

## COFFS HARBOUR REGIONAL LANDCARE INC.

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## Media Release

Contact: Kara Smith (02) 6651 1308

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## Healthy Land means Healthy Horses

Nationally acclaimed expert on horse property management, Stuart Myers, is coming to the Mid-North Coast at the end of February to deliver a series of workshops called “Managing horses on small properties.” Caring for your horse begins with good horse property management. Sound land management practices that reduce environmental impacts also create the conditions to support healthy horses, and keep feeding and veterinary costs low.

Many people don't realise that caring for your horse property is equally as important as caring for your horse. Even slight changes to land management practices can result in improved horse health, lower feed bills, fewer flies, less dust and mud, happier neighbours, and increased property value.

As an added bonus, Ian Poe (the LHPA district veterinarian) will also give a presentation at the workshops about Hendra virus – how to minimise risk, prevent flying fox-horse interaction, Hendra vaccine, and ways to prevent infection. Ian has had first-hand experience with Hendra, and his insight and experience with this deadly disease will provide local horse owners with important information. The Mid-North Coast is home to several large flying fox populations, making this area a potential Hendra virus hotspot.

Stuart Myers is one half of the Jane and Stuart Myers team who have fine-tuned their “equiculture” courses over several years. Jane hosted a workshop in Bellingen a couple of years ago to a full house, and Stuart assures that this year's workshop has much to offer, even for those who may have attended previous workshops.

The cost of the workshop is \$10 and the first 40 bookings to each workshop will receive a free equiculture booklet. Other books and publications will be also be available for purchase on the day. The workshops run from 9am to 3pm, with morning tea and lunch provided.

The workshops are funded by the Australian Government through its Community Action Grants program, and will be held at the Bellingen Showground on Friday February 22<sup>nd</sup> and at Coffs Harbour Cavanbah Centre on Saturday February 23<sup>rd</sup>. Bookings are essential. Contact Bellingen Landcare on 6655 0588 or Coffs Harbour Regional Landcare on 6651 1308.



Caption: Understanding grazing behaviour pays good dividends to horse owners

(picture also sent as separate .jpg file)