

### **1) Tell me a little bit about Ashley, Earl and their history together.**

Earl was originally going to be agisted here at Endsleigh Park but the owner brought him up and we never heard from him again. Ashley began riding him after having a big fall from another bigger horse, to get her confidence back. But Earl was very young and a bit excited when taken out to be ridden. We tried using a local trainer but he wasn't reliable and although Ashley wasn't exactly sure what she wanted she knew he wasn't teaching it to her. Ashley continued to clash with Earl when trying to use the Parr elli techniques and started to drift away from riding. Ashley didn't want to ride Earl anymore and was losing more confidence. Earl was constantly galloping up hills and not taking any notice of the bit. When he did take notice of the bit he would get stropy and start pigrooting.

### **2) How does Kate differ from other instructors?**

Kate is different from other instructors because she trains the horse and the rider/owner at the same time. She explains everything in a way that makes it easy for me and the horse to understand. Most people 'instruct', Kate 'teaches'. I like the way that Kate teaches everything off the reins because Earl hates leg cues and tends to get cranky and finds it annoying - this was a problem with other instructors that I had.

### **3) How long did it take for you to start seeing a change in the horse?**

Within a matter of minutes in the first lesson we started to see a difference in Earl. He started to relax and listen to Kate. Before the end of the lesson when I was riding him he was completely different. I know he wasn't 'fixed' but we both had a much better understanding of what we wanted and how to get there.



This was taken towards the end of Earl's first lesson. He has started to relax, lower his head and listen to Ashley.

This is a good starting point for Earl and Ashley is already so much more confident because she finally has some control.

**4) How often do you have lessons with Kate?**

We are lucky enough to live locally and try to have a weekly lesson although we keep the schedule flexible because of school demands and so on. During the holidays Ashley might attend a young adults in-house training clinic at Kangadoo.

**5) Ashley went to a show recently. How did she go? Was this her first show? If not, what happened the last time she went to a show?**

Ashley did really well at the show. She won two 1st, a 2nd, 3rd and a 4th. This was not her first show. She took Earl to Goulburn show 2 years ago and had a very bad experience. Earl spooked at everything and Ashley came off, hurting herself quite badly. The show in Canberra recently was the first really good experience, not just for Earl, but also for Ashley.

**6) Did Earl have a problem with trailer loading? What did Kate do about this?**

Earl had had quite a few bad experiences with the trailer and would not go on because of this. Kate explained that while you can simply teach a horse to trailer load it is easier on the horse if you already have their trust and the horse understands that as long as it is with you it will not get hurt - it just needs to find the answer. Because Earl had already had half a dozen lessons with Kate the trailer loading lesson only took a few minutes and Earl was going on and off quietly and confidently.

**7) Would you recommend Kate to others as a trainer/instructor? If so, why?**

I would highly recommend Kate to others because she understands how the horse thinks and always explains what she is doing and why she is doing it. The horses Kate teaches are calm and attentive. With the remarkable difference I have seen in Earl and my daughter, Ashley, I would have to say she is great. They had about 8 lessons before going to the show and they did really well but more importantly they had **fun**. Kate is great - you will be astounded!!