated horse vet – Taranaki Equine Veterinary Service – and that facility looks pretty uptown, for sure.

Our annual Quiz Nite mid-22 was once again an opportunity to fundraise and catch up with friends – more on that below.

Have you noticed how the Taranaki horse-world continues to grow both in numbers, quality of horses, and economic value? A horse event organiser questioned recently how fair horse-event funding was given the dire human need out there. She was reassured when told about the huge number of people a sports horse employs. Stand proud, equestrians – look at all the positive outdoorsy jobs that we create.

Before I go, enjoy the article inside about our TEN team efforts for equestrians.

Happy horse-connections everyone.



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INTERVIEW

MEET TARANAKI'S GLAMOUR EQUESTRIAN COUPLE - ALICIA AND LAINE CAMERON.

TEN asked them a few nosy questions and here's what they told us...

What's great about being a show jumping / dressage couple?

What's awesome about us doing different disciplines, is that we can purchase young horses, bring them on, decide where their talent lies and let them go down that path. We have had beautifully bred dressage horses that have been much better suited to jumping, and we have bought jumpers that have excelled at dressage. But generally, most of our horses do a bit of both.

So don't be surprised to see Laine competing one of his jumpers at a dressage show giving it some mileage. This means all our horses have a well-rounded education and can excel in the field that's best for them.

What strengths does your combined expertise bring to your horses?

Being able to work together is great. We both have a slightly different approach to training, but it seems to work well together. And it is so good to always have a set of eyes on the ground to help when we are riding. We try to sit in on each other's lessons too so we can continue to support with the training throughout the week.

Where did you each grow up and how did you meet?

Alicia grew up in Auckland on the North Shore, and Laine grew up in Stratford Taranaki. We met in our early 20's at Tauranga Show jumping show and have been together ever since.

How long has Laine been a farrier and what is special about your business?

Laine's 4-year apprenticeship started in 2006 with Jock Goode in Taranaki. His first business was LG Forge in Auckland. During our OE in 2017, Laine shod horses with Robbie Watson-Greaves from the UK farrier team. He also competed at a big shoeing competition in Wales, where he came home with placings.

Once home again, Laine started Taranaki Forge and most of his current run consists of racing stables, performance horses and horses referred to him



for specialty shoeing jobs. He loves helping to improve horses confirmation and movement through shoeing.

How long riding and what have been the highlights?

Both of us have been riding from around 7 years old. Laine has mostly show jumped, with highlights including winning Young Rider Classes and Grand Prix class on his first competitive horse, Meersebrooke Je Suis, and placing in Pro Am of the Year on Allegria.

Alicia used to show jump and was competitive in the Amateur classes before a fall fractured her spine. More recently she has enjoyed honing her dressage skills at a higher level on her schoolmaster Avani.

What are Laine's goals for SJ?

Laine's goals are to continue training hard to improve his riding, and work towards having happy, confident, and sound horses in the competition arena.

What are Alicia's goals for dressage?

With Alicia's level 5 dressage horse recently retiring, she has taken over the reins of one of Laine's showjumpers, Quinn. They had their first Premier League start together recently for a win, and now just putting in loads of training to compete him at Level 3 or 4 next season. He's a bit sharp with big movement (and 18hh), which has been quite an adjustment for Alicia.

TURN THE PAGE >>

INTERVIEW

What makes the ideal farrier client?

Concrete, cover, regular shoeing, vet involvement and well-handled horses.

Laine's job is much easier when he can shoe horses on a concrete pad and he has shelter from the weather. He's working hard to have your horses' level and balanced in their shoes, and this is much easier when he can shoe them on a flat clean surface.

What can people do to keep their horses' feet in tip top shape throughout the season?

Keep their feet dry in winter, oiled in summer and their shoeing cycles regular. This may be every 4 weeks; for others its every 5-6 weeks.

What does a pleasure ride look like for you both?

We both love a hack up the road, and try to take our horses out to different arenas and settings every week for a change of scenery. With a toddler at foot, it is just really nice to ride together these days.

How do you manage demanding jobs and 5 horses in work?

Currently Laine is shoeing 40 – 60 hours a week, Alicia works 32 hours a week as a sponsorship manager and has just started her own business called Barn & Anvil creating tack room furniture. On top of this we have a very busy toddler and 5 horses in work.

We are so lucky to have the incredible help of Deanika Vink who has joined our team this season. She rides the horses and manages the stables for us during the week, and is amazing at it.

