NZERF BOARD FAREWELLS
DR JOHN O’FLAHERTY

The NZERF recently marked the resignation of Dr John O’Flaherty from the Board with a function at Cambridge Raceway, attended by NZERF Board members, supporters, researchers, colleagues and friends. John’s contribution to the NZERF spans over 32 years, with him representing NZ Thoroughbred Racing on the Board since the mid 1980s.

During his long tenure on the Board John filled many roles, one of these being a member of the Technical subcommittee responsible for assessing research grant applications. John’s astute scientific knowledge, combined with his practical veterinary experience, made him a greatly valued member of the subcommittee. John was also part of a number of other subcommittees that reviewed applications for various scholarships, a role he greatly enjoyed as it provided an opportunity to see firsthand the talent of so many young people involved in our equine industry.

John was the organisation’s Vice Chairman for a number of years and in 2006 he became Chairman, leading the Board through some challenging times with tenacity and commitment. In 2012 he stepped aside as Chairman but continued to offer his skills in support and was a valued member of the administration team until his retirement. During all this time John’s passion for the NZERF was unwavering, knowing how important the NZERF’s contributions are to research, education, and the encouragement of people working in the equine industry. The importance of the NZERF was always at the front of John’s mind and he would communicate this to anyone whom he thought could make a difference, whether they were veterinarians, trainers or race goers!

Before retiring John updated the “History of the NZ Equine Research Foundation” – a huge undertaking that resulted in an excellent publication with a full summary of the NZERF’s activities since its inception, including all the research outcomes, scholarship winners, publications and lecture series.

So thank you, John, from the NZERF and the wider equestrian community - your enthusiasm has been unparalleled and this, combined with your dedication, has made you a formidable force and a huge asset to our organisation. Your contributions around the table and good humour will be greatly missed, as will your keen mind and ability to see the ‘big picture’.

We are sure that John will continue to be an advocate of the NZERF and doubt that his stepping down from the Board will alter his enthusiasm for everything the NZERF does.

Margaret J Evans
Board Member

NZERF ACTIVITIES

RECENTLY THE NZERF HAS:
• Awarded the Valachi Downs Young Achiever Scholarship
• Awarded the Dr Jonathan Hope Scholarship
• Awarded the Vet/Farrier Scholarship
• Awarded 3 Massey Veterinary Student Scholarships
• Published “A History of the NZERF 1976 – 2017” by Dr John O’Flaherty
• Farewelled Past Chairman and long serving Board Member Dr John O’Flaherty
• Monitored on-going research grants
• Distributed the Autumn 2019 Bulletin

UP-COMING ACTIVITIES INCLUDE:
• Organise and run the 2019 Rodmor Trust Lecture Series
• Call for and review 2019 research grant applications
• Monitor on-going research grants
• Publish the Spring 2019 Bulletin
• Publish a booklet on Laminitis
“KISSING SPINES” IN A THOROUGHBRED GELDING

Caroline Thompson, 2018 NZERF Massey Veterinary Student Scholarship Recipient

Introduction

Kissing spines, or overriding dorsal spinous processes (ODSP), is a common disease of the equine back in which the dorsal spinous processes of the vertebrae impinge upon or even override each other. This leads to bone and ligament lesions and can be a cause of pain and poor performance in the equine athlete.

While radiography of the dorsal spinous processes allows ODSP to be diagnosed more readily, it does not establish the significance of the lesions seen. Many horses with multiple ODSP lesions show little to no clinical signs, while others with relatively mild radiographic lesions show severe clinical signs.

History

An eight-year-old Thoroughbred gelding presented with a six-month history of decreased performance and behavioural problems. Previous examination by a veterinarian had resulted in a diagnosis of sacroiliac pain, and subsequently a six-week period of rest had been carried out along with complementary chiropractic care and physiotherapy exercises including carrot stretches and sternal lifts, as well as having the saddle fit checked by a qualified master saddler.

Clinical exam

All of the horse’s vital parameters were within normal limits. Palpation of the thoracic spine did not elicit a pain response and palpation of the lumbar spine revealed only a mild pain response. Flexion tests were carried out on all four limbs and did not elicit any positive responses. The horse was then observed under saddle and displayed the behavioural issues as described by the owner, including kicking out with both back feet.

