

2022 Animals Helping Humans Month



FEBRUARY 2022 PROGRAM



ANIMAL THERAPIES LTD

Animals Helping Humans



Virtual Event



FEBRUARY IS "ANIMALS HELPING HUMANS" MONTH AND WHEN YOU REGISTER ATTENDANCE YOU CAN CHOOSE FROM MORE THAN 40 WEBINARS DELIVERED BY LEADERS IN THE ANIMAL-ASSISTED SERVICES SECTOR

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Whatever your interests in emerging animal-assisted services, the National February 2022 Animals Helping Humans Month offers a forum of inspirational speakers for audience engagement. Grow your knowledge in a supportive environment with friendly experts in the field, and network with new colleagues.



Tickets are available now for purchase at:

https://whova.com/portal/registration/assnc_202202

The National Animals Helping Humans Month (AHHM) is a virtual event that you can customise by accessing the event sessions to suit your own personal timetable. Ticket purchase also provides access to recorded sessions after the AHHM closes at the end of February 2022 for 6 months via your mobile phone and 3 months via your desktop computer. **Don't miss out, tickets are limited.**

The 2022 AHHM event program may be subject to change

Tuesday, February 1st, 2022



Official opening and welcome to attendees of the February 2022 Animals Helping Humans Month and Acknowledgement of Country

Brian Zanker - Chairperson Animal Therapies Ltd.

Brian will officially welcome you to National "Animals Helping Humans Month" and Conference, providing an Acknowledgement of Country and an overview of ATL's purpose and strategic objectives. Brian has over 30 year's experience in the financial services industry, providing strong leadership over the course of his career. He is the former Chair of the NSW State Executive and Life Member of the Association of Superannuation Funds of Australia (ASFA) and has an extensive network of corporate relationships throughout Australia.

Key Note Presentation - Animals Helping Humans Month 2022

Dr Aubrey Fine - Professor, California State University

Dr. Aubrey Fine is a qualified psychologist, researcher, and educator whose focus is on Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD). He has been recognised by numerous organisations for his service and dedication to children, animals, and the community, and is the author of several books in the field including: *Our Faithful Companions*, *Parent Child Dance*, *Therapist's Guide to Learning and Attention Disorders*, *Fathers and Sons*, *The Total Sports Experience for Children*, *Give a Dog Your Heart* and the 5th edition *Handbook on Animal Assisted Therapy*. Aubrey is noted as one of the pioneers in animal-assisted therapy (NY Times). He has appeared as a guest on numerous national TV and radio shows including ABC, Discovery Network, Fox, CNN, and featured in Wall Street Journal, Time Magazine, People Magazine, The Los Angeles Times, and the New York Times. Animal Therapies Ltd (ATL) are honoured to have Aubrey as their International Ambassador.



The Non-Established, New and Emerging Treatments (NeNETS motion)

Stuart Grimley - Elected MLC for Western Victoria, Member of Parliament

Stuart Grimley has a passionate interest in social justice. Prior to becoming a Member of the Victorian Parliament, Stuart worked as a primary school teacher and principal, and as police officer and detective. Stuart's keynote presentation for the 2022 AHHM acknowledges the experiences and contributions made by police officer Ron Fenton to his community, and recounts the Post Traumatic Stress Injuries (PTSI) Ron suffered in the line of duty whilst working for Victoria Police. Stuart describes Ron's journey and how a chocolate Labrador named Yogi came into Ron's life courtesy of the Defence Bank's *Defence Community Dogs* Program, and would turn Ron's life around. Ron's journey with Yogi resulted in WorkSafe's Non-established, New and Emerging Treatments and Services (NeNETS) policy to seek compensation for psychiatric assistance dog costs.



Wednesday, February 2nd, 2022

Hearing Dogs and Associated Research

Carlie Driscoll - Associate Professor in audiology and Director of Animal - Assisted Interventions Alliance, University of Queensland



Carlie will be presenting the latest research on the benefits of having an Assistance Dog for the Hearing Impaired



Life from the animal's perspective

Hannah Donovan - Donovan Veterinary Behaviour Practice, Vet and Clinical Animal Behaviourist. BSc (Hons) BVM&S MVetSci MSc (Clinical Animal Behaviour) MRCVS CCAB RCVS Advanced Practitioner in Companion Animal Behaviour

Since before she could walk, Hannah has had an exceptional interest and particular way with animals. Growing up around birds, rabbits, guinea-pigs, hamsters, gerbils, dogs, cats, and horses, Hannah was often known to spend the majority of her time with animals. Hannah's enthusiasm for understanding life from the animal's perspective and her seemingly innate ability to communicate with them has driven the path to forming a veterinary career where she enjoys working closely with animals. Hannah's pre-recorded talk will consider the perspective of the animals who are trained to assist humans in the numerous settings we explore during this conference and the considerations we must have when working with animals.



Thursday, February 3rd, 2022

First-responders, veterans and equine-assisted Psychotherapy

Dean Mighell is a Gestalt Psychotherapist and has completed studies in Equine Assisted Psychotherapy and Learning (EAPL) as well as studies on Trauma, CPTSD, anxiety, depression, ASD, and ADHD.

Dean served with the 1st Commando Regiment and had a career as the head of the Electrical Trades Union in Victoria for 18 years. He founded *The Path of the Horse* as a Charity registered with the Australian Charities and Not for Profits Commission (ACNC) in 2016 and shares the important role that equine-assisted therapy plays in the lives of many first responders and others. The Path of the Horse has continued to grow and thrive with additional EAPL practitioners.



Assistance Dogs and the Workplace with Erin Condrin & Ruth Gallagher

This is a pre-recorded session with Erin and Ruth discussing how Assistance Dogs are important in the workplace, particularly when working in the Health and Allied Health fields and with children.

Erin Condrin (aged 22), is a Speech Pathologist from Hervey Bay, QLD. Erin was placed with her Assistance Dog, Lacey, by Canine Helpers in 2015. Erin is a wheelchair user with a congenital disability and Lacey assists with physical everyday tasks. Erin and Lacey have completed a Bachelor of Psychological Science and Masters of Speech Pathology and currently work full time with children and adults with developmental delay and/or disabilities.



Ruth Gallagher - All Sports Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapist. Ruth is an Occupational Therapist who has worked within customer service, hospitality, and the health sectors. Within paid, practical and volunteer positions Ruth has worked with an assistance dog and developed strategies on how to work with her dog and how to be a therapist, a colleague and a leader within workplaces.

Friday, February 4th, 2022

The Benefits of Animals for wellbeing in later life.

Dr Nancy A. Pachana is a clinical geropsychologist, gerontological researcher, and professor in the School of Psychology at The University of Queensland, and is co-director of the UQ Ageing Mind Initiative, providing a focal point for clinical, translational ageing-related research at UQ.

Nancy has an international reputation in the area of geriatric mental health, and has published over 300 peer-reviewed articles, book chapters, and books on various topics in the field of ageing. Nancy was elected a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences in Australia in 2014. She is passionate about the potential for positive wellbeing from older adults' experiences with animals.



Update on Assistance Dog Trainer skills set project

Diana McNaughton is the Industry Engagement Manager at Skills Impact



Skills Impact is a national not-for-profit Skills Service Organisation (SSO), contracted by the Commonwealth Government. They work in collaboration with industry, government and training providers, to review and develop units of competency, skill sets and qualifications, for use by industry and the vocational training and education sector.

Skills Impact is working with industry across Australia on a project to develop national skills standards for animal trainers wishing to specialise in assistance dog training.

The “Trainers of Assistance Dogs Project” will support industry in their efforts to have greater input, leadership and oversight into the training processes and accreditation for assistance dog trainers. Diana will be presenting an update of the project and explain ways for you to get involved in the validation process for this project.



