

## RDAA CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

I would like to wish a happy and peaceful New Year to all our wonderful members, volunteers, supporters and funders. It's been a great start to the 2010 with plenty of exciting news. RDAA was particularly thrilled to hear about the public recognition of Barb Heine's great work for RDA with the Australia Day OAM Award.

Over Christmas and New Year period, RDAA Board Members and Office staff continued to deal with the multitude of tasks required to manage the National Body, including the everyday items of correspondence, accounts, communication with Stakeholders, planning of ensuing events, governance and general enquiries maintain a busy schedule for a team of hard working people. The RDAA Board is currently focused on:

- Operational Strategic Planning for 2010
- Events Planning
- Company Meeting (23/24 April) to coincide with the 2010 Special Olympics in Adelaide
- Financial Management - including acknowledging the need for successful fundraising & getting new projects under way

I would especially like to mention the efforts being made by State Presidents to work with RDAA in planning strategies which can benefit the organisation as a whole. Thanks also go to Paul Grogan (Australian Sports Commission) advice on constitutional matters and strategic planning.

### 2010 DIARY DATES

Jan 13	Board Meeting Teleconference
Feb 17	Board Meeting Teleconference
Mar 17	RDAA AGM & Company Meeting
April 23/24	RDAA Board & State Presidents Meeting
May 19	Board Meeting Teleconference
June 16	Board Meeting Teleconference
July 21	Board Meeting Teleconference
Aug 21/22	RDAA Board & State Presidents Meeting
Sept 15	Board Meeting Teleconference
Oct 13	Board Meeting Teleconference
Nov TBA	Volunteer Awards Dinner
Nov TBA	RDAA AGM
Dec 15	Board Meeting Teleconference

## Barbara Heine Awarded OAM

Barbara Heine has been awarded the Medal (OAM), the Order of Australia for service to the community through her work with Hippotherapy - a Health Service Division of the Riding for the Disabled Association of Australia and to children and their families through her personal charity, the Kids and Families Foundation:

*"It's a lovely recognition, but you don't do it for any other reason than it's a passion."*

Barbara has been involved in Hippotherapy for 20 years in the USA since 1987, bringing it back



Photo: Courtesy of Matthew Furneaux (MacedonTelegraph)

Hippotherapy is a unique treatment approach to rehabilitation provided to children and adults with brain damage by specially trained physiotherapists, occupational therapists and speech language pathologists using equine movement. Barbara is the RDAA Chairwoman of the Hippotherapy Committee.

*"I've been a physio all my life and a horse person all my life," says Barb. "So it was like God had given me the gift of the perfect job. It was the most natural marriage for me of the two things I love and I love kids. I've seen it result in a wonderfully positive change in a child's ability to function. It didn't exist in Australia before then, so all the physios that practice here now I have trained."*

Barbara's goal is to one day have RDAA Hippotherapy Programs running in every state. The program is on hold in Victoria as Ms Heine has been battling a rare and aggressive lymphoma for 18 months. She continues to work with the Kids and Families Foundation she founded in 2003.

## National Office

The RDAA national office is staffed five days a week by our Administrator, Caroline Partridge. She is contactable by telephone on 03 9731 7388 or you can email Caroline at [admin@rda.org.au](mailto:admin@rda.org.au).

## COACHING UPDATE

### Coaching Report Feb. 2010

I hope everyone had an enjoyable and restful time over the Christmas break and have lots of enthusiasm and energy for the start of the 2010 RDA programs.

For all of us it is always full on at the beginning of a new year, training new volunteers, updating established volunteers, assessing riders / drivers and planning individual programs to suit.

**The following updates on works-in-progress and completed tasks are relevant to all coaches and will hopefully be of value to assist you with tools and information for your centre.**

#### ▪ Volunteer Training

By now you will all have received and be familiar with the new competency-based *Volunteer Training package*. Now is the time to train and tick off all volunteers, new and old with this system. It ensures consistency of standards and training and therefore easy for volunteers who move to another centre, interstate or otherwise to have documentation to show the areas in which they are accredited.

