



NATIONAL SPOTLIGHT

RDA CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Further National recognition for RDAA as a leading community organisation has recently been demonstrated by thirty major thoroughbred studs across Eastern States adding stallion nominations to the RDA Stallion Services Scheme. The Scheme involves services by thoroughbred stallions being offered and sold, to raise funds towards running the wonderful programmes of equestrian activities for people with disabilities, across Australia.

International Stud Darley, contributed with a \$10,000 donation, whilst studs in Victoria, NSW, S.A, Queensland & Tasmania, have offered services to a range of well known stallions. The scheme has been operating in WA for five years, supporting equestrian programs which enrich the lives of kids who respond so well to handling and riding horses.

The RDAA Board and State Presidents will meet in Brisbane on 21 - 22 August to discuss, make recommendations and workshop ideas for developing the strategies to progress the Organisation through the next 3 - 5 years. Major events approaching include the Melbourne Equitana in November, while further ahead the 2015 opportunity to host the World Congress of Therapeutic Riding. Other key agenda items will be better Governance, financial strategies and the Constitution.

RDAQ will host the meeting, to be held on Bribie Island, with guest presenters, Paul Grogan from the Australian Sports Commission, who will talk on Governance, Ray Shaw of Events Planners (the World Congress) and Dr Peta Wellstead, Research Fellow at Griffith University (the importance of University Partnerships).

Coaching Workshops have continued across the country at RDA venues, developing the skilled leaders who are so important to effective management of Centres, and supported by our major funding bodies, the Australian Sports Commission (ASC), the Ian Potter Foundation, the Myer Foundation and the PETstock Foundation.

Ross Goulden (RDAA Chair)

NATIONAL OFFICE NEWS

The RDAA national office has moved! New contact details for RDAA are as follows:

Riding for the Disabled Association of Australia Ltd
PO Box 280 Kent Town SA 5071
215 Portrush Road Maylands SA 5069

RDAA office is staffed by Theresa Moore who is contactable by phone on 08 8364 4444 or by email at admin@rda.org.au. RDAA website www.rda.org

Karen Aspery is staffing the National Coaching Coordinator position. Karen is currently the RDASA State Coaching & Volunteer Coordinator (4 days per week); Level 2 NCAS RDA Coach and National Assessor. She works for RDAA on Fridays and can be contacted by email at: kaspery@bigpond.net.au If you would like to speak to her please include your phone number. She will call on next Friday.

Pauline Perry (Chair of Program Delivery) will continue to assist the RDAA National Office and is currently working with the Australian Sports Commission to review the RDA Training Syllabi.

2010 DIARY DATES

Aug 21/22 RDAA Board & State Presidents Meeting
Sept 15 Board Meeting Teleconference
Oct 13 Board Meeting Teleconference
Nov 13 Volunteer Awards Dinner
Nov 14 RDAA AGM
Dec 15 Board Meeting Teleconference

NEW COACHES PORTAL

The new secure online Coaches' Portal developed with a generous grant from

The Sidney Myer Fund has been launched! Over **180** RDAA Coaches have registered their details to date. RDAA is encouraging all RDAA Coaches to sign up for this amazing free information service.

RDAA 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 and access coaching information 24/7. For instructions how to sign up to the portal go to www.rda.org.au watch the **Coaches Portal** sign up explanatory DVD; then click on the Coaches **logo** to sign up.



COACHING UPDATE JULY - AUGUST 2010

It has been a very active month for the RDAA Coaching Department with the delivery of many coaching programs and outcomes this month.

The National Coaching Workshop at the beginning of the month was attended by 87 participants over the three days. Feedback from the workshop has been fabulous.



Everyone enjoyed the delicious dinner on Saturday night and all dressed up for the theme of "Black Tie and Gumboots". Rick Beeby (Vic) was resplendent in his tails

and wellies, we had the Gumboot Marx Bros, many more glamorously decorated outfits and gumboots there was even a little "gumboot" handbag! The after dinner speaker was Andrew Mclean who as usual had us all enthralled.



Mary Longden & Sally Frances were as entertaining as usual with their practical presentation in the Indoor Arena teaching riders over poles and jumps.



