



NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2018

River Road Equine Assisted Learning Inc. ABN. 53 719 852 857

2017 in review

Thank you so much for your support and encouragement over 2017. Our first full operational year as a registered charity has been an eventful one and a huge learning curve for both myself and the ever hard working executive committee of Jennifer and Dakota.

My dream of delivering equine assisted learning programs to young people in need was born in 2010. I first read about equine assisted learning in the Education Views (Queensland Teacher journal) with a hugely successful pilot program being run at Marsden State School. My interest was piqued and I contacted the organising teacher, Jill Strachan, to find out about this amazing concept. From there on, I was determined to learn as much as I could about all things EAL. Life did get in the way and early 2012 I was blessed to have a baby girl. In November 2012, I flew to Broken Hill (with an infant) from the Sunshine Coast to attend an equine assisted learning workshop with Marilyn Harvy at Pine Point Station. Determined to set up an equine assisted learning centre on our property at Maroochy River, I returned home. Life again did that weird curve ball thing and heavy rain plagued us for early 2013 which saw our property mostly inundated by water and a major infrastructure problem with our flood gates needing mending. A decision was made to put our property on the market and move back to Central Qld. The dream seemed far too

difficult to realise. Whilst the property did not sell and we removed it from the market, we did move back to Central Qld for two years. During this time, I returned to the classroom teaching. Seeing children in that room and at that school that were crying out for help and guidance and love reawakened the dream to have an equine assisted learning centre available for young people in need. We moved back to our Maroochy River property at the end of 2015. Getting to the point of becoming an incorporated entity in Jan 2017 was not a straight line path (is anything ever?) Being approved as a registered charity in April 2017 was a dream come true. And then the hard work began!

Since that time, up to now, River Road Equine Assisted Learning Inc. has managed the following:-

Provided equine assisted learning sessions for 23 youths ranging in age from 5 - 16.

Secured two Gambling Community Benefit Fund grants - Stage 1 \$9780.90 to purchase a modified shipping container for use as an indoor learning environment and storage space and a round yard. Stage 2 \$14 444 to put a roof over and awning beside shipping container to create a shaded, rain proof area for learners and parent/carers alike when visiting RREAL. Also to purchase a Honda EU70is generator to run power in the container. I have absolutely no doubt that a

significant contributing factor to the success of obtaining two GCBF grants in six months was the fact that we grew a membership from 0 - 44 during that time. Thank you so much for your membership support. You really did make a difference by joining our organisation.

Sundale Community Foundation Grant - \$2640 to assist with care of our horses, which in turn reduced the cost of program and session fees significantly for participants in the six week course. There was an enormously successful presentation ceremony at the Nambour RSL in March. Jen (our secretary) attended this and RREAL got a lot of



favourable publicity, reaching the papers, the radio and local Channel 7 TV news!

Whites Rural grant - \$1070. Which allowed RREAL to purchase some amazing outdoor obstacles (cavaletti, bridge, ride through curtain and a gate), and a whiteboard and tables and chairs for our indoor learning area.



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We held our first successful Bun-
nings Sausage Sizzle on March 1 and
made \$1224.60.

We held our first multi draw raffle at
the end of 2017 and made \$500.

A journalist from ABC Television
called in January. She was in charge
of producing a segment called
“Women in Work” – very similar
format to Australian Story, but run in
7 min segments. They were putting
together Series 2, to showcase wom-
en who work, but also deliver servic-
es in their community in a commu-
nity based organisation. It was quite
an honour for them to consider our
story at RREAL as a noteworthy one.
Unfortunately, logistics of getting
a crew up from Sydney at that time
proved a little too difficult. She said
she will talk to us for future series.
Watch this space!

At this point in time, RREAL is run
by volunteers. No wages are being
paid for time spent writing and de-
livering the programs. The big costs
of our organisation are feed, mainte-
nance and vet bills for our six horses.
The horses are of course the stars of
RREAL and their care and wellbeing
is paramount. The other big non

negotiable expense is our insurance
and public liability, which is \$1200 a
year.

Our plans for 2018 include (but are
not limited to!) the following:-

- ☑ Becoming registered as an NDIS
provider for when NDIS rolls out
on the Sunshine Coast 2019.
- ☑ To write, trial and implement a
pilot 12 week program.
- ☑ To upskill and train our volun-
teers in equine assisted learning
facilitator certification courses.
- ☑ To continue to provide afforda-
ble equine assisted learning to
youths and families in our local
area. We truly believe that RRE-
AL responds to the very current
and real need of equipping young
people with social skills, with
resilience and how to handle the
increasing threat of bullying by
increasing communication and
self esteem by learning to work
with and understand horses.
- ☑ To upgrade and update our web-
site.
- ☑ To continue to source funding,
grants and sponsorship to al-
low us to continue providing our
programs and sessions to Sun-
shine Coast youths.