As you know the RDAA Volunteer Booklet is part of the package and is out of stock as it needs updating in some areas. However there is still relevant information in it for all volunteers and I would suggest that you use it for your new volunteers by giving them a photocopy. We will update as soon as possible and have the new one printed and loaded onto the new secure online Coaches Portal. I will keep you informed of the progress. This package is available from your state office or from the RDAA website's new coach's portal coming shortly.

#### ▪ Re-accreditation of OTC and Level 1 Syllabi

A couple of us are working very hard to update this coach education material in conjunction with the ASC sports consultant and in line with the decisions made at the Course Review and Assessment Workshop in November last year. We are nearly there. In the meantime the current OTC and Level 1 are still to be used and you will be able to finish your accreditation with these documents.

#### ▪ Level 1 Manual

All the modules have been written and we are just waiting on the people who are reviewing it before

it can be formatted and printed in line with the amended Level 1 syllabus.

#### ▪ Implementation of Decisions from the Course Review and Assessment Workshop in Nov 2009

As part of this workshop there was a review of the current procedures and qualifications for Coach Educators and Assessors and in line with accepted current practice there was complete agreement on some changes to the pre-requisites and updating for these roles. There will need to be a formal roll-out later this year and in the meantime the current procedures are still in place.

#### ▪ Level One Pole Work

The above has been completed and is available from your state office and shortly from the RDAA website coach's portal. They consist of:

- Level 1 Pole Work Module 12 for Workbook and the Manual which will be incorporated into the new Level 1 Workbook and Manual
- Stand alone Pole Work, Workbook and the Manual. This is for Level One coaches who want to teach pole work or for OTC coaches who have the experience to do this module.
- Competency Assessment form for Level 1 Pole Work

#### ▪ Level 2 Jumping Modules

The above has been completed and is available from your state office and shortly from the RDAA website coach's portal. They consist of:

- Level 2 Jumping to replace Module 6.3 and 6.4 in your Level 2 Workbook
- Level 2 stand alone Jumping Workbook (same as above) and Manual. The prerequisite for doing this stand alone module is to hold a Level 1 Pole Work accreditation.
- Competency assessment form for Level 2 Jumping.

#### ▪ RDAA Workshop

**We hope to confirm in the near future that there will be a national work shop held at Marcus Oldham College in Victoria on 2-5 July 2010.**

The draft content (TBC) for the workshop will be:

- The introduction and roll out of the updated OTC and Level 1 syllabi.
- A Presenters course which will be a pre-requisite for assessors and coach educators.
- A presentation and opportunity to be assessed for the Level 1 Pole Work Module and Level 2 Jumping.

## ▪ Horse Forms

There has been general agreement on a generic set of RDAA horse forms which can be used by all states and added to as necessary taking into account weather conditions and other requirements within each state.

These will be distributed in March 2010. There again the advantage of consistency between states is recognised and acknowledged by all.

Good Coaching!

*Pauline Perry*

Chair

RDAA Program Delivery

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## CALLING ALL COACHES!

### URGENT PRODUCT RECALL OF DUBLIN ONYX HELMET

The manufacturer of Dublin Onyx helmets wishes to voluntarily recall all *Black or White basic Dublin Onyx Helmets* for inspection due to a possible manufacturing fault.

The outer shell is coming away from the foam inner mould due to insufficient gluing at point of manufacture. This problem affects only the basic Dublin Onyx Helmet in Black & White (Item codes: 441218 – 441241) and does not affect Purple Onyx helmets, wick lined or leather harness versions.

The problem only affects stock made in China, not previous stock made in New Zealand. You can identify if your helmet was made in China by looking for the internal sewn in label with “*Made in China*” on the reverse side.

If you have purchased this item since 1 Dec 2009, please contact the store of purchase urgently to arrange inspection of your helmet.

Note to all gear check stewards:

It is recommended that for any forthcoming events, stewards ask each rider to read the recall notice and confirm they have checked their helmet accordingly before competing.

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[Source: [www.efanational.com](http://www.efanational.com) 19 Feb 2010]

## COACHES PORTAL LAUNCH!

The new secure online Coaches’ Portal developed with the assistance of each RDAA Head of Discipline and a generous grant from the Sydney Myer Foundation will launch on **8 March 2010!**

If you would like to know more about this exciting new program development then visit [www.rda.org.au](http://www.rda.org.au) and click on **Coaches Portal** Advert to watch the explanatory DVD. Make sure your speakers are turned up to listen to it...

