



## **MARENA STUD & RIDING ACADEMY**

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**MAUREEN, BRUCE AND LINDY WALKER**

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### **February Newsletter**

A New Year has started and I feel great enthusiasm for all good things coming our way. It seemed a long holiday (which is good) without horse riding lessons (which is bad) – do you agree?

We have been very busy since Christmas time. We were closed for 2 weeks and started the New Year with a Three Day School the first week and a One Day School the next week with a Sport and Rec. Saddle Club morning as well. Lessons were given and several children availed themselves of the opportunity to spend more time with the horses on our Horsemanship Days in the last 2 weeks of the holidays. An opportunity our pupils have to learn more during the holidays or on any Saturday.

We are back in full swing with regular lessons and it is great to see you all again. Welcome to our many new pupils, everyone is looking forward to meeting you.

#### **Instruction for this Year - OUR AIM is to teach our pupils correctly and safely.**

We are putting together a programme for the year with special dates for One, Two and Three Day Schools, Ladies Schools and Show Preparation Days.

We are very anxious that all our pupils enjoy their riding and make progress each lesson. This is equally important for the pupils that ride for pleasure as the ones that compete.

**LADIES** - This is going to be a Ladies year –why should the children have all the fun? Many Mums wish they had had the opportunity to ride when they were young. It is never too late you know (Dad's too). If you are interested then give it a go, you will be in very experienced hands that will help you to realise your dreams. The youngest child we have taught was just over 2 years, many start at 3 years, and the oldest adult was 68 years. This was a man who thought it is never too late and there was a lady who had not ridden before, she had had a heart attack and had always wanted to learn to ride. We helped her realise her dream.

**EXPERIENCED RIDERS** - We are also offering special classes to help experienced riders who are doing competition but have reached a plateau and are not achieving the success they want. So tell your friends.

Lindy is one of the most successful riders in Australia, an expert who is an excellent teacher with the kindest and most understanding approach to helping people. Some people may feel over awed by her record of achievement but there is no need as she just loves to help people with their horses and riding.

**LESSONS** - As usual lessons are on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday mornings,

This year we will be introducing lessons on Mondays. We will set this day aside for introductory lessons especially for beginners. However that does not mean that beginners cannot come on other days or that experienced riders cannot have a lesson on Monday if it suits them better.

**QUALIFIED INSTRUCTORS**; - Our Instructors are all highly trained and experienced in all types of riding:

**Lindy** for example has competed successfully, not only in the Showring, but in Dressage, Eventing, Showjumping, Sporting, Campdrafting, Western Pleasure and Breed classes.

**Lindy** is our Senior Instructor; knowing the pupils individually she will be able to help you with any query, please ring her for bookings on 0418 433 710. She will be ably assisted by:

**Michael**, who comes from N.Z, brings to his teaching a wealth of experience in lots of different fields. He has proved to be very popular Instructor with adults and children alike. He will be giving jumping lessons as the year progresses.

**Kristy** finished the Vet Nursing course that she was doing at Hawkesbury Agricultural College last year. The heavy work load took a toll on her health and she had to take some time off towards the end of the year.

She is well again and back at Marena Stud so she will be doing lessons again as her pupils will no doubt welcome. It will be nice to see Ellie and Anna back at Marena Stud riding again.

And guess what? **Mrs Walker** who, due to ill health, has not been giving lessons for a couple of years, is now going to be available for a limited number of lessons.

**Kier Ferrie**, long time pupil at Marena Stud, has finished her advanced course at the University in Hawkesbury doing her Agricultural course and is now working full time at a horse stud at Sandy Hollow. We hope that Kier will continue to assist us whenever she can.

And how could we do without **Debbie** and **Erin**, those wonderful people in the stables who look after the horses so well.

**Alex Keith** has done splendidly in her Higher School Certificate and will be heading off to Uni. soon. She has been a great help to us over the holidays and will come with us to shows when she can.

**Jared Ashbrooke**, who has had a bit of a break from riding, has his horse Dusty back here and is a welcome member of our team.

