

A Publication from RDA Australia Ltd

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

FILM TICKETS – 'BUCK'



Madman Entertainment have offered RDA 10 complimentary double passes to see the film 'Buck', released nationally in cinemas today (excluding WA).

"Your horse is a mirror to your soul, and sometimes you may not like what you see. Sometimes, you will." So says Buck Brannaman, a true American cowboy and sage on horseback who travels the country for nine gruelling months a year helping horses with people problems.

BUCK, a richly textured and visually stunning film, follows Brannaman from his abusive childhood to his phenomenally successful approach to horses. A real-life "horse-whisperer", he eschews the violence of his upbringing and teaches people to communicate with their horses through leadership and sensitivity, not punishment.

Buck possesses near magical abilities as he dramatically transforms horses – and people – with his understanding, compassion and respect. In this film, the animal-human relationship becomes a metaphor for facing the daily challenges of life. A truly inspirational story about an unsung hero, BUCK is about an ordinary man who has made an extraordinary life despite tremendous odds.

If you would like a pass be one of the first 10 people to contact the RDA Australia Office on (08) 8364 4444 or admin@rda.org.au.

For more information about the movie, please go to www.buckthemovie.com.au

Diary Dates

Feb 24	RDA VIC Coach and Volunteer Autism Workshop (Flemington)
Feb 26	RDA Q AGM
Feb 19	Lungeing Workshop (SA)
Mar 4	Lungeing Workshop (SA)
Mar 21	RDAA Board Meeting
Mar 24	RDA SA Centres' Forum
Mar 30	QLD, VIC Term 1 end
April 1	RDA WA 40th Anniversary Garden Party
April 5	NT, SA, WA Term 1 end
Apr 5-9	RDA WA State Hippotherapy Workshop
April 6-9	Easter Long Weekend
Apr 10	QLD Term 2 start
April 13	ACT Term 1 end
April 14-15	RDA SA State Coaches Workshop
Apr 15	TAS Easter break end
April 15-21	National Volunteer Week
April 16	NT, VIC Term 2 start
April 18	RDAA Board Meeting
April 23	SA, WA Term 2 start
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)
April 30	ACT Term 2 start
May 5-6	RDA National Delegates Meeting, Melbourne
May 12-13	Special Olympics Invitational Games (SA)
May 15	RDA SA AGM
May 16	RDAA Board Meeting
May 19	NZ RDA 50 th Anniversary Dinner
June 20	RDAA Board Meeting
June 25-27	RDA NT Hippotherapy Workshop
June 30-July 2	RDAA National Coaching Workshop, Marcus Oldham College, Geelong,

INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS, ATHENS



XIV
Congress of
Therapeutic Horse Riding

Athens, Greece / 24-27 April 2012

The International Therapeutic Congress for 2012 will be held in Athens, Greece. Pre congress workshops will be held on 24 April with the Congress being held 25-27 April.

Please visit www.frdi-athens2012.gr for all the information about the program, abstracts, costs, venues and much more!

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Thanks for the regular RDA "National Spotlight" which I have received via email for several years from contact I made at an Equitana show in Melbourne. I read the newsletters with interest as I have Post-Polio (secondary issues from contracting polio many years ago) and now ride a quiet horse at walking pace, but not at a RDA centre as I prefer longer bush rides. I am also passionate about Australian wild horses - Brumbies and involved with the Australian Brumby Alliance

www.australianbrumbyalliance.org.au

I am emailing you after reading SA's Spotlight article on their HERO fund and my hope to spread the word about how Brumbies caught in the wild, gentled and rehomed make such great riding horses, for many areas like trail rides, show jumping, cattle handling, dressage & RDA horses (Leslie in NT has told me of her positive Brumby experiences).

If you are interested in this Brumby program, please contact your state coaching coordinator who will have more details for you.

CHRISTMAS DONATION TO RDA!



Towards the end of last year, staff at IER decided that in lieu of buying cards and gifts for their clients for Christmas they wanted to donate the money they would otherwise

spend to a worthy cause. IER very generously decided to donate \$1000 to Riding for the Disabled Association in Australia and \$1000 to the New Zealand Riding for the Disabled Association.

You can visit IER's website www.ier.com.au. They will soon have an article on their website about RDA under the 'Community' menu option.

