



NATIONAL SPOTLIGHT

JUNE 2011

A Publication from RDA Australia Ltd

BUMPER ISSUE OF SPOTLIGHT!

It's hard to believe but we are nearly half way through the year already! With a very busy six months ahead of us, this issue of Spotlight has been expanded to include a number of upcoming events for RDA, in particular RDA Awareness Week 2011, which falls between August 1-7 this year. Please look through this issue for any events in your State to celebrate RDA and raise the profile of our organisation. There is also information regarding National Volunteer Awards and National Video Dressage Championships. We hope you enjoy this Bumper Edition!

IN MEMORIAM – Bill Roycroft OBE



RDA Australia mourns the loss of patron Bill Roycroft who passed away in Camperdown, Victoria on Sunday 29 May, aged 96.

Bill represented Australia in 5 consecutive Olympic Games from 1960-1976, and won 1 gold (1960) and 2 bronze medals (1968, 1976). Bill carried the Australian Flag in the 1968 New Mexico Opening Ceremony and was one of 7 Australians who carried the Olympic Flag into the stadium at the Sydney 2000 Games.

From Equestrian Australia Press Release:

Harry Gordon, AOC historian tells the story of the infamous 1960 Rome Team.

On the last day of the Three-Day Event, Australia faced a grim predicament. Two riders, Laurie Morgan and Neale Lavis, were doing well, however Brian Crago's horse was out of the competition due to injury, and the fourth member of the team, Bill Roycroft, was in hospital - concussed, sedated, with extensive bruising and muscle damage. Doctors refused to sanction his release from hospital. The problem was that, if Australia was to win the team event, it needed three finishers. Roycroft had fallen during the cross-country the previous day after his horse, *Our Solo*, somersaulted over and landed on him. He had climbed groggily back, finished the course, then been given oxygen (and whisky) and flown by helicopter to a hospital outside Rome.

Next morning, with the final phase, the show jumping, due to start soon, Roycroft insisted on signing himself out of hospital. The doctors said no, and refused to give him his clothes; he then threatened to leave in his underpants. Finally, he signed a document taking responsibility for his safety, and was allowed to go. He was 45, laced heavily with pain killers, unable to bend, and his comrades had to dress him for the last ride. He was virtually folded onto *Our Solo*, and the reins were placed in his hands. Stiffly yet flawlessly, he completed the round, ensuring team gold for Australia.

NATIONAL VOLUNTEERS WEEK

9-15 MAY 2011



In celebration of National Volunteers Week, the RDA Australia office would like to take this opportunity to thank the hard working volunteers that support the work of RDA and assist us in a variety of ways to deliver our services to coaches and State Associations. Many thanks to:

- Kay Meynell (Coaches Portal Administration)
- Joan & Bob Lemmon (Silver Brumbies mentors)
- Julie Burns (RDA office)
- Marilyn McFarlane (RDA office)
- Pauline Perry (Chair of Program Delivery)
- Sally Francis (Consultant to Coaching Dept)
- Mary Longden (Consultation to Coaching Dept)
- Ross Goulden (RDA Board)
- Judith Van Unen (RDA Board)
- Norma Pearce (RDA Board)
- John Stirk (RDA Board)
- Bill Ash (RDA Board)
- Stephen Hutchins (RDA Board)
- Peta Wellstead (RDA Board)

ASC NEWS



The ASC has featured an article about volunteers in its latest e-newsletter, making mention of the 1.7 million people who volunteer in sporting organisations around Australia each year, as well as information about a national sport volunteer strategy from the Australian Government.

To read more visit

www.ausport.gov.au/news/asc_news/story_431346_volunteers_the_heart_and_soul_of_australian_sport

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Like many people throughout our community, one of the challenges we face in RDA is adapting to the changing nature of modern life. The pace of development in technology, medicine and science is phenomenal, and we have choice in much of what we do. Service providers and businesses offer a range of products. Take the typical supermarket or hardware store – they offer almost everything you could want in a day's shopping.

RDA Centres are embracing change by developing an understanding of how horses can be used in health, education, therapy, and training for career options. With the emphasis on awareness of mental health issues, the need to offer a varied educational programme to suit learning styles, diet and exercise for personal health, and development of a good work ethic, RDA is engaged with society in providing relevant services.

Not only for people with disabilities, but for young people wanting to develop skills in the care industries, leadership in a non competitive environment, and confidence in relating to others. The Coach training courses are brilliant, and there is always provision made for those who may find it difficult doing written work. Mentoring is part of the RDA agenda and the encouragement given by mature, experienced volunteers, is invaluable.

