

# The Bowker Lectures 2015



For people dedicated to The Future of the Horse

Date : Saturday 21<sup>st</sup>, Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> and Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2015

Venue : Pinnacle Valley Resort, Merrijig, Victoria  
[www.pvr.com.au](http://www.pvr.com.au)

Time : Saturday - Registrations - 8.30 am  
Lectures – 9.00 am - 6.00 pm Saturday and Sunday  
Dinner & Guest Speaker – 6.00 pm Sunday  
Lectures – 9.00 am – 3.00 pm Monday

Cost : \$475 - Conference proceedings book, morning tea, afternoon tea and lunch included.  
Dinner \$45. Total inc. Dinner \$520

Registrations open 21<sup>st</sup> October 2014.

Positions filled in order of payments received.  
Complete attached registration form or download at  
[www.barehoofcare.com](http://www.barehoofcare.com) and fax to 03 5773 4307.  
You can also register in person at Equitana 2014

*These lectures should appeal to all in the equine industry, especially those with more than a passing interest in the equine hoof and body therapy. We focus on how we keep our horses sound, looking always at the whole horse.*

*We have assembled a cast of speakers who are all leaders in their fields of study (see over) and will present up to date, relevant information in the ever evolving field of equine science.*

*All proceeds from the conference will go to Professor Bowker's rehabilitation centre – Corona Vista [www.coronavistaequinecenter.com](http://www.coronavistaequinecenter.com)*

*These lectures, which are held biennially, are to both honour "our" professor, and to encourage him to continue to make the arduous journey from Michigan to Victoria.*



**Know Hoof.....Know Horse**

# The Lecturers

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**Professor Robert Bowker** PhD, Neurobiology, University of Pennsylvania, 1979 VMD, Veterinary Medicine, University of Pennsylvania, 1973 BS, Biology/Chemistry, Springfield College, 1969.

Professor Bowker has spent the last decade and a half as Head of the Equine Hoof Laboratory Research team based at Michigan State University in the US where he teaches veterinary students. Much of his research has been on the microscopic level, and through the dissection and study of literally thousands of cadaver hooves he has given the world amazing insights into the true nature of the functioning of the internal structures and how they remain sound for life. His pioneering scientific papers detailing his findings have brought natural hoof care practices into the 21<sup>st</sup> century and confirmed what the natural hoof care practitioners were finding at the coal face of hoof care. <http://pathobiology.msu.edu/people/bowker.html>

Lecture 1: The "Good Foot": The formation of chambers and microvessels and the effects of vibrations.

Lecture 2: The relation of the hoof wall and the coffin bone: Which one has the leading role in supporting the horse?

Lecture 3: The foot's sensory nerves mediate interactions between the back and head of the horse.

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**Dr Kerry Ridgway** DVM



Dr Ridgway is an internationally known lecturer in Integrative Veterinary Medicine as well as Conventional Medicine. He has a strong background in Equine Sports Medicine and Postural Rehabilitation therapies that include Acupuncture, Chiropractic, Podiatry, Saddle Fitting and Myofascial Connections. As a former endurance rider, Dr Ridgway also has a deep understanding of the role of the rider.

He is a graduate of Colorado State University and operates a holistically based veterinary practice in Aiken, SC. The son of a horseman, Dr. Ridgway is well known in endurance riding circles as both a competitor and a veterinarian. In 1990, he was elected to the Endurance Hall of Fame, for his contributions to the sport, and is most notably known for his development of the "Cardiac Recovery Index", a standard adopted internationally. In 2013 Dr. Ridgway received a "Lifetime Achievement" Awards from both The International Veterinary Acupuncture Society and the American Academy of Veterinary Acupuncture.

He was a founding member and officer for the "Association for Equine Sports Medicine," now a large international association. After practicing conventional medicine for over 20 years, and as a result of personal health issues that were helped greatly with alternative medicine, Dr. Ridgway decided to direct his focus toward chiropractic and acupuncture, the later, a modality that has a written history of more than 3000 years. His illness set him on the goal of always seeking the root cause and not just treating the symptoms.

Dr. Ridgway has spent many years specializing in equine performance issues. He has, therefore, developed a deep interest in the integration of many factors as part of a whole horse approach to therapy. Determining the root of functional and musculoskeletal problems might relate to postural deficits associated with the "crooked horse syndrome," and/or be involving dental problems, improper shoeing or trimming, saddle and tack issues. That integrative approach enticed him to study and research the workings of muscles and fascia, and their ramifications with regard to "postural rehabilitation".

