



Welcome to the e-Newsletter of the Miniature Horse Association of Australia Inc

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Hi Members;

MHAA® strong and getting stronger

TODAY'S GOOD NEWS

DID YOU KNOW.....

We have unprecedented interest and forward bookings for the 2013 National Show. Cabins, stables and camp-sites are pre-booked in numbers we have never seen before. This is very exciting for our Association.

We offer a pre-payment plan for anyone wishing to deposit money towards their National Show Nominations to ease the burden closer to the Show. Simply download a 2013 National Show Pre-Payment Form from the website; you will find it under Other Forms, complete it and send to the Office with your payment. This payment will be held as a credit for you towards your National Show Nominations. If you are unable to download a Form, please contact the Secretary to make alternative arrangements.

The Miniature Horse Association of Australia Inc has now registered "MHAA" as a registered trade Mark in their own name. Although it has been an accepted abbreviation of our Association's title for a long time, technically it has been incorrect. MHAA ® is now our Registered Trade Mark and is subject to the same use and protection as the full name Miniature Horse Association of Australia Inc. In this instance, to signify the registration of the Trade Mark, "MHAA", it should be followed by the Trade Mark symbol ® = MHAA ®.

FINANCES

This is one of those really important E-News and we urge each Member to make a cuppa, print this out and read this entire E-News a couple of times and absorb the information contained, it is quite lengthy.

The National Committee is made up of Members who carry the responsibility of managing your Association in the best manner they have at their disposal, representing the best interests of The Association as well as the Members. It is a cold hard fact that sometimes in a Management position, decisions have to be made which, on the face of it, will be unpopular to many Members. Realistically the Association is a Business, the Members are the shareholders and the Committee are the Managers, the Managers must run the business finances correctly. Any unpopular decision made will have the same impact on Committee Members as it will have on the general Membership so they are not made without careful consideration and discussion.

With this in mind, the National Committee regrettably advise that some of our Registration costs are going to increase. Just to give an example of the costs involved in running the Association, our Insurance (required by law and Constitution), after much negotiation, still costs roughly \$35.00 per Member. Fine Lines,(required by our Constitution) again after shopping around the best we can, costs roughly \$36.00 per Member. The National Committee has successfully negotiated a discounted fee from Edwards Debtor Management Services Pty Ltd. We are very grateful for this as the service provided by Robert Edwards is the reason we have such a professional Stud Book. It would be unreasonable for anyone to suggest that the duties performed by them could be done by a volunteer with the same turnaround time and accuracy. The National Committee Members bear a great deal of the costs of attending meetings, phone calls etc from their own pockets. We have done everything we can in the field of reducing costs, without reducing what we believe to be the best service we can provide in a financial environment which has been tough on EVERY business around the world.

We have a Stud Book which every Member should be proud of, our breeding records are precise and our turnaround of paperwork is second to none. We have taken the first step of requiring DNA for stallions who breed, and our Membership can breed with absolute confidence that our stud book accurately reflects the history of any Registered horse. This concept will only improve into the future

Having said that, the Committee believe that they have arrived at price increases which impact least on Members who keep their Registrations, transfers, and general records current and up to date ie: if we, as Members, take our stud book seriously and keep all our records up to date, prompt, and accurate we will be least impacted. Our Stud Book is the cornerstone of our Association and we are proud of it.

It is seriously worth noting that the last price increase was made to Memberships in 2004 or thereabouts and there have been no increases in the cost of Registrations/Transfers since well before our current data base was formed, we believe it could be as long ago as 2001 in fact some of our fees to Members have been reduced in the past few years.

The increases go like this.....

	NEW COST	CURRENT COST	
Late Joining fee	\$33.00	\$25.00	If your Annual Membership is paid on time this fee does not occur
Joining Fee (except youth)	\$33.00	\$25.00	There has always been a cost associated with initial joining. This increase reflects our increased costs over almost ten years.
Full Membership	n/n	\$100.00	
Family Membership	n/c	\$150.00	
Joint Membership	n/c	\$150.00	
Associate Member/ Handler	n/c	\$100.00	
Youth Member (under 18)	n/c	\$33.00	
Youth Member (under 18)INC F/LINES	\$88.00	new	This has been added to cater for a Youth Member who would like to receive Fine Lines in their own name
Overseas Membership AUD + memb fee	\$35.00	\$35.00	
School Membership	n/c	\$100.00	
Stud Prefix Registration	n/c	\$27.50	
Brand Fee	n/c	\$16.50	

