



HUNTER VALLEY EQUESTRIAN CENTRE

March 2021

Hi Everyone,

We will all remember March 2021 for many reasons. The amount of rain we had in the Hunter Valley was amazing and not seen for many, many years. Hunter Valley Equestrian Centre is mostly on a hill, so we were able to keep working and the paddocks drained and dried very quickly. Slowly we are mowing more than ever to get control of the growth. The tanks are full, the birds are flying around everywhere and there is that autumn feel in the air.

There was one thing for sure – the rain and wild thunderstorm was not going to stop the wedding of Melanie and Corey Southhall. They were married in Pokolbin on Friday, 12 March with so much love. Beautiful readings and speeches made it an occasion to remember. I wish them all the happiness and love for the future.

In the last week of March we had a few visiting show horses on their way to the Grand National and Sydney Royal. HVEC is a great place to stay overnight after a long journey. It is a modest room all made up with clean sheets and towels, with a TV, fridge, freezer, microwave and tea and coffee facilities, all for \$66 per night. It is relaxing for both people and horses and the horses can be walked around, ridden or just graze for a while before going to bed in their stable.

In March we farewelled Boo, who now has a new owner in the ACT. Boo and Elle have been at HVEC for a few years now. Boo is a beautiful stockhorse mare who everyone admired and loved looking after. I hope she settles into her new home and

has some good winter rugs in the cold climate of Canberra.

We welcome back Roseamber, a gorgeous little Hafflinger owned by the Schall family. She is in foal, so we are preparing for the big day in September when the newborn arrives. I think Lotte has her camping spot already marked out.

On a sad note, we said farewell to my beautiful labrador dog, "Lilly". For 11 years she lived in the place of her dreams and watched out for myself and my family. She was so kind and everyone loved her. Her best friend Rosie misses her. We know she is now pain free and resting in peace, buried near the indoor area where she is still with all of us.

Congratulations to Gilbert who was awarded Dux of his 2020 year at Tocal Agricultural College at Paterson. I have written about Gilbert often, but as I write today, I can say that both Bruce and I and most of all his big family are very proud. He is amazing and we wish him so much happiness and success for the future.

The update on the 3R's and N – Rhannar is recovering well from her heel injury, Roseman is close to Medium level, Risto is working well and preparing for his first Prep test and Niccolo (the teenage wild child) is thinking about the rewards of good behaviour. I saw a picture of Hazel Shannon riding Nemo at Advanced at Sydney, and Nemo and Niccolo look identical. Niccolo is busting to be ridden so watch out Hazel, we may fast track and catch up to you soon.

Till next time, ride perfectly! From *Shaun*

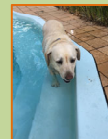
Images from March...



Melanie's wedding



Gilbert's graduation



Lilly looking after Bruce when he had a fall