



# HUNTER VALLEY EQUESTRIAN CENTRE

May 2019

Hi Everyone,

The month of May started with one of the biggest competitions on the dressage calendar – the Sydney CDI. I competed in the Prix St George CDN and Inter I test and Inter I Freestyle CDN on Rionnarc. Unfortunately for Rionnarc it was not her best competition as her counting of flying changes became muddled and a new Freestyle at Inter I was a little hard, but it was a very good experience jumping up to FEI level and competing against the best horses in the country.

My young pupil Molly Callinan and Merrindale De Niro competed in the FEI Pony Team and Individual tests and did very well, coming 5<sup>th</sup> in both tests. The tests were very correct. In Molly's class there were 6 riders, all between 12-16 years of age. The tests were long and difficult. The young riders did really well and looked very polished and experienced. From a coach's view, I thought the standard of Young Riders was very impressive. The Stars of the Future.

In May there was also Mothers' Day and Lewis' birthday. I did do feed up on Mothers' Day before preparing for the Big Breakfast with Christopher, Elyse, Hugo, Austyn, Myles, Lewis, Vanessa and Bruce. It was lovely to see everyone and have time out from the usual horse stuff.

I have finally found a tenant for my stable flat. Welcome Haylee Jefferson and her cat Tinkerbelle to Hunter Valley Equestrian Centre.

On Saturday, 25 May I travelled to Possum Brush, near Nahiab, to coach a group of girls from PLC Armidale. It was a beautiful sunny day and all the riders were keen to learn more in depth dressage training and to practice the eventing dressage tests. There was also training held in showjumping, cross country, showing and polocrosse. Thank you Amanda for inviting me. It was very nice to meet all of you.

The HVEC indoor was hired for a clinic with Rodrigo Matos. For 19 years Rodrigo was a Principle Rider with the Portuguese School of Equestrian Art. He now travels the world coaching. Nicole Davenport and her daughter Georgia ran the clinic. It was very interesting to see the horses and riders working confidently through the levels. Coming to a new arena can sometimes be a challenge, but everyone was very happy and apart from the crazy wind, they worked hard and learnt lots.

I hope everyone stays warm for winter and keeps riding and training seriously.

Till next time,  
*Shaun*

## Images from May...



*Mothers' Day*



*Molly and I at the  
CDI*



*Rodrigo Matos*



*Ruby and Rionnarc at  
the CDI*



*Happy birthday Lewis*