There is plenty more, but this news-
letter would go on for many more
pages if I included everything we
were wanting to do!

Once again, many, many thanks to
you, our members, for supporting
RREAL Inc. in 2017. Thank you for
believing in this dream of mine that
never quite went away, even though
so many times it seemed like it was
an utterly wild and unattainable one.
For all the circles and u-turns and
tears it seemed to take to get here, it
feels wonderful to see RREAL gain-
ing wings and taking flight. Being
able to work with kids and horses
is a dream come true and I regularly
pinch myself to see I'm not dream-
ing when I see happy kids and happy
parents at the completion of a ses-
sion. I couldn't do this on my own.
Thank you.

Thank you for reading this and have
a horseum day!

Lisa xx



Team RREAL Horses

The horses, as we always say, are the real
stars of Team RREAL. We simply could
not do what we do, without them.

However, to be a RREAL horse you
must have certain characteristics and
qualities that not all of our equine
friends have. As we get to know our
horses we sometimes realise that they
are not 100% suited to a life helping
us humans come to terms with our
humanity. This may be because they
themselves are too highly strung to
work with different people day after day
or because of something they have been
thorough in their life before RREAL.
Perhaps they are just too exuberant for
many of our young clients or they have
a health issue or injury that makes them
uncomfortable.

Because our horses are so important
to all that we do, we are constantly
checking and assessing them to ensure
that they are healthy and happy, not
only physically, but mentally, so that
they are able to work with us with no
fear of them being stressed or injured
by the job that they do.

Sometimes, when we discover that
they are not happy helping us, we need
to decide how we can make their life
better and this may mean something
as simple as giving them a break from
working with us or something as dif-
ficult as finding them another, more
suitable home.

Recently we have had to find new
homes for our beautiful Lily and
cheeky Olaf as they were not hap-
py doing what they needed to do for
RREAL. They have both moved on
to more suitable lives, where we hope
they will be much happier and more
relaxed.



Olaf

Lily



New Team Members

Now we have three new beautiful faces to introduce to you...



Welcome to the delightful **Fancy Pants**. Fancy is a gorgeous chestnut, pony who is 19 years young.

Welcome to the beautiful **Aria**. Aria has been loaned to RREAL by a close friend. She is a pretty spotty mare who is fun and quick to learn new tricks.



Adonis - what more can we say. His name says it all.

He is the baby of the team and for a while at least, his part in Team RREAL will be mostly just making the paddocks look more beautiful!!



It's Membership Time!

Membership fees help support RREAL to continue to provide EAL sessions and programs to young people on the Sunshine Coast. An organisation that shows it has a

Still only \$10

growing membership base is looked upon favourably by grant makers and funding providers. Our membership base last year certainly contributed to RREAL successfully gaining two GCBF (Gambling Community Benefit Fund) grants in the first year of operation - thank you so much, everyone!

All memberships paid by April 30, go in to the draw for a RREALy cool (see what we did there?) RREAL pack



consisting of a RREAL mug with pictures of all our beautiful horses and a RREAL charm bracelet.

Please email [info@rreal-](mailto:info@rreal-inc.org.au)

[inc.org.au](mailto:info@rreal-inc.org.au) if you need your 2018 membership forms emailed or call 0427559122 if you would like your 2018 membership form posted.



RREAL has been offered another spot at Bunnings for a Sausage Sizzle on Thursday, 7th June, 2018.

After the success of our last one, we are looking forward to cooking up another storm this time round!

Of course, our success must be attributed to both our wonderful volunteers, who did an amazing job on the day, cooking sausages, serving customers with a smile and cleaning up the mess at the end of the day AND the incredible companies who so generously donated the necessary supplies for the day.

A BIG THANK YOU to:



Mt Coolum Meats - the sausages were incredible and we had many customers come back for seconds after tasting them!

Yandina IGA - The great fresh bread for cuddling those delicious sausages.



Coles Coolum - the \$50 voucher went a long way to stocking our drink selection for the day!

Woolworths Maleny - the onions and mustard for spicing up those sausages!



Mt Coolum Hot Bread - More beautiful fresh bread!

Please support these wonderful local businesses and if any of our amazing members would like to come have some fun with us on the 7th June at Bunnings Maroochydore - we would greatly appreciate your help, even for an hour or two! Just let us know of your interest or availability by email, phone or through our Facebook page!

Some of our RREAL kids having fun with the new equipment purchased with funds from the White's Rural Community Grant!!

