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JACKIES UPDATE - MAY 2013

Hello horse lovers,

It's been a while since my last newsletter and I hope this finds everyone happy and well. I started writing a newsletter to you back in February and life was so busy with travel and teaching, it was never completed. Suddenly it was March and then all of a sudden I was struck down with illness. It is now almost the end of April and a freezing cold raining day outside as I begin this newsletter again. So grab a cuppa and I'll fill you in on all the goings on of the first four months of this very busy year for me.

Big News!!

As I mentioned I was struck down with illness at the beginning of March. I have never been so ill in my whole life and still trying to get on top of it as I write to you. Isn't it interesting how being completely out of control of your body forces us to look at life in a different way. After two months of lying in bed unable to do much apart from think, I am ready to embrace the changes and challenges that lie ahead of me. I am delighted to announce that Lance and I are expecting a baby in October! I will have a reduction of the amount of courses I will be able to teach New Zealand wide initially, but I am committed to my career and continuing to teach with as much passion for the Parelli program as I have had over the last 13 years of teaching.

January travels

After seeing the new year in, I headed down to Dunedin. There was a little black and white ball of energy missing on the trip – wasn't the same without taking Bella along for the ride down south but she stayed home with Lance since I was going to be away for 10 days. We had a really great Level 2/3 3day clinic hosted by Karen and Stewart Parker at their property with their new arena to try out. It was an incredible 39 degree's on the first day which had us all melting and going a little slower than usual. But everyone stuck in there and we were very pleased when the cloud came over and a slight breeze came through. It was a really great social 3 days with BBQ's for lunch and diner and all students making some fantastic progress with their four legged friends. Karen and Stewarts daughter Lori (10yrs) had a really great lesson on her pony and has made huge progress! Isn't it great to see kids embracing the Parelli principals and becoming so safe and savvy at such a young age! Special thanks to Karen and Stew for your hospitality as always!

Next stop, Five days of teaching in Invercargill. This trip we focussed on the three savvy's of Level 3 – with three days of workshops. (Online, Freestyle, Liberty) These days were a huge success with a lot of firsts for students and horses and tones of smiles and laughter. I thoroughly enjoyed these three days focussing on each savvy and giving students the best start with Liberty – some had never played at Liberty and we had four horses lie down in their round pens! It was a very relaxed and positive environment, held at Glenis Harris's property and hosted by Jane Garland. Then we had a Level 1 two day clinic held at Bev Williamsons property. This again was a huge success. Students made rapid progress and were soon being challenged with tasks using all '7 games'. Learning to put Principal to purpose and keep it fun for ourselves and our horses is most definitely the way to make progress fast. Special thanks to Jane, Glenis and Bev for all it takes to have these courses run so smoothly.

It was great to get home and the next weekend to have our second Level 1 beginners clinic of the season. We had students from as far as Kaikoura and Hokitika which was a huge effort! It was a great two days filled with learning from extroverted and introverted horses! Level 1 clinics are a life changing experience – I still remember my first clinic starting our not having a clue about what I had yet to learn about horses and how they feel, think, act and play!

In this issue:

Big News!!

Summer clinic success

Winter workshop series mark your diaries!

Casual working student wanted.

Video Coaching

Where to now? Time to head up north to the beautiful Takaka for two days of group and private lessons and a horseless workshop on Fluidity and rider posture. I had the use of Rita's horse Gypsy to help me present the workshop which allowed me to share some of the concepts that I had been involved with in the filming of the Advanced rider biomechanics DVD with Colleen Kelly. Everyone enjoyed the two days and as always the students all put on a wonderful lunch each day. Special thanks to Rita for organising the two days and for her positive and progressive attitude as always! Nelson was the next stop for a lesson day and a few Parelli saddle fittings. Some great progress with everyone who participated! Thanks to Margaret Richards for her hospitality! Phew, what a month! Off home for some R&R now. Just a week to prepare for our first five day course!

What an awesome February!