All RDA Coaches must first sign up and then log on to access the online secure coaches’ portal. Coaches can update their details online at any time (only RDAA can update Coaches qualifications) and access coaching information 24/7.

There is a Q&A and FAQ’s section, coaches will be able to upload and download lesson plans, photos, DVDs and podcasts. But remember, the Coaches Portal will only be as good as the content that is provided by you the coaches.

For instructions how to sign up to the portal go to [www.rda.org.au](http://www.rda.org.au) on Monday 8 March; watch the **Coaches Portal** sign up explanatory DVD; then click on the Coaches **logo** to sign up. It’s as easy as that!

## RDAA 2010 COACHING WORKSHOPS

- **RDAA National Carriage Driving Workshop**  
26-28 March 2010, Bendigo, Victoria  
Should you require further information on this workshop contact Cathy [c.bantick@bigpond.com](mailto:c.bantick@bigpond.com)
- **National Coaching Workshop**  
Tentative booking at Marcus Oldham College in Victoria on 2-5 July 2010

## STATE NEWS UPDATES

### RDASA

Special Olympics Australia IX 2010 National Games, the sporting competition for athletes with an intellectual disability, will take place in Adelaide, South Australia on 19 – 24 April 2010.

Riding for the Disabled SA is pleased to present the demonstration sport for the Special Olympics Australia IX 2010 National Games. RDA will have 26 athletes from QLD, WA, NSW, VIC and SA competing in four equestrian events:



- English Equitation
- Prix Caprilli (Dressage over poles)
- Texas Barre
- Working Trails

Equestrian events will take place over 3 days and athletes will participate in Opening and Closing Ceremonies and special event dinners.

For further information on this exciting event please go to the Special Olympics website:  
[www.specialolympics.com.au](http://www.specialolympics.com.au)

### **RDAWA**

The RDAWA State Vaulting Championships were held on 28<sup>th</sup> - 29<sup>th</sup> November 2009 at the beautiful Brookleigh Estate in the Swan Valley, WA.

RDAWA spotlight focuses on two wonderful boys who represented their teams during the two day spectacular. Daniel, pictured below represented Ripplebrook RDA Integrated Riding Group on barrel and horse vaulting events.

This was Ripplebrook's first year at providing an integrated vaulting program at their centre. Their coach Kay, also learning vaulting and gaining her lunging for vaulting accreditation earlier in the year, entered her team in the championships. Her hard work resulted in the team winning the champion team trophy with the most points scored; averaged by team numbers, for the competition.

Daniel contributed to his teams' success with a place in compulsory and pas de deux classes.



Daniel with pas de deux partner Abbey

It was obvious to all who attended the two day event that Daniel thoroughly enjoyed his first championship experience and that his team mates loved his inclusion.

Curtis was another young man who entertained the audience at the championships, pictured on 'Monty'.

This was Curtis' second year as a member of the South West Vaulting Team from Bunbury, and his second year at competing at the RDAWA State Vaulting Championships.

Like Daniel, Curtis is a valued member of his team. This year Curtis competed in a novelty team class on the barrel.



(Photographs: Courtesy of Duncan Pratt)

The SW Team chose a Spanish theme and Curtis performed vaulting exercises whilst pretending to be a bull in a fighting ring with a team mate as a matador.

Curtis is a valued member of the SW Team, who enjoys the variation of activities that vaulting offers, particularly the warm up games & working with the vaulting horse 'Monty'. He is aware of the importance of being gentle in his movement on 'Monty' is often observed giving 'Monty' a rewarding pat during his practise routines. Curtis participated in the making of the RDA vaulting DVD 'Coaching Vaulting in RDA Centres', soon to be available.

The spotlight will be on WA on 27/28 Nov 2010 when the RDAWA State Vaulting Championships will be held once again at the Brookleigh Estate.

### **RDANT**

RDA in the Top End is the proud recipient of 2 great awards. RDA in the Top End was nominated and has won the Local Government *Australia Day Award for the Community Event of the Year*. Courtney Blackwell, one of our Level 1 Coaches, won 'Young Citizen of the Year' for all the work she does at RDA IN THE TOP END.

