



NATIONAL SPOTLIGHT

FEBRUARY 2012

A Publication from RDA Australia Ltd

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<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Riding-for-the-Disabled-Association-of-Australia-RDAA/135449168732>

EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORT

Preparations are underway for the next meeting of State Member Delegates and State Managers. The meetings, to be held 5-6 May at Quest Apartments, Melbourne will start work on the strategic directions for RDA for 2013-14.

Key performance objectives fall into categories:

- Governance
- State/National Relationships
- Coaching and Program Delivery
- Pathway Opportunities
- Awareness and Fundraising

Delegates will be discussing and voting on three policies relating to Coaching and Program Deliver

- Terms of Reference for National Discipline Committee Members
- Road Driving Policy for Carriage Driving
- Proposed changes to Centre Accreditation policies

In relation to Governance:

- Update to the Member Protection Policy
- Strategic Plan
- Rider registration and insurance fees

If you have any interest or concern in any of these areas, you should contact your State President or nominated delegate.

I am very excited to be heading off this weekend to Athens, Greece for the XI International Congress on Therapeutic Riding. I hope to bring back news on the scientific and horse management fronts to present at the May meetings and National Coaching Workshop. During my stay I will also act as the Australian delegate to the Horse, Education and Therapy International (HETI, formerly FRDI) meeting to elect new Board members.

It has been a busy month with phone traffic and we love hearing from you. We are investigating a second phone line so that we don't miss your calls. If the line

is busy, it means we are in the office but the phone is in use. We apologise for the inconvenience. Please keep trying us or send an email to admin@rda.org.au.

Karen Aspery

National Executive Officer

Diary Dates

April 24-27	International Therapeutic Congress, Athens, Greece
April 25	ANZAC Day Public Holiday
April 28-29	RDA VIC State Games
April 27-29	National Carriage Driving Workshop (WA)
May 5	RDA ACT Open Day
May 5-6	RDA National Delegates Meeting, Melbourne
May 12	Special Olympics Invitational Games (SA)
May 13	RDA WA Open Day
May 14-20	National Volunteer Week
May 15	RDA SA AGM
May 16	RDAA Board Meeting
May 19	NZ RDA 50 th Anniversary Dinner
June 11	Queen's Birthday Public Holiday
June 19 – 23	RDA ACT Obstacle-athon
June 20	RDAA Board Meeting
June 25-27	RDA NT Hippotherapy Workshop
June 30-July 2	RDAA National Coaching Workshop, Marcus Oldham College, Geelong, Victoria
June 30	RDA SA Quiz Night
July 2-7	RDA ACT Family Days
July 30 – Aug 5	RDA Awareness Week
Aug 3	RDA SA Badge Day
Aug 10	RDA SA Disability & Ageing Expo
Aug 25	RDA TAS AGM
Sept 2	RDA ACT Games Day
Sep 29-30	RDA VIC State Championships
Oct 3-5	National Championships, Werribee Park, Victoria
Oct 7	RDA in the Top End AGM

VICTORIAN RACING CLUB

RACE DAY

The Victorian Racing Club Community Race Day was held on Saturday 14 April at Flemington Racecourse in Victoria. The last race of the day was named the Riding for the Disabled Association Plate and was won by Magnifique Soleil (see story below from Herald Sun). The RDA Chair, Judith van Unen, attended with Lesley Hewitt, the new President of RDA Victoria. Judith presented the trophy for our race.



Judith was interviewed on the big screen, though the interview was not recorded – Judith says, ‘You will have to take my word for it that I was brilliant !!!’

In addition to this, a 30 second advertisement for RDA Australia was played regularly on the big screen.

From The Herald Sun:

MAGNIFIQUE
Soleil posted his
first city win in
today's Riding For



The Disabled Association Plate at Flemington - a victory trainer Darren Weir attributed to his Warrnambool stable.

The four-year-old won his fourth race from five starts this preparation and Weir said he would be likely to bring the gelding back to Flemington again for his next start.

“We haven’t aimed the bar too high. We have just picked our races to get him,” Weir said.

“He had a very solid hitout Tuesday morning and we were quite confident coming here today.”

Magnifique Soleil, a drifter from \$8.50 to \$10, won by one-and-a-quarter lengths from the fast-finishing Bereft, backed from \$11 to \$9, with one length to Zabisco, the \$4.60 favourite.

ASC FUNDING OPPORUNITIES



Australian Government
Australian Sports Commission

Sport Leadership Grants and Scholarships for Women

Minister for Sport Senator Kate Lundy and the
Minister for the Status of Women Julie Collins

announced the opening of the 2012-13 grant round on International Women’s Day to highlight the contribution of women in sport. Applications will close at midnight on Friday 27 April 2012. To apply for a grant or scholarship, applicants must be supported by a sporting organisation affiliated with a national sporting organisation recognised by the ASC.

Under the Sport Leadership Grants and Scholarships for Women program grants of up to \$5,000 for individuals and \$10,000 for organisations are available to assist women to undertake accredited sport leadership training in the areas of coaching, officiating, governance, administration and management and communications, media and marketing. Sport leadership pathway scholarships of up to \$10,000 per annum for three years are also available.

For more information on the program and to apply, please visit the [Sport Leaderships Grants and Scholarships for Women](#) webpage on the [ASC website](#).

Local Sporting Champions

The Local Sporting Champions program currently provides financial support for young sportsmen and women participating in state or national level sporting championships and national school sport championships.

Commencing 1 March 2012 the eligibility criteria for Local Sporting Champions will be enhanced to allow more sportsmen and women to apply. Competitions eligible for funding under the Local Sporting Champions program will be expanded to include:

- *State School Sport Championships*, endorsed by the relevant School Sport Australia Member body, and
- *international competitions*, for members of an official Australian team, endorsed by the relevant Australian Sports Commission recognised national sporting organisation or School Sport Australia.

Grants will continue to be \$500 for individuals and \$3000 for teams (including international competitions). Applicants are eligible to receive one grant (individual grant or as a member of a team grant) per allocation year (1 March - 28 February).

For more information on the program and to apply, please visit the [Local Sporting Champions](#) webpage on the ASC website.

COACHING REPORT

Christmas and the New Year is always a busy time, and RDAA is no exception! 2012 has brought some new changes for Coaches. The first is the new Coach Registration process. Most coaches Australia-wide have jumped on board and sent us their forms, which we have been busy processing and we have sent out their Coach Accreditation cards for 2012. If any Coaches have not received a form, it can be downloaded from the Coaches Portal. This will keep Coaches details up to date and be easier to re-accredit on a yearly basis rather than every 4 years. It also brings us in line with other equestrian organisations who re-accredit their coaches every year.

NATIONAL COACHING WORKSHOP 30 June – 2 July

There are two big events planned for this year, the first being the National Coaches Workshop in Geelong, Victoria. There is a jam-packed program with the focus being on disabilities. The keynote speaker on Saturday night is Meg Wade, a top endurance rider from Victoria who suffered an acquired brain injury and began riding again with RDA. Her story was featured on Landline last year. The Workshop is open to all Coaches and interested volunteers. Details have been sent to States and are also available on the Coaches Portal.

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS 3 – 5 OCTOBER

The National Championships have returned, with the focus being away from elite dressage to one of participation at all levels in all of the RDA disciplines. We hope that all States will be represented and that the event will be a big success! We are now calling for expressions of interest (details on the Coaches Portal)

COACHING SYLLABUS

Almost all of the new Coaching Syllabus has finished being printed, so we are now taking orders from States, Centres and individuals. If individuals wish to train in a particular discipline, they must go through the process of completing an Application to Train Form (available on the Coaches Portal or from your State Coaching Coordinator) which must be sent to your State Coaching Coordinator first who will then forward your syllabus order to us.

I hope that 2012 brings with it a year of moving forward to a bigger and brighter future for RDA across Australia!

Sharon Nichols

National Coaching Coordinator

HETI REPORT



The 2012 Congress in Athens is drawing closer.

At this Congress I will have come to the end of my term of office and will be stepping down from the executive of HETI. I have spent some time looking back over my term of office and considering the time and effort the executive members have contributed to our organisation.

We have looked to the future to further develop networks and structures to put our organisation in a position to further the goal of striving to be the force for spreading international understanding of Equine Facilitated work beyond its present boundaries.

We believe we are on the way forward to achieving this goal which is reflected in expanding our contacts into countries less developed in the field of therapeutic riding and we look forward to assisting them where possible.

We recognise the need to embrace the diversity of equestrian programs offered for people with disabilities throughout the world.

I look forward to seeing and talking with as many of you as possible in Athens for the April 2012 Congress, an informative and diverse program in a fabulous venue and setting. A must for all!

Pauline Perry

President HETI

RDA SA TURNS 40!

RDA South Australia hosted an afternoon tea for staff and volunteers to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of their Incorporation. All RDA SA staff attended, as well as RDAA staff and 3 long standing volunteers, Ann Gear, Margaret Lee and Jill Shelton.

RDA Australia staff Stacey Murray, Theresa Moore and



Karen Aspery presented RDA SA State Manager Kay Milton with a certificate, plaque (pictured left) and birthday card to commemorate the occasion.

Congratulations RDA South Australia!



Stacey Murray (Admin Assistant), Karen Aspery (Executive Officer) and Kay Milton (State Manager)

UPCOMING EVENTS

National Coaches Workshop

Marcus Oldham College, Geelong, VIC

29th June-2nd July 2012

The RDA Australia and the National Disciplines Committee invite all coaches, aspiring coaches and interested volunteers to participate in an interactive workshop - where they can be enlightened and inspired, network, make new friends and share ideas.

The theme of the conference is "Disability Awareness— Focusing on ability, not disability". Each day we will have speakers about a different disability.

Mary Longden will be presenting a dressage clinic about how to coach dressage to your riders and use of adaptive equipment. There will be a vaulting demonstration to show how it benefits RDA riders of various skill levels and abilities and how to get vaulting started at our centres.

Registration forms and programs have been sent to all State Offices and are available on the Coaches Portal. Early bird registration closes on the 25th May.

National Coaches Workshop

3 – 5 October 2012

RDA Australia proudly presents the multi-discipline National Championships to be held at Werribee Equestrian Centre, Werribee, Victoria. The purpose is to showcase all of the disciplines in RDA and to encourage rider participation in competition at all levels of ability.

The disciplines represented will be Dressage, Prix Caprilli, Showjumping, Vaulting and Le Trek (Carriage Driving may be represented if there are enough participants).

The Competitors must be current registered RDA riders and have competed in a competition at state level in the last 2 years (2010 or 2011).

We are now calling for expressions of interest from Coaches, Volunteers and Riders. Entry forms will be sent in May to those who register their interest.

Contact Sharon Nichols – coaching@rda.org.au for more information about both of these events.

STATE NEWS

RDA ACT:

Networking for RDA Volunteer Managers

My name is Anna Sullivan and I am the Volunteer Manager at Pegasus RDA in Canberra ACT. I have

been thinking that it would be really helpful to have an avenue for RDA Volunteer Managers all around Australia to network and share ideas. I know there are a wide variety of RDA centres, in terms of their size, resources, number of riders, paid staff and volunteers. But every centre, no matter their scale, works with volunteers, and rely on them to help make their centres safe and successful. As you know there are many aspects to organising sometimes large numbers of volunteers – recruitment, training, retaining volunteers and thinking of new ways to show appreciation, organising rosters, junior volunteers etc. It would be really helpful to hear how other people manage these aspects of their job, get some new ideas – both those that have worked and those that have not, and share some experiences. This could only lead to us all managing volunteers better. It would be great to know if any other Volunteer Managers also think this would be helpful. Networking ideas could be to exchange phone numbers and emails to start with, perhaps a discussion group for volunteer managers through the RDA website or Facebook, or even aim to attend one of the National Coaching Workshops one day and have a chance to meet and exchange ideas. Or you might have a better idea! Please let me know if this is something you might be interested in. You can email me at volunteers@pegasusact.com.au or ring me on (02) 6254 9190. Volunteers are a crucial component to a successful RDA centre! Let's help each other out in managing them the best way we can.

RDA NT:

From RDA in the Top End Centre:

Gymkhana season is well underway here in the Top End and our RDA Volunteers and riders are having great success. There were 5 of our volunteers competing in the Darwin Horse and Pony Club on RDA in the Top End horses and here are the results:

Associate Dressage Team

Champion Team – Northern Shields Competition 2012

Associate Quadrille Team

Champion Team – Northern Shields Competition 2012

Educated Mount – under 14hh – Second

Pleasure Mount – under 14hh – Second

In hand – Second

Smartest on Parade 15 years and under 17 years - First

Pleasure Mount – over 15hh, under 16hh – 2nd and 3rd

Overall Champion Pony club rider – 4th

Another of our riders is completing his “D” star Certificate at the Litchfield Horse and Pony Club, which is a huge achievement for this young fellow. We also have another two riders attending the Litchfield Horse and Pony Club and are achieving great results.

Well done to all our wonderful volunteers and riders!!!!



Dylan Dawes riding “NT Rascal Zeus”

RDA in the Top End is holding a 3 day Quantum Savvy Natural horsemanship clinic at the centre. Day one and two for adults and day three for kids over 12 years old. The clinics are fun days that will challenge, inspire, fire up imaginations and support all that participate on an exciting journey to horsemanship.

RDA SA:

RDA Victor Harbor’s new site at Morgan Park was officially opened on February 7 by local MP Michael Pengilly (Member for Finniss), assisted by rider Matthew Davis. State president Jill Ribbons sent a congratulatory message, saying, “Many

congratulations to you all in what you have achieved to date in your move to Morgan Park.”

RDA Port Lincoln Centre was featured on ABC TV “7.30 – SA edition” in March with great coverage of the centre and the achievements of rider Kyle. The ABC crew spent a whole day at the centre.

RDA Yorke Peninsula will start operating at its new site in Term 2, following months of hard work by their dedicated band of volunteers.

Elsewhere in RDA SA, Pat Warde (RDA Blackwood president) was named Citizen of the Year for Marion Council and Liz Sobeki (dressage rider and Para-Equestrian hopeful) was named Sportsperson of the Year for Tea Tree Gully Council.

May will be particularly busy, with the annual Mounted Games competition, including Special Olympics events, on May 12.

RDA SA will be holding its 40th annual general meeting at Parliament House, North Terrace, Adelaide on Tuesday May 15, at 6.15pm. Our hosts for the evening will be Hon Tom Kenyon MP (Minister for Recreation and Sport) and Dr Duncan McFetridge MP (Member for Morphett).

A reception at Government House on June 26 will celebrate 40 years of volunteering in RDA SA, and the annual Challenge Quiz Night to be held on June 30 at St Ignatius Hall, Norwood.

Please email admin@rda.org.au if you no longer wish to receive RDAA's bimonthly newsletter, **Spotlight**.

Next issue: 14 June 2012

Mission Statement

RDA enables people with disabilities & volunteers throughout Australia to experience enjoyment, challenge and a sense of achievement through participation in equestrian activities, resulting in the development of life skills, improved quality of life and attainment of personal goals

We are dedicated to providing these services through an organisation which is relevant, innovative, effective and rewarding.

RDA SPONSORS & SUPPORTERS



Australian Government
Australian Sports Commission



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