Planning is essential with so much on, and whoever has a show coming up gets priority for time in the saddle. Arena lights make winter life a whole lot easier.



Staying motivated when you are this busy is sometimes the hardest part. But it is much easier to stay motivated when there is always someone around at the stables to ride with.

What would you like sports horse people to do to improve their horse's way of going?

Sport horse owners need to look at the whole package. Investing in a qualified and knowledgeable physio, farrier and vet are all vital to having a happy and healthy horse.

Variety in riding and training is essential for your sport horse. We include hacking, jumping, pole work and dressage schooling for all of our horses. Even the jumpers should be able to do leg yields, shoulder in, traverse, changes and collected and lengthening work. And sometimes our jumpers even head out to a dressage show for some variety.

Final words?

Riders need to remember to put their horses needs in front of their own ambitions. Plus, it's important to have a good team of professionals around you if you are wanting to compete up the levels. Taranaki is very lucky to have the amazing Bex from TEVS. We have her visit throughout the season to check on our horses and address any niggles they may have. And a lot of the issues start with the feet.



BE PREPARED!

ANIMAL WELFARE IN EMERGENCIES

Have you thought about what could happen to your horse if Mt Taranaki erupted or there was an earthquake? Are you in a flood-prone area or close to rivers or the sea?

Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) and the Taranaki Emergency Management Office of Civil Defence are in the process of convening a strategic working group to discuss animal welfare in an emergency event. TEN has joined this group as representatives from the equine sector.

MPI is the responsible agency for the coordination of animal welfare services in an emergency however the funding and provision of these services falls upon the community. There is no funding provided by government to help your animals in an emergency.

The Animal Welfare Act 1999 states that all people who own, or are in charge of, animals have a legal obligation to meet the physical, health, and behavioural needs of those animals. This legislation still stands in an emergency situation meaning it is your legal responsibility to provide food, water, shelter, appropriate handling, protection from injury and disease, and the opportunity to display normal patterns of behaviour even if you have to evacuate due to an emergency event.

MPI, in conjunction with various animal welfare support agencies, have produced several 'Animals in Emergencies' fact sheets and the 'Preparing for Your Horse' booklet can be found at this link www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/45328-Animals-in-Emergencies-Horses-Fact-sheet

The best way to make sure your animals are taken care of in an emergency is take some time now to prepare an Emergency Management Plan (EMP) specifically for you and your horse. A well thought out EMP will help ensure you are well-prepared to manage your animals appropriately in emergencies and to improve the outcome for the animals whilst keeping you and the wider Taranaki community safe.

Before starting your plan, you should know where to get accurate information (source of truth), identify your networks (who could help you), think about what hazards may affect you at your location, what resources you have and how to get help

Having personal plans for your household, farm, or training facility (which includes your animals), and business continuity plans are important. In an emergency, make sure you and your family are safe, check on your neighbour's and then implement your animal plan.



Here are the top 10 priority hazards that you should plan for as listed in the Taranaki CDEM Group Plan 2018 -2023:

1. Volcanic: Taranaki.
2. Infectious human diseases and pandemics.
3. Earthquake.
4. Flooding.
5. Animal epidemic.
6. Volcanic: distant ash fall.
7. Infrastructure failure: dam.
8. Tsunami.
9. Infrastructure failure: water supply.
10. Severe storm/cyclone/wind.

Some of the possible negative animal welfare impacts that may occur in emergencies that should be considered in your plan:

- Failure of fencing or other containment systems
- Damage to pasture and other food sources such as hay or availability of supplementary food
- Damage to veterinary clinics and infrastructure for animal husbandry
- Injury or death from impact/ drowning/ fire/ smoke inhalation
- Isolation from accessing animals due to flooding or other restricted access hazard areas
- Contamination from hazardous materials
- Insufficient personnel to care for animals needs.

So, until we can provide you with more information on how the Regional plan progresses, start thinking about how you could make preparations now to protect the welfare of your horse in an emergency.

Wasn't it heart-warming to see ESNZ responding to the devastation caused to horses by Cyclone Gabrielle on 14/15 February?

Halina

TEN

BRIDLE ZONE

LAKE MANGAMAHOE – OUR JEWEL IN THE CROWN

TEN continues, with the much-appreciated efforts of TEN member Neil Florence, to keep the Bridle Zone well maintained. What a rare treasure that forest is, as riders from outside Taranaki tell us.

