



Bonogin Valley Horse Retreat is a proud supplier of facilities and resources for Giddy Up Gold Coast charity organisation



**For various articles featured on the news about horse programs go to <https://horseridinghub.com/aboutus/charity/>, there are lovely videos to share with your P&F committee and parents of kids.**

### **Recent testimonial from school group:**

Our 9 year old daughter had her 1st horse experience as a part of an 8 week school program, in that time she learnt the the basics and necessary requirements for horse care, behaviours and riding.

We come from the city and moved to better our lives and our kids. Having never been around horses it was a little daunting for her at first but she loves it.

She has formed great bonds with a couple of the horses and now attends weekly lessons after school.

She loves all aspects of being out at Bonogin Valley Horse Retreat, she doesn't even mind scooping the poop.

Debbie and her staff are so lovely and easy to talk to that our daughter has warmed to them instantly feeling safe and secure with a lot of trust.

Since starting approximately 12 lessons ago our daughter has a higher level of confidence, proud of her responsibilities and very eager to continue learning. She has just signed up for another term with school also.

She now has horses as an outlet for her emotional wellbeing, the change in her within herself is beautiful to see.

I strongly urge anyone sitting on the fence to try for yourself.

From one very happy mum. Jess

### **HORSE CONNECTION DAY experience feedback**

#### **Student Welfare | Chaplaincy Team**

**FROM PARENT: Thank you so much for organising the horse program.**

**Summer had the best day ever!** It is something she will remember forever. My daughter is very interested in volunteering at the stables... we would love to get some more details.

#### **1. What were the feelings you received from your child at the end of the day?**

From parent: My daughter was so ecstatic and full of enthusiasm.

From teacher: My daughter was super grateful to be apart of the program and said she loved the whole day

#### **2. What did your child achieve by attending the Horse Day Out and any changes you have noticed?**

From parent: My daughter achieved confidence and learnt a lot on the day about horses, riding and caring for horses/animals. As a result, she is even more comfortable and confident around animals.



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From teacher: She was going through a tough time at home with her grandmother severely suffering from cancer. It was a day away from the chaos, where she could have a day of fun and seemed so much happier.

**FROM PARENT:** My daughter Jasmine attended the Horse program last Wednesday. She initially didn't want to go (I think because her best friend wasn't going and Jasmine is new to the school this year), I assured her that she would have a great time but she wasn't convinced. So to my amazement she came home last Wednesday from the horse day and had the best day. **She absolutely loved it! She said that she was very happy that I "forced" her to go.**

Jasmine is not an adventurer so I think she a bit daunted by the whole outdoors horsey thing but it seems that by the end of the day she felt very comfortable with her horse. She wants to go back and do more riding.

Thank you for the opportunity for Jasmine. It was a really special day for her. Thanks, Joy

### **Student Welfare | Chaplaincy Team**

Helping and encouraging each other was the biggest challenge and I think this greatly improved by end of day.

### **KIRA**

#### **1. What were the feelings you had at the end of the day?**

From Student: I was extremely happy and had learnt a lot from the experience. By the end of the day, I felt that I had a better understanding of how to take care of the horses, along with riding. Being with the horses was extremely calming, but exciting at the same time, they are such beautiful creatures.

#### **2. How would you sum up your experience in a sentence to someone?**

From Student: Extremely fun and informational, one of the best experiences ever and a memory I will remember for the rest of my life.

### **PREVIOUS COUNCIL FUNDING SUPPORT we have run in the school holidays HOLLIE from parent**

Hollie had a wonderful day! She loves the interaction with Horses and the experiences she had throughout the day. Even learning to sit up and down when trotting.

She loves animals and the caring aspect she can have with the horses- stroking them etc.

The day camps are wonderful for parents that due to other commitments can't do weekly horse riding lessons.

Hollie came home so excited and proud of herself after her day with the horses.

Although she was tired she was so happy and grinning from ear to ear.

I would love to continue doing horse day camps and when the girls are older maybe overnight camps too.

They are a great gift other than toys with lifelong memories and experiences. So much better for the kids to be outdoors and active!! Thanks again, Sally



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### **MIKAYLA from student**

Rider Age: 8

- 1. Why do you love horses?** Because they are caring, loving and interesting animals.
- 2. Why do you want to learn to ride or why do you need to have horses in your life?** Because when I ride it makes me feel excited and bubbly inside, but I also want to learn to ride properly and be extra safe.

### **AIMEE and TIARNI from parent**

**1. What were the feelings you received from your child at the end of the day?**

Both of my girls, (Aimee and Tiarni) were so excited after spending the day so much so they keep on asking when they can go back to ride with Miss Debbie.

**2. What did your child achieve by attending the Horse Play Day and any changes you have noticed?**

\* Tiarni she has more confidence, we went and visited the week before and Tiarni was too scared to pat the horses but after home from the day she is so excited to attend again and is hoping to work some more with Monty.

\* Aimee she learnt the basics of riding and is now more confident around them, she loved working with Lukah.

**3. What future activity with horses would you like to be involved in? Once off? Regular?**

Both the girls would like to attend more regular to keep up their confidence and ability to learn while connecting with the horses.

4. Both of my girls have not stopped talking about the day they spent with you and your beautiful horses Monty & Lukah, they can't wait to attend again on the 18th January 2017 and we are planning private lessons soon.

Thank you so much Debbie for allowing my girls this opportunity. Jennifer

### **KEASHA**

**1. What were the feelings you received from your child at the end of the day?** Keasha loved her day and being with the horses

**2. What did your child achieve by attending the Horse Play Day and any changes you have noticed?** a love to ride again she had such a great day

**3. What future activity with horses would you like to be involved in? Once off? Regular?** Keasha would love to attend regular riding lessons is this available at a reasonable price?

**4. Any other comments/feedback appreciated affordable group lessons would be fantastic**

It was an absolutely fantastic day thank you so very very much, Carrie