'MORE THAN HORSEPLAY'

Visit <http://www.rda.org.au/hippotherapy-stories.aspx> to watch the amazing documentary on the RDA research project conducted by RDA Victoria in conjunction with Deacon University and the Royal Children's Hospital about the positive effects of horse riding on children with Cerebral Palsy. The documentary was made in conjunction with RDA Victoria and features Rikki Raadveld and Barb Heine along with many other volunteers.

CENTRE VISIT

Recently married Stacey Murray (nee Seal), Administration Assistant for RDA Australia, visited RDA Northern Area centre in SA. It was Stacey's first look at a centre and it made quite an impression. Stacey says:

It was quite amazing - blew me away a bit. I got to walk along-side a little boy who is visually impaired - he was so tactile and happy. Really lovely experience - and amazing to see everything that goes on in the centre. A great deal is involved!

2012 VOLUNTEER AWARDS

This lovely letter was sent in from one of the 2012 National Volunteer Award Winners, expressing their gratitude for being honoured with the award.

I did not make any speech as all the sentiments I had prepared had been stated by the two previous award winners.

Nevertheless I am immensely flattered and grateful to have been given this honour. There are so many deserving volunteers working tirelessly with RDA across Australia, that I feel that the award is a recognition of all of us who give service in an organisation which can only operate with the efforts of volunteers. So it is an award in which all volunteers share.

To be singled out is a humbling experience and an honour which has never been sought.

... The welcome and hospitality we were given made it a weekend to be remembered and cherished



COACHING REPORT

Coaching registrations are flowing in and RDA is hearing good reports about coaching around the country from the phone calls and letters attached to the forms.

Several more applications for the Autism Grant have been received for this next round and the ideas and programs sound exciting. Applications for this round are open until March 8. The Workshop in Victoria sold out fast with coaches from across the country buying tickets to attend. This tells us that you want more training about Autism and Disabilities and a major focus of the National Coaching Workshop will be in this area.

The National Coaches Workshop will be held June 30 – July 2 2012 and Marcus Oldham College, Geelong, Victoria. Please set aside these dates now.

Registration forms will be available in March on our website: www.rda.org.au

Karen Aspery

STATE NEWS

RDA QLD:

The RDAQ AGM will be held on Sunday 26th February 2012 at Gillespie Grove, Shaftesbury Campus, commencing at 9.30am. Morning tea and light lunch will be included. Please contact Jan at the RDAQ office on (07) 3888 5277 or admin@rdaq.org.au for more information or to register.

RDA TAS:

On Christmas Eve 5 RDA St Helens volunteers, 2 riders and 2 ponies gathered at the Foreshore to participate in the Annual X-mass Parade through the Street of St Helens.

After an hours anxious wait we got under way. To reduce the impact on the ponies we were positioned at the end in front of Santa, hindsight is a wonderful thing. In front of us were the Surf Life Saving group with huge water pistols and of course Santa behind us throwing lollies out to all the kids. We were either sprayed with water or having to watch for the throng of children swarming around Santa behind us. Lucky it was a warm evening and the water was welcomed and Dougan thoroughly enjoyed his caramels from Santa.

Our riders did an amazing job, Ashleigh was by far the loudest voice singing out Merry Christmas and Harley sang Rudolph the red nosed Reindeer through the whole parade. The horses were truly put to the test and came through with shining colours. They only left 1 deposit, thankyou Donna for the clean-up. We won \$50 and all had a great time. Thank you to Eliza Hudson Sparkles owner who came to help.



RDA VIC:

Attached is a photo from the Australia Day parade. Its not great quality (but looks better if you download it) - Mark was using his I phone. The parade went well - we had lost of interest from the public - Edwina as Smiley had her photo taken lots of times with parade spectators and Jenny's two miniature ponies were a great attention grabber. Peanuts was a little stressed by the Chinese dragons and Samoan drums but their size meant Jenny and the two Peninsula helpers (Hamish and his mum) were able to keep them under control. Well worth doing - getting the RDA name out in the public.

Thanks to Ariella for organising it at short notice - and also to Edwina and her younger daughter - Indie (Indie helped Ariella carry the banner)



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

Next issue: 19 April 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
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