RDA in the Top End has spent over \$450,000.00 on the centre over the past 4 months in Stage 1 of a major renovation program. Stage 2 will start in the dry season. It has also had enormous media coverage, with articles in the paper and regular spots on TV. There are 12 x 3 minute spots being shown throughout the Territory on RDA in the TOP END and our renovations. These will be compiled to create a one hour program that will be aired sometime in the middle of 2010. Watch this space!

## RDAQ

Long before the 'natural horsemanship' craze, horse trainer Franklin Levinson was teaching and training both horses and their owners using his own gentle, effective methods.



Now, with 40+ years experience as a professional horseman, Franklin is sharing his knowledge with groups and individuals around the world.

Franklin Levinson will hold a 4 day Foundation Clinic on Equine Facilitated Learning (EFL) at the McIntyre RDA Centres in Brisbane, on 8-11 Mar 2010. See Franklin do his magic work facilitating horses and children with special needs. To book your place at this event, please contact Cathy at [flevinson@yahoo.com.au](mailto:flevinson@yahoo.com.au). Hurry places are limited.

*'I have been going to Australia annually for many years. My travels there take me to VIC, QLD, the Gold Coast and other areas. During my last 2 trips I presented a number of Equine Facilitated Learning (EFL) demonstrations at RDA Centres in several states along with several 5-day courses teaching and explaining the EFL process. My brand of gentle, effective horsemanship (Beyond Natural Horsemanship Seminars) was also very well received.'*

Franklin will also talk on the effects of EFL (organised by Harmony Hooves Healing Heart in conjunction with Autism Gold Coast Inc.). All proceeds of event will go to Autism Gold Coast on 5 March 2010 at 5-8pm at 27 Josephine Terrace, Highland Park. Contact Jodie on 0418147399 or [info@harmonynatureretreat.com.au](mailto:info@harmonynatureretreat.com.au)



Franklin will be in Australia in Jan-Mar 2010. He is scheduled to hold clinics in NSW, VIC, QLD & ACT. To find out more about Franklin's work visit: [www.wayofthehorse.org](http://www.wayofthehorse.org).

## RIDEABILITY VIC

Congratulations go to Will Heagney who won the Highest points Award at the Riding for the Disabled Ring at the 2010 Royal Melbourne Summer Horse Show. Mary Longden judged the event.



NATIONAL SPOTLIGHT #2010/1

Jan-Feb 2010

## - RDA News Round Up -

Has your State, Centre or RDA Discipline any good news stories it would like to share with the rest of RDA, our supporters & funders? Please email your stories and photos to [fundraising@rda.org.au](mailto:fundraising@rda.org.au).

## Para-Equestrian Sport Update



On 1 Jan 2009 Equestrian Australia (EA) assumed responsibility for managing the Para-Equestrian High Performance program. Information & news now available at [www.equestrian.org.au](http://www.equestrian.org.au)

Australia's first-ever International Para-Equestrian Event was a great success. The competition was held in conjunction with the Saddleworld Dressage Festival at Werribee Park National Equestrian Centre, VIC. 10-13 Dec 2009. This was first time that a Para-Equestrian Event (CPEDI3\*) was incorporated with a major Dressage event (CDI-W) in Australia.

*"Integration is a key strategy of the Para-Equestrian High Performance Program".*

Brett Mace EA High Performance Manager

*"The event really was what we had hoped for. Australian riders had some stiff competition from visitors, our Judging panel did a fantastic job and the integration of Para-Equestrian with the Dressage Festival was seamless. A very valuable experience for all concerned in the lead up to the World Games,"* Tracey Lesslie EA Para-Equestrian Sport Consultant and Event Director.

The event had an international jury of Judges headed by Hanneke Gerritsen (NED); including Anne Prain (FRA), Jan Geary (AUS), Marc Urban (BEL) and Wendy Barker (AUS).

*"The event was very good, it was well organised & a very good effort for the first time. There were some very good performances,"* said Hanneke who will Judge at the 2010 World Equestrian Games.