The last day of the workshop included a valuable presentation on managing meltdowns and other behaviours with Cathy Prior followed by Dr. John Kohnke who had us in stitches about horses, what to look for when purchasing and "what-not-to-buy"!

Combined OTC and Level 1 Intensive Workshops were held in Western Australia and Queensland during the last 2 weeks. In WA, 7 participants completed their qualification with 5 more close to finishing. Jo Williams (presenter) comments about the workshop:

"The experience of having people together to study and learn was enormously appreciated – people feed off one another in such an environment, and having made the effort to set aside four days [which included travel time to the course and home again] everyone took every opportunity to carry on working – starting early, and working until dark!"

Great friendships were forged, and the laughter and fun was empowering for all."

In Queensland, it was a wet but similarly welcoming environment. The Cartmill Centre provided us with horses, riders, and plenty of food and hospitality! 8 participants completed their qualification and 3 more completed all practical activities and just need to submit their written work for marking to achieve their qualification. Jane (L2 Coach, Cartmill) commented about the workshop:

"A great presentation - appropriate, effective and relevant to the syllabus. If we are to have enough coaches for RDA to continue and grow we need more of exactly what you have provided. Cartmill trainees thank you for the kick along you've provided to allow more people with disabilities to enjoy equestrian activities."

RDAA 2010 COACHING WORKSHOPS

- **RDAA Carriage Driving Workshop**, VIC, 14 - 15 August 2010
- **Level 2 National Coach Training Intensive Workshop**, SA, 27 Aug - 1 Sept 2010
- **RDAA National Dressage Video Competition** is now open! Closing date for entries 5 Oct 2010. Results announced 1 Dec 2010. For entry forms and further details visit www.rda.org.au.

Other exciting news from the RDAA Coaching Department is the release of the newly completed **Level 1 Coaching Manual**. This completion of this manual has been on the Coaching Department agenda since 2005 and will complement the current Level 1 Coaching Workbook. The NEW manual is being made available at no cost to RDA State Office with the permission that the material can be photo copied and sent to all L 1 Coaches & current Trainees. I would recommend all current L1 coaches have a copy of this manual. Please be aware that the formatting was done in a hurry and there may still be some typos in a couple of the chapters. Much of the material in this manual will be used as a draft for the new manuals we are creating for the updated coach education system. Anyone ordering a Level 1 Coaching manual from now on will include the manual and workbook (costs increased to cover printing charges only).

What's happening next month?

Pauline and I will continue in our efforts to present the new, updated coach education system to the

ASC and will finalise our work on the syllabus for Carriage Driving and Vaulting.

We are also starting work on a Policy Manual for Coaching and hope to meet with State representatives from all Disciplines in the next few months to gain feedback on these policies.

[Karen Aspery](#) Acting RDAA Coaching Coordinator
[Pauline Perry](#) RDAA Chair Coaching Programs

ASC NEWS UPDATE



ASC launches 'Play for Life...join a sporting club' a campaign to encourage Kids to get Active!

Thousands of Australian children are participating in 150 'Try a Sport' gala days as part of a national campaign 'Play for Life...join a sporting club', launched by ASC in Marysville, VIC., 21 July. The campaign aims to educate and promote greater awareness about the *benefits of good health, getting physically active and learning life skills.*

More than 150 events are being held in schools across Australia to highlight the variety of activities offered by Australian sporting clubs and how these activities contribute to the healthy growth of Australian children and teach valuable life skills.

ASC CEO Matt Miller said the national campaign aims to encourage one million Australian children (37% children aged 5-14) who do not participate in any organised sport to get physically active.

'The key is to find a sport that your child enjoys. There are so many options available today - bowls, archery, golf, handball - to the more traditional sports we associate with children such as cricket, tennis, football and netball.' Matt Miller

'Playing club sports while growing up gave me a strong grounding in skills that are important to me today—like discipline, time management, team work, goal setting, motivation, respect and good sportsmanship. These are the qualities we all value in our peers, our work colleagues and our friends.'
Johanna Griggs Campaign Ambassador

Research shows there are strong links between playing a sport and maintaining good health and wellbeing. Dr Andrew Pesce, President of the Australian Medical Association, said that children benefit from physical activity, especially in terms of their cognitive development, coordination, confidence and self esteem.

