

troubleshooter enters world of racehorses

In the misty hills of the Te Horo ranges there is a man who fixes the horses that others have written off as untrainable.

Andrew Froggatt of Talkinghorses has spent the last 15 years working with some of New Zealand's top competition horses and achieved results which have seen them reach

the top of their game.

Now he is turning his attention to the world of racehorses. Why after so many years has he decided to share these secrets with racehorse owners and trainers?

"I realised that what I could share with people was not something they were ever going to get with traditional training methods. Being an avid racehorse fan I've seen

too many quality horses being sacked over a problem which I could fix in a matter of days, or sometimes hours. I've had people desperate for me to share my knowledge because they've seen the transforming impact it can have on a horse."

Andrew has used his advanced training skills on his own Faltaat mare, Sudbury, who he

bought as a broodmare after the previous trainer struggled to even get her on the track.

"She's one of the toughest horses I've come across and that's why I thought she deserved a chance. I took her back to the basics by building a relationship with her and earning her trust and respect. She is now fabulous to handle and

proved herself by getting a third in her first trial," he says.

Andrew's system has already seen sport and show horses like Kiwi Brave (2008 Horse of the Year Champion Olympic Cup) and Versace (Champion Showhorse) fulfill their potential. Versace's owner, Katie Chadwick Smith, says prior to working with Andrew

her horse was a danger to both people and horses.

"I couldn't compete Versace because he was uncontrollable. His habits included rearing, kicking out at other horses, pulling away from me and biting," she said.

Within months of working with Andrew, the horse was not only behaving but winning.

Perhaps it's no surprise that Andrew is one of New Zealand's top horse troubleshooters. He was one of just five New Zealanders accepted to attend the highly respected Certificate in Horse Business Management at Marcus Oldham in Australia in 1994 at a time when there were no horse related courses in New Zealand (and he was born on the horses birthday, August 1st!).

On completing the course he worked at Nelson Shick's Windsor Park Stud doing yearling preparation and stayed on to handle weanlings before returning to Melbourne.

Andrew then spent a year breaking-in horses, running breaking-in courses and fixing a range of problems for the owners of many of Melbourne's eventing horses.

He then returned to New Zealand to set up Talkinghorses with his partner, Janine Sudbury, cultivated contacts with owners of large sheep stations and bought wild horses to break in.

Andrew also teaches Advanced Communication and Leadership Skills to large companies using horses. The courses are based at Talkinghorses' 50-acre horse farm near Wellington where he has worked with companies such as ASB Bank, Transpower, Icebreaker, Crown Law and the army.

He has also starting to work with troubled youth and mental health patients using horses to change attitudes in a unique way.

Despite all these exciting opportunities, Andrew says he his first love has always been racehorses and he is thrilled to work in the industry.

"My grandfather owned racehorses and my dream has always been to train a Melbourne Cup winner."

A free handbook is available, "The Seven Problems That Stop Horses From Crossing The Winning Line – And How To Fix Them." Email info@talkinghorses.co.nz