



MARENA STUD & RIDING ACADEMY

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Maureen and Bruce Walker & Lindy Johnson

NEWSLETTER – CHRISTMAS 2005

It is almost Christmas again and every one is wondering where the year went.

Looking at the year in review a lot has happened:--

Golden Wedding - Bruce and I celebrated 50 years of marriage on 8/1/05 helped by friends from all over that period with some of them coming from Qld., Sth Aust and West Aust. It was wonderful to have pupils there from the very early days when Bruce and I used to teach at Pony Club in the 1960's up to the present day.

Sydney Royal was quite a challenge with Lindy so close to having her baby, Luke very mobile, me recovering from several weeks' illness and we had 8 horses there.

As usual everybody rallied around – Anna Scanlon, the Evans Family, Kath Jones, Tanya Edwards, Kristie Nicholls, Gittan Inglis, Nell and Will Evans, Sarah McMillian, Nikki Melross and Jared Ashbrook.

Lindy's little girl, Keeley Walker Johnson, was born on 27/4/05 just 4 weeks after Sydney Royal ended.

Canberra Royal – We did not compete at Canberra in February this year because of Lindy's baby on the way, but the Evans Family were there. Marena Memories won first in the Mare Hack for the second year in a row. Nell Evans, with Thompson Destiny, won the Hunter Under Saddle for the third year in a row and Ridden ASH, Rider under 17 years .

Our trip to Switzerland was special highlight of 2005 when Bruce, Peter and myself went to Fran's fantastic real Swiss country Wedding. Fran has visited Australia twice, lived here, had riding lessons and attended shows with us. We had a lively two weeks hosted by her delightful family.

Foaling time We have had lovely rain and it is a blessing to see the paddocks so green after the long dry conditions of recent years. Our mares are as fat as mud and the foals are arriving. So far Amber Folly, Encore, Sun Folly, Captivate, Accent, have foaled and they are all fillies. Yet to foal are Maxina, Windflower and Tammy who is Memory's mum.

HORSE SALE - We having a clearing Auction Sale in January to clear stock so as to achieve the planned numbers of horses that we can manage easily whilst Lindy's children are young. A special Catalogue is being prepared for the new year.

Grand National Marena Fanfare will compete at the Grand National in 2006 having won at the NSW 2005 Horse of the Year in October ridden by Lindy. Nell Evans also had success at the State Show and will also be competing for the Rider of the Year Award.

Going to Shows Lindy has started showing again this Spring with our clients and pupils. Luke, now two years, stays home with me and Keeley goes to the Shows with Mum (The Milk Bar). Sometimes she goes in a car but other times she sits up in her car seat in the "big" truck, bouncing along with her little chubby cheeks keeping rhythm. She loves the outings and has many willing baby-sitters at the shows.

It is a common sight to see 6 horses lined up standing in a row waiting their turn in the ring with Keeley in her pram and pupils and Lindy jumping from horse to horse as each horse is required to compete. Always the support team is around to help - Kristie, Ellie and Anna Nichols, Andrea, Garry, Nell and Will Evans, Kath Jones, Gittan Inglis, Ann Scanlon, Jarrod Ashbrook, Nikki Melross and Alex Keith.

Sometimes there are mothers, fathers, grandparents and other relatives there too.

At these Spring shows: **Marena Fanfare** won 14 Champions, **Westwood Seduction** won 21 Champion, **Marena Sweet Kiss** won 6 Champions, **Marena Heartbeat** (in her first season) won 3 Champions & 4 Reserves in 8 shows, **Marena Memories** won 8 Champions, **Thompson's Destiny** 9 Champions and **Nell Evans** won 5 Champion Riders in 5 shows.

Jared Ashbrooke Won Champion Boy Rider at Castle Hill and Reserve at Morisset. His horse Marena Outback, just starting to show has won three Hack classes.

Will Evans who has just started to show, at 7 shows, won Champion Gent Riders at Castle Hill and Singleton.