'Providing opportunities for children to play sport can establish life-long positive attitudes towards physical activity. These attitudes will be crucial if Australia is to tackle its increasing levels of obesity and chronic disease.' Dr Pesce

The campaign is a joint initiative of the ASC and State and Territory Departments of Sport and Recreation. ASC is a major sponsor of RDA which provides sports and recreational equine-related activities that are particularly important for people with disabilities who may have mobility and access challenges.

'RDAA develops ability & enriches lives through specialised programs & relationships with horses'

STATE NEWS UPDATES

RDASA

Winter Care for Older Horses

Horse SA and Meadows Vet Clinic presented a talk last month on caring for old horses and old dogs through winter. A great resource for RDA Centres, this presentation can be downloaded and printed from the Horse SA website. Follow the link below www.horsesa.asn.au/zeolite/zsection/12

Thanks to Kate Howie, Mt Barker for sharing this useful information with all RDA centres.

Autism Workshop

Sue Larkey, renowned Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) specialist is holding an ASD workshop in Adelaide at Hindmarsh on 10 August, 2010. See website www.suelarkey.com for more information and registration forms.

RDASA STATE DRESSAGE CHAMPIONSHIPS

19 September 2010, Mallala Equestrian Centre

Entry forms for the State Dressage Championships have been sent to centres this week and can be downloaded from www.rdas.org.au under Events.

Entries close 3 September 2010.

RDAQ

\$40,000 was successfully raised for RDA at the 2010 State of Origin Lunch held at the XXXX Brewery in Milton on Friday 11 June, 2010.



[Mark Torrens, VP & Lyn Crichton, President RDAQ](#) receive a cheque for \$40,000 from [Bill Webb, CEO Lion-Nathan](#) (right)

The RDAQ State Management Board has pledged that some of the funds received will go towards assisting centres who need a mounting ramp replaced or are in desperate need a mounting ramp (i.e. do not have a ramp). Some Centres are also in real need of a new hoist. The Board will be seeking Centre requirements shortly.

- 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.

2010 Para-Equestrian Team Announced

The Australian Para-Equestrian Team for the 2010 World Equestrian Games has been announced.

Equestrian Australia congratulates the following:

- Nicole Kullen (NSW) and *Nikshar Nomination* (Grade 1B)
- Grace Bowman (SA) -*Kirby Park Joy* (Grade 2)
- Sharon Jarvis (WA) and *Applewood Odorado* (Grade 3)
- Kate Doughty (Vic) and *Heatherton Park Al Capone* (Grade 4)
- Suzanne Seipel (Qld) and *Larundel Gelata* were selected to compete in the individual competition

The Para-Equestrian Selection Panel announced the team at the final selection competition held at the Sydney International Equestrian Centre, Horsley Park. The team will compete at the World Equestrian Games to be held in Kentucky, USA from 25 Sept to 10 Oct. 27-year-old Kate Doughty says it is the realisation of a life-long dream.

"All my life I have wanted to represent Australia and for the past ten years it has been a very focussed goal. I was overwhelmed when I found out I was on the team, I was crying and laughing at the same time."

Sharon Jarvis, Nicole Kullen & Grace Bowman represented Australian at 2008 Beijing Paralympic Games. 2010 is the first time Para-Equestrian has been included at the World Equestrian Games.

This is the 1st Para-Equestrian Team to represent Australia since the Para-Equestrian program was incorporated into Equestrian Australia's (EA) High Performance Program in 2009. EA supported by the Australian Sports Commission and the Australian Paralympic Committee, will send a team

to compete in each of the eight World Championship events to be held at WEG; Dressage, Driving, Endurance, Eventing, Jumping. Australia will finalise all team members by 2 Sept 2010.

