



NATIONAL SPOTLIGHT

AUGUST 2014

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

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES FOR 2015

RDA Australia released its plan and objectives for the next 12 months to June 2015. This includes:

- Updating to a more modern Constitution.
- Delivering a National Coaching Workshop to over 100 Coaches.
- Increases in the number of Centres using the National Volunteer training Program.
- Produce an Emergency Dismount poster to display at RDA Riding Centres.
- Send a team of 3 riders to represent Australia at the International Hope Cup Competition in Taiwan.
- Send 5 representatives to the International Congress on Therapeutic Riding in Taiwan on 22 June 2015 (more details coming soon!).

Another big year for RDA Australia with some exciting outcomes for our members. Stay tuned!

*Karen Aspery
National Executive Officer*

WINTEC SADDLES

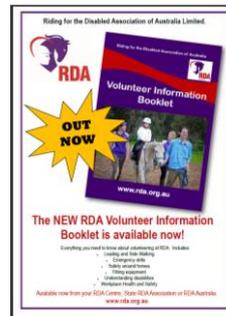
Thank you to Wintec Saddles, a long-term supporter of RDA Australia! Wintec Saddles have kindly provided each of our state branches a WintecLite All Purpose saddle for their fundraising efforts. You can find out more about Wintec Saddles and their products here www.facebook.com/wintecsaddles.



WintecLite All Purpose

VOLUNTEER INFORMATION BOOKLET

Don't forget to get your copy of the new RDA Volunteer Information Booklet! Booklets were distributed to State Offices earlier in the year. If you haven't received yours yet, check with your local Centre or State Office. RDAA have also released posters that you can put up at your Centre to advertise the Booklets. One poster per Centre was sent to each State Office.



Let your Centre volunteers know the new Volunteer Information Booklets are available!

ASC LOCAL SPORTING CHAMPIONS

GRANTS AVAILABLE



Australian Government
Australian Sports Commission

Grants to help young people pursue their sporting dreams

Young people find it difficult to meet the ongoing and significant costs associated with participation at sporting competitions, particularly those from regional areas.

The Local Sporting Champions program is an Australian Government initiative designed to provide financial assistance for young people aged 12-18 towards the cost of travel, accommodation, uniforms or equipment when competing, coaching or officiating at an official national sporting organisation (NSO) endorsed state, national or international sporting championships or a School Sport Australia state or national championships. Visit the [ASC website](#) for eligibility criteria and more information.

RDA AWARENESS WEEK

28 JULY – 3 AUGUST

We had some great reports about Awareness Week from Centres and States all around the country. RDA Australia sent posters to all of our State Offices so that each Centre and State Office would have two posters to put up in their communities to raise awareness of RDA in their local area.



This year we had Mia's smiling face and a beautiful story about the improvements she has made during her time with RDA. We hope the posters helped your Centre raise awareness in your communities.

Below are some stories from Centres about their activities during RDA Awareness Week.

RDA South Australia

RDA Northern Area Centre were featured in an article about waiting lists in RDA. Read more [here](#).

RDA O'Halloran Hill Centre posted the following story on our Facebook Page:

Hello from RDA O Halloran Hill South Australia, Coach Pam and Volunteers Rebecca and Janet attended Suneden Special School, where our clients come from, from 10.30 til 2pm on Friday 1st August to put on a party with horse themed balloons, crafts with stickers. Also nibbles and cake for all the children and staff. Made possible by the party planner Kirsty and her mum, Meletia who also is a rider. We sang Happy Birthday to ALL the horses but especially our six, Katie, Madonna, Missy, Nicky, Sam and Toby. A great fun time was had by all.

RDA Tasmania

On Monday, 28th of July RDA Kingborough and RDA Kalang raised awareness in the Elizabeth Mall in Hobart.



On Saturday, 2nd of August RDA Kingborough raised awareness in the Channel Court Shopping Centre in Kingston, Tasmania. Petting Pony, Amy, was the star of the day and drew in the crowd. She watched over the handy mount course set up outside her yard, where children could race around on their own decorated hobby horse.



Inside the shopping centre people could watch the RDA Kingborough PowerPoint Presentation and other display. They could ask their questions, take brochures and other materials and purchase Kingborough merchandise. Also inside, children could try a lucky dip and decorate a cardboard horsehead, which they could take outside, slide on a stick and race around the course. The day was successful with many interested people and RDA Kingborough even gained some new volunteers as well as many donations.



