

Working on a Beef Cattle Station (Part 2)

TRANSCRIPTS

For video clips

Ride horses to carry out stock work



Interactive video resource to assist in training
Certificate II in Agriculture



LitCom Training Service

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TRANSCRIPTS AND GLOSSARIES

The total duration of the seventeen video clips is **approximately 80 minutes**.

These video **Transcripts** can be used by the learner in the following ways:

- To help the learner to read along with the talking in the videos;
- To build the learner's skills for listening to Australian people talking English;
- To help to find answers for the *Quizzes*
- To learn workplace-specific words for communicating and reporting at work.

Vocabulary Exercise:

Challenging workplace specific words are **highlighted** in the Transcripts document with a *Vocabulary Exercise* which invites the learner to look up and write down the meaning of the words (in their own language if English is not their first language).

An interactive **Glossary** can also be found in the Glossary tab at the top of Modules 1 and 2.

NOTE:

Full **Transcripts** of the explanatory narrative in the eLearning modules are in the menu of each module in the **Notes tab** for each slide.

MODULE 1: Care for saddlery and equipment



Video Clip 1.1

Clean and maintain saddlery and equipment

Heath: You have to keep your gear clean.

With **saddle pads**, time needs to be allocated to soak them in a bucket, and then letting them soak overnight or something like that. Or putting them in the washing machine if they're.....you can't put something like that in a washing machine and clean them out. You can rinse them, a pressure cleaner works really well.

The thicker the pad, the more room there is in there to take a little bit of sweat. Whereas a thin pad like this...if that's against the horse that will fill with sweat really quickly. So, you'll have to wash this much more often than these. And they're still not too hard to clean – I just soak them overnight, hit them with a pressure cleaner – pressure cleaner's the right way to wash pads – they just drill the dirt out, they're quite aggressive. They're great.

This pad is bordering on needing a wash. It's actually not stiff at all, but So it's not all that full of sweat, but he is getting due for a wash. So what I'll do is I'll, if I knew I had a day off, I would wash that pad in that afternoon and then it can have a day to dry off during my day off and it's right to go on the next day. See the difference of either side. And if you drop it in the dirt, always brush it off and rub your hand and feel there's no burrs or bindii, prickles – it's really important. It'd be like having bindii in your underpants.

There are three main fabrics that people use for **bridles**: leather, webbing or PVC. For station work, I actually prefer the PVC. They're quite strong, they're quite cheap and they're the lowest maintenance. And basically you just need to wipe them down periodically. The easiest way to wash them is dump them in a bucket or trough and then just give them a rinse in a trough and then it rubs the surface sweat off and keeps the bit clean. Whereas these ... these actually store a lot of sweat which really gets into the fabric and it gets very stiff and it'll start to rot the fabric. It actually needs quite a bit of cleaning. You need to wash these regularly. Leather takes a lot of maintenance too 'cos the humidity and moisture from the sweat really gets in and can really rot the leather. So it really needs to be kept clean and it needs to have saddle soap or a dressing put on it to protect it from sweat and moisture.

You see this **bit** here – has got saliva and a bit of horse food and remains on the bit. It needs a clean. Put it in a bucket of water for a little bit and if it's fresh, it'll wash straight off. If it's been on there for a while you might just need to get a brush and really just clean, clean that off because that bit there can rub on the horse's mouth. So it needs to be kept clean.

So with your counter lined saddles, you need to make sure that underneath,

rub your hands along. Make sure there's not just something sharp in there of prickly and just keep it clean. If you have one of these flaps here, cos they're against the horse, get very sweaty and you can see it's quite stiff and they really need regular cleaning and oiling.

This **girth** here – look at the quality of this **girth**. You can see that that's got a real split. Look at that. So, if that was on a horse, I can feel if I put my finger in there, and pull it around like that, it can really bites into my hand because this stuff's got quite a sharp edge and it really just bites here. Okay, so that needs replacing. That's going to pinch a horse or rub them so that really needs to be replaced. Similarly this girth's had it's day too because it's you can see that these cords are broken and these two aren't very well supported so pretty soon they would break and all only have half the girth holding on and you could be in for a big wreck. So, this girth is due for a retirement as well. Whereas this girth, whilst in good condition, needs a wash. Once they're rinsed for a while the pressure cleaners are really great and force the mud and dirt out.

This here, this is starting to fray. This hole was originally burnt right there, but you can see that that's torn from there to there. So, similarly you can this one here? It's torn from there down to there. That needs replacing because it's just starting to tear and if it tears and I'm on a horse and it bucks or it's galloping around and some of that tears and lets go, I'm in a world of trouble. Looking at this here, it looks okay through here, then when you start getting down here, you can see it's really starting to **deteriorate**. See look at that This is rotting. That needs replacing.

Video Clip 1.2

Select and fit basic working gear

When I'm carrying my **halter** what I do is I put my palm up through the nose band with the tail away from me, and I put it over like that. And then I get this, I get it like this and I just drape it in the crook of my elbow like that. That is how I carry a halter. When I got to catch the horse you'll see why that is the most efficient way to have your rope ready.

What I don't want to do is do this. Now see how that's a circle? Now if I put the halter on that horse and something happens and it pulls back, all of a sudden there's a circle round my arm and I might get dragged and I'm I trouble. So it's important with this bit of rope that I just drop it across like that.

So when I come to here, I rub with this hand first, so I go: one, two, three, and then I'm ready to go there and come to here and bring that hand to here, and bring it over and I come through, like that, and I put this hand here and hold it and I go around the back towards the head and through there.

It's important the way you do this because if you do it the other way and go forwards and come this way, this ends up around their eye, which I don't want. It's very important when you come down and around the back. You don't go up. The reason is if you go up like that, if I pull on that, see how far it runs? And all of a sudden my halter's all too loose.

This pad here, it's like folded in half and then stitched together, so they're

always going to go like that and that protects that section. So it's not going to go like this. And I like to put the open bit at the back and the fold at the front. So the fold is across the front and then I can move it back. And I want to make sure it's not sort of like this, because that will cause pressure and a rub spot. And I check it's even because I don't want it to be like that or like this, sort of thing, I want to make sure that it's even.

Now because horses' hair, if it's not in the right spot I would rather it further forwards than too far back. The reason being if I need to adjust it, it's going with the hair. When the horse has a bigger spring in the rib it keeps the saddle in place.

This sort of shaped horse I'd be looking at him and thinking, right, he's fairly slim through here so I would like a breast plate on him when I'm going to ride him so that the saddle doesn't slide back.

The way I put these saddles on is a little differently to the Poley saddles. What I do with these I hold them like this and I just swing them on. I just swing up and over onto the horse. It's a bit like putting your hat on. When you put your hat on you don't sort of sneak it on, you don't slam it on, you just put it on. I go like this and I just swing it back and on.

I come here, now I've got this all organised, it's all hooked up here. I've got the main girth and the back girth and the breast plate all hooked up onto this thing here. It's just all together, it's all organised. All I need to do is undo it. You don't want that folded back like that, you've got to make sure that that's all good. Because this breast plate is a loop breast plate, it means I've got to feed the girth through it before I put the latigo on it. So all I need to do is just to feed that back like that and that's ready to go.

Now just rub, grab my girth and just hold it lightly. Now I'm going to reach around here and get my breast plate, make sure it's not twisted, and I'm going to put this through his legs, feed that through there like so, so I can just get this and tuck that through here and I can just pull on it and through it goes. I always go through once, twice, three times. And then I just pull it up a little.

