



Australian College of Equine Podiotherapy

www.equinepodiotherapy.com.au

RTO 22721

22290VIC

Diploma of

Equine Podiotherapy

2022 – 2023 Course Information

Contents

Introduction	2
Equine Podiotherapy defined	3
Course structure	3
Units of competency listed	4
Entry requirements	5
Course delivery and duration	6
Unique Student Identifier	6
College Location	6
Equipment	7
Course Texts	7
Research articles and Handouts issued in class	7
Student Support Services	8
Fees and Charges	8
Career Opportunities	9
Units of competency description – Enterprise units	10
Units of competency description – Imported units	11
Our Lecturers	13
Industry Guest Speakers	15

Introduction

The Australian College of Equine Podiotherapy (RTO 22721) delivers the **Diploma of Equine Podiotherapy (22290VIC)** which is the only nationally accredited equine hoof care Diploma course in Australia.

The college initiated due to the foresight of its directors. It was obvious in the equine industry there was a growing need for quality holistic hoof care professionals.

The majority of horses are no longer beasts of burden working the land and being modes of transport, instead they are more likely to be companions and specifically trained sport and leisure partners. Therefore, soundness and longevity are vitally important to modern horse owners.

This course is unique and has been specifically written and all units have been contextualised to suit the modality of Equine Podiotherapy. Directors and writers of the course, Andrew and Nicky Bowe are proud of the professionals they have selected to assist with delivery of this course. They have no doubt that the depth of the scientific evidence-based material and the professionalism of the instructors will be implemental in shaping you into a professional Equine Podiotherapist; with a long and fulfilling career in this field.

The Diploma of Equine Podiotherapy is the most demanding hoof care course offered in Australia. Two years of training and case studies must be completed before the Diploma is awarded. This produces students who see hooves not in isolation but as a part of the whole horse, and who have industry leading observation skill sets.

Equine Podiotherapy defined

As natural hoof care has risen from obscurity to a well-respected modality of equine hoof care, there has also arisen a huge need for "specialists" in the field of rehabilitative natural hoof care.

In recent years research breakthroughs have been made in this field leading to new insights into the way the hoof and its internal components work together to create a strong well engineered unit able to withstand high impact. This has led to a better understanding of why our domestic horses suffer such a huge amount of lameness over their lifetimes, and what can be done to avoid such problems.

Equine Podiotherapy is a specialist rehabilitative trimming modality. Podiotherapists are trained to have a thorough understanding of functional anatomy and how and why hooves morph into unnatural and unhealthy forms; recognising deformity in its earliest stages and being able to facilitate treatment at any stage of the disease spectrum and are competent in using different forms of sustainable hoof protection. The Ultimate aim is to re-establish a physiologically correct and sound hoof.

Equine Podiotherapists are also trained in the role of the hoof as it relates to equine biomechanics and the musculo-skeletal system. They understand how hoof issues influence the entire horse, creating secondary musculo-skeletal issues and gait problems. They are, in fact, a "hoof therapist" in every sense of the term.

Podiotherapy graduates work from a paradigm based in anatomy & science, not assumptions.

How do you pronounce the name? It is pronounced equine pod-eye-oh-therapy. Its basis is the word podiatry, meaning 'of the foot.'; therapy of the equine foot.

Course Structure

This is a specialised course designed specifically to train Equine Podiotherapists and consists of core units only. Therefore, all units must be completed in order to qualify for the award of the Diploma of Equine Podiotherapy.

Students who do not complete the full course will be awarded a Statement of Attainment listing those units that they have successfully completed.

On the successful completion of this course, you will be awarded a Nationally Accredited Diploma of Equine Podiotherapy (22290VIC) and may use the title of Equine Podiotherapist in your practice and advertising.

You will join the ranks of a highly regarded fraternity of regarded hoof care industry professionals. You will also qualify for membership with the Equine Podiotherapists Association, providing have access to ongoing learning and networking with other Podiotherapists.