Disappointment reigned after the latest working bee, however. Only 3 TEN members and 5 others turned up. And this is out of the 100s of riders who love to ride there, even if only once or twice a year as most do. Recent Facebook debate about people donating money rather than time made us re-think what to do. Just so you know, the mountain bikers pay to join the Mountain Bike Club, plus they do working-bees, plus they do individual work on the tracks. One form of giving doesn't exclude the other.

But we decided to expand working bee options next time for those who like to donate their time.

If you prefer to donate dollars, here is our TEN account number – 15-3953-0769525-00.

Please put your name in Reference.

Every cent is much appreciated and carefully spent.

Last May, Denis Wheeler Earthmoving did its usual great grading job with the voluntary digger-driving efforts of horse-rider, Chook Fowler – our big thanks to Chook. Thanks also to Sue Rainsford and Dinky Wynyard (TEN member) for digger-spotting.



Riders are delighted with the log jumps we built on Matariki Day in June 2022. Brad and Floss Hinton together with Neil and Megan Gundesen were enthusiastically on the job.

We'll push Council again for a log jump lane through the Crematorium area once the next phase of exotic forest is planted. Wouldn't that be lovely through there?

Atawhai Industries at no cost did a partial gorse cutback/spray in 2022 and the increasing tobacco weed will get attention soon, paid for by your donations. Christine Dobson has revealed that she was the secret machete wielder who recently cut heaps of ponga on horseback.

Due to some unpleasant incidents in the BZ carpark, we are asking that horse-riders shut the gate. It tends to stop people without good intentions.

The BZ is being used increasingly for walking and running events- Coastal 5, Taranaki Trail Runners, Oxfam Trailwalkers, police training, and more. It doesn't seem to be that much of an inconvenience but still, an alternative free forest would be an awesome find!



BIG NEWS...

LIFE BEYOND THE TACK SHACK – INGRID ANDERSON

So what now?

Well actually I'm continuing with the path I set out on some years ago when I found how much I loved to treat horses (and dogs and people). I completed Reiki levels 1 and 2, then went on to Reiki Master 3A. I love working with energy and of course horses respond very well. I've had a few very angry horses melt into a healing place with Reiki which is so rewarding. Reiki has become the base for the different modalities that I use. My next major investment was an Equissage machine which I still have and use. It works wonders with hoof problems, sore muscles and is a lovely relaxing treat after a workout.

I have done certificates in Relaxation massage for humans, Holistic horse, Equine Touch and Laser Therapy. Emmett has been a powerful addition to my healing sessions and currently I have completed levels 1-5 but as this newsletter goes to print Professional levels 1 and 2 will have been completed at my property with our Australian tutor Rebecca.

Always interested in more, I completed a diploma course in Acupuncture. This is a very complex therapy and I consider myself a long-term student of this amazing modality. I went on to purchase a small veterinary 3B laser which is great for those that find the needles a bit too much. The laser is also great for treating wounds and small animals.



I like to use kinesiology tape to support treatments when beneficial and have found the tape to be very supportive and pain relieving for myself as well as the horses.

I have attended 2 x 3-day, live webinar dissections. These took place in The Netherlands, so they involved sitting at the computer for 8 hours a night over 3 nights. Wow! So much to learn from these. It really got the anatomy bug in my system so in November 2022 I attended a 7-day intensive anatomy course where we built horses with clay muscle by muscle. I am currently completing an externship to be credited with a certificate.



This course is often completed by Vets, vet nurses and anyone with a serious interest in anatomy.

As a "healing geek" I spend hours consuming webinars on all things equine such as Iridology, biting, hoof management, saddle fitting, diet, rehabilitation and functional training. I have completed Dr Sue Dysons Pain Ethogram study into the behaviours displayed by the ridden horse which indicate a pain response. I'm a big fan of Warwick Schiller and employ his methods with my own horses. I continue to educate myself and I love it!

Another love is using Doterra essential oils and First Light Flower Essences to enhance healing.

So! Going forward I'm available to treat horses, dogs and people. I can offer a "Treatment week" here at my property involving whatever your horse requires, including in-hand groundwork with T Touch wraps, Sure Foot pads, poles etc. This would be a great thing to do before turning your horse out for a holiday or while you are on holiday.

I can also teach riding with an empathetic approach and understanding of how the equine body works. Thanks for reading and I hope to cross paths again in the future.