EA also announced the Vaulting team for the 2010 World Equestrian Games. *Team Phoenix* has been selected for the Vaulting Team competition and consists of the following athletes:

- Lee Briggs: 17yrs, Hilltop, NSW
- Sally Briggs: 26yrs Hilltop, NSW
- Rebecca Hillman: 25yrs Carwoola, NSW
- James Hocking: 13yrs Wasleys, SA
- Sarah Leadbeater: 19yrs Gawler, SA
- Jo Lee: 25yrs Cook, ACT
- Lani Maher: 14yrs Alpine, NSW
- Jess Mazlin: 16yrs Chapman, ACT
- Ruth Skrzypeck; 18yrs Campbell, ACT

22 yrs Krystle Lander of Northmead, NSW, was selected to represent Australia in the Individual Female Vaulting competition. Chef d'Equipe is Tristyn Lowe. Vaulting competitions will be held from 6 – 10 October at World Equestrian Games.

Vaulting is a performance sport and originates from Roman times. It is best described as "gymnastics and dance on horseback". Vaulters perform compulsory and freestyle moves to music on a moving horse at either walk or canter. This is done individually, in pairs or in a team. This fun sport for all ages promotes co-ordination, balance, physical health, self-esteem, the ability to work as a team member, lifelong friendship all linked by the overwhelming love and trust of a horse.

Source: EA Press Release 19 and 26 July 2010

FRDI NEWS

FRDI forms worldwide links between countries and centres offering equine-assisted activities and assists in the development of new programs worldwide. FRDI has members from over 45 different countries around the world. FRDI:

1. Offers up to date educational information
2. Publishes annual Scientific and Educational Journal of Therapeutic Riding
3. Maintains a bibliography and directory of Education and Training, which lists seminars, workshops/certification courses members offer
4. Calendar listing current international events

Every 3 years it hosts an International Congress for Therapeutic Riding, which features the latest

research and development results. The Congress is a unique opportunity that brings the world together to spearhead the promotion of equine assisted activities. The next Congress will be held in Athens in 2012.

The RDAA Silver Brumbies go global! Their fame now extends across 45 countries! Their story has been picked up by the FRDI June 2010 International Newsletter available at: www.frdi.net/pdfs/Newsletters/June%202010.pdf

RDAA Silver Brumbies

The RDA Silver Brumbies are two very special grey nomads.



Joan & Bob Lemmon, who are currently travelling around Australia sharing their skills and experience

with local RDA Centres across Australia to:

- Volunteer their time, skills and expertise to local RDA Centres
- Help raise awareness and funds for RDA
- Carry out general maintenance and administrative tasks
- Support RDA coaches and volunteers

Joan & Bob's 'On the Road' Report

We've only officially been the Silver Brumbies for a couple of months and the reception we have received wherever we have visited has been tremendous. Definitely need to watch our diets with some of the morning teas/lunches provided at centres. And we've been invited back!!

Common feedback from many (especially the country) RDA centres we have visited is that: *"it's nice to have the support from the National and State office; it makes us feel a part of the RDA family"*, as many rural/remote RDA Centres can often feel *"left out"* due to visits being few and far between. Our brains have certainly been picked and we hope that we have helped with sharing ideas, advice, information... We've had a lot of fun. On the serious side Joan has been busy marking workbooks and assessing components for OTC and Level 1 candidates as again it is hard for them to get assessors out to them.

We've had lots of chats in car parks, laybys, in fact almost anywhere we stop, about RDA and what we do, started primarily because of the high profile of our Silver Beast. How many times people have

thought we are involved in riding motor bikes, surf boards and one even thought we were promoting a rugby team!!! We reckon we may have to add "HORSE riding" somewhere on the vehicle.

Next stop Mackay for 2-3 months then who knows where? We will continue working on our aim of getting RDA "out there", sharing our expertise and having fun.

Joan & Bob Lemmon aka The Silver Brumbies.

Visit the new Silver Brumbies website at www.silverbrumbies.com.au to find out more about their journey and how YOU can play a part in helping RDA.



The Silver Brumbies website was developed with a generous grant from The Myer Foundation and The Sidney Myer Fund Capacity Building Grant 'Celebrating our Partners Project'.

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. If you would like to volunteer for RDA please visit our website www.rda.org.au for more information.