One of the areas of structure we now have to deal with is how to vary our membership base. There are a range of services offered by equestrian businesses and they are all linked because of the use of the horse. A number of major riding Centres are offering commercially based services along with RDA type activities and these are sometimes seen as contrary to traditional RDA culture. Now is the time for conversation and negotiation.

*Ross Goulden
Chairman
RDA Australia*

RDA AUSTRALIA OFFICE STAFF

RDA welcomes two new staff members to the office; Stacey Seal and Sharon Nichols. Stacey has joined the admin team and has already made great inroads into the 100 boxes and assorted paperwork that was transferred from the Werribee office to Adelaide last year and has very quickly developed a useable filing system, discovering all sorts of RDA treasures, old photos and memorabilia. Stacey will continue to archive, collate and sort RDA assets and documentation.

Sharon Nichols comes to us from SA centre RDA Victor Harbor, as National Coaching Coordinator. Sharon begins her work on Monday 20 June and later this month will take over sending out the Coaching qualification certificates and updating the NCAS database.

The RDA Office Team:

Karen Aspery

(Acting Executive Officer) Monday & Wednesday

Theresa Moore

(Administration) Tuesday & Thursday

Stacey Seal

(Administration) Monday & Thursday

Deb Clover

(Accounts) Tuesday

Sharon Nichols

(Coaching Coordinator) Monday & Friday

NEWS FROM FRDI



The major disaster in Japan has affected us all. The enormity of it is almost impossible for most of us to imagine. Like me, I know your heartfelt wishes go to all those affected and I am sure we are all helping in whatever way we can.

On a happier note I am very excited about the new format of the 2010 Scientific and Educational Journal. I thank the editor, Ann Kern-Godal, most sincerely for the excellent professional presentation and draw your attention to her editorial.

We look forward to the ongoing change progress of the journal and as always value and encourage your feedback. In addition we would appreciate feedback in the areas of communication and any other ways you would like us to improve the service to you, the members.

*Pauline Perry
President
FRDI*

Copies of the Scientific and Educational Journal can be obtained through FRDI – www.frdi.net

Diary Dates

June 15	RDA National Volunteer Award Nominations open
June 20	TAS School Term 2 begins
June 22	RDA Board Meeting
June 24	NT, QLD School Term 2 finishes
July 1	VIC School Term 2 finishes
July 2	RDA SA Quiz Night
July 4-9	Pony Club Association Queensland State Dressage Championships, Caboolture/Burpengary
July 8	ACT, SA, WA School Term 2 finishes
July 11	QLD School Term 3 begins
July 16-17	RDA SA Workshop – RDA Organisation, Risk Management, Horse Mastership, Medical Conditions, Teaching Riding Skills
July 18	VIC School Term 3 begins
July 20	RDA Board Meeting
July 25	ACT, NT, SA, WA School Term 3 begins
July 29	RDA SA Badge Day, Rundle Mall
July 31	RDA Fundraising Concert in Kalamunda, WA
July 31	Nominations for RDA National Volunteer Awards close to State Offices
Aug 1-7	RDA Awareness Week
Aug 1	RDA St Helens (Tas) Morning Tea
Aug 2	RDA North (Tas) Volunteers Afternoon Tea
Aug 3	ACT School Term 3 begins
Aug 6	RDA Kalang (Tas) Open Day and 20th Birthday
Aug 7	RDA Kingborough (Tas) Gymkhana
Aug 17	RDA Board Meeting
Aug 31	Nominations for RDA National Volunteer Awards close to National Office
Sep 2	TAS School Term 2 finishes

Diary Dates – cont.

Sep 16	QLD School Term 3 finishes
Sep 18	RDA SA State Dressage Championships
Sep 19	TAS School Term 3 begins
Sep 21	RDA Board Meeting
Sep 23	Submissions for National Dressage Video Championships close to National Office
Sep 23	VIC School Term 3 finishes
Sep 30	ACT, NT, SA, WA School Term 3 finishes
Oct 2	RDAV State Vaulting Workshop
Oct 3	QLD School Term 4 begins
Oct 7	National Dressage Video Championships & published on website
Oct 7	National Volunteer Awards Results published on website
Oct 10	NT, VIC School Term 4 begins
Oct 17	ACT, SA, WA School Term 4 begins
Oct 19	RDA Board Meeting
Nov 4-6	RDA TAS Coaching Workshop
Dec 2	RDA National Volunteer Awards Dinner (Toowoomba, QLD)
Dec 3	RDA National Delegates Meeting (Toowoomba, QLD)
Dec 4	RDA AGM (Toowoomba, QLD)
Dec 9	QLD School Term 4 finishes
Dec 10	RDA Pegasus Christmas Party
Dec 15	WA School Term 4 finishes
Dec 15	RDA Board Meeting
Dec 16	NT, SA School Term 4 finishes
Dec 20	VIC School Term 4 finishes
Dec 21	ACT School Term 4 finishes
Dec 21	TAS School Term 3 finished
Dec 22	RDA National Office closes for Christmas Break