Units of competency:

22290VIC Diploma of Equine Podiotherapy

Code	Title name
RGRCMN201A	Follow OHS procedures and observe environmental work practices
RGRCMN401A	Maintain and monitor OHS procedures and environmental work practices
RGRPSH201A	Handle horses
RGRPSH302A	Supervise handling of horses
RGRPSH401A	Relate anatomical and physiological features to the care and treatment of horses
VU21710	Employ knowledge of equine distal limb anatomy and physiology in hoof management
VU21711	Apply the principles of equine orthopaedics
VU21713	Manage equine hoof development
VU21715	Provide functional equine hoof protection
VU21712	Integrate equine biomechanics and hoof management
VU21714	Provide equine barefoot rehabilitation
BSBSMB405	Monitor and manage small business operations
HLTINF001	Comply with infection control policies and procedures
RGRPSH308A	Provide first aid and emergency care for horses
HLTAID003	Provide first aid (Prerequisite – to be completed independently)

Entry requirements

Previous experience

Experience in handling horses is desirable. Previous trimming experience is not essential but is highly recommended. Knowledge of basic horse conformation including the hoof is desirable.

Physical requirements

The physical requirements for entry into this course are based on the demands placed on individuals who handle horses. A certain level of fitness and agility is essential to ensure their safety, the safety of others and the safety of the horses in their care.

Disability restrictions

Students need to be able bodied and of sound mind to interact safely with horses. Clear vision and use of limbs are essential. Certain disabilities would create high risk of injury or death to student, other students, lecturers and horses.

Age

There is no age limitation to undertake this course, however parental consent will be required for those under 18 years of age at the time of course commencement.

Training and assessment staff who deliver training to persons under 18 years of age will hold a current Working with Children Check.

Competent English

No minimum education standard is set as a prerequisite to entry into this course. However, a general command of spoken and written English, as well as the ability to write a simple report is required, equivalent to a level 3 of the Australian Core Skills Framework. This course requires the satisfactory completion of oral and written tasks.

The ACSF framework stipulates appropriate levels for:

- Learning
- Reading
- Writing
- Oral Communication
- Numeracy

Pre-Training Review

A Pre-Training assessment in Language, Literacy and Numeracy (LLN) is a mandatory government requirement in the induction phase of a potential student. This enables Australian College of Equine Podiotherapy to identify those learners who may need additional support (e.g., if they have low English levels) and to identify whether a learner's physical attributes may influence their ability to complete the training and assessment. This involves completing some task sheets and an interview before commencement of the course.

Course Delivery and Duration

The course is classified as **full time** and is designed to be completed in two years.

In the first year, the course is delivered in four intensive 7 day blocks of face to face lectures and practicals complemented by distance learning modules that need to be completed between blocks.

2022 INTAKE BLOCK DATES (course is delivered in 4 blocks over two years)

Block 1	There will be no new intake in 2022
Block 2	There will be no new intake in 2022
Block 3	There will be no new intake in 2022
Block 4	There will be no new intake in 2022

Assignments are to be completed at home between the blocks.

In the students second year they are required to complete a series of in-depth case studies to attain their Diploma along with an industry study skills practice and experience logbook.

The first block commences in February. It is advisable to have your enrolment forms in to the college the year prior as the course usually fills very quickly and places are limited because of the 'hands on' nature of this training.

College Location

The college is based at Mayfield, 470 Middle Creek Road, Yarck, in north-east Victoria. Mayfield is a picturesque 1000 acre farm that breeds cattle, sheep and horses. Owners Andrew and Nicky Bowe have developed this farm into a rehabilitation centre for laminitic and lame horses and an agistment centre for retirees.

There are usually 70-100 equines residing at Mayfield which provide wide range of horses to trim and learning opportunities for students about rehabilitation.

The campus provides a comfortable air-conditioned classroom, full student amenities, accommodation and camping facilities. There is also a range of off-campus accommodation within easy driving distance.

Unique Student Identifier (USI)

If you're studying nationally recognised training in Australia, you are required to have a Unique Student Identifier (USI). You can create a USI online from your computer, tablet or smart phone anytime. Refer to the Student Information Handbook for step by step guidance on how to create your USI.

Equipment and P.P.E.

Students need to supply their own trimming gloves and it is a condition of the college insurance that students must wear an approved (Australian Standards) safety riding helmet during the handling of live horses. Loan tools and farrier aprons are available from the college but if you are travelling by car, please bring your own if you can. Gloves, aprons and a large inventory of trimming tools are available for purchase but not safety helmets.

Course Texts

These texts are supplied as part of your course reference material. Your lecturers will have suggestions for others you might like to add to your collection that will help you build a great reference library to assist you in the future.

