



HUNTER VALLEY EQUESTRIAN CENTRE

Newsletter - August 2022

Hi Everyone,

The World Equestrian Games, Herning, Denmark brought together the best equestrian competitors in the world. The Dressage, Vaulting and Showjumping were spectacular to watch (unfortunately on my big screen TV this year).

The Hunter Valley Vaulting Team with their coach Sharna Kirkham are a dedicated team who train at HVEC. They spent a few weeks training in Germany before travelling to Herning to compete. I was so proud to watch them competing against the best in the world. They have returned to training at HVEC and plan for future competitions with so much more knowledge and experience.

The dressage in Herning, Denmark was brilliant to watch. Congratulations to the Australian Dressage Team who placed 8th and qualified Australia for the Paris Olympics in 2024. Thank you to all the riders who showed such brilliance as riders and produced the most amazing Grand Prix, Grand Prix Special and Grand Prix Freestyle tests. Travelling to Paris in 2023 would be a dream come true.

Winter is over and hopefully in Spring the warmer weather will make us and the horses feel a lot better. Spring brings more daylight hours, more riding time and decisions regarding breeding horses. I have decided to put Rhannar in foal, using frozen semen. I'm not a fan of breeding and have never tried using frozen semen before. So good luck to me and Rhannar and hopefully next year there will be a beautiful black colt or filly on the ground. I have three grandsons. Perhaps one of them might like to ride a beautiful warmblood in 4 years time.

Roseman is still enjoying an extended holiday due to his rider's injuries repairing slowly. As coaches



we often talk about the rider's pelvis, seat and leg aids. Unfortunately when the pelvis is fractured, and the inner thigh muscle is torn, the rider's aids are of no use at all. It has been an interesting time. I have had to reluctantly change many of my ways and learnt more tolerance than normal, but I am on a positive path upwards and look forward to 2023. The word "inspiration" is one of my favourites.

Often as a rider, you can dodge obvious chores around the property and house, by having the excuse that you must ride. Take away riding and that leaves you with lots of office work, housework, farm work, cooking and stable cleaning and the worst chore of all – gardening. Riding, riding and more riding can't be that bad after all.

Welcome back Izzy and Enda. After many years of COVID, they finally returned to England and Ireland to see their families. I hope you both had a great holiday and have some great lasting memories.

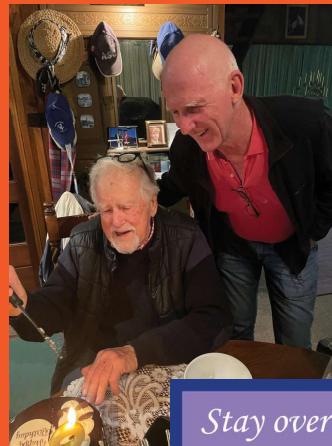
There was one "big birthday". Bruce turned a grand 92 years of age. We had a small celebration at home with Phillip and Yus making the big trip from Darwin.

We also had two other special visitors staying in the stables and Airbnb. Two beautiful horses from the Mounted Police Force stayed for 2 nights whilst visiting Newcastle on official business. HVEC is very convenient for travellers offering different levels of accommodation at The Mews, the Shed Room, The Campsite and The Stables.

I am still looking for a casual groom, but in the meantime Jade and Carly have been working really hard to keep the many horses fed and watered. Thank you girls.

Bring on dry Spring weather.

Bye, from Shaun



Stay over with your horse... 
at Hunter Valley Equestrian Centre, NSW

Whether you are looking for a rider retreat complete with instruction, a chance to rest for you and your horse as you travel between competitions, or simply an opportunity for some down time on the farm, we have a range of options depending upon your needs. Hunter Valley Equestrian Centre is located 1.5 hours north of Sydney and 20 minutes from Newcastle, just off the M1. Training is with Shaun France, EA Level 3 Dressage Specialist and Coach Educator.

The Mews

A first floor studio apartment located above the stable block. It has an open aspect kitchen with fridge, microwave, combined lounge & dining area with TV, 2 x queen size beds, ensuite bathroom and views overlooking the paddocks and riding arena.

A startup pack of tea, coffee, water and toilet paper is included. All linen is supplied. Rate is \$150 per night or \$250 for a 2 night stay. (Longer stays are optional and negotiable)

The Shed

A modern room located in our farm shed. It includes a double bed, sofa bed, TV, microwave and bar fridge. A startup pack of tea, coffee, water and toilet paper is included. All linen is supplied. Please note that all bathroom facilities are a short walk away in the breezeway of the stables.

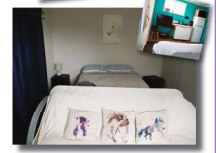
Sleeps 2 x adults. Rates from \$77 per night.

The Site

Plug in your power, connect to the water and disconnect from the world. Wake up to the peace & quiet of the countryside and the gentle noises of our majestic horses in surrounding paddocks.

Self-contained site. Rates from \$77 per night for 2 x people, 2 x children + 1 x dog.

Please note that there is no wifi but 4G is available. Dogs are welcome at The Shed and The Site, but unfortunately not at The Mews.



Holiday - Training - Stop over

Hunter Valley Equestrian Centre | 2 Blackhill Road, Black Hill NSW 2322 | P: (02) 4966 3331
M: 0407 200 907 | E: shaun@huntermvalleyequestriancentre.com.au