All of these issues lead to not only performance and behavioural deficits, but to unsoundness and early retirement or worse. It is however, Dr Ridgway's philosophy and accumulated knowledge that integrative veterinary medicine combines well with conventional medicine to provide the best of both worlds with regard to health maintenance and peak performance potential.

Lecture1: The Role of Laterality and Straightness Training for the Equine Athlete

Lecture2: The role of fascia in the biomechanics of the natural horse, versus the ridden horse.

Lecture3: Understanding the role of connective tissue in the healing of soft tissue injuries.

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**Dr Andrew McLean** PhD (Equine cognition and learning), BSc (Zoology), Dip Ed

Guest Speaker - Ethology and Learning Theory in Horse Training  
Winner of the highest Australian Science award, the Eureka Prize for Science, Andrew McLean developed and manages the Australian Equine Behaviour Centre, the most internationally recognised horse training and behaviour modification centre in Australia.

Andrew McLean holds a PhD in equine cognition and learning, has been an accredited horse riding coach for over 30 years and has written 5 books (including an International Best Seller) and authored 35 peer-reviewed journal articles.

Andrew has lectured at The University of Tasmania for 11 years in Animal Behaviour, Cell biology, Genetics, Anatomy, Ecology and Tasmanian fauna. In 1977 he wrote 5 distance-education books on Cell biology and Genetics.

A past winner of the Advanced section of the famous Gawler Three-Day-Event, he has also represented Australia in Horse Trials, been short-listed for World Championships and competed at State and National events in FEI level dressage and eventing, has show-jumped to Grand Prix level and held a Racehorse owner-trainer's licence and raced bareback in Australia and New Zealand in the 1970 and 80's.

In great demand as a trainer, coach and speaker, Andrew currently conducts lecture demonstrations at Universities and conferences around the world. He teaches throughout Australia, Europe, South Africa, USA, Canada and New Zealand. Andrew continues to coach riders and National Federations on the optimal use of learning theory for improved welfare of the trained horse as well as improved performance.

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**Sharon May-Davis** B.App.Sc. (Equine), M.App.Sc. (4 Equine Theses), ACHM, EBW, EMR.

Sharon began riding at 4 and stopped competitive riding in her late 20's. Soon afterwards she began her academic journey that included the building of equine skeletons and research. Her innovative therapy practice saw the State and Australian Champions in 7 disciplines, of which she had a part in the selection process in 3.

Now Sharon is primarily an equine scientist and lecturer in Australia and overseas, with published works in the Journal of Equine Veterinary Science, Australian Veterinary Journal and Centre for Veterinary Education. Her area of passion is in gross anatomy and how it influences equine performance with the view to limit equine wastage in any area that is required.

Lecture1 with Dr Janeen Kleine: The Dilemma of the Absent Lamellae.

Lecture 2: The Equine Elbow: A Joint in Trouble!

Lecture 3: Where have we gone since the 2012 Bowker Lectures?

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**Dr Janeen Kleine (Osteopath) B.Clin.Sci., S.Ost.Sci., M.Ost.Sci(Paed.)**

Lecture1 with Sharon May-Davis: The Dilemma of the Absent Lamellae  
Janeen Kleine and Sharon May-Davis will be together presenting the results and discussion of their findings as co-authored in their article 'Variations and Implications of the Gross Anatomy in the Equine Nuchal Ligament Lamellae.'

Janeen graduated as an osteopath in 1998, and completed a Masters in Osteopathic Paediatrics in 2003. She now works in private practice, where she treats mostly paediatric and obstetric human patients. Janeen has also taught and lectured at both undergraduate and post-graduate level at both RMIT and Victoria University.

Having always owned and ridden horses, Janeen has become increasingly interested in equine anatomy, and the application of osteopathic principles and techniques to horses. This has led to her dissecting horses to enhance her understanding of their anatomy and biomechanics. Janeen is now venturing into the world of treating and attempting to understand the musculo-skeletal system of horses, and sees a strong correlation between her equine and paediatric human patients, with both being unable to describe areas of pain and/or dysfunction. Effective treatment then becomes reliant on a deep understanding of anatomy, recognition of the inter-relationship between structure and function, in combination with sensitive palpatory skills. Or, as utilized within osteopathy, 'with seeing, thinking, knowing fingers'.

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**Dr Ann Nyland** PhD

Dr. Ann Nyland is the Director of the charity Morigan Horse Rescue and Rehab Inc for rescued horses with serious medical conditions. Her passion is to disseminate advances in equine science to the general public. Such advances are generally tucked in obscure, scholarly journals.