2011 RDA AWARENESS WEEK

1-7 AUGUST

August 1-7 is Awareness Week for Riding for the Disabled for 2011! RDA has distributed posters to State Offices today as well as more copies of the Promotional DVD (please contact your State Office about obtaining copies). See below for information from RDA South Australia and RDA Tasmania regarding details of Awareness Week events in their states.

RDA SOUTH AUSTRALIA:

RDA SA will be holding a Badge Day on July 29 in Rundle Mall, Adelaide's major shopping strip. In previous years having a live pony in the city centre proved an amazing drawcard.

RDA TASMANIA:

RDA Kalang will be holding an 'Open Day' on Saturday 6 August to celebrate Awareness Week and the centre operating for 20 years. The centre commenced in February 1991 on land owned by Hobart City Council and many improvements have been made since the commencement. RDA Kalang provides both Riding and Carriage Driving programs.

RDA Kingborough will be conducting their Annual Gymkhana in celebration of Awareness Week on Sunday 7 August. They are hoping to turn this into more of a Family

Fun Day with things like a Jumping Castle and Face Painting for the children.

RDA North will be having an afternoon tea for volunteers & drivers on Tuesday 2 August.

RDA North-West is to hold an Open Day and morning tea during Awareness Week to present to the local community their enlarged Riding Arena, new Tack Shed and Horse Stalls. We hope to have representatives from Local and State Government, Local Business and Service Organisations attend on the day. Students and Staff from Helyer College and Polytechnic will be our special guests as their assistance with this project has been most appreciated.

RDA St Helen's will be holding a morning tea on Monday 1 August and are inviting parents/carers and some locals to celebrate Awareness Week and the Horse's Birthday.

WINTEC 25th ANNIVERSARY

SADDLE OFFER

Wintec are celebrating their 25th Birthday with a unique Saddle Trade-In Promotion through Horseland Stores around Australia, where customers can trade in ANY old saddle for \$200 against the purchase of a NEW Wintec Saddle.

This once in a lifetime opportunity to trade-up to a NEW Wintec saddle commences on the 3 June and runs through to 31 July 2011. Some Horseland Stores have arranged to donate used saddles to RDA Centres.

For detailed information on the Wintec \$200 Saddle Trade-In Promotion including Terms and Conditions and to find your nearest Horseland store visit www.wintec-saddles.com or www.horseland.com.au



2011 NATIONAL VOLUNTEER AWARDS

-NOMINATIONS NOW OPEN-

Nomination forms have been distributed to State Offices today for the 2011 RDAA National Volunteer Awards.

There are 3 categories available to nominate someone you think has made an outstanding contribution to your state or centre.

- *Young Volunteer of the Year Award* for volunteers under 18 years of age
- *Volunteer Encouragement Award* for volunteers with less than 5 years service
- *Michael Field Memorial Award* for volunteers with 5 or more years of service

Nominations must be submitted to your State Office no later than 31 July. Each state will submit one nomination per category to the National Office by 31 August. These nominations will then go to a panel of judges who will choose the winners of each category. Results will be published on our website on 7 October and in the October edition of Spotlight due to be published on 16 October. All winners, and a guest, will be flown to Toowoomba for the Volunteer Awards Dinner on 2 December where they will be presented with a trophy.

The Awards Dinner is a great opportunity to meet volunteers from around the country and staff, as well as the RDAA Board, as it will coincide with the National Strategic Planning Meeting (3 December) and Annual General Meeting (4 December). Details for the Dinner and AGM will be posted on the RDA website as plans are confirmed so keep an eye out if you would like to attend either of these events.

READER STORY

My name is Clint Robins, I am a disabled rider at Maryborough, Victoria. I'd like to find some way of expressing my gratitude to Kevin & Alien Marshall for all their efforts and commitments they have made to me and the other participants at the centre making it enjoyable for us all. They both go way above and beyond the call of duty. Not forgetting all the other volunteers who also do a wonderful job helping me and fellow riders make dreams come true. I personal appreciate and value the RDA service and countless volunteers to make this all happen.