Saturday, February 5th, 2022

Living and Learning with ADHD:

How can Animal Assisted Therapy make a difference? (2021 replay)

Dr Aubrey Fine - Professor, California State University

Dr. Aubrey Fine is a qualified psychologist, researcher, and Educator. The primary purpose of this session is to provide the audience with an overview of Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), and its implications to a child's life. Presently there are a variety of evidence-based interventions that are used to support the lives of children living with ADHD and their families. Special attention will be given to explaining the psycho-social challenges these children face in the area of social skills and resilience due to the pervasiveness of the disorder. The speaker will highlight his research in developing the PACK Project which is a canine assisted therapy program specifically designed for this population. Within the presentation an overview of the components of the program will be highlighted as well as the outcomes from a 3-year research program on one of the most prevalent disorders of childhood. ADHD often co-exists with other challenges and impacts behaviors including self-regulation, arousal, impulsivity, and attention. Approximately 9.5 % of children ages 3-17 are diagnosed with ADHD. It is crucial for us to realize that growing up with ADHD goes beyond the classroom or the home and impacts the social lives of many children tremendously. The social wounds of being ostracized, ignored, picked on, or being laughed at, are all the elements that can make a child feel inferior. Dr Aubrey Fine is the International Ambassador for Animal Therapies Ltd.



Understanding Dog Behaviour (2021 replay)

Kirsty Nalvarte - Head of Behaviour RSPCA

Head of Behaviour at RSPCA Qld, Kirsty has a wealth of experience in canine behaviour with special interests in animal emotional states, short and long-term impacts of stress and arousal on behaviour, body language and communication.

After nearly a decade working in the animal welfare industry focusing on behaviour assessment, rehabilitation and rehoming, Kirsty has worked with countless numbers of displaced dogs and cats and is passionate about supporting pet guardians to develop a lifelong bond with their animals. As well as leading behaviour teams at shelters across the state, Kirsty manages the RSPCA School for Dogs centres which follow positive-reward based programs developed to ensure that fewer numbers of animals are surrendered to the RSPCA and local pounds each year, and that every dog has the opportunity to live happily in the wider community.



Sunday, February 6th, 2022

Critical Success Factors for Assistance Animals (2021-Replay)

Dr Tiffani Howell - Senior Research Fellow - School of Psychology and Public Health at La Trobe University.

In this presentation, Dr. Tiffani Howell shows how anecdotal reports and other publications indicate that assistance dog handlers are often denied access to public places where they are legally entitled to go. This has been identified as a major disadvantage of having an assistance dog. In 2019, we created an online survey to better understand the Australian community's awareness of assistance dog public access rights.

Community members have a high awareness of some aspects of public access rights (e.g. that assistance dogs are permitted to enter parks, shopping centres, and public transport), but there was less knowledge about other aspects (e.g. that all types of assistance dogs have the same public access rights). This information may be useful for developing educational campaigns designed to improve community awareness of assistance dog public access rights.

Dr Howell is currently co-leading a trial, funded by the Department of Veterans' Affairs, to understand the effectiveness of assistance dogs as an adjunct to treatment for veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). She has also recently jointly led a project commissioned by the National Disability Insurance Agency, in which existing scientific literature was reviewed to determine the effectiveness of assistance dogs. Other recently completed projects include understanding the benefits and disadvantages of owner-trained assistance dogs, general public awareness of assistance dog public access rights, whether social interactions within the community increase when people with an intellectual disability go on outings with a therapy dog, and the impact of courtroom dogs for survivors of sexual and family violence. In 2018, Dr Howell received a Research Excellence Award from La Trobe University.



Animal - Assisted Play Therapy for Children (2021-replay)

Dr Rise VanFleet is the Principal Founder, International Institute for Animal Assisted Play Therapy®

Dr. Risë VanFleet is known internationally for her fun and informative presentations and workshops, as well as for her books, articles, and DVDs about the fields of play therapy, Filial Therapy, and Animal Assisted Play Therapy®. Her innovative approaches and stimulating training programs are frequently hailed by participants as among the best they've ever attended. A Licensed Psychologist (PA), Registered Play Therapist-Supervisor, and Certified Animal Ethology and Behaviour Consultant-Instructor, Dr. VanFleet brings 45 years of experience to her seminars, DVDs, and books/articles. The quality of her work has been recognized by 16 national and international awards. Dr. VanFleet and Tracie Faa-Thompson of the UK co-created the field of Animal Assisted Play Therapy® and have offered their hands-on training workshops in Australia several times and are working with Australian professionals toward an ongoing program in AAPT in this region. AAPT focuses on relationships and often includes dogs, horses, cats, goats, and other species, provided the animal is a good match for the approach being used.

Monday, February 7th, 2022

DOgSS - update; Research, and Estate Planning for our Pets, Companions and other animals

Anne Hamilton-Bruce-Associate Professor, Principal Medical Scientist ,Co-Director Stroke Research, Co-Lead Research and Education Queen Elizabeth & Royal Adelaide Hospitals

Ashley Avci - Research Associate at Risk Frontiers

Join Anne Hamilton-Bruce and Ashley Avci as they update DOgSS (Dogs Offering Support after Stroke) AAA action research project at the Royal Adelaide Hospital. In the presentation, the presenters will briefly discuss 3 different types of research from an action, scientific and legal perspective.

Anne Hamilton-Bruce is a Principal Medical Scientist, Co-Director of the Stroke Research Programme and Co-Lead Research and Education at The Queen Elizabeth and Royal Adelaide Hospitals, Principal Research Fellow at the South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute and an Affiliate Associate Professor at the University of Adelaide in South Australia. She has an interdisciplinary research background in medical science, management and law, and an interest in human-animal interactions and wellbeing. Over the years Anne has collaborated with scientific, allied health, nursing, medical and veterinary professionals as well as volunteers, and has recently obtained funding for dog visiting for stroke patients at the Royal Adelaide Hospital, the latter being the topic for her 2021 ATL Conference presentation on DOgSS (Dogs Offering Support after Stroke). She presents her research at national and international conferences and has co-authored numerous academic publications; she also supervises post-and under-graduate university students. Previously, Anne led introduction of 'Own Pet Dog Visiting' at The Queen Elizabeth Hospital, which was also used to develop a program at the Lyell McEwin Hospital in South Australia. She has co-supervised Honours evaluation research and is currently co-supervising practice and engagement of service and therapy dogs in Australia Honours research at the School of Animal and Veterinary Sciences, University of Adelaide.



Ashley Avci is a Research Associate at Risk Frontiers - a natural disaster consultancy firm, and volunteer President of not-for-profit, Shark Conservation Australia. Ashley has an environmental management and law background and is currently undertaking her practical legal training with the Animal Defenders Office, the only animal focused community legal centre in NSW. She is also a recent recipient of Lewis & Clark Law School's International Advocates Animal Law LLM Scholarship. Ashley has a keen interest in biodiversity management (including natural hazards) policy and practice and how the law protects or fails to protect animals. Ashley is passionate about law reform, building resilience and helping equip vulnerable community members with

knowledge and information to empower informed decision-making. Some of her more recent work includes performing an analysis on how the media represents animal management in natural disasters for World Animal Protection Australia, developing heatwave preparedness materials for the Western Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils (WSROC) and holding community heatwave preparedness workshops throughout Western Sydney. Ashley is an experienced presenter and loves working with people. She has previously led delivery of community engagement activities including conferences and workshops for Shark Conservation Australia; the Parliament of NSW and the Macquarie University Centre for Environmental Law including with the Jane Goodall Institute Australia.

Monday, February 7th, 2022

Animal Assisted Occupational Therapy - Putting the Therapy Process into Practice.

Sarah Munn - Occupational Therapist, Barefoot Therapists.

