



Reining In

The Newsletter from Hope Reins Inc.

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Hope Reins wins Community Organisation of the Year Award

It was a night of glitter and sparkle. The Gympie Chamber of Commerce hosted the 2016 Business Awards at the Gympie Civic Centre on November 10. Hope Reins was a finalist in the nominations of their category along with Rotary, Weeroona and Roadcraft. Katie Toney was the emcee for the night and called all the award finalists to the stage. When she announced Hope Reins as the winner, Ruth was almost dancing with delight! To receive such recognition from your community is amazing and very humbling. The People's Choice Award—which was the last award of the night, also had Hope Reins as a finalist. There were 5 votes between the winner and fourth place! We didn't win this award, but that is very close and is another testament to all that we are achieving as a team of volunteers. 2016 has been a hard year. The lack of rain on the property has meant buying food with a staggering weekly cost. We have also had more need of the vet so these bills have also escalated. Yet we are still changing the lives of participants and volunteers engaged in the programme. We hope the awards might encourage businesses to partner with us in this endeavour.



Our Mission

*Rescue
the equine*

*Restore
Relationships
trust and hope*

*Recreate
and transform
the whole person*

**HEALING
HORSES
HELPING
HURTING
HUMANS**

It never rains...

We cannot complete this time worn phrase becauseit never rains! We have experienced heartbreak after heartbreak as we have watched storms move to the north and south of us. The grass is getting crunchier and the dams are very low. They have not had dam filling rain for about 4 years. We recently had to buy in water as the tanks off our hay shed had run dry.

Whilst weather reporters remark on the beautiful weather we are having, we would prefer that it rain—gentle soaking rain with some hard stuff that will fill the dams. ... and lots of it.

...let it pour

Seniors Week

This week in late August saw Hope Reins hosting two events for Seniors. We received a grant from COTA (Council of The Aged) to help defray some of the cost. Our first event was a morning tea for residents of Grevillea Gardens Nursing Home—seen here being entertained by Jaxon. We also had an open Sunday afternoon tea which our young volunteers helped at. Both events were successful.



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**Visit us
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hopereins.org.au

 Find us on
facebook

and the accolades continue...

The Gympie Chamber of Commerce awards were not the only awards that Hope Reins has been nominated for this year.

Most recently we were also a finalist in the inaugural 2016 Healthy Towns awards run by the PHN Sunshine Coast. We were nominated in the Connecting with people category. The aim of the awards were to support and recognise the work that is occurring to create happier, healthier communities where people feel connected and the environment is valued. Unfortunately we did not win.

Earlier in the year we were also Ruth was nominated in the Gympie Women in Business Awards for the Community Organisation. This was an amazing opportunity to showcase Hope Reins and the work we do. We were Runners Up in this category.

Someone recently remarked they were always seeing us in the paper achieving some award!

Being recognised for the work we do, for the hours our volunteers contribute, for the stories of change that occur is important. It is important to recognise that 57 volunteers' efforts are not in vain. It is important to show our donors and potential donors that their investment is providing dividends. It is important to our schools and other organisations that their involvement and referral is with an organisation that is sought after and is achieving much.

Thankyou to all those people who see what we do and applaud the sacrifice, commitment, care and strength required to continue.

Toby Too given the treatment

Toby Too had an eye injury which we believed was healed in 2014. But apparently not!!! At the beginning of August his eye, once again need some treatment. This meant drops in the eye every 2 hours—and that meant around the clock. So Kylie and Ruth had to set alarms and were continually putting creams in his eye. Toby Too was not the best patient. The vets decided that they might be able to make his and our lives a bit easier by stapling a tube to his head (under sedation) with a tube that sat inside the eye lid. We then could put his drops into a syringe at his neck and squeeze it through. It was many weeks of work in which were putting drops in Toby's eye every 4 hours. The late night and early morning times were always the hardest!

During the day, he wore a flymask to help protect his eye from the strong light. Toby was a good boy once the tube was there. We have had many eye injuries and have never had a tube attached. Whilst it might not work on all horses, we are very grateful that it did work on him. His eye is still scarred but he can see out of it.

A whole lot of effort, but with a great result!



Healing from a Horse - Lily

Lily was recently started under saddle by Ben Skerret from BLS Horsemanship. Kylie had seen Ben's calm and gentle approach and thought he would be a perfect trainer for Lily.

Lily is a very anxious horse when she is going to be worked or ridden. This is because she suffers from a condition called Polysaccharide storage myopathy or PSSM. This is a glycogen storage disorder and is characterized by the abnormal accumulation of the normal form of sugar stored in muscle (glycogen) as well as an abnormal form of sugar (polysaccharide) in muscle tissue. The clinical signs of a PSSM episode are typically associated with tying-up (in the muscles not with a rope!). These signs are most commonly muscle stiffness, sweating, and reluctance to move. They are painful, stiff, sweat profusely, and have firm hard muscles, particularly over their hindquarters. Exercise helps, but it is also painful for her. We have to strictly control

her diet ensuring she does not have feed that is high in starch or sugars. Ben has helped Lily to push through the pain of exercise. At first Lily was a reluctant participant, but gradually she got better at her involvement. Sometimes we can experience emotional pain that causes us to shut down and stop reaching out to others. We are reluctant to get emotional involved again because of the hurt we have suffered. We can get tied-up with anxiety. At times like these, it is the gentle firm voice of Jesus our trainer who can help us get through. He knows when to push us and when to let us rest. We just need to place our trust in Him and have faith that he wants only the best for us, because He loves us.