Nikki Melross is one of our keenest riders attending lessons regularly and she rides most of the horses. One of the highlights being, Reserve Champion Girl Rider at Singleton Show.

Lizzie Gallagher Lucky Lizzie has been overseas in Europe and the USA for 6 weeks and has only been to the first couple shows

Alex Keith has ridden in five shows this year and won at all of them. She started the year as a girl rider winning her class at Morisset then moving up to the lady's riding class with success, winning Reserve Champion Lady Rider at Castle Hill.

Ellie Nicholls – This pocket rocket is really on her way. She is so keen and competitive, she wants to ride everything we have. Elle did well in leading rein classes but rode solo for her first time at St Ives show in October. She won Champion Beginner Rider on Marena Sweet Kiss. Yes, Sweet Kiss is taking **another** beginner competitor to success in the Show Ring. At her last Show, Ellie won Champ Ridden Aust Stud Pony on Sweet Kiss beating the adults.

Wesswood Seduction - Anna Scanlon's lovely liver chestnut mare, Westwood Seduction (Jordi) has had a marvellous season, winning up to four Champions at a single show. Jordi has been with us now for 18 months and we are very pleased with her progress and performance, she just gets better and better. She is for sale in the new -year.

NSW Horse of the Year 2005

At the Show Horse Council of Australasia NSW Horse of the Year we achieved the following results:

Wesswood Seduction	First Led Galloway Mare, Champion Preliminary Galloway - ridden by Lindy Walker-Johnson
Marena Fanfare	First Junior Equestrian Galloway - ridden by Nell Evans, Top 10 and runner-up Show Hunter of the Year

Marena Memory Champion Junior Equestrian Hack - ridden by Nell Evans,
Top 10 Hack of the Year

**Thompson's
Destiny** Top 10 Show Hunter of the Year - ridden by Nell Evans

Nell Evens Runner-up Rider of the Year 12 & under 15 yo.

Well Done All Our Pupils

We are more than happy with the progress of all our pupils, those that are competing but most certainly those that are beginning. We are always thrilled to see each pupil progress just a little bit further each lesson. But don't forget there is a lot to learn and we enjoy teaching you so that you may ride safely and well with knowledge.

As you progress you may come here for half a day on Saturdays to learn all about the care and the correct handling of horses and have a lesson as well for \$55.00. During the School holidays pupils may come for the Day.

SCHOOLS – during the Christmas holidays - make bookings early please

Three Day Schools Sat, Sun, Mon, 17th 18th and 19th Dec 2005 - 10.00 am - 4.00 pm
and Mon, Tues, Wed 16th, 17th, and 18th Jan 2006 - 10.00 am - 4.00 pm

NSW Sport and Recreation Mornings at Marena Stud -- 9.00 am to 12 am 11th and 12th January

The new One Day Starter School for our beginner pupils that have not yet reached the safety standard of riding required to join our regular Three Day Schools proved very popular and gave lots of newer people lots of confidence

One Day Starter School **Tuesday, 10th January, 2006.** - 10.00 am to 3.00 pm

Please note change of date. Please book early to ensure a place in the School. You may have to ring Lindy on her mobile - 0418 433 710 or ring 02 43521707.

Lessons. Regular lessons will be suspended during to School holidays. After the holidays regular lessons should begin again when school goes back, please ring nearer to the time to confirm your time for the new - year, we've got some great plans for 2006.

Do not forget to look us up on the Internet www.marenastud.com to see photos of your favourite horses and see how your fellow pupils are progressing at the shows.

Our Email address is marenastud@bigpond.com

We would like to thank all our loyal helpers, especially Kristie, Gittan Tammy, Rikki, Dave and Greg for their help throughout the year, we could not do without them.

Hope you all have a good holiday coming up

Best wishes for a Happy Christmas to all our pupils and their families.

Love from Lindy and Mrs Walker.

REACH FOR THE STARS

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Quote of the Month - "When you are good to others, you are best to yourself." - Benjamin Franklin