



HUNTER VALLEY EQUESTRIAN CENTRE

Newsletter - December 2023

Hi Everyone,

It was a huge month leading into Christmas. My son Christopher and his wife Elyse took me out to dinner at Jimmy Joans at Lovedale on December 2nd. This was a joint birthday dinner for Christopher and myself. I was spoilt as I was picked up and then dropped back home after a lovely evening out.

On December 29th, again I was taken out to lunch at Lock's Paddock, Newcastle by Malcolm and Sue Murray. This was really good and offered

creative healthy food with a bit of a horsey theme. Dessert, naturally, was at Zara Street ice cream shop in the pouring rain. Yes, as always, Hokey Pokey in a waffle cone.

On Sunday December 17th, I held the HVEC Christmas Party. Approximately 50 people attended for a relaxing afternoon with lots of horsey conversation, great food and drinks. Thank you to all those people who came. Thank you for all the presents. Sorry about the poor speech. It's time to retire from speeches.

The 2023 HVEC Christmas Party



On December 2nd, Watagan Equestrian Club hired the arena for a Protocol Day with Maxine Cummins. I prepared the arena with Leanne and Geoff and made a special effort to have clean chairs and a table and chair for Maxine. To my surprise this was not absolutely necessary as Maxine did not really sit down (sounds familiar) and combined her knowledge of an EA coach, EA judge and a very experienced school teacher. Maxine gave one of the best Protocol Days I have ever experienced. I even sat down and watched. Thanks Maxine for sharing your knowledge and experience.

The Airbnb accommodation – the Mews, the Shed and the Campsite have kept me insanely busy, but

I did take a little time out to talk about EA coaching with Glenda and Chris De Wit and Glenda's daughter Rebecca Rooke. Rebecca has recently returned from many years of training, competing and representing Australia in Europe. As many of you know Glenda and I have both recovered from serious falls from riding young horses. I felt somewhat emotional after our meeting. We are sensible and strong and we have recovered to continue to be with our families and continue to do what we are passionate about. I hope we can help others with our knowledge and experience of riding for the future. I'm sure Rebecca will settle back into the Australian lifestyle and teach many riders about what she has learnt in Europe.

Christmas Day was a busy one as usual. First feed up, then breakfast in Bolwarra with Christopher, Elyse and the grandchildren. Then a visit to the cemetery, check HVEC, have a beautiful lunch at Heath and Rozzie Ryan's, feed up, present opening with Lewis and Vanessa and then into my beautiful bed. Thank you to everyone for the beautiful presents.

On New Year's day I visited Rhannarr and gave her lots of TLC and then hoped for a wonderful 2024.

Happy New Year everyone.

Love from Shaun



Maxine Cummins at the Watagan Equestrian Club Protocol Day



Christmas morning with the Grandsons

PS – Don't forget to book in ASAP for the Children's Days – 11th, 16th, 18th and 23rd of January 2024.