Nyland is the author of best-selling horse care books such as *What to Worm Your Horse With, Made Easy*. Nyland was known for her doctoral thesis which was based on her seven month replication of the Kikkuli Text, an ancient Hittite horse training text written in 1345 B.C. which used interval training. Nyland's 1991-1992 replication of the Kikkuli Text was known as "The Kikkuli Experiment."

Lecture 1: Myth and mania: Some fondly held misconceptions about horse nutrition.

Lecture 2: The Worm has Turned. Worms: They're not what they used to be.

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**Mariette van den Berg** BAppSc. (Hons), MSc. (Equine Nutrition), RANutr.

Mariette van den Berg is an equine nutrition expert, dressage rider, coach and judge who completed a MSc. in Animal Science and a thesis in Equine Nutrition at the Wageningen University in the Netherlands. She is founder of MB Equine Services, an education and research business that offers specialised consulting services in integrated equine nutrition, horse property design and pasture management.

Mariette is currently undertaking a PhD in equine nutrition and foraging behaviour at the University of New England in Armidale, Australia and recently presented at the Australian Horse Keeping Conference and Equitana Melbourne.

Lecture1: Understanding horse foraging behaviour to improve feeding management and well-being

Lecture 2: Integrated Pasture Management for Horse Properties; why biodiversity is important!

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**Jean Koek** Dip EPT(student)

In the early 1990s, a health issue led me to explore a more holistic approach to life. As part of this I studied Bowen therapy – both human and horse (Equine Muscle Release Therapy, EMRT). At the same time I came across infrared thermography – I thought it looked interesting and promptly forgot about it.

Thermography resurfaced in my life in 2000 and has played a major part ever since. I have studied (and continue to study) in the US and Europe with the world's leading veterinary thermographers. I've attended five of Dr Deb Bennett's five day full body equine dissection courses and constantly seek courses and information that can help me understand the complex heat patterns which the camera shows. These include metabolic issues. I am currently tackling the Equine Podiotherapy Diploma and studying acupuncture with Dr Kerry Ridgeway. Our clients in the human thermography clinic we ran in Brisbane for several years gave meaning to their thermal patterns which we were able to translate to the animal world.

In the more than a dozen years that I've been working with thermography, several things have become very clear: (i) nothing in the body happens on its own and the effects of a disease/injury are often far more wide ranging than we think; (ii) the effects of this can be visible thermographically for a very, very long time and (iii) I'm constantly amazed at the ability of the body to heal.

All this reinforces my belief that we must look at the body as a whole. Thermography is a wonderful tool for this as it shows the overall thermal patterns of the body. However it is far from simple. It is not just about hot spots and in fact the "hot spot" is often the least problematic area.

Lecture 1: Can Thermography be a Useful Tool in showing the Interdependency Between Hooves and Body?

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**David LeMesurier** Dip EPT

A late bloomer into the world of horses, David started working with them from the tender age of 35. Can't beat 'em might as well join 'em, so with wife and daughter already riding... go and find your 16 hand thoroughbred to learn to ride.

Coming in contact with a well renowned trimmer /farrier who started to part with some of his wisdom in the process of trimming the family's ever increasing herd, David was encouraged to start trimming and to learn more about the structure of the equine hoof after attending owner trimming clinics and dealing afterwards with a severely foundered brumby, he was motivated to undertake The Diploma of Equine Podiotherapy in 2009.

A total "tree change" saw David retire from a career as a Chef and continue to practice bare foot trimming in and around the Canberra, Yass and Bungendore Region. A need to increase knowledge and understanding of the pathologies that were presenting themselves in his clients horses, David has continued to study through clinics with such people as Professor Robert Bowker and Sharon May-Davis, as well as working with vets and therapists in his local area.

Lecture 1: Alternative methods to rebuild the Club Foot.

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**Suzan Parker** Founder – Equine Body Therapy Pty Ltd

EMRT Practitioner 12/2001, Diploma Sports Massage 5/2004, Cranio Sacral Therapist 11/2007, Diploma HEC (Human Equine Canine) 3/2009, Diploma Equine Stud Management 11/2011

Soft Tissue Assessment and Remedial Therapy (S.T.A.R.T) is a unique system of carrying out systematic and sequential assessment checks that provide specific indicators to soft tissue injuries. The best part of the S.T.A.R.T program is that it enables early detection before a general soreness becomes a long term injury. It utilises a specific set of assessment tests and indicators to establish a detailed insight into the soft tissue health of the horse.

This system of assessment checking is unique to the industry. It has been developed and structured in a way that is easy to learn and apply every day. It allows all horse people from the pleasure horse owner to the professional trainer to easily develop skills which will aid in the preventative maintenance of their horses. The S.T.A.R.T Program is simple to follow and apply and is supplemented with a Remedial Therapy that can be applied in the treatment of soft tissue problems. I have had remarkable results using the S.T.A.R.T Program and will have great pleasure in introducing it to the visitors to the 2015 conference.

