

Orphan 'Fancy' lost her mother and uncle 'Hawk' steps in to hold the family together.

BRAD & Megan Drennan sadly lost their beautiful paint broodmare, 'Karalinga Kayani' aka 'Kaya' to colic on 15 December 2007. She didn't recover well after emergency surgery and they had to make the decision to put her down leaving behind her 6 week old filly foal.

Lucky for the Drennan's a surrogate was found on their own property ... the dam's full-brother... yes... a gelding, 'Karalinga Karaoke' aka 'Hawk'. He's caring for the foal in everyway other than being able to feed her... that's Megan's job!

He makes her stay with him and watches over her while she sleeps. He is even very understanding when she thinks he might have some milk hiding somewhere!

It's so cute, and has certainly made the sad experience easier to cope with not having to worry about a lonely foal.

Before Kaya went into surgery their vet suggested that Brad and Megan take Fancy home, as it would be more stressful for the mare to have her there after the surgery, as Kaya needed to concentrate on getting well.

Armed with a tin of milk replacement, they loaded Fancy up and took her home. Megan cried most of the way home 'what are we going to do with this little foal?'

When they arrived at home and started to unload Fancy from the float Hawk was standing near the stable asking 'what have you got?' He looked around almost as if to say 'where's Kaya?' He sung out a few times and looked around some more, then he started pushing the fence and nickering to Fancy to come over to him. Megan said to her husband, 'I think he wants her? Maybe we should put him in the stable beside her?' So they did. All night Hawk stood with his head over the divider licking and nickering to Fancy reassuring her. Fancy hardly neighed out for her mother all night. She felt safe with Uncle Hawk.

Luckily Fancy had already learnt to eat some hard feed. She wasn't fussed on the milk replacement, but soon learned to drink it. She now comes running when she sees the bucket. She spends her days with Hawk in the paddock and is stabled beside him at night. Fancy has such a good nature and isn't getting spoilt or rude, as she has Hawk as a 'foster mother' keeping her grounded.

For Brad & Megan having their little orphan do so well has given a sort of happy ending to a very sad story. It was so incredibly sad to lose Kaya, but it's very pleasing to see her filly doing thriving under the care of Kaya's full-brother. Kaya loved all of her foals so much – she would be smiling down seeing her little orphan doing so well. ☆

Rest in peace Kaya!



Photo: Fancy with mum Kaya

Mother HAWK...



Photo: Fancy



Photo: Fancy with Uncle Hawk