

Yarrie's story by Adam Frook

In 2009, when I was working in Yarrabah, a work colleague who was running a dog program out there asked me if I wanted another dog. I said 'No' but after a couple of months she said that there is a white deaf puppy that no one would take, even the dog shelter didn't want her as they found it extremely hard to re-home deaf dogs. I went down and had a look. She was scrawny, had mange and who knew what breed she was. We think bull terrier cross with who knows what else. What she had going for her is that she got on well with the other dogs that were there and she had a beautiful nature. I decided to take her on. I named her Yarrie after Yarrabah. I medicated her for the mange and fattened her up. My other dog and her got on well too so it ended up being a good decision.

I have trained her on sign language and she learnt a lot from my other dog. I have also learnt a lot from Yarrie about dog training especially about body language. With the sign language when you sign for her to come back sometimes she looks away pretending not to see the sign. You know she saw you too but like all dogs they test your leadership every day.

The thing that frustrates me and my partner about Yarrie is that she is always sun baking. She does feel the cold so she loves sleeping in the sun. Being deaf, she has the best sleeps but when she has the best sleeps in the sun she gets very sun burnt. So she turns from white to pink. She is about 6 years old and with all the sun baking we will be surprised if she makes it to ten.

She thinks she is a lady, as she likes the best of everything. Maybe because she came from rags to riches? I always joke that she is the lady on the comedy Little Britten saying, "I couldn't possibly do that because I'm a lady."

She loves to run on the beach, its like she is a dog possessed as she runs up and down and into the shallow part of the water 100 miles an hour which makes us laugh.

She is a good dog and does not give us any trouble apart from the old hole. As a puppy she did chew everything including the outdoor furniture though.

Yarrie is special to me as she has a sweet beautiful nature and loves being with us. She has a great character and you can see her studying you like she is listening with her eyes. We find it funny when she is so excited to see us that when she wags her tail it bangs things making noise but she does not hear it. She certainly is a low maintenance dog and we love taking her walking, camping and exploring places. She has even been to the tip of Australia.

Since having Yarrie it has given me more interest in dog behaviour and training so I am now a qualified dog trainer. I did the training for interest only but who knows maybe I might make a career out of it in the future.

