



Hi Everyone,

The Sydney CDI has come and gone for another year. The HVEC car park was very full on the Sunday night before, and the stables housed four very nice dressage horses from Queensland.

I was very busy coaching Molly Callinan and Colonial Tosh in the lead up to the competition. Bruce and I made the trip to SIEC on the Thursday to see Molly ride and to watch the Grand Prix. I took advantage of the lunch being provided and organized by Gail Benson. Thank you for your hospitality. We found a great lounge to relax on and were even visited by Lewis, Vanessa, Ecki and other dressage riders and friends.

Molly and Colonial Tosh did very well, especially considering the rain and the terrible conditions of the arenas. They came 10th in the CDI-J team and 7th in the CDI-J individual. Molly kept Tosh confident and he trusted her experienced and skilled riding. They are now ready for the next challenge of FEI Prix St George and before long, Inter 1.

Many successful riders have posted their photos and results on Facebook. I am hoping that for the sport of dressage in Australia that these riders who are scoring very good marks will continue on with this high standard as they progress through to Grand Prix level. The sport needs you.

On the 9th April I achieved a Bronze Medal in Latin and New Vogue Ballroom Dancing. Mark Puckeridge, an experienced dancer from Step in Time Dancing, partnered me through this challenging experience. Tracey Serhan and I naively signed up for dance classes, not really having any idea about the commitment that was needed. Over a 2 year period (interrupted by COVID) we learnt as much as possible. Tracey was a lightning bolt and flew past me in her learning ability, whilst I still panicked about getting out of the stables, washing off all of the horse dirt and putting on a dress.



Molly and Tosh at the Sydney CDI



Camping at HVEC



Tracey and I preparing for the big event

You can't be late and you must be clean. Thank you Mark for being my partner. You are like the calm, experienced school horse that every beginner rider dreams of owning.

Thank you to Jeff and Barbara Cameron for teaching me the Merrilyn 92%, Tangoette 92%, Canadian Three Step 92% (Honours), Jive 91%, Rumba 88% and Cha Cha 895 (Highly Commended). It was a great experience. Congratulations to all of the other dancers who achieved so much on the day.

Easter was a very busy time at HVEC. Many people stayed in the little Airbnb room and camp site. Lots of riders came to use the arena. The rain is relentless and riders are struggling to keep training their horses and keep them out of the mud. HVEC has four paddocks available for agistment and remember, it is only \$11 per person per hour to ride in the indoor arena.

Welcome Makaela & Melody and Cassie & Indi. Farewell Galaxy (I hope you help lots of riders at the RDA).

This month we also celebrated the birthdays of Carly, Rosheen and Rozzie. I hope that you all celebrated excessively – I know that Rosheen did.

By for now. Stay warm – it's getting cold.

Shaun

