

My life's passion

Riding a horse bridleless might seem like the ultimate to some riders but to Trish Wettenhall it's all in a days work.

By Cie'Jai Leggett

"My life passion has always been and will always be the Quarter horse. I couldn't imagine my life without them. We'll I could, but I wouldn't want to," said Trish.

With a career spanning almost three decades it's hard not to appreciate the work Trish has done in promoting the Quarter Horse industry to Australians nationally and value her work on the Board of Directors for the Australian Quarter Horse Association.

Trish has been living at Triandibo Stud and Training Centre in Hoddles Creek Victoria, for the past 10 years, previously Triandibo was located at Yarra Junction for 18 years. The Hoddles Creek property has 19 stables, 10 turnout pens and four larger paddocks Trish's barn is nearly always full.

Trish first started in the Quarter Horse industry in the 80's in the improver program at the Melbourne Quarter Horse Association.

"I purchased my first Quarter Horse who was by Bar Bell's Star, he was no Champion but then under the guidance of my partner Dick Fuchs, Trish purchased her Second QH known as "Heather" she was a turn back horse that turned into a working cowhorse, with the help of her partner. "We won many improver Cowhorses and then went on to win many State and National titles," she said.

In 1983 Trish, Dick and Trisha's parents Bob and Anne Wettenhall purchased the Yarra Junction property and "Triandibo" was born. Trish worked the stables and started to buy and ride a few of her own horses. It was not long, when people started asking her to ride there horses under the guidance of Dick.

Since then her business has taken off and expanded rapidly to have a client base of around 40 horses during the peak of the show season.

Over the years Trish has had many clients and a number of clients who have stayed with her for 15 years or more. Trish has always had a loyal contingent of clients and is always seen laughing and having a good time with them. She enjoys training both Amateurs and the Youth with many riders receiving AQHA Hi Point and National Titles.

To deliver successful horses to her clients Trish has to thank Charlotte Spinks-browning as it was Charlotte who had the greatest influence over her training program. "Charlotte taught me a lot about training and coaching riders and most of what she taught me I still use everyday," said Trish.

"I am also thankful for the assistance I got from the late Wayne Judge who started me on western riding and many other trainers and clinicians including Margaret Hammond, Charlie Hemphil, Pete Kyle, Dick Peiper, Nancy Cahill to name a few. I can remember something from every clinic I have been to that I use in my everyday program," said Trish.

Trish also spends time regularly with other trainers in the USA to freshen up her skills and recharge her batteries. Recently she spent time with the likes of with Brendan Brown from Oklahoma and Patti Carter-Pratt from Canada, during their clinics in Victoria.

It is these experiences that she brings back to her clients that makes her job so rewarding. "I love both Amateurs and Youth. It's a challenge training a horse and then adding the rider and seeing how far they can go. Every horse and rider combination is different and by sharpening my skills I can provide them with expert knowledge to get the perfect ride I wish for my

Trish and Inevitably