Invitation to all RDA Centres

The PETstock Foundation has extended an invitation to all RDA Centres to link up with their local PETstock Store to raise awareness and funds for their local RDA Centre. To find **PETstock Store** locations visit: www.localstore.com.au/stores/2953/petstock/

RDAA is the Official Charity of EQUITANA Melbourne 2010

Spotlight readers will be delighted to know that the Riding for the Disabled Association of Australia (RDAA) has been selected as the *Official Charity of EQUITANA Melbourne 2010*. Readers can visit RDAA at EQUITANA Melbourne. RDAA will be located in the Ranvet Horse Health Pavilion, Booth #204.



Visit www.equitana.com.au for event information and ticket bookings.

RDA AUSTRALIAN STORY

RDA Australia wants to capture people's stories to highlight some of the achievements and the lives that have been touched and improved through their connection to RDA. This will help us raise awareness and funds for 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.

RDA SOCIAL NETWORKING

RDA now manages and operates 3 websites:

- 1. RDA National Website:** www.rda.org.au
2,500 visits per month
- 2. RDA Coaches Portal** a dedicated Wiki site for registered and affiliated RDA coaches:
www.rda.org.au/coaches/coaches-login.aspx.
- 3. RDA Grey Nomads dedicated website - the Silver Brumbies:** www.silverbrumbies.com.au
- 4. RDA Facebook** RDA now has its very own  facebook page and has 400+ fans.

5. RDA YouTube

RDA has just registered its own dedicated 'You Tube' website. RDA's You Tube video has been viewed by over **6,000 people**.

We would like to develop and put together a selection of short video clips to help raise awareness of what RDA in Australia does.

Can you create a short information /teaching video from your centre? And send a copy to the national office or email: fundraising@rda.org.au.

[NB: Please ensure you have permission to film.]

Photo Competition!

One image is all it takes...

You already know your nonprofit is doing amazing things in the community but do others? Could your



organisation positively impact more lives if people only knew you were out there? Show us the great things your organisation does in the community. All you need to do is:

- Send us an image or images in jpeg format that capture the essence of your nonprofit to impact@donortec.org no later than **16 Sept 10**
- Accompany each image with a brief description
- Supply your name, organisation name and contact details.

How will DonorTec reward you?

- 2 winners will receive JB Hi-Fi \$100 vouchers
- DonorTec will highlight the most powerful images in DonorTec publication that goes out to 35,000 unique email addresses
- DonorTec will showcase your images on its [Facebook page](#)

NB: By submitting your images to DonorTec you are permitting 'Connecting Up Australia' to use your images in future marketing activities. Source: <http://www.donortec.org/competitions/how-your-nonprofit-can-impact-more-lives>

VOLUNTEERS – THE LIFE BLOOD OF RDA

RDA Australia depends almost entirely on the efforts of over 3,000 volunteers throughout the country to assist with the delivery of programmes, administer centres and care for the horses on who so much depends.

'Each week over 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.'

VOLUNTEERS AWARDS REMINDER

Each year RDA holds its national volunteer recognition and awards night to honour those volunteers without whom the organisation simply could not function.

2010 Volunteer Awards

- [The Michael Field Memorial Volunteer Award](#)
- [The RDA Young Volunteer of the Year Award](#)
- [The National Volunteer Encouragement Award](#)

If you would like to nominate a volunteer for the 2010 Volunteer Recognition Awards please download and fill in the relevant nomination form from the RDAA national website www.rda.org.au and email, fax or post your nomination to your local State Office by 31 July 2010.

Each State office is responsible for nominating one person from their state for each award. These nominations are submitted to the National Office. A panel of judges will then choose the recipient for each National Award.

Closing dates for nominations are as follows:

- **31 July 2010** Nominations to State Offices close
- **31 Aug 2010** Nominations for National Awards to be submitted to the national office

Engaging People with Disabilities in Volunteering

Volunteers with disabilities are like any other volunteers - they want to give their time and energy to improve their community. People with disabilities are active and visible in many fields including the arts, the media, sport and education.

