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**-- FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE –**

**Gympie Mum creates charity horse event after tragic loss of young daughter**

A country girl with her whole life ahead of her; no one could have imagined the seizure 21-year-old Tayla Crang experienced whilst feeding her beloved horse would tragically end her life. Sadly, Tayla passed away from Sudden Unexpected Death in Epilepsy (SUDEP) on November 29, 2020 – a fatal complication of epilepsy that neither Tayla nor her family were aware of before the devastating event.



Wanting to pay tribute to her daughter and raise awareness for SUDEP, Tayla’s shattered Mum, Renee Crang, thought “what better way to honour her than with a horse event?”.

“Tayla always gave back to her horse community and many locals would know her from spending her first years out of school training endurance horses for Brookleigh Stables. She then worked at Sandale Saddlery where she was always greeting you with a happy face,” says Renee.

With the help of the Gympie Horse and Rodeo Association and generous sponsors, the first Day for Tayla was born in November 2021. The Novelties Event brought together the community and their horses to ride, compete and race with proceeds from the day donated to Epilepsy Queensland. Renee created a beautiful legacy for her daughter and raised just over $6,000.

Encouraged by the success of last year’s event, Renee is determined to make this year’s Day for Tayla bigger and better.

“In association with Epilepsy Queensland and Gunalda & District Campdraft Association, we will again be running this excellent charity horse event in 2022,” she says. The legacy event will take place on Sunday, 18 December, the occasion marking two years to the day when Tayla was laid to rest.

Renee is also working on establishing an equestrian apparel line named “Tayla Equestrian”. The new business venture will launch at the event with t shirts and hoodies available to purchase. Each piece of clothing will be embroidered with the Supporting Epilepsy Queensland logo with a donation from each purchase going to the charity.

Epilepsy Queensland Chief Executive, Chris Dougherty, says, “the generous support of Tayla’s community will give families, just like hers, access to life-saving information and education, helping to reduce the risks of SUDEP”.

“I hope that my story can help someone else through the heartache and pain that SUDEP causes,” says Renee.

You can support Day for Tayla by coming along as a spectator or competitor. Event attendees are encouraged to wear purple, Tayla’s favourite colour and the international colour for epilepsy awareness.

Renee is also seeking trophy sponsors and donations for a mega-raffle, with all proceeds going to Epilepsy Queensland. A number of local businesses have already been very generous in their support. Interested parties can contact Renee at [rxy81@live.com](mailto:rxy81@live.com)

“We would like to remember and honour Tayla with this epic charity event each year, but most importantly we would like to raise awareness for Epilepsy Queensland so they can provide information, training, and support to people living with epilepsy, as well as family members and supporters,” says Renee.

For information on epilepsy and SUDEP, visit the Epilepsy Queensland website: [www.epilepsyqueensland.com.au](https://epilepsyfoundation.sharepoint.com/sites/MediaCommunications/Shared%20Documents/General/Media%20Releases/2022/www.epilepsyqueensland.com.au)

-- ENDS--

**EVENT DETAILS**

**WHAT:** Day For Tayla

**WHEN:** Sunday 18 December 2022

**TIME:** From 8.30am

**WHERE:** Gunalda Showground, 17 King St, Gunalda

**Event organiser:** Renee Crang, e: [rxy81@live.com](mailto:rxy81@live.com)

**MEDIA**

Interview and photo opportunities are available. Please contact Epilepsy Queensland on (07) 3435 5000 or 0431 471 446 to arrange or for more information.

Shannon Bullen – Awareness and Engagement Specialist

sbullen@epilepsyqueensland.com.au

Attached photos by: Perri Chaplin

**ABOUT EPILEPSY QUEENSLAND**

For over 50 years, Epilepsy Queensland has been delivering help and hope to people impacted by epilepsy. We support individuals to live well by providing education and support for people with epilepsy, their family, and carers. We create a Queensland that is aware of epilepsy and its impacts on daily life, a Queensland that is seizure smart, who can recognise the signs of a seizure, and who respond to seizures with appropriate first aid.

**ABOUT SUDEP**

• Sudden Unexpected Death in Epilepsy (SUDEP) is the term used to describe an unexplained or unexpected death in a person with epilepsy where no clear cause of death is determinable after a post-mortem examination. This may be with or without evidence of a seizure

• The most common cause of epilepsy-related death is SUDEP.

• In Australia, approximately 171 SUDEP-related deaths occur per year (Deloitte Access Economics, 2020) That’s around 3 Aussies every week

• The cause of SUDEP is unknown and research is ongoing.

• The risk of sudden and unexpected death for a person with epilepsy is approximately 24 times higher than the general population.

**ABOUT EPILEPSY**

• Epilepsy is one of the most common neurological disorders, with around 65 million people globally living with the condition.

• Alarmingly, neurological disorders are the world’s leading cause of disability and the world’s second leading cause of death.

• Epilepsy is a medical condition that affects the brain and causes seizures.

• 1 in 25 Australians will receive an epilepsy diagnosis.

• More than 28,740 Queenslanders live with an active diagnosis.

• 3,000 people will be diagnosed with epilepsy in QLD this year.

• On average 60 people per week in QLD are diagnosed with epilepsy.

• The age groups which are most often diagnosed with epilepsy are those aged 5 years and under and 65 years and over.

• However, ANYONE can develop epilepsy.

• There is hope for 70% of people who will achieve seizure control with medication, however 30% need hope through more research and/or cure.

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