



Hope Reins Inc

Annual Report 2017—2018

Healing Horses Helping Hurting Humans

Chairperson's Report *Kylie Read*

Another amazing year, our 9th year of serving the local Gympie Region, has flown by at Hope Reins. So many achievements and equally, so many challenges. Firstly, and most importantly, I want to thank our God for His incredible provision, protection and for the miracles we have witnessed over this past year, as our land has continued to be under the grip of drought, our volunteers and participants have been free from any major injuries, and we have seen healing and hope restored in the lives of horses and humans. It is such a privilege to do what we do, but it is only possible because God says so!

Secondly, thank you to all our amazing volunteers and supporters, who make this ministry available to those who need a place where they can feel loved, valued and accepted, no matter where they come from, what they have done or what lies in their past! You are all incredible, and we look forward to continuing this journey with you, in seeing many more lives, both horse and human, transformed. You can see some of the highlights on the back page.

We celebrate some amazing wins and successes over this past year! So many stories have been told of how being at Hope Reins has helped change lives and give hope where there hadn't been hope before. Hope Reins won the major award from the PHN in the Healthy Towns Awards for our deep connections made with many of the PHN's priority populations and for the work we do to strengthen and connect our community. Well done to everyone who made that award possible through your love, time and hard work!

At the end of October we held a family day out in order to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Lighthouse charge at Beersheba. This included a display from the Gympie Lighthouse Troop, a horsemanship display where we learned life lessons from a Waler horse, and culminated at Pie Creek Hall watching the movie *The Lighthorsemen*. It was a fantastic day!

Pippa, Poppy and Praise began their public appearances, going to Church, in the community and at and the highlight, Women's Health Centre AGM for a little performance. We welcomed Cooper, Kylie's cattle dog but farewelled Gemma and also some members of our equine family in Trooper and Dusty.

The ongoing drought continues to provide numerous challenges. The rain in October and February was very welcome. We received a grant from the Amanda Flynn Foundation to purchase the equipment needed for Mounted Archery, targeting our young volunteers in the Mentoring and Leadership program. I can't wait to see this fully up and running in the coming year!

In April 2018 I resigned from my role as School Chaplain, to be at Hope Reins full time. Hope Reins have begun to pay me for 2 days a week in this role. As a result, we were able to begin 2 new programs, another Mentoring and Leadership program on Wednesdays, and our brand-new Brave On for Women small group program, which is quite different to our other programs. We are really looking forward to seeing what God is going to do in the lives of those involved in these new projects. Once again, thank you for your support in this important work of Healing Horses Helping Hurting Humans. It is with great excitement, joy and anticipation we look to God for the coming year to see what He will do through this ministry next!



Financial Report—*Deirdre Wilson*

The last 12 months have once again been very busy in terms of providing programs, caring for the horses in our charge and keeping the Hope Reins property going.

Once again we have been impacted by the drought with water costs and feed costs depleting our finances. We continue to lift our eyes to the one in whom we put our trust and face each day as it comes.

If we were to calculate a market value for the services we offer than we can proudly say that over the last 9 years Hope Reins has been able to sow into the Gympie community over \$1 million dollars worth of well being through the programs we have delivered. At Hope Reins we like to look beyond the economic terms to how many lives have been changed through our programs. These have been numerous. Almost everyone who has accessed the programs testify to this fact. This is only possible through the generosity of our donors and volunteers. We are incredibly thankful and grateful to all those who make up the Hope Reins family through partnering with us.

As a treasurer I would love God to bring forth for us someone who was dedicated to fundraising. As we move forward I see this as an important role within the organisation. We really need to look at increasing our donor base, to continue the work of Hope Reins.

We have recently taken a step of faith and employed Kylie part-time with plans to employ an admin assistant as well. We have also secured some advanced software programs for managing volunteers and participants at no cost to ourselves – thank you to Salesforce and Google.

Once again a big thank you to Cameron Klupfel and his team at Evolve for all support during the year and of course for preparing financial statements, this has been provided to Hope Reins free of charge.

Please continue to uphold our finances in your prayers and we look forward another year of serving the Gympie community.

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Why we do what we do!

Bec's Story

I have Asperger's Syndrome, Bipolar Disorder, ADHD, severe clinical depression and PTSD. I know, it's alphabet soup, right? What this means for me is that I am constantly battling depression and anxiety, constantly trying to keep my moods stable and, at the moment, am unable to work. I am a single mother of two children, one of whom has severe autism. Life isn't easy. But something unexpected has happened to me over the last couple of months that has truly changed my life for the better. An acquaintance told me, in passing, about a local charity organisation called Hope Reins and suggested I give them a call. It took me nearly a year to get up the courage to make that phone call and now I wish I had done so sooner. I was given the opportunity to come to Hope Reins as a participant a couple of months ago and I embarked on the 8-week course not realising how much was about to change in my life.

I started at Hope Reins very depressed and feeling hopeless that my life could ever get better and then suddenly everything did!

Working with the horses was extremely calming for me and I made connections with particular horses that had been through similar ordeals to what I had. There was an unspoken bond between myself and those horses that made me feel less alone in life. The horses were really helping me, but it was the combination of the horses and the volunteers at Hope Reins that really made a life-changing difference. The volunteers made me feel accepted, just as I was, for the first time in years. I went in being able to think of only one thing I liked about myself and, through the activities in the program and the one-on-one

talks I had with the volunteers, I finished the program with a list of fourteen things I like about myself!

