



NATIONAL SPOTLIGHT

JUNE 2014

A Publication from RDA Australia Ltd

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

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

CHAIRMAN REPORT

Winter is a busy time for our centres. There never seems to be sufficient hours in a day to deal with the demand for our services. As we move towards the implementation of the national disability insurance scheme, the only constant appears to be that every state or territory involved in the trialling appears to be doing it differently. It is perhaps an insight that at the Commonwealth level no one is really sure what this new scheme will look like for our clients.

Organisationally, it is a challenge for all of us and we hope the outcome is better for the clients.

The perennial debate that we all have is whether we are able to continue to service the needs of clients over a long period of time or whether the better interests of all prospective clients is achieved by providing short courses. In Alice Springs, we are celebrating the fact that there is one rider who has been with the centre for over 25 years. Unfortunately, most centres are not in a position to be able to provide that long time riding experience. It seems more likely the demand on our services will be such that we will have to look at shorter periods of time for clients.

Organisationally, the state delegates and the national board have met in Adelaide. There has been a transition at board level in a number of states.

Collectively, we are assisting each other in reaching our common aims of providing the best service possible for our clients through the skills and training of our volunteers and coaches.

*John Stirk
RDA Australia Chair*

NATIONAL MEETINGS

Our most recent meeting of National Delegates was a great success with much progress being made on a number of documents. The RDA Australia Draft Constitution is making its way towards completion.

With a few minor changes to be made, it should be ready to be accepted by our AGM in November. The RDA National Brand Manual was also discussed. This document has been in production since December 2011 when a working party was convened and is now nearing finalisation. We look forward to circulating it once it is completed. RDA Australia now has a new Strategic Plan for 2015-2017 which was put together with the help of the Australian Sports Commission based on ideas from the Strategic Planning Day held in October 2013.

We welcomed some new faces to this meeting; Deb Ophof (SA), Megan Wray (QLD) and Jane Thompson (ACT) with many familiar faces from other States, as well as the members of the RDA Australia Board. Nearly every State had delegates attend with the exception of Northern Territory and Western Australia. We were also grateful to have Amanda Beehag from the Australian Sports Commission attend on Saturday as well as Tiffany Austin-Sanchez from OAMPS Insurance Brokers who both delivered presentations to the group. There was much positive discussion between States and National about moving RDA forwards and we look forward to more discussions when the State Delegates meet again in November for the Annual General Meeting.

JUNE MCINTYRE

In May, we received news that one of RDA Australia's Life Members had passed away. June McIntyre and her husband established the first RDA centre in Australia in 1964. RDA McIntyre (now unaffiliated with RDA Australia) in Queensland, was named in their honour. June and her husband both offered advice and support as other Centres and the National body were set up. June was made a Life Member of RDA Australia in 1988. We are saddened to hear of her passing but thank her for all the work she did to help make RDA what it is today. We wish her family all the best throughout this time.

VOLUNTEER AWARDS

Nomination forms for the 2014 RDA Volunteer Awards were released on May 31 to State Office and on our website www.rda.org.au.

An exciting addition this year is the new Volunteer Service Recognition category. This category is to recognise volunteers who have made an outstanding contribution to RDA at Centre or State level, who have been at the Centre for more than 5 years.

The other categories are:

- **Young Volunteer of the Year**
 - Volunteers under the age of 18
- **Volunteer Encouragement**
 - Volunteers who have been volunteering for up to 5 years
- **Michael Field Memorial Award**
 - Volunteers who have made a significant contribution to RDA at National Level (Centre or State contribution is not essential)

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

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

The 2014 Awards Dinner will again be held at Morphettville Junction in South Australia on Friday October 31. We'd love to see lots of people there to celebrate the contribution of all volunteers in RDA.

COACHING REPORT

The mild May weather around the country has been nice but I hope that country areas have been getting the rain they need as well!

