

MEET ANDY THOMPSON:

Andy Thompson was born at Christchurch in 1966 and has one sibling, a younger sister who also resides in Ch-Ch. His Dad was a fitter/turner with NZ Railways and his mother was a nurse. The family grew up living near Riccarton Racecourse, the proximity of which ignited a passion for equine animals which has played a huge part throughout Andy's life. It was at this time that Andy met and became friends with another amputee, Richard Taylor, who was featured in the May newsletter. Andy recalls helping "Hookman" in those early days carting gear around for Richard's Karaoke business. Andy attended Russley Primary then went on to attend Riccarton High School where he became a keen and very accomplished golfer reaching a 3 handicap. He represented Canterbury in the Under 21 section and attended many national tournaments with a fair degree of success. He left school at 15 and completed a 4-year apprenticeship as a butcher with the then



Woolworths before going to work as a lamb boner with Air Foods out near the airport where he earned a much better wage. While working there, Andy applied himself to take up another apprenticeship in the building trade and became a qualified carpenter, eventually going out on his own to become a self-employed builder. For the last 20 odd years, Andy has been involved as the owner of "Thompson Horses" on the 50-acre Kirwee property which specialises in the breaking in and schooling of horses for the equestrian sport. He has a stabling area for around 10 animals but can accommodate up to 40 horses on the property. Up until 2 years ago, Andy and the family used to have "kids camps" for budding horse enthusiasts where they would accommodate up to 40 youngsters for a week at a time but the demands of this became too much for this activity to continue. Andy has also become a trained farrier and shoeing horses is almost a full-time job.

As a teenager, Andy had met Lisa, started riding horses with her and their relationship blossomed. Due to the extensive travelling involved with his golf career and the need to be away a lot, Andy decided that he would give the golf away to concentrate on both his new career as well as his relationship with Lisa.

Andy & Lisa have 4 daughters aged, 28, 26, 24 and 22. The oldest lives in Hamilton and is a dental technician, the 26-year-old lives with her parents and is a professional horse-woman, the 24-year-old is an agronomist working in Gisborne whilst the youngest



daughter is a cattle musterer in Western Australia. Andy & Lisa, (who is an equine vet technician,) have been married for 36 years and have been at their current 50-acre property near Kirwee for some 20 years. The house they live in on the property was built in 1890 so there is a lot of history surrounding them. Andy is heavily involved in the local Hunt Club and rides with the group on Wednesdays & Saturdays which he thoroughly enjoys.

Back in 2016 while roofing a new build near Norwood, Andy fell from the scaffolding and shattered his left ankle which despite ongoing treatment for the next 2 years, became seriously infected and on the advice from his surgeon, a below knee amputation took place in 2018.

ANDY THOMPSON CONT:

Andy has adjusted well to his new life as a person experiencing limb loss and has not let this challenge stop him in pursuing his passion for horses. He rides every single day and attends to all the associated tasks around the farm with vigour and enthusiasm. He recalls that it was a chance meeting with the Paralympic swimmer, Sophie Pascoe, one day at the Limb Centre that has enabled him to "get on with life" and he attributes her sage advice as a major factor in his motivation to get the very best out of his life. Andy is drawn to "down to earth" types and does not suffer people who are full of BS!!

FAVOURIT FOOD: Lasagne.

FAVOUTITE PLACE: Sri Lanka. A beautiful country and it's people.

FAVOURITE ACTIVITIES/HOBBIES: All things equine, horses & hounds.

FAVOURITE MUSIC: Country genre.

FAVOURITE MOVIE: "Pretty Woman" starring Julia Roberts & Richard Gere.

FAVOURITE AUTHOR/BOOKS: not really a reader but loves "googling".

Andy has travelled to Australia, Sri Lanka, Rarotonga, Thailand and is due to holiday in Turkey & Greece later this year with Lisa.

Andy feels that the biggest risk that he has taken in his life was to buy a large block of land at West Melton, subdivide it and build "spec" houses. Given he and Lisa were the very first to do this around West Melton, it was a huge gamble but luckily all turned out well. After a long day on the farm, Andy likes nothing more than to "blob out" on the couch at night to relax.

(Andy shown with 2 of his "staying" horses which he had just finished exercising when I arrived at the property)