Lecture1: An introduction to EBT Soft Tissue Assessment and Response Testing (S.T.A.R.T)

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**Sarah Kuyken** BAniSciMngt (Bachelor of Animal Science and Management, The University of Melbourne), DipEPT, MFR2 (Cert 2 in Myofascial Release), ECS1 (Cert 1 In Equine Craniosacral Therapy) and currently MANiSci (student, The University of Melbourne).

Sarah is currently undertaking her Masters of Animal Science at the University of Melbourne, after previously completing a Bachelor of Animal Science and Management, a Diploma of Equine Podiotherapy, and certificates in Equine Myofascial Release and Equine Craniosacral Therapy.

She is currently working as an Equine Podiotherapist in the Yarra Valley and surrounds, with a focus on alternative hoof care including boots, tips, and polyurethane shoes in addition to corrective barefoot trimming.

Lecture 1: A review of stressors affecting cribbing horses.

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**Dr Penelope Thompson** B.Sc, B.VSc Hons

Penelope – Pos - Graduated from Melbourne University in 2001 with a Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Veterinary Science with Honours. She has worked in the equine performance and pleasure horse industry for 12 years with a large proportion of her time spent on the racetrack and more recently in Mansfield, Victoria.

She is married with two children and is principle veterinarian of Progressive Equine Veterinary Services.

Her current practice focuses on general ambulatory medicine with a lot of lameness and laminitis issues. During the spring months she does a fair proportion of reproductive work.

The clinic manages the veterinary testing for pre-export quarantine for horses being exported to Asia, Europe and South Africa and Pos also advises and performs veterinary duties for the Victoria Mounted Police Branch.

Her experiences in the performance horse industry with respect to feet issues has been a major focus in the way she views foot treatments. In the last four years she has been assisting Andrew Bowe and his team in providing veterinary advice in treatment and pain relief.

She hopes to convey some of the more successful management strategies she has found useful in the daily management of acute and chronic foot issues and pain.

Lecture1: Pharmaceutical options in treating and managing foot pain.



**Andrew Bowe** B.App.Sc, Trade Accredited Farrier

His business combines a lifetime's experience of traditional farriery with modern barehoofcare ideas (aiming to develop equine hooves so they are healthy enough to be ridden without horseshoes).

He specialises in returning chronically lame horses back to soundness with barefoot rehabilitation: restoring correct form and function to hooves, using modern hoof boots when necessary.

Known as "The Barefoot Blacksmith", Andrew travels throughout Australia teaching horse owners equine hoof development; the foundations to a healthy horse.

