

Hats off to I AM Summer winner



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I AM SUMMER: Photography competition winner Chris Fenech of Dairyville captured his winning image on an Olympus Tough and will soon be shooting on a new Nikon D3300 DSLR.

THE search for the perfect image of summer has seen local horse trainer Chris Fenech win The Coffs Coast Advocate's I AM Summer photography competition.

More than 700 entries were received and it was Chris' shot of a horse and rider Jess Honeysett on Boambee Beach that took out the prize - a new Nikon D3300 DSLR camera.

As the owner of HWH Stables, Chris Fenech lives and breathes horses.

The business, located at Upper Orara and Boambee Beach, offers a number of services from training regular riders to operating trail rides for tourists.

"It's a riding school first and foremost, where we train everyone from children to adults of all abilities," Mr Fenech said. "I also break in horses through natural horsemanship, so I do a lot of restarting of horses and starting of young colts. "I work with owners to train their horses and, to be honest, there's a lot of training the owner along the way."



Chris Fenech's winning I AM Summer entry 'Horses on Boambee Beach'.

Underpinning all Mr Fenech's work at the stables is a very personal motivation. HWH Stables doubles as a respite service for families affected by Huntington's Disease, a condition his wife lives with.

"The name HWH stands for Holidays with Heart, which is an initiative that I've had for many years to support Huntington's families. "Huntington's NSW sends families from all across the state to our property at Upper Orara.

"It's very rewarding work," he said.

"My life is surrounded by horses and I do love working with them - I think they're a noble gift to us all, these beautiful animals."

Mr Fenech took the winning photo of a regular student Jess, who submitted it to the I AM Summer competition on his behalf.

Mr Fenech said he was blown away by the news he'd won.

"I'm no professional but I figure if I take enough photos one of them has got to be a cracker and I guess that's happened here.

"I was only in the last three or four weeks looking at getting a better camera for myself so I still can't believe it - I'm really over the moon about it all."