

# Annual Report

May 2013 to April 2014

## Chairperson's Report

I thank God for the past year at Hope Reins and pray for His protection over the programme, its horses, its people and the land on which it operates for the year to come.

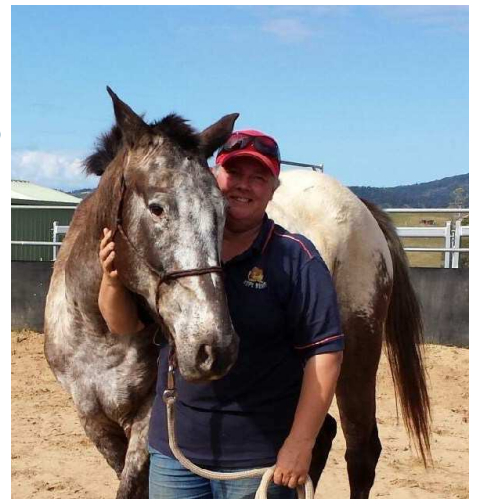
This report will give you a glimpse of the outcomes of Hope Reins for this year. There have been struggles, particularly with the drought, and difficulties with horses. We have amazing volunteers who give so much of themselves and because of them we have achieved heaps.

We have had so much God answered prayer – particularly in relation to finances. It has also meant some faith steps have been taken. We

have had buildings and infrastructure increase so that we can function more effectively. We have had incredible people donating to us – including service clubs, businesses and individuals – partnering with us in the vision of Hope Reins as we reach out to hurting people and horses.

Our model of care to rescue horses and through them reach out to hurting people, restoring trust and hope and giving them a chance to recreate, to play, to have fun, is achieving results. This model relies on the relationships we can build with one

another and if people choose to, with God. These relationships are built one-on-one in the programme, with each volunteer, with those who may want to extend that relationship and come to Kids Roundup and Pot Hope dinners. More and more there is a relationship being built with this community as community agencies see the difference in people's lives. - Kylie Read



## Spreading the Word

We have had some incredible opportunities to showcase the work of Hope Reins. The Gympie Times did a huge article on us that featured a big picture of Kylie and Ruth on one page and then a multi-page spread with further pictures and information which was, for the most part correct!

We also had Scripture Union filming Kylie as school chaplain being part of Hope Reins and how that was achieving results for young people in her school. The small clip was used for fundraising for SU but we are also allowed to use it to showcase the work of Hope Reins.

Kylie has also become the Hope Reins facebook queen. She regularly updates our profile on Facebook with images and comments. We have been gaining an increasing following and is certainly one way to give an insight into the day-to-day running and joys and trials of Hope Reins.



Amazing Grace who saved a man's life in July 2013.

*"Ever since I have been coming to Hope Reins I have been a lot happier and I have learnt to trust more people in my life."*

K

## Rescue the Equine

We have had a number of horses join us including Gizelle, Trooper and Lily. We needed to find a new home for the minis who we rehomed last year. Our beautiful Jack died of colic in July. Cokey still needed a lot of medical attention on his leg after he got caught in a fence in Jan 2013. Toby needed 10 weeks of intensive care for his eye which in the end had to be removed. We have had foot problems with Toby Too and Lily and back issues with Lizzy. Sheba joined us as well

and although she is Ruth's horse, she is occasionally used in the programme.

Vet care and horse feed are a big budget items. This year finding hay has been problematic – especially locally as many hay farmers had crops and infrastructure wiped out in the floods and then had no crops due to the drought. We had minimal grass and had to feed hay to supplement what little feed was in the paddock. We had to pump water from the diminishing dams every night to water

everyone and there was a sense of hopelessness everywhere. In April everything changed and we had our 4 amazing grass miracles – hay (and a donation to pay for it), an offer of a paddock nearby to put horses and relieve pressure on our place, someone to rip the paddocks and help grass to grow, and the rain itself that grew our grass.

Over the year we have also put in more fencing including the laneway for people and horses that takes you from the front gate up to the arena area. The increased fencing will allow a better rotational grazing system. We also had constructed a horse shelter in our home paddock for shelter from sun and rain.

## Restore Trust and Hope

We have had more than 36 people attend the programme of Hope Reins over the last year. Most of these completed the 8 week programme, but some, for various reasons, may have been one-off or reduced in number participants. People have identified changes in themselves as a result of coming here.

As part of the 8 week programme, participants write a significant word on a horse – a word that shows what they have learned about themselves by coming to Hope Reins. Some of these words are courage, freedom, friendship, special, caring.

The letters we give the participants at the conclu-

sion of the course have been received well. We have had good feedback from schools involved and an increasing awareness and interest from community groups and organisations within the Gympie Region and beyond. We had one participant accessing us from Brisbane. Her family chose to make the journey every second weekend because of the difference it made in her to come to Hope Reins.

## Recreate the Whole Person

We have an amazing team of 35 hard working volunteers who, for the most part, we have trained up in horse care and basic handling. Some of our volunteers work on maintenance type issues—such as building fences and others only work

with the horses and some with our participants. Our volunteers range in age from 11 to 89. Judy celebrated her 70th year with her first horse ride. Some of our volunteers have been participants and want to stay on to volunteer. This makes our volunteer programme vibrant and effective. To assist in training our volunteers and the general running of the

programme (and Ruth and Kylie's sanity) the office was established in the arena area. Electricity was taken underground to there and the hay shed and Jen's Chatroom. With the laneway established from the front gate, we were able to start our participant programme with visitor parking at the front gate and people entering the via the gates on the arena. This was another exciting step. The arena area is becoming completely grassed and a wonderful place for recreation.