Australia won the Team Competition. Teams from New Zealand, Canada and Japan competed on borrowed horses, with the exception of two New Zealand riders who bought their own horses. The Australian team consisted of Sharon Jarvis (WA) & Nicole Kullen (NSW) who both competed for Australia at the 2008 Beijing Paralympics & team newcomers Kate Doughty (VIC) & Fleur Lister (WA)

- 1<sup>st</sup> Australia
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Canada
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Japan
- 4<sup>th</sup> New Zealand

The Para-Equestrian event was made possible with support from the Australian Sports Commission, the Australian Paralympic Committee and the Equestrian Australia High Performance Program.  
[EA Press Release Dec 2009]

### **Sally Francis New Chef d'Equipe for Australian Para-Equestrian Team**

Sally joins National Coach Julia Battams, Chair of Selectors Pauline Perry, Team Vet Janine Dwyer and Sport Representative Sharyn Gregory on the Para-Equestrian High Performance Panel.

*"We welcome Sally to the High Performance Program and look forward to benefiting from her many years of experience & expertise in not only Para-Equestrian sport, but Equestrian sport in general. Without a doubt, this experience & expertise will be invaluable as we prepare for the World Equestrian Games in Kentucky next year"* said High Performance Manager Brett Mace.

*"Sally played a pivotal role as Assistant Coach at the 2008 Paralympic Games & this appointment will be well received & welcomed by Australian Para-Equestrian riders."* said Mace.

Equestrian Australia (EA) established the Para-Equestrian High Performance Program in Jan 2010 in partnership with the Australian Paralympic Committee to prepare Australian Para-Equestrian teams for the Paralympics & World Equestrian Games. Para-Equestrian riders will compete at the 2011 World Equestrian Games for the first time in Kentucky, USA.

Equestrian Australia and RDA wish Sally and the Para Equestrian Team all the best as they prepare over the next 15 months for Kentucky.

### **PARA- EQUESTRIAN EVENT CALENDAR**

24-27 June 2010

2010 Para-Equestrian National Championships,  
Toowoomba QLD

16-18 July 2010 - **TBC**

2010 WEG Selection Event, SIEC, Horsley Park

[Source: EA]

### **FRDI UPDATE**



FRDI are currently exploring changes to its current name *The Federation of Riding for the Disabled International*.

At the recent FRDI Congress of Therapeutic Riding in Munster a debate was held about the word 'disabled' is now regarded as outdated and 'therapeutic riding' does not include all the activities our member organisations represent.

At the last International Council meeting it was decided to look for a new name. Here is the current list:

- *International Federation of Equine Facilitated Human Learning and Development (IFEHLD)*
- *International Federation of Horses for People (IFHP)*
- *International Federation of Providers of Equine Facilitated Opportunities for People (IFPEFOP)*
- *Providing Equine Facilitated Opportunities for People Worldwide (PEFOP Worldwide)*
- *International Federation Equine Facilitated Provision (IFEFP)*
- *Equine Facilitated Education Therapeutics Worldwide (EFET Worldwide)*
- *Equine Assisted Therapeutics and Education International (EATE International)*
- *The International Federation of Equine Assisted Therapy and Education (IFEATE)*
- *International Horse Power (IHP)*
- *International Association for Equine Assisted Treatment (IAFEAT)*
- *Working worldwide with Horses for People (WWHP)*
- *Horses Helping People Worldwide (HHPW)*
- *Harnessing Horse Power for People (HHPP)*
- *Horses for People (HFP)*
- *Horses in Education and Therapeutics International (HETI)*

What do you think? We appreciate your thoughts about what name captures the essence of our mission and we look forward to hearing from you.

If you have any suggestions please contact the FRDI Office at [office@frdi.net](mailto:office@frdi.net).

Thank you for your participation in this important step for the organisation.

## NEWS & OPPORTUNITIES

### Therapeutic Riding Intern Research Opportunity

Therapeutic horseback riding is used as a means of physical and psychological therapy for individuals with a very wide spread of developmental, neurological and behavioural disorders. While great strides have been made over the past 15 years, there is little evidence-based research in the field that supports therapeutic riding as a viable alternative therapy.

Samantha Case is a graduate university student in USA and is the granddaughter of Mary & Lyttleton Gould, founders of High Hopes Therapeutic Riding, Connecticut, one of the top riding centres in USA.

### Are you an RDA parent or do you know one?

Samantha is asking for RDA parents input for her current research project to *'help determine whether or not equine-assisted activities have any links with aggression and social competence in children with special needs'*.

