

Learn to Ride

What makes the MVETC different?

All lessons have an emphasis on safety and having fun with horses. Rather than riding in endless circles, children are encouraged to participate in all activities including feeding, rugging, saddling and washing.

The aim is overall education and “understanding” horses, not just riding them.

As the children/adults become proficient riders, trail riding and various horseback games and competitions are encouraged.

Naree is capable of taking you and your children from beginner's lessons through to competition level. Lessons start with “common sense” horsemanship and riding skills which will enable you to handle a horse on an easy going trail ride. Then if you like, lessons can progress into any of the more specialised disciplines such as dressage, jumping, reining, etc.

Naree's teaching method is about developing a solid foundation of riding basics that will keep you and your child safe. These basics include knowledge, balance, and ground skills. Each of these will be described in a little more detail.

You can't go and dance “swan lake” without many years of learning the basics!!

Knowledge. Understanding the nature of horses is the key to being prepared for emergencies and getting the best results from a horse while riding.

Balance. An “independent seat” is what keeps you and your child safe in the saddle and makes a good rider. When a horse gets a fright, it is not the reins that will keep you in the saddle; it's your seat!

Balance must be developed before you can progress safely and correctly.

No bit? Learners start off with no bit, just halter reins, and progress to a bridle only when steady hands and a balanced seat have been established.

Ground skills. These are skills required to safely move amongst horses and teaches you riding skills BEFORE you have the extra concern of being on top of a horse. It also helps you develop a FEEL for the horse, eg how he understands the messages you send to him, how he moves, etc.

This teaching program is most successful when support and back up from parents is offered at home. Riding requires discipline, practice and immense patience. With a little patience, your children will soon progress, but more importantly, they will be very competent and safe riders.

Individual lessons. Group lessons for beginner riders can be hazardous. Individual lessons are offered to ensure safety, and the learning of correct techniques. It will cost you less in the long run.

Group lessons for more proficient riders are offered and can be a lot of fun!

All MVETC learn to ride horses are in exceptional health, well trained and responsive.

Horses are not just about riding. There is so much more fun stuff to learn!

IMPORTANT**TO BE OBSERVED AT ALL TIMES**

- Riding helmets must be worn at all times when handling or around the horses.
- Any horses on the property, either in paddocks or tied up are not to be approached.
- Children's handling of horses and other animals on the property must only be done under adult supervision, at all times.
- Any children on the property, other than those participating in the lessons, must be under adult supervision AT ALL TIMES.

The “Mary Valley Equine Training Centre” is a working property and there are many potentially dangerous obstacles, machinery and animals (including stallions) around the property and MVETC will not be responsible for any injuries that may occur.