Instead of the usual Program Delivery Meetings, RDAA decided to have a small working party to consult on documents and policies. Some of the documents under review are:

- Medical Consent and Membership Application forms
- Band Accreditation
- Adaptive Equipment Register
- Rider Information Booklet

- Emergency Dismount Poster

RDAA has been putting preparations in place for the National Coaches Workshop in Geelong, Victoria in September. The theme this year is about putting the FUN (Fabulous, Uplifting, New experiences!) back into RDA. Sometimes we get so busy with the day-to-day running of RDA Centres we lose focus of what we are really here for, which is to create a joyful, participatory and progressive environment for the clients and volunteers. This year's program will hopefully leave attendees feeling re-energised and enthused and come away with lots of new ideas about how they can improve and extend their RDA programs. The Registration Form and Program will be sent out in June and available on the RDAA website at www.rda.org.au

Due to the National Special Olympics in October at Werribee Equestrian Centre in Victoria, RDAA has decided to hold a National Video Dressage Competition in September instead of the RDAA National Championships. Winners will be notified in November. The last one was held in 2011 and we had a good number of entries. We hope that will be the case again. It is a great opportunity for riders to compete at a national level without all of the associated costs and travel. Information will be sent out soon.

*Sharon Nichols
National Coaching Coordinator*

HETI 2015 CONGRESS

JUNE 22-25, TAIPEI, TAIWAN



2015 International Congress comes to Asia for the First Time

Call for Papers

Online End of March 2014

For more information, visit:

www.heti2015.org

Overview over the topics:

Health: Physical and Mental Health, Riding for Improved Health Conditions, Fitness for the Elderly, Physiotherapy for Children and Adults, Psychotherapy

Education: Equine Assisted Learning, Autism and Development Disorders, Vocational Training for Youth at Risk/Disabled Persons

Trauma: Trauma and Post traumatic Stress Disorder

Inclusion: Social Inclusion, ICF as an Assessment Tool

DISABILITY FACT SHEETS

Attention RDA Riders - we need your stories!

RDA Australia is developing a series of Disability Fact Sheets and we want to include stories (approx 150-200 words) about our riders and how they have benefited, specifically in terms of their disabilities, from working with RDA. Every story submitted will receive a magazine from Australia's HorseWise Magazine and the rider selected to feature on each Fact Sheet will win an RDA T-shirt!

We have already completed Fact Sheets for:

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

These are all on our website on the [Member Resources](#) page under [Disability Fact Sheets](#) for you to look at.

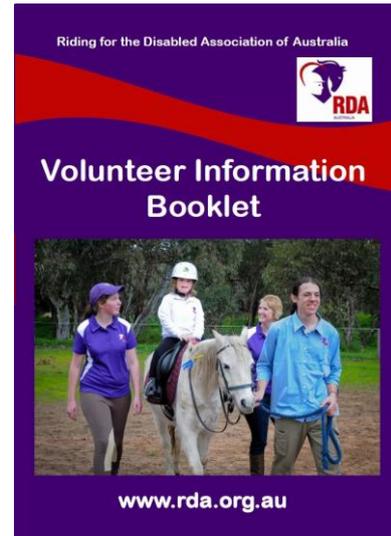
We are now looking for stories about riders with:

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

If you are interested, please email RDA Australia on admin@rda.org.au or call (08) 8354 4555 with your contact details and your story.



VOLUNTEER INFORMATION BOOKLETS



After a long wait, the new RDA Volunteer Information Booklets have been finished! Boxes of the booklets have been sent out to State Offices who can be contacted for copies. There are also posters available for each Centre to display advertising the booklets.

To coincide with the release of the Booklet, a series of Fact Sheets and other training information is now available on our website. Visit the [Volunteer Training Page](#) to have a look and

watch a video from RDA Executive Officer, Karen Aspery, introducing the new Volunteer Booklet!



AUSTRALIAN OF THE YEAR AWARDS

Nominations are now open for the 2015 Australian of the Year Awards. There are four categories which recognise 128 Australians across all States and Territories.