**Nikki Melross** has been holding the fort and helping with all the exercising of the show horses. It is good to have pupils so advanced in their training and trustworthy that any task can be confidently left in their hands

Speaking of past pupils that are doing well, recently we received a beautiful photo of **Elissa Kadar** on her Wedding Day. Elissa commenced riding with us as a beginner when she was only 7 years and rode at all the Royals with us until she gave up riding to concentrate on her education. Elissa became a vet and has worked in Australia and in the United States.

**Our Horse Sales** - We sold most of our horses in our the "I See Stars" Horse Sale in January 2006, but we still have some youngsters that are growing up and will come on the market from time to time as we prepare them for sale. If you are contemplating a pony for the future it would be best to look as soon as possible and put your name on one of these young super stars. There is a big demand for Marena horses as they are sensible, train easily and are of top quality.

Because of the short supply of our horses we are often asked by clients to find suitable horses for them that meet our standard of requirement. We have some our horses we have sold previously coming back to us for sale when their owners have outgrown them, which is good as we know their natures.

Many pupils wish to own their own horse. We recommend restraint in this department.

Beginners certainly could not manage their own horse as there is so much to learn - balance, safety, control and horse care. The up-shot of purchasing a horse before you are ready for it will be staying at the same level, *or even worse*, going backwards or loosing confidence. There is the danger of an accident if the horse is unsuitable for the rider.

*No one knows better than the teacher, what a pupil needs. We, your teachers, know you best, what standards you are at and the horse most suitable for your needs.*

*PLEASE consult us if you are thinking of buying a horse. We know what is suitable for you age, purpose and experience.*

Many of our most successful riders have gone through all stages, even riding at Royal Shows and interstate on our horses, never owning a horse of their own. They become part of our show team and have access to the best horses for their every stage and age.

Just sitting on a horse is not riding there is so much to learn and achieve unity, that is, learning the joy of riding a horse in a real partnership for comfort, safety and control. So keep up your lessons, there are lots of wonderful exciting things ahead to learn.

### **First 2007 Show -- The pupils at the Morisset Show that were there REACHING FOR THE STARS**

The Marena team of horses and riders competed at their first show of the year at Morisset Pony Hack and Hunter Show on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> February, all had a most successful day

Kath Jones (2 firsts an Reserve Champion with her horse Lord Nelson), Alex Keith (1<sup>st</sup> and Reserve Champ.), Will Evans (Champion), Nell Evans (3 Champions), Nikki Melross (Champion), Jared Ashbrooke (Champion and Reserve), Ellie Nichols (1<sup>st</sup>), Anna Nichols (1<sup>st</sup>), Carlie Lind (two 2nds), and at their first show Brooke Piper (1<sup>st</sup>) and Caitlin Mayer (2<sup>nd</sup>). Well done everyone. Lindy had a big day with 8 horses and the pupils. Kristie Nichols, Annabel Stewart, Stacey Melross and Kylie Gardem were all on hand to help her.

**Canberra Royal** – Bruce, Maureen, Lindy, Luke and Keeley will be setting off for Canberra on 20th February. Accompanying us will be the Evans Family - Andrea, Gary, Nell and Will as well as Kath Jones, Nikki Melross, Kristie, Ellie and Anna Nichols, with horses Lord Nelson, Marena Fanfare, Marena Sweet Kiss, Marena Heartbeat, Marena Memories, Thompson's Destiny, Marena Heritage, Newdale Crusade, and Glo-brook Georgie Boy.

**There will be no lessons the week when we are in Canberra. We will not be home until Sunday 25<sup>th</sup>.**

**Grand National** - Marena Fanfare, having won Champion at Canberra and Res. Champion at Sydney Royal in 2006 will be competing at this year's Grand National at Sydney International Equestrian Centre on Friday 30<sup>th</sup>.March, ridden by Lindy in the Show Hunter Championship. Nell Evans, who won NSW Runner up Rider of the Year and Jared Ashbrook, who won Reserve Champion Boy Rider at Sydney Royal 2006 will both compete in the Grand National Rider 15 to 17 Years. We wish them all the best of luck.