Every volunteer, with or without a disability, brings to their work a different set of personal and professional qualities and skills, shaped by their own unique life experience. With some planning and possibly some minor workplace modifications these skills can be available to your organisation.

Steps to Take - Assess your volunteer positions with a focus on the skills you need and what people have to offer – what they can do, rather than what they can't. This will enable you to decide on the people who are able to make positive contributions to your organisation and then set about recruiting. Involve as many people from your organisation as possible in the recruitment of volunteers to ensure all volunteers, including those with a disability are made to feel welcome and accepted. Once you have decided the skills you need and the people who can provide them:

- Approach disability support organisations
- Register your willingness to recruit with Volunteer Resource Centres
- Advertise in publications that are targeted at people with disabilities
- Display recruitment posters on notice boards.

Design a simple application form - the application form is an important way to get information about potential volunteers:

- Keep the layout simple and if possible, in several forms such as audiotape, Braille, Disc, e-mail and large print.
- Have someone willing and able to help people fill out your application form.
- Include a section where the applicant can ask for any additional support that they may need such as parking space, guide dog requirements, large screen for a computer.
- Include a section on the need for disclosure of any disability as some volunteers may wish to keep this information private.
- Have a rigorous privacy policy.

An **interview** will simply let you get to know the person a bit better and decide if they will fit in to your organisation:

- Check and confirm any special requirements people may have for the interview.
- Make sure the interview is held in an accessible room.
- Extend interview time for those with a speech problem or fatigue to maintain a level playing field.
- Where the potential volunteer can't come to the interview in person, consider a telephone interview instead.

Source: Office for Volunteers, SA Government
www.ofv.sa.gov.au/pdfs/Fact_Disability_FactSheet_2OKPrint.pdf

RDA provides people with disabilities opportunities to volunteer as well as access to equine related activities. If you are interested in volunteering your time to RDA please contact your local RDA Centre.

Making the Most of Your Ambassadors

Recruiting ambassadors is never an easy task. However, once you have them, how do you maximise their support and build a long-lasting, mutually beneficial relationship?

Appreciation - Becoming an ambassador is a significant commitment and should be respected as a two-way partnership with appropriate acknowledgment at regular intervals. Do not abuse or over-use their support.

Management - Ambassadors are busy people who give their time and their public image to support your cause, connecting you to your target audience. Understand their commitments; manage

their duties and interaction with you, the community & the media efficiently and effectively.

Briefing – An ambassador requires briefing notes to ensure they can confidently and accurately represent your organisation and successfully drive your message in the community.

Analysis – Demonstrate the effectiveness of your ambassadors' support and your mutually beneficial relationship by providing them with analysed reports of their activities including media releases, clippings and photographs. They'll appreciate it!

Selective – Be discerning in your choice. An ambassador should not have been recently over-exposed in the media. They should be appropriate to your cause bringing enthusiasm, credibility and positive publicity opportunities to your organisation.

Strategic - Ambassadors are **volunteers** with limited time to give. Make the best use of their time and effort to maximise benefits by being strategic - select activities that can offer maximum awareness opportunities for both parties.

Approval - Common courtesy goes a long way in any relationship but for an ambassador, it's essential. Never publish a quote or distribute a photograph unless it has the approval of the ambassador or their representative.

Diligence Be conscientious in your communication. Keep ambassadors informed to maintain their personal connection with your organisation, without over-doing it.

Opportunity - An ambassador can provide you with multiple media/awareness opportunities. Be prepared. Ensure you have professional, high quality, pre-approved photographs for use in your collateral and for distribution to media as opportunities arise.

Respect & Recognition – The most common mistake organisations make is in failing to thank ambassadors appropriately. Remember they aren't obliged to help you so be sure to publicly and privately acknowledge their contribution and above all, say thank you in a thoughtful and timely manner. A personal note from the CEO or chairperson will go a long way toward maintaining a rewarding relationship!

Source: www.insightcommunication.net.au

Disability News update

- Funds to Enhance Disability Advocacy -

The newly established Disability Advocacy Network Australia (DANA) will receive \$60,000 in Federal funding to help people with a disability, their families and carers participate in the Productivity Commission's landmark inquiry into long-term care and support. Funds will also support DANA's work as a peak body representing disability advocates.