Many NAHRA Accredited Centres (USA) and RDA UK Centres have already agreed to participate. Samantha would like include RDA Centres in Australia. She has already carried out a pilot survey with parents of participants of a therapeutic riding center in the United States in an attempt to determine whether or not equine-assisted activities had any links with aggression and social competence in children with special needs.

Her results, despite the small response, were phenomenal and have prompted her to continue this line of research. In Feb 2010, Samantha will be distributing a survey for **parents of children & adolescents 17 years of age and younger** to complete. This survey will be accessible as an [online form](#) and she will be asking parents worldwide to complete it. The survey will only take about 15 minutes to complete and no personally identifying information will be asked so that confidentiality is maintained.

Samantha's would like to receive 1,000+ responses from participating countries (i.e. Australia, UK and USA) and hopes that this study will produce evidence-based research to support passionate parents & professionals claims that equine assisted activity can assist children with special needs.

The more parents who participate in this international study the more powerful the

outcome. The online survey will be available in March 2010 at [www.rda.org.au](http://www.rda.org.au).

## SCHOLARSHIPS PROGRAMS/OPPORTUNITIES

### Fulbright Scholarship Programs to USA

Promoting and providing equal access for people with disabilities to U.S. Department of State's Fulbright scholarships to study, teach, conduct research or participate in other professional, cultural and educational activities internationally.

Currently, there are active Fulbright Programs in more than 155 countries in every region of the world. Fulbrighters take on a variety of roles and become active participants in the host community. They have a unique opportunity to make an impact on their host communities and share their experiences at home upon return. Fulbright projects span every major discipline and represent the cutting edge to the traditional. Up to five Professional Fulbright Scholarships are offered annually.

- Fulbright (General) Scholarship is open to all fields of study.
- Payment of A\$26,000, to cover travel and living expenses.

**NB:** Applications open on 1 June 2010 for 2011. For further information visit:

[www.fulbright.com.au/scholarships/australian/professional.html](http://www.fulbright.com.au/scholarships/australian/professional.html)

### Vodafone Foundation's World of Difference Program



Do you want to make the world of difference to RDA? Each year the Vodafone Foundation gives 5 Australians the incredible opportunity to work for the charity of their choice for one year. The Vodafone Foundation will cover the salary (up to \$50,000) and expenses (up to \$25,000).

Entries to Vodafone Foundation Australia's World of Difference program need to come from the individual, so get the message out to your RDA volunteers that you'd love to have working for you full-time. Closing dates for the 2010 program applications was 17 Feb 2010 - visit the website and find out when you can apply in 2011:

<http://vodafone.com.au/personal/aboutvodafone/worldofdifference/index.htm>

## SPECIAL INVITATION to all PETstock/RDAA Young Coaches and to their local RDA Centres

The PETstock Foundation has extended an invitation to all young coaches who participated in the 2009 PETstock/RDAA Young Coaches Program to liaise with its local PETstock Store.

At the end of 2009, young coach Nina Delzoppo from McIntyre RDA Centre, visited Indooroopilly PETstock Store in Brisbane to meet with



Manager Glen Hutchinson and his wife Rosanna to thank PETstock 'in person' for sponsoring her to attend the Young Coach Development Program.

Nina was accompanied by Denis Keates CEO McIntyre Centre.

The Indooroopilly PETstock Store now wants to link up with its local RDA Centre to raise local funds and awareness of the great work of RDA...

RDAA would like those young RDA Coaches and their Centre Chairs/Managers to visit their local PETstock Store to establish a similar relationship with local PETstock stores across Australia.

RDAA is currently in negotiation with PETstock Foundation to see if it would sponsor the 2010 Young Coach Development Program as the 2009 PETstock/RDAA Young Coach Development Program was such a fantastic success!

As a result of this intensive 4 day program our young coaches were able to complete and fast track their qualifications to the next level:

- 3 young coaches completed their **OTC Level**
- 8 young coaches completed their **Level 1**
- 2 young coaches working on their **Level 2**

So calling all young RDA coaches - go out and spread the good word to your local PETstock Stores about how important their support is to you as a young coach and to your local RDA Centre.

