

RACEHORSE REHABILITATION



ABOVE: The NSW TRT team – (L-R) 'Bondi Vet' Dr Chris Brown, Shane Brady, Admiral Sally, Scott Brodie and Lynell Peck
BELOW: ATC's mounted security officers at Royal Randwick



A new lease of

LIFE

RETIREMENT MAY BECKON
BUT FOR MANY EX-RACEHORSES
A NEW START IN LIFE IS
AROUND THE CORNER

WORDS: EMILY POTTS

They've had their final dash to the winning post and the curtain falls on a racing career, however, for many thoroughbreds retirement means the loss of home and a carer – until now.

The New South Wales Thoroughbred Rehabilitation Trust has rolled out its unique re-training program at Randwick Racecourse and it's already making a positive impact on the NSW racing industry.

Formed in conjunction with Racing NSW and Australian Turf Club, the Trust is the brainchild of ATC Security and Risk Manager, Shane Brady, and Executive Director, Hospitality, Events & Membership, Lynell Peck.

After the success of thoroughbred re-training for mounted security purposes at Royal Randwick, Brady and Peck were inspired to pursue the possibility of racehorse rehabilitation.

Racing NSW had also expressed the need for future equine welfare opportunities and along with Australian Turf Club's support, the Trust came to fruition.

"The Trust was formed as a registered charity and is currently taking horses after they have wound up their careers; provided they have raced or have been prepared in New South Wales," said Mr Brady.

"The programme is based on re-education and the primary goal is to train the thoroughbreds to a basic dressage level.

"At this stage they can make the transition smoothly into specialist careers such as police horses, jumpers, eventers and dressage competitors."

Enter Scott Brodie – a highly-qualified equestrian instructor with extensive experience as a Mounted Police Officer.

Working alongside a team of equine experts including Racing NSW Veterinarian, Dr Craig Suann, Mr Brodie recognised the expansive potential of the programme.

"When Scott came on board the programme was able to take full flight by utilising his broad equine skills and begin training our first horses," said Dr Suann.

"Australian thoroughbreds have done particularly well in international competition including Olympic Games and we know they can be put to good use after their racing career."

It is vital to initially diffuse the horse and allow it to behave naturally before the re-education begins.

A six-week training process ensues which is followed

by a six-week spelling period, however, the schedule can vary based on the chosen specialty.

"One horse we are currently preparing will be taken by the Victorian Police," Mr Brady added.

"His training has taken a little longer as certain education criteria needs to be met, so we put in extra time and effort to get him to the expected standard."

Retired racehorse Stampeder, who was donated by trainer Wendy Lapointe, and Duffield, a gelding by Octagonal, are taking well to the programme and look to have another fruitful career ahead.

Whilst it is still early days for this exciting venture, one thing is clear, industry support has been vital to the Trust's success.

"Without Peter V'landys at Racing NSW, Arthur Inglis and the Australian Turf Club Board, we wouldn't be able to do this. Both organisations have embraced the programme and now the sky is the limit," enthused Ms Peck.

In its first year the NSW TRT hopes to re-train a minimum of 50 horses and already has 35 in their ranks.

The rehabilitation programme will also be gracing television screens soon with Channel Ten's 'Bondi Vet' (hosted by Dr Chris Brown) to feature the journey of chestnut mare Admiral Sally.

The benefits of the programme to NSW thoroughbred welfare are incomparable, however, for this initiative to flourish support is needed.

To date, donations have assisted with the supply of horse feed, visits by dentists, transportation and the employment of a full-time stablehand.

With the support of the racing industry the future is bright for the Trust ... and for thoroughbreds in NSW. **RNSW**

NSW Thoroughbred Rehabilitation Trust wishes to thank:-

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