



## MARENA STUD & RIDING ACADEMY

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**MAUREEN, BRUCE AND LINDY WALKER**

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Dear Pupils.

Lots of good things have happened already this year; time certainly seems to go quickly when you are having fun!

Most of our pupils are back riding regularly and there are quite a few new ones, especially lots of "littles", so that means lots of good riders for the future; Maddy and Caitlin Weeks, Elijah and Samuel Forsythe, Angelina and Imogen Hondroyiannis, Monisha Madden, Evie Barrett, Ella Starkey, Imogen Grenfell.

Some of our other riders that have really shown a marked improvement are Carlie Lind, Amy Tetlow, Lillie Brown, Bronte and Alexa Talbot, Olivia Salt, Maddy Hodgetts, Amy Porter, Brianna Johnson, Mikayla and Charlotte Akhurst, Danielle Horton. The above are only a few of our riders that we are very proud of and love to teach and hope to for as long as possible.

Some of our more senior riders Janet Timmis, Karren Talbot, Kim Cunningham, Melissa Bryant, Sharon Hodgetts, it is a pleasure to have you here and I really enjoy our lessons.

**Congratulations to all of the above you are doing us proud.**

***"How to Know Your Horse and Get the Best from Him"*** - Our first lecture was attended by 13 keen people. We all had good fun discussing new concepts and some old wives tales. There is so much to know about horses that one cannot be bored talking about them. We find that there is always more to learn that is why we have looked for more knowledge always.

The second session will be of a practical and theoretical nature with demonstrations of how to catch, bridle, groom, rug, saddle and how to wash a horse (this is the thing that is done most incorrectly of all, much to the horse's despair). If all these things are done properly it is much safer for the pupil and much more pleasant for the horse and makes the riding more successful.

**Canberra Royal** - As usual Canberra was a successful and fun Royal for our team. Although some came down with some sort of a bug they still managed to perform, with a total of 5 firsts, 2 Reserve Champions and several other placings amongst the camp. Nell won the ASH Junior Judging for the second year in a row, with Nikki running 4<sup>th</sup> at her first attempt. Harriet's mare Idol won and was Reserve Champion, Georgia and Alexa Coffey's pony Marena Amber Flare won two 1<sup>st</sup>, Lil's pony Howard won 1<sup>st</sup>, Marena Twilights won Reserve Champion Ridden APSB for the second year in a row, with other placings going to Will, Nell, Nikki, Georgia, Maeve, Harriet, Lil. A job well done guys - we are proud of you, all are all improving and should be very proud of your effort.

**The Past Revisits** - Today a lovely thing happened. A pupil of mine, Wendy Whittaker, came back to start riding again; it was 32 years since she had been here. Wendy has 4 children and after years of doing family things she is going to ride again with Lindy as her teacher. When I saw her riding in her lesson with Lindy I could recall accurately the image of little girl riding her grey mare "Samantha" when I used to teach her at Tall Timbers Pony Club.

It was not only wonderful to have Wendy back but her Mum, Coral, came too, and we had a good talk about the good old days. Wendy wanted to walk through the house and revive the memories of when she used to stay here for the Three Day Schools recalling the fun all the riders had riding on the cross country course. "I have such wonderful memories of those times", she said.

Over the years many well-known riders have ridden with Marena Riding Academy and we are justly proud of them and their achievements. Recent results remind that our method of teaching

develops a solid foundation that prepares our pupils not only to become self-reliant and resourceful but be able to take their place at a later date in any sport they wish. Once the rider learns to ride properly they can go on and do anything else that they want to - Dressage, Hacking, Showjumping, Eventing, Polo, Sporting, etc. The secret is get the basics right and all else will work.

The pupils in their training here acquire a surprising knowledge of horses without realising it, they seem to soak it up, as we pass on information about all kinds of things as circumstances arise.

This has been demonstrated by Nell and Will Evans and Nikki Melross with their successes in Judging Competitions. Now Nikki has proved herself a star at Australian Stockhorse Shows in Led, Hack, Working and even Campdrafting when she had her first attempt at Grafton coming scoring 19 in the cut out and getting the gate on course, which means Nikki managed to get her beast (steer) around a figure eight pattern. If not sure about this please ask Lindy or Mrs Walker.

Nikki's horse Secret is an experienced horse, but if Nikki had not learnt to sit down properly she would have been shot out of the saddle when Secret did those fast turns. Well done Nikki.

**Sydney Royal** starts next week on 31<sup>st</sup> of March. We will have 8 horses down there so come and see us if you are down there we are stabled Tack Room143 in the Faulkner Pavilion. Good luck to all and we hope you reach your goals of success.

**Schools** - As Sydney Show is on over the school holidays we are unable to have Three Day School, however, so that you will not miss out too much there will be a One Day School on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> April.

Schools in the July Holidays: One Day 8<sup>th</sup> July  
Three Day 12<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> July

Normal Lessons will start again on Tuesday, 27<sup>th</sup> April at your usual lesson times.

The Schools are a very important part of our training programme. In the lessons we concentrate on position, control, rhythm and riding with accuracy the Schools provide an opportunity to develop real horsemanship qualities incorporating sporting and cross country jumping thus developing skills in balance, self-reliance and know-how to help riders cope with any unforeseen circumstances. There are few ways in modern life to develop these skills that country children in the past developed as a matter of course, many riding bareback most of the time. It has been proven now that bareback riding creates gripping that causes tension which is undesirable in the modern ring, but it certainly taught children how to stick on.

That is why we regret Sydney Show taking up all the holidays but we will have 2 Three Day Schools in the July holidays to make up, and in the meantime we have the One Day Schools.

**Autumn is weaning time** - All our babies were weaned this week, the chubby little foals whinnied for their mummies for a while but soon settled down to eat their special hay and it will give the mares time to fatten up before winter. They will be out in the front paddock near the road when you come next time.

After Easter we do have a couple of Shows that you might like to come and see your fellow pupils compete in. Gosford 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> May, St Ives 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> May.

We would like to wish all our pupils a very happy and safe Easter and I hope the Easter Bunny is good to you.

**Love from Lindy and Maureen Walker**

**REMEMBER: - "Reach For the Stars"**



**[Our web site - www.marenastud.com.au](http://www.marenastud.com.au)**