



NATIONAL SPOTLIGHT

AUGUST 2012

[A Publication from RDA Australia Ltd](#)

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

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

EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORT



Look out this month for the Promectin Mini advertising featuring the RDA logo in

Australian Performance Horse magazine and the August issue of Horse Deals. I was very excited standing in my local newsagency checking out our first major advertising opportunity with the new RDA logo. Tamworth International Eventing had their first event at AELEC last weekend and the event also featured a sponsored jump by Jurox promoting the Promectin Mini (see photo below) and included the RDA logo.



The first orders of Promectin Plus Mini Allwormer for Horses and for Foals and Ponies were shipped to major distributors at the beginning of August. We will soon start to see the Promectin Mini products in Horseland stores and many other outlets along with posters, banners and display units all featuring the distinctive RDA logo and message of support from Jurox Limited with their promise to donate 10 cents from every tube sold to RDA Australia.

Last month Jurox provided RDA with 300 tubes of Promectin Plus wormers which are now on their way to State Offices to be distributed among RDA centres. A further 700 tubes of the new Promectin Plus Mini Allwormer will be coming soon. With an estimated 1000 horses managed at RDA Centres across Australia,

it is anticipated that through this generous offer, all RDA horses will receive one free worming this year, saving RDA an estimated \$17,000 this year in horse care costs.

RDA Australia also welcomed Dr. Brad O'Hagan, Veterinarian with Jurox who presented at the National Coaching Workshop, Geelong, in July. Brad brought lots of great giveaways and presented on horse health and getting the most out of your veterinarian. It was a great opportunity for Brad to update coaches on the new Promectin Mini products.

I invite you to all join in this wonderful sponsorship opportunity and support the Promectin Plus products. You can join the Jurox Healthy Horses Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/HealthyHorses> for up to date news on horse health and visit the Promectin Plus Mini website for news about this exciting product.

<http://www.promectinplusmini.com/>

*Karen Aspery
National Executive Officer*

VOLUNTEER MATCH OPPORTUNITY



VolunteerMatch is a free service through Pro Bono Australia and a fantastic way to recruit help for all aspects of your organisation. Volunteer positions in a range of skills areas, including treasurers, can be posted on VolunteerMatch. If there are any positions you need volunteers to fill that you would like to advertise through Pro Bono, visit the Pro Bono [website](#). There are some required fields that need to be filled in when posting a volunteer position such as: the time required, duration of project and contact details.

COACHING REPORT

The National Coaches Workshop at Marcus Oldham College in Geelong at the end of June was a huge success! 118 coaches from 7 States and Territories attended. The cold, wet weather didn't dampen spirits as coaches learnt about therapeutic riding, teaching basic riding and dressage with Mary Longden, various disability workshops, saddle-fitting and rope halter tying to name a few.

The highlight was the 3 course "Mad Hatters" dinner with lots of people making the effort to decorate an old riding helmet with prizes generously donated by Wintec.



Meg Wade was the guest speaker for the evening. She was one of the world's top endurance riders and suffered an acquired brain injury through a riding accident two years ago. After extensive rehabilitation she returned to riding through RDA Victoria. Her story was aired on ABC's Landline late last year. The room was silent as everyone hung on her every word – she is truly an inspiration and received a resounding standing ovation! (There was hardly a dry eye in the house!).



RDA is now very busy organising the National Championships, taking place at Werribee, Victoria, October 3-5. The competition is open to all riding levels and covers 5 disciplines-Dressage, Prix-Caprioli (dressage over jumps), Jumping, Vaulting and Trec (similar to handy pony or Western Trails). This is the first multi-discipline competition of its kind nationally. RDA Victoria is kindly sourcing a pool of horses for riders too far away to bring their own. For further information please contact your State Office or RDA Australia.

*Sharon Nichols
National Coaching Coordinator*

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

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 Caprioli, Showjumping, Vaulting and Le Trek.

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).

Contact Sharon Nichols – coaching@rda.org.au for more information about the competition.

We are also looking for volunteers keen to lend a hand throughout the competitions. If you are interested, please contact Theresa Moore – admin@rda.org.au or Pauline Perry – p.perry@bigpond.net.au



STOP PRESS: We have just received word that Wintec have donated items for prizes and gift packs! Thank you!

SYMPATHY

We are sad to hear about the passing of Pat Haydon on Saturday 28 July 2012. Pat is remembered as a long term valued volunteer at the Templestowe RDA group in the early days of RDA Victoria. Pat worked tirelessly and took great care of the horses. She is fondly remembered by RDA Board Secretary, Norma Pearce. Her daughter Sue Harris went on to ride at the Paralympics and filled the role as National Coaching Coordinator with RDA Australia for several years. Our best wishes go out to Sue and her family.

NEW ZEALAND RDA VISIT



In May, Karen Aspery and Theresa Moore travelled to Wellington, NZ to represent RDA Australia at NZ RDA's Presidents Day, 50th Anniversary Dinner and AGM. It was a great opportunity to meet more of their staff and volunteers and continue to build the relationship between the two countries, started when Guy Ockenden (NZ RDA CEO) attended the RDAA Strategic Planning Weekend and AGM in Toowoomba in December 2011.

