



# Developing a Hawkesbury-Nepean Animal Ready Community

Utilising BNHCRC research as part of the Hawkesbury-Nepean Valley Flood Risk Management Strategy

**HAWKESBURY-NEPEAN VALLEY ANIMAL READY COMMUNITY WORKING GROUP:** Madeleine Dignam, INSW (Project Manager); David King, Elizabeth Gardiner, Katie Moulton, NSW SES; Todd Hinde (Event Manager); Linda Hanlon, Linda Dedovic, GSLLS; Leanne Raines, NSW DPI; Christine Smith, ABEC; Jenny Bigelow, Warren Hole, Blue ARC; Jackie Carr, HCC; Mel Taylor, Macquarie University/BNHCRC.



Horse Care and Safety Open Day  
Richmond TAFE, 14 July 2019

## OVERVIEW

- The Hawkesbury-Nepean Valley (HNV) is the most flood exposed region in New South Wales.
- Up to 134,000 people live and work on the floodplain (INSW, 2017) and it is home to an estimated 10,000+ horses\* (NSW DPI, 2019).
- Large animal owners, especially horse owners, have been identified as a community on the HNV floodplain at increased risk in a flood.
- The HNV Animal Ready Community (HNV-ARC) working group was formed to identify ways to support emergency preparedness and resilience in this at-risk community.
- Using the expertise of team members, including prior community-related utilisation activity and findings from BNHCRC research, the working group developed a range of resources for animal owners in the Hawkesbury-Nepean region.

\*based on data from 2008 from multiple sources

## OPEN DAY – FOCUS ON HORSE CARE AND SAFETY



Photo: Adam Hollingworth

- The HNV-ARC working group organised a 'Horse Care and Safety' Open Day in July 2019 for local horse owners.
- Event focused on the bond horse owners have with their animals.
- Used masterclass sessions on horse training and Large Animal Rescue demonstrations to promote emergency preparedness messaging.
- Further support provided at stands by INSW, NSW SES, NSW RFS, NSW DPI, and GSLLS. Local equine veterinarian from ABEC also attended.
- More than 100 horse owners attended. All received an event bag with emergency preparedness information.
- BNHCRC researchers undertook evaluation. Some quotes from attendees are provided below.

"I think I'm reasonably well prepared, but I hadn't really considered what if I'm not home – and therefore having my neighbours prepared as well – that's really quite a significant thing I hadn't thought about until today."

"I've learnt a lot...it's made me re-think what my emergency plans were.. maybe I wasn't quite as prepared as I thought."

"...and I like the suggestion... that if you're up in the highlands and at bushfire risk, get friendly with someone down in the flood zone where it's less fire risk"



Hawkesbury Show, 10-12 May 2019



## HAWKESBURY SHOW

- Multiple organisations showcased HNV-ARC resources at the Hawkesbury Show.
- Unified message
- Focus on animal owners and flood preparedness.
- Bushfire included.



Open Day, 14 July 2019



NSW SES Hawkesbury Unit Large Animal Rescue Team with David King, at back with Mr. Bean (horse). Front row: Todd Hinde, Karen Pracey, Madeleine Dignam, Cody Rawson Harris (Masterclass presenter), Robyn Preston MP (Member for Hawkesbury), Linda Dedovic, Mel Taylor, Christine Smith, Linda Hanlon. (Photo: Adam Hollingworth)



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**Business**  
Cooperative Research  
Centres Programme

**Contacts**  
**Madeleine Dignam** madeleine.dignam@infrastructure.nsw.gov.au  
**Mel Taylor** mel.taylor@mq.edu.au



**MACQUARIE**  
**University**  
SYDNEY · AUSTRALIA