Diagnosis and Treatment

Radiographs of the horse’s thoracic spine were taken and showed lesions consistent with ODSP. In order to confirm that these were the cause of the horse’s behavioural problems a treatment trial was carried out, involving the injection of corticosteroids around the lesions with the goal of reducing inflammation and relieving pain. The response to this treatment was positive but short-lived, with a complete resolution of clinical signs for approximately six weeks after which symptoms began to recur. This confirmed the significance of the radiographic lesions and, based on this response, the horse was referred for a standing surgery known as an interspinous ligament desmotomy. The aim of this surgery is to allow the vertebrae to move apart by cutting the ligament between them. This is in contrast to previously available ODSP surgeries which focussed on removing sections of affected bone to create more space between vertebrae. The surgery went smoothly, and the surgical site healed well without complications.

Outcome

After surgery the horse had three weeks of box rest, with hand-walking twice a day for thirty minutes starting on the fifth day. A six-week rehabilitation programme was then followed, including lunging in a Pessoa posture aid, carrot stretches and supplementary physiotherapy exercises such as sternal lifts and pelvic tucks.

The horse progressed well on the lunge, with no evidence of the behaviour previously described by the owner. Ridden work was re-introduced at 9 weeks post-surgery and progressed smoothly. The horse displayed some kicking out behaviour and stiffness the day after canter work was reintroduced, and subsequently canter work was limited to a small amount 2-3 times a week and then gradually increased. Lots of work in a long and low frame was incorporated and lunging was continued in the Pessoa posture aid 1-2 times a week. At four months post-surgery the horse had returned to his previous level of work with no reported re-occurrence of clinical signs.

Discussion

This case is an excellent example of the diagnostic challenges associated with overriding dorsal spinous processes (ODSP), as well as the wide variety of clinical signs that can be seen. The horse in this case was displaying clinical signs that could easily have been dismissed as behavioural in origin, and would have remained undiagnosed if survey radiographs had not been taken in the absence of palpable back pain.

Although the long-term response to surgery was good, the rehabilitation process did not progress exactly as described in previously reported ODSP cases, with ridden work being introduced at nine weeks post-surgery instead of six. This was dictated entirely by the horse’s response to the saddle when it was reintroduced on the lunge and is therefore somewhat subjective. The cessation of this response at nine weeks post-surgery in the absence of other changes suggests that the horse was still experiencing pain at six weeks post-surgery, and may have simply required a longer rehabilitation period due to individual variation.

This case showed that positive results can be achieved when owner motivation and compliance is high and when appropriate treatment and multifactorial rehabilitation is carried out.

Horse displaying “kicking-out” behaviour under saddle.

Radiograph showing overriding dorsal spinous processes (arrows).
LARYNGEAL ULTRASOUND IN YEARLING THOROUGHBRED HORSES WITH TWO YEAR-OLD FOLLOW UP

Research Update – Barbara Hunter

Laryngeal hemiplegia (“Roaring”) is a common reason for poor performance in racing Thoroughbreds. Diagnosis is typically made on resting endoscopic examination; however, this may miss horses in the early stages of the disease. The gold standard for diagnosis of laryngeal hemiplegia is dynamic endoscopy, where a horse is galloped with an endoscope in place, but this is not always readily available.

Ultrasound examination of the throat muscles has been used to reliably diagnose laryngeal hemiplegia in older horses, but its accuracy has not been evaluated in yearlings. As horses develop laryngeal hemiplegia their throat muscles on the affected side shrink into dysfunctional scar tissue. This change is easy to see on ultrasound examination in older horses, but the appearance of these muscles in young growing horses is unknown.

In this study we compared laryngeal ultrasound findings to resting endoscopic findings in a large population of yearling thoroughbreds and then repeated both ultrasound and endoscopic examination on those same horses as two year-olds. Results showed that the appearance of the throat muscles on ultrasound was not correlated with resting endoscopic grade. Muscle appearance on ultrasound also did not change over time. It is important to note that the horses in this study all had a resting endoscopic grade of 3 or less, both as yearlings and as two year-olds. Thus, our conclusion was that if the resting endoscopic grade is 3 or less, the throat muscles will appear normal on ultrasound.

