



From the Director / Manager

Hello to Everyone, As you may or may not be aware that Eagleton Ridge Respite Centre was going to convert into a Residential Service next year. After 15 years of continual provision of Respite Services, I had made the difficult decision to close respite and to become a permanent residential facility due to my increasing commitment to my own aged family, stability for staff in their guaranteed hours, consistency for my staff in their working life, the introduction of NDIS and the financial and limited funding for Respite Services. As our staff are of such high standards, I did not want to lose them because I could not guarantee their working hours. Many of my staff have been working at Eagleton Ridge for over 8 years and I believe that they deserve to be secure in their employment, which is difficult when Respite Services are so very erratic. This was an exceptionally difficult decision to make and after much heartache, the decision was made to transition into Residential Homes. At this stage in the process, Eagleton Ridge Respite Centre will not be completing the transition for another 2 years. This will enable us to continue to provide Respite Services to our clientele and hopefully we will continue to enjoy a good working relationship with all of our existing Service Providers as well as all the new Services that are supporting NDIS participants. Once Port Stephens has entered into NDIS Eagleton Ridge will complete the transition into Residential Services. Depending on demand and funding availability at that stage, Eagleton Ridge may well start another respite service but it will not be located on "the farm". Eagleton Ridge Respite Centre commences its Accreditation Audit for both the Disability Service Standards as well as the Community Service Standards in February 2015 with SAI Global and will complete the process in April 2015. Once gaining our Accreditation at Eagleton Ridge Respite Centre, the Accreditation process will then commence with Songbird Homes. Eagleton Ridge Respite Centre has recently had its first Audit of Compliance with NSW Children's Guardianship and no discrepancies were found in policies, procedures and reporting systems. Eagleton Ridge has opened another arm to its services. This service is called Songbird Homes and is Registered with NDIS to provide Supported Residential Accommodation. This service will be offering Residential Services to NDIS participant in the launch areas. Songbird Homes, like Eagleton Ridge, will be aiming to raise the standard of services for Residential living for people with disabilities by providing person centered approach and working closely with participants, family, carers and advocates. As further launch areas are bought online, Songbird Homes will open purpose specific housing as the need arises, for those participants who register with Songbird Homes. Our residential houses will be fully supported houses with 24hr support. Songbird Homes anticipates 5 houses opened by the end of 2015. For any further information or to register with Songbird Homes, please contact Ann on 49871686 or email songbirdhomes@gmail.com.

Our Farm Animals

Since the last edition of our newsletter we have sadly lost a couple of our pets. They haven't been replaced but we have gained to our extended family of animal's two little dogs "Mishka & Woopi" they are Moodles.

These two little dogs are a joy to have around every day. On arrival of our guest or visitors they are the first there to greet them. These two little dogs are very energetic, they have time with our guest enticing them to play ball, the go along with Vince & our guests to do the daily feeding of the animals.

Our animals consist of three horses, 2 cats, chooks with provide us eggs, goats, our two friendly cockatoos "Percy & Popsy".

We have one of our regular staff members "Gabby" who brings her small dog to work when on shift, his name is "Storm" who is also a moodle, and again he is great with our guests, energetic, gentle as well as being part of the welcoming committee.

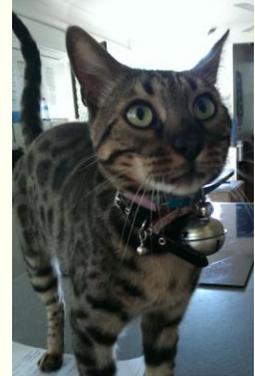
Please enjoy some of the photos of our pets & farm friends.

More of our farm family

Mishka



Leo



Whoopi



Popsy



Storm



Percy



Staff Profiles

Nicole Mansell:



Hello my name is Nicole Mansell. I have recently moved up to the Hunter Valley from Sydney and am enjoying my life up here with my partner. I have 2 beautiful boys who I love spending time with as I am very family orientated. I love going on holidays camping in our camper, long walks along the beach and going out to dinner with family and friends. I have now been with Eagleton Ridge for 2 months and since being employed I have found them to be a very family orientated work place and I love working with them as I am very passionate about supporting people with disabilities .I love interacting with my clients by getting them to help me cook, clean, and doing crafts and also supporting them on outings in the community. I look forward to going to work every day and spending time with them and seeing them smile as this really makes my day.

Drew Denholm:



My name is Drew Denholm and I have been working in the disability industry for more than 2 years. I never had an understanding or passion to pursue this path until I was given an opportunity to work in this sector. After 2 years, I am confident to say I love what I do. The amount of things you get to learn and observe, even be a part of it, is a very rewarding experience. Working in Songbird has been a great experience and a steep learning curve as I thought I know it all but I am wrong as there is always new things to learn, improve and achieve which is what Eagleton Ridge provides. From self-improvement up to improving one's skills to be a better carer for the clients.

