



# HUNTER VALLEY EQUESTRIAN CENTRE

## Newsletter - January 2024

Hi Everyone,

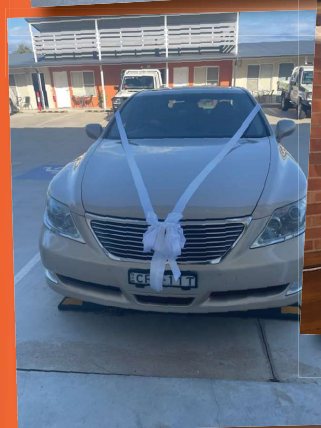
What a huge month. Where do I start? I have to start with my quiet love and feelings for Pip my cat. Pip came to my house with a sister from Minmi and a horse owner 18 years ago. Unfortunately her sister was bitten by something and died at an early age. Pip survived 18 years of excitement, Irish Setters, Labradors, stress, competition horse riders and mostly life. In her later years she was my calmer. I would like to thank Ilona Hudson from Noah's Ark Veterinary Clinic for her beautiful way of letting Pip rest in peace. As I write this, there are tears in my eyes. Pip was so loyal and so tolerant. RIP Pip.

On Friday, 5th January I travelled to Gunnedah for Ruby and Mark's wedding. I was met at the motel by Grandma Florence and other very close relatives. The Lexus (Bruce's Lexus) was to be the one and only special wedding car. We had a lovely dinner and retired early in preparation for the special morning. The Lexus was beautifully prepared in the morning by Grandma Florence and Greg. Gilbert came to collect the special car and drove to collect the bride and her father. There were a few (many!) tears for Bruce. The wedding was in the morning, followed by a brunch which was prepared by the ladies from the Church. It was beautiful. I am so happy for Ruby and Mark and grateful for the opportunity to be with a lovely group of people on such a special day. Love and best wishes for the future.

The Children's full days of riding and learning were very successful in January. The children were great pupils and willing to learn so much. Good and long lasting friendships are made and the children love riding and spending time with their horses.

Hunter Valley Dressage held their first unofficial competition of the year on January 14th. I decided to enter Roseman and give my best for the start of 2024. Roseman also decided to give it his best and came home with two 1st placings. I'm still in shock.

### *Ruby & Mark's Wedding*



My little star but now grown up pupil Molly Callinan told me she was entering the Inter II and Grand Prix tests. What could I say but okay, we will give it a try. It was very hot and Colonial Tosh gave everything he had for the Inter II and tried really hard for his first grand prix. He doesn't say no. I'm very proud of these two and know the journey and experience is going to be a great one. Di Stanley, the breeder of Tosh, was the most excited and proudest person at the competition.

The Hunter Valley Vaulting Team and coach Sharna Kirkham held two half day vaulting clinics in January. Lots of people came and many participated despite the extreme heat. The covered arena was ideal for the clinics.

Shannon and Jacko were wilting in the heat whilst shoeing and trimming horses in January. They had to keep working, so lots of snacks, energy drinks and the invitation for a swim in the pool was certainly appreciated.

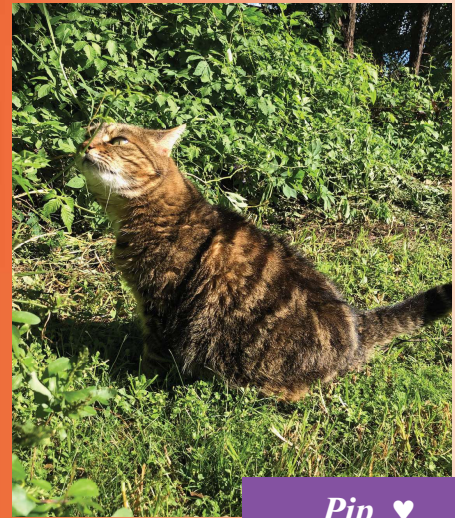
Jayde, Kaitlin and myself have somehow survived the heat. You can't say no to feed up. It must be done and you have to survive and do it properly. Unfortunately you feel so knackered after a long day that you are not fit for any other exercise, even if it is enjoyable like dancing. I have only attended once this year, but I will get back to learn more dances and keep the body fit and healthy.

Rhannarr has returned home from the Ryans and she has a positive 45 day in foal result. A big thank you to Heath, Rozzie, the girls and Johnny. A bigger thank you to Peter Tabac for his veterinary expertise. Fingers crossed for November/December for a beautiful black baby.

The Airbnb accommodation was very popular in January. People love the feel of the country and the horsey environment. Thank you for staying.

By for now,

Shaun



*Pip* ♥



*Bonnie, Hugo, Aiden, Lilly and Grace*



*Molly at Hunter Valley Dressage receiving Junior Small Tour Champion, Junior Horse/Rider of the Year*