

'Devastated' workers in dire straits

SCOTT HOWLETT

A WORLD-renowned horse surgeon has estimated that the equine flu virus had slashed his workload by more than 95 per cent.

Dr Nick Kannegieter, 47, who lives in Roseville and has worked with horses for more than 20 years, also warned that the consequences of a prolonged ban on horse-racing could lead people

connected to industry to kill themselves.

Dr Kannegieter warned that horses could die from causes unrelated to the flu because the animals were in lock-down and couldn't be moved to receive proper treatment.

"The effect the virus is having on people within the industry is devastating," he told the *North Shore Times*.

"Because of the standstill,

virtually every equine-related business has ceased to function.

"Workload reductions of between 95 to 98 per cent are across the industry," he said.

"My income was reduced to nothing virtually overnight."

Dr Kannegieter described the onset of equine influenza as "the greatest catastrophe to hit the equine industry" since its inception in Australia.

"The big issue being forgotten is that, apart from the major

financial burden on all the participants, the restrictions on movements are beginning to greatly compromise the welfare of the horses," he said.

"They are not being treated for all the other diseases they're sustaining, which are completely unrelated to equine influenza.

"They can't be properly treated because they can't be moved.

"I suspect it's just a matter of time before more horses will be dying because of the movement

restrictions," Dr Kannegieter said in an interview this week.

"Eventually people in the industry will start committing suicide because they are going broke.

"That's how serious it is and there's no end in sight.

"Absolutely no end in sight."

"Overall, the direct economic loss will be greater than \$1 billion - easily," he said.

"People don't understand just how bad it is."

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St Ives Village manager Sue McKindlay and stylist Paula Gyaneshwar browsing in the shops.

Stylish auction for good cause

THE Greengate Hotel in Killara is holding a huge Pink Ribbon lunch on the North Shore on Thursday October 18 in the lead-up to Pink Ribbon day with all profits going directly to the National Breast Cancer Foundation.

Tickets are all-inclusive at just \$60 each, but if you're looking for something special that will allow you to make a further donation to the cause whilst claiming an exceptional prize for yourself, then the Pink Ribbon Auction is for you.

The Greengate Hotel and the St Ives Shopping Village have teamed up to offer you the chance to dine in style by making the top bid on a package comprising:

- Two tickets to the Pink Ribbon lunch, seated at the Liz Ellis Table

- A style, fashion, hair and beauty package at the St Ives Village for two including the services of a stylist, a cut and blow wave, a manicure, makeover, hat and outfit for the day

- Dinner for four in Portico Restaurant and Bar including all food and wine

This package has a value in just under \$3000 and will be awarded to the top bidder of all bids received by Friday October 12 with all proceeds going directly to the National Breast Cancer Foundation. Bids are now being taken online at www.greengatehotel.com.au or by email to pinkribbonauction@greengatehotel.com.au

If you have already purchased your ticket you can still participate in the auction as your ticket purchase will be deducted from your final bid.

On the day you will hear an address by the unrivalled Liz Ellis, our National Netball Team Captain, in her last appearance before contesting the World Cup whilst enjoying a delicious three-course lunch plus much more in the Atrium in the Green Rooms Function Centre of the Greengate Hotel in Killara.

» The Greengate Hotel hopes to make this Pink Ribbon lunch an annual event and your support will help. Call 9496 7200 to reserve your tickets or go to www.greengatehotel.com.au/whatson to make your bid in the Pink Ribbon Auction today.