

# THE HORSEMAN

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Van Hargis Horsemanship  
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## WELCOME TO THE NEW YEAR!

### IN THIS EDITION

#### VAN HARGIS HORSEMANSHIP CLINICS IN NEW ZEALAND!

Van Hargis Horsemanship clinics were held in beautiful New Zealand during the month of November. Read all about it!

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#### ASK VAN

Do you have a question or problem that you would like Van to address?

Send us an email!

[Van@VanHargis.com](mailto:Van@VanHargis.com)

and your question may be featured in our next newsletter

### THANK YOU NEW ZEALAND

Van Hargis Horsemanship journeyed to New Zealand to conduct a series of clinics and lessons.



Clinic hosts, Lawrence and Susanne Max



Clinic Hosts, Craig and Donna Hampton

## THE NEW ZEALAND SERIES!

In November, we made a trip to the land down under down under- the land of the long white cloud. Still not sure where? We were in the land of the silver fern, the All Blacks, the kiwi. Got it now? Yup, we were in New Zealand. What a wonderful trip. We flew into Christchurch New Zealand to do a series of horsemanship clinics and a multitude of private lessons.

I offer many thanks to all the clinic hosts. Not only did each of the clinic hosts do a wonderful job of organizing all the clinic participants, but each was gracious and hospitable to us. Each host afforded us the pleasure of staying in their homes. The accommodations, food, coffee, tea, hospitality and most

importantly, the conversation and friendship was far beyond our most remote expectations.

Many of you may know that New Zealand is a beautiful country. Well, having lived there some 20+ years ago and being fortunate enough to return on the horsemanship clinic tour I can confidently say that the only thing more beautiful than the country of New Zealand is it's wonderful people.

Our first clinic was a general horsemanship clinic in Maruia hosted by Donna & Craig Hampton. Donna and Craig not only did a great job organizing and filling the clinic with participants but their arena was is an incredibly beautiful setting and the base of the mountains and with a flowing waterfall way off in the distance. Each evening the



“Thank you to Donna and Craig Hampton!”

# Thank You, to our friends in New Zealand

## VAN HARGIS HORSEMANSHIP TOOK IT ACROSS THE GLOBE TO BEAUTIFUL NEW ZEALAND

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We continued our tour from the Donna & Craig Hampton's home and farm to the Nelson region of New Zealand. Our next clinic was to be in a few days in the quaint community of Brightwater just outside the city

of Nelson, New Zealand. It was in this area of NZ that I lived some 24 years ago. It was great to see the area again and compare my memories of the area to the advances and developments of today. Of course, there were many changes although most for the better. The most apparent change, apart from the expected population growth and new housing development, was the number of wineries. Although this area around Brightwater, NZ has long been an agricultural area it seems now that the wineries make up a considerable majority of the land use there.

Our next official stop was to be at the amazingly pleasant and beautiful Stonehurst Farm Equestrian Centre owned and operated by the incredibly hospitable Lawrence & Suzanne Max. Not only was Stonehurst ideal for our next clinic, which was to be a cattle working clinic, but we learned the farm had a long and diverse history. At one point Stonehurst was home to



# Van Hargis Horsemanship in New Zealand

THANK YOU, LAWRENCE AND SUZANNE MAX!

one of New Zealand's busiest and long running horse trekking businesses. In approximately 16 years of operation Lawrence, Suzanne, their children and staff showed some of New Zealand's beauty to over 60,000 visitors from all over the world from the back of their string of Stonehurst horses.

The cattle working clinic at Stonehurst Farm could not have gone any better. Firstly, Miss Suzanne did a great job organizing the participants. As with almost all my clinics, at home or abroad we started with an orientation, meet and greet and Q&A the evening before. The following day with participants now knowing a little more about what to expect we start by practicing the fundamental skills that will be needed and used while working cattle. The participants were fun, enthusiastic and great to work with.

Once we brought the cattle in the arena things were near perfect as Lawrence had a great

set of cattle to start the partisans out on. This small herd was quiet and easy going with just enough movement to afford riders a chance to position their horses correctly without too much challenge. Again, the participants were great. Each was attentive, enthusiastic and thankfully, very tolerant of my sense of humor with each one.

The second day of our Stonehurst cattle working clinic was just as successful as the first as our wonderful host, Lawrence Max again provided an ideal set of cattle. This set was just a bit quicker and more challenging than the first without being so rank that the students couldn't handle them while practicing correctness with their horses.

Lawrence & Suzanne Max were not only great clinic hosts they were very kind in letting us use their home and facility as our temporary home base to conduct several private lessons and consultation sessions with folks from the region. Suzanne even assisted with scheduling

lessons for me so that we could be efficient in our time management, as we wanted to help as many people as possible. What a great experience we enjoyed in meeting and getting to know Lawrence & Suzanne Max.

The last leg of our clinic tour on the South Island of New Zealand lead us heading back over the mountains to the east coast and considerably further south to a small country town of Waikora just outside of Waimate. We traveled to the farm of Sally & Tim Thorne for another general horsemanship clinic. Like all of our New Zealand clinic hosts, Sally did a wonderful job in filling the clinic with a great group of participants. Every clinic attendee had a good horse and a few had some interesting issues that were fun to resolve. My hat is off to the Kiwis. They are always so full of enthusiasm and eagerness to learn and apply that which they do learn. This makes my job fun and exciting. The groups Sally put together were incredibly fun

# Van Hargis Horsemanship in New Zealand

THANK YOU, TIM AND SALLY THORNE!

and an absolute joy to work with. From our Friday night orientation, meet & greet and Q&A through to the Sunday afternoon clinic review, the Thornes treated us with great food, fun humor and hospitality and of course, very cozy and comfortable accommodations.

The camaraderie we shared with Tim & Sally, Lawrence & Suzanne Max, Craig & Donna Hampton and all the clinic participants and attendees made for an outstandingly rewarding and memorable trip. We are as grateful as can be not

only for a successful clinic tour of the South Island of New Zealand we are most grateful and appreciative to our host at each location and all the wonderful people we met on our journey to the land of the long white cloud, home of the All Blacks and the kiwi bird, New Zealand. We look forward to our

return.



Clinic Host, Sally Thorne!



Clinic Host, Lawrence Max