Now if this horse was to buck now, that saddle would stay there. If I pull on this, see, it won't slide because it's through three times. One, two and there's the third one. And you can put the pin through the hole like so, and I can just tuck that up through there. If that's not long enough, I can always tuck it through here, like that. It's all neat and it's out of the road.

What's left to do is to finish off doing my breast plate, this is the last thing to do here, put that through there. So let's have a look and see how this fits, I come around here. That's not too bad. You can see I can get my hands behind it, so that's fine.

Now the back girth, doesn't need to be as tight as the front girth but if you have it down like this, and you're riding around, and then something happens and you're doing something fast and all of a sudden that part comes up like that and grabs him under the belly like that and gives him a surprise, then you might get

a surprise. I wouldn't have it anything looser than that, but I wouldn't have it any tighter than that. I can still get my fingers in here.

Select a bit: Most bits you find are a *bar bit*. If someone was to pull too hard on one rein, as they pull on this rein and this is against the cheek and you won't pull the bit through the mouth. Because if you have a *ring bit*, what can happen is when, if someone pulls too hard on one rein, what can happen is this ring on this side can pivot and come through the mouth. That's the purpose of this keeper underneath; it helps keep this ring straight and doesn't allow it to roll and come through the mouth. This bit should not be used in any circumstances. It's very thin, it's very savage, and it's what I would call a good excuse for bad hands. And by that I mean you're not a good enough rider and you've got bad hands and you're rough with your hands, you can't get your horse to stop so you put a sharper bit on to try to make it stop. That's just not on. You need to learn to be a better rider.

Fit a bridle and bit: Now the way I put the bridle on, the one hand's here and I'm going to get this and I'm going to put the nose through here like that. Okay? So I'm going to put the nose there here and you can see the bit's slightly under her jaw like that. Now I'm going to switch and put this hand up at the top, and then I'm ready to put that on.

Now when I go and get the bit, what I do is I put my little finger and my thumb behind the bit and then I place it into her mouth. Now this thumb, if required, if she refuses to open her mouth up, then I can use this thumb in the corner of her mouth here to help open the mouth up. So if I put my finger in here, see how they tend to open their mouth?

Now as far as getting worried about getting your finger bitten, horses' teeth, the front teeth finish about there, and the back teeth don't start until about there. So there's a gap through there where it's just gum and there's no contact, they can't bite your finger. I can put my finger in there and she can't bite my finger. And that's why the bit works because the bit goes not where the teeth are, it goes through that gap.

So, I've got my bridle organised. Hand here, nose through the middle like that and I just lift it a little so that the nose is in through there. I switch, put my hand up between her ears and I get my hand like that, grab the bit like that, and then I sort of place it into her mouth like this. And then this hand comes here and pushes that ear forwards, and the other ear I just go backwards across it like that. And then I get the hair and I just arrange it so it's not all tied up.

Now where this bit's sitting here, to me is pretty close to spot on. You can see that there's a little bit of play there, so it's not too tight, it's not jammed up like that. See how that's pulled right up and it's really tight? That's too tight. But if it was looser, that's too loose. See how that's flopping around and there's a huge gap, I can get my finger in between there. That's too loose. There's too much play there that can rattle around and clatter in her teeth and annoy her.

Video Clip
1.3**Store**
working gear
and saddlery

So when I'm carrying these saddles I put it on my hip, and then reach across to this side. So I carry it like that. That's a very easy way to carry it.

Another way you can carry them is like that. If I have to transport it somewhere or store it somewhere, if it's on a rail, then I'm going to put it up over the rail and I'm going to make sure that nothing's sort of gotten folded under and trapped. So, you know, that I don't have the girth scrunched it under it like this.

Similarly, if that's like that, there's too much weight on this side so it's not balanced. It's already a little imbalanced because you've got the girth on one side and not on the other because there's already a slight imbalance in weight. So I don't want to do that, and I don't want to leave one of these up here like that because what happens is leather has a memory, and by that I mean if you leave it like that, it's going to end up like this. You'll end up with a saddle like that, the leather will set like that. So if it's on a rail I'll put it like that.

Now if I have to put it on a Ute or on the ground somewhere for whatever reason, what I do is I stand it on here. I sort of swing it and get the stirrups out away from it like this, so I go out of way, and I stand it like that. That's how I would have it.

What I don't want to do is I don't want to just throw it on the ground because, see, this is scrunched around here and plus, you see, this is in the dirt. Look at that, I've got it full of dirt and rubbish. So I'd much rather transport it like that.

Obviously we wouldn't normally just be throwing our gear on the ground but just for filming purposes it's just a place where I can grab them from and I can show you how we're going to hang them on the hook.

So I have my hole done, I don't want to just throw it on without any thought about it. I want to hook it up very much so that when I go to grab it, it's ready to go. So remember, I put my hand through here, hold that over there, and then I can just ... I want to make sure it's not on the ground so when I go to hang it up, if this drapes on the ground I'm going to have to fold that up shorter.

So I'm going to put it up like so, so that when I go to grab it, I can grab it here and I can see this and I'm ready to go, over the crook of the elbow, nose band there, go and catch your horse. So I've got some girths here, and actually I would just hang them on the hook, they can just hang like that. Hobbles, I will just put them through one of these and just hook them up here.

With the helmet, I either want them like this or hung on their side. I don't want them on a bench like that. So if it's on a bench, they don't fill up with rats' nests and sand and dust and hay and flying objects. So I just hook it on a strap like so. And if I've got leather reins. What I don't want to have happen is get lots of twists and crimps and so forth in them, so what I actually want to do is I get it through the top again, same, but I get this and I'm going to hang it like that. So you can see that there's no twist here, it's flat, there's no twist there, and that's taking care of your gear.

I don't want to be lazy and just put it like that. I want to put it on and just put it

on nice and neat so that it's all hanging symmetrically and all the material, the leather's all set straight. It's not just slop it. And if there's two hooks, you might only have one and you might have to put it on like that but if you've got two, I would much rather put it over two because you don't get that sharp fold in the leather.

And if I've got a stock whip, I just hang it up, usually around where that knot is so I'll have it up the top near the handle, just next to the handle, and just next to the [fall?] and it's going to sit there nicely.

Again, if I've got the choice I'll hang it over the two so they're not folded tightly, and if I've got spurs, I just do the ... they're together and what I like to do with a pair of spurs is interlock them so they don't get separated, they're together, and I can hang them up here. It's very important. It looks neat but it's very easy to find something, it's organised, it's ready to go. When I go to get my bridle it's ready to go.

MODULE 2: Prepare horses before and after work



Video Clip 2.1

Identify OSH hazards

When horses kick, the way they're mechanically designed is that that distance there, he can kick out that far, so he can kick a long way, and especially if he comes back a little bit and then kicks at me, he's got quite a range and it's like being punched. If I punched him from here I can't actually hit him that hard. But if I come back here and get right on the end of my punch, that's where your king-hit power is.

It's the same with a kick. If I'm here and he actually kicked me, he can't actually kick me that hard. But if I'm in this range, I can really get the full power of the full flick of his kick. So being aware of that, in order to keep myself safe and himself safe, what he actually needs to learn is that if I ask him to, that he can move away.

If I need to go and catch this horse I have two options: I can either walk ... obviously I can't walk through here. Once I get in this zone I'm in the kicking zone. So I either need to talk right around him to catch him ...

Another thing that's good to do is to teach him to move away because he learns that rather than kicking, or being pressured and confined and needing to kick, he can learn he can just move away. So obviously if I walked around I can do that but I'm going to show you how I would move him.