Students arrived excited about the week that would unfold at the Chant Ranch for five whole days to focus on freestyle riding, fluidity and patterns. We had two students come up from Invercargill and the rest from around Canterbury and it really was a fantastic week. Learning about effective warm up online, riding Big Red (seat building simulator), lots of simulations and Freestyle patterns and bareback riding! We had a real mixture of horses from a four year old to a 19 year old, extroverted, introverted and lots and lots of great demonstrations with different combinations. I loved this week as students really felt stretched but, they were ready the next day to get stuck in and achieve their personal goals. It was great to have 1* Instructor Trainee Kate O'Reilly there to assist – she was very popular when the iceblocks came out on the very hot days! There were some really fantastic changes in horses and riders, lots of fun, laughs with a truly great bunch of dedicated and passionate students!



The next day I was preparing to depart for Florida to attend the Dressage Summit. I wasn't missing this event for anything as Parelli Natural horsemanship was teaming up with world renowned classical dressage masters, Walter Zettl, Christoph Hess and Charles de Kunffy. Many of you would have followed the footage on Facebook and Parelli connect as there were some extremely special moments captured on camera and broadcasted within minutes to you all. For me, some of my most special moments was seeing the incredible Magic come out with Pat on the first morning. That mare is a true professional – she is so special and the relationship, heart and desire she has to please Pat brings tears to your eyes if you have known what negative past she came from. It was perfect to have her come out and blow the dressage community away with what can be done online, at liberty and in a western saddle in perfect execution. I had the privilege of riding Magic three years ago while riding in Pat's barn for a month during my Mastery program (continued education) and she is one in a million! There were some other really fantastic moments – Lauren Barwick (4* Instructor and paraolympian) and her lovely horse Paris did some outstanding demonstrations with Pat and Christoph Hess. Lauren has no feeling from her waist down, what better way for Pat to get his message to the dressage community that we need to ride with psychology and focus – "use your will power" Pat would say to Lauren as she rode bridleless using the Parelli patterns in the dressage arena. It was spectacular. Then when she came out and executed her Freestyle (dressage to music) test for Christoph Hess in his presentation, he scored her a 9.5 and said she was the most talented and promising Paraequestrian he has ever seen. Watch out at the World Equestrian Games – Paris and Lauren will be on fire! I could go on and on – I learnt so much and came home with a fresh perspective and a hunger for achieving excellence even more than ever. I was not only inspired, I have a clear pathway to follow with the release of the "Scale of training" DVD set with Christoph Hess and Linda Parelli. Pat Parelli demonstrated how the Parelli foundation prepares horses to be mentally, emotionally prepared for the physical challenges of the performance world and in such a way to have everyone

laughing and really embracing the message that it's not all about getting on and trying to do dressage. Setting horses up for success and building bridges between natural horsemanship and the dressage world will help make the world a better place for horses and humans!

The scale of training DVD set available to purchase by visiting my webshop link below.

After arriving home, the next day I jumped on another plane to Palmerston North. Ready for a three day Level 3/4 Clinic in Foxton. I was still a little jet lagged, but everyone was eager to hear all about the Dressage summit so I shared some of my video clips and highlights. With a great group of students, we had three whole days of focussing on the things that make a difference. Hunting the jump set them up brilliantly to have horses successfully hunting the hole with long range trailer loading. We has some fantastic trouble shooting sessions with the 7 games on board with some great exercises and patterns to achieve great focus and rhythm, relaxation and connection in preparation for bridleless riding. Those that attended this clinic will always remember it for the courage and determination displayed over the 3 days by Phillipa Carson. What a wonderfully special three days. Special thanks to Mandi Bates for organising and hosting the weekend.



Back home in Canterbury we had our final North Canterbury Focus Group for the summer season. Focus group is a group of students who commit to four sessions (over 4-5 months) plus a goal setting session to set them up for success in achieving their personal horsemahip goals over that period. This has been a thoroughly enjoyable process to watch this group of students with their young/green horses make enormous progress since we started together last year. The calm and harmonious picture of everyone riding in a large area with confidence and leadership was just fantastic. I am so proud of this group of students who have embrased the concepts I have shared with developing their young horses without leaving any holes in their foundation. Here are some thoughts from Kristie who hosted the Focus group at her property in Fernside.

Hi Jackie,

A big thank you for all your effort in our focus group this season! I spent some time reflecting on my goals on my tack room wall, after I put my kids to bed last night and I am thrilled with the achievements Pops and I have made. As you said yesterday, the picture of all five of us now is completely different to the picture four-five months ago!

