

AuPair of the Year awards

Family: Wards

AuPair: Flynn Michael Legg

Looking for an AuPair was not easy this year and Flynn was the only Candidate that came our way, we are so fortunate to have him. We were uncertain to have a male Aupair and we quizzed Flynn up over the phone about his experience with changing nappies and dealing with 3-year-olds tantrums. He told us that he has not had nappy changing experience before, but he is willing to learn. Tantrums well he will let them ride out and try to comfort where he can.

Little Frank and Henrietta love him. On Flynn's first day he made up a nappy changing song (he is quite the talented musician) while Henrietta was kicking and crying about having her nappy done, she stopped crying straight away and watched him with delight.

He was thrown straight into the deep end as we were busy with calving on the farm. He took the children under his wing, he loved, played, and took care of all their needs. Nappies, sleeps, mood swings and everything that goes with caring with two little crazy kids. All the while singing, laughing, and pulling funny faces.

Frank our 3-year-old took a little while to warm up to Flynn as he is a little more cautious. Flynn worked with him over the first six weeks, never pushing him to far with his interaction and now they are great mates. When Flynn leaves for the day Frank will say that he does not want him to go (can we play chasing games? he will ask). Flynn went on a short Holiday, Frank asked after him everyday wanting him to come home.

Flynn unfortunately broke a bone in his foot at rugby training, so he has spent six weeks of his job looking after two children in a moonboot and on crutches. This was during a busy time with us making hay and myself away each day filming horses. Never once did Flynn say he could not do the job, we helped him in every way we could to make the job easier. I will never forget Flynn playing chasing games with Frank – Frank running as fast as he could with Flynn after him swinging off his crutches in the paddock, classic.

You can just see the love that Flynn has for the children as he looks at them. He is extremely understanding of their moods; he tries to explain situations so they can work out why things happen and how it makes them feel.

He will happily play with them all day. Creating forts in the lounge, swimming, exploring playgrounds, building towers (or trying to stop Henrietta from knocking down the towers that Frank builds). During this playtime he is feeding, changing nappies, changing clothes, giving hugs. While they nap, he is washing dishes, folding clothes, cooking dinner, and everything else that comes with caring for our children's needs. Also, he spends one hour everyday talking to Frank and Henrietta in English then he translates what he has said into Spanish. I have never had to worry when Flynn's in charge.

During these crazy Covid times I understand that it is difficult for people to be away from their homes and families. Flynn's Dad unfortunately passed away during this time, and to help him we planted a Golden Rimu amongst our native bush in remembrance. Flynn has stood up and continued with his job getting extra hugs from the children and kept busy. He has succeeded in integrating himself into our small country community and has found friends around our district. He joined a rugby team, went along to every open mic he could find, and befriended 'a local' his age just up the road. I think he has been a real go getter to make this little place called Patetonga his home. He will be greatly missed not only by us Frank and Henrietta, but by the wider community when he decides to head back home to the USA.



