

# Volunteer Testimonial

**Jill McFarlane, Tauranga RDA Volunteer for 4 years**

I'm pretty sure I'm in my fourth year at RDA. It was something I chose to do when I retired. My partner and I had a Veterinary practice for 35 years so I have been around animals most of my life. Horses were always a passion and in my family since childhood. I have nine grandchildren and I love children so it seemed a good match for me especially as I wanted to do some volunteer work.

I have loved every minute of my time at RDA and have formed relationships with all the other volunteers as well as really loving being around the horses.

I also always go home feeling that I have made a difference, albeit short, in a child's life. I love the way that these children's behavior can change and relax into their rides on their horses. Horses are such wonderful animals that I feel have so much healing power. The children form quite close bonds to our horses here too. On many occasions, I have seen big changes in the rider's confidence and abilities and this I find really rewarding.

At home I am busy with three dogs, five chickens and a cat. I'm at the beach every day with the dogs. It's my special place and I'm grateful to live so close.

I learned to swim a few years ago aged 64 and now I'm a passionate winter sea swimmer.

My hair is always wet!

I love photography as well. I'm especially fond of taking photos of animals.