Sarah Munn started Barefoot Therapists in 2012 which is a multi-disciplinary child and family team based around occupational therapy and speech pathology services. It includes a hobby farm program with animal assisted therapy, nature therapy, horticulture therapy and outdoor farm skills programs. Sarah qualified as an OT in 1996, with a BHSc (Hons) choosing community paediatrics for her career, and moving on to a Senior Clinician role in Neurology and Neurosurgery at Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children in London, before moving to Australia in 2004. Sarah was an OT manager and paediatric OT when her first child was born with Trisomy 21 (down syndrome) in 2009. Her second child was born a year later and was later diagnosed with Anxiety, ASD, ODD and ADHD. Sarah established Barefoot Therapists to meet a local need she experienced when she searched for meaningful therapy for her children. The practice has grown from her working alone part time with young children, to now supporting a team of 25 staff and over 300 families who are enrolled in her specialist clinical services.



Tuesday, February 8th, 2022

Panel Discussion : The Importance of Self Care for Practitioners and their Horses

Join our six expert panellists - Eleni Argy, Judy Brightman, Jane Faulkner, Bianca Stawiarski, and Michelle Roockley

Eleni Argy - Director , Certification Board of Equine Interaction Professionals

Eleni Argy is a certified Equine Interaction Professional in Education (CBEIP-ED), and the Founder of Sheez Like the Wind Equine Experiences and Equine Experience International, based in Sydney, Australia. Eleni hold an Honours degree in Humanities from Harvard University, Diploma in Gestalt Therapy, and is certified HeartMath Practitioner, certified Practitioner in Integrative Wellness, professional Life Coach, and a Master Practitioner in Usui Reiki. Eleni has a career specialising in working with youth and families in community services, mental health, and experiential education. Eleni is also on the Board of Directors for the Certification Board of Equine Interaction Professionals. Eleni's unique experiential programs in Equine Assisted Education, Therapy and Wellbeing support an ever-evolving global network of humans connecting in a meaningful way with horses.



Judy Brightman - Equine Experiential Learning Facilitator & Coach, Mindful Horse Mindful Leader

Judy Brightman is a coach with over 30 years experience in global organisations in leadership development and change management. Judy's practice, Mindful Horse, Mindful Leader is based on the outskirts of Sydney, Australia . Judy is an Eponaquest Instructor, and brings a rich diversity of life experiences to sessions, as an accredited Riding for the Disabled Association (RDA) Coach and Chair for RDA NSW's Equine Facilitated Mental Health & Learning Committee. She conducts training in equine facilitated learning and has conducted these programs at RDA and for a family therapy practice. Judy has also studied mindfulness, Reiki (certified Master and Animal Reiki practitioner), Qi Gong, acupuncture, equine bodywork, and animal communication. These days Judy's focus is on mentoring budding equine-assisted practitioners, and individual coaching sessions and workshops for women wanting to rediscover their true north reconnecting their inner wisdom.



Tuesday, February 8th, 2022...cont

Cont...Panel Discussion : The Importance of Self Care for Practitioners and their Horses Join our six expert panellists - Eleni Argy, Judy Brightman, Jane Faulkner, Bianca Stawiarski, and Michelle Roockley

Jane Faulkner - Equine assisted mental health practitioner, psychotherapist, Equine Assisted Therapy Australia Pty Ltd.

Jane Faulkner is the founder and director of Equine Assisted Therapy Australia, a company that provides therapy and training in counselling and equine assisted mental health. Jane started her career as a Registered Nurse and worked in the hospital setting and community both here and overseas. During her career as a nurse, she supported people through the difficult transitions of illness, grief and loss, death, birth, trauma, and mental health issues. Jane has a Masters in Gestalt Psychotherapy, Bachelor of Nursing, and Certificates in Initiatic Art Therapy, Equine Assisted Psychotherapy, and is a Riding Instructor and Trail Guide. Yoga is an integral part of Jane's and as a Certified Iyengar Teacher she continues to study in the Iyengar yoga tradition. She is an accomplished teacher, therapist, and facilitator and has led many women's groups and day retreats, presented seminars and workshops, and worked with many different community groups.



Bianca Stawiarski - Managing Director, Warida Wholistic Wellness Therapy

Bianca is a strong Badimaya (Badimia) woman who is a centred and purpose-driven healer, consultant, speaker, lecturer, author, trainer and change-maker. Bianca infuses her calming, resilient, earthy, Indigenous connectedness into all that she does, as well as balancing Indigenous healing practices with western clinical qualifications. Bianca is a member of the Leadership group of the Psychotherapy and Counselling Federation of Australia's College of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Healing



Practices. Warida Wholistic Wellness is a sanctuary for wellbeing on Kaurna Country in the Adelaide Hills, where the tools and support to create community change are provided - one person at a time.

Warida provides opportunities to connect to Country, animals and ourselves through working with our horses through equine-assisted therapy, walking on Country with bush therapy, yarning circles and drawing upon the natural wisdom of the grandmother tree, taking an intuitive and holistic approach. Our purpose is to support the creation of strong empowered families,

workplaces, services and communities, and to break through intergenerational trauma, disconnection and disempowerment.

Michelle Roockley - Founder Equine Supported Programs

Michelle is deeply passionate about the well-being of people, animals, and the nature in our world. An Equine Assisted Learning and Wellness Practitioner for the past 10 plus years, Michelle's foundational approach is learning, growth and healing through holism, mindfulness, awareness, and nature-based therapy. "Every day my quest is to share moments of discovery, nourishment & gratitude." Michelle's personal and professional experience is with Horsemanship styles, Nutrition, Eating Disorders, Complex Trauma, PTSD, Energy Healing, and Animal Communication. Her experiences have provided richness, creativity, passion, integrity and authenticity in her purpose-work. Michelle practices from her family farm in the beautiful Huon Valley Tasmania, along with her loving co-facilitators - 7 horses, 2 dogs, 1 cat, and other furry and winged beauties. Michelle enjoys offering personal growth and healing with 'Natural Way of the Horse Life Skills' shared experiences; and has a compassionate strength for supporting those with trauma.



Tuesday, February 8th, 2022 cont..

Panel Discussion : Canine-assisted services: current practice, challenges and future opportunities.

Claire Dickson-Occupational Therapist, (Assistance Dogs Australia)

Melinda Farrell CEO (Delta Institute)

Janine Sigley Co-Founder and Managing Director (Story Dogs).

The panel will discuss Animal-assisted services involving dogs in Australia, current practice, challenges, and future opportunities. The discussion will include a short introduction about the structure of the session, Animal-Assisted Learning (AAL), Animal-Assisted Activity (AAA), and Animal-Assisted Therapy (AAT), and the challenges of terminology, the lack of community understanding about what services providers deliver, and what types of services don't fit into AAA, AAL, AAT. Finally the panel will discuss the growing opportunities for these specialist services.

Claire Dickson - Occupational Therapist (Assistance Dogs Australia)

Claire Dickson is an Occupational Therapist at Assistance Dogs Australia (ADA) based in Engadine, NSW. ADA offers occupational therapy and animal assisted therapy, alongside its core operation of training and placing assistance dogs. Claire is involved in research with University of Sydney, looking at the outcomes of animal assisted therapy for kids and teens, and at the benefits of autism assistance dogs for young people and adults. Claire lives and works with a fabulous black Labrador, Asta.



Melinda Farrell CEO (Delta Institute).

Melinda joined the Delta Therapy Dogs and Delta Institute in 2019 as Chief Executive Officer and has been at the forefront of transformative change since. Melinda has over a decade of leadership experience in the not-for-profit community sector, with a particular interest in delivering quality adjunct services to health services and the medical model of care. Melinda has a proven track record of leading sustainable growth in organisations, with a commitment to quality of service for the community, funders and stakeholders.

Janine Sigley-Co Founder and Managing Director (Story Dogs)

Janine has been part of the Story Dogs organisation since 2009. She has a background in volunteer management, working with SEQ Catchments managing volunteer environmental groups for over 10 years before embarking on the Story Dogs journey. Janine, along with Co-Founder Leah Sheldon is the driving force behind the continued expansion of Story Dogs to being one of the largest reading assistance dog organisations in Australia. Janine has implemented many risk minimisation and governance procedures and policies to ensure volunteer, dog and child welfare are paramount and that program outcomes are achieved. The Story Dogs mission is to make reading fun for children so they become confident lifelong readers. Currently (Oct 2021) Story Dogs has over 550 volunteer Dog Teams partnering with over 350 schools.