In my humble opinion the focus group format is spot on, particularly for those of us with incredibly busy lives. You can pitch the learning to your own pace in your own time, but you have some accountability, if not to your horse, to yourself each month when you meet as a group for the next piece of the pie. Although many do not email in each month, for me this is one of the most important aspects of the format - not only does it give you time to format some semblance of a lesson plan, but more than anything for me, it formed the basis of my reflection process. It encourages you to reflect on what you have done, done well, and need help with, and where you are wanting to head to next. This is the part that encourages growth! The focus group is the closest thing you can get to being in a learning environment for an extended period of time, over the summer!

I am so glad that we are continuing into the next few months! We have a super group, that are all supportive of each other, and we are all comfortable learning with each other! Bring it on!

Thanks again so much Jacks, and I sincerely hope we can start up again in spring! Cheers, Kristie

Kristie and Pop's!



If you are interested in participating in a focus group in the Canterbury area, I will be running more of these for different levels of students and different areas of Canterbury since I will not be travelling away from home as much initially. For those of you who want to take advantage of this great opportunity to stay focussed and supported on your journey stay tuned next season for more information.

March started with Fantastic 5 Day course

At the Chant ranch again, Level 3 & 4 students came to focus Liberty and Finesse for 5 whole days. We were joined by assisting 1* Instructor Kate O'Reilly and also visiting 1* Instructor Sarah Olney from the UK. This was one of the highest level courses I have taught in New Zealand and those who attended were stretch in many ways to take on a lot of very new information they had never heard before. I love every minute of teaching this course! There were lots of conga horse simulations while students learnt where to be, when to be and what to do when they got there! Liberty can be where you make huge leaps forward in your relationship with your horse, or not! So learning more about set up, psychology and when to quit was critical for a positive outcome over the five days. It was wonderful to watch the connections develop once the students knew what to focus on and horses responded wonderfully when they got it right! For some of the horses and riders, this was their first introduction to the finesse savvy and boy did they make enormous progress in the five days. Learning to offer a feel your horse is not afraid of or braced against is the key and this really is where we have to be mentally, emotionally and physically fit to be good enough for our horses to offer that feel back to us with confidence and a happy look on their face! As Pat says, prior and proper preparation prevents 'P' poor performance! I was so proud of Rocky during this week as he demonstrated everything at the drop of a hat – he was the perfect partner for me to give these students a picture of what they were aiming for. Wow, has he matured this season! So after five days, the students went home full of new stuff to play with and pepper in over the next six months while developing their feel, timing and balance in their quest for achieving excellence in the Parelli foundation program! (And I crawled home feeling like I'd climbed Mt Everest having taught the week suffering silently with pregnancy nausea).



Rocky and I demonstrating Fluid rein

So that was the end of our summer season (and what an incredible summer it was!) due to my condition I was not able to do much for the rest of March or April except try to get through each day. I want to thank all of the students who were so understanding when I had to postpone lessons and clinics last minute and as I regain my strength I look forward to seeing you all in the near future. (fingers crossed!)

So what's coming up next...

3-4th May South Taranaki Level 2/3 2day clinic - Contact Antoinette Archer: archerantoinette@hotmail.com
5th May South Taranaki Intro Level 2 1day workshop – Contact Antoinette Archer

15th May – 15th June Game of Contact clinic tour in Australia

6-8th July Waikanae Advancing Level 3/4 3day Clinic – Contact Mandy Punnett mandyjoypunnett@gmail.com

Winter Horsless workshops

Back by popular demand I will be running a series of horseless workshops over the chilly months. I have something for everyone and new and different topics to last year. Mark your diaries and please show your interest by registering with Tanya on parellinz@gmail.com for the ones you would like to attend. They will be held at the West Melton Community hall from 10am – 1pm on each of the dates below.

Sat 29th June **Rein positions demystified** – Freestyle riding from Level 1-3. Theory, simulations and Q&A. A great way to become more aware of bad habits or information you missed when learning with your horse. Learn the dynamics of what to do with your intention, weight, seat, hands and legs – are you being as specific or refined as you could be? Exaggerate to teach, and refine as you go along!

