

# Nutrition Conference in Australia Offers Something for Everyone

**K**ER's thirteenth annual Equine Nutrition Conference will be held August 23 through 25 in Sydney. This year's theme is the skeletal system of the horse, with special focus on growth, development, and disorders. The conference is open to worldwide feed industry professionals, horse breeders, veterinarians, and members of the public.

Some of the world's foremost authorities have been invited to speak. Dr. Wayne McIlwraith, a New Zealand native, is currently a professor in the Equine Orthopedic Research Laboratory at Colorado State University. Considered a pioneer in equine arthroscopic surgery, McIlwraith has directed research in diagnostic, therapeutic, and preventative techniques involving joint disease and pathobiology. Another speaker, Dr. Andrew Dart, is director of the University Veterinary Centre at Camden, New South Wales. As an associate professor of equine surgery, his interests range from upper airway dysfunction of exercising horses to the biomechanical properties of the equine superficial flexor tendon. These experts, as well as a number of other well-qualified lecturers, will join KER's Dr. Joe Pagan, Dr. Peter Huntington, and Dr. Larry Lawrence in presenting the latest findings on the equine skeleton.

On the first day of the conference, participants may choose from concurrent programs. The clinical session will encompass an overview of bone disease followed by detailed presentations on the surgical, medical, and nutritional management of osteochondritis dissecans (OCD). This session will also address techniques for the treatment of hock lameness and will wrap up with a panel discussion of pre-sale radiographs. A parallel program will focus on normal bone development, nutrition of broodmares and young horses, and the importance of bone disease and OCD as they impact the horse owner and breeder.

Lectures on the second day will review conformation and bone disease research from the United States, the Netherlands, and Australia. Horse breeders and trainers may be especially interested in a talk on the positive and negative effects of various growth-promoting drugs (somatotropin, anabolic steroids) on young horses.

The final day's program will be built around the influence of pasture, feeding, exercise, and training on weanlings, yearlings, and two-year-olds. Broodmare nutrition and its impact on development of the foal will also be covered.

In addition to learning about the equine skeleton, visitors to Sydney will want to experience the unique scenery and culture of this major metropolis. With a population of over 3 1/2 million, Sydney offers virtually every type of dining, entertainment, shopping, and educational experi-



ence that a tourist can imagine. Restaurants range from casual to haute cuisine, and the adventuresome diner can sample authentic fare from practically any region of the globe. For those in search of a unique souvenir or gift, stores and specialty shops are found in every corner of the city.

Sydney boasts an eclectic array of museums with displays devoted to artillery, tennis, toys, railways, busses and trucks, bakeries, fire and police, just to name a few. Art museums abound, and the display of Aboriginal art and culture at the Art Gallery of New South Wales may be of particular interest. Those with an interest in the ocean should not miss the National Maritime Museum. For space enthusiasts, the Sydney Observatory offers talks, exhibits, and observation of the sun through solar-filtered telescopes. A new space theater allows patrons to experience a three-dimensional flight through the solar system.

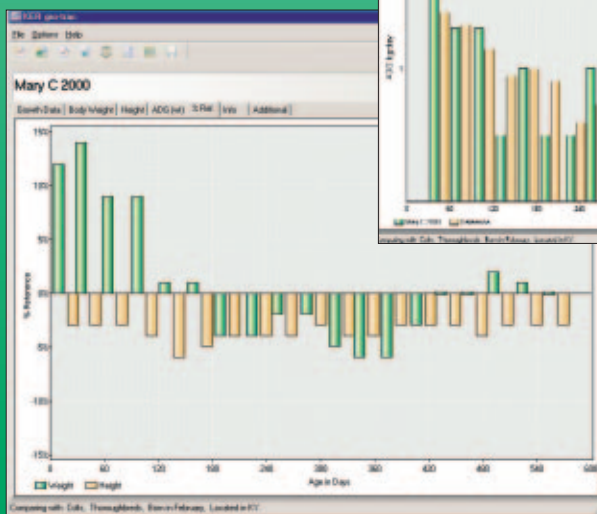
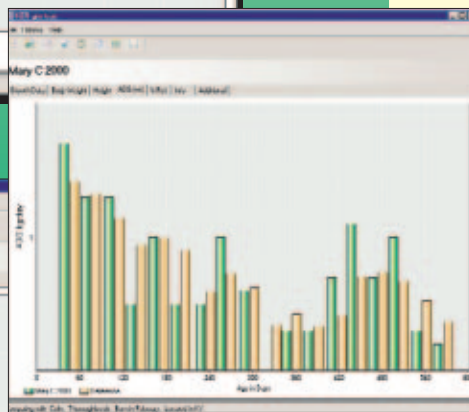
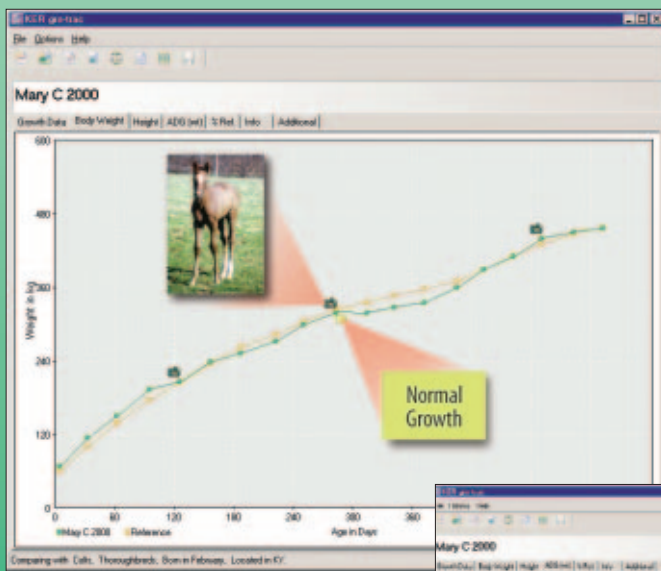
The Royal Botanic Gardens, a large green space just south of Sydney Harbour, features guided walks and over 7500 plant species interspersed with ponds, garden shops, and outdoor sculptures. Anyone wanting a longer trek should visit the Royal National Park just outside the city. Waterfalls and other beautiful scenery can be enjoyed on hikes or bicycle rides varying from half an hour to two days in length. Less stressful park tours are available by tram, train, ferry-boat, or private automobile.

Combine science and sightseeing in one memorable trip to Sydney. Registration forms can be found on the Web at [www.ker.com](http://www.ker.com). Details can be obtained by calling 859-873-5663 or e-mailing [ephethan@ker.com](mailto:ephethan@ker.com). ☺

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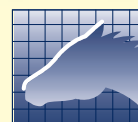
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