So I'm going to come in here, I'm going to be out of his range, I'm going to ask him to move away [clicking noise]. He moved a little bit [clicking noise], and there. He's still a little close, isn't he, so if I stepped in here he could step into me and I'm a bit cornered so I'm going to go [clicking noise]. There. So he's learnt something there, too. He's learnt that if I come in and cause some pressure or ask him to move, it is his responsibility to move off, and now I can go in and I can catch him. That way I keep myself safe and I also teach him how to move his feet and respect me as well.

The correct way to lead a horse is to lead them with about this much length. What you don't want to do is try to lead them from here. It's like someone holding you by the neck tight and pulling you around like that. So that is too short, the horse is going to be all claustrophobic, you're probably going to pull the horse on top of you like that. But you don't want to be so long that you're out here somewhere because if she was to shoot past me, all of a sudden she could shoot past and I'm in the way and she might kick me.

See, I might hold the rope like that, or hold the tail here. What I don't want to be doing, so when it's around my hand or my arm, that is very dangerous. If she pulls back, I'm stuck. So always have it go down and come back, not down and around.

One rule is when you go to saddle, unless it's a really old horse that you really know well and you know that they're just fine to saddle up every time, do not have them tied up in the saddle because if she's tied up and I'm doing the girth up and then she goes to buck and she's pulling back and jumping into the fence and all sorts of things. So for her safety as much as anything, I don't want her to be tied up while I'm saddling.

This horse is a stallion and the first thing I would say is if you're inexperienced, you should not be handling a stallion until you become more experienced because a stallion has a different viewpoint on life to your mares and your geldings. They're testosterone based and their mindset is to breed and to fight and things like that.

So I'm just going to head down here and just go past and you're going to see him, he's probably going to carry on. I just want to get his attention, get his attention, there, that was pretty good, got his attention. You should be aware all the time of any horse but stallions in particular, if I was to start walking along like this and I'm not paying attention, anything could happen.

When you're feeding a group of horses, if there's six horses and you might have three or four bags on, when you put your nose bag on to this horse, it's very important that I move away because what's often going to happen is another horse is going to try and pinch that food, and if I'm here, and stay with this horse, then another horse can be trying to get aggressive and her dynamic of trying to fight over the feed, I can get caught in the middle of it. So if I put it on and I move away, then the horses, if they want to, see if they can get at that food, they can, and then the other horse can follow me and I can put a nose bag on them. They very quickly learn the drill and they get quite good to

handle.

We're here now to talk about feeding in the yard situation into buckets. Now the smart thing to do would be to put the feed in first into the buckets and then let the horses in and there's not a risk. For filming purposes we're about to show carrying feed through horses which is a bit of a danger area. Horses are herd animals and they're inclined to dominate and so forth so the most dominant horse is often going to be in the corner first and as we go in our body language has to be assertive and then we're going to head in and feed.

So what we're going to do is we're going to head into the back first, otherwise we're starting in the corner where everyone is. Now, as you can see, there's a little bit of bossing going on from various horses, so it's very important to be just aware of your surroundings, where the horses are and to be assertive at all times.

Okay, it's got one hand free. There's two buckets of feed out but rather than take two at once, if something happens you can't actually get the other horses away from her so she's got one hand in the bucket and one hand free that she can use. There's a good example of expression; that mare was testing the waters.

You'll notice none of these feed bins are right in corners so if a dominant horse comes up to a feed bin, where a less dominant horse is, the less dominant horse has somewhere to go to escape from the other horse.

Video Clip 2.2

Select and use PPE

Certain workplaces it's a requirement to wear a helmet. You're going to be wearing this possibly all day so you really want to try and find a helmet that fits alright. Now this helmet here, when I put it on, it sort of fits but it's quite tight and so I suspect, and obviously they're hard and don't have any give, so if I was out riding all day, this is pushing on the front of my head and it's quite uncomfortable so it's not going to be pleasant wearing this for four to six or eight hours.

This helmet fits a lot better and it's much more comfortable to wear. If it was too big and you get this sort of thing happening and it's too wobbly, what you don't want to have happen is if you ride and something happens and then your helmet flips over your eyes like that, that is quite a risk. Or flips right back and it doesn't actually protect you at all. So make sure you get a helmet that fits right because then no fun at all to wear if they don't fit.

If you're in a place where you are able to wear a wide brim hat then that's obviously fine, and the advantage that a wide brim hat has, they do not have the head protection that a helmet would but they have the sun protection, so get a decent wide brim hat, obviously that fits so it's not flying off every time you have to speed up and then you've got to go back and try to find your hat and you waste time and you might lose cattle, you might lose your hat. Get a hat that fits and it keeps the sun off you and it's comfortable.

I choose to wear a long-sleeved shirt. As you get older you get more aware of skin cancers, you don't think about them much when you're younger, but it's important to look after yourself.

Also the more skin exposure you have with direct sun, the hotter you're going to get. That's why I choose to wear a long-sleeved shirt it keeps the sun off me so I'm cooler and work's more pleasurable. So naturally it's like any clothing, good fitting clothing, a collared shirt just keeps the sun off your neck here.

Now as far as the jeans go, it's best to get jeans that are designed for riding because when you're riding you're not standing, obviously, you're sitting and the bottom of your jeans, because it's against the saddle that's going to pull up to that lowest point which is going to pull your jeans up. So if your jeans are a little short, by the time you sit in the saddle and it pulls them up here and then it goes around your knees and they bunch around your knees, it's really going to pull the ends up. So I wear jeans that are two or even four inches longer in the leg. They might look a little long when I'm walking around but once I get on a horse and then this part here is going to scrunch a little when you're riding and this part here is going to scrunch a little when you're riding and all of a sudden it pulls your jeans up. So it's wise to get jeans that are designed for riding, they're going to be a lot more comfortable.

The main thing with boots is there's two sides: there's comfort and safety. Now with the stirrup, the big risk is getting your foot stuck in the stirrup, so if you had a saddle, this probably won't even fit. Look, this just fits. Now if I'm riding along and then something happened and for whatever reason I came off my horse, then I'm going to come off and that's stuck, and if you've got to sort of pull on that, you're not going to be able to get that off. So that's where the danger lies. You want to have stirrups that are large enough that you can out your boot in there and they're not going to get stuck.

I'll give you another example here. With these shoes here, these are reasonably popular, especially if you're doing yard work as well as riding because they've got almost like a sandshoe finish to them, so they're more comfortable to wear for lengths of time when you're on your feet than these boots, but, they're a lot more dangerous because they get in here and if I was to come off, they don't really want to come through there. I've got to really reef on it and you really don't want to be getting your foot stuck in the stirrup, there's some real danger.

Video Clip 2.3

Catch and tie up a horse

I'm going to try to catch this black and white paint horse so you can see which one we're working to try to block. So my job is to try to get his feet to stop. So he's here – I'm going to step across a little bit and see if I can get a few horses to come past. Now well before he gets in the mix, like here, I'm going to step across and make sure – if I leave it too late, he's just going to paw through like the rest of them. If he turns around like that, it's an opportunity for me to step up again and get some more to come through. Now if I can get across and make sure I get him blocked. Now if there's a f... waiting then I can get up towards him. Now if he turns away, I can push on him a little which gives me a

chance to let this horse come through. Now I've got to block, block, then I pause. When he gets his feet stopped, I pause. Now I'm going to go up to him, and if he goes to move and head off, I'm going to pause. There you see he's got a worried lift of his head like he's going to head off ... pause, and by pausing I try to help him to stay. And I put my arm around and I've got my halter ready and bang, I can put him on like that. That's the way I'd go about catching him. Your job is to get their feet stopped.

So always tie them to something solid, with something solid.

