

Nelly with her mount Firestone Lodge Kool Cat pictured with friend Eric Miles on his horse Brick.

Photo: The Examiner Newspaper Launceston

Tasmania's own Nelly Jaehne

German-born Nelly now calls Tasmania her home. Moving to Australia when she was only three, Nelly now lives at a small place called Glengarry which is only ten minutes away from Exeter.

Having been involved with horses since she was tiny, Nelly says, 'I am now 30 and still madly addicted to these amazing animals.'



Nelly with Firestone Lodge Diego.

It had always been Nelly's dream to be a stunt/trick rider and because of this she has spent all her time teaching and refining her horses in various tricks and giving demonstrations. From when she was fourteen until just recently, she broke in and trained horses for other people and still instructs at pony clubs, adult riders' clubs and gives private lessons. 'I have been involved with a variety of clubs and have always participated in street parades and public demonstrations,' Nelly explained.

An inspiration to all who meet her, Nelly who is now thirty, has had to endure more than most. 'At the age of twenty I had some really devastating news, I was diagnosed with MS. At first I felt like my life was over but then I realised that it was just another challenge that I had to deal with.

'As my health started to deteriorate I taught all my riding horses to lie down so that I could still mount.' Twelve months ago Nelly's worst fear became her reality, she was confined to a wheelchair. 'For the first six months I suffered badly with depression and was even suicidal at times,' she admitted.



Firestone Lodge Diego (black) 3yo Clydie X, Nelly and 'The Cardinal' Purebred Gypsy Cob.

Recovering from such severe depression wasn't easy but Nelly puts it down to the help she had from some amazing kids and her horses. 'I was lucky enough that every time I was going through a really difficult patch one of these amazing kids would need me or would just show up to see me. There were other bad days when I would just sit in the paddock with my horses until I calmed down. So with the help of these really lovely young people and my ever-patient horses I was convinced that I could still be useful.'

Nowadays Nelly does all her work off a four-wheel motorbike, she is instructing again and helping people break in their own horses. It seems you can still be a successful trainer even if you are confined to a wheelchair. All Nelly's demonstrations are done with two special boys, Diego, a black three-year-old Clydesdale-cross gelding, and The Cardinal (aka TC), a two-year-old pure Gypsy Cob colt.



Nelly would dearly love one of these to make her life easier and to improve her ability to continue to give demonstrations to the public.

In May Nelly will be performing at Tasmania's Agfest so if you can make it to see her, she'd love to see you there. It is also on the cards that Nelly may possibly get to Equitana 2010 but Nelly explains 'I would love to win the lottery so that I can get one of those new four-wheel electric chairs which would make my life so much easier, but even without it I want to share with the world what can be achieved if you want it badly enough. I am proud of my horses and what they will do for me and I hope that we can inspire a lot of people out there who have also lost their way.'

Anyone who thinks they can help by sponsoring Nelly for a new X8 electric wheelchair please contact her direct on 0407 633 976. A young woman who inspires so many deserves that sponsorship and support so here's hoping someone can help. Visit Nelly at her website Firestonelodge.com.au **THDM**

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