Karen delivered a presentation at the President's Day on Saturday about RDA in Australia which generated much interest and enquiries from volunteers about visiting to see some of our centres in action. Karen also presented Guy Ockenden with a plaque on behalf of RDA Australia commemorating their 50th Anniversary which they were also celebrating over the weekend.



Theresa Moore and Karen Aspery presenting Guy Ockenden with Anniversary plaque
(photo courtesy of NZ RDA)

The Anniversary Dinner, held on the Saturday night, was a great celebration with presentations made to volunteers, centres and horses! The highlight of the evening was Leigh Campbell's speech about the very beginning of RDA in New Zealand. Leigh is the daughter of Tom Aitchison who was instrumental in the forming of the first centre in New Zealand.



Theresa Moore and Karen Aspery at NZ RDA 50th Anniversary Dinner
(photo courtesy NZ RDA)

Following the weekend of meetings, Guy took Karen and Theresa to visit the Hutt Valley Group to see a lesson taking place. The facilities at Hutt Valley were fantastic with an Indoor Arena, admin office, kitchen and board room all in one complex. They were also able to visit the Wellington Group, an incredibly picturesque location on such a beautiful sunny day, and meet two coaches. Discussions have begun about the possibility of sending coaches to workshops and riders to competitions across the Tasman!



The amazing backdrop to Wellington Group
Thank you to NZ RDA for inviting RDAA to attend and we are hoping to see another NZ RDA delegate visit Australia for our AGM on October 20.

CHANGES TO RDAA STAFF

There will be a few changes in the RDA Australia office from 3 September.

Administration Assistant, Stacey Murray, is going to be having a baby soon with her last day being Thursday August 30. Though we will miss Stacey in the office, we wish her all the best as she becomes a new mother.

In order to cover the Stacey's absence in the office, Office Manager, Theresa Moore, will now be full-time in the office.

NATIONAL VOLUNTEER AWARDS

19 October 2012

Nominations from states to National office are due at the end of August.

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

Please note: The Awards Dinner has been moved from November 3 to October 19. The dinner will be held at Morphettville Junction in Adelaide.

Tickets will soon be on sale from the RDA Australia office. Please contact Theresa – admin@rda.org.au – if you would like more details about the event.

MARY LONGDEN

Check out the latest edition of Horse Deals for a two page article by Mary Longden '10 Steps to Success: Riding Your First Preliminary Dressage Test'.

You can also see a picture of the article on our Facebook Page.

*Keep turning the pages in Horse Deals to see the one page ad about Promectin Plus too!

PARALYMPICS HERO MESSAGES

The Paralympics in London start in two weeks! Good luck to all our Australian athletes, in particular the Para-Equestrians. Check out our Facebook Page for a photo from Equestrian Australia of the Para-Equestrian team heading off for England!

Don't forget to send our Paralympians a Hero Message! <https://heromessage.telstra.com/olympics/>



STATE NEWS

RDA NT:

ALICE SPRINGS COACHING VACANCY

This very busy & personalised Riding for the Disabled Centre is seeking an outstanding new coach to join our small & enthusiastic team servicing the Alice Springs and surrounding Central Australian areas in providing horse riding and horse husbandry lessons to participants, training and organisation of volunteers, and the maintenance of RDA horses and equipment to a variety of clients.

Qualifications & Experience Pre-requisites

- Level 1 NCAS, RDA Coaching Qualifications
Minimum 6 months coaching.
- Experience with coaching all ages & working with beginners through to a more advanced level.
- Confident and Capable rider preferred.
- Current First Aid Certificate or willing to obtain.

Only applicants with a clean record in all aspects of working with children will be considered.

Applicants must be willing to undergo a police check. References will be required

Job Description: To work with other members of the team in providing consummate & personalised coaching services for private and group lessons for children & adults of all standards as well as associated riding & administration activities – all to the highest of industry and professional standards.

Applications - If you are interested in applying for this position please send your application and current resume to rdaalicesprings@bigpond.com or call Karen Eva Stirk on 0418 853 898 during business hours for more information.

Diary Dates

Aug 25	RDA TAS AGM
Aug 29 – Sept 9	London Paralympic Games
Aug 31	Volunteer Award Nominations due to RDA National Office
Sept 2	RDA ACT Games Day
Sept 8	RDA WA Healthways State Games
Sept 16	RDA SA State Dressage Championships
Sept 19	RDAA Board Meeting
Sept 29-30	RDA VIC State Championships
Oct 3-5	National Championships, Werribee Park, Victoria
Oct 5-7	RDA V Family Fun Camp
Oct 6-7	RDA WA Healthways State Vaulting Championships
Oct 7	RDA in the Top End AGM
Oct 17	RDAA Board Meeting
Oct 19	RDAA National Volunteer Awards
Oct 20	RDAA Forum and AGM
Oct 27	RDA SA Centres Forum
Nov 6	Melbourne Cup
Nov 15-18	EQUITANA Melbourne
Nov 21	RDAA Board Meeting
Nov 23-25	Adelaide International Horse Trials
Dec 1	RDA SA Anniversary Race Day
Dec 3	International Day for People with Disabilities
Dec 5	International Volunteers Day
Dec 19	RDAA Board Meeting
Dec 21	RDAA Office Closes

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

Next issue: 25 October 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



RDA CONTACT DETAILS

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