The distance I would like to tie is about that long, because if they're this long, he can turn around and get all tangled up in the rope, but if it's too short, like this, that's too short, he's going to feel all trapped, it's too close. So I'm going to do it a little bit looser like that.

Now the knot I do is called a **bowline**. The way to do a bowline is do a circle, and then you go through the circle first like that, and you know if you've done it the right way because the circle doesn't disappear. If I do it the wrong way, when I go to go through that circle, look at that, when I pull on it, the circle disappears, so that's the wrong way. So I'll put it through here.

Now be very careful that not to put your finger through there because watch this, see this horse pulls back and it will break my finger. I've seen people lose fingers from it. So you put the rope through, and you go around here, and again don't put your fingers in here, go through that, and that is a bowline. And the beauty of a bowline is if they pull back, they pull back really hard, you can always get the knot undone.

Video Clip 2.4

Grooming

So in your temperate regions or up north you've got to watch out for **ticks**. So ticks tend to aim for the thinnest, most sensitive skin which is generally found sometimes along the bottom. Generally the under-side of an animal is the most likely place a tick would be.

I like to run my hands along so I might get my hand and press and go with the hair and press and just rub and then I will feel a tick as I go over it. Now when you get back down here, what might be safer is just to squat a little bit and just look up into that area, so I might look up in here, just have a little bit of a look here, and I can see it's all pretty clear, or I can come down here and I can rub her a little bit and I'm just going to get the tail and I'm going to sort of hold it out of the way, just have a bit of a look.

Because this is quite **sensitive** skin in here. This skin in here is very sensitive and it's actually probably the most likely place that a tick will go. The thinner the skin the better. They're not going to go through the thicker skin. So it just pays to check in under around here to make sure that there's not a tick there, but particularly on the girth area. That's probably the most important place.

With the grooming, the main places that are very critical in the grooming is the square where the pad's going to go, and the strip where the girth's going to go.

That is the most **critical**. Now the trick with a brush is to push a little and push with a bit of downward pressure and then go with the hair, so I don't go across the hair or against the hair like that. You can see that it just doesn't run smoothly. They're designed to go with the hair. So I go push, brush. So I push and brush.

And I find horses prefer it if you do it reasonably quickly like that, so there's a reasonable speed in it rather than just going really slowly. Do it a little quicker like you're brushing dirt off your jeans. It's the same sort of thing. So when I come here I go brush, brush, brush.

With the station horse you don't have to get ridiculously carried away with their mane and so forth but you just don't want them to have them knots or prickles or tangles or things like that. So you can just use a stuff brush and it's got stiff bristles, they've got that little bit of give, but they'll sort of work their way through the mane a little bit.

Now if they do have quite a bad knot, sometimes you can use your fingers and you can just grab little pieces of hair and just pull it around, and if you only do a couple at a time you can actually just get them out and not lose too much hair. And another option you do have is to use a knife, obviously be very careful you don't cut yourself or the horse. Don't stab it into your horse, obviously, but to be very careful and you might be able to just work a knot out just by quietly running it through and getting the knot out.

Now with the tail, I want to come down here, I want to help her relax. I want to help her realise that I'm going to brush her a little. I stay nice and close. You're safer if you're close. If I'm out here wanting to do it like this, she's going to feel more threatened. If I come in nice and close and I'm going to bring it across like that, and I'm not going to be pulling on it to upset her, I'm going to start brushing it a little and then I'm just going to go up in increments. So I'm going to the end bit, and then I'm going to go up a little bit and I'm going to brush that; go up a bit and brush that, and it helps me brush it out.

Once I get all this brushed all nice and smooth, when I move up to there then it only has to work a little bit and separate and then it's free running. Whereas I start up here it's just hard going all the way.

So you can see now the end here, it's all pretty good. I've hardly lost any tail. What I don't want to be doing is tearing it all out. Tearing it out.

This is a 'bird's nest' in the tail. It's very common in the topics through the wet season. A bit of sweat and mud can get in and starts to curl up and it just turns into this huge dreadlock. What we want to avoid is having to cut all that off 'cos he'll have next to nothing of the tail left. So what we do is get some cooking oil or something like that. Bit by bit we work all these looser bits out and then you'll end up losing that main 'bird's nest' but you can save a lot of the extra hair that's going through here. And at least he'll be able to keep the flies and mosquitoes off him.

So when you go to wash a horse, if they haven't been washed before at times

they can get a bit worried about it. So what I'm going to do, ultimately I'm trying to get the mare to stand still, so if I go and spray her like this and she moves around, move around, so she stops, I'm going to take it away.

Now I'm going to come back and if she moves around and moves around and she stops, I'm going to take it away, and basically I'm releasing and helping her stay so I can wash down.

The mains areas is again in this section where the pad was, and this section through here right through where the girth goes, and then between the back legs a bit they can quite sweaty up there. So I just want to make sure that she gets nice and clean, and if she's really sweaty or really dirty, I might go like this, and then I might just rub backwards and forwards like this to really try to get some of that sweat back out and come back over again. And up under this neck area they can get pretty sweaty. I'm going to turn this off and I'm going to grab a scraper.

If you have access to one it's very important to use a scraper. If you don't have access to one, use your hand just to rub that off, because what happens is, especially if it's hot, the water traps the heat so the water on it, it's really hot when you wash them, that water almost boils them underneath so it's important to scrape with the hair. If it's freezing cold in the middle of the dry season then you maybe want to be a bit mindful of that, you don't want to be chucking freezing water on their back at 5:30 in the evening when you finish mustering when there's going to be a frost overnight. But it is pretty important to keep them clean.

Video Clip 2.5**Hoof care**

I just want to go through some foot care and what a hoof should look like. In order to show you properly I'm going to kneel down and face where you normally wouldn't be because it's not a safe place to be but I'm going to hop in there so I can show you the problems with not looking after your horse's feet.

So I come down here and you can see this guy's feet, see this crack here? That's going to cause pain, and then it's going to break away. And you can see here, it's already done so. So it starts like that and then it's going to break away. So that's going to cause soreness, and what can also happen, especially in [Blaxcell?] country, is it can split all the way up that way and that's when you cause some real problems, they can go really lame and sometimes their feet never come good.

And if they've got any flares like that, you need to trim the flares off so it's nice and straight. It's a straight line, not a flare, and they can break away and they can split and do all sorts of things.

You can see this guy's feet, there's a fair bit of corn in the bottom here and you can see that it's a bit long here which is causing pressure and you can see that starting to break away. So I need to trim him back so he hasn't got that long wall that's going to cause pressure.

Now the basic tools I need to do this is a knife, a pair of nippers, and shoeing rasp. Basically how I go about this is I might be able to get under this corn here with this, rake that away. When I take the corn out of the bottom I just take back until it's a bit smoother. So flaky stuff can come out. It's a little bit hard for my knife, I use the nippers. So when I nip I get it into position and I squeeze and that's about the length I want to go.

One thing I want to be careful is if I have it on an angle like that, it's going to cut that way and not flat, so I need to hold them this way. And this spot here where it's already breaking away, I'm going to take it a little bit shorter to take the pressure off it. It's a little bit shorter, and then I go back to normal.

So I do most of my work with the nippers, so when I'm rasping I use the rough edge first and I'll push down with this hand and then slide with this hand, like that. Long strokes. And then all I need to do is just take this rough edge off here, and check if there's any flares. So I want to take it forwards this way, here. So I just check to see if there's any flares, and that's pretty good.

See the hoof? It's a little bit like our fingernail where there's the live stuff and then you can chew your fingernail to the end and, like, there doesn't hurt. But if you go too deep it'll hurt so it's a bit the same, if I go too deep, I get into live foot where it's painful. So I just want to take a little bit off and not get too carried away.