BALANCE
Equine Therapy

Contact Ingrid at 0211232966 for more information or book a treatment.

EVENTING

MEET THE EVENTERS

Eventing Taranaki is the group for Taranaki riders, coaches, volunteers and supporters who share a passion for the sport of Eventing. We aim to cater for members of all levels of our sport through running training days, clinics, and an annual Horse Trial event.



Our Mission Is to promote the sport of Eventing in Taranaki, at all levels, by organising regular training opportunities and events.

We have a dedicated hard working committee who does their best to help and support all interested in becoming a eventing star. From beginners to experts we can offer advice and help from very experienced NZ Eventing people.

A bit of background... For the last eight years Eventing Taranaki has run a Horse Trial at Hawera. These events were extremely successful with good reviews received from riders and officials. We attract competitors from throughout the North Island, and have had many riders coming to Taranaki to compete for the first time.

If you'd like to help in any way or learn more about eventing, feel free to contact us via our facebook page.

EQUESTRIAN FACILITIES PLAN

THE LOW DOWN

On 21 July 2022 TEN attended a meeting with Michael Carr (Sport Taranaki CEO) and Marina Healey (Spaces and Places Lead) to discuss a Facilities Plan that had been proposed to TEN during previous discussions with NPDC about the possible use of Hickford Park.

We were assured a Facilities Plan is needed to secure future funding, and that it will be produced by a professional consultant. It will be persuasive for the Taranaki district councils and funders (TET, TOI, and NZCT), and it will be led by Sport Taranaki. It is an ambitious project needing to tease apart the facility requirements of various horse-groups to see where the commonalities are. It is also ground-breaking for Aotearoa NZ. The headache will be to encourage participation because horse-people take little interest in surveys and polls.

A Project Working Group was formed in August 2022 from equestrian group representatives and facility leaders from all over Taranaki. They are assisting the Plan's consultant, so that he understands the equestrian landscape, and helping him engage well with our sector. Consultation will happen with all parts of the equestrian scene. The consultant is the same consultant for the National Equestrian Strategy which is also currently underway (as a cost-saving and efficiency measure). These are exciting times for equestrian sport and recreation. Hopefully we can move ahead on facilities with clarity in 6-8 months' time.

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EQUINE VETS

ENERGY VETS TARANAKI LTD

Taranaki has an enthusiastic and diverse equestrian scene. At Energy Vets Taranaki Ltd we have had the pleasure of meeting and working with many horse owners and trainers to diagnose and manage equine health and wellbeing related issues.

Nothing compares to the bond that exists between horses and their riders/care-givers. Horses are, by nature, a herd animal and do best when they have a "herd" around them. This includes their owners. The owners notice the little things that aren't right as often as the big things. We feel privileged to have been support from the birth right through to the end-of-life events of many dearly loved Taranaki horses.

At Energy Vets we have experienced veterinary staff familiar with equine health needs in our area. We provide 24/7 emergency veterinary services. Our current roster of equine vets that you may be familiar with include June Hart and Greg Hall. In the weekends or at night any two of our large animal team of 10 vets are on call and are more than capable of dealing with emergencies. We have a great relationship with two referral hospitals (Waikato Equine and Massey University) should we need to call on their expertise.

We attend to all sorts of routine equine diagnostic and therapeutic needs. We also sometimes act as a second opinion for other Taranaki practices and are equipped with some of the more specialized diagnostic aids such as portable digital X-ray, Ultrasound and Endoscope. We carry out pre-purchase examinations, dental procedures, and minor surgical procedures. We are also capable of facilitating artificial inseminations in mares.

It has been our privilege to be asked to be the attending vets at many equine events and race meetings in Taranaki where we can see riders and horses performing in their



chosen fields. The enthusiasm, dedication, and attention to detail that we witness is always impressive. We always hope for a quiet day!

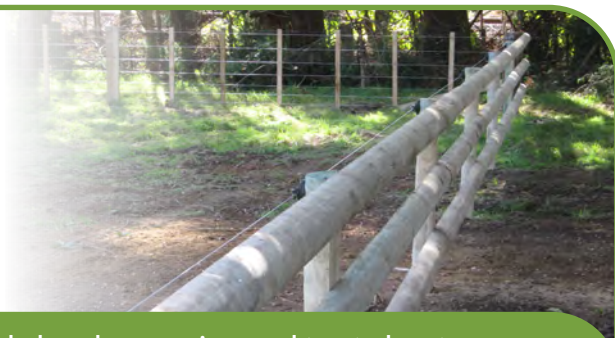
We have seen equine facilities improve over the years. More stables, covered yards, arenas, walkers. More holistic type approaches to horse wellbeing – nutrition, environment, and preventative health procedures. More on-line education/information and a thirst for knowledge can only lead to a better understanding of the needs of the horses we care for.