Continued over page.

RDA Western Australia

On August 1, RDA WA had a morning tea at RDA Carine to celebrate some exciting news. TAB and Racing and Wagering WA have announced an \$80,000 partnership with RDAWA for horse welfare within WA.

The announcement was made in celebration of RDA Awareness Week and the Horses Birthday with lots of lovely treats for volunteers, riders and horses.

The TAB is pleased to announce an \$80,000 funding contribution to the Riding for the Disabled Association of Western Australia (RDAWA). This financial support will assist in current program development for participants and contribute towards the high standards of animal welfare maintained for RDAWA horses.

The TAB is committed to supporting positive community endeavours as well as furthering its high standards of animal wellbeing, making this partnership a priority.



HETI 2015 CONGRESS

JUNE 22-25, TAIPEI, TAIWAN



2015 International Congress comes to Asia for the First Time

For more information, visit:

www.heti2015.org

RDA Australia will be selecting four coaches from around the country to attend and represent Australia at the International Congress on Therapeutic Riding in June 2015. RDA Australia will provide funding subsidies towards

airfares and conference fees. Information on the selection criteria and application process will be launched at the RDA National Coaches Workshop in September this year. Get your passports ready for this exciting opportunity and stay tuned to the Coaches Newsletter for more information.

VOLUNTEER AWARDS

Nominations for the 2014 RDA Volunteer Awards closed to State Office on July 31 and we are now in the process of receiving State nominations at the National Office. The nomination forms will then go to our Judging Panel to decide a winner in each category.

We are pleased to announce our Panel for 2014 has recently been finalised and consists of:

- Wendy Maplestone, RDA Life Member
- Jeanne Stratford, RDA Board Member
- Amanda Beehag, Australian Sports Commission representative and Independent panel member

We are happy to announce that HorseWyse magazine will again be sponsoring the Young Volunteer of the Year Award, providing a gift bag for the winner. OAMPS, Insurance broker for RDA Australia, have also come on board to sponsor the Volunteer Encouragement Award. Thanks to both organisations for your support!

We are excited to see who will be nominated for all of these categories and hope to see a nominee in every category from every State.

The 2014 Awards Dinner will again be held at Morphettville Junction in South Australia on Friday October 31. We'd love to see lots of people there to celebrate the contribution of all volunteers in RDA. If you would like more information about the dinner, visit our website Volunteer Awards or please contact the National Office – admin@rda.org.au.

RIDE FOR LIFE

Angel and Sharan from Ride for Life will be trekking 2500 km from North Qld to Victoria with their horses and along the way will be raising money to donate to RDA and Brumby Rescue Australia. Watch their journey from their Facebook page Ride For Life

Angel will be riding a brumby that she has trained herself and will have a thoroughbred as a pack horse, Sharan has 2 quarter horses.

The ride, which departed from Silver Valley near Atherton, QLD will take an estimated 80 days and will finish at the Victorian border, just under 2500km

COACHING REPORT

As we move further through the year and spring is around the corner, life is thawing out and things are starting to get busier in RDA. There are many exciting events coming up; WEG (World Equestrian Games) in Normandy, France; The Hope Cup in Taiwan, the National Special Olympics Competition in Werribee, Victoria; the RDA National Video Dressage Competition and the RDA National Coaches Workshop in Geelong, Victoria. Our best wishes go out to all competitors taking part in these events and we look forward to hearing about their experiences. I would also like to acknowledge all of their support crews and coaches who sacrifice their time to help them achieve their dreams.

Of course, there are State competitions and events coming up as well. As we all get really busy, please remember to take time for yourselves and your families so you don't burn out. It is easy to get "swallowed up" in life's activities so please remember to give attention to what is most important to you.

The National Video Dressage Competition is an encourage event for Introductory riders and riders who have not been classified for very long. Introductory riders compete using RDA dressage tests and newly classified riders (or riders working towards classification) compete using the new Para Dressage Tests. These Tests are harder than the RDA tests but not as hard as the FEI Para-Equestrian tests. This allows a pathway between RDA and Para-Equestrian which has not been in place since 2008. Entries close 30th September and winners will be notified on 14th November.