Now we're going to go through picking the back foot up, and we're going to use a hoof pick to clean out the back feet. Got the hook action to clean mud, manure and dirt out of their feet.

So I come in here to this spot here, there's a bone just here, and I can put it

here but if something happens, I can just push back a little bit. Again, I stay nice and close, and what I do is I firmly brush down the leg, and I want to pull up here a little bit. As soon as I can I want to grab that foot, rather than grab my horse here. Horses don't like being grabbed here.

So I've got the bottom of the foot. Now when I want to go back, it's very important that I do it in a comfortable manner for the horse. So watch this, I'm going to come in nice and low like this. What I don't want to do is do this and pull them right out here, make her really uncomfortable and walk her back. She's quite uncomfortable with me doing that, so I'm creating a problem. See, she's already tense, she didn't like that. So when I come in here I come in lower and I bend my knees a little and sits across my leg. So it's in a comfortable position for her.

Now I grab this and I want to dig down. The frog is in a V like that, so I want to go into this corner and I want to go push in and flick it out. Push in and flick it out. You can see the frog coming through now. This V-section is named the frog.

So here's a horse with a set of shoes on. They've been on for about five weeks, and they should be re-shod every six, so she's getting very close to needing a new set of shoes, so what happens is the hoof grows down and you need to take the shoe off and trim it back and re-set the shoe and put a new set of shoes on. So like I say, they've been on for five, nearly six weeks, they're ready to be re-shod, you can see there's a bit of growth through here because the hoof has grown down. You can see the heels are nice and even, the show is on nice and square, it's not twisted this way or that way, they're nice and even across here, which is very important.

Video Clip 2.6

Identify unhealthy or unsound horses

I'm going to go through a few things that are symptoms of horses being unhealthy so you can identify them, be **observant**, identify them and report them to your boss.

If you've been around a horse for a while, especially if it's your horse, you start to know what he should be like most days. So if he's all lethargic and he looks sick, then let someone know because there might be something wrong with him. Especially if you're going to go on a muster, if he seems all sick and crook, the last thing you want to do is go on a huge big ride on him. And lethargy is mainly just being really tired and seeming sick, like, if you're really crook one day.

If a horse doesn't get to drink enough water, then they can get **dehydrated**, just like us, and the way you can tell if a horse is dehydrated, there's two things. One is the colour of their gums. If their gums are like nice and pink, which is what they should look like.

The other thing you can tell if they're dehydrated is their skin, and this is called the skin fold test, and you pinch like that and pull out on it. See, that's gone

very quickly. I'll do it again. I'll pull it out like that and let it go...and it's gone very quickly which means she has got nice fluid in there. But if you do that and it stays up like that for a long time, it means they're dehydrated.

The wet season can be pretty hard on a horse's eyes, mainly because of the flies. The flies come in and they eat around their eyes and they can create sores and they can get like a discharge, like a boogie, so you've got to keep that nice and clean. And also check for colour because if they're blue, if they've got, like, a blue tinge then something can be wrong there. Or, if they get an ulcer, they can get a grass seed in there and that can cause a very sore eye. So always just check that they're not swollen or one's not more shut than the other and just check that they're okay in the eyes.

Now before, during or after you work a horse, you've got to be aware of lameness, and lameness is like sore, you know, going on like this one. So look for cuts, swelling and soreness like that. So if they're sore, and you're about to go mustering, you're going to need another horse.

So I always want to know what my horse's leg should look like and to see whether there's a swelling. Usually it'll be in, like, the knee or down here, or sometimes it's all the way. It's got to be very sore because it's swelled up and painful, so always, when you catch your horse, just look down and check that there's no swelling or any cuts, because it's not fair to take him mustering or riding if he's got a sore leg.

Two of the main areas a horse needs to be very healthy in is in his back and his legs. Now at the front you'll see, might be on the side, there might be a rub here, or it might be right on top of the wither. You see hair missing and a red, raw patch. That's bad news, you've really got to look after him and stop riding him. You've got to look after it or they could have it back here. And it's either from a saddle that doesn't fit very well, or a saddle pad that got all scrunched up and folded and ended up rubbing on their back like that, or riding really bad and bouncing on their back and hurting his back like that. So it's important to have good, clean gear, and get better as a rider so that doesn't happen.

Another thing a horse can get is a **girth gall**, and your girth runs around here and they can rub there, usually when they're unfit after a wet season, or when they're young and have soft skin. And they can get a real red, raw rub in here. You've got to keep an eye out for it, so when you wash your horse and put it away, just always check there that they haven't rubbed so you know for next time you don't go and catch your horse and not realise that he's got a rub there. So you've got to really look after it and out some cream on him.

So as well as getting a rub somewhere, they can also get sore in the muscle. So I hold my hand about that far apart and the backbone runs down the middle and I go either side of the backbone and I run them down like that. She's not moving. If she was to dip she might have a sore back, and if she has a sore back then she's going to need some time off to let that soreness go away.

A little bit like getting the girth gall is where they rub up under the girth, they

can get a **mouth gall** rubbing in here. It's sensitive skin in here. If you ride with bad hands and pull on his head too much, then you're going to rub him and make him sore in there, and it's just like the girth gall, it needs to **heal** and he can't be ridden for a little while.

Colic is something that happens occasionally and what colic is there's lots of different things that can cause colic but it's basically a sore stomach, when a horse has it's like a really bad stomach ache, and horses don't have the ability to vomit like a person or things like that so they can get into a lot of distress and discomfort and it can kill horses. So usually the signs that you see with colic are especially rolling a lot. When they go and roll and get up and they roll again and they get up, and they roll again, or if they're just looking sick and they're kind of looking at their stomach or biting their stomach or kicking at their stomach with their back feet, obviously check it's just not for flies but colic is quite dangerous and it can really kill a horse if you're not careful. So if you think you see the symptoms of something like that then let your supervisor know straight away.

Video Clip 2.7

Nose bags are a great way to feed a horse on a station. They're easy to transport because they fold up quite small; they're easy to carry, I can carry six or eight.

Mix and offer feeds

This bag's in quite good condition, it's got a mesh side so the water can escape and also a solid bottom so the dirt doesn't come in. This bag here has seen better days, and you can see here that it's leaking the food. So this bag really needs to be replaced.

When I put a nose bag on, I don't want to put it on like this because I'm in the danger zone. Because if she got a fright, and suddenly got threatened by something in here face here, what's going to happen is she might strike at me and get me. So I'm going to be side on and face the same way as she's facing.

So I come in here and I get her nose in here – there. Now that's a pretty good height that the feed's on. If anything I'd maybe shorten this up a tiny bit. She needs to have a space between her **muzzle** and the feed so that she's not forced in and she can breathe properly.

If it's too loose, say, down like this, then she's at risk of getting it off, that might roll around her nose, see that, it's annoying her. So do it up a little bit so there's still some room there and then she gets to eat all that feed and the other horses can't pinch it off her.

So if I've been asked to go and get a nose bag for a horse, this is a two litre dipper, so usually around two litres for most horses is going to be the adequate amount of feed. It's very important to keep the feed dry so it's free of mould and also just to keep the mice of it, so the mice can't get in and eat the feed, so something like this is great. You can even use a bin – that can do the same thing.

If you have to top up the feed bin, obviously be very careful, bend your knees,

keep your back straight and use your legs more and I can tip it in.