Two additional points of interest also came out of this study. Firstly, when the ultrasound images were reviewed by two blinded reviewers, the interpretation was not consistent between reviewers, indicating that the subjective nature of image interpretation makes laryngeal ultrasound unreliable as a screening tool for early onset of disease. Secondly, laryngeal ultrasound identified three horses with a shortened thyroid cartilage, a pathology that is part of the 4th branchial arch defect (“4 BAD”) syndrome that often results in right-sided laryngeal hemiplegia. Both blinded reviewers consistently diagnosed the thyroid cartilage abnormality, showing that ultrasound is an accurate method to screen for 4-BAD syndrome in young Thoroughbred horses. The syndrome is uncommon, however, with only 1.2% of the horses examined being affected.

STOP PRESS
Rodmor Trust Lecture Series 2019

The topic for the 2019 Rodmor Trust Lecture Series is: “How can I fix my injured star – a review of the latest in regenerative & other therapies”. Presenters Professor Wayne McIlwraith & Dr Lacy Kamm will discuss the different available treatments including stem cells and related therapies. The seminars will be held in late August/early September in 4 or 5 locations around NZ.

Further details will be available shortly on the NZERF website, www.nzerf.co.nz

APPLY FOR RESEARCH GRANTS FROM:
THE NEW ZEALAND EQUINE RESEARCH FOUNDATION

Applications are invited from interested people for funding of projects in the field of Equine Research
Application forms are available from:
The Secretary
NZ Equine Research Foundation
P O Box 52
Palmerston North 4440
Email: nzerf@xtra.co.nz
www.nzerf.co.nz

Applicants must complete the forms provided in the prescribed manner and return to the Secretary
NO LATER THAN 30TH APRIL EACH YEAR
VALACHI DOWNS YOUNG ACHIEVER 2018 – NIKITA STOWERS

Nikita Stowers from Matamata has been awarded the 2018 Valachi Downs Young Achiever Award. After graduating from Massey University with bachelor degrees in animal science and business studies, Nikita worked at FiberFresh as Company Nutritionist and at Ravensdown Co-operative as Technical Manager of Animal Health. In 2016 she formed Veterinary and Nutritional Integration (VANI) Ltd, which provides independent nutritional advice combined with veterinary expertise. The company “strives to bridge the gap between veterinarians, feed companies and horse owners to achieve the best outcomes and solutions for all involved.”

Nikita used her Scholarship to attend the 9th European Equine Health & Nutrition Congress, in Utrecht, The Netherlands, in February 2019. The European Equine Health and Nutrition congress is one of the largest and most important annual events in the Equine Nutrition calendar, with delegates from all over the world presenting new research in Equine Nutrition. The theme for the 9th congress was “Small Things” with a focus on the digestive physiology of the horse and updates in the area of microbial communities. This is a very important, yet understudied, area of research in equine nutrition to date. One of the leading issues in horses worldwide is digestive problems attributable to dietary changes brought about by modern management and feeding regimes. New knowledge and understanding in this area was also covered at the Conference.

Later this year Nikita will spend time seeking education in the science of treadmill training of horses. Treadmill training is widely used in racehorses both in New Zealand and overseas; however its application and use in New Zealand is less than in other countries such as Australia.

Nutrition and exercise go hand in hand when human athletes are looking to optimise their performance and this should be no different in equines. Nikita intends to investigate how an integrative approach using nutrition and exercise can help maximize the performance and recovery of racehorses in New Zealand.

VALACHI DOWNS YOUNG ACHIEVER 2016 – BEN BATEMAN

Thanks to the Valachi Downs Young Achiever Award I was able to spend 2 weeks in Sussex, UK, in March of 2018. Six days were spent working with Matt Staples, one of the UK directors of the Equine Lameness Prevention Organisation (ELPO). Matt is now a remedial farrier at Liphook Equine Hospital, and someone I’ve always wanted to spend time working with. Our discussions filled in a lot of gaps in my knowledge and since being home I’ve been able to put a lot of his ideas into practice. Matt and I also attended a CPD evening at Cliffie Equine Vets in Laughton, where Andrew Casserly presented on the effect of frog support pads on palmar angle and Egbert Willems did an equine back dissection demonstration.