We are here to help you with all that.



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DEVELOPMENTS

RDA COVERED ARENA AN OUTSTANDING SUCCESS!

Kevin Nielsen, New Plymouth RDA President, happily gave TEN a great statistic recently.

In the 18 months since they opened under cover at their Barrett Domain facility, they have not cancelled any riding sessions due to bad weather. What a great benefit and relief to their riders, whanau, volunteers, and schools as they know with certainty that riding continues irrespective of weather conditions.

Plus, the environment under the cover is much more user friendly, being cooler in summer and drier in winter. No doubt if the RDA's lovely horses could talk, they would say so too.

Kevin pays full credit to the RDA coaches and volunteers for continuing riding through most of the Covid pandemic, averaging between 70 and 80 riders each week.

FROM RDA:

We were delighted to welcome the "happy hackers" who came along and tested out the covered arena on a day it just happened to be raining!! We have also had another party who has been a regular hirer of the arena when not in use by RDA. We are very pleased to have this additional usage and we are open to enquiries for hire of the arena at what we believe are favourable rates. Details are available on our website. www.newplymouthrda.org.

Readers may be interested in ways they can support RDA. Suitable volunteers are welcomed. You must be physically fit, comfortable around horses, happy to undertake RDA training, and able to make a regular commitment. Like so many community organisations, funding is never far from our minds. To this end we have introduced a new membership option called "Friends of New Plymouth Riding for the Disabled".



For a commitment of \$100, an annual membership gives you a welcome branded bumper sticker and fridge magnet, regular updates during the year, open invitation to come to the arena and see first-hand our programme in action, while in the knowledge you are assisting an organisation that makes a real difference for those in our community living with disability. If you are interested in becoming a "Friend of RDA" just give Kevin a call on 027 2737534 or email at kevin@newplymouthrda.org.nz

Of interest also is that we are completing 50 years of operation in New Plymouth this year. Just imagine how many thousands of people locally who have experienced the benefit of therapeutic, recreational, and educational benefits of riding for the disabled. We plan to be around in another 50 years as we see no lessening of need.

Best regards to all.

Kevin Nielsen
President

FUNDRAISER

QUIZ NITE

August 2022

TEN's annual Quiz Nite at The Good Home, mid-2022, was a roaring success, raising \$4,845.00! With annual improvement, our iconic event was easier than ever with raffles and spot prizes sitting at the door. 65 people attended.

The equestrian community (individuals, clubs, and businesses) are so supportive of this fundraiser that it makes the TEN committee feel our work is appreciated and inspires us to continue.

Our sponsors were yet again very generous with contributions, which allowed most attendees to go away with a prize of some sort. The Bridle Zone will become better and better with the funds raised, along with all our other initiatives supporting increased access to riding places.

We hope all the successful bidders are making the most of their respective auction wins, and likewise the raffle winners Sharon Robinson (personal care package) and Corinne Robinson (horse-care package) indulging in pampering and luxury.

It's a fair certainty that we'll be looking to repeat the fundraising success next year! Hope to see you there.



HORSE MASTERS

AT NEW PLYMOUTH PONY CLUB

Over 25 year olds flocked to join New Plymouth Pony Clubs Horse-masters group when it opened in August 2022.



The 18 strong group was filled within days and complements the Oakura Pony Clubs 12 HM riders. The NP group could be twice as big but as always, coach availability is stretched. The big plus with NP's central city grounds is that riders have the use of the XC course, the show jumps, the soft metal trotting track, as well as the peaceful, well-draining extensive green open spaces.


Horse-masters captures the huge cohort of over 40s returning to riding, for the enjoyment, the fitness, the fun. They like the social aspect of riding and learning together.

Local riding legend and Horse master, Marion Rivers, made national news joining pony club again at 77 years old. Marion said she enjoyed the social side of the Horsemasters sessions but is concerned about the club's future. Thankfully the multi-sport hub is paused so the NP group will continue in the 2023/24 season. Look out for the invites around late June/early July.