If you've got horses staying in overnight, that's not going to be enough food, so we need to either give them some hay or some chaff or lucerne. If I'm feeding some hay, more commonly we're starting to get **compressed hay** due to ease of handling. The thing to bear in mind is this bale here weighs more than the big bales because of the compression. And the thing to bear in mind is that when you feed, you generally feed, talking [scented?] biscuits. When you break a bale open you'll see it splits into biscuits like this. So one of these biscuits that might be this wide, when I cut this bale, it might only be an inch, and it's the same amount.

If the feed that you're feeding is a nut or a cube, then it needs either no watering down or very minimal watering down. Things like chaff and lucerne, they'll suck a bit more water and they can a dustier feed.

So this one here, I've dampened this own down a little. You'll see it's nice and damp but if I hold like this you'll see that there's no water down the bottom, so it's not drowned. This feed, on the other hand, I've wet it too much, so you'll see that it's water pouring out of it. That's going to be far less **palatable** to the horse, and it also can **leach out** a lot of the goodness so you defeat the purpose a little bit of feeding your horse.

When horses are locked in for extended periods of time, overnight or for more than a day, they obviously don't have access to food if they're locked in a yard with no feed. So this horse here is getting two biscuits of compressed hay; a fatter horse might get away with one biscuit of compressed hay, and this bucket feed here, this contains a two-litre dipper of lucerne and the rest is oat and chaff, and that way the horse has enough nutrition to be able to **compensate** that they're locked in a yard.

Video Clip 2.8

Vices of horses on the ground

I just want to demonstrate **kicking**. Of course kicking with his back feet is kicking usually with both feet – they can do it with one. Now her bones go like that in a zigzag, so when she kicks it all goes straight. So if she's this long here, she's actually longer back here. So she can kick me here, and it's like a punch, it hurts right on the end of the punch that way whereas punching from here you've got no power. So I'm in more danger here than I am here.

Now a big no-no is to walk up behind a horse. Usually a horse, if they're going to kick, they kick for only two reasons. One – if you give them a fright; and the other one is if they're bossy and rude and they're trying to dominate you.

So if you come up behind them like this you're just coming straight up into the kick zone, so never walk up behind here. Always let your horse know. So if I'm here and the horse is being held by somebody then I could ask that person to move the horse for me. If the horse is tied up, what I could do is I could step around here, maybe, and [clicking noise] I could ask there. See, I can get the horse to move away from me and it moves away from the kicking zone.

Occasionally you'll have a horse that will look to **bite** you, and it might be

when you're doing up the girth or you might be doing something that's annoying them a little bit. Now if this horse comes to bite me, what I do is I lift my elbow up and when they go to bite me I want the elbow to sort of meet them here, so the horse comes in and bumps into me. So I might be sort of here if I'm doing something. Say she comes around here, like that, and I lift this elbow and see, my elbow is above her mouth and then she can't bite me.

Another thing a horse might look to do is **strike**. It's a form of protection for him if he's confused or scared. What he'll do is a strike is like a front foot stomp, almost like a punch, so I'm in the strike zone here, it's where she'll come through. So stand off to the side a little and you're out of the strike zone. So to protect yourself if a horse is thinking striking, one, is to be out of the way; and the other thing is you can move his feet so he's not so frozen.

Another sort of kick is a **cow kick** and you want to be careful of the cow kicks with their back feet and instead of kicking straight out backwards, it's more of a sideways kick. So if this is the back feet on the horse, and you're standing beside him, they actually have the ability to kick across and towards you. So, be careful when you're getting on, going to pick up the back feet or around the side of that, they might have learnt to kick like that, and you need to teach them to move away from you so that you don't get kicked in the knee, it's a little bit of a dangerous spot.

MODULE 3: Ride horses



Video Clip 3.1

Identify and select horses

Horse allocation is very important. If you break it down into inexperienced horses, you know, medium experienced horses and very experienced horses, and similarly the riders. Inexperienced riders, you know, mid-range riders and the very experienced riders. It's the combination that's very important.

What you do not want to have is an inexperienced person with an inexperienced horse – it's a recipe for disaster. And sometimes a horse is experienced but they learn tricks because they've been handled by inexperienced people that don't know how to help the horse go a little better, so they might learn to be naughtier, they might learn to do the wrong thing. So that's not a good combination either.

Also, it's very important to look at what sort of day you're going to have. What you don't want to have is to have a very inexperienced horse, even if it's got a very experienced rider, if it's a huge day with high physical output or high pressure day that that's not the best horse to ride on that day.

Video Clip 3.2

Pre-flight safety

I'm going to show you a very quick **pre-flight check**. So I've just done the saddle up, I haven't moved her yet. Now when I go to move off, something I'm going to have to be aware of, if I don't know her, I've just got to be aware that she might be a girthy horse and look to buck, or if I know her and know that she's a little girthy, I'm even more prepared.

So as I head off, I don't want to lead her off like that because I'm virtually pulling her on top of me, and then if she goes to buck then she's going to buck on top of me. So I've got to have enough length that she can give herself room to stay away from me.

Now, as I head off, I'm watching her in case she goes to do something, because if I head off, she has a buck, she'll just buck straight on top of me.

So I've got my reins organised like this. Now, I'm heading off and I look over my shoulder. Now if she goes to buck, I'm going to step back and lift like that, and that barks her off me, but worst case scenario if she keeps coming I can sort of push off her. So I'm prepared either way. So as I head off I'm watching her, and I just want to let her move. If I've got to be going somewhere like to the truck to go mustering or to where we're going to go and get on, naturally I would head in that direction.

So when I go to get on, general placement is very important. The placement on my hand here is important. I want my hand about halfway up the neck. I

don't want it right up here but I don't want it right down here either. I want it about halfway along here.

Now, if I get into a bind, the worst thing that can happen is to have this part of her body come over me or the hind end to come over me. So safety-wise that is the worst thing that can happen.

So, I make sure that this close rein is shorter so that if this horse was to come this way, I can do this in this way and see that, I can move the hindquarter away. So for my safety and hers, I'm much better off being able to do that.

So I've got my reins here, hand up like that. I make sure this is short enough that I can maybe go like that and bend her like that, and I just get a little bit of mane there so that's a secure point, I'm organised there.

Now the next spot, I'm going to hitch my jeans a little bit here so I'm just not all tangled up and tie up my jeans, and I'm going to twist that around there and I'm going to put my foot in the stirrup, and I make sure my knee goes here, not back here. Now this hand here reaches across and gets this kneepad.

So if you're talking about secure points I've got one, two, three, four, and then I've got my foot on the ground. Now the last thing I do when I get on, I don't get on from here, you watch, I hop to there and face this way and then I spring up. So I spring on this foot, so I go right, left. So I'm here and I go right, left, up, and it's a fluent way of getting on.

Now when I get on and off, remember to keep this leg fairly stiff. One mistake people make is they bend this leg like that. You've got to keep it pretty stiff. So you get that foot and you really sweep it, so you go 'sweep'. And when I get on it's the same thing; I'll do it the wrong way first by bending my leg and then I do it better by having a stiffer leg.

So as I get on, if I have a bent leg, see, I really lose my momentum getting on, and then that could give my horse a fright as I get on if I kick him or bump him back here. So you watch: if I keep a stiffer leg, it's going to sweep up a lot easier. I just go spring, sweep, and then I just want to get my stirrup as quick as I can and I'm on my horse.

My main control on my horse is to be able to say bend them, so bend her this way, for instance, and then put this leg back and move that hindquarter away, and of course the opposite is also true, to be able to bend them to the left, put this leg back and move that hindquarter away. And by doing that you can sort of kick the motor out of gear. If she gets straight and strong, that's like if they're pulling a cart or pulling a plough, that's where all this strength is, is straight, and if they're bucking their strength is to buck straight.