Wednesday, February 9th, 2022

Welfare of Dogs in the animal-assisted services sector

Dr Liam Clay - Animal Behaviourist, Veterinary Behaviour Technician and WA PAT assessor, AABA consultants.

Welfare of dogs in animal-assisted services will dive into how to monitor the welfare of dogs that we work alongside. We focus a lot on the welfare of humans during interactions, however, are our animals ever pushed too far? This presentation will focusing on monitoring behaviour, identifying behaviour changes, and implementing behaviour modification if issues arise.

Dr. Clay holds a PhD in "The application/evaluation of canine behavioural assessments in shelter environments to recognise behavioural problems and adoption suitability " with the University of Queensland and RSPCA Qld. Before commencing his PhD, he previously completed his honours with the RSPCA, monitoring the stress and behaviour problems of canines over the first five day period post surrender. Dr. Clay has been working closely with the RSPCA for years while still partaking in his undergraduate studies, both in research and in work placements. Recently, Dr. Clay has become the first in Australia to complete his VTS in behaviour recognised via the academy of veterinary behaviour technicians in the USA. During this time, he has found his passion in training, behaviour, modification and identification of behavioural problems in canines. Dr. Clay has worked closely with Dr. Scotney in writing the book chapter "Welfare of dogs and humans in animal-assisted interventions" in Animal-assisted intervention for Health and Human Service Professionals (2020) and is a PAT assessor in WA. B. App. Sc. (Vet Tech), B. App. Sc. (Hons), VTS (Behavior), PhD



Delta Institute Certificate IV in Animal Behaviour and Training overview

Melinda Farrell CEO (Delta Institute) - Master of Business Administration, Bachelor of Education (B.Ed.)

Melinda joined the Delta Therapy Dogs and Delta Institute in 2019 as Chief Executive Officer and since then has been at the forefront of transformative change. Melinda has over a decade of leadership experience in the not-for-profit community sector, with a particular interest in delivering quality adjunct services to health services and the medical model of care.

The newly released ACM40321 Certificate IV in Animal Behaviour and Training is a nationally accredited qualification that offers a pathway to a rewarding career as a positive reinforcement dog training professional. Delta Institute's Certificate IV in Animal Behaviour and Training has been exclusively designed and developed by leading experts in their fields including:

Veterinarian specialists in Behavioural Medicine - Dr Jacqueline Ley and Dr Kersti Seksel, behaviour veterinarians managing complex animal behaviour cases, professional dog trainers immersed in the Australian industry, highly successful dog training business owners, and talented business communication specialists. This presentation will address the various elements of the qualification, industry input, and the Delta Institute Certificate IV course in Animal Behaviour and Training will be explained.



Thursday, February 10th, 2022

Equine Assisted Learning for Neurodiverse and Diversability Persons

Cheri Allanby - Managing Director and Program Developer True Trails EQUINE ASSISTED LEARNING

Cheri Allanby discusses her seven years of experience in user-led program development of Equine Assisted Learning for Neurodiverse and Diversability persons. and the delivery of effective outcomes and successful enterprise activity. Horsemanship has an important basic essence; being that of the



handler's/rider's relationship with the horse. The inspirational and motivational aspect of the human/equine relationship touches humanity to consider life with wonder, excitement, and adventure. It causes, by necessity, the individual to master his/her actions and reactions; mentally, physically, and emotionally. This mastery can enable the individual to become inspired to transpose newfound and refined responses, abilities, skills and attitudes into their lives outside of the horsemanship arena, thus building the Individual's capacity to function in society as a wholesome contributor with a well-developed, refined, and skilled character."

Considerations when setting up an Equine Assisted Therapy Practice (2021 Replay)

Jane Faulkner - Equine Assisted Therapy Australia Pty Ltd, Equine assisted mental health practitioner and psychotherapist

In this presentation Jane Faulkner discusses the considerations when setting up an equine-assisted therapy practice. This includes, what standards might be important in the equine-assisted therapy practice including animal welfare requirements, scope of practice, ethical and legal requirements that are important to consider.

Jane Faulkner is the founder and director of Equine Assisted Therapy Australia, a company that provides therapy and training in counselling and equine assisted mental health.

Jane started her career as a Registered Nurse and worked in the hospital setting and community both here and overseas. During her career as a nurse, she supported people through the difficult transitions of illness, grief and loss, death, birth, trauma, and mental health issues. Jane has a Masters in Gestalt Psychotherapy, Bachelor of Nursing, and Certificates in Initiatic Art Therapy, Equine Assisted Psychotherapy, and as a Riding Instructor and Trail Guide. Yoga is an integral part of Jane's and as a Certified Iyengar Teacher she continues in the Iyengar yoga tradition. She is an accomplished teacher, therapist, and facilitator and has led many women's groups and day retreats, presented seminars and workshops, and worked with many different community groups.



Friday, February 11th, 2022

Collaborative Animal Assisted Therapy models to support mental health outcomes for older Australians

Kate Kyiet - Delta Therapy Dogs

Kate Kyiet discusses how mental health services are not routinely available to older people living in Residential Aged Care Facilities (RACFs). However, there is evidence that residents have very high rates of common mental illness. As such the Primary Health Networks (PHN) have been working with service providers to establish new programs that aim to increase the up-take of psychological interventions and reduce clinical escalation. Delta Therapy Dogs has been contracted by the PHN to undertake delivery of an Animal Assisted Therapy (AAT) pilot program, and the PHN have selected a collaborative model to ensure sustainability and scalability. Funds are provided to establish a best practice Collaborative Animal Assisted Therapy (C-AAT) model, where Delta Therapy Dog Teams will work in collaboration with psychologists and other mental health practitioners to provide services to residents in RACFs who are diagnosed or at risk of being diagnosed with mental illness. The project will involve reaching out to the international community in order to bring best practice approaches to Australia, work on evidence supported co-design of the program, develop training packages for clinicians and handlers, establish all other governance and then operationalise ready for program delivery to begin in 2022. Kate Kyiet is the National Programs Manager at Delta Therapy Dogs, and has over twenty years experience in the for purpose sector – including drug and alcohol services, disability, mental health, nursing and community health, aged care, children’s services and volunteer management. Over the past few years Kate has specifically sought out roles where she could pursue her passion for complementary therapies and non-pharmacological alternative treatments. In her current position at Delta Therapy Dogs Kate works in partnership with over 1,200 hospitals, palliative care, mental health services, correctional facilities, schools, aged care providers, youth programs and disability services per year to implement Animal Assisted Services, including Animal Assisted Activities, Collaborative Animal Assisted Therapy and Collaborative Animal Assisted Education programs, with the purpose of helping animals bring joy to people.



Animals and Family Violence (Trigger Warning)

Andrew M Campbell - Consultant Campbell Research and Consulting

In this presentation Andrew Campbell describes the risks of physical and emotional harm for children and pets in domestically violent homes. Children residing in violent/abusive homes are often extremely dependent on pets for stability, support, and unconditional love. When these animals are intentionally harmed in the home, children often directly witness this abuse and are likely to be affected. Research indicates that children who witness abuse of companion animals are at increased risk of committing acts of violence or abuse themselves in the future, against animals and humans. Protecting children, their pets, and the bond the two share in violent homes is critical to ensuring a more positive outcome for both. This presentation features Andrew’s recent publications in several major academic journals, his recently published book “Not Without My Pet” (2021), and his own personal experiences growing up in a home where domestic violence occurred to describe risks of physical and emotional harm for children and pets in domestically violent homes. Participants will learn of a unique community partnership that includes the presenter, Prevent Child Abuse Indiana, and animal control agencies across the State of Indiana. Findings from this project provide a greater understanding of prevalence, seasonality, and characteristics of pet abuse, domestic violence, and child abuse incidents from multiple communities across Indiana. This shows the importance of collaboration between child welfare and animal welfare organizations in the early detection of multiple forms of abuse and violence in the home. Andrew Campbell is an expert on family violence and the associated risks of harm for adults, children, and animals in homes where this violence occurs. Andrew recently obtained his Masters in Public Health from Purdue University and presented at over 90 professional conferences and trainings since 2019. His 11 publications over the last two years include papers cited by the FBI, CDC, and over 500 international academic studies. In addition to being an author, researcher, and educator, Andrew also speaks as a survivor of family violence in childhood.