TRANSFER & OTHER FEES	NEW COST	CURRENT COST	
Owner Transferred within 3 months	\$22.00	\$16.50	This new cost includes GST and is the least we could increase to cover costs.
Owner Transferred after 3 months	\$55.00	\$27.50	You will see this sort of increase regularly for transactions which are not lodged promptly. If it is done on time much cheaper.
Lease Fee (per horse)	\$16.50	\$16.50	Covering costs
Lease Return Fee (per horse)	\$16.50	\$0.00	When a lease terminates, the paperwork must come back to the office to have changes recorded in the database as well as producing new paperwork. We have not charged for this service in the past and need to recoup costs.
Handling/More Information Fee	\$11.00	\$11.00	
Duplicate Certificate Fee	\$16.50	\$11.00	recoup costs
High Point Fee	\$11.00	\$10.00	Adding GST
Mare/Futurity Fee	\$11.00	\$10.00	Adding GST
Record Microchip on Certificate	\$16.50	\$11.00	recoup costs
DNA (per horse)	n/c		
Buffy Coat/Gene Test	n/c		
DNA noted on Certificate	\$16.50	\$11.00	recoup costs
Revoked Fee	\$33.00	\$22.00	This charge was substantial some years ago and could be argued that it should increase dramatically. It will only increase modestly so as not to disadvantage a new Member who might have been misled by an ex Member with regards the Registration status of a horse.

FOAL RECORDING					
	0-4 months	4-8 months	8-24 months		
Birth – 24 months Colt	\$22.00	\$33.00	\$44.00	\$16.50	A modest rise to cover increased costs. If done on time, only increase by \$5.50
Birth - 24 months Filly	\$16.50	\$22.00	\$33.00	\$11.00	A modest rise to cover increased costs. If done on time, only increase by \$5.50
Birth - 24 months Gelding	\$8.25	\$11.00	\$16.50	\$0.00	Geldings cannot be done free of charge as there is a cost of printing and posting paperwork which needs to be recouped.

TEMPORARY ADULT REG - 24 MONTHS	NEW COST	CURRENT COST	
Stallion	\$66.00	\$55.00	
Mare	\$33.00	\$22.00	
Gelding	\$16.50	\$0.00	

PERMANENT ADULT REG - 48 MONTHS	NEW COST	CURRENT COST	<i>These increases when taken over the life of the horse and given that they are the first in many years are modest to say the least</i>
Stallion	\$121.00	\$110.00	New total cost \$209 Total cost currently \$181.50 for a Stallion
Mare	\$66.00	\$55.00	New total cost \$115.50 Total cost currently \$88 for a Mare
Gelding	\$33.00	\$0.00	Total cost \$57.75

TEMPORARY ADULT HORSES ON A STALLION RETURN BUT NOT FOAL RECORDED	NEW COST	CURRENT COST	This is where we have increased the prices a bit more as said, we have tried to minimise the impact on horses which are current and up to date. This represents double what would be paid by a Member registering at the correct times.
Stallion	\$132.00	\$110.00	If your horse is Registered correctly, this cost will not apply
Mare	\$66.00	\$44.00	If your horse is Registered correctly, this cost will not apply
Gelding	\$33.00	\$0.00	If your horse is Registered correctly, this cost will not apply

PERMANENT REGISTRATION FOR HORSES ON A STALLION RETURN FOAL RECORDED BUT NOT TEMPORARY ADULT REGISTERED	NEW COST	CURRENT COST	
Stallion	\$220.00	\$220.00	If your horse is Registered correctly, this cost will not apply
Mare	\$132.00	\$88.00	If your horse is Registered correctly, this cost will not apply
Gelding	\$66.00	\$0.00	If your horse is Registered correctly, this cost will not apply

HORSES ON A STALLION RETURN NOT FOAL OR TEMPORARY REGISTERED	NEW COST	CURRENT COST	We have used the same equation to calculate all of these increases and this one coincidentally dropped.
Stallion	\$264.00	\$330.00	\$56.00 more than a normal Registration
Mare	\$165.00	\$120.00	\$49.50 more than a normal Registration
Gelding	\$82.50	\$0.00	\$24.75 more than a normal Registration.