**Sydney Royal** - We will be leaving for Sydney on Monday, 2<sup>nd</sup> April and will be returning on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup>.April.

We are taking twelve horses to Sydney this year and will be helped by- Kath Jones, Kristie Nicholls, Jared Ashbrook, Alex Keith and Nikki Melrose. The Evans Family; Andrea, Gary, Will and Nell, as well as Nerida and Ainsley Duncan. Anna and Belinda Scanlon, Taylor-Lee George and Mauve Lawson will also be busy with their horses.

If you are down at the Show come and visit us, we may be busy but it is nice to see you however briefly. We will be in our usual spot in the Faulkner Pavilion.

**Gosford Agricultural Show** is on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> May, 07 - Central Coast & Lower Hunter Hack Assoc. will be running the horse section again this year. Many of our pupils will be competing there so it might be a good place to go and see your friends in action.

Also, any parents or friends who would like to become a Ring Steward  
please contact Kath Jones on 02 9999 1540

The Hack Association runs at least 3 shows a year it is interesting and valuable lessons can be learnt about shows and competing by doing this job.

**Lindy and Mrs Walker**

**REACH FOR THE STARS**



## **MARENA STUD AND RIDING ACADEMY -- KEEP THIS PAGE FOR FUTURE REFERENCE**

**THREE-DAY SCHOOL** our regular and popular Three Day Schools are run in all the school holidays.

With training following a logical plan over 3 days running, the improvement in the rider is quite extraordinary and well worth the effort on our part and on yours. In these Schools the riders have lots of fun as they learn.

The pupils arrive in time to prepare their horses for the day and by ready to ride at 10.00 am. They have a break for lunch, daily pupils bring their own lunch and the "shop" opens at lunchtime for drinks and iceblocks.

In the afternoon the pupils ride until 4.00 pm. The riders then have to clean up their horses and make them comfortable for the night before going home. We always have help on hand to help the little ones and to teach the correct way of caring for the horse.

Adults and juniors ride in these Schools the only criteria is that they are proficient enough to ride safely in the open. The less experienced riders have a special instructor.

Pupils may bring their own horses or School horses are available, but it is advisable to book early to get the horse you would like to ride.

### **ONE DAY STARTER SCHOOLS**

**The One Day Starter Schools** proved very popular when they were commenced in 2006. These schools aim at introducing our beginner pupils to riding safely in a more challenging environment. An excellent start for those riders that have not yet reached the standard of riding required to join our regular Three Day Schools.

**LADIES SCHOOLS** These Schools are for ladies to improve their position, knowledge and their riding proficiency. The Schools are held over two days with a social get-together on the first night. Lots of fun and genuine improvement is the order of the day. These are really relaxing and happy days for horse ladies. Numbers for these Schools are strictly limited so book early. ( A Gentleman's School is under consideration)

### **SHOW PREPARATION SCHOOLS**

These Schools are designed to the professional level of expertise. Fashions change, be up to date.

Subjects treated;-- Plaiting, Mane and Tail, English Plaits, Trimming, Pulling the Tail, Thinning the Mane, Quarter markers, Minimising Faults, Gear Preparation, What to Wear, etc.

**THREE-DAY SCHOOL** our regular and popular Three Day School will be run in the school holidays

**Thu, Fri, Sat - 19th to 21st April, 2007 - 10.00 am to 3.00 pm**

**LADIES SCHOOL** - To be held over two days on

**SPECIAL SADDLE CLUB LESSON DAY - Sat 14th April, 2007** - We will be giving lessons the whole day. Please book for private or group lessons.

**July School Holidays** - There will be a Three Day and Two One day Schools during these holidays and again in the October ones. Dates to be announced.

Please book early to ensure a place in the Schools. It is best to ring **Lindy on her mobile – 0418 433 710**. Otherwise ring on the Stud phone - **02 4352 1707**

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

Good Luck to all our pupils at Canberra and Sydney Royal, may you ride well and make us all proud of you. Lots of love and best wishes to all our pupils and their families.

**Lindy and Mrs Walker**

**REACH FOR THE STARS**