Saturday, February 12th, 2022

Animal-Assisted Therapy in Clinical Practice (2021 Replay)

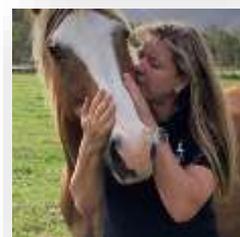
Anja Kriegeskotten - Psychiatrist, Animal-assisted Therapist, The Banyans Health and Wellness Retreat, and

Janice Burt - Equine Specialist using the EAGALA method of equine-assisted therapy, Four Corners Coaching, Authentic leader for health and social service improvement

Dr. Anja Kriegeskotten is Australia's only known animal-assisted psychiatrist. Hear valuable insights into Equine Assisted Psychotherapy in clinical populations straight from the horse's mouth. With over 20 years of combined experience, Dr Anja and Janice share valuable theoretical and practical considerations for working with horses in clinical populations. Dr Anja is trained and certified to use the EAGALA model of Equine Assisted Psychotherapy. The session will explore important perspectives from the clinician, client, and horse's point of view.



Janice Burt is the Founder and lead facilitator for Four Corners Coaching and has 7 years experience as a strategic planning, communication and community engagement specialist for Gold Coast Health. Janice's 10+ year commitment to improving access to animal assisted interventions is driven by her passion for leading health, education and social service improvement. As a natural visionary and leader, Janice inspires healing, growth and high performance. Janice models compassion, professionalism and a high level of emotional intelligence. Janice's core expertise includes project management, animal assisted interventions, model of care development, government-business relations, communication, community engagement and strategic planning. Janice holds a Bachelor of Business (Exercise Science and Sport Management), Certificate IV in Leadership and Management, and is trained as an Advanced Certified Equine Specialist with the Equine Assisted Growth and Learning Association.



Sunday, February 13th, 2022

Autism and Animals (2021 Replay)

Dr Jess Hill - Associate Lecturer, The University of Queensland, Co-owner of Therapy Dogs Australia

Claire Dickson - Occupational Therapist (Assistance Dogs Australia)

Dr. Jess Hill and Claire Dickson discuss the growing interest in the effect animals can have on the lives of autistic individuals both in research and the mainstream media. Animals have been included in the lives of autistic individuals at home as pets, as therapy dogs within a range of different animal-assisted therapies, as well as assistance dogs, helping their handlers to live independently within the community. This presentation aims to provide clarity to the current terminology, as well as explore the current research of autism and animals. Additionally, it will provide some practical understanding of how animal-assisted services are currently being accessed. **Dr Jess Hill** is a paediatric occupational therapist who has worked with her three therapy dogs for the past six years. Jess recently completed her PhD at the University of Queensland exploring the efficacy of canine-assisted occupational therapy with autistic children and has public in a number of different journals.



Claire Dickson is an Occupational Therapist at Assistance Dogs Australia (ADA) ADA offers occupational therapy and animal assisted therapy, alongside its core operation of training and placing assistance dogs. Claire is involved in research with University of Sydney, looking at the outcomes of animal assisted therapy for kids and teens, and at the benefits of autism assistance dogs for young people and adults.

Monday, February 14th, 2022

Animal-assisted therapy – Our professional, moral and ethical responsibility

Dr Jess Hill - Associate Lecturer, The University of Queensland.

Dr. Jess Hill explores the professional, moral, and ethical implications of including animals in our sessions with human clients and the considerations that need to be made to ensure the well-being of all. Jess is a paediatric occupational therapist who has worked with her three therapy dogs for the past six years. Jess recently completed her PhD at the University of Queensland exploring the efficacy of canine-assisted occupational therapy with autistic children and has published in a number of different journals. Jess is the co-owner of Therapy Dogs Australia.



Psychology in an equine environment : Behavioural and Biological Synchrony within and between species (2021 Replay)

Natalie Worth - Clinical Psychologist, PHD student, Worth Psychology



Natalie Worth is a Clinical Psychologist with over 25 years of experience, a fellow of the Australian Psychology Society and currently a Ph.D. student at the University of Adelaide. With a focus on providing accessible psychology to children and families in an equine environment, and a strong base in attachment therapy and trauma-informed practice, Natalie works from Adelaide Hills Animal Assisted Psychology while researching aspects of this work. Natalie has a love of horses with over 35 years of looking after horses, including assisting traumatized horses. In 2014 her long-held dream to offer “horse psychology”, affectionately termed by many clients, became a reality. Natalie networks with academics researching Human-Animal Interactions and Animal Assisted Therapies at Universities around Australia and beyond. She is committed to increasing the recognition of Psychology in an Equine Environment as an evidence-based, ethical, and delightful practice for clients, therapists, and horses alike.

Tuesday, February 15th, 2022

Llamas/alpacas, rats, pigs, guinea pigs, birds, rabbits and cats!

Taylor Chastain Griffin - Pet Partners



In her role as National Director of AAI Advancement for Pet Partners, Taylor Chastain Griffin, Ph.D., focuses on supporting research and professional development within the visitation animal arena. Taylor will deliver an introduction to the Pet Partners visitation animal program, focusing specifically on the more unique species that are registered with them (llamas/alpacas, rats, pigs, Guinea pigs, birds, rabbits, and cats.) Taylor will discuss how these species have been determined to be appropriate for visitation animal work and how they evaluate them for readiness as a therapy / visitation animal.

Wednesday, February 16th, 2022

“Chickens to Love”- A program for schools and allied health professionals

Summer Farrelly , CEO, Autistic Perspectives

Summer Farrelly wrote the world’s first Animal (Chickens Assisted Learning) Program for Autistic and Neurodivergent people when she was 10 years old. Summer has had adults laugh, belittle her and her program concept. Because they don’t understand what inclusion is. They don’t understand how quality of life could be improved if we can create an understanding of ourselves and of those around us at an earlier age. Chickens to Love is an animal-assisted learning program that has been created to help give insight and develop an understanding from an autistic perspective. Create a stronger understanding of social dynamics, better understanding of their own emotions and emotions of others, understanding a multilayer of perspectives, identifying consent of touch, build resilience, self-acceptance, empowerment and to embrace one’s true authentic self. Summer goal is one day to have my program within the Education system. Written by a student that the system failed.



Summer Farrelly is a 14-year-old autistic inclusion advocate and educator, public speaker, Chicken Whisperer, Animal-Assisted Learning Program creator, and the Youth Ambassador for Animal Therapies Ltd. "Chickens to Love" was created by Summer to help autistic and neurodivergent individuals to develop their understanding of social dynamics, understand their own and other's emotions, understand the perspectives of others, identifying consent touch, to build resilience, foster self-acceptance, and to empower others. For the last 4 years, Summer has been sharing her personal autistic insight of the benefits of human and animal connection. Summer has stepped out of her comfort zone sharing vulnerable, raw, and real moments of life challenges faced by young autistic individuals in the hope to educate and inspire others. Summer has become a recognised and valued contributor within the Animal-Assisted Learning and therapy platform with national and international speakers.

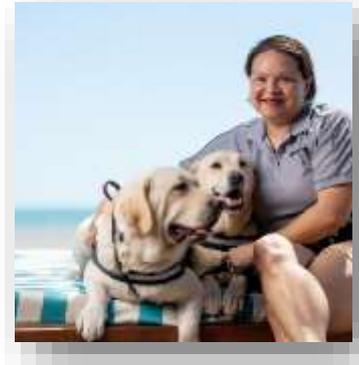
“My connection with animals has given me the strength needed to navigate life as an autistic teen who faces daily challenges of self-harm, anxiety, depression, trauma, and self-regulation. My journey is about understanding myself emotionally through the connection of animals, and more importantly the journey is about learning self-care”.