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CARRIAGE DRIVING

“THE MOST FUN YOU CAN HAVE SITTING DOWN”

Competitive carriage driving was introduced to New Zealand in the 1980s by Prince Phillip, who created the concept a decade earlier in England.

The New Zealand Carriage Driving Society was formed, as a national body, in 1983 and currently there are approximately 100 members spread throughout the country with nine clubs in the North Island and three in the South Island.

The Taranaki Carriage Drivers group has been around for more than twenty five years and its members ages range from teens to people in their 80s.



Local drivers compete in up to nine competitions a year, Combined Driving, Showing, Driven Dressage and P.O.D's. (Precision, Obstacle, Driving). “It’s fast and it’s an awful lot of fun.”

The season runs from August to April with the Taranaki club often travelling around the North Island to compete. The club often runs a “Have a go day” where interested people can get a lesson in how to saddle up before being given a go, with instruction. The Taranaki group is based at Lorient Driving Supplies, 1951 State Highway 3, about 3km south of Waverley.



Showing includes the A&P shows throughout the country that hold harness classes, harness clubs that hold their own shows and the NZCDS hold a National Show in each of the Islands annually.

For more information contact the Secretary of Taranaki Carriage Drivers, Sarah Ogle Ph: 0272819025 or email: Harleyogle1@gmail.com

Proud to be the Equestrian Designer behind these amazing people!

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STRATFORD PARK

UPDATE FROM THE STRATFORD PARK PROJECT

The goal is for Stratford Park to be a thriving community hub, centred around education, wellbeing, recreation and entertainment for all to enjoy. A lot has been happening since the last update...

the planning for the Equestrian move from the northside of Flint Road to the southside of Flint Road is maturing and we have commenced preparing the resource consent for this activity. Funding has been secured and works are underway for the surveying and planning for construction of the first phase of development. Current focus is on establishing new all-weather arenas on the southside site.

The pay-to-ride Bridle Trail has been open over the Stratford Park land regularly and has been popular. Plans are underway to develop new routes and make access easier to administer.

Governance structure for the park has been agreed and our Board has been appointed - keep an eye out in the coming months for the official Board Appointment Announcement with further details on our Board Members. Holly Sutich has taken on the role of Project Manager for Stratford Park, working with all stakeholders of the Park to help grow the vision and work alongside the Board to set the strategic direction for the project.

WANT TO GET INVOLVED?

Here's some upcoming opportunities:

We are currently looking to fill 2x roles on the Stratford Park Steering Committee; a Procurement role and a Marketing and Community Engagement role. If you or someone you know has the expertise and is keen to volunteer in one of these roles, please reach out to Andrew at chairman@stratfordpark.co.nz or Holly at projectmanager@stratfordpark.co.nz.



Stratford
PARK





HIGHFIELDS *Farm*

Hi! We are Elly and Kurt from Highfields Farm, and we would love to share a bit about us and our journey so far.

Highfields Farm is a 6th generation family farm in Tikorangi, North Taranaki. Over the years there has been an array of diversification, with the latest being supply of quality stock feed. This latest diversification came about as I (Elly) could not find quality hay for my horses, and figured other people must be having the same struggle.

What started as a little side business back in 2019 has grown into quite a large operation! We now stock a diverse range of specialist, purpose grown compressed hay (red clover, lucerne, Timothy, horse mix, meadow) and straw as well as our own meadow, horse mix and lucerne baleage. We also have our own range of hand-chaffed chaff, calf meal, chicken pellets and bedding.

Our hay is sourced from across New Zealand, and from our own land. Last season we planted out 15 hectares in specialist horse grasses (Timothy, grazing brome, cocksfoot, prairie grass) and successfully got two cuts off it this summer.

We are also the Taranaki stockists of Hekeao Feed Co. Based in Ashburton, they grow the majority of the ingredients for their feeds, and pride themselves on producing high quality equine feed with no fillers. We started stocking Hekeao after searching for soy free hard feed for our own horses and we haven't looked back.

In the past eighteen months we've grown our team by two; Thomas, our 18 month old son, and of course our Ops Manager, Tesh. Occasionally, during busy periods we have casual staff who help us out too. We started in a small shed on farm, however, after quickly out growing it we are now in a large building on Mould Street in Waitara. The shop is open every Saturday 10am - 2pm and by appointment. We also offer Taranaki deliveries every Tuesday and Wednesday, but these deliveries fill up very quickly so we always advise getting in quick!