Volunteer Profiles

The Rookyard Family

Every Thursday afternoon sweep into action by feeding up our horses. They are an absolute power unit. Haydn and Simone and children Hamish, Elora, Chloe and Brooke have developed a system that would take some beating. They all have different jobs from who collects the feed buckets to who drives the quad (only those over 16), makes up the feed, puts on the rugs and then who delivers the feed. We think their record is just under 25 minutes! An extraordinary effort that involves the whole family.



The Smith Family



Debbie, Emily and Anna also volunteer as a family. They come out on a Tuesday afternoon where we mostly have a young volunteers (12–18 years old) attend our mentoring and leadership session.

Debbie picks the girls up from school and they arrive for their 2 hours of volunteering. At this time, there is a lot of tasks that get done as well as horsemanship skills that are taught. The afternoon relies on a team spirit of everyone helping each other out and is a great time of friendship and hard work— even after a day of hard work at school. Debbie also volunteers on a Thursday. As a family they are making a considerable contribution to this community.

Volunteers are the lifeblood of Hope Reins. Without them, we would not exist. Volunteers have a variety of roles to fulfil and can be a range of age. We need volunteers in many different areas. Some of these include administration, gardening, farm work, horse work and general duties. Volunteers must have a heart to serve, a willingness to learn and a desire to be a part of the Hope Reins family.

Purposeful Acts of Kindness (PAK)

September school holidays once again saw us getting together a group of young people to distribute a kind gesture to someone in our community. This time it was to help build a garden in an area where water rushes through and is in danger of undermining retaining walls for the couple who have just moved into their new home. They were very appreciative of the help and kept remarking “We could never have done this on our own.” It took the group of us a couple of hours and then back out to the farm for lunch and some fun.

Our next PAK will be Thursday 15 December and we will be doing a similar Christmas themed day as last year. If you know a young person 12–18 who would like to “volunteer for a day” please email hope.reins727@gmail.com and we can let you know more details.



Corporate Supporters

A big Thankyou to all these companies and local groups who are partnering with us to change lives.



GYMPIE VETERINARY SERVICES



Prayer

Praying for our ministry is the most important thing you can give us. If you would like to be a regular prayer partner, we would love to hear from you.

Donating

Hope Reins is a not-for-profit organization with deductible gift recipient status. This means that donations of \$2 and over are tax deductible.

Please contact us for direct debit details or make cheques payable to Hope Reins Inc.

Direct deposit to our Bank—
CBA

BSB: 064416

Acc: 10428366

and don't forget to email us so we can send a receipt
hope.reins727@gmail.com

Secure donations can also be made on our website through PayPal.

We are immensely grateful for every person who has or will support Hope Reins' vision and ministry.

You 



Helping us Help Others

As an Incorporated Association we are able to apply for grants to help us out and various ways enabling us to achieve various projects. This year we have received a Volunteer Grant from the Federal Government as well as one for Seniors Week. We don't always receive the funding we apply for in a grant and that can be very disappointing.

However there was one grant we applied for with our local Gympie factory of Nestle. This one was successful. We will be starting work soon on putting in piping and a tank to help us better manage watering horses in their various yards. This will stop us having to drive down and increasingly well worn track to the dam to pump into a water tank and then manually fill up troughs. With the extreme heat of recent weeks, this has meant a daily task which is very time consuming. We greatly appreciate the generosity of Nestle in making this grant available and in awarding some of it to us in order that we can do this.

We also were able to apply to Energex for an unused shed they had available to give to a community group. This is being constructed at the moment to house the tractor and other equipment.

Equitana 16



Kylie and Ruth attended Equitana 16 in Melbourne in November. Equitana is everything about horses or as Kylie says "It is horse wonderland." Every discipline from dressage, western, carriage racing, natural horsemanship, brumbies, different breeds was there as well as notable horsemen and women ran teaching sessions. Both Ruth and Kylie attended the sessions by Double Dan Horsemanship. Pictured is Dan James roman riding on two recently started horses who he taught in 40 mins. It was amazing to learn and see so much in 4 days. There were many product stalls too in the different buildings of the Melbourne Showgrounds where the event was held.

Christmas Wreath

We have once again been invited to make a wreath which will be displayed at Goldfields Plaza and auctioned off for Christmas. People vote with a gold coin for their favourite wreath and the proceeds go directly to the organisation.

So come on down in December and vote for our wreath. Wait to you see how spectacular it will be! We think you will know which one is ours!!!!

**Happy Christmas
and the Best
of New
Years to
you all**



If you are looking for a unique Christmas present why not "buy a bale of hay (or more than one)" for Hope Reins in the name of the person you are gifting. You give us \$15 a bale, and we will give you a card to acknowledge your gift. You in turn will give this card to the person so they know the difference you both are making. Sometimes the best gifts are not "things" but the gift that can change a life.