Thursday, February 17th, 2022

Court Dog Program

Hannah Taino Spick - Social Worker, Researcher, Good Dog

I am currently completing a PhD researching ADF veterans entering higher education after discharge. I have completed a Master of Social Work (Professional Qualifying), completed studies in Gender Studies, Mental Health Practice, International and Community Development and studies in Management. I am the owner and Lead Social Worker at GOOD DOG, a Darwin-based and veteran-owned canine-assisted social work practice; a university social work lecturer; and all-round crazy dog lady. My past work experience and passion for my fields of study has taught and prepared me to further extend my career in values-based work. Advocacy and social justice, or empowerment via lifelong learning, education and canines - that's where you'll find me. Either working for it, living it, or both.



Friday, February 18th, 2022

Safety, Systems and Structure for Equine-Assisted Learning

Sue Spence, Horses Helping Humans



Sue Spence is a public speaker, workshop facilitator, businesswoman, author (Horses Who Heal published by Pan MacMillan), and educator who holds a Diploma in Child Youth & Family intervention and teaches communication skills to corporate groups, underprivileged youth, and their families utilising the principles of natural horsemanship.

Sue is one of Australia's pioneers of Equine Assisted Life skills with her Horses Helping Humans award winning program. HHH is a certified and trademarked EAL training program with facilitators running HHH across Australia, Tasmania and New Zealand allowing others to help and assist many more people in need through Sue's teachings. She is known for developing and identifying different body language techniques for individual personality profiles.

Her business, Horses Helping Humans, and registered charity, Horse Whispering Youth Program, have been featured in numerous media reports, events, newspapers, and magazines as a results-based program for people. Sue specialises in personality profiling and body language analysis for her clients. Her four horses represent a modern adaption of The Four Temperaments theoretical framework, and her unique work demonstrates how choleric, melancholy, sanguine and phlegmatic personality types have their own conditioned responses when under pressure. Sue is a 2014 and 2016 Gold Coast Businesswoman of the Year Award winner for Community Dedication award and Creating Change award for the success of her Horse Whispering Youth Program charity. And also 2018 Youth and Children's services award and Special Partnership award for long term partnership with Griffith Universities Internship program. Her Majesty The Queen has also commented on the "Remarkable and Fascinating work Sue Spence does with horses after she was sent Horses Who Heal as a gift.

Saturday, February 19th, 2022

Self Determination Theory in Happy Paws, Happy Hearts Program (2021 Replay)

Justin Palazzo-Orr, Advanced Trainer ,
Happy Paws Happy Hearts

Self determination theory is a meta-theory made up of six smaller theories that focuses on three key sources of psychological well being. The three sources we focus on are relatedness, competence, and autonomy. In the Animal Assisted Therapy world we use these elements to educate, empower, and create hope for the humans and the animals we work with. This presentation introduces the participants to self-determination theory, how it is utilised at Happy Paws Happy Hearts, and how participants can use it in their own practise. Inspiring and empowering others to make a positive change in the world has long been Justin's passion. Justin's animal career started as a volunteer at RSPCA Queensland in 2008.



Within a few months he moved into a paid role in the Customer Service team and soon moved into a role with the Animal Training team. He then advanced into the Behaviour and Enrichment team, traveling the state, teaching staff and volunteers about animal training, behaviour, and enrichment. Justin has studied with the Companion Animal Sciences Institute (CASI), gained certification through the Institute of Modern Dog Trainers (IMDT), and has been a long time member of the Association of Pet Dog Trainers Australia (APDT). Justin's career highlights include co-developing RSPCA Queensland's shelter enrichment program 4 Paws Forward, cultivating a team of volunteer team leaders throughout Queensland to improve the lives of the animals in their care, creating and presenting a series of public education programs for RSPCA Qld, Logan City Council, and Paws & Relax and developing and delivering programs for veterans and first responders at Happy Paws Happy Hearts. For the past four years Justin has empowered positive change in the lives of returned service people, first responders, and shelter animals as an Advanced Trainer with Happy Paws Happy Hearts Foundation. Happy Paws Happy Hearts is a flip on the traditional animal therapy model. Rather than taking pets out to visit people, we work from within a rescue shelter to facilitate group programs. This way, we can work with more people and the thousands of animals waiting to find new homes. We offer unique animal care, handling, and advanced training programs, designed to give participants a rewarding personal development experience as they prepare shelter animals for adoption or take care of our native wildlife.

Sunday, February 20th, 2022

The Way Forward: Emerging Themes in EAMH/EAL (2021 Replay)

Leif Hallberg - Experiential Psychotherapist, Author, Educator

In this session, Leif Hallberg weaves together 20 plus years of academic study, research, and practical experience and provides a summary of emerging themes that speak to the evolution of the equine-assisted mental health and equine-assisted learning industry.



Including professional standards, provider competency, financial viability, and the ethics of including equines (or any animal) in mental health and learning, the results of Leif's research provide a framework from which to move thoughtfully forward into the future. Leif Hallberg, made it her life's work to explore the myriad of health benefits that can be gained from engaging in respectful, relational, and mindful interactions between horses (and other animals), humans and the

natural world. As an innovator, pioneer, and leading expert in the area of equine-assisted mental health and equine-assisted learning, Leif has developed a reputation over the past 20+ years for her broad-reaching and objective study of the industry, her scholarly rigor, her passion for equine welfare, and her unwavering dedication to ethical practice and increasing provider competency. Her books are used by colleges and universities around the world as teaching texts, and professionals consider them essential resources for research and clinical practice. Leif offers personal and professional development training, consultation, supervision, and coaching services.

Monday, February 21st, 2022

The neurochemistry of limbic resonance and human-animal interactions

Dr. Christian Heim - Clinical Psychiatrist and Senior Lecturer University of Queensland

We live in an age in which developed societies are experiencing an unofficial mental health crisis, with unprecedented rates of depression, anxiety, addiction and suicide in particular. This talk will outline some of what is driving this crisis and the role that animals can play in Preventative Mental Health strategies. It will present an overview of preventative mental health, definitions, and governments' focus on this strategy. It will then highlight the role of what has been scientifically termed "limbic resonance" as a protective factor for mental health and outline the neural mechanisms of human-animal limbic resonances.

For example, it looks at the limbic system, the frontal lobe and the brain's basal ganglia to understand how thoughts, feelings, intentions and initiation of movement come together in trained actions for dogs and how they "read" our emotions so well. Particular attention is given to discussing the neurobiology and



Animal Therapies Ltd celebrates their 4th Birthday!



neurochemistry of limbic resonance and human-animal interactions and the important implications of these to Preventative Mental Health. It will be argued that human-animal limbic resonances can be used to help understand relationship reciprocity and thereby lead to healthier human-human relationships. We are entering an age of human social deskilling and brain devolution due to the unwanted side-effects of recent technologies. These ill-effects can be mitigated through strategies including animal-assisted therapies. The talk will be contextualized by considering pet ownership in the COVID-19 crisis, it will suggest areas of research, and will be accompanied by actual musical resonances (on the piano) to exemplify key concepts.



Paws For Thought - Podcasts (2021), From the Horse's Mouth Parts 1 & 2, Alpaca's spreading the love (2021)

Candy Gibson Senior Media Officer University of South Australia

Join Candy Gibson as she interviews people who have experienced the benefits of human and animal interactions. *Paws for Thought* is a podcast about animals changing human lives for the better. Anecdotally we know about the therapeutic powers of animals but the science and research are now validating those beliefs. Animal-assisted services are a recognised field worldwide and through this podcast we hope to educate, entertain and raise awareness among listeners about the countless ways that animals are helping humans.



