



# NZRHA

The Newsletter for the New Zealand Reining Horse Association

February/March Issue No. 2



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## .pdf Newsletter

Those of you that have computers and are on the Internet will have received the last newsletter by email as well as in the post, from now on you will just receive the electronic version which should make a substantial savings on postage, although this programme did cost me a couple hundred bucks, it should easily pay for itself in a short time, we just need more of you on the net, get the hint. If you can't read the newsletter then you need to go to [www.adobe.com](http://www.adobe.com) and follow the instructions for

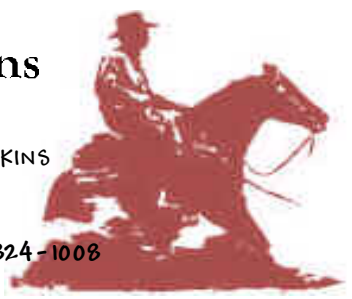
downloading the free Acrobat Reader

If you have any news of interest a point to get across or an article, then send it to me and I shall endeavor to include it in the next newsletter

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KEN AND ANN HAWKINS  
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## Charging Up and Away

There are many reasons a horse might have too speedy a lope. It might simply be inexperience. When you start a colt and he's not used to having someone on his back, he can be a little scared. A horse's natural fright response is to run, and he can be teeing to get away to anywhere but where he is. Or he could be just insecure enough to want to go back to the safety of the barn, loping faster when he's going in that direction. You can help a young horse gain confidence by taking your time and making the riding time not intimidating. Once he's no longer frightened, he'll relax and his speed at the lope will decrease.

Sometimes people magnify the problem by trying to fix it. I've seen riders get on fresh horses and move them right into

a long trot to get them a little tired. In my opinion, if you make a horse trot fast, he'll lope fast. When I long-trot a lazy horse, it's to lengthen his stride and speed him up. If my horse is fresh, and I want to emphasize control, I'll ask him to jog

the next day. If he's quiet and comfortable with what you've been doing when you put him up, he'll be more receptive the next day. Set the stage for what you'll do tomorrow. Emphasize control and always try to end on a positive, relaxed

**“Why can't my horse lope without pulling on the bridle and trying to go faster”**

until he's quiet. A horse will come out of his paddock like he was put in. If you get him in a fight and he's scared and nervous when you put him up, he'll remember that and be that way when you get him

note. Then build on that in the next session

## Gearing Down

I'll ask the horse for a lead departure, and once he takes the lead, I'll give him slack in the reins. If he goes at the speed I want, I'll let him continue on a loose rein. If he speeds up, I'll pick up on the reins, gradually increasing the pressure until I get the response I want, which is for him to slow down. This may take a lot of pressure and it's okay to pull hard, but never to jerk. Pick up the reins until you feel contact. Then smoothly increase the pressure until he responds by beginning to slow down. When he slows down to the speed you want, hold him there one, two, three strides, then release.

As you're loping along and doing this, your hands should feel slow. Never jerk a horse on a loose rein. Jerking will just make him dread the contact, and in order to protect himself he will become even more rigid and stiff.

It's essential to release the horse when he slows to the desired speed. Your release lets him know that he is now doing the right thing. If he makes a mistake again--speeding up--you'll correct him again. Then release again. Even if you know the horse is going to speed up again as soon as you loosen the reins, drop them. He'll make the mistake over and over and you'll correct him over and over, but that repetition is what finally lets him begin to understand what's right and what's wrong, the key is repetition. It may take 10, 20, 30, 40 times before you feel a response. But to give him confidence and

**“The key is repetition, it may take 10, 20, 30, 40, times before you feel a response”**

fix the problem, you must cue him exactly the same way over and over. If you do it smoothly 25 times, then get irritated and jerk on the reins, you've just undone all the good you did. And remember, the horse doesn't learn from the pressure, he learns from the release! There has to be a beginning and an end--pick up, slow down, release. If there's no reward, he'll push against the continued pressure.

You cue the horse for one thing. When he responds correctly, you quit cueing him so he knows he made the right response. Then you repeat. Don't try to prevent him from making a mistake; just correct it when he does, then release him.

Second part of this article in the next issue.

## First NZRHA Training Weekend

On the weekend of the 13th and 14th of January 2001 the first fundraising clinic was held on the property of Ken and Ann Hawkins.

