



Be they good or bad, retired racehorses are doing jail time

WHERE do retired racehorses go once their careers on the track have ended and they are not commercially viable stud propositions?

To prison, apparently.

Established in 2011 and pioneered by Racing NSW in partnership with Corrective Services NSW, the NSW Thoroughbred Rehabilitation Trust is a program that prepares former racehorses for varied new careers including in the police force, equestrian sports or simply as a pleasure horse.

Racing NSW sends retired racehorses to Muswellbrook Prison where inmates prepare the thoroughbreds for life after racing.

"It is our aim in the future to find a home for all racehorses when they have retired and this pilot program is a vital component in determining the way forward in the future," Racing NSW CEO

Peter V'landys said. "This program not only retrains former racehorses, but it is helping to rehabilitate prisoners by proving the inmates with new skills, training and prospective employment opportunities in the racing industry."

At Canterbury last week, the Tooheys New Crew, a team of skilled tradies headed up by former rugby league international Paul "The Chief" Harragon, helped upgrade facilities for the rehabilitation trust on-course.

The work group spent the week building an undercover dressage arena and fixed drainage at the stables, along with a general touch-up and repair of existing facilities. "The racing industry and their passion about the horses really struck me, and this is our first real specific project in helping out animals," Harragon said.

