



# HUNTER VALLEY EQUESTRIAN CENTRE

June 2021

Hi Everyone,

As I write this month's newsletter, half of the country is in lockdown. In the Hunter Valley, we are so far lucky to be free of lockdown. We have been fortunate to have competed our horses and danced with our ballroom dancers and do whatever we do freely in our normal day to day life in June. Tracey Serhan and I have been training and learning ballroom dancing for over 12 months. Our goal was to achieve a Bronze Medal for me and a Bronze Star for Tracey. We have learnt not only dances, but the importance of suppleness by learning a new, quite difficult discipline other than riding. We have dusted off all those dresses you can't wear around the stables, scrubbed our nails and the rest of the dirt away and met many nice people outside of the horse world. Jeff and Barbara Cameron have taught us so much. We are very grateful.

Well, 6 days out and dancing has been postponed due to lockdowns. We will not forget what we have learnt. I have beautiful Rumba music playing as I am writing. Jeff sometimes thought he was being a bit tough in his remarks, but I looked at him and said, "compared to the male riding teachers I have had, it's really okay". We will return and achieve those medals.



The little star in competition has been Farrah who is a small chestnut mare by Fiji R owned, trained and ridden by Sally Hurt. Sally purchased Farrah last year unbroken from Black Hill. They made their debut at APDC in Prelim in June. Sally has done a great job and the little mare was calm and lovely to watch. Congratulations on two 2nds in the 1A with 72.40% and 1B with 61.25%.

I have renewed my Coach Educator status again. This means that I can teach, train and sign off students who

wish to become EA coaches. Please call me if you wish to begin the process of becoming a qualified EA coach.

Niccolo, my young warmblood gelding by Nemo (Negro) and out of Scarlet (Jazz) has begun his education towards becoming a riding horse. So if you are riding around the farm, you will miss seeing him galloping around trees, doing figure eights, and chasing you down the lane. Hopefully he won't do that when I start riding him in August.

A big farewell to my young horse, Risto. He has been sold to Riley Alexander and now lives at Mulawa Stud in Sydney. Riley rode him beautifully and I was very proud of this young, big warmblood. I hope to see the two of them out at competitions soon. I wish you well and hope you have a big future together.

Another farewell to Ziggy, a thoroughbred I was training for Beck. Unfortunately other very important things in life became a priority and Ziggy was sold to Melbourne. Thank you Beck and Ziggy. We became good friends, not only doing horse business but Audi and cake business too.

Farewell to a beautiful old horse who lived with Ben in the first paddock on the left as you come up the driveway. Birdie was approximately 30 years old and had unfortunately developed a serious heart problem. I know Cheryl will miss him very much. RIP Birdie.

Finally, happy birthday to Orla who turned the grand old age of 19 years in June.

Till next time, stay warm and COVID free!

From *Shaun*



**Riley Alexander and Risto**