



## Newsletter - October 2023

Hi Everyone,

The Spring weather temperature has been in one way, kind to us, but we really need rain. I know the rain upsets the outdoor training, creates mud and is really awful for those doing feed up, but we need lots of water. Horses can drink up to 40 litres of water each day, horses have to be hosed off after work and arenas need to be watered. Anyone out there who thinks I am difficult to buy for, can buy me a water tank and pay for its installation. Ha, ha, Christmas is near.

I am currently training a number of serious, enthusiastic and dedicated riders. These riders range from Preparatory to Grand Prix level. I have only competed once this year, and feel it is a good time to give more of my knowledge and experience gained over the last 30 years to these keen riders. The riders are learning so much and love learning more each week.

I focus mainly on the correct basics of dressage:

- Confidence of horse and rider
- The horses moving forward willingly and safely
- Riding the horse on the bit
- Rider's position and correct use of their aids
- Suppleness and obedience
- Correct use of the rein aids
- Riding the dressage movements
- The sitting trot
- Everything to know about competitions.

As the year starts to wind down, the riders are keen to keep going. There are still a few competitions, training days, protocol days and lessons are always available.

*Ilona and Roquet*



*Ruby and Mark*





In December, Ilona and Roquette will be going to the National Amateur Dressage Championships in Tamworth. They have been training consistently and thoroughly. Always at the stables before me midweek to ride before work and always with a determined mindset and work boots on. I wish them the best of luck.

Farewell to Zoe Northedge. Zoe has moved to Sydney to manage a riding school. I will miss her loud Scottish accent and British Horse Society stable management. Thank you for all your hard work and good luck for the future.

The Wedding Bells will be ringing in January 2024. Ruby Murcott is going to marry Mark Speirs. "Yay", I get two days off and a trip to the countryside of Gunnedah. Congratulations many times over. (PS – this gives me an opportunity to buy another dress as well!)

Congratulations to Bonnie & Clancy and Lilly and Trigger. They competed at the Interschools Horse Extravaganza (known as ISHE) held at Tamworth in October.

It has been a while since I have held a Christmas Party. I could hear Sharna's Christmas music playing, so I thought I should make an effort. Please put the date in your calendar and hope to see you all on Sunday, 17 December.

Bye for now,

From Shaun



*Bonnie and Clancy at ISHE*

*You and your family are cordially invited to the  
Hunter Valley Equestrian Centre  
Christmas Party*



To be held at 2 Blackhill Road, Black Hill

On Sunday 17 December from 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm.

Please bring a plate of yummy food for nibblies.  
A BBQ lunch will be provided.

Bring your swimmers if the weather is good.

RSVP to Shaun by 15 December on 0407200907.