Parliamentary Secretary for Disabilities, Bill Shorten, made the announcement at DANA's 3rd National Conference in Canberra saying the Productivity Commission is undertaking a significant inquiry, which has the potential to reshape how disability is treated in this country and people with disability need to have their voices heard.

The funding is part of \$640,000 which will be provided to disability organisations to involve people with disability, their families and carers in the Productivity Commission's inquiry. DANA is a peak body, established in 2009, which represents disability advocacy groups from across Australia.

National Disability Framework

At the Disability Ministers Conference in Adelaide on June 4, Disability Ministers from all States & Territories endorsed a draft National Disability Advocacy Framework for consultation with the advocacy sector. This Framework aims to provide greater consistency across government programs to get better results for the people with disability who need advocacy services. Federal Government says it will be seeking the views of the advocacy sector on key elements of the Framework.

Source: www.probonoaustralia.com.au/news

Funding for Youth Development Support Program 2010-11

This program funds NPOS to deliver community-based projects that support initiatives which inspire & encourage young people aged between 12-25yrs to develop skills & connections within their communities. \$500,000 is available to support eligible organisations. Most grants will be around \$15,000. For more information on how to apply go to www.youth.gov.au.

5 Tips for Raising Funds from Bequests

Raising funds from wills & bequests is intensive and time-consuming but hugely rewarding and meaningful if successful. You need to:

1. *Have patience and take your time*
 - Wills & bequests are not going to happen overnight:
 - They are an investment in your organisation's future by those who feel you have made a difference to them in the past or present.
 - It takes time to cultivate prospective donors.
2. *Meet, listen & understand*
 - If RDA has made such a difference to someone that they want to leave some money through a will or bequest.
 - Someone from RDA needs to spend time meeting them in person.
3. *Pick the right person to do the asking*
 - Take time to carefully choose the person you wish to approach prospective donors.
 - That person needs to have certain qualities
4. *Recognise your bequesters*
 - Think how best you can recognise those giving wills & bequests - not only in the future (e.g. naming of a stable block) but also in the present (invitations to events)
5. *Back up your words*
 - Use bequests for purpose it was given.
 - Honouring your promise demonstrates to prospective donors that you will do the right thing with their money.

Remember bequests are a long-term investment!

You need to put real effort into planned giving but you rarely see any results until later. There are no absolute guarantees & there's a long lead-in time. But planned giving through bequests & legacies places financial resources in the pipeline & allows you to extend your vision into the future.

Practical Steps to Encourage Bequests & Legacies

Before you Start

- Make sure your organisation is ready to establish a long-term giving program involving wills & bequests.
- Have your board think about whether you have the resources to do so, what resources you might need, any professionals you might need to get in touch with for guidance, etc.

Getting the Message out There

- Regularly mention in your newsletters, website, direct-mail outs & annual report that your group accepts bequests & legacies.
- Include cut-off boxes in all direct mail appeals so donors can request information about bequests and the benefits of having a will.
- Consider a focus group of current donors and board members to look at:
 - feasibility of promoting planned giving
 - developing a marketing plan that uncovers existing bequests and possible bequest prospects
- Let people know you are in the market for bequests, let them know what their donation gets them by highlighting examples.
- Name something prominent after your current largest donor to show what's on offer
- If you get a bequest or a promise of a bequest advertise it very widely (if the donor agrees).
- Have an annual bequest recognition event.

Meeting Potential Givers

- Identify your prospects, get out there, ask them face to face and then see them again:
- Go out there and make friends.
- Build as strong a relationship before asking people to consider a planned gift.
- Asking for bequests involves empathy, tact, vision, diplomacy and technical knowledge.
- Learn the basics well: listen; share; keep good notes; show interest in the donor.
- Begin a visit with "*what do you want to get out of this meeting?*"
- Then wait until they are done talking. Let the donor tell their story and the gift is half-made.
- Understand the donor's perspective:
 - What's best for the donor is best for your organisation.
 - A donor's welfare comes first, their family's second and yours last.
- Most importantly, get out there.
 - Don't take "no" personally.
- Be faithful to the donor's wishes when using the money:
 - Not only because you promised to, but also to reassure other prospective donors that they can safely leave their dreams with you.

