



# NATIONAL SPOTLIGHT

## AUGUST 2013

A Publication from RDA Australia Ltd

For news, updates and chat to other RDA folk, like RDAA on Facebook!

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

### EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORT

What a busy month we have all had here in the RDA Australia Office with our move to the new premises. We are now located at 168 Henley Beach Road, Torrensville and all systems are up and running! After three years sharing space with RDA South Australia we began to run out of room and sadly farewelled our friends and colleagues to move to larger office space.

Our new office is close to the airport and the accommocation and meeting rooms we use for national events.

To celebrate RDA Awareness Week, we held an office opening party and invites all our SA colleagues, board and suppliers.

We had a great turnout, decorated the office in the RDA colours of purple and red and celebrated RDA with wine, cheese and good friends.

We hope that everyone enjoyed their celebrations around the country, displaying the Awareness Week posters, holding volunteer morning teas and hosting fun activities for riders.

### Growing support for RDA



Jurox, the manufacturer of Promectin Plus Mini Allwormer for horses launched their new product last year where the sale of every wormer tube sold in Australia

attracted a 10c donation to RDA Australia.

Mini is a great product, a concentrated broad spectrum wormer in an easy-to-use small tube without wastage.

Jurox and RDA want to tell as many people about Mini as we can so if you have a close link with a local riding or pony club, help us spread the word!

Jurox works towards improving equine health through activities like sponsorship of horse evets around

Australia, small group training sessions and topics such as parasite control, and with their Healthy Horses Facebook page.

Contact [eo@rda.org.au](mailto:eo@rda.org.au) if you would like a Jurox territory manager in your area to visit and present educational material to equestrian groups of any kind. Help spread the word about Mini!

*Karen Aspery  
National Executive Officer*

### RDA NATIONAL OFFICE OPENING PARTY

On Friday August 9, RDA Australia held an office opening party to celebrate its move to new premises in Torrensville. With decorations provided locally (balloons, streamers, flowers and food all within walking distance!), the office looked great and all who came along had a great time looking around the new office.



We also had some amazing cupcakes made by The Cheesecake Shop across the road!

## **RDA NATIONAL VOLUNTEER AWARDS**

### **DINNER**

Plans are coming together now for the 2013 RDA National Volunteer Awards Dinner, to be held on Friday 1 November at Morphettville Junction, Anzac Highway, Camden Park, SA.

This year we will also have special guest, 2012 Paralympic Gold Medallist Joann Formosa attending the dinner and speaking about her experience riding with RDA.

The dinner will include the main event of the night; the presentation of trophies to the award winners of each category:

- Young Volunteer of the Year Award
- Volunteer Encouragement Award
- Michael Field Memorial Award

The winners of these awards will be selected by a panel of 3 judges. The panel consists of Doug Denby (RDAA Life Member), Andrew Boeyen (RDAA Board Member) and Guy Ockenden (CEO New Zealand RDA). We thank all three for giving up their time to help us with this very important task.

We are very excited to hear that a lot of states have nomination forms to send through – we are looking forward to receiving them at National office by the end of August!

Contact [admin@rda.org.au](mailto:admin@rda.org.au) for more information about the dinner.

### **HETI REPORT**

*\*taken from May 2013 HETI Newsletter*

Hello,

It is late Spring where I live and for the first time in many years we are having a real Spring season - mild daytime temperatures and cool evenings. The trees have just blossomed and many of the early flowers are up. It is also the time of year when people stop in to regretfully inform us that they think our horses are dead! No, we tell them, they are just lying out in the sunshine enjoying the wonderful break from winter - just as we are. So if it is springtime where you are, I hope you are enjoying the feeling of renewal and hope. If you are moving into your Winter months, I hope that you and your horses are feeling safe and secure from the elements.

The HETI office is closing out the 2013 membership drive - if you still have not renewed, please do so at your earliest convenience. You don't want to miss out on receiving the Directory and the Journal this year!

