



# AHSE

THE ASSOCIATION FOR HORSEMANSHIP SAFETY & EDUCATION  
in AUSTRALIA INC

Affiliated with CHA -USA

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TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

The Association for Horsemanship Safety and Education in Australia Inc is an organisation which accredits instructors of groups riding programs throughout much of the country. It's materials and standards have been acknowledged in the Education Departments and in the horse community, and it is affiliated with the Certified Horsemanship Association in the US (founded in the 1960's).

As the Executive Officer of AHSE, and manger of a horse program in a campsite which has a turnover in excess of 3000 children (mostly beginner riders) every year, I was excited to try "toestoppers" for a number of reasons:

1. Beginners have difficulty keeping their foot in the correct position in the stirrup, toestoppers make a safe foot position easy to achieve
2. Most beginners do not have access to correct footwear. When properly fitted, and unlike other alternatives I have seen, toestoppers are designed to ensure there are no protrusions to catch on laces or other unsuitable shoe 'extensions' in non riding footwear often used by beginners.
3. Toestoppers are easy to attach and handle
4. Toestoppers do not interfere with normal riding needs, and help reduce some of the nagging by instructors, that is otherwise required to help riders gain a safe and correct foot position in their stirrups.
5. Stock saddles are commonly used for beginners in Australia. Surcingles should be used to ensure these saddles are safety attached (two points of attachment) not the conventional single strap or buckle which could break... However, when surcingles are used, they cover the stirrup bar and prevent the stirrups pulling off in an emergency (eg. a rider being dragged). Toestoppers, by preventing the foot being caught in a stirrup (when used correctly) mean that stock saddles can be safely girthed up in this way; with no risk to the rider of being dragged through the stirrup not pulling off (as their foot will not stick in the stirrup should they fall!)

I am happy to endorse toestoppers, and plan to use them on all our saddles, as I believe that they will make riding at our establishment safer, easier and more enjoyable.

Nina Arnott  
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Wirraway Homestead Camp