# Kids Roundup



Kids Roundup met in the June – July holidays, Sept-Oct holidays, December and the Easter holidays making 7 times for the year. December is a particularly hard time to meet as it is either when school is still in or too close to Christmas, so it has been decided to run a Kids Roundup in December again. Numbers were good especially in the June—July holidays.

There were a number of children present due to visiting grandparents so this is a unique opportunity. We particularly had big numbers due to advertising in the churches. We had a theme of “P” and “Black and White”. This gave a fun focus to the event.

It is good to include some horse activity but we are still exploring how to do this safely with so many children. The arena area is a fantastic space for all sorts of games. Glenda and Colin have been fantastic in their energy and commit-

ment to being at Kids Roundup and Ruth has organized and facilitated the whole thing. It would be good to have a team of volunteers dedicated to this aspect of the ministry so that it’s organization and advertising could be ever more effective. We have had some of our participants come to Kids Roundup—so this is a lovely extension of one to the other. It is great to see these young ones so actively having “old fashioned pre-techno fun” and also learning about God.

*“In developing a relationship with the horses and learning their stories and how similar some of their pain is to mine, I have learnt that what I believed to be broken beyond hope of repair, can, with the love that is given without measure at Hope Reins, begin to be restored.” CG*

## Highlights

There have been many highlights for the year that extend from a simple smile of achievement or a tear of gratitude or an unexpected hug, but perhaps some of the more reportable are:

**Equitana**—Kylie, Ruth and Linda went to Equitana in Sydney. This is a big show with everything horse—from teaching to displays and merchandise. This was a fantastic time of learning and fun.

**Horsemanship**—Kylie has been increasing her horsemanship skills with the help of Wayne Perin. She has started Yasha under saddle and he is going fantastically. Janette and Kylie also went to a Ken Faulkner clinic with Sheba and Faith who we had sent to him in January for he to work with.

**Christmas presents** for our volunteers came in the shape of a water bottle with the Hope Reins logo. This was received very well.

Not really a highlight, but certainly significant was the death of Ruth’s dog **Cedar** in Janu-

ary. Cedar had an important place in the programme in helping young people and is sadly missed.

This year again we partnered with the Uniting Church in the **Easter Sunrise Service**.

This will be an annual event and is one not to be missed! It starts at 6am and is followed by breakfast. What a wonderful way to remember Jesus life given for us.



## Pot Hope Dinners

Pot Hope dinners have continued on the second Tuesday of the month with a waning response from people. Whilst we have rarely had to cancel due to ill weather, the cold and wind I think can keep people away. We have moved

from the shed which was needed to for hay to Kylie and Ruth’s undercover area. The fire is always a popular place, and food is never a problem. The God spot of the night—designed to create some discussion and varied by asking

various people to lead, has also been great. We need to rethink inviting people specifically to this night. It is a great opportunity for people to extend their involvement with us and to feel a part of the community of Hope Reins.

# Finances

The Financial Statements were prepared by Ellingsen Partners and are available for viewing. They present the financial position for Hope Reins as at 30 April 2014 and its performance to the year ended on that date. They show a total income from donations and grants of \$102,249.26 with a total expenditure of \$77,302.75. This is an increase on everything from last year. Our horse feed bill alone was \$34,709.36. We are very thankful to all our donors—individuals, businesses, service clubs and others for their amazing contributions that have enabled us to do what we do. But at the risk of sounding greedy, we need more. We are cur-

rently launching a sponsorship programme for people to become regular donors to the programme. This will allow us to budget more effectively. We need paid workers to be here because this is really a full-time programme. The horse care and horse training alone require many more hours than we currently are doing. We also need more hours for administration of the programme and management of our volunteers. And we have participants and organisations lining up at the door wanting to be a part of the programme because it is proving to be so effective. We are grateful for the volunteer grant we received that has

enabled us to purchase equipment for our office.

We are grateful for the many people who believe in what we are doing enough to give from their resources in order to assist our resources.

In a challenging economic environment we are still able to offer a free programme to those that need it, rescue horses, and provide a quality volunteering experience. We are a growing community organization and we are grateful for everyone's contribution to our success.

We are grateful to God without whom none of this would be possible. We always say, "God's will, God's bill". May we always stay in the centre of His will.

# Moving Forward

We are excited about the year ahead with all its possibilities and challenges. We are excited for Kylie to be paid for some of the time she spends training horses. We would love to see this opportunity extend to some of our other volunteers.

We are looking forward to finding the perfect 1 or 2 beginner riding horses.

We are hoping to soon have a large arena area fenced and more usable.

We are praying for more volunteers, especially Christian

men who will be available to work with our male participants.

We are anticipating greater support from the churches of Gympie as the realisation of this incredible non-denominational ministry on their doorstep.

We are seeing lives changed and significantly touched by the hand and heart of God.

We are praying for much growth in the



programme, the property, and our finances.

But chiefly we are excited by the relationships we can have with some incredible people and that hopefully they will come to know our amazing Jesus and have a relationship with him.