As we reported at the Association meeting in Athens, Greece, the HETI Executive Committee is mindful of the budget - we are all experiencing financial down times and HETI is no different. Respectful of the budget, in July the Executive Committee will be holding week-long meetings via SKYPE so that we do not incur travel expenses this year by meeting face-to-face. I will travel to the HETI office in Maine, USA and Gisela Heimsath Rhodes and I will work from there and communicate with the Committee throughout the week via SKYPE. If you speak with one of the members of the Committee, be sure to thank them for their flexibility and dedication to HETI as they will be rearranging their lives (and time zones) for a week, to complete the business at hand.

There are a number of items on the agenda for the Executive Committee to work on during this time. I have briefly listed a few here. If you have suggestions for agenda items, please do not hesitate to notify the HETI office of your thoughts and ideas. Please remember that we are required by the Constitution and ByLaws to bring certain items to the entire membership - this list is a "working" list and these items will be brought before the membership, as appropriate.

- Review the Constitution and By-Laws as working documents
- Review the annual budget
- Complete Level I of the HETI Education Program
- Work with the Journal editors to complete the process for the Journal to become peerreviewed
- Evaluate membership levels and make recommendations to the membership at-large
- Review the progress of the XV International Congress
- Etc.

In closing, I just want to remind everyone to begin planning your travel and arrangements so that we can meet in Taiwan in 2015!

*Ann O'Shallie  
President, HETI Federation*

### Diary Dates

<b>Aug 24 &amp; 25</b>	<b>RDA National Assessors Workshop, SA</b>
Aug 31	National Volunteer Award Nominations close to National Office
Sept 14	RDA Tasmania AGM
<b>Sept 18</b>	<b>RDA Board Meeting</b>
Sept 28 & 29	RDA Q State Championships
Oct 11-13	RDA Bendigo Carriage Driving Workshop
Oct 15	RDA WA AGM
<b>Oct 16</b>	<b>RDA Board Meeting</b>
Oct 19	RDA SA Centres Forum
<b>Nov 1</b>	<b>National Volunteer Awards Dinner</b>
<b>Nov 2</b>	<b>RDA Australia AGM</b>
<b>Nov 3</b>	<b>RDA National Delegates Strategic Planning Meeting</b>
Nov 5	Melbourne Cup
<b>Nov 12-14</b>	<b>National Disciplines Championships, Werribee Park National Equestrian Centre</b>
<b>Dec 13</b>	<b>RDA National office closed for Christmas</b>

\*Please send us your AGM dates as they come to hand

### COACHING REPORT

I hope you have been staying warm and dry throughout the winter months! RDA Centres without covered or indoor arenas always struggle to keep classes going and have to cancel when the weather is too wet and cold, so if a covered arena is on your wish list I hope it becomes a reality sooner rather than later.

Moving to a new office has been challenging to maintain an uninterrupted service so hopefully this hasn't been too much of an inconvenience to everyone. We are 90% operational now with just some technology issues to iron out.

The National Assessor Workshop is just around the corner, on the 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> August. Fourteen existing assessors and thirteen new trainee assessors will be attending, which is fantastic! There hasn't been a National Assessor Workshop since 2009, so assessors will be able to update their qualification and partake in some valuable networking and workshopping to improve the quality of coach assessment in RDA.

Entry forms are about to be sent out for the RDA National Championships in November and will also be posted on the RDA Website and Coaches Portal. Tests are also available to download from the Coaches Portal.

*Sharon Nichols  
National Coaching Coordinator*



## RDA National Discipline Championships

Monday 12 – Wednesday 14 November  
Werribee Park National Equestrian Centre  
170 K Road, Werribee, VIC

Competition Includes:

**Dressage**  
**Vaulting**  
**Jumping**  
**Le Trec**  
**Prix Caprilli**



Other Events:

**Sunday 11 November**  
**Opening Ceremony**  
**Tuesday 13 November**  
**BBQ Dinner and demonstration**  
**Wednesday 14 November**  
**BBQ Dinner and demonstration**

Contact [coaching@rda.org.au](mailto:coaching@rda.org.au) for more information about the competition.

## **STATE NEWS**

### **RDA NT:**

#### **RDA Alice Springs**

RDA Alice Springs had a great day at the Alice Springs Show in July holding a competition for their riders. Check out RDA Alice Springs new website for all the stories, results and photos from the day!