The dilemma I have is that the RDA Australia web site is all very well including news and Spotlight RDAA's Free National Newsletter however there has been no recent entries since Oct 2010.

Could you please tell me how often the site is updated, and would there be any possibility to include a Riders comment forum where riders could share experiences with other riders around the country.

Thank you for reading

Regards Clint Robins

From the EO:

Thank you to Clint for his suggestions. The RDA website (www.rda.org.au) has had some troubled times recently. Our website is hosted in Queensland and access was lost during the floods and cyclone. We are currently having some design modifications made to the website so that RDA staff can add current news to the home page on a more regular basis – stay tuned! We have now sent all the back issues of Spotlight newsletter to be loaded on the web page so you can catch up on our news. The RDA Office welcomes news and updates from riders and would love to publish your letters in our bi-monthly issues of Spotlight. Please send them to admin@rda.org.au or post to PO Box 280 Kent Town SA 5071. Riders can also share their experiences by becoming a fan of the RDA Australia Facebook page and adding their stories to the Discussion Board.

What a wonderful way to start RDA Awareness Week in August with some thank yous to special volunteers. I caught up with Aileen and Kevin last year in Ballarat (along with their gorgeous Clydesdales) when I attended a Victorian Masterclass. I first met Aileen when she came to Adelaide to attend the Level 2 Coaching Workshop and can second Clint's comments about what lovely people and valuable volunteers they both are. With the National Volunteer Awards nominations opening soon, everyone should take the opportunity to nominate someone special from their RDA Centre. Forms can be obtained from State Offices and will be available on our website shortly.

COACHING REPORT

A number of grant applications have been submitted this month with the aim to generate funding for coaching programs in 2011-12. We are eagerly awaiting the results from:

- St George Foundation to fund a Hippotherapy workshop and course design
- Ian Potter Foundation to fund training for Vaulting and Carriage Driving coaches
- Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (DeFaHCSIA) to fund the National Coaching Workshop 2012 and reprint of the Volunteer Information Booklet
- Letters have been sent to Petstock to fund another Young Coach Development Program (18-25yo) and to the Brumbies Rugby Club to support the Silver Brumbies mentor programs.

As you can imagine, I have been busy behind a computer drafting funding proposals for most of this month!

Level 2 Syllabus Review

While we are still awaiting the news from our OTC and Level 1 Coaching syllabus review, the Australian Sports Commission has reminded us that our Level 2 syllabus is due for review by April 2012! Work will start on this in the next few months with the following aims:

- Post-implementation review of the Level 2 training materials
- Level 2 workbook questions to be reviewed in consultation with the National Disciplines Committee for Riding
- Development of a Level 2 manual composed of research articles, learning resources and navigational tools to guide trainee's learning.

Other positive news for Coaching programs is the re-establishment of the National Coaching Development Fund. This program was designed to assist States that did not have access to subject field experts within their State. For example, SA does not have a Carriage Driving Assessor and an interstate Assessor visit is required for all horse, coach and CD centre accreditations.

Initially, each State will be offered up to \$800 each (by request) to fund visits from RDA mentors for training, workshops, assessments, coach and centre accreditations. States should apply using the Coach Development Fund Application form (version 2006) and notify the National Coaching Coordinator of proposed dates and budgeted costs for visits within 2011. RDAA will assist with interstate airfares and any fees payable to the National Mentor/Assessor (upon receipt of tax invoices). State

Associations/Centres will be required to pay for costs of travel and accommodation within the state. If funds allow, States may apply for a second visit for early 2012 and those secondary applications will be considered at the National Delegates Meetings in November and allocated on a priority-needs basis. **Coach Development Fund Applications will open on 1 July 2011.**

National Carriage Driving Workshop 27 – 29 April 2012, Fairbridge, WA

Plans are underway for the 2012 National Carriage Driving Workshop in Fairbridge WA. Topics will include:

- Building and driving a cones course
- Carriage Driving Dressage – teaching drivers with disabilities
- Medical Conditions
- Special equipment for Carriage Driving
- Selecting and training the RDA Carriage Driving Horse

Packages have been put together to include all meals, airport transfers and accommodation or day attendance only. Costs will be between \$250 (day attendance) and \$450 (full package) per person. These costs may be subsidised if suitable funding can be sourced. Send your expressions of interest to c.bantick@bigpond.com

*Karen Aspery
RDA Australia*

2011 NATIONAL DRESSAGE VIDEO

CHAMPIONSHIPS

Entry forms for the 2011 National Dressage Video Championships have now been sent to State Offices and 2010 entrants. There are a range of tests available with riders able to enter up to two tests each. The fee for the Championships will be \$30 for first test and \$15 for the second test, if chosen.