## HOT TIPS & STRATEGIES



### Fund Seeker

Fund Seeker is a fun way to find out how to save you time and make money! Fund Seeker Membership gives you everything you need to know about accessing funds - all in one place and costs \$25 a year. Membership allows you full benefits & access to \$\$\$'s worth of funding information and membership is Tax Deductible.

Fund Seeker e-Magazine is free to download *but* in order for a chance to enter competitions, give-aways and the monthly Encouragement Grant, you must become a Fund Seeker Member.

Members can win hundreds of dollars in prizes and have a chance to win \$1,000 Encouragement Grant - EVERY MONTH! Whether you are a coach, a member of your RDA Committee or helping out at your local RDA Centre; if you are a volunteer you can apply for the monthly \$1,000 cash Encouragement Grant.

To find out more go to: [www.fundseeker.com.au](http://www.fundseeker.com.au)

### Thanking your Donors

Your organisation's 'Thank You' letter is the most important communication that a donor receives:

- Only 4/10 donors say they always receive a 'thank-you letter after they make a donation', i.e. other 6/10 donors don't! (Burke, 2000, Donor-Centred Fundraising)
- 5/10 donors stop giving, or give less, because they feel, that their giving isn't appreciated (1997 National Survey of Giving, Volunteering & Participating Study)
- 2008 Bank of America Survey on 'why wealthy donors stop giving', the number one reason cited was because donors 'no longer feel connected to an organisation'; the same answer was given by 6/10 wealthy donors.

#### **Fundraising Tip!**

**Make sure you thank your donors – in writing!  
Audit and edit every 'Thank You' letter you send;  
preferably within 2-3days of receiving a donation.**



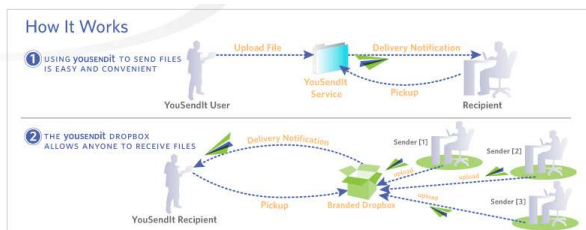
## Problems Sending Big Files



Email bouncing back because files are too big? Need to send or receive large files?

Let *YouSendIt* make sending or receiving large files as fast and easy as a mouse-click. No software or training needed.

YouSendIt sets up in minutes and takes even less time to learn! Use Sendit.com free service: [www.yousendit.com/cms/solutions-individuals](http://www.yousendit.com/cms/solutions-individuals)



## Flying with Disability

Flying with Disability is a website designed to provide impartial information & advice to people with a disability around the world who travel by air & to help make flying with a disability as easy as possible.



Flying with a disability need not create any hindrance to a journey. Many automatically assume that just because a person has a disability it will inevitably restrict their opportunity to travel around the world. This need not be the case. True, flying with a disability is slightly more complicated than for an able-bodied flier. Nevertheless, the majority of all airlines are now geared towards catering for disabled fliers.

It is hoped that 'Flying with Disability' will act not only as a comprehensive information resource for all disabled fliers, but also as an important forum for disabled fliers to share their experiences of flying to other disabled travellers. For further information on this great website visit: [www.flying-with-disability.org](http://www.flying-with-disability.org)

## Accessible Holidays - [www.disabilitytravel.com](http://www.disabilitytravel.com)

Accessible lifestyle vacations are for slow walkers, wheelchair travellers, their families and their friends. Travel services include:

- Vacation planning - Indiv/Group Tours/Cruises
- Licensed Travel Companions
- Disability Travel Resources

- Travel Tips

[www.disabilitytravel.com/accessible-travel-tips.htm](http://www.disabilitytravel.com/accessible-travel-tips.htm)

## Mobility International USA

Mobility International USA empowers people with disabilities around the world to achieve their human rights through international exchange and international development. Find out more at: [www.miusa.org](http://www.miusa.org)

## BOOKS

As a retired geriatrician, John Wright-Smith has switched from old bones to tickling funny bones as an author. His book of poems, *English is a Funny Language*, devotes a chapter to Bodily matters and the ditty "I'm a public patient" may hit a nerve among oldies and their families. Here's a snippet:

*Evening's meal at half-past four. When it comes, the quality's poor. It's cold, why don't they let it thaw. And they wonder why I lose weight?*

John donates all proceeds from his book to RDA and is already onto his next one his 'medical memoirs'. It should rattle a few trays. [Source: The Age 1 Feb 2010]

John has raised over **\$986** for RDA. If you would like to purchase a copy of John's entertaining book and help raise funds for RDA you can contact him on (03) 5967 3337.