<http://www.rdaalicesprings.com/showtimw2013.html>

You can also go to

<http://www.rdaalicesprings.com/latest-news.html> for

some great photos from their Horse's Birthday celebrations!

#### **RDA in the Top End Inc**

RDA in the Top End was approached by the Defence Department here in Darwin to see if we would be interested in looking at program loosely based on a program in the UK – Horses for Hero's This program is run for returned service men and women with physical disabilities or mental health issues such as Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. After an initial meeting with the coordinator of the Soldier Recovery Unit it was decided that we would gradually get these men and women into volunteering down at the centre one day a week. This is proving to be a fantastic initiative for both the Soldier Recovery Unit and the centre. Gardens are looking spectacular, fences being replaced, horses are enjoying additional company and the returned service men and women are learning the health benefits of being with horses

With a grant from local council we have been able to purchase a much needed tractor. This will enable us to slash our 40 acres, (without hiring a contractor) and numerous other jobs around the property.

RDA in the Top End has established a relationship with People's Choice Credit Union and are looking at a long and lasting partnership beneficial to both parties Centre Manager, Lesley Monro has been invited to do a Mighty Mentoring Program with Australian Womensport Recreation Association – AWRA with Chris Nunn Senior Manager, High Performance Australian Paralympic Committee as her mentor. Chris will be visiting Darwin to spend time with Lesley in the near future.

The centre has been awarded with a Level 1 *Good Sports* Accreditation. *Good Sports* is a community program between the Australian Drug Foundation and the Government sector to develop a safer and healthier community and their mission is to work together to prevent alcohol and other drug problems within sporting groups through Australia.

We also have welcomed a visiting Level 1 Coach from Ballarat who is helping out down at the centre one

day a week and will start coaching one of the school groups starting in August

RDA in the Top End would like to thank Bates Australia for their generous donation of a Wintec 2000 all purpose saddle which has been fitted to one of our Acacia Ridge Brumbies, Jungles Kelsey Lee, Kelsey for short.



### **RDA QLD:**

#### **Qld Coming Events:**

28 - 29 Sept State Championships

26 Oct Brisbane Convoy for Kids

### **RDA TAS:**

We have just received a new Certificate of Incorporation to say we are officially now to be known as Riding for the Disabled Association of Tasmania Inc. This will now bring us into line with other States/Territories so we all have the same name!

### **RDA VIC:**

#### **RDA BENDIGO CARRIAGE DRIVING WORKSHOP**

**October 11-13<sup>th</sup> 2013**

**Bendigo RDA** is pleased to announce that they have received funding from the Frances & Harold Abbott Foundation for the Carriage Driving Workshop. We are very grateful for their support. This will enable us to run the very best three days that we can.

We do need your input to make this workshop the success that we anticipate. Please send us your ideas and any topics that you want covered during the 3 days. Both theory and practical.

Bendigo is so proud of their Carriage Driving Program and really hope those Centres who are thinking about doing this in their area will come and see just what a difference it can make to the overall success of your RDA program.

We will be catering for everyone at this Workshop; from the beginner to those who have been Coaches for many years.

All further queries and bookings:  
**[rdabendigoanne@bigpond.com](mailto:rdabendigoanne@bigpond.com)**

Please email [admin@rda.org.au](mailto:admin@rda.org.au) if you no longer wish to receive RDAA's bimonthly newsletter, **Spotlight**.

Next issue: 18 October 2013

## 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](mailto:admin@rda.org.au)

#### **RDA ACT:**

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

#### **RDA NT:**

PO Box 2374  
ALICE SPRINGS NT 0871  
Ph: 0498 256 336  
E: [rdantinc@gmail.com](mailto:rdantinc@gmail.com)

#### **RDA QLD:**

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

#### **RDA SA:**

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

#### **RDA TAS:**

1/9 Delange Place  
CLAREMONT TAS 7011  
Ph: 0407 491 884  
E: [c.bantick@bigpond.com](mailto:c.bantick@bigpond.com)

#### **RDA VIC:**

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

#### **RDA WA:**

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