Tuesday, February 22nd, 2022

Parallel Journeys: How animals helped me form a positive identity

Shadia Hancock, Owner, Autism Actually

Shadia Hancock is the proud owner, and founder of Autism Actually, and enjoys presenting and consultancy. Shadia is committed to empowering fellow Autistic and Neurodivergent individuals and helping them reach their true potential. Shadia is currently studying Bachelor of Speech Pathology with the hope of providing client-centred animal-assisted therapy for Neurodivergent individuals. They are also currently in the process of training their dog Freya to be their psychiatric assistance dog through the organisation MindDog. Shadia was diagnosed with Autism at the age of three, and Generalised Anxiety Disorder at the age of 14. Shadia came out as non-binary in early 2018 and loves talking about Autism and gender issues. Shadia benefitted from numerous early supports such as speech therapy and occupational therapy. Shadia is very passionate about sharing information about what being Autistic is like.



“ I will be discussing what types of animal assisted services and supports I have received over the years, my rapport with animals and how it has supported self-acceptance, self-awareness, and a positive Autistic identity, the importance of Neurodiversity-affirming therapy, and how equine assisted therapy and my assistance dog Freya continue to make a huge difference in my life.”

Wednesday, February 23rd, 2022



Assistance Animals and The Disability and Discrimination Act

Lisa Robinson, Founder, Assistance Paws

Lisa provides an overview of the legislative framework covering the role of assistance animals and therapy animals within the Australian community at both Commonwealth and State levels. Lisa will discuss some of the changes and opportunities that present in our current sector.

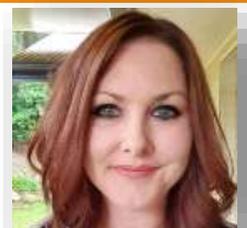
Lisa's career history includes as paramedic, manager, educator & clinical practitioner – Australia & New Zealand, Australian Airforce Reserve Officer, and Community Liaison Officer role following the Christchurch Earthquakes of 2010-11. Lisa hold qualifications in Health Science, Business & Animal Studies and is the faithful friend and human companion of Lilly, her assistance dog.

Thursday, February 24th, 2022

Presentation of ATL Code of Conduct and Code of Ethics

Carlie Driscoll - Associate Professor - University of Queensland

As a result of surveying service providers there was an overwhelming request for standards to be developed for the Animal-Assisted Services Sector. Through an extensive review and consultation process led by Carlie Driscoll, ATL has developed a Code of Conduct and aims to work together inclusively with service providers to achieve positive change. Carlie Driscoll is an Associate Professor in the School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences at the University of Queensland, where she teaches in Audiology. Her major fields of research include paediatric health screening programs and animal-assisted interventions, in which she has published 100 scientific articles and three edited books. Currently, she is a Director of the UQ Animal-Assisted Interventions Alliance, a multi-disciplinary research organisation that investigates the unique effects of animal-assisted services. Carlie is also Chair of the Animal Therapies Ltd National Advisory Group and a Management board member of the Sunshine Coast Animal Refuge (SCARS).



Thursday, February 24th, 2022 cont...

How to apply standards into your practice (2021 Replay)

Ric Lamont, Director, Animal Therapies Ltd

The aim of this session is to enable service providers to integrate standards into a range of business models and settings. To understand how to evaluate your practice against the standards and where to get assistance if you fall short. In this session, Ric Lamont explores how service providers can develop a self-assessment tool for the code of ethics/practice for their business model. Ric is a startup and strategy professional who brings deep technical and commercial expertise to the board. Ric is responsible for guidance and oversight of the digital strategy for ATL.



Practical Applications of Animal-Assisted Therapy in Allied Health and Education (2021 Replay)

Dr Jess Hill, Associate Lecturer, The University of Queensland, Amy Hodgkinson, Psychologist, Educational Consultant, Therapy Dogs in Education, Samantha King, Psychologist and Animal Assisted Therapist, Psychology and Animal Assisted Wellbeing, Therapy Dogs Australia.

Dr Jess Hill is a paediatric occupational therapist who has worked with her three therapy dogs for the past six years. Jess recently completed her PhD at the University of Queensland exploring the efficacy of canine-assisted occupational therapy with autistic children and has public in a number of different journals. Jess is the co-owner of Therapy Dogs Australia.



Amy Hodgkinson (BBehSc, PGDipPsych, GDipLTeach) Director of Therapy Dogs in Education Psychologist (AHPRA) / Teacher (QLD College of Teachers) Psychology Board approved supervisor. Amy is an experienced Psychologist with a broad range of professional experience across a variety of complex clinical settings, including a high security correctional facility, a Queensland Government disability services, an Australian Off-Shore Asylum Seeker Processing Centre, a Private Practice clinic and most recently, school environments. Broadening her studies to post-graduate Teaching, Amy has attained further skills to support her work within schools which aligns with her special interest in working with adolescents and children. Amy provides Animal Assisted therapy support services, with her dogs Wilbur and Lucy. Her Therapy Dog Program has been attributed to improving student attendance, counselling engagement and improved learning outcomes. As the Director and Lead Consultant with Therapy Dogs in Education, Amy has been responsible for successfully implementing Therapy Dog Programs across numerous schools and providing specialist consultancy and support to schools Australia-wide. Amy is currently completing a Masters of Education with Monash University to develop guidelines for Australian schools and educational institutions to successfully incorporate Therapy Dogs within these environments.

Samantha King is a psychologist and is the founder and director of Psychology & Animal Assisted Wellbeing (PAAW) an allied health clinic where all clinicians work with the assistance of therapy dogs. Samantha is also the co-founder and head therapy dog trainer at Therapy Dogs Australia, an organisation that specialises in the training of allied health human-canine therapy teams, as well as community visiting teams. Samantha is passionate about the professionalism and ethical standards of this emerging industry and has enjoyed opportunities to sit on committees, speak at conferences, comment in the media, and provide professional supervision on this topic. Samantha works primarily with children and teens on the Autism spectrum with her team of therapy dogs and horses.



Friday, February 25th, 2022

A farm based program for at risk and disengaged young people

Lesley Porter, CEO, The Good Life Farm

Lesley Porter describes how "The Good Life Farm" program is based on trauma-informed practice and attachment theory research. It was developed to support, nurture and assist the most at-risk and disengaged children and young people in the community. The program has been successful in reducing the number of challenges such as anxiety, extreme oppositional behaviour, school refusal, bullying, over-sexualization, and aggressive behaviour. The program also assists young people who have a diagnosis or struggle with challenges in life such as social interaction and communication. The young people



