



Newsletter - May 2024

Hi Everyone,

The month of May started with one of the biggest dressage competitions in Australia - the Sydney CDI. Leanne and I travelled to watch the Grand Prix and support Rozzie who was riding Bronze Boy R (Heath's eventing horse). I realised as I was watching at the warm up arena and then the tests, how much I miss competing at that level. I will have to dig deep to make it next year. Rozzie rode so well on her new dressage horse and showed her years of experience and expertise. Look out Grand Prix riders, this combination still has a lot more to show.

On May 6th, Christopher and I attended the funeral service of Rod Ryan. This was held at the Ryan's property at Heatherbrae. Heath, Matthew and many others converted the indoor arena into a lovely and decorated venue for the service. Approximately 150 people from the Hunter Valley and surrounds attended the service. The eulogies were a range of stories about the very interesting and adventurous life of a loving and intelligent gentleman. RIP Rod. I will always remember great stories and have many memories of your life in Black Hill.

On May 26th, I was about to start teaching my first lesson when Rozzie called to say that Elliot

Patterson had passed away. We knew that Elliot had fallen from a horse a few weeks prior, but we never thought that he would die. How is it possible that such an experienced and talented rider could fall whilst cooling off a horse on a long rein.

The following Friday on May 31, Christopher, Heath, Mary and I left at 3 am to travel by car to the funeral at Brookfield Showground, Queensland. The weather was kind, the showground and marquee was ready for 1,000 people to be together for the occasion. The eulogies were wonderful stories about Elliot and his life. The country music played endlessly, and the tears rolled and rolled and could have flooded Brookfield. There were a million hugs, there was silence, there were smiles. Our hearts go out to Angie and Ron Patterson, and Alexis Hellyer. Alexis - life will never be the same again, but you will have wonderful memories and experiences forever. Be strong and remember time is the healer. Take your time.

We returned to Heatherbrae at midnight, being so grateful for the life we have. Thank you to Christopher for driving so safely.

Bye for now,
Shaun



Rod and Mavis' wedding day



Elliot Patterson



Rozzie Ryan and Bronze Boy R