



Newsletter - September 2023

Hi Everyone,

September certainly had an injection of positive energy. It was springtime and riders, horse owners, friends, family and others were looking forward to the warmer weather and holiday time not too far away.

The horses were all going well and improving in their training and the riders are concentrating on all aspects of their riding, and the health and wellbeing of the horses. Many things contribute to the horses staying fit and healthy. I see at HVEC the feeding, grooming, reducing risk of injury, arena and paddock maintenance, correct saddlery fitted for each horse, the farrier, worming, vets, lessons, communication on a professional level and most of all safety of horses and riders.

The farm looks dry but happy, with Brett and Tony maintaining lawns, gardens, fences, pipes, gates, mowers etc, etc. Thanks guys.

Hunter Valley Dressage Club held their Championship Day on September 16th and 17th. Many riders from HVEC competed. Unfortunately I could not attend to coach them, but I did notice when they all returned to the stables that they were happy and felt that they had gained something from the competition and the outing. Congratulations to all of my riders and owners.

On the Sunday of the competition I did morning feed up at 5 am and was able to help the Club with pencilling from 8 am to 12 noon. I pencilled for 4 tests - the Prix St George, Intermediate 1 and the Inter A and Inter B tests. Not the easiest job I must say with those iPads.

Stephen and Enda trying to beat the ladies



Orla and her new horse Barney

These are my pencilling tips for all those riders out there who have never volunteered to help with this job:

- Arrive early, read the test, understand how the iPad works;
- Say very little, concentrate, be organised and don't touch the off button on the stylist;
- Don't relax, don't let your mind switch onto training/riding mode, don't pretend to be the judge; and
- Most of all - don't get emotional when your best friend's horse decides to pop its rider and itself up and off the centre line in extended trop after X. I nearly dropped the iPad and exited the car.

No morning teas this month, but a quick shop at Farmers Warehouse (everything you need if you want to spend up), Horseland Maitland (take the credit card), Icky Sticky at Lorn (seriously yummy), Holly Rose (spend the gift card that is 11 months old and run into friends and old horse owners) and finally Sketchers (the essentials for your feet).

Congratulations on Quinn for becoming the Horseland Heatherbrae Youth Ambassador. She was so excited.

Good luck to the Hunter Valley Vaulting Team. They are all going with their two horses to the National Championships in October. A big effort and lots of practice.

Good luck to Emily Farthing who is heading down with her horse Lolli to Werribee as part of Team NSW for the Australian Interschool Championships.

By for now. Ride perfectly.

From Shaun



Enda and Beau Jangles looking pretty good



Quinn and Sadie