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Apprentice Jockey Diary- Billy Egan



At the age of 18, Billy Egan is one of Victoria's most promising jockeys & his week is very busy. Billy is based in the Northern Victorian town of Mansfield & he kept a diary for a week to show where he goes & what he does in a 'typical' week. Some weeks he also rides in race trials & attends jockey training at Racing Victoria where he learns a variety of skills & knowledge, including diet & exercise which is very important for jockeys as they need to maintain their weight.

Billy is in the 3rd year of his Certificate IV Jockey apprenticeship. During his apprenticeship he is paid a weekly wage & his other earnings are kept in trust until he is 21.

Here is his diary for the week.

Saturday 2nd Aug

After yesterdays Geelong races, I decided to stay in Melbourne last night because I had 5 city rides booked for today.

I got to sleep in this morning & got out of bed at 8.30am. I had to lose a kilo today before the races to get down to the weight of 51kg's for my rides today. (I usually weigh around 52kg's)

Today the races are at Sandown & I left Ascot Vale (where I was staying) mid morning to get there on time.

I had a pretty good day, with 5 rides for 4 placings.

Name of horse	placing	5% of prizemoney
Woppitt	2 nd at 6-1	\$540
The Clown	2 nd at 18-1	\$540
Monahan Tweed	6 th at 16-1	\$nil
Jennings	2 nd at 41-1	\$540
Lots of thanks	3 rd at 31-1	\$270

I drove home to Mansfield & I was pretty tired after a good day. I got home about 10pm & unpacked my gear & spoke briefly with my parents & went to bed.

Sunday 3rd Aug

I had the day off!

Monday 4th Aug.

Out of bed at 5.30am & went to track work at 6am & rode 10 horses.

I am not race riding today, but after track work & helping out around the stables I went for a 6 km run with my fellow apprentice Ben Martin who's just started riding. This helps me to stay fit & also helps me to maintain my weight.

Tuesday 5th Aug.

Out of bed at 5.50am & went to track work at 6am & rode 10 horses.

I was going to ride today but my horse was scratched so I didn't end up going to the races today. Instead I went for another 6km run, this time on my own, & later in the day I went back to the stables between 4-5pm to feed the horses & check they were all in good order.

Wednesday 6th Aug.

Out of bed at 5.50am & went to track work at 6am & rode 10 horses.

Today the races are at Sandown and it takes about 2hours & 45 minutes to get there from Mansfield. I don't have a strong book of rides today, but nonetheless I have 5 rides in a 7 race program, which is encouraging.

I had 5 rides today

Name of horse	placing	5% of prizemoney
Dark Mask	5 th at 7-1	Nil
Nedym's Image	5 th at 20-1	Nil
Rhumb Line	8 th at 20-1	Nil
Terrain	9 th at 60-1	Nil
Hopeson	6 th at 18-1	Nil

Back home to Mansfield & into bed.

Thursday 7th Aug.

Out of bed at 5.45am & went to trackwork at 6am & rode 10 horses.

Today the races are at Bendigo, I left home at 10am & returned home at 7pm. It's around 215km's from Mansfield & today's round trip took about 5 & a half hours.

I had 3 rides today

Name of horse	placing	5% of prizemoney
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Lazy Dynamite	4th at 13-1	\$30
Play Again	2 nd at 13-1	\$200
Divine Savior	8 th at 26-1	Nil

Friday 8th Aug.

Out of bed at 5.45am & went to trackwork at 6am & rode 10 horses.

Today the races are at Geelong, which is about 280km's from home, so I left home at 9am & intend staying in Melbourne tonight after the races as I have 4 city rides tomorrow.

I had 2 rides today

Name of horse	placing	5% of prizemoney
Lady Commotion	12 th at 26-1	Nil
Ponbar Avenue	5 th at 11-1	Nil

Staying in Ascot Vale tonight & I have 4 rides at Flemington tomorrow.

Travel is a big part of a Jockey's life. They have a lot of expenses such as petrol, wear & tear on their vehicles, road toll costs, mobile phones, purchasing equipment etc.

In Victoria jockeys receive \$158 per race ride.

Billy had 15 race rides for the week & rode 50 horses in trackwork.