Entries must be submitted via DVD or *You-Tube* link by Friday 23 September and results will be announced on Friday 7 October on the RDAA website.

Forms and more details can be found on the website: www.rda.org.au



RDA Australia is excited to announce competition sponsorship with Wintec Saddles, who have generously donated prizes for the 15 Championship classes!

All winners will receive a pack worth \$250, which includes:

- 1 Wintec Saddle Bag
- 1 Wintec Saddle Pad
- 1 Wintec Cleaner
- 1 Set of Wintec Bandages
- 1 Wintec Carry Pack

STATE NEWS

RDA ACT:

During mid 2010, Pegasus retired a large portion of our herd due to age related issues. As a result, our capacity to run programs was reduced. We have been searching for, trialling and purchasing new horses diligently and slowly over time have been able to increase our programs, although we still have a way to go. We have some fantastic horses that have joined the herd, some have started working in programs already and others are continuing their training with a view to starting in programs as 2011 progresses. We are still actively searching so keep your eyes and ears open for us. It is great to see some of our riders whose classes had been postponed returning to Pegasus along with their families and carers. Their smiling faces have been missed greatly.

When running full programs, we have over 100 riders with disabilities each week and are ably assisted with the weekly programs by over 100 volunteers. We have over 120 people on our waiting list as well, so we do have a large unmet need in our community. We have over 200 active volunteers at Pegasus helping out with classes, stable work, horse training, property maintenance and administrative work. Without our dedicated volunteers, Pegasus would not happen.

In that light, I'd like to say congratulations to Sheila King, one of our volunteer coaches, who has just been awarded ACT Volunteer of the Year in the Sport and Recreation category. A well deserved award to a very dedicated volunteer. Sheila, aside from her coaching work, also provides her services in stables, general maintenance around the property, magnificent baking, strategic cuppas when desperately needed and a wonderful array of sewing and craft work for all sorts of things from class equipment to inventive "doo-hickeys" to cater for unusual needs. No problem is too hard for Sheila to solve while she is here for her two full days each week of volunteering. Thanks Sheila!

RDA NT:

RDA NT

In March this year, Ross Goulden (RDAA Chair) visited the Northern Territory, spending a day at RDA Alice Springs and 2 days at RDA in the Top End. While here, Ross did horse handling clinics at both centres with our volunteers and horses with great success. RDA in the Top End put aside 6 hours per week to continue this very valuable work, and thank Ross for his contribution

RDA in the Top End

After a very long "wet" season, the wettest on record, plus dealing with a tropical cyclone, we are finally in

the dry season and loving it. Temperatures are down to below 10 degrees at night and not much above 25 degrees during the day – fantastic. The Top End Centre is almost to capacity, operating 6 days per week with schools participating in the mornings, adults mid day and able bodied lessons each afternoon. Saturdays are inclusive and we have 25 riders and 15 volunteers each Saturday.

We have just purchased 2 new horses and a pony bringing the herd to 18 in total.

- A Waler, *Sand Palm Alexander (Digger* - for short), born and bred in the Territory by Bonnie Henderson and we are hoping he will be our first accredited Hippotherapy horse
- A Standard Bred, *Ivan*, so we can start working towards becoming Level 0 and 1 Whips
- A gorgeous Welsh Mountain pony, *Johnny*.

Top End is also running Indigenous Youth and Youth at Risk programs with the Department of Justice. 6 schools are participating in Work Experience Programs, plus we are almost ready to start "VET" programs with the Department of Education.

RDA QLD:

RDAQ are planning an Introduction to Hippotherapy at Currumbin Valley RDA later in the year (August/September). This will be a one-day intensive course aimed at Therapists and Coaches/Volunteers who are interested in Hippotherapy, with hopes that attendees will become involved in introducing Hippotherapy principles to RDA Sessions at a Centre level.

A full accreditation course will be run in early 2012 for therapists to become Hippotherapists and Coaches/Volunteers to become Horse Handlers.

For more information, watch this space or contact the RDA Q State Office to register your interest. Enquiries to admin@rdaq.org.au

PCAQ State Dressage Championships

State Dressage Championships will be held from 4-9 July. Details are being finalised on RDA's participation at this event.

More information will be provided as it comes to hand. Put the date in your diary.

RDA SA:

So far this year, we have already held the annual State Coaches' workshop, the State Mounted Games competition (including selections for the Special Olympics in WA in October), been involved with national RDAA meetings and held the