Over the middle weekend I spent one day working with Dan Stern building some urethane clogs for a laminitic pony and working through some really interesting ideas on a couple of lameness cases.

During the second week I attended a three-day course at Total Foot Protection farrier supplies in Horsham, aimed at helping participants become familiar with the unique challenges and techniques required for using different types of glue in the application of composite shoes. The first day consisted of lectures and demonstrations, the second day was hands-on, practising on cadaver feet, and on the third day we took a written exam in the morning and a practical exam in the afternoon. The exam was a modified version of the ELPO certified farrier practitioner exam, so there was a large focus on hoof distortion grading and mapping, which was great as a refresher. The day after the course was an open lecture day with around 50 local farriers attending presentations from Daisy Bicking, Steve Foxworth, Beckie Lemmens and Matt Staples. The topics included leverage testing, future ELPO research and laminitis management using adhesives and composite materials. It was also great to hear Matt’s talk on the use of glue to help stabilise wet hooves.

In May of 2018 I returned to Colorado to work with Steve Foxworth and attend a farrier skills course. This was the third time I have stayed with Steve and on this trip my apprentice Nick O’Leary travelled with me. We spent several days working with Steve and his two apprentices in the field and then attended a farrier skills course in Penrose. The first day was focussed on the forging skills required for the CFP exam which I have already passed, but was an area that I wanted to improve in. We had some time with the instructors and then a classroom session analysing videos of our technique to get some points to improve on. The rest of the day was spent hands on in the forge. Days two and three were spent with some of the instructors sharing ideas and learning how to grade the participants’ work. On day two we helped participants practice hoof mapping and trimming and on day three we focussed on shoeing. After the course we spent a couple more days working with Steve before I flew back. During this time Steve showed me some slow-motion video research which the ELPO has been working on and a really interesting presentation on the work the ELPO has been doing with hoof care of exotic animals in zoos, which is an area I hope to be involved in going forward.
VALACHI DOWNS YOUNG ACHIEVER 2017 – EMMA GORDON

In 2017 I was fortunate to be awarded the Valachi Downs Young Achiever Award, thanks to the generous support of the Hickman family from Valachi Downs stud and the NZERF. Following on from my attendance at the advanced equine cardiology course, the second part of the scholarship was utilised to assist me in becoming certified in equine acupuncture.

My interest in acupuncture stems from an interest in pain management in hospitalised horses. Having treated cases where current pain medication options were insufficient, or medications could not be used due to concern for side effects in particular cases, acupuncture appeared an interesting adjunctive treatment with the potential to help these horses.

I elected to enrol in the Medical Acupuncture for Veterinarians course (CuraCore), based in Colorado, USA. Several veterinary friends had previously found this to be a very comprehensive course and the scientific basis appealed to me. The course is taught by Narda Robinson, who is a veterinarian as well as physician, and is involved in overseeing and training acupuncturists in both fields.

Prior to attending the on-site clinical course, there were approximately 60 hours of on-line course work, learning the theoretical basis of acupuncture, as well as reviewing anatomy to understand which muscles and nerves are associated with specific needle placement locations. While there are several hundred potential locations for needle placement, we were expected to have memorized a smaller number of the most commonly used equine points.

Acupuncture is an ancient Chinese treatment that has been used in humans for several thousand years. It involves placement of needles at neuroanatomic sites, which are typically located near nerve bundles. Acupuncture has been shown to stimulate mechanoreceptors in tissue, alter blood flow around the treatment site, relieve muscle know-formation and stimulate release of substances like endogenous opioids/endorphins that produce an analgesic effect. These pain-relieving effects occur locally (near the needle itself) but also in the central nervous system. Changes in the production of these substances can also change transmission of pain signals i.e. an increase in serotonin production helps inhibit descending pain signals in the central nervous system. Additionally, we learned about the use of electro-acupuncture, which can sometimes be more effective in providing pain relief than acupuncture without electrical stimulation. An introduction to use of laser therapy in equine rehabilitation was also included.