HORSES NOT ON A STALLION RETURN TEMPORARY REGISTRATION	NEW COST	CURRENT COST	This is new category for "unknown parentage" horses who are more than 24 Months and less than 48 Months. After this, normal permanent upgrade cost will apply
Stallion	\$265.00	\$0.00	
Mare	\$176.00	\$0.00	
Gelding	\$88.00	\$0.00	

HORSES NOT ON A STALLION RETURN ADULT REGISTRATION	NEW COST	CURRENT COST	Mature age "unknown parentage" horses
Stallion	\$640.00	\$550.00	
Mare	\$407.00	\$330.00	
Gelding	\$203.50	\$0.00	

HORSES REGISTERED WITH MHAA RECOGNIZED BREED SOCIETY: TEMPORARY	NEW COST	CURRENT COST	
Stallion	\$209.00	\$135.00	
Mare	\$146.00	\$69.00	
Gelding	\$73.00	\$0.00	

HORSES REGISTERED WITH MHAA RECOGNIZED BREED SOCIETY: ADULT	NEW COST	CURRENT COST	
Stallion	\$341.00	\$245.00	
Mare	\$187.00	\$113.00	
Gelding	\$88.00	\$0.00	

IMPORTED HORSES MEETING REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS: FOAL			Once this fee is paid, normal upgrade costs apply
Colt less than 24 months	\$99.00	\$58.00	
Filly less than 24 months	\$88.00	\$47.00	
Gelding less than 24 months	\$44.00	\$0.00	

IMPORTED HORSES MEETING REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS: TEMPORARY			Once this fee is paid, normal upgrade costs apply
Stallion 24-48 mnths	\$165.00	\$135.00	
Mare 24-48 mnths	\$121.00	\$69.00	
Gelding 24-48 mnths	\$60.50	\$0.00	

IMPORTED HORSES MEETING REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS: ADULT			
Stallion	\$286.00	\$245.00	
Mare	\$187.00	\$113.00	
Gelding	\$88.00		

There are a couple of matters which need to be pointed out at this stage.

We have completely removed the Gelding Administration fee which used to be \$55.00 and in line with the Resolution that was passed by Member vote, will be charging for the Registration of Geldings. This, again in line with the new Rule, has been calculated at half the rate of a Mare Registrations. There are growing incentives for Geldings at our Shows with major prizes and incentives and Geldings are beginning to get the recognition they deserve and are becoming a very important part of our industry: gone are the days when only inferior stock was gelded.

Remember, every time a Registration is upgraded, transferred, leased or returned, the paperwork is reprinted. This is because the Stud Book and the Paperwork MUST correspond. The new paperwork is printed directly from our database so when you get paperwork, what is on the paperwork will be exactly what is in our Stud Book. It may seem like a small thing but the cost of paper, ink, wear and tear on printers, envelopes and postage have increased dramatically in the ten years or so since these prices were put in place.

Price rises are always unwelcome and this National Committee has done everything in its power to avoid this for a long time now. We trust that you, the Members, will appreciate that there is a Committee in place who are able to make tough decisions, even though they may be unpleasant, when they are required. We have however put a great deal of thought into the structure of these rises, to this end, we have structured the increases to have the least impact on those Members who have maintained their registrations and loyalty to our Association, the increases are the first in many years and if you calculate them on an annual basis, they are actually quite small for a regular Registration.

For example: If you look at the total price increase for a Stallion Registration of \$27.50 if he lives for twenty years it is only an increase of \$1.38 per year for the life of the horse a mare increases \$1.38 per year and a gelding increases 55cents a year for his life. In reality these increases represent just a few cups of coffee and that is the only increase a normal Member who is up to date with their paperwork need be worried about. Bear in mind this extra \$27.50 will only effect horses born after the 14th January 2013 and will not be paid in full until 2017 when the horse reaches mature age, the impact of these increases are spread over a fair bit of time.

These price increases are to come into effect on January 14th 2013. This is a Monday.

As something of a concession, the National Committee want to give Members until that date to have any unfinished business with regards registrations or upgrades completed at the current prices.

To have your work done at the current prices, you must have the paperwork with the office well before that date. The transaction must be completed before that date, not post marked on that date. Once the prices are changed in the database the weekend before Monday 14th January 2013, no transaction can be completed at the old price NO EXCEPTIONS, it is an automated process so get them in well before that date.

As an extra concession, the National Committee have decided to waive the revoked fee until 14th January 2013 so if you have, for whatever reason, let some of your Registrations lapse into revoked status, and have had a change of circumstance, now is probably the best opportunity you will ever have to update those Registrations. If you know an ex Member who may be considering re-instating their Membership, for whatever reason, now is the time for them to do so. We firmly believe that our Stud Book is first class and MHAA Registration adds real value to our horses.

These price increases had to be done and we trust you will all understand.

National Committee of Management

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