Source: Our Community.com

EQUITANA 2010 presented by The Weekly Times, is a Hallmark event for Victoria in the same category as the Australian Open Tennis Championships, Melbourne Food & Wine Festival and the Melbourne International Comedy Festival.



Launched in 1999, this prestigious event is Australia's largest multi-disciplined equestrian festival. EQUITANA Melbourne 2010 is the only event in the Southern Hemisphere that brings the entire equine community together to educate, compete and entertain. EQUITANA Melbourne also produces the largest equine exhibition and consumer show, attracting a worldwide audience.

EVENT ELEMENTS:

- 4 days of exhibition showcasing over 300 international and Australian companies
- 16 different horse competitions
- Inaugural EQUITANA Australian Open competition in 5 disciplines
- 4 nights entertainment in purpose built 4,500 seat indoor arena
- Specialist clinics featuring internationally renowned presenters
- 200 session Education program lead by international and Australian presenters
- The Way of the Horse - The Australian Horsemanship Challenge
- Breeders Village displaying 40 different horse breeds from around Australia

2010 PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

THE INAUGURAL EQUITANA AUSTRALIAN OPEN

2010 will see the introduction of a new event into the EQUITANA schedule. "EQUITANA Australian Open" will encompass 4 days of EQUITANA 2010 world class competition and entertainment. With \$300,000 prizes it provides the opportunity to see the current superstars of 5 different equine disciplines perform before the 4500 seat audience in the NutriRice Grand Pavilion. Dressage, Reining, Cutting, Jumping & Campdrafting will all be taking part in this monumental event within an event.

EDUCATION

Specialist clinics presented by American Dressage legend Steffen Peters, talented horseman Ian Francis and World's top Eventer William Fox-Pitt will be all part of an amazing line up of international and Australian professional clinicians, veterinarians, trainers and field experts. Over 200

education sessions delivered over days will make up a non-stop schedule of presentations, demonstrations, seminars and displays.

EXHIBITION

10,000 square metres of space and 250+ exhibitors housed within 3 pavilions, EQUITANA 2010 will provide the Australian public with seemingly endless excuses to purchase all things equine. The exhibition also provides the unique opportunity to see all your favourite horse breeds and breeders who help support the Australian equine industry.

ALL STAR SHOWCASE

Ultimate showcase of both horse & riders ability in various sport disciplines, presented by experts: Steffen Peters (Dressage) Ian Francis (Reining) William Fox-Pitt (Eventing) Rob Hodgman (Cutting) Pete Comiskey (Campdrafting) Jay Charnock (Mounted Games) Suzette Thomas (Polocrosse) They will combine their inestimable talents for one night of entertainment and education. A 'not to be missed' chance to see the world's best interact and swap horses.

THE WAY OF THE HORSE – AUSTRALIAN HORSEMANSHIP CHALLENGE

3 talented horse trainers demonstrate the highly personal & specialist methods of connecting with a young horse over only 2 days. This fascinating contest provides the public opportunity to be educated & entertained by 3 different styles of horsemanship. The Way of The Horse is an informative event, not only for Australian equine trainers, but anyone fascinated with how man and horse can work harmoniously without fear or force

Once every 2 years, the international and national equestrian worlds combine, and provide Australia with the chance to enjoy a multi-discipline event which bonds the entire equine community for four days in November at the Melbourne Showgrounds.

From the SUPER TICKET, encompassing all 4 days with entry to all night time programs, clinics and competitions as well as education sessions and exhibitions, to the Daily Admission Tickets, there is a ticket for every budget and every horse lover. PLUS FREE PUBLIC TRANSPORT TO THE EVENT!

TICKETS SELLING FAST! It's not too late to book your tickets for EQUITANA Melbourne 2010! There are great ticketing options for clinics, evening programs and single day entries also! Visit www.equitana.com.au or call 1300 765 929