



HUNTER VALLEY EQUESTRIAN CENTRE

June 2020

Hi Everyone,

Recently and often I awake early and turn on the TV whilst drinking a strong coffee with milk and special honey bought from Farnhams Butcher Shop at Wallsend. I have watched 30 minutes of One Plus One on the ABC with interviews from Jack Dorsey, the CEO of Instagram and Scott Farquhar, the co-partner of Atlassian. The interviews were very interesting. I mostly remember them speaking of the importance of the basic things in life, the influence of our upbringing and that money is not the sole driver in life, but friendship, inner strength, ambition, success, hard work and having a vision for the future. I feel that horses bring so much happiness to people, keeping them grounded and give them a purpose in life.

When I give lessons, people love to talk about many things and learn how they can improve the horse's education. Sometimes it's a long road, but they see light at the end of the tunnel and know they will make a great partnership, and that will be a forever memory. Surviving the difficult moments can be the biggest learning curve. I still love having lessons. There is much more to a lesson than perhaps just using more inside leg.

Sharon Jarvis called in a few weeks ago for a big, hearty winter dinner. Sharon worked at HVEC prior to Kentucky WEG. We have stayed friends ever since that time. It was a pleasure to have her visit and talk about her ambition to continue to

represent Australia. I'm sure she wanted to steal my Aldi electric lounge blanket at 10:15 pm when I reminded her that I get up at 5:30 pm and it was time to go.

Sally Hurt invited me to her house for dinner in June. It was nice to be spoilt by having dinner and desert cooked and served.

A few riders have been hiring the indoor arena as they prepare for Denman ODE – one of the first events to start after the lockdown. Good luck riders on your first outing.

I have been thinking about how COVID-19 has affected the future of Australian dressage:

- How are we affected – the horses are one year older!
- Are we as committed?
- How will the horses perform after so much time away from competition?

Please remember I have lessons available, two agistment places and the room and stables are available for visitors and travellers.

This month we welcome Beck & Ziggy of Caked by Beck (beautiful cakes), Heath our new stable flat resident (not Heath Ryan, he has not run away or been kicked out of home) and Tenille & Dougie, who are with us for a short time whilst waiting to return to NEGS, where they could get a blasting from the new Equestrian Coach – Matt Ryan.

Till next time – stay happy, safe and warm,

From *Shaun*

Images from June...