Tracey Erickson:



Hello my name is Tracey Erickson and I have 5 children, and 3 beautiful and spoilt grandchildren as I am a family orientated wife, mother and grandmother. My husband and I took up fostering for less fortunate children for 8 years and we enjoyed making a little difference in each of the children's lives nonetheless I have always had a desire for working with others that have a disability. I am passionate about my work and I love supporting people with a disability. My time working for Eagleton Ridge Respite Centre has gave me the pleasure of making myself at home while I work. Eagleton Ridge is a family orientated work place that inspires me to make a difference in each of the client's lives.

Farm Renovations:

Yes another renovation is taking place at the farm to improve the comfort for our guests. Our property is freshly painted, we have put built in wardrobes into 3 bedrooms giving us a total of 6 bedrooms, all bedrooms have ceiling fans with two bedrooms air conditioned. Tinting has been put on windows to cut down on heat & glare.

We have removed one bathroom to enlarge & open one of the lounge area. We have a fully accessible wheelchair shower & a bathroom with a bath if our guests wish to have a bath. Installed in our bathrooms & toilets there are handrails to allow for independence & ease of transfer from chair ect.

Vehicles:

When our guests come to stay we have 3 wheelchair accessible vehicles & 1 Tarago passenger van, all these vehicles are fully air conditioned for our guests comfort on our outings.

Tours & Holidays:

2015 brings on another new year your holidays & more. We have our regular destinations that are a hit, Bali, Thailand, New Zealand, Fiji, America, Cruising, Tasmania, Queensland, Outback NSW. If you have a burning desire to explore one of these destinations or to go somewhere new & unknown please get in touch with us so we can help arrange this for you. Trips can be in small groups or 1-1 if you wish. All our staff that do the supported holidays are fully trained to give the highest level of care to guests. Every guest will receive an album of photos & a DVD of their holiday. All holidays can be put on layby, family & friends can arrange to purchase gift certificates toward the holiday for a great gift idea.

Website:

Please take some time to go & have a look at our new and exciting website. www.eagletonridge.com.au , after your journey with us on line please go to the tab with the heading contact us to provide feedback, both positive & negative. We would like to know is it easy to navigate, is there enough information on this page for you or is there something we have missed that needs to be added.

Cook's Corner

Broken Glass Jelly



Ingredients:

3 or 4 different flavored jellies

30grams of Gelatin,

400 grams of Condensed Milk

Water to make jellies as per jelly directions

Small amount of oil to grease mold

Method:

Make jellies & put in fridge till set firmly

When jellies set remove from trays & cut into small cubes

Place cut up jelly in a greased mold or bowl

Pour ½ cup of cold water into a saucepan add gelatin & let it soak for 5 minutes.

Take the saucepan with gelatin, heat until melted. Set aside

Pour the condensed milk into a bowl, add 1 cup of water mix well.

Pour in the gelatin mix to the condensed milk, mix well

Pour the condensed milk / gelatin mixture over the cubed jelly & put back in the fridge to chill, 2-3 hours.

Ice Cream Slice



Ingredients:

600ml thickened cream

1 can of condensed milk

2 packets of malt biscuits

Add your favorite Chocolate: 2 x crushed peppermint crisps or 2 x violet crumble bars or maltsters or M&M's

Method:

Beat cream till it peaks

Add the condensed milk & beat till ingredients all combined

Add your chopped chocolate of choice

Place a layer of biscuits in tin lined with baking paper

Pour mixture over the biscuits

Put another layer of biscuits on top of mixture

Make sure the biscuits are all going the same way, freeze for 24 hours before serving

Refrigerator Biscuits (cookies)



Ingredients:

250 grams butter

2 eggs

3 ½ cups Self-Raising flour

½ teaspoon salt

1 ½ cups castor sugar

2 teaspoons vanilla essence

3 teaspoons baking powder

Method:

Cream butter & sugar, add eggs, vanilla essences & beat well. Sift and add flour, baking powder & salt. Divide into 5 portions.

Place small balls on baking paper in a moderate oven 180 to 190 degrees for 10 to 15 minutes

Variations:

Coffee: Add 2 teaspoons of instant coffee

Coconut & Orange: Add ½ cup of desiccated coconut & ½ teaspoon of

Ginger: Add chopped preserved ginger

Choc Chip: add choc chips to pastry or place on top

Chuckle Box

I don't feel so bad... (Sing It!) - If you sing it, it's especially hysterical!!! **'My Favorite Things'**

Botox and nose drops and needles for knitting,
Walkers and handrails and new dental fittings,
Bundles of magazines tied up in string,
These are a few of my favorite things.

Cadillacs and cataracts, hearing aids and glasses,
Polident and Fixodent and false teeth in glasses,
Pacemakers, golf carts and porches with swings,
These are a few of my favorite things.

When the pipes leak, When the bones creak,
When the knees go bad,
I simply remember my favorite things,
And then I don't feel so bad.

Hot tea and crumpets and corn pads for bunions,
No spicy hot food or food cooked with onions,
Bathrobes and heating pads and hot meals they bring,
These are a few of my favorite things.

Back pain, confused brains and no need for sinnin',
Thin bones and fractures and hair that is thinnin',
And we won't mention our short shrunken frames,
When we remember our favorite things.

When the joints ache, When the hips break,
When the eyes grow dim,
Then I remember the great life I've had,
And then I don't feel so bad.

