



## ***NSWERA is delighted to finally announce the Mentor Program!***

A questionnaire conducted by Clare Feary and presented at the AGM several years ago indicated, amongst other things, that what newcomers to Endurance Riding really wanted was mentors.

The Mentor Program has a co-ordinator, currently me, Faith Robinson, and will have its own phone number – 04\_ \_NSWERA. We put off getting the actual number when the COVID restrictions befell the country, but watch this space – we will get our own number soon! In the meantime, if you have any enquiries, please contact me on my personal number 0418220927 or email [faithbob@me.com](mailto:faithbob@me.com), until our official phone number and email address are up and running.

A spreadsheet of Mentors has been started, with a view to be able to offer newcomers someone not too far away for them to connect with .

When we receive new enquiries via email, the website, phone, Facebook or personal referrals the person will be assessed and offered the opportunity to hook up with a Mentor.

Mentorship could take many forms. Really, new people just want support and confidence. Do you remember attending your first Endurance Ride? If you didn't have someone to guide you, how did you work out what to do? Did you automatically know that after entering you had to present your horse to the TPR's (what the heck are they?!) and then to the vets? Was your horse ready and steady for the checks? Did you know to present your "strapped" horse again after finishing, or that you should have gone and collected your vetting card?

Mentors will be diplomats for our sport who have a passion for improving our membership. Here's an opportunity to help educate those newcomers who have sometimes been cursed at the water troughs for not understanding the etiquette of waiting until a drinking horse has finished his intake before barging in. Here's an opportunity of improving wait times in the vetting area by tutoring the newcomers before they arrive, so that vets don't have to explain how to trot out properly, or to wait while the rug is unclipped. Here's an opportunity to help newcomers feel less uncomfortable about their lack of knowledge.

Here's an opportunity to make new friends... and increase our membership base.

What does it take to be a mentor?

A sound knowledge of the rules is essential, successful completions, a "To complete is to win" attitude along with a strong sense of horse welfare are more

important than fast times. Helping someone else prepare their horse in a timely manner for an appropriate length ride is the goal.

Additionally there's another program called the Step Up Program initiated as an incentive to complete their first 80km ride. In this program, the rider registers with Belinda Hopley (belinda.brian@netspeed.com.au). As they complete their Introductory and Intermediate rides, their kilometre tally is accumulated. When the tally reaches 160 km a congratulatory certificate is issued entitling the rider to a reimbursement of their first 80km ride (successful completion or not) up to the value of \$125.