

Fred Watkins – Mentor

Fred Watkins owns and runs Watkins Horse Handlers with his wife Rachel and has recently moved from Western Australia back to his home state of Queensland.

Fred was born in Springsure, and grew up on Pindari, a local cattle property. Fred was always involved with the mustering and cattle work with his father John, and developed an interest for starting and educating young horses at a very early age. In 1999 Fred moved to Western Australia to work with his uncle, Bruce Watkins, a champion rodeo rider, well regarded breaker and racehorse trainer. This gave Fred an opportunity to expand his skills and learn about working in other horse industries.

While working for Bruce, Fred met his wife Rachel. They moved to the beautiful Margaret River region in 2000 and started their business, Watkins Horse Handlers. The business was an immediate success and quickly built up a large and loyal clientele. While in Margaret River Fred became involved with the charity, The Outback Heritage Horse Association of WA (since closed) and began working with rescued wild horses. Fred's admiration for Australia's brumbies began here and he credits much of his horsemanship skills to the many wild horses he has since helped rescue, rehabilitate and train.

In 2007, Fred and Rachel moved to Perth. Fred very quickly established himself as WA's most in demand horse breaker and trainer and also developed a reputation for being able to rehabilitate horses labelled as difficult or dangerous.

In 2016, Fred and Rachel moved back to Qld and have now settled in Boonah. Fred has recently discovered an interest in colt starting competitions, and competed successfully in the TEQ Trainers Challenge, Toowoomba, in 2017, and at 2018 Man from Snowy River Bush Festival Trainers Challenge in Victoria.

Having left behind over 5000 clients, Fred regularly travels back to Western Australia and other parts of Australia for his clinics, and starts and trains horses at home in between his busy clinic schedule.

Fred's job satisfaction comes from helping people achieve their goals with their horses. He loves being able to help and support every sort of horse owner and rider, irrespective of the discipline, and has earned a reputation as a kind and down to earth trainer, teacher and clinician.

Visit www.watkinshorsehandlers.com.au for more info.