



Newsletter - June 2023

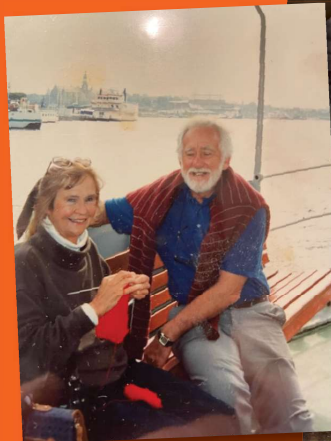
Hi Everyone,

A month I will never forget. On Sunday June 25th, Alan Bruce Doyle (Bruce) passed away at Arcare Nursing Home, Thornlands Queensland. His daughter Felicity Murphy and son, Philip Doyle were with him. I had visited him 9 days prior and sat quietly watching a movie with him. Bruce was 92 years old.

In 1994, my Mother and Bruce purchased 100 acres at 2 Blackhill Road, Black Hill. There was only a boundary fence. I had a small equestrian place at East Maitland, where the Good Guys and the Bakery now sits. I sold my place and came to Black Hill, where we worked together to create and establish Hunter Valley Equestrian Centre. I was pregnant with Lewis at the time and together with my parents, Christopher and Lewis' father Gregory Murray (whose real job was as a veterinary surgeon at Lorn Veterinary Clinic) we worked hard to build stables, covered arena, shed and two homes. Unfortunately Greg died in an accident before Lewis turned 2. It was devastating.

Bruce and Joyce helped me raise the children and supported me in establishing the Equestrian Centre. Through ups and downs in our lives, we stuck together. For the last 10 years I looked after Bruce and Bruce kept an eye on me. The people, the horses, the friends and hobbies were our strength. Bruce liked to be busy and enjoyed living at the farm. I have so many memories and so many stories. Bruce was my stepfather for 56 years.

We will all miss him so much and I'm sure everyone who has had a connection with Hunter Valley Equestrian Centre will swap stories and always remember Bruce and my mother Joyce.



On June 4th I was invited to Sally and Mick's new property at Williamtown. Sally cooked me a lovely meal and showed me Farrar's stable, yards and arena area. I'm really happy for Sally and know that she will be really successful with her cute little warmblood and her quaint little home.

I was extremely grateful to accept Ruby's offer to work for a few days in June. Ruby is studying at Uni now and is moving to Gunnedah. I wish her well for the future.

I would like to welcome Zoe Northedge to the staff team at HVEC. Zoe comes with a wealth of experience, a strong Scottish accent and a big personality. She has already sorted out Roseman, taught Emi how to muck out the English way and even told me what to do. Please stay with us, we think you are great.

In June we welcomed Casey & Gilbert and Susie & Quinny.

Bye for now,

Shaun

Bruce's funeral is on Friday, July 14th at 1pm at St James Anglican Church, Morpeth. Everyone is welcome to come back to Hunter Valley Equestrian Centre for afternoon tea.

