



NATIONAL SPOTLIGHT

APRIL 2014

A Publication from RDA Australia Ltd

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

RDA NATIONAL OFFICE CLOSURE

The RDA National office will be closed from close of business Thursday 17 April and will reopen on Monday 28 April.

EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORT

Members' rights has been a hot topic in the RDA Australia Office so far this year with the Board and myself being called upon to give advice on interpretations of State Constitutions. Association Constitutions are important documents that govern how the organisation will be managed and it is important for members, as well as Boards, to be familiar with their Constitution. The Constitution outlines the purpose of the organisation and the powers of the Board, it details how notices of meetings will be sent, how nominations for Board positions are made and the voting process to elect Board members. So what are your Member rights under an Association Constitution?

- **Voting rights** – Your voting rights are identified in the Membership and Voting rights clauses.
- **Electing Directors** – You can vote to elect Board members that you have confidence in to manage the organisation.
- **Notices of meetings** – You have the right to be notified of General meetings (including the AGM) and to receive minutes of General Meetings.
- **Right to call meetings** – You/a group of members may call for a General Meeting (or Special General Meeting) in writing to the Secretary. The Constitution will outline how many members are required to agree to call for the meeting. Members can put forward motions at General Meetings and call for a vote on the motion(s).

Member Protection Policies.

Members also have rights under the RDA National Member Protection Policy (MPP). The MPP protects members from all forms of harassment, discrimination and abuse and promotes positive behaviours and values in all members operating within the organisation. The MPP includes Codes of Behaviour to provide clear guidelines about the expected behaviours, complaints handling procedures and appeal tribunal procedures. The National Member Protection Policy is voted on and adopted by all State Associations. A copy is available at www.rda.org.au

Play by the Rules

This is a valuable resource created by the Australian Sports Commission for local, State and National Sporting Organisations. Along with tools and resources there are free online training courses in Member Protection, Child Protection and Complaints Handling. If you would like to know more about your rights as a member or you are in a position of handling complaints, I recommend a visit to www.playbytherules.net.au

Member Protection Information Officers.

RDA Australia is seeking members who would like to act as official MPIO officers for the organisation. Visit the Play by the Rules website (above) and complete the first phase of the training with the online course. Attend a one day face-to-face and then you will be qualified. Let the RDA Australia Office know when you have completed the training and we will list you as an organisational MPIO.

*Karen Aspery
National Executive Officer*

14/01/1941 – 05/03/2014

We received the following sad news from RDA Queensland. We send Robyn's family best wishes through this difficult time.

It is with a very heavy heart that we say farewell to one of our longest serving volunteers and coaches, Robyn Vidgen. Robyn will be deeply missed by those who knew her and those who had the pleasure of her company. She always had a smile on her face and nothing but kind words to share. Robyn was a founding member and volunteer of Everglades RDA before moving on to do the same at Pine Rivers RDA and Samford RDA. Robin undertook her coach training whilst volunteering at Everglades RDA and also at Pine Rivers RDA. RDAQ sends our sympathies to her friends and family in this difficult time, and also to Samford RDA.

DISABILITY FACT SHEETS

Attention RDA Riders - we need your stories!

RDA Australia is developing a series of Disability Fact Sheets and we want to include stories (approx 150-200 words) about our riders and how they have benefited, specifically in terms of their disabilities, from working with RDA. Every story submitted will receive a magazine from Australia's HorseWyse Magazine and the rider selected to feature on each Fact Sheet will win an RDA T-shirt!

If you are interested, please email RDA Australia on admin@rda.org.au or call (08) 8354 4555 with your contact details and your story.



It's the end of first term already and the school holidays and Easter break is upon us. First term is always busy at Centres with paperwork for clients and volunteers, so hopefully you have all caught up by now!

Speaking of paperwork, we have been busy processing all of the Coach Registrations coming in. Thank you to all those coaches who sent theirs in on time. The closing date was March 31 so if you haven't sent yours in yet, please do so ASAP to make sure that you are accredited for 2014. A total of 322 Coaches have registered so far, delivering approximately 37, 181 hours of coaching across the country. The national median coaching hours annually per Coach is 60. Fifty Coaches have more than one coaching qualification. The breakdown of Qualifications are: Level 0 Riding-73; Level 1 Riding-207; Level 2 Riding-34; Level 0 Carriage Driving -12; Level 1 Carriage Driving 35; Level 1 Vaulting-11; Assessors-37.

Some exciting news is the long-awaited Volunteer Handbook that has just come back from the printers. It has been a collaborative effort and we are very proud of the resulting product. There will be more items to follow once they have been approved at the Program Delivery Meeting on the 3-4th May in Melbourne.

*Sharon Nichols
National Coaching Coordinator*

VOLUNTEERING AUSTRALIA

SEPTEMBER 15-20, QUEENSLAND



The 23rd World Volunteer Conference Committee is pleased to announce the first round of world class keynotes to confirm their attendance at the Gold Coast in September.

With well-known international and Australian leaders, the keynotes will set the stage for an outstanding program.

The program will address volunteering in the areas of capacity building, building corporate and social responsibility, employee volunteering and inter-sector collaboration, and indigenous volunteering experiences both traditional and contemporary.

Visit www.iave2014.org for more information.