The National Coaches Workshop is shaping up to be a fantastic event, with large numbers registering early. The focus is on putting the FUN (Fabulous, Uplifting New experiences) back into RDA. A reminder that registrations close on September 5th (visit the [RDA Australia website](#) for registration forms and other information about the Workshop). The workshop is open to registered RDA Coaches and volunteers. It is a great opportunity to network with others and come back to your centre feeling reenergised and re-inspired. Make sure you get yours in on time and I hope to see you there!

*Sharon Nichols
National Coaching Coordinator*

INTERNATIONAL HOPE CUP

11 OCTOBER 2014, ZHONGLI, TAIWAN



RDA Australia is pleased to announce the selected Australian RDA Team for the International Hope Cup, Taiwan in October 2014. Congratulations to our riders!

Maddison Cooke (Grade 1b) - Victoria

Natalie Mellors (Grade II) - South Australia

Sara Cann (Grade III) - Western Australia

Congratulations also to Rachel Vincent, RDA NCAS Level 2 Coach from South Australia who has been selected to be the Team Coach.

Many thanks to the Selection Panel of Pauline Perry (Chair Program Delivery, RDA) and Julia Battams (Para Equestrian Development Manager, Equestrian Australia) for their assistance with selecting the team riders and coach.

For full details, read our [Media Release](#)

HRH PRINCESS ANNE TO VISIT RDA



HRH Princess Anne has been the patron of RDA Australia for many years and this October we are delighted to host a visit from her to the RDA Cartmill Centre in Brisbane. The RDA Cartmill Centre recently started a collaborative project with the Enoggorah Army barracks to assist with the rehabilitation of returned soldiers.

This inspiring initiative brings RDA full circle from its early beginnings following World War 1 when returned servicemen improved their balance and coordination following amputations by learning to ride horses.

To read more about the new program at RDA Cartmill Centre visit

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!

We have already completed Fact Sheets for:

- Angelman syndrome
- Autism Spectrum Disorder
- Cerebral Palsy
- Spina Bifida

These are all on our website on the [Member Resources](#) page under **Disability Fact Sheets** for you to look at. These four Fact Sheets feature stories from Connor (SA), Mia (SA), Mercedes (WA) and Taj (WA) who will shortly be receiving their RDA T Shirt and copy of HorseWyse magazine.

We are now looking for stories about riders with:

- Acquired Brain Injury
- Amputation
- Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder
- Down Syndrome
- Epilepsy
- Hearing Impairment
- Intellectual Disability
- Multiple Sclerosis
- Muscular Dystrophy
- Paraplegia
- Vision Impairment

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.



JUROX SPONSORSHIP OFFER



RDA Australia sponsor, Jurox, are giving 20 young riders* the chance to receive sponsorship for one year*.

*See terms and conditions.

The Sponsorship includes:

- Club membership and competition entry fees
- Limited-edition MJET mini Jacket
- A years supply of Promectin® Plus Mini for your horse

Applications open August 4, 2014 and close October 31, 2014. The successful riders will be notified by Jurox.

Visit <http://www.promectinplusmini.com.au/#/> to find out more!



STATE NEWS

RDA QLD:

RDAQ has been busy with workshops, competition and events the last few months.

On June 21st and 22nd RDAQ hosted the State Championships at the prestigious Queensland State Equestrian Centre (QSEC). It was a wonderful weekend with 5 Centres represented by 31 riders who participated in 144 ridden events.

The Dressage tests took place on Saturday in the indoor arena. It was a lovely day of horsemanship and skill that our riders demonstrated, with riders competing in Walk, Trot and Canter as well as Para Equestrian tests. It was a long day with presentation continuing after sunset and then dinner and dancing at a local RSL for the campers and horse carers on Saturday night. Sunday morning (after a brief shower!) opened for Mounted Games competition which saw our riders take part in various events including Working Trail, Western Pleasure and Pony Club Mounted Games.

Our Novelty Events included Fancy Dress and the inaugural "RDA's Got Talent" class.

Our skilful judges as well as the tireless volunteers and horses worked beautifully to create a weekend filled with positivity, encouragement and progression. Pictured below are a selection of ‘winners and gridders’ at the end of the weekend, and Drew Hay from North QLD RDA riding Shiloh in his dressage test.



RDA Q attended Ekka for the third year as part of the Horse Breeds Expo at the Queensland Royal Show, aka the EKKA.

