



# HUNTER VALLEY EQUESTRIAN CENTRE

August 2020

Hi Everyone,

We have all survived a cold winter and farewelled one beautiful horse and one hard working and dedicated horse owner / employee.

Nineteen years ago I purchased a black colt, 8 months old, from Emma Mason. His name is Rudy (competition name Rubenesque). Throughout the 19 years we competed together we went from Preliminary to Grand Prix. Rudy was never going to represent Australia but he was very trainable and gave me the opportunity to compete at every major competition in Australia. If he could talk or if he had kept a diary, he would tell me that we have had many ups and downs and many happy and sad times. He has watched my sons Christopher and Lewis grow up, he has heard me yelling at Bruce who enjoyed doing loud farm work whilst we were training and most of all he tried to cope with the washing on the line at the dreaded F corner. Rudy retired from Grand Prix in 2019.

He now has a new home with Stella and Sarah Barton and will help Stella compete in Para Grade I competitions in Victoria. I wish them the best of luck. From myself and all the people who knew him, we will miss you Rudy. Your big girlfriend Rhannarr will benefit from all that I learnt from you and will soon show off her Grand Prix work. Big hugs and kisses, and teach Stella lots about dressage.

In May 2015 Melanie Harris came to work at HVEC. Her hard work, calm personality and big smiles were well appreciated. Melanie owns two horses, Missy and Radar. Radar was purchased as a young

horse from the Ryans Auction. He was owned by Hazel Shannon. In the last few years Melanie stopped working at HVEC but would help do the morning feed up. This gave me a break and peace of mind that such an experienced person was going to do a 100% perfect job in the mornings.

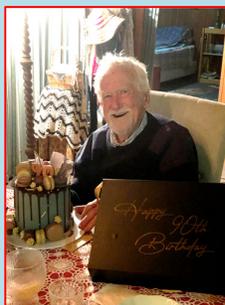
Melanie and her fiancé Corey have bought a small farm in Stroud, so Missy and Radar are going to be at the back door waiting for their carrots. They won't even mind if Melanie wears her pyjamas on feed up. Thank you Melanie for doing a great job for the last 5 years. Good luck and much happiness from everyone at HVEC.

On 10<sup>th</sup> August Bruce celebrated his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. Only a few family and friends came to dinner at the farm, but throughout the week friends visited with warm wishes. Most people know that Bruce is still very independent. He drives everything – the car, tractor, bobcat, John Deere, mowers and often he is still driving me crazy, but he is an inspiration to all who are younger than him. Get up, keep working, have a vision for the future and never give up. If we can all be like Bruce when we are 90 years old we will still have many celebrations.

As spring approaches, we all need to work on our grooming skills and help the horses remove their winter coats, and check that their skin is healthy and clean. Rugs need to be washed and changed for lighter comfort. Spring is also a great time for training. Get inspired and spend time caring for your horses.

Till next month, *Shaun*

## Images from August...



Happy birthday Bruce!



Melanie and Shaun



Rudy and Ruby



Rudy at the CDI