The categories are:

- Australian of the Year
- Senior Australian of the Year
- Young Australian of the Year
- Australia's Local Hero

Nominations can be made at

<http://onenomination.aoty.org.au/> and close on 1 August 2014.

INTERNATIONAL HOPE CUP

11 OCTOBER 2014, ZHONGLI, TAIWAN



The International Hope Cup in Zhongli, Taiwan will be held on 11 October 2014. RDA Australia has been invited to enter a team of three riders. We are currently seeking applications for the three team positions and a Team Coach. The competition is designed for riders at the beginning of their competitive career, as this is a relatively inexpensive chance to gain an international competition experience on borrowed horses in an unfamiliar but friendly environment.

RDA Australia will be funding the travel and accommodation of the Team Coach, uniforms for the team, travel insurance (under the RDA Australia National Insurance program) and competition entry fees. Riders will need to demonstrate that they have the emotional and financial support of their family to self-fund the costs of travel and accommodation for themselves and a carer.

Applications for three positions on the team and the Team Coach will **close on 15/6/2014**.

Please contact RDA Australia for more application forms admin@rda.org.au.

VOLUNTEER STORY

HorseWyse magazine editor, Sophie Campbell, has sent through the following story from a volunteer in South Australia. Thanks Kate, it's great to hear that you enjoy RDA so much!

*Dear Horse Wyse editor,
Every Saturday at eight o'clock I got to a volunteer place called RDA which is mentioned in your latest magazine. What I do as a volunteer is feed the horses, groom the horses, tack the horses and Sometimes we wash the horses. We also help mount and dismount the disabled children are on and we lead them round. Sometimes we have to hold the children on if they cannot do it themselves. I enjoy going to RDA a lot as it makes me very happy seeing all the children very happy on the horses. I have become friends with many of the disabled children and they are all really nice and friendly. I love going to RDA and have nearly been for a year now. It is a great thing to volunteer at and makes me very happy.*

From Kate Kendall, 13, South Australia.

WINTEC SADDLE TRADE IN

Once again, Wintec are holding their Saddle Trade In Deal with Horseland. You can trade in your old saddle and receive \$200 off a new Wintec Saddle! What makes this deal even better is that all the saddles that are in good condition will be donated to RDA Centres! Wintec are great partners of RDA, not only through the Saddle Trade In deals but also through sponsorship of our National Championships providing a variety of prize items and last year donated a brand new saddle to every RDA State Office!



STATE NEWS

RDA NT:

From RDA Alice Springs Centre

Congratulations to Vicki James, Nancy Towner and Trevor Hooton who were all finalists in the SA/NT Volunteer awards.

A Loud Whinny of Thanks to:

What is the appropriate gift for an AGM held in Alice Springs? Well, if you are the Ulysses Club of Australia, you celebrate your thirty first year of supporting the community by adopting a horse for Riding for the Disabled Alice Springs. They have adopted Ulysses by purchasing him for RDA and underwriting all the costs associated with his care. We are very grateful to the Ulysses Club, not only for this very generous gift, but also for being stalwart supporters of our program.

RDA NT (cont):

Alice Springs Show events

RDA Alice Springs wants to encourage and salute your riders and their achievements. Since they have been riding with us they have been building confidence and self-esteem and we have been very happy to be part of their development

To celebrate and show off their skills we will be again holding events over the Alice Springs Show week.

RDA QLD:

With the upcoming State Championship at QSEC Caboolture and the Hippotherapy Workshop at the Cartmill Centre this month, RDAQ is in a flurry of organisation.



We are extremely grateful to Jane Sayer and the Cartmill Centre volunteers for their invaluable assistance with organising the Hippotherapy Workshop. Jane is a wealth of knowledge and has been able to organise the workshop with very minimal input from the Board.



Jane has also stated work on a Carriage Driving Workshop for October this year.

RDAQ has also been very fortunate to secure funding to replace our office computers and develop a new website which is well in hand. The site will include sub sites for our centres and links to all relevant external sites. With communication being a priority for us, we feel this net site will enhance the interaction between RDAQ and out centres.