Each year the Ekka highlights the amazing array of horse breeds that QLD has to offer in the famous Horse Breeds Expo. This Expo is one of very few of its kind worldwide, rivalling the displays shown at the Calgary Stampede and Horse of The Year events. RDAQ has been lucky enough to be invited as a representative horse organisation to highlight the achievements and developments that our sport makes. We hold an interactive information stall for 10 days and bring RDA riders and horses for daily demonstration rides in the Horse Breeds Expo arena.

In previous years our mascot “Smiley” has represented RDA in the Grand Parade held on People’s Day (the Public Holiday for the Ekka) but this year one of RDAQ’s riders took up the challenge with grace and skill.

Vidya Kannanda is pictured here riding Red, proudly representing us on the Grand Parade.



RDA VIC:

RDA Victoria will be hosting the Special Olympics National Games at Werribee on 20-23 October.

We have 29 Equestrian competitors from all over Australia and we need your help to assist with providing horses and volunteers to hold this event.

As this event is a qualifier for the Special Olympics International Games in LA in 2015 all riders will be required to ride unfamiliar horses.

Events include English Equitation (rider class), Prix Caprilli (walk event – poles, trot event – 35cm, canter event – 60cm), dressage and working trail (mazes, poles, bridge, change of surface).

Riders will be carefully matched to horses through rider profile sheets by a panel of experts. [More Information](#)

RDA Victoria is holding a Balance Dressage DVD competition!

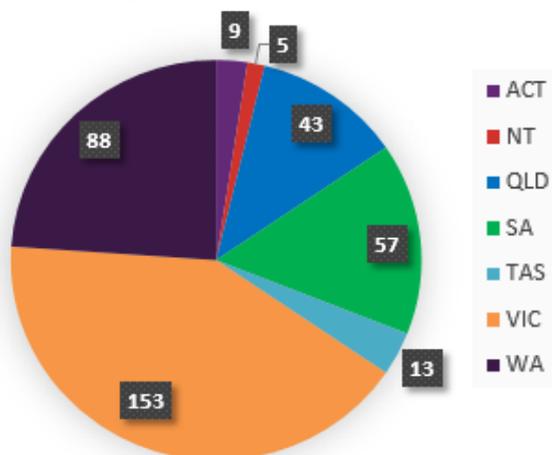
This event is designed for riders with a disability of such a level that it significantly limits participation in existing RDA events. [More Information and Download Forms](#)

Join us on September 28th for a new race day as a part of the 2014 Caulfield Cup Carnival featuring the Bendigo Bank East Malvern Sir Rupert Clarke Charity Cup.

The Charity Race Day will take place on Sunday 28 September at Caulfield Racecourse, with Melbourne Racing Club donating proceeds to support fundraising and awareness for the partnered charitable organisations. [More Information](#)

DID YOU KNOW???

There are currently 368 Registered Coaches in RDA around Australia! See how many are in your state in the graph below.



Diary Dates

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
Sept 28	RDA V Charity Race Day, Caulfield Racecourse,
Sept 27-28	RDA WA State Vaulting Championships, Brigadoon
Sept 30	National Dressage Video Competition Entry Forms due to National Office
Oct 3	RDA V Balance Dressage Entries Close
Oct 6	RDAA Office Closed – Labour Day Public Holiday
Oct 15	RDAA Board Meeting
Oct 20-24	Special Olympics National Games, Vic
Oct 22	HRH Princess Anne visit to RDA Cartmill, Qld
Oct 31	Volunteer Awards Dinner
Nov 1	RDA Australia National Delegates Meeting, SA
Nov 2	RDA Australia Annual General Meeting, SA
Nov 4	Melbourne Cup
Nov 13-16	Adelaide International Horse Trials
Nov 14	National Dressage Video Competition Results Announced
Nov 19	RDAA Board Meeting
Nov 20-23	EQUITANA Melbourne
Dec 3	International Day for People with a Disability
Dec 5	RDAA Board Meeting
Dec 5	International Volunteers Day
Dec 12	RDA National Office Close

RDA NATIONAL COACHES WORKSHOP 2014

Registrations close Friday 5th September – don't miss out!

19-22 September

Marcus Oldham College

Geelong, Victoria

For information and registration forms, visit the [RDAA website](#)

RDA NATIONAL VOLUNTEER AWARDS

October 31: Volunteer Awards Dinner

Morphettville Junction

South Australia

For information and booking forms, visit the [RDAA website](#)

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

Spotlight.

Next issue: 17 October 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



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