So if you can do that and reach down the rein and bend them this way and then put this leg back and then move that hindquarter away. And if I head off and I feel like she's going to buck I can just go, bend, and push that

hindquarter away like that. It kicks the motor out of gear and if I help her with that, that'll give her some confidence that she can do something different than bucking or taking off. So I want to be able to go forwards, I want to be able to bend and move that hindquarter away. It's one of the most important things I want to be able to do on a horse.

Video Clip 3.3

Horse education

When you go to go somewhere make sure you don't hang onto his head because he can't go anywhere. You've got to make sure his reins are loose, so when the horse is walking, it's a little bit like if I shut my eyes, it's a little bit like a walking movement. I can feel that walking movement. So I don't just sit on him like I'm sitting on a motorbike, you've got to move with the horse, you've got to work ... as you start to ride your horse or ride more, learn how it feels when you're riding your horse. So there's my walk; if I want to walk faster I just sort of bump him a little with my legs to see if I can speed the walk up like that. Very important, mustering, that you can walk fast. You might have to go right up to a mob of cattle a long way away.

So when I want to trot, I don't trot off with big, long, loose rein, I shorten my reins just a little bit, put my hands out here. Now when the horse moves in a trot I've got to go up and down, and you've got to learn to get in time with your horse. If I'm out of time, it doesn't feel good to me and it doesn't feel good to my horse. So this is called a rising trot because I rise up, up, down. Like that. Okay?

The next one I want to be able to do is a canter. So when I'm cantering, you'll see that I'm swaying a little bit to absorb that motion of the canter. Now with a gallop, a gallop is basically just a bit like a fast canter, and you only want to do it unless you really have to. So I'm going to come around here and I want to stop. So when I want to stop ... I don't pull on his head, I just get still, and I might need to ... some horses will stop on that; other horses you might need to hold your reins a little firm to help him stop.

Now if I want to back my horse up, I don't just pull him back, I just pick my reins and hold, I lean my shoulders a little bit, there. So you don't just pull them back. Now when I want to turn around, when my cow goes across here and I want to turn around, I want his front end to turn and his back end to stay still.

The mistake people make is they just pull on that rein, and then see that hindquarter will go out – that's not how I want to turn around. I want him to stop the hind end, use the power and bring the front end through. So when I go to turn, don't just reef on the rein, I want to use both reins, you've got to open that leg so he can come through there, and I want to push with this leg, this leg pushes him through. So I want to go there, open, and then push, push.

So if I go to go the other way, I do it this other way. I go open, open that leg, and then push, push with this leg here. That's how I want my horse to turn around. When the cow goes through there, that's how I want my horse to turn around.

Video Clip 3.4**Handle and
restrain horses**

Etiquette is like doing the right thing by everybody. So see this here, this horse is getting all upset because it's worried. So good manners would be for you two to give me some more room, and now she's more relaxed. So it's working as a team to make sure all the horses are relaxed and not panicking or worried or getting all upset.

If we're coming through a gate, just say it's one of those gates I've got to get off and open the gate, what the other guy should do is come through and wait for me, because some horses, especially going home, will get all upset being left behind. So I'm shutting the gate there, just say they haven't waited for me and this horse is looking out there a little bit, and if I'm on a young horse, it'll get all upset and I might be trying to get on or he's upset he's getting left behind so if they just come through and wait, the horse can stay relaxed and then we can all go together, we can stay as a team.

So here we've got a set of **hobbles**. Now, hobbles go around each front foot. They're to help the horse learn to stand up. They can be useful for out somewhere and we want to just have them so they don't leave the area. So when I go to put it on it's very important that to prepare my horse that I've rubbed his legs. I like to put a rope around his legs so they've had some sort of pressure and they understand and they're not going to panic when they feel this. My job is to help this horse for the first time go through it.

Now, when I go down here, I've got to make sure my head is behind here. This sign here is a danger sign where if she's going to strike she'll strike at me, whereas around here it's not in her physical range to be able to do that, she does it forwards with these feet.

So I'm going to come down here and stay nice and close. There's no point being way out where, you're actually in more danger, so the closer I am the safer I am. I come down, rub her leg, rub her on both legs so she's not worried about the contact there. Now reach through. I do the far one first because if she was to get a fright now or strike with this foot, that means that chain's going to be swinging around, and I do this one up and I go around the **pastern** here. So I've got these on.

Now when I step back, I've got to be aware, she'll go to take a step and then suddenly her momentum will be going forwards and then all of a sudden she can't move that foot to get it out to protect herself, so she's probably going to do a big jump with both of her feet. So what I don't want to be is right in front of her because as she goes to do that, she might jump on top of me, or she gets really frightened, she might actually strike at it because she thinks she's trying to free her front legs.

The worst thing that could happen is for that chain to come over the back of my head and smash my head into the ground. So I've got to be to the side of her and ready to help her by sort of pulling. I have to pull her towards me and then I have to get out of her road. So I'm ready to step out of her road there, out of her road, so help her. I'm not trying to make her go. Now I have to be ready that if she does a big jump, now I'm going to support her, I have to be ready that if she takes a big jump that she's not going to jump on

top of me.

This is the spot here that's going to be a little threatening to her, so my job is to help her, not to terrorise her. So I've just got a little bit of contact seeing if I can encourage her to move her feet. She knows her feet are sort of stuck. There we go, and again, I help her.

I'm not a big fan of putting hobbles on before you start a horse or break them in, but once they're broken in and they've got a good understanding then it's okay to put them on like this, be thoughtful about it and help them.

Now what I'm going to do, is I'm going to go across the front of her. I'm watching her that she's not ready to go somewhere in a big hurry, I'm ready to step out of the way. Let's see if I can help her come this way. She knows that her feet are hobbled together. She's not sure about it. Now I've got to help her, help her, help her, I've got to be ready, there. Now I've got to come in and support her. That way she'll start to trust me when something like this goes on, and she'll also realise that the standing still is the release. I don't mind that she doesn't want to move her feet, because I want her to learn the whole idea of putting them on is to help her stay. Now when I go around her, I'm going to give her a bit of room and be ready to get out of her way.

Taking the hobbles off is just the reverse of putting them on. I'm going to take the close one off first and then the far one. So I make sure my head is behind and I'm going to squat down a little so I'm still balanced and not stuck, and my head is going to be high on the line of her front foot here. I'm going to come in here, let her know I'm here, undo this one, undo that one, step back.

In order to get your horse out to go to a muster or to go to the out camp you might need to put them on a trailer or onto a truck. This is a step-up trailer so there's no ramp, this just steps up, so I'm just going to show you quickly how I'd put her on.

Now there's a couple of rules of thumb. I can't physically drag her onto the float because I'm simply not strong enough, so I need to help, I come on and help her know what I mean. So there's a few rules. One is keep your horse straight. When she gets crooked, straighten your horse up, and I hold and ask them to come forwards, and when they come forwards I soften and release so as they come forwards they get a release. If I have some flow I want to try and keep that flow going straight up onto the truck. So I'm going to ask her to come forwards. When she comes forwards I'm going to soften and I'm going to keep coming.

Once you're onto the trailer or the truck remember you're in an enclosed space, so make sure you don't get behind your horse's back end, and if you need to turn around, you need to tip your horse's nose towards you. Remember they'll often look to go somewhere so if you're standing in front of them, they might rush forwards coming on or off the truck. If you're right in front of them, they might rush over. So be ready, if they keep coming and

they're flowing to stay out in front of them. So if I'm going to load the horse in the trailer, I'm going to start away from the trailer a bit, get her going and I'm going to see if I can flow her straight up and on.