Carol Martin has also written a book called 'Just Like Us: Parenting Children With Disabilities'. This book concentrated on the first steps - from diagnosis to school - was written mainly from her experience as mother of twin daughters with cerebral palsy and an intellectual disability.

Her next book will deal with what options there are for kids with disabilities in the sport and leisure areas including RDA. If you want to share your experiences of RDA with Carol please contact her at: [carol@carolmartin.net](mailto:carol@carolmartin.net) or, visit her website at: <http://kidswithdisabilities.net> to find out more.

## RDA AUSTRALIAN STORY

RDA Australia would love to record people's stories to highlight some of the achievements and the lives that have been touched and improved in the past 30 years through their connection to RDA.

In order to do this, we are asking for stories, photos and case studies from you, which we can publicise and include in a book or booklet, upload on to the website or download as a podcast.

Whatever your role or connection with RDA, it is likely that you can recall at least one incident or activity, or you have a comment that sums up your feelings for the organisation. Your stories will capture the essence and strength of RDA.

Please do not dismiss your story as not being of any interest to anyone. It may be ten words or two pages (preferably not more than that), and, if necessary, RDA will edit it to suit a particular use.

If you have a RDA story you would like to share with us, please email it to [fundraising@rda.org.au](mailto:fundraising@rda.org.au).

## **RDA VOLUNTEERS**

### **RDA Volunteers**

Each week 3000+ volunteers at RDA centres across Australia donate their time to assist 4000+ children and adults with disabilities enjoy the therapeutic benefits of horse related activities.

Many RDA centres have up to a 5 year waiting list for its services. RDA is only limited by the number of volunteers, coaches and horses it can provide.

If you would like to volunteer for RDA please visit our website [www.rda.org.au](http://www.rda.org.au) for information on how you can give our riders a leg up not a hand out.

### **What are real costs of Volunteering?**

Did you know that?

- On average, volunteers with net expenses are out-of-pocket by \$693 each year.
- 88% of volunteers have out-of-pocket expenses that are not reimbursed
- 1:10 volunteers has stopped or reduced their volunteering in the last year due to the cost?

Read the full story in Volunteering Australia's Report on the real costs of volunteering at:

[www.volunteeringaustralia.org/files/98E283PN6H/Costs%20of%20Volunteering%20Research%20Bulletin.pdf](http://www.volunteeringaustralia.org/files/98E283PN6H/Costs%20of%20Volunteering%20Research%20Bulletin.pdf)

Ways to recognise volunteers' efforts include rewards, training & accreditation and Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL).

## **Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)**



The Volunteering Australia RPL Toolkit has been designed to support volunteers/managers of volunteers learn about Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) as well as the process involved in attaining RPL for existing competency - knowledge and skill.

Working through the information and advice included in this toolkit will make the RPL process as effortless as possible for all: volunteers, volunteer-involving organisations and Registered Training Organisations (RTOs). This resource will take you through the steps required to:

- Understand what Recognition of Prior Learning is; its place within the Vocational Education & Training (VET) system;
- Understand what competency based learning is & why it's important;
- Gather the evidence required to have existing skills & knowledge recognised by RTOs through the RPL process;
- Understand the types of evidence which RTOs will accept as sufficient & convincing demonstration of existing competency.

### **Download the [RPL Toolkit](#)**

Source: Volunteering Australia  
[www.volunteeringaustralia.org](http://www.volunteeringaustralia.org)

## **The Good Samaritan Donkey Sanctuary Inc (GSDS)**



The Good Samaritan Donkey Sanctuary is a not for profit charity devoted to the welfare of donkeys by rescuing and caring for the abused and unwanted ones. It is Australia's original donkey refuge

with +37 years experience. It provides 7 days professional care and has saved many hundreds of these endearingly gentle animals from appalling conditions. If you want to find out more about this wonderful charity visit: [www.donkeyrescue.org.au](http://www.donkeyrescue.org.au).