Lecture 1: The role of MSM in healthy hooves



## Program - The Bowker Lectures 2015 Biennial Conference - Pinnacle Valley Resort

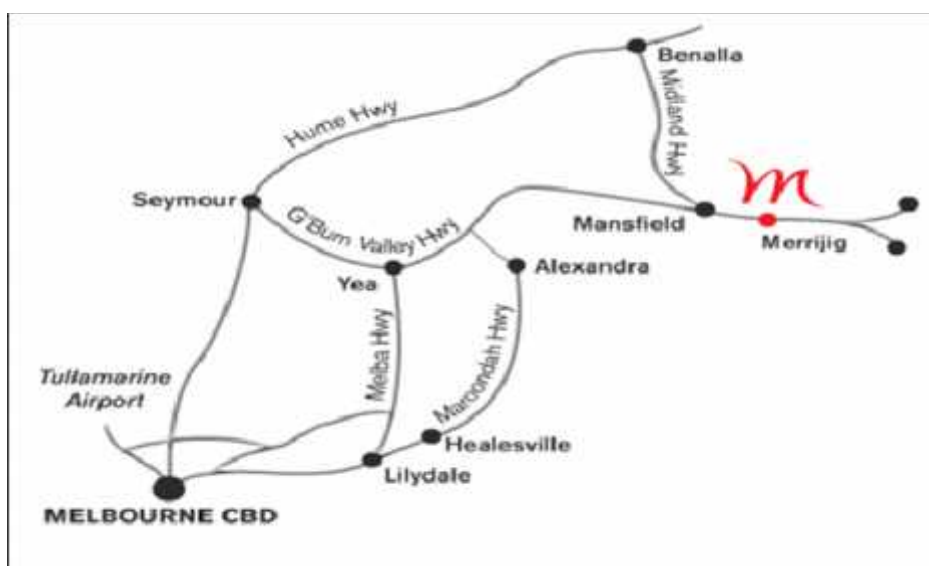
<b>Saturday</b>		<b>Day 1</b>	<b>21st February 2015</b>
8.30 am	30 mins	<b>Registration</b>	
9.00 am	60 mins	<b>Professor Robert Bowker</b>	The "Good Foot" The formation of chambers and microvessels and the effects of vibrations.
10.00 am	20 mins	<b>Morning tea</b>	
10.20 am	60 min	<b>Dr Kerry Ridgway</b>	How Laterality affects posture, and movement incl High Heel and Low heel syndrome and the Crooked Horse Syndrome.
11.20 am	10 mins	<b>Mini break</b>	
11.30 am	60 mins	<b>Dr Ann Nyland</b>	Myth and Mania: Some fondly held misconceptions about horse nutrition.
12.30 pm	50 mins	<b>Lunch</b>	
1.20 pm	60 mins	<b>Sharon May-Davis and Dr. Janeen Kleine</b>	The Dilemma of the Absent Lamellae.
2.20 pm	10 mins	<b>Mini break</b>	
2.30 pm	60 mins	<b>Sue Parker</b>	An introduction to EBT Soft Tissue Assessment and Response Testing (S.T.A.R.T)
3.30 pm	20 mins	<b>Afternoon Tea</b>	
3.50 pm	35 mins	<b>David Le Mesurier</b>	Alternative methods to rebuild the Club Foot.
4.25 pm	35 mins	<b>Andrew Bowe</b>	The role of MSM in healthy hooves.
5.00 pm	60 mins	<b>Trade Stands</b>	
<b>Sunday</b>		<b>Day 2</b>	<b>22nd February 2015</b>
8.30 am	30 mins	<b>Registration</b>	
9.00 am	60 mins	<b>Professor Robert Bowker</b>	The relation of the hoof wall and the coffin bone: Which one has the leading role in supporting the horse?
10.00 am	20 mins	<b>Morning tea</b>	
10.20 am	60 min	<b>Dr Anne Nyland</b>	The Worm has Turned. Worms: They're not what they used to be.
11.20 am	10 mins	<b>Mini break</b>	
11.30 am	60 mins	<b>Mariette van den Berg</b>	Understanding horse foraging behaviour to improve feeding management and well-being.
12.30 pm	50 mins	<b>Lunch</b>	
1.20 pm	60 mins	<b>Dr Kerry Ridgway</b>	The role of fascia in the biomechanics of the natural horse, versus the ridden horse.
2.20 pm	10 mins	<b>Mini break</b>	
2.30 pm	60 mins	<b>Jean Koek</b>	Can Thermography be a Useful Tool in showing the Interdependency Between Hooves and Body?
3.30 pm	20 mins	<b>Afternoon Tea</b>	
3.50 pm	60 mins	<b>Dr Penelope Thompson</b>	Pharmaceutical options in treating & managing foot pain.
4.50pm	70 mins	<b>Trade Stands</b>	
6.00 pm	90 mins	<b>Dinner</b>	
7.30 pm	60 mins	<b>Andrew Mclean</b>	Guest Speaker - Ethology and learning theory in horse training.
<b>Monday</b>		<b>Day 3</b>	<b>23rd February 2015</b>
8.30 am	30 mins	<b>Registration</b>	
9.00 am	60 mins	<b>Mariette van den Berg</b>	Integrated Pasture Management for Horse Properties; why biodiversity is important!
10.00 am	20 mins	<b>Morning Tea</b>	
10.20 am	60 min	<b>Professor Robert Bowker</b>	The foot's sensory nerves mediate interactions between the back and head of the horse.
11.20 am	10 mins	<b>Mini break</b>	
11.30 am	60 mins	<b>Dr Kerry Ridgway</b>	Understanding the role of connective tissue in the healing of soft tissue injuries.
12.30 pm	50 mins	<b>Lunch</b>	
1.20 pm	35 mins	<b>Sarah Kuyken</b>	A Review of stressors affecting cribbing horses.
2.00 pm	50 mins	<b>Sharon May-Davis</b>	The Equine Elbow: A Joint in Trouble! And Where have we gone since the 2012 Bowker Lectures?
<b>Conference Close</b>			

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Progressive Equine  
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Accommodation is available at the venue, Pinnacle Valley Resort,  
[www.pvr.com.au](http://www.pvr.com.au), as well as in Merrijig and Mansfield.

The following web site lists details:

[http://www.mansfieldaccommodation.com/victoria\\_accommodation.htm](http://www.mansfieldaccommodation.com/victoria_accommodation.htm)

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