My experience at Hope Reins helped me to realise that I am a worthy person who has a lot to give in life and this has made all the difference in the way I view myself. I got so much out of the program that, as it came to an end, I realised I couldn't imagine going back to a life without Hope Reins in it. I wanted to keep these amazing people and animals in my life and help others if I could, so I offered my time as a Hope Reins volunteer. Today, I volunteer at Hope Reins for a few hours two days a week and Ruth and Kylie, along with all the other volunteers, are still having positive impacts in my life.

Thank you, Hope Reins! – by Rebecca Schuh, 38 years

Vicki's Story

WHAT HOPE REINS MEANS TO ME AND HOW IT HAS HELPED MY FAMILY

Hope Reins is an amazing place and I am so grateful to have been given the opportunity for my girls and I to participate in their program. When I contacted Ruth last year about being participants, I was not in a very good place in my life. I was feeling extremely overwhelmed with everything that was going on and my girls were continually fighting with each other. The love and respect in our home was disappearing. After trying everything else I knew, Hope Reins was my last resort to restore the harmony in our lives.

Ashleigh 14 was very excited to be going to Hope Reins however Alissa 10 disliked me even more than ever because I was making her go. In the car on the first day Alissa was whinging and telling me all the reasons why it wasn't going to work for her, I listened and kept on driving. Her negativity was very draining on me sometimes but that day I decided to ignore it. Alissa's first job was baking biscuits in the kitchen with Glenda and I was out on the farm meeting horses and picking up poo. At morning tea I was already feeling a lot better and then I saw Alissa carrying a tray of warm biscuits that she had just made with the biggest smile on her face that I had seen in a long time. I was so happy that I almost cried.

That day was when I met Eagle who followed me around the paddock wanting to be loved. He is the most amazing horse and somehow he knew that I really needed to be loved as well, even though I didn't know that at the time. Eagle and I have since formed an amazing bond and we have both learnt a lot about each other. We are quite similar natured which is challenging at times but we always work it out and I don't give up when it gets too hard like I usually would. After morning tea Alissa met Poppy and spent time grooming her and sharing the love as well. On the way home in the car I hardly recognised her. She was so happy and excited about the awesome day she had had. She told me that she was so glad that I made her go and that I am the best mum in the whole world. I then said to her that sometimes she just needs to trust that I know what I'm doing. And there it was, the issue between Alissa and I that kept tearing us apart, she didn't trust me. Well now I knew that, things had to change.

Ashleigh started with us the next week and I was so happy to see the girls communicating calmly with each other and actually talking about how they felt, it was so amazing. By the end of the program Ashleigh had found her confidence that had been disappearing and Alissa trusted me again. I was a whole new person that no longer suffered from anxiety every day and I was more positive as well. I became more social again and I was able to do so many things that I had not done for a long time. My girls were happier people as well and we had finally found harmony again.

This year I started volunteering at Hope Reins and it is the most rewarding experience to be a part such an amazing organisation. I have made so many new friends who are genuinely caring and loving people and I feel so blessed to have been given the opportunity to do the program and then becoming part of the Hope Reins family as well. Thank you Ruth and Kylie for the amazing work you do and sharing your knowledge and skills with others to give them a better quality of life and learn to love themselves for who they really are. **Hope Reins has been a life saver for my family and I really appreciate everything you have done for us, I don't know where we would be without you xo**

Some of Our Achievements for the Year

May 2017 to April 2018

May Double Dan Horsemanship Clinic with Dan Steers—inspiring and entertaining us!

Horsewyse Article—Pippa starred in her article in this magazine.

Cooper—Kylie's Blue Cattle Dog joins the team and steals hearts!

Trooper Dies—a true gentleman in horse hair! We very much felt his loss.

June Squirts first ride—we rode Squirt again. His first time in years after a fractured fetlock. He was proud!

July Dusty dies—Trooper's paddock mate. Jen their other mate grieved so needed to be relocated.

August New website launched with a successful new look thanks to Walk a Mile Media and Jared Bell.

September Praise arrives—Pippa's half sister. She is now officially the smallest horse at Hope Reins.

Spring Fair CCC—we launched our Buy a Bale campaign as the drought started to bite.

Gemma Dies—Kylie's dog Gemma dies from a brain tumour.

Wedding photos at Hope Reins property with horses featured. Very cute!!

Pray for rain with the community so grass grows and tanks and dams full.

October Rain—It rained, filling dams and tanks and kick starting the grass.

Beersheba—the 100th anniversary of the battle was celebrated at Hope Reins

November PHN award—Hope Reins is the winner of the Major Award in the Healthy Towns Awards for across the Sunshine Coast.

Flag from Tony Perrett—We were recipients of our very own Australian Flag. Now we need a flag pole!

December Volunteer Christmas Party—we went skating and finished the year well.

January Mrs Polley—a worrying start to the year as our oldest volunteer is hospitalised.

February Ag Solutions Team—Corporate training in team building

Buying water—No rain again for months and a hot dry summer!
And then it rained!

March Alycia Burton—young volunteers travel to Nambour over 2 nights to be inspired.

April Kilkivan Horse Ride forum presentation, Grass growing abundantly

Mounted Archery trials on horses, Brave On for women starts,
Wed Mentoring & Leadership for young volunteers starts

