

Racehorses retrained for new homes

A HORSE races on average 2.6 years before it is retired but will live until approximately the age of 25.

The issue of what to do with the horse after it has finished racing is being solved by racing NSW with its thoroughbred retraining program.

Scott Brodie heads up the initiative and was in Scone recently for a demonstration. A small but educated crowd gathered at White Park to listen to what he had to say and watch him in action.

On the day Brodie worked with Get Up Jude, who won approximately \$1.2 million in prize money.

Brodie spent twelve years in the mounted police and is a trained dressage enthusiast. He explained the program is not for profit and is in place for the welfare of former race horses. Riders need to be competent if they are interested in acquiring a horse in the program.

"We get them to a safe and useable standard then they are sold on.

"We are looking for intermediate to good riders to take them on," Brodie said.

The retraining program involves a couple of stages.

Brodie explained Racing NSW initially sources the horses for the program. "They are given a spell before they are sent to St

Heliers Correctional Centre whereby the prisoners do the groundwork," he said.



REHABILITATION: Scott Brodie thoroughbred retrainor with Get Up Jude.

"Considerable money has been put into installing yards and other infrastructure for this initial training at the prison. The prisoners provide the labour and do lunging work with the horses.

"The horses are then transferred to Canterbury Racecourse where work goes into re-educating the horse so they can be ridden.

"There are approximately 30 horses currently in the program but we can take up to 65."

While initially extremely expensive to purchase the horses are sold for around \$3000," Brodie said.

The ultimate goal of the program is to see all retired NSW race horses rehoused at the end of their racing career.

For more information about the program see NSW Thoroughbred Rehabilitation Trust on Facebook

Scone Advocate, Scone NSW
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