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# Media Release:

## Collie riders shouting “Giddy up Gus”

Riding at HorsePower Collie just got a whole lot more fun with the purchase of a four-wheel carriage for ambulant drivers, thanks to existing funds and a \$5,000 donation from Premier Coal.

HorsePower Collie also has a four-wheel carriage that provides a way for participants in a wheelchair with limited mobility to enjoy a carriage ride that is both therapeutic and safe and comfortable.

HorsePower Collie continues to grow with 33 registered riders, nine horses and 20 volunteers. It specialises in horse riding for people from ages three to seventy years old with a wide range of disabilities including Spina Bifida, Cerebral Palsy, Muscular Dystrophy Multiple Sclerosis, Vision Impairments, Intellectual Disabilities, Down Syndrome and Autism.

Horse riding is fantastic for cardiovascular health, core strength and overall physical and mental wellbeing. It also benefits those with a disability therapeutically and provides a great source of fun and sense of achievement.

Wendy Akkerman, Secretary at HorsePower Collie was excited about the new carriage.

“Every day we see the benefits of equine therapy with riders improving their balance, coordination of both fine and gross motor reflexes, core muscle strengthening, improvements in their self-confidence and emotional control while developing friendships and a love and respect for animals.

“One of our horses is named ‘Gus’ and he will be the horse that pulls the carriage along for our drivers.

“We rely heavily on the generous support of individuals and businesses to make a difference to the lives of people with varying abilities and additional needs in our community.

“We are thankful to Premier Coal for their donation and look forward to sharing stories about our drivers using the new carriage,” said Wendy.

Collie HorsePower offers horse riding, carriage driving, and vaulting activities dedicated to enriching the lives of people with and without disabilities.

Premier Coal Operations Manager, Braedon Gaske, was very happy to support the association.

“The association provides such a vital service for those in our community who really need it. We are happy they could use to our funding to purchase the carriage and further enhance their amazing service.

“We are always pleased to see projects where a small donation can make a big impact on a community organisation,” said Braedon.

The donation was part of the Premier Coal Community Support Program, which is funded by Yancoal and aims to make a positive difference in the local community and to the lives of the people who work and live in Collie.

Since 2004, Yancoal has grown to be one of Australia's largest coal exporters: owning or operating nine producing mines across the country, employing over 4,300 Australians, contributing to the national economy, and investing in regional communities.

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