If I have a bit of trouble and a horse doesn't want to go on, I can get someone to help me by me asking to come up the trailer and have someone behind creating some energy, remembering that they need to be out of the kick zone. So my job is to keep her straight and if she goes to come forwards, give her somewhere to go. So I'm going to keep her straight, and I'm going to see if I can keep her straight up here.

Now when I come to come off, some horses come down the ramp and they do a big jump so I've got to pay attention and be ready to stay out of her road when she comes down. I've got to keep her straight and I stay out in front. If I don't make a big deal about it, pretty soon she goes up and down pretty easily.

Video Clip 3.5

Vices of horses when riding

Now there's a couple of things that can go wrong when you're riding, and I want to list them and what they are and what to do about it. Just a couple of basic pointers, it's not a full training video, there's a lot more to it. It's very important to learn how to avoid these things happening in the first place, because your horse will only do it if they're confused, frightened or disrespectful. The better we get at avoiding it in the first place, then we don't even have to deal with it.

Now, bucking. Bucking is you would have seen in a rodeo or something like that when a horse bucks. So basically the horse is trying to get you off. So there's two things I want to do, (A) is I want to stay on, and I want to get the horse to stop if I can.

Now, the horse will jump up in front and then kick up behind, so what will happen you'll come up and then you'll get flicked, you'll come and get flicked as it does that, and it often will get you out of time and throw you off.

So what I want to do if the horse starts to buck is I'm going to bend him around like this, and it bends him into a stop and it sort of stops him a little bit. So that is generally how I will go about trying to stop a horse that is bucking.

The next thing is bolting, and bolting is when a horse takes off and you can't control it. Again, you want to do things to stop it happening in the first place, but if a horse really gets to running, what a lot of people do is they lean back and fight the horse's mouth. Now if he's running, especially through fear, it's usually a fear thing, if a horse bolts and takes off, they're scared, and if you're refuelling your reins like that, you're not helping and you're making it worse. So if you can relax and maybe direct the horse and guide him around somewhere rather than fight him, because once he gets running it's like a steam train charging down a hill, it's all too late. So I will

try to bend him around in a big circle and wind him in and slow him down.

The next thing is rearing, and rearing is when the front end comes right up like a Ferrari, and the mistake a lot of people make is they feel unbalanced. If the horse comes up they're scared of falling out the back so they often pull on the reins, but what happens then is you can pull the horse over on top of you. So it's very important if a horse rears up, to try to lean forwards and not pull on his head. So lead forwards and balance; as he comes up, you have to try and stay upright, so as he comes up, you've got to try to stay upright and not lean back. That will help him come back down and then try to get him to go forwards.

The next problem is striking, and that doesn't happen a lot when you're riding them but it can happen, and striking is with their front foot. Sometimes they might strike at the bit, if they don't understand the bit, but if they've been broken-in properly that shouldn't happen. If a horse was to do it, I would just ride him forwards.

The next thing is kicking, and there's two sorts of kicking. There's kicking out at something away from them or kicking forwards maybe at your feet, which is called a cow kick. Cow kick is when they come up underneath, with their back foot come up underneath and maybe kick at my feet.

So if they're doing that, I need to get better at getting my horse going. If they're kicking my feet I have to get my horse going.

Now if they kick at someone behind them, what I do always is pull them around and it pulls their back feet so instead of them kicking that way, I pull and push this leg on, like that, there. Step the horse out of the way so they can't kick at that thing behind them, whether it's another horse or a person or whatever.

And sometimes a horse will try to bite your foot so you might be here and they might turn around and bite at you like that. If my horse does that, what I usually do is bump him with my foot. Don't kick him in the head like think's a football, but if he comes around you can bump on him and then he'll generally put his head straight and go the other way.

Now there's some basic warning signs that a horse will tell you before it does some of those vices. So if a horse gets very tight and is freezing and tight, he's warning that he might buck, and if you're having trouble getting a horse to go forwards, often that's a little bit of a warning that he might rear up. And if he's getting worried about something behind him, he gets all tense and you can tell he's sort of worried about something behind him, then he might be thinking about kicking out. Or if he gets cross, if you're bumping with their legs and he gets all cross, then they might bite or cow kick at your feet. So they're giving you little warning signs of what they might do, and it's the better you get at seeing the warning signs and learning how to not have them do the bucking or the bolting or the rearing, the striking or the kicking, any of those things, then you start to head off trouble before it happens.

Video Clip 3.6**Moving of
livestock on
horseback**

I'm just going to use another horse to show basic positions to control a cow on his own. (*Where to position a beast*) So pretend this is my cow for a minute. Now right in the middle of the back is called a blind spot and it's called the **blind spot** because he can't see me from there, because of the way his eyes are. Unless I get to one side or the other he can't see me. So if I wanted him to go to the left, we've got to go over here, so he can see me with that eye and that can help him start to turn around here.

Now, the further up I go, there gets to what you call a balance point, and the balance point is, it's like a seesaw tipping. If I come up here then I'm helping him go around this way. But if I go too far, I go past the **balance point** and I'm going to stop him and he's probably going to come through there, so you want to turn this way. If I go past the **balance point**, he's probably going to stop and go across there. Like that. So I've got to be careful not to go too far around the front.

Now the faster my cow is going, the less chance I have of being able to stop him out in front. If he's not going very fast I can get in front of him and as long as he's not a mad bull charging at me, if he's sort of quiet, then I might be able to block him. The faster he's going the more I need to use that energy of him running and turning. So I'm going to come round here, I have to go a little faster than the cow to turn him, now as I get up here this cow should start to turn off me. Most cows will turn off you here, so turn, turn, turn, and I'm going to bring him around like that. If I'd gone too far I go past the balance point and he stops and jumps behind me. That's basic cow position.

Now I'm just going to use the cow and I'm going to try to push this cow somewhere. So if I want to turn him around to the left I need to come around here and I've got to go around him a little bit, this... there, that turns him around that way. If I want him to do a circle around to the right, I've got to go around here..... like that. There.

Tight turning 02:27 Now if I want to push this cow to want to come back. Now my job is to just kind of stop him from running back, I've got to turn tighter. I've got to go across here and I've got to go across and get ready to stop, like that, stop, and then turn tighter like that so I can hold my ground and turn tight like that.

Mustering positions 02:47 So here we are practising walking a mob of cattle. Here's our rider in the lead. And riders on the tail need to do a little more work on the wings to get them going. There we go. Now we've got a bit of movement happening. So the trouble with the riders is to keep the cattle behind the lead. And there's one looking out, so the lesson there was we weren't keeping an eye on that little steer that was ready to poke out and we've got to go out and around and bring him back in. And of course, with one rider doing that, you can see that corner of the mob is then now starting to push out so that creates a whole ... the cattle start to go out of.. so it's a bit of a balancing act to do. And after straightening them up, and not too much to turn them out the other way, and you've always got to be aware of

the gaps between ourselves and the other riders cos that's where the cattle are going to look to come out. So now we come round the corner so the people on the left wing (which is *our* right) have to come around. If the leg gets going too fast the troubles start and the ladies have to stay out in front and slowly slow them down. So you can't stop them instantly. If you try to stop them instantly, they shoot out past you and then you can lose the whole mob. There's one heading to the trough so we going to need to turn to fill that gap. There we go.up there. They need to help each other, back each other up and they're all starting to fly along pretty well.

Vocabulary exercise:

See if you know each of the **highlighted** words. If not, look up and write the words down with the meaning in your own words or language. This will help you to understand, use and spell the words correctly when you write reports.