- Equine Laminitis - Current Concepts RIRDC by Chris Pollitt
- Equine Laminitis - Managing Pasture To Reduce Risk RIRDC by Chris Pollitt & Kathryn A. Watts
- Introduction to Horse Biology by Zoe Davis
- Lameness by Christine King and Richard Mansmann.
- The Pony That Did Not Die by Andrew and Nicky Bowe
- First Response by Amanda Edwards

Research Articles and Handouts Issued in Class

During this course you will be given many published research articles on hoof care. These are meant to help you gain an understanding of the various research projects being undertaken in this field, and to help you develop your knowledge and understanding of anatomical terms. Some will contain aspects on hoof care practices and methods not shared by your course developers; you are encouraged to discuss these and to question why they have been included in your course material.

It is vital you have knowledge of the various traditional treatments for hoof problems offered to your future clients, so you can discuss with horse owners and attending veterinarians why you feel natural rehabilitation should be considered as a viable alternative. These articles are offered as an overview of what is happening in this fast evolving industry and to assist you in learning critical thinking skills when reading any research material.

Master Classes/Seminars

These are held once a year and these ongoing learning opportunities are offered to those who have studied Equine Podiotherapy. The guest lecturers are drawn from those who are working at the cutting edge of equine hoof care and research.

Student support services

Being a student is exciting, but it can also be challenging. All staff can be approached to gain advice on academic and personal issues. Staff at the College will offer professional and confidential advice in areas where they can help and will ensure that all efforts are taken to ensure a positive learning experience is achieved.

Support services may include but is not limited to:

- Referral to LLN specialists/short courses
- One on one discussions with lecturers/administration
- Supply of electronic device
- Free Attendance to the Barefoot Blacksmith trimming workshops
- Free Attendance to Mayfield trimming days
- Payment plans can be tailored to suit both parties
- Discount on trimming tools purchased from the Barefoot Blacksmith during first year as a student.
- Supply of trimming tools and PPE to borrow during study blocks
- Option to use horse at Mayfield for trimming practice and Case studies
- Networking with other Lecturers and trimmers for practical trimming experience.
- Information for associations and insurance
- Insurance whilst a student
- Accommodation at venue
- Printing of notes and assessments
- Emailing and any other office associated duties

Fees & Charges

The full fee for the 22290VIC Diploma in Equine Podiotherapy in 2023 (next intake) is yet to be determined. In 2021 it was \$9000 (paid over 2 years).

This consists of:

- \$4140 tuition fees
- \$1260 material fees
- \$3600 amenity fees
- payable via a payment plan consisting of a deposit of \$1500 followed by 5 equal payments of \$1500, two of which are paid in year 2.

Course notes for each study block will be released to students via the student log in section of the ACEP website once payment for that study block is received. Student login will be disabled until payment is received into our account.

Career Opportunities

The sky is your limit! This training opens up a huge field of work. In Australia at present the demand for properly trained natural hoof care specialists far exceeds the supply. It is impossible to meet the demand for Equine Podiotherapists at this time!

In a world of shrinking careers, your horizon in natural hoof care is limitless!

Your skills may even take you outside this country if that is what you wish.



Unit of competency descriptions – Enterprise units

VU21710 Employ knowledge of equine distal limb anatomy and physiology in hoof management

Unit descriptor

This unit of competency describes the outcomes required to apply knowledge of distal limb anatomy and physiology to the development of hoof management plans for sustaining lifelong soundness in equines.

VU21711 Apply the principles of equine orthopaedics

Unit descriptor

This unit is concerned with applying the foundation knowledge of equine orthopaedics relevant to hoof management for facilitating lifelong soundness.

VU21712 Integrate equine biomechanics and hoof management

Unit descriptor

This unit of competency specifies the outcomes required to identify basic equine biomechanics and relate it to hoof management for facilitating lifelong soundness.

It provides the ability to determine the point of origin of hoof problems that are secondary to incorrect biomechanical action and biomechanical problems that arise from abnormal hooves.

VU21713 Manage equine hoof development

Unit descriptor

This unit of competency describes the outcomes required to contribute to the structural development of equine hooves with a view to lifelong soundness.

This unit acknowledges the importance of continual consultation with clients to ensure that time sensitive hoof management recommendations are followed.