Sat 13th July **Rider posture and fluidity naturally** – Improving your independent seat for level 2-4. Theory, simulations to help you work on your riding all winter and Q&A. This is a wonderful opportunity to find out the truth about where you can make positive changes in your riding to help your horse to achieve impulsion and relaxation. Good, better, best, never let it rest!

Sat 27th July

The key to achieving true impulsion naturally – where your go equals your whoa and your horse understands his responsibilities! Theory or patterns, horsenality, simulations and Q&A. This subject would have to be one of the most misunderstood and challenging aspects of achieving harmony with your horse using psychology and patterns. A must before we begin Finesse and to achieve true relaxation for all horsenalties.

Sun 10th Aug

Understanding Finesse – where to start, and how to progress in the fourth Savvy. Theory, rein positions explained and simulated and riding simulations. This will be a mind blowing workshop – don't miss this fantastic opportunity to expand your knowledge before exploring it with your horse.

Sat 25th Aug

Improving your rope skills – bring your 12', 22', 45' line and learn how to be savvy in all aspects of handling your ropes. Knot tying, simulations and the theory of why this is so important to Pat Parelli for you to become savvy with ropes!

As Pat Parelli says, "I can't experience experience for you but I can share my experiences with you and secondhand gold is as good as new! I look forward to sharing my knowledge and experiences with you after 14 years of teaching the Parelli program and continued education in the Parelli Professionals program studying directly with Pat and Linda Parelli."



Video Coaching

For those of you keen to continue learning between clinics or perhaps you can't travel and it is your only option to get one on one assistance, video coaching is a fantastic way to be supported along your journey in the Parelli Program and achieve your horsemanship goals. Here's how it works. While watching your 15 minute video clip I will give you feedback by phone or skype and then give you a customised lesson plan that is designed specifically for you and your horse. We all need someone who inspires us, who encourages us, who acknowledges our triumphs and who hold us accountable. With video coaching, I will guide you each step of the way and help you fast track your progress and achieve your goals!

Single sessions or packages available. Contact me for more information.

Winter schedule of courses & horseless workshops is up on the webpage schedule!

You can find all information by going to <http://instructor.parelli.com/jackiechant> and clicking on schedule. You can also see courses coming up on Parelli connect. Please contact me directly at parellinz@xtra.co.nz for Video coaching packages or private/group lessons.

Casual working student position available at the Chant Ranch!

If you are a passionate Parelli student looking to excel and achieve your goals within the Parelli program with expert help from one of Parelli's top instructors in the world you could be who I'm looking for to join the team at the Chant ranch. We require a casual helper to fill in on some weekends for approximately 1 hour a day to cover mucking out chores. Please contact me on parellinz@xtra.co.nz if you would like to know more about the position.

New Zealand Instructor team!

South Island

Jackie Chant – 4 Star Senior (able to teach all 4 savvy's to level 4 & Game of Contact) - Christchurch
Sandy Stanway – 2 Star Junior (able to teach Online and Freestyle to level 3) – North Canterbury
Kim Woods – 1 Star Junior (able to teach Online to level 3) – Christchurch
Kate O'Reilly - 1 Star Junior Trainee (able to teach Online to Level 3) - Christchurch

North Island

Russell Higgins – 4 Star Senior, Hamilton
Tori Murry-Ellie – 1 Star Junior, Dargaville

Antoinette Archer – 1 Star Junior, Taranaki
Jane Cook – 1 Star Junior, Auckland

Please check my schedule regularly for the most up to date course details and contact information by going to my home page <http://instructor.parelli.com/jackiechant> and clicking on 'Schedule' or if you need to buy any Parelli Equipment or DVD's etc just click 'Shop' and you will support your instructor with the sales commission! Thank you!

Follow Jackie & Rocky's progress on Parelli connect

<http://www.parelliconnect.com/horses/104>



Keep up with daily posts on Facebook

<http://www.facebook.com/jackie.chant>

or check out Jackie's page on Facebook

Jackie Chant - 4* Senior Parelli Professional

Stay tuned for my new website launch soon

www.jackiechant.co.nz

Jackie on Santana and Linda Parelli on Highland Parelli Campus 2012



Jackie Chant