We also at this time wish to welcome Jacinta Emzin as our new Office Manager. Jacinta will be available from our Office between 10am to 2 pm weekdays.

Diary Dates

June 21-22	RDA Q State Championships
June 28-29	RDA WA Dressage/Four Phase Challenge
July 12-13	RDA WA Mid Year Vaulting Camp
July 16	RDAA Board Meeting
July 5-6	RDA Alice Springs Show competition
July 28-Aug 3	RDA Awareness Week
July 31	National Volunteer Awards Nominations close to State Offices
Aug 1	Horses' Birthday
Aug 8	National Dressage Video Competition Entry Forms available
Aug 20	RDAA Board Meeting
Aug 31	National Volunteer Awards Nominations close to National Office
Sept 6	RDA WA State Games, Murray Mandurah
Sept 14	RDA SA State Dressage Championships
Sept 17	RDAA Board Meeting
Sept 19-22	RDA National Coaches Workshop, Geelong
Sept 27-28	RDA WA State Vaulting Championships, Brigadoon
Sept 30	National Dressage Video Competition Entry Forms due to National Office
Oct 6	RDAA Office Closed – Labour Day Public Holiday
Oct 15	RDAA Board Meeting
Oct 20-24	Special Olympics National Games, Vic
Oct 31	Volunteer Awards Dinner
Nov 1	RDA Australia National Delegates Meeting, SA
Nov 2	RDA Australia Annual General Meeting, SA

SAVE THE DATE!

19-22 September

Marcus Oldham College

Geelong, Victoria

There's only 3 months until the National Coaching Workshop!

Start your planning now, apply for grants to get your coaches over to Geelong for this important training event.

Registration forms and programs will be coming out in June 2014.

NATIONAL VOLUNTEER AWARDS

May 31: Nominations open

July 31: Nominations due to your State Office

October 31: Volunteer Awards Dinner

Morphettville Junction

South Australia

Start thinking about any volunteers that you think deserve to be nominated for a National Award.

Nomination forms are posted on our website www.rda.org.au!

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

Spotlight.

Next issue: 15 August 2014

Mission Statement

RDA enables people with disabilities throughout Australia to experience enjoyment, challenge and a sense of achievement through participation in equestrian activities to improve their quality of life, attain personal goals and develop life skills.

RDA SPONSORS & SUPPORTERS



Australian Government

Australian Sports Commission



RDA CONTACT DETAILS

RDA AUSTRALIA:

PO Box 310
TORRENSVILLE SA 5031
Ph: (08) 8354 4555
E: admin@rda.org.au

RDA ACT:

119 Drake Brockman Drive
HOLT ACT 2615
Ph: (02) 6254-9190
E: admin@pegasusact.com.au

RDA NT:

RDA Alice Springs
PO Box 8831
ALICE SPRINGS NT 0871
Ph: (08) 8952 3838
E: rda.alicesprings@bigpond.com

RDA NT cont:

RDA in the Top End
PO Box 4185
PALMERSTON NT 0831
Ph: (08) 8931 0093
E: rdanorth@bigpond.com

RDA QLD:

PO Box 529
BURPENGARY QLD 4505
Ph: (07) 3888-5277
E: admin@rdaq.org.au

RDA SA:

215 Portrush Road
MAYLANDS SA 5069
Ph: (08) 8331 1833
E: admin@rdasa.org.au

RDA TAS:

1/9 Delange Place
CLAREMONT TAS 7011
Ph: 0407 491 884
E: rdatasmania@bigpond.com

RDA VIC:

400 Epsom Road
FLEMINGTON VIC 3031
Ph: (03) 9258 4730
E: admin@rdav.asn.au

RDA WA:

State Equestrian Centre
303 Cathedral Avenue
BRIGADOON WA 6069
Ph: (08) 9296-4655
E: info@rdawa.asn.au