participating in the program develop new positive relationships and some take on mentoring support with others. They develop greater self-awareness and learn how to deal with difficult emotions. They also develop self-esteem, communication skills and develop trust and rapport with others, thus building their social networks. A comprehensive evaluation of the program is underway as a precursor to establishing an accredited animal-assisted learning and therapeutic model and establishing new facilities in other parts of Australia. Members of the Good Life Farm staff are qualified in psychology, youth work, horticulture, training and assessment, and first aid. Through their work, Lesley and her team of youth workers show the young people that there is another way. They witness their struggles and rejoice in their happiness when they make a connection with the animals and the farm environment. Lesley Porter has been involved with supporting young people in the Yarra Ranges and Eastern Melbourne for 37 years. She was named Yarra Ranges Shire Citizen of the Year at the Australia Day Awards in 2019 and was awarded the Pride of Australia Inspiration Award in 2012 for her work in animal assisted therapy and learning with children and teenagers. Lesley started the Good Life Farm in 2005, transforming her small mixed farm on the outskirts of Healesville into a haven for young people who have experienced challenges such as childhood trauma, engagement issues, and social, emotional and behavioural difficulties. Lesley has successfully completed many qualifications including Youth Work, Community Services, Animal Studies, Horticulture, and Training and Assessment. She has combined these qualifications and drawn on her own traumatic childhood experience, to create a unique farm-based therapeutic and educational program for young people, based on animal assisted learning and permaculture principles. The Good Life Farm program, best described as providing young people with 'love and boundaries', is the go-to place for youth workers, DHHS and schools managing troubled young people from diverse backgrounds with support needs. It is often the last resort for young people 'no one else will take'. At the farm, they find solace with farm animals of every shape and size; space and freedom, and a place to set their feet on the ground and feel secure for a while. The Life & Social Skills program has been developed to support young people from the ages of 7 to 17 and has been shown to improve education retention. They get a taste of what it's like to live and work on the farm, developing routines and learning about the needs of the animals in their care - a first time experience for many! They also learn about the interrelationships among living things through an introduction to permaculture philosophy. The program has evolved over its 16-year history. Academic rigour has been introduced to the program so that participants receive the benefit of guidance, mentoring and psychosocial support from qualified staff trained in a range of disciplines, including but not limited to psychology, counselling and mental health support, community services, and youth work. Through their work, Lesley and her team of youth workers show the young people that there is another way. They witness their struggles and rejoice in their happiness when they make a connection with the animals and the farm environment. The young people participating in the program develop new positive relationships and some take on mentoring support with others. They develop greater self-awareness and learn how to deal with difficult emotions. They also develop self-esteem, communication skills and develop trust and rapport with others, thus building their social networks. A comprehensive evaluation of the program is underway as a precursor to establishing an accredited animal assisted learning and therapeutic model and establishing new facilities in other parts of Australia. Members of the Good Life Farm staff are qualified in psychology, youth work, horticulture, training and assessment and first aid.

Saturday, February 26th, 2022 .

Alpacas and Llamas: What you need to know (2021 Replay)

Jane Ashton, Founder, The Therapy Pod

If you are planning on working alongside an alpaca or llama in your animal-assisted service then this session with Jane Ashton will help you better understand their behaviour, traits and stressors.

Jane started her career studying a double degree in Law and Environmental Science. It was in her capacity as a solicitor running the Pro Bono Scheme for the Law Society of NSW that Jane felt frustrated at her inability to assist clients with their mental health issues and watched vulnerable clients fall through the cracks in the system. During this period of her life, Jane struggled to maintain the high stress of life as a big-city lawyer, so spent her weekend working (recharging) as a Park Ranger at Manly Dam.

After motherhood, and searching for change Jane made the move from law to the music industry and co-founded Footstomp Music (alongside her husband - a veteran in the music industry) working with many great Australian artists including Busby Marou, Tia Gostelow, Amy Shark, Glenn Richards (Augie March) & more. Again, Jane became frustrated by the overwhelming need for mental health issues to be addressed and supported within the industry - and her own mental health issues suppressed and bubbling underneath the surface. Constantly drawn towards her deep connection with nature and animals, Jane moved her family from the city to a property overlooking the mountains in the stunning Tallebudgera Valley, where she began her own personal journey of self-discovery and healing. The therapeutic power of nature, art and animals inspired her to explore her vocation as a therapist. Jane began her deep dive into mental health in 2017, completing her studies as a Counsellor specialised in Equine Assisted Therapy.

The Therapy Pod was founded in 2019, and her professional development deepened with further studies in trauma-informed sandplay and symbol work, followed by Somatic Attachment-Focused Expressive Therapies. Jane is a neurodivergent therapist (counsellor/psychotherapist) with lived experience in C-PTSD, major depressive disorder, ADHD, autism (PDA profile), dyslexia, dyscalculia, addiction, separation and chronic pain (fibromyalgia & osteoarthritis). She is a mother to three remarkable neurodivergent children (a tween and teens) and caretaker of 7 horses, 8 llamas, 3 goats, 2 dogs, 3 cats, 2 guinea pigs, a blue tongue lizard and a pink cockatoo. For decades, in various capacities, Jane has worked with vulnerable clients. Her special interests lie in trauma and neurodiversity. Jane describes her therapeutic process as: * relational (with the self, therapist and the animals), creating safety and building rapport in the therapeutic relationship; * overlaid with the lens of attachment theory, helping people create security in their attachments; * emotion-focused and client-centred, working with clients to connect with their emotions and to feel safe to express them (often using creative arts or expressive therapy); *somatic / body-based approach, focusing on nervous system regulation and creating a felt sense of safety in the body. Jane's favourite quote is:

Until one has loved an animal, a part of one's soul remains unawakened - Anatole France.



Saturday, February 26th, 2022 cont...

Gudu Guduwa (coming together) : decolonising the equine-assisted psychotherapy space

Bianca Stawiarski, Badimaya (Badimia)

Managing Director, Warida Wholistic Wellness

We all know how transformative equine assisted therapeutic modalities are for supporting people's healing. Unfortunately, the way this modality is both trained and facilitated is generally from a western clinical theoretical framework with little consideration of the potential benefit of our unique Indigenous healing practices, methodologies and pedagogy, including how



these can further benefit our clients, horses and ourselves as therapists. Join Badimaya (Badimia) equine assisted psychotherapist, Bianca Stawiarski, to immerse yourself in equine assisted psychotherapy through a decolonised lens. Warida Wholistic Wellness is a sanctuary for wellbeing on Kaurna Country in the Adelaide Hills, where we provide the tools and support to create community change - one person at a time. Here at Warida, we get outside of four walls to connect to Country, animals and ourselves. Whether it be working with our horses through equine-assisted therapy, taking a walk on Country with bush therapy, yarning circles or drawing upon the natural wisdom of the grandmother tree, we love to take an intuitive and holistic approach. Our purpose is to support the creation of strong empowered families, workplaces, services and communities, and to break through intergenerational trauma, disconnection and disempowerment. We also provide volunteering, training and employment opportunities, and facilitate positive mental wellbeing and self-care practices in Australian First Nations people impacted by trauma. Our unique services are culturally safe, empowering & trauma-informed. Warida is led by Founder & Managing Director, Bianca Stawiarski - a strong Badimaya (Badimia) woman, who is a centred and purpose-driven healer, consultant, speaker, lecturer, author, trainer and change-maker. Bianca infuses her calming, resilient, earthy, Indigenous connectedness into all that she does, as well as balancing Indigenous healing practices with western clinical qualifications. As well as the work she does on Country, Bianca is sought out by leading organisations, companies, media outlets and publications from right across the globe. Warida has also become a preferred provider to Local, State and Federal Government departments and agencies within Australia. Bianca is a member of the Leadership group of the Psychotherapy and Counselling Federation of Australia's College of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Healing Practices. Warida Wholistic Wellness is proud to be a Supply Nation Certified & Social Traders Certified Indigenous Social Enterprise.

Sunday, February 27th, 2022

Writing a grants application that gets results (2021 Replay)

Dane Cross, Grants Manager, Queensland police Citizens Youth Welfare Association

Grant writing can often be a daunting process but learning how to “master the art” can produce great, long-lasting results for your organisation. In this session Dane Cross provides attendees with the tools to identify funding opportunities and develop winning applications. Dane is an experienced Grants Manager, Access Consultant and Disability Advocate with a demonstrated history of working in the non-profit organisation management industry. Skilled in Non-profit Organisations, Advocacy, Proposal Writing, and Fundraising. Strong community and social services professional with over 15 years' experience in Grants Management. Dane currently holds a Bachelor of Exercise Science, Diploma Business Management and Certificate IV in Access Consulting from Institute of Access Training Australia. Dane's areas of expertise span across a broad range of sectors, including; Youth, Disability, Sport and Recreation, Crime Prevention and Community Development.



Monday, February 28th, 2022

In closing the 2022 **Animals Helping Humans Month**, the founder of Animal Therapies Ltd, Wendy Coombe will provide a 12 month overview of ATL and, will announce the recipients of the following awards:

Presentation of :

The Yogi Award - For Courage, Resilience, and Determination

Recognition of Contribution 2021/2022

Event Photo and Community Winners

Overview for ATL 2022 - 2023

Acknowledgement of Sponsors



Wendy & Jack



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