Our most recent expansion is the purchase of The Tack Shack, now called Highfields Equestrian, and we are excited to be a true one-stop-shop for everything equine. We are working hard behind the scenes to bring some new and exciting brands to New Zealand and Taranaki - watch this space! Local Taranaki delivery of saddlery items is also available.

Last but not least - we are so thankful for the support of our wonderful customers, and wouldn't be where we are today without you.

As of the 1st February 2023 Elly and Kurt are the new owners of The Tack Shack, now called Highfields Equestrian. Highfields is your one-stop shop for everything equine: www.highfieldsequestrian.co.nz.

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LET'S BE PROUD!

OPEN SPACES FOR HŌIHO

What riding have equestrians lost over the years?

In days gone by, kid's ponies were in paddocks scattered round the cities and we would happily road-ride to meet our friends at pony club, local parks, and domains. Most ponies were shod because so much road riding was expected. Young riders spent their time sneaking onto beaches, parks, reserves, and farms and getting away with it. There were no signs after all. Open green space was shared with walkers and dogs and there wasn't a mountain biker to be seen.

Then began creeping urbanisation since the 1980's. Roads are curbed and channelled, parks are fenced off, roadsides have mown berms with angry owners telling horse riders off, farm-owners worry about their health and safety obligations and generally prefer random horse-riders and the public stay off their land. The prettier the council makes an open space, the less likely a horse can be ridden on it. We now see that 'Progress' is counter-equine!

Daylight saving limits beach riding and can be full of kite surfers, wind yachts and playthings that are scary for horses. The grassy berms on local rural roads are graded off steeply to "encourage drainage" so gone now is the green footpath that was always good for a trot. Where do walkers, runners, cyclists, and horses go if they need to avoid oncoming cars?

The exponential growth in mountain biking has not been good for horse riding. Sadly, the bike trails have not been built with horses in mind. Vehicle speed on rural roads is terrifying. If we are not careful, we will become a nation of 'arena riders' – not good for our riding skills or our horse's state of mind.

Here's 10 things TEN is doing to combat these problems. We:

- advocate that bikers and horses can share trails. With enough width, lines of sight, and good planning it CAN be done. There is not enough green space left not to share in the right places.
- speak to our local council. Sometimes they can be remarkably good at trying to help.
- are a familiar face to the District Planner and Open Spaces Planner, they are careful about plans that might affect horses.
- trawl the Council website's 'Have your Say' tab to find their plans for walkways, parks, open spaces, and beaches. Then we submit for rides on your behalf.
- identified the 'horsey' roads around the district so that signs inform motorists about horses. It helps to slow speed and encourage safety.
- we stopped roading contractors in their tracks and negotiated with council to modify the steep gradient.
- had boulders removed at the beach that blocked our horse transport parking.
- adopted NP city's water-catchment forest – the Bridle Zone at Lake Mangamahoe. TEN manages and develops the riding trails.
- have been a force behind the Taranaki Regional Equestrian Facilities Plan.
- draw the equestrian community together with our Newsletters to inform and empower.

The hōiho holds a new place in today's world – not building roads and pulling carts, but helping humans with trauma, with exercise, with purpose, with the stresses of modern life, and with friends. We help the economy and ecology. Equestrians- let's be proud of who we are!

By Megan Gundesen

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Thank

you!

NONE OF THIS WOULD BE POSSIBLE WITHOUT THE HUGE EFFORTS of equestrians working away to run events, pony clubs, facilities, clinics, treks, hunts, and human therapy programmes, to name a few.

It's an enormous effort on top of looking after your horses and properties – those are jobs in themselves! THANK YOU to all our equestrian volunteers.

Then there's the wonderful TEN committee. I'd like to acknowledge the special assistance of Sharon Robinson, our Co-Chair, and Halina Sarten, our Secretary, who have helped put this Newsletter together.

Our group each have their special skills. Sarah McIntyre is our Social Media person; Neil Florence, our Bridle Zone Manager; Dinky Wynyard our Balsom Park person; Nicola Luxton a great legal brain; new Committee member Vernessa Cook our Tech Guru, and the late Karen Peters, our Treasurer. Karen was the best treasurer a horse group could ever have. She was a very special person who will be sorely missed by TEN and many voluntary organisations.

To you all, may your horses be happy, your riding be satisfying, and all your unexpected landings be on your feet.

Megan Gundesen
TEN Co-chair

AND TO OUR AMAZING 2022 - 2023 SPONSORS



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