VU21714 Provide equine barefoot rehabilitation

Unit descriptor

This unit of competency describes the skills and knowledge required to ameliorate pathological hoof conditions in equines.

VU21715 Provide functional equine hoof protection

Unit descriptor

This unit of competency describes the skills and knowledge required to provide ongoing protection to equine hooves that does not impede hoof function

Unit of competency descriptions – Imported units

BSBSMB405 Monitor and manage small business operations

This unit describes the skills and knowledge required to implement a business plan and modify operations as required.

It applies to individuals who operate a small business which stands alone, or, is part of a department within a larger organisation. Individuals in this role use problem-solving skills and take responsibility for developing approaches to manage business operations.

HLTINF001 Comply with infection prevention and control policies and procedures

This unit describes the skills and knowledge required to follow organisational infection prevention and control procedures, including implementing standard and transmission-based precautions and responding to infection risks.

RGRCMN201A Follow OHS procedures and observe environmental work practices

This unit of competency specifies the outcomes required to contribute to and follow the organisation's OHS policies, procedures and programs in the relevant area of work and in accordance with OHS requirements. It requires the ability to contribute to environmental work practice improvements within the scope of responsibilities of the job function. This unit of competency operates in workplace environments of racing administration, stables, kennels, racecourses and public areas.

RGRCMN401A Maintain and monitor OHS procedures and environmental work practices

This unit of competency specifies the outcomes required to apply practical and theoretical information related to OHS and environmental work practices. The unit is concerned with maintaining and monitoring the organisation's OHS policies, procedures and programs in the relevant area of work and in accordance with OHS requirements.

RGRPSH201A Handle horses

This unit of competency specifies the outcomes required to identify, and safely catch, control and handle racehorses for the purposes of training and racing.

RGRPSH302A Supervise handling of horses

This unit of competency specifies the outcomes required to direct, assist and oversee others to identify and safely catch, control and handle horses.

RGRPSH308A Provide first aid and emergency care for horses

This unit of competency specifies the outcomes required to measure and record vital signs of horses; identify and report signs of common illnesses and injuries; provide emergency care and follow first aid policies and procedures; make pre and post-race health and fitness assessments of horses; apply treatments under supervision; and follow the rules of racing related to the administration of prohibited substances.

RGRPSH401A Relate anatomical and physiological features to the care and treatment of horses

This unit of competency specifies the outcomes required to identify basic anatomy and physiology of horses, relate anatomy and body systems to the performance of racehorses, and follow illness and injury management plans for racehorses.

This unit also requires the practical care and management of harness or thoroughbred racehorses and application of OHS standards in the workplace.

HLTAID003 Provide first aid

This unit describes the skills and knowledge required to provide a first aid response to a casualty. The unit applies to all workers who may be required to provide a first aid response in a range of situations, including community and workplace settings.

This unit of competency is not taught on campus. To complete this unit, students will be required to submit a credit transfer form, along with a certified or true copy of their certificate gained.

Our Lecturers

Andrew Bowe

- Practical trimming, laminitis studies, shoeing principles, orthopaedics, foal hoof management, tool use, rehabilitation

Andrew is a currently practicing Master Farrier of over 30 years' experience and is at the forefront of bare hoofcare education in Australia through his work as "The Barefoot Blacksmith". Andrew also has an applied science degree and has authored a text on laminitis recovery practices. He brings to this course his insights from both sides of the anvil.

Nicole Bowe

- Nutrition, rehabilitation, practical trimming, anatomy & physiology, infection control, horse handling

After graduating with a B.App.Sc (Agriculture), Nicky ventured into veterinary nursing. After many years of Vet nursing, Nicky and her husband Andrew set up Mayfield Barehoof Centre, where she manages the often complex, difficult, and sometimes long term rehabilitation of equine patients. She formulates diets based on the varied and individual needs of each horse undergoing rehabilitation.

She also consults widely with horse owners, offering nutritional advice for both recovery and the future prevention of laminitic episodes.

After years of nursing these difficult cases, Nicky is keen to pass these insights onto Equine Podiotherapists so they too can assist owners faced with the challenge of restoring good health to laminitic horses.

Jo Hill

- Booting, practical trimming

Jo holds a Diploma in Equine Podiotherapy and is a qualified barefoot trimmer and has been the owner operator of Barefoot N Boots since 2007.