For the cost of \$100 you recieved 2 days training. On the morning of the 13th Ken Hawkins (Instructor) was educating the 7 riders on circles. Ken spent over 30 minutes with each person.

Ken took each person through speed control, seat posture and how to stop your horse from dropping their shoulder and drifting away from the circle.

After a good lunch by all we then decided it was far to hoy outside and decided to utalise the indoor arena for shade and more comfort. We then were instructed one at a time on methods that would work for our horse to get them to spin to the best of their ability. Even though each horse had different problems in different areas it was still really interesting to watch because you never know when you may need to do the same thing with your own horse.

Once everyone had been through it was around 4.30 and considering our horses had been working since 9.00 that morning we decided to call it a day.

After all the horses had been put away in either of the 3 facilities offered. A stable, pen or paddock.

Everyone was welcome to come up to the house for a BBQ prepared beautifully by Ken and Ann.

And surprisingly the night was all about reining too as Ken put a couple of videos on such as "How to train a reiner" by Dell Hendricks and another one by Bob Loomis.

So after a night of reining the clinic started again this time at about 9.30am and we started with lunging. Now a lot of you are probably saying "Whats lunging got to do with reining?" Well a lot.

Lunging teaches your horse to respond to the comands you give using your voice.

Then we moved onto fencing. No not the sort with sords but the one where you run your horse up to a wall or barrier and let them stop on their own acord and get the horse to trust that your not going to run them through the wall or barrier. We gradually started to help our horses to stop and if they didn't try we would back them off about 7 metres and try a gain.

fortunitly I was first on my horse Toy. After I had let him stop on his own about 20 times and asked and backed him about 12 times I managed to get about a 3 foot slide out of him. And I later learned that if Toy had had slidders on we probably would have slidden another foot or so.

It was a very prouyd moment for me as I have never gotten a slide like that out of my horse before.

And it was much the same with everybody else.

Again there was a BBQ that night although most of the people had gone and again there were more videos played.

This time we watched a freestyle reining of a drunk mexican.

All in all it was a great weekend and it was defenitly well worth it to travel up to expearence and learn so much.

I must say a big thanks to Ken and Ann for their hospitality and time.

By Olivia Waldock



Congratulations to Jozzete Thode a NZRHA member on winning the Senior Horse Reining at the Quarter Horse Nationals with a nice smooth run and a score of 70 And Also to Ken Hawkins on winning the Junior Horse Reining with a nice crowd pleasing run and a score of 74.5. Being under cover the surface was certainly great for Reining on even after all the rain we had the previous day,



## NZ Reining Horse Association

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Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Method of Payment  Cash

Bill Me

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Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Sign up for:

- Single Membership (\$25)
- Family Membership (\$35)
- Donation
- 
- 
- 

Unit

Price

Unit	Price

Subtotal: \_\_\_\_\_

Total: \_\_\_\_\_

## Points of note

A meeting was held at the last Clinic at Kens place. Steps are underway for setting up a club constitution, Denise is obtaining a copy of the ARHA constitution and it will be presented at the next meeting for discussion. It was decided that subs will be set at \$20 individual and \$35 family, AGM will be held at the next Clinic and subs will be payable before then. Jo is obtaining a list of clubs from the Fed and asking if we are able to obtain Reining points from the computer so

that we can run a hi-points award system for club members. It was decided that we should aim to hold four clinics as fund raisers throughout the year. Peter Watt has paid for Public Liability Insurance as sponsorship of \$135, In our bank account thus far we have \$570. Our next

fund raising clinic to be taken by Ron Clothier who is kindly donating his time for this will be in April 28th 29th. So far things seem to be running to plan with the future of Reining looking bright.

**“Next Fund Raising Clinic to be held on the 28th 29th April”**



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# TRAINING CLINIC

with

## RON CLOTHIER



Come and spend the weekend improving your Reining Horse skills under the tuition of one of our Top New Zealand Trainers **Ron Clothier**

This is a **FUND RAISING CLINIC** and all proceeds will be for the **NZRHA**

Clinic will be held at Ken Hawkins, 22 Hunter Rd, Eureka, Hamilton. On **April 28th 29th**

**COST \$100** Includes BBQ on Saturday Night

Bookings and Enquiries to Ann Hawkins  
**Ph (07) 8243 512**