



GROUND BREAKING RESEARCH

Stem cell therapy research and development brought high school students, university research students, a Sydney based biotechnology company called regeneus that specialises in stem cell therapy and veterinary science together at the Quipolly Equine Centre last week.

Centre Veterinarian and Chief Veterinary Advisor for regeneus, Tony Batterham said "The Quirindi Veterinary Group and regeneus have a collaborative agreement to conduct research into regenerative medicine, with the Quipolly Equine Centre now offering stem cell therapy as a treatment option for horses with joint and tendon conditions."

Regeneus Director Dr Ben Herbert said the procedure uses the animals own fat tissue to grow the stem cells for injection.

Dr Herbert, who is also Associate Professor and Director of Regenerative Science, Chemistry & Biomolecular Science at Macquarie University, brought his research students to the Quipolly Centre as it was their first run using labelled stem cells.

"We have a technique for labelling stem cells with metal particles so we can pull them back out later using a magnet to see how the cells are used in the joint," Dr Herbert said.

"We know if you put stem cells into a joint you get regrowth but we don't know what proportion is used for what length of time," he said.

Year 9 and 10 students from The King's School in Parramatta were also at Quipolly experiencing the cutting edge of science first hand.

Macquarie University is partnering a science program called The Future Project with the school, which allows students to work along side scientists at Macquarie University laboratories.

"The Future Project is an opportunity to change the way students think about science and to engage them in real science while they still have an open mind, before they get to university," Dr Herbert said.

King's School students were also filming the science as it took place at the Equine Centre as part of a science communication component aimed at delivering science to a wider audience.

The Quipolly Equine Centre also has a collaborative agreement with the University of Newcastle conducting research into stallion fertility.

"We want the Centre to be a veterinary centre of excellence," Mr Batterham said, "we don't just offer standard veterinary services."

"Working with a company like regeneus and the two universities allows us to be in where there is ground breaking and useful clinical research," Mr Batterham concluded.

Story courtesy of Jennifer Hicks, Quirindi Advocate.



Watch the video by clicking on the link below
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9e_XB2QfZ5Y

Veterinarian Tony Batterham (centre) with Dr Ben Herbert (second right) and research students, Roger Kennett (left) and Brad Papworth (right) science teachers and Year 9 and 10 students from The King's School, Parramatta at the Quipolly Equine Centre.