She specialises in pathologies working in conjunction with veterinarians and provides emergency assistance and quality care. She also supplies hoof boots and veterinary products to maintain support for hooves. Her goal is to encourage, support and promote the holistic hoof care to upcoming hoof practitioners.

Tamara Fox

- Conformation and observations, horse handling/supervising handling

Tamara has had a passion for horses for as long as she can remember. An avid pony club member, led her into becoming a NCAS PC level 1 instructor, teaching mostly horsemanship to all levels of Pony Club riders. She studied horse management at Agricultural College after which she worked on both Thoroughbred and Standardbred Studs. A keen competitor and with a passion for further learning Tamara continues to learn

receiving certificates in various Equine Therapies, dressage judging, instructing and natural horsemanship. Helping horse owners enjoy all aspects of horses in a fun and safe environment is what drives her to continue to learn and to educate horse owners and enthusiasts.

Dave Leigh

- Anatomy, OHS, pathologies, practical trimming, small business operations

David's (Dave) passion is for horses – everything and anything horse related. His second passion is sharing what he has learnt with others. "Learning about horses is not definitive; there is no destination, only the journey." David is a qualified Equine Podiotherapist that runs his own business 'The barefoot bloke'.

In an effort to try to further understand Equines, David embarked on a BSc Equine Science degree at Charles Sturt University, where his education is continuously enabling him to understand horses even more and enhance their being.

Amanda Edwards

- Equine First Aid and infection control

Amanda's experience in critical care nursing and health service management has led her to start her own business 'The Equine Care Clinic'. In this she provides recovery care for sick and injured horses on behalf of horse owners. She also delivers First Response Workshops (Equine) to horse owners, Vet Nurses and Equine Therapists. Amanda is a regular speaker at various seminars, expo's, and equine clubs. She has published a book 'First Response – A Practical Guide to Caring for your Sick or Injured Horse'.

INDUSTRY GUEST SPEAKERS

Dr Penelope Thompson

- Veterinary, lameness evaluations, Infection policies and procedures, interpreting radiographs

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 industry since. Her current practice focuses on lameness and laminitis, reproduction and veterinary testing for pre-export quarantine for horses being exported, and for the Victoria Mounted Police Branch.

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. 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.

Sharon May–Davis

- Biomechanics, Skeletal and Musculature anatomy, equine evolution

Sharon’s passion for anatomy began at just 14 years of age, with dissecting rabbits, followed by completing her first equine post mortem at 21 and began equine dissecting at 35. Within this time she completed Bachelor of Applied Science (Equine), and later her Masters, along with many other Equine therapy courses.

Sharon is one of Australia’s leading experts in the biomechanics & musculo-skeletal system of the equine. Her passion has led her all over the world working with top performance horses and sharing her exceptional understanding of the equine. This has included Australian Champions from 6 different disciplines; Eventing, Dressage, Endurance, Show-jumping, Reining and Vaulting.

Sharon has done a great deal of research into the congenital abnormalities associated with the equine skeleton particularly in relation to the thoroughbred horse. She has published many articles and continues her research both in Australia and Overseas.

Professor Robert Bowker `s work will be presented to the students

- Equine Limb anatomy and physiology

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. At the university he teaches veterinary students and his specialty is hoof research through the study of the functions of the equine foot at cellular level.

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.

Professor Bowker’s research is the bedrock on which much of the natural hoof care world have based their trimming. His pioneering scientific papers detailing his findings have brought natural hoof care practices into the 21st 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>

The Diploma of Equine Podiotherapy has been exceptionally lucky to have Professor Bowker as one of our lecturers as he rarely teaches outside the University of Michigan. So keen is he to bring the hoof care world "up to speed" he has offered to bring his vast knowledge on the subject to Australia through our college.

It is with a heavy heart, that we announce the retirement of Professor Robert Bowker from teaching in person as due to the ever increasing stresses of coming to Australia and increasing recovery times of these trips, Professor Bowker has made the decision to not come back to Australia any more.

Professor Bowker has been the mainstay of the development of the 'barehoofcare' industry in Australia and his contribution will live on in the large body of students for whom his teachings are both the foundation and loadstone for their very careers.

We will be delivering Professor Bowker's work and will also endeavour to 'hook' up via the internet. Many thanks to Professor Bowker for sharing his research and guiding us on the path of learning to enable us to better serve the horses of Australia.