

Former NSW-trained gallopers can now find a new home via NSW Thoroughbred Rehabilitation Trust. Pictured is retraining manager, Scott Brodie



# Here comes the 'crew'

RUGBY LEAGUE LEGEND PAUL 'THE CHIEF' HARRAGON AND THE TOOHEYS NEW CREW TEAM WILL HELP BUILD A NEW TRAINING FACILITY AT CANTERBURY RACECOURSE WORDS: BEN FLORES

An innovative program that pegs former Thoroughbred racehorses and prison inmates together with the intent to retrain and rehome the horses will receive a significant boost via Paul Harragon and the Tooheys New Crew.

NSW Thoroughbred Rehabilitation Trust (TRT) is a not-for-profit charity that assists in the safe rehabilitation and rehoming of former NSW Thoroughbred racehorses at the conclusion of their career, and does this through supporting the Thoroughbred Rehabilitation Program.

The program – a joint venture between Racing NSW and Corrective Services NSW – fosters this rehabilitation of racehorses at its core, but at the same time provides inmates at the St Heliers Correctional Centre at Muswellbrook with the opportunity to learn new skills which will allow for prospective employment in the Thoroughbred industry.

This two-pronged charter is what sets the TRT and the Thoroughbred Rehabilitation Program apart from other rehabilitation schemes.

Former mounted policeman Scott Brodie, Racing NSW's Thoroughbred Retraining Manager, believes the holistic approach taken by the Thoroughbred Rehabilitation Program achieves real results by focusing on the welfare of the animal rather than merely pushing through numbers.

Mr Brodie was initially approached by the now defunct AJC (now part of Australian Turf Club) to train Thoroughbreds as mounted security, but as the training proved a success, the AJC sought to retrain and rehome the horses on a permanent basis. After consulting with Racing NSW, the TRT was born.

With the focus on rehabilitation so pivotal to the success of the TRT, the Tooheys New Crew has kindly donated their time and money to help build a new

training facility at Canterbury Racecourse with the aim in assisting year-round training regardless of the weather.

"I've worked out that we essentially lose a third of our time to wet weather, so for us to increase our output by a third with the use of the indoor arena will make a huge difference," said Mr Brodie.

"If we get too much rain out there, the infield at Canterbury becomes a swamp and it makes it very hard to do any work with the horses ... so this undercover arena is going to be fantastic."

Headed by rugby league legend Paul 'The Chief' Harragon, the Tooheys New Crew is a team of skilled tradies who are on the road helping communities and mates complete local building projects.

When the Crew heard about the opportunity to help out such a worthy cause, they jumped at the chance.

The completion of the project and the official handover will take place in mid-August.

It will involve the official launch of the NSW Thoroughbred Rehabilitation Trust, which will include an open day at the Canterbury Park facilities, demonstration of the horses in training and the chance for members of the public to learn more about the Thoroughbred Rehabilitation Trust and to purchase horse graduates.

As with all not-for profit organisations, donations and sponsorship are essential to ensure the longevity of the program.

To donate a Thoroughbred for retraining please contact Scott Brodie on 0448 088 844 or if you are interested in sponsoring the Trust please contact Caitlin Churchill on (02) 9551 7653.

The brand new website has just gone live; take a look at – [www.nswtrt.org.au](http://www.nswtrt.org.au) **RNSW**