Once the course work was completed and exams passed (one for each online module), I participated in an intensive clinical course in Fort Collins, Colorado. These are run twice a year and I attended the October 2018 course. We were lucky to learn from a number of very experienced down-to-earth veterinary acupuncturists including several faculty from the Colorado State University. We were fortunate to conduct most of the practical classes in indoors, considering I arrived in Colorado during the first snowfall of winter. On warmer days, we used the State University livestock handling facility with a beautiful view of the Rocky Mountains.

As part of the clinical week we all had to pass a practical exam demonstrating our ability to locate needle insertion points as well as explain (and name) the nerves innervating those points. Overall, it was a well-organized and very comprehensive course, which I am already putting to use on equine patients with back pain.

I would like to express my gratitude to the NZERF and Valachi Downs Stud for assisting me in my long-held goal of becoming acupuncture certified and I very much look forward to using it to improve pain management in my future patients.

Using the E-stim unit on a patient at Massey University

NZERF PUBLICATIONS STILL AVAILABLE

Booklets on “The Foal” and “Feeding Horses in New Zealand” have previously been circulated to the industry free of charge. Copies are still available so if you have not yet received one please contact your Equine Veterinary Practice or the NZERF office by emailing nzerf@xtra.co.nz or calling 021 555 954. As the NZERF is a Charitable Trust any donations towards printing and postages are appreciated.

Young Achiever Award

Kindly Sponsored by Valachi Downs Stud

Applications close on 31 October, for the Valachi Downs Stud Young Achiever Award. This annual award of $15,000 is available to assist an individual under the age of 35 years further their career in the equine industry. Applications will be accepted from, but are not limited to, the following:

• A post-graduate, masters or honours student undertaking study or research in an area of equine science
• An individual pursuing any specialized equine study or course (including farriery)
• An individual committed to embarking on a career in the equine industry
• An individual already contributing to the equine industry who wishes to further their career

Applications must be made on the Valachi Downs Stud Young Achiever Award application form available from the NZERF Office or from the website. Applicants will be expected to show evidence of both their commitment to the equine industry and other attributes that would make them appropriate recipients of the Valachi Downs Stud Young Achiever Award.

Closing date 31 October each year
EQUINE INTERLEUKIN-10 AS A POTENTIAL TREATMENT FOR PREVENTING THE DEVELOPMENT OF PROUD FLESH IN HORSES

Research Update – Christopher Riley, Massey University

Large skin wounds on the limbs of horses are commonly seen in New Zealand, and are a frequent reason for euthanasia. Many wounds can’t be sutured and must heal by second intention, requiring extensive wound management. A common complication encountered in these wounds is an excessive accumulation of healing tissue, or “proud flesh”. There is currently no proven method to speed up wound healing in horses or to successfully prevent the formation of proud flesh. This project builds on previous work funded by the NZERF, where we found that the protein interleukin-10 (IL-10), derived from a NZ sheep virus, was able to control the enzymes required for remodeling of fibrous tissue in a live fibro-proliferative model (i.e. “proud flesh”).

This second project aimed to measure the ability of a purified equine version of IL-10, created in the lab, to control the immune and inflammatory responses of equine tissue cells isolated from the skin, tendon and cornea of the eye. We wished to determine if our recombinant equine IL-10 could affect tissue remodeling and stop the development of proud flesh. To do this we took fibroblasts, the cells associated with the repair process, from samples of skin, cornea and tendon. The cells were cultured in the lab and confirmed to be of the correct cell type, then treated with different concentrations of equine IL-10.

In a world-first, we showed that equine IL-10 helped to prevent the fibroblasts from changing into the types of cells that may cause excessive scarring or proud flesh. It also changed how the fibroblasts moved within the wound and affected the production of collagen, a substance produced by fibroblasts to provide strength in healing wounds and tendons. Equine IL-10 also increased some of the enzymes associated with scar remodeling.

These findings require further investigation but enhance our understanding of the development of proud flesh, as well as healing of the equine tendon and cornea. This advance is significant, and it is hoped that continued work in this field will lead to better treatments for injuries of these tissues in the horse.

Wound showing excessive accumulation of healing tissue, or “proud flesh”

2018 Vet – Farrier Scholarship

The 2018 Vet – Farrier Scholarship has been awarded to Auckland veterinarian Felicity Wade and Thames farrier Richard Evans.

