

ACADEMY TIMES



Issue #01 - August 2023

What's Happening This Month?

We're half-way through our current Level 2 course and love the way our students are engaging! It's great to see them off each morning to work experience!

We've also welcomed our new intake of Level 3 students - some familiar faces from the last L2 and a few new ones too! Good luck everyone - we're excited to be on this journey with you!



NEW ZEALAND
BLOODSTOCK®

Working Together

We're extremely thankful to such esteemed industry professionals as New Zealand Bloodstock who share our vision of bringing exciting new talent into New Zealand's equine industry. We invite you to support the industry **you** love by sponsoring the tutoring and training of New Zealand's up-and-coming field of professional jockeys, stablehands, track work riders and studmasters - **together we'll produce champions!** To find out how you can back our rising generation of equine superstars, contact Donovan on 021 0788355 or donavan@skillnz.ac.nz

The Graduate Life - Elyn

A graduate of our first-ever NZ Certificate in Equine Skills L2 course (collectively self-named 'The Originals!'), Elyn O'Connell [pictured below with Audi] came to us keen to streamline her skills and expand her knowledge. A stand-out, Elyn came through the course with flying colours, returned to us to complete her L3 qualification and we're thrilled to see her now progressing on her career path as a track work rider/stablehand with the goal of a jockey apprenticeship in her sights!

When she's not riding Elyn will take any chance she gets to go on a hike. Being a great lover of the outdoors, the beach is also a favourite!

Elyn's role model is thoroughbred trainer and boss Kylie Hoskin - Elyn admires Kylie's hard work and dedication and says 'she is very passionate and caring and doesn't go a day without cracking a sweat with a huge smile on her face!'

Asked what her favourite thing about the industry is, Elyn says it's definitely the opportunity to educate and work with young, inexperienced horses and the reward of taking them through their paces and watching them grow and eventually become winners.

With the ultimate goal of becoming an Apprentice Jockey, Elyn's immediate career focus is to perfect her riding and soak up all the knowledge she can from more experienced riders.

And finally, what advice does Elyn have for future students? 'Work hard... every experience is a good experience - learn from it! And, of course... have fun!'





In The Tutor's Chair – Renee

Our Program Tutor Renee Faulkner is more than meets the eye! Fun fact - she's a twin! Raised in an animal-filled environment Renee has always been passionate about animals and the outdoors. No stranger to learning, Renee has a diploma in vet nursing as well as a Sport and Recreation Degree with a major in coaching from Auckland University of Technology. A perfect fit for her teaching role at NZ Equine Academy!



Renee's riding career has been solid, progressing through the ranks as a member of Franklin Teams Valley, Hunua Pony Club. Renee and her pony Boots And All won the Pony Club Eventing Championship as well as the DC Trophy, also taking multiple titles in showing and dressage. After ponies Renee acquired Rubin Star HH and together they finished in the top 10 at the Adelaide International 5* Event, representing New Zealand in the Young Rider and Senior Eventing teams. Renee feels fortunate not only to have had the opportunity to ride for some great owners but also to have been able to give back through coaching and especially to have recovered from a major head knock in December 2022 and made a return to riding as well as her other passions, fishing and diving!

Hats off to Haunui

Haunui Farm has been synonymous with quality horses for three generations of the Chitty family. Renowned for its high-class agistment and breeding services, being one of the top vendors at Karaka each year and producing winning racehorses, Haunui Farm has been a supporter of the Academy from the very beginning and each year, offers a variety of learning opportunities for the students with work experience placements.



"New Zealand Equine Academy provides a pathway for those wanting to enter the thoroughbred industry and gain a recognised qualification alongside real world experience" says Managing Director Mark Chitty (pictured, above). 'We're happy to support the Academy where we can and support people to find their place in the industry workforce. All the students we've had here at Haunui Farm have been eager to learn and show potential to be an asset to their future employers'.

WIN With Dunstan Horse Feeds!



Apprentice In Focus – Donovan



Apprentice Jockey Donovan Cooper [pictured above bringing The Finnster to a win at Ruakaka] is loving life!

Having arrived in New Zealand in October 2022 from South Africa to study under the tutelage of NZ Equine Academy Program Leader and Riding Master Donovan Mansour, Donovan has proven to be a willing and able student.

With three wins under his belt since signing up to his apprenticeship in May 2023 and attached to talented trainer Andrew Forsman, Donovan is loving the taste of success!

With his strong belief in hard work paying off and in knowing your worth, we know we'll be seeing more of Donovan and we'll be behind him every step of the way to his goal of becoming Champion Jockey of multiple destinations! In the meantime, if you see him on one of his outdoor excursions or adventures, go and say hi!

Send your best horse pic (and maybe a blurb to go along with it) to donavan@skillnz.ac.nz and be in to win a prize courtesy of [Dunstan Horse Feeds!](#)



Employment Law - Keeping Ourselves Safe



Employment Law Advocacy

One of our focuses at NZ Equine Academy is to teach our students how to be physically and emotionally safe in the workplace. With the commencement of work experience, knowing their rights and obligations is important for the protection of not only ourselves but of those we work with and it starts with the understanding of our employment agreement. A big thank you to Danny Gelb from Employment Law Advocacy who recently visited and upskilled our students - they now have a clearer understanding of how to read and understand an employment agreements, know what they're signing and what it means in real terms.

A Visit to Dunstan Horse Feeds

Dunstan Horse Feeds is a great supporter of NZ Equine Academy. As well as supplying our Academy horses with top-quality feed, they are also extremely generous with their wealth of knowledge. Equine Nutritionist Gretel Webber often visits the Academy as a Guest Speaker but recently our Level 2s enjoyed a visit to Dunstan (pictured, right) to experience first-hand how their horse-feed is manufactured and distributed throughout the country. Thanks so much for your hospitality and the opportunity to further our knowledge!



Challenging Ourselves at Camp Sladdin!



Health and fitness is a priority at NZ Equine Academy. As well as our regular gym sessions, F45 classes and daily stable and horse work which all contribute to a healthy balance of physical and mental health, we like to mix it up by really challenging ourselves with the uphill climb at Camp Sladdin in Clevedon. It's no walk in the park! Going up for the first time in Week 1 (pictured, above) takes determination but the view from the top is spectacular and the increase in our students' fitness and ability is also something to witness as we complete the second climb towards the end of our 13 week course!

Quick Seven - Zara!

What made you want to join our NZ Certificate in Equine Skills Level 2 course?

I felt it was a cool way to explore all the different opportunities available in the industry.

What do you enjoy most about working with the horses?

The joy and happiness they give us and getting to know all their individual personalities and traits.

Where do you hope this course might take you in the future?

Track Work Licence, completion of L2 and then L3 and then ultimately I'd love to become an Apprentice Jockey!

What do you love doing outside of Course?

Nature walks, road trips and adventures with friends and spending time with my loved ones.

What is one thing that people might find interesting about you?

I'm not from a horsey background at all - I've only just started riding since joining Course and I'm loving every minute of it!

If you could swap places with anyone for a day, who would it be and why?

A carefree child: no adult responsibilities - or bills!

Describe the L2 Course in five words or less:

Fun, educational, supportive, safe, growth!