HETI 2015 CONGRESS

JUNE 22-25, TAIPEI, TAIWAN



**2015 International Congress
comes to Asia for the First Time**

Call for Papers

Online End of March 2014

Overview over the topics:

Health: Physical and Mental Health, Riding for Improved Health Conditions, Fitness for the Elderly, Physiotherapy for Children and Adults, Psychotherapy

Education: Equine Assisted Learning, Autism and Development Disorders, Vocational Training for Youth at Risk/Disabled Persons

Trauma: Trauma and Post traumatic Stress Disorder

Inclusion: Social Inclusion, ICF as an Assessment Tool

For more information, visit: www.heti2015.org

STATE NEWS

RDA QLD:

RDA Q held a successful AGM on February 23 and new Board members were elected. Since that time, State President Lyn Crichton has resigned. We wish the best of luck to the new team.

RDAQ State Championships 2014

RDAQ will be holding its 2014 State Championships on June 21st and 22nd this year at the Queensland State Equestrian Centre at Caboolture. This will allow riders who wish to participate at the RDA National Championships will have more time to prepare for the event.

Please see attached RDAQ State Championships Entry Form. Descriptions of classes and games are available from the RDAQ office.

RDA TAS:

RDA Tasmania held their state championships at Huntingfield Pony Club grounds on Saturday the 12th April.

There were 6 competitors on the day competing in Dressage, Freshman's, Jumping and Trec.

Judges were (Dressage) Judith Atkinson, Fiona Fehlberg and (Freshman's and Jumping) Barbara Cook.

The Champion on the day was Thomas Fulton and Reserve Champion William Greenwood.



This year a Memorial Perpetual Trophy in honour of Sharon Janet Lindner a well-known horse person in Tasmania commenced and was awarded for the highest point's scorer. The first winner of this trophy was Thomas Fulton.



Ruby Tatnell, Emily Pettit, Leo Stanborough-Hale,
Thomas Fulton,
Terry McAllister & William Greenwood.

Specials thanks to our sponsors: Robert Lindner, Alan & Lois Evans, Horseland, Australian Show Ribbons, Indulgence Gifts, Smithlocks and the Huntingfield Pony Club.

Sincere thanks to all our dedicated volunteers for their wonderful efforts throughout the day helping with the various roles.

Diary Dates

Apr 18-27	RDA Australia Office Closed
Apr 18-21	Easter Long Weekend
Apr 25	ANZAC Day Public Holiday
May 3-4	National Program Delivery Meetings, VIC
May 10	RDA WA Metro Games, RDA Carine
May 16-18	RDAA General Meeting, SA
May 18	RDA SA Mounted Games Competition
May 21	RDAA Board Meeting
May 25	RDA WA Open Day
May 31	RDA WA Metro Games
June 2	National Volunteer Awards Nominations Open
June 6	RDA SA AGM
June 7	RDA WA Coaches Workshop
June 9	RDAA Office Closed – Queen’s Birthday Public Holiday
June 21-22	RDA Q State Championships
June 28-29	RDA WA Dressage/Four Phase Challenge
July 12-13	RDA WA Mid Year Vaulting Camp
June 25	RDAA Board Meeting
July 16	RDAA Board Meeting
July 28-Aug 3	RDA Awareness Week
July 31	National Volunteer Awards Nominations close to State Offices
Aug 1	Horses’ Birthday
Aug 20	RDAA Board Meeting
Aug 31	National Volunteer Awards Nominations close to National Office
Sept 6	RDA WA State Games, Murray Mandurah
Sept 14	RDA SA State Dressage Championships
Sept 17	RDAA Board Meeting
Sept 19-22	RDA National Coaches Workshop, Geelong

SAVE THE DATE!

19-22 September

Marcus Oldham College

Geelong, Victoria

There’s only 5 months until the National Coaching Workshop!

Start your planning now, apply for grants to get your coaches over to Geelong for this important training event.

Registration forms and programs will be coming out in June 2014.

NATIONAL VOLUNTEER AWARDS

June 2: Nominations open

July 31: Nominations due to your State Office

October 31: Volunteer Awards Dinner, SA

Start thinking about any volunteers that you think deserve to be nominated for a National Award.

Nomination forms will be posted on our website on June 2!

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

Spotlight.

Next issue: 13 June 2014

Mission Statement

RDA enables people with disabilities throughout Australia to experience enjoyment, challenge and a sense of achievement through participation in equestrian activities to improve their quality of life, attain personal goals and develop life skills.

RDA SPONSORS & SUPPORTERS



Australian Government

Australian Sports Commission



RDA CONTACT DETAILS

RDA AUSTRALIA:

PO Box 310
TORRENSVILLE SA 5031
Ph: (08) 8354 4555
E: admin@rda.org.au

RDA ACT:

119 Drake Brockman Drive
HOLT ACT 2615
Ph: (02) 6254-9190
E: admin@pegasusact.com.au

RDA NT:

RDA Alice Springs
PO Box 8831
ALICE SPRINGS NT 0871
Ph: (08) 8952 3838
E: rda.alicesprings@bigpond.com

RDA NT cont:

RDA in the Top End
PO Box 4185
PALMERSTON NT 0831
Ph: (08) 8931 0093
E: rdanorth@bigpond.com

RDA QLD:

PO Box 529
BURPENGARY QLD 4505
Ph: (07) 3888-5277
E: admin@rdaq.org.au

RDA SA:

215 Portrush Road
MAYLANDS SA 5069
Ph: (08) 8331 1833
E: admin@rdasa.org.au

RDA TAS:

1/9 Delange Place
CLAREMONT TAS 7011
Ph: 0407 491 884
E: rdatasmania@bigpond.com

RDA VIC:

400 Epsom Road
FLEMINGTON VIC 3031
Ph: (03) 9258 4730
E: admin@rdav.asn.au

RDA WA:

State Equestrian Centre
303 Cathedral Avenue
BRIGADOON WA 6069
Ph: (08) 9296-4655
E: info@rdawa.asn.au