Felicity is a graduate of Massey University and has worked as an equine Veterinarian in South Auckland for the last 8 years. She is an Official FEI Veterinarian, a member of the Equine Veterinary Dentistry group and is currently completing modules through the University of Liverpool towards a post-graduate certificate in Equine Practice (lameness).

Richard has had a lifetime involvement in the equine industry, including many years of competing as a professional rider with numerous successes at national level, as well as working in the United States of America for a top International rider. After coming back to New Zealand he decided to train as a farrier and, after gaining his qualifications from the Pacific Coast Horse Shoeing School in Sacramento, California, USA., Richard started his own farrier business 7 years ago.

Felicity and Wade are looking forward to the opportunity to travel and learn from the veterinarians and farriers at Rood and Riddle’s podiatry unit in the USA.

NZERF Vet – Farrier Scholarships

This annual scholarship provided by the NZ Equine Research Foundation allows a veterinarian and a farrier to attend a suitable course or symposium, and/or spend time with colleagues in the USA.

The scholarship is intended

• To improve the knowledge and skill of New Zealanders veterinarians and farriers in the care and treatment of the horses’ foot, and
• To encourage veterinarians and farriers to work together as a team to overcome foot problems

Applications should be made jointly by veterinarians and farriers from the same geographical area on the Vet/Farrier Travel Grant forms available from the NZERF Office, PO Box 52, Palmerston North, or from the website www.nzerf.co.nz

Closing date is 30 November each year
**2019 Massey Student Scholarships**

The 2019 NZERF Scholarships for final-year Veterinary Students have been awarded to Cindy Spatholz, Danielle Guiver and Rachael Elliot.

Originally from Germany, Cindy has been involved with horses from a young age, starting with Pony Club and working in stables most of her holidays. Her OE took her to Australia where she also worked in stables. Since commencing her veterinary studies at Massey University Cindy has been involved in multiple equine research projects and has been part of the equine treatment crew, which consists of a small number of dedicated students who care for overnight patients in the University’s Equine Hospital.

Danielle began riding in England before moving to New Zealand as an 11-year-old. She continued riding in NZ and subsequently worked in a racing stable and on a sport horse stud. Danielle has also worked on an equine research project while completing a summer scholarship provided by the New Zealand Equine Trust.

Rachael has a Pony Club background and has experience in showing, eventing and side saddle events at a competitive level. When her pony became sick and required veterinary care Rachael realised that she would like to pursue a career as an equine veterinarian and be able to help fellow horse owners. Rachael has also spent time working with an equine dental technician and intends to develop her professional skills in this area.

**NZ Equine Health Association Update**

1. **Biosecurity Levy Order**

After considering a range of options for collecting a biosecurity levy, it has been proposed that a levy be placed on horses and germplasm at the point of import and export. The levy order only demands that a maximum sum be set; the Equine Industry can then vary the amount levied each year up to the maximum sum specified in the order. So for example, if the maximum is set at $50 per semen consignment and $500 per horse, the NZEHA could set the levy on semen at $10 and on horses at $50 based on their budget and contingency funding requirements. The levy is designed to ensure fairness and administrative simplicity and any proposed measures must be widely consulted with the equine community and approved by the Minister for Primary Industries (MPI).

The levy funds may only be spent on biosecurity activities relating to equine disease readiness and response. These are listed in the Deed but include such things such as developing equine disease response plans, training exercises, consulting on import health standards, disease surveillance and of course an exotic disease response when necessary.

A copy of the application to MPI to implement the levy will be placed on the NZEHA website from 1 April 2019 and feedback from the equine industry is encouraged either via the website or through NZEHA Executive Advisor Trish Pearce at pearce.patricia@gmail.com

2. **Equine Import Health Standards.**

NZEHA has consulted on the draft Import Health Standards for Importing Live Equids, which was published by MPI. NZEHA considered this document to be critically important as it sets the requirements that have to be met for horses to be imported into New Zealand. This effectively determines the risk of importing exotic diseases.

NZEHA has enlisted the help of a range of leading technical experts to study the document and to make recommendations on how the Standards could be improved. One concern was that the Standards allowed the importer to chose from a range of tests permitted by the OIE (World Organization for Animal Health), including some which are known to be inferior to other tests in terms of accuracy. The recommendations have been collated and passed on to MPI.
CHAIRMAN’S CORNER

Since the Spring 2018 Bulletin we have great pleasure in announcing the successful applicants for the following scholarships:

i. Dr. Felicity Wade (Veterinarian) and Richard Evans (Farrier) have been awarded this year’s vet/farrier scholarship, and will be spending 2 weeks at the Rood and Riddle Equine Podiatry Department in Lexington, Kentucky.

ii. Dr. Nikita Stowers of Matamata has been awarded the 2018 Valachi Downs Young Achiever Award. Nikita is a nutritionist and will use her scholarship to attend the 9th European Equine Health and Nutrition Congress in Holland. She will also be studying the science of equine treadmill training.

iii. Dr. Lucy Holdaway of Cambridge has been awarded the 2018 Johnathan Hope Scholarship, which she will use to further her knowledge of equine dentistry, with the goal to sit the ANZCVS membership examination in Equine Dentistry.

iv. Three final-year veterinary students were awarded NZERF scholarships; Rachael Elliot, Danielle Guiver and Cindy Spatholz all look to have bright futures as equine veterinarians.

The last 12 months has seen the completion of some very exciting research projects, the results of which will have significant impact on our equine industry. Summaries of the findings are contained within this Bulletin. Well done to all our supported researchers for getting such worthwhile results and completing these informative reports for people within the equine industry.

It is with sadness that we fare well Ed Rennell who has now retired from Harness Racing NZ and subsequently from his position on the NZERF Board. Ed has served for (I think) 25 years, and has added real value to our group. We wish him well with his new endeavours and welcome Natalie Gameson onto the Board as the new Harness Racing NZ representative.

Also new to the Board are James Bowden, representing the Racing Board, and Justine Slater, representing NZ Thoroughbred Breeders.

Finally, we send our condolences to Dr Brian Goulden and family who recently lost Brian’s wife of 60 years to a long-standing illness. Brian was instrumental in shaping the direction of the NZERF for many years, and this of course was in no small part due to the huge support he received from his wife Jean.

Tim Pearce, NZERF Chairman

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<th>NZERF CONTACT INFORMATION</th>
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<td><strong>The current Board Members are:</strong></td>
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<td>Chairman: Dr Tim Pearce</td>
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<td>Vice Chairman: Dr Noel Power</td>
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<td>Secretary: Mr Allan Fenwick</td>
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<td>Equine Researchers: Dr Margaret Evans</td>
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<td>HRNZ: Mrs Natalie Gainsen</td>
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<td>Massey University: Dr Erica Gee</td>
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<td>NZEVA: Dr Noel Power</td>
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<td>New Zealand Equine Research Foundation Inc.</td>
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<td>c/o Manawatu Racing Centre</td>
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<tr>
<td>P.O. Box 52, Palmerston North 4440</td>
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<tr>
<td>Phone: 06 356 4940.</td>
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<td>Fax: 06 354 2885.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:nzef@xtra.co.nz">nzef@xtra.co.nz</a></td>
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<td>Website: <a href="http://www.nzerf.co.nz">www.nzerf.co.nz</a></td>
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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The New Zealand Equine Research Foundation gratefully acknowledges the following organisations who gratuitously distribute the 7,500 Bulletins we produce for horsemen and women throughout the New Zealand Horse Industry.

- The NZ Thoroughbred Breeders’ Association
- NZ Thoroughbred Racing
- Harness Racing New Zealand
- The NZ Standardbred Breeders’ Association
- Equestrian Sport New Zealand
- The NZ Equine Veterinary Association (Equine Veterinary Practitioner)
- NZ Farriers Association (Inc)
- NZ Thoroughbred Owners Federation (Bulletin)
- Taranaki Miniature Horses (Newsletter)
- The Morgan Horse Association of NZ Inc.
- NZ Hanoverian Society (Inc.) (Newsletter)

THE SECRETARY

New Zealand Equine Research Foundation Inc.

c/o Manawatu Racing Centre

P.O. Box 52, Palmerston North 4440

Phone: 06 356 4940.

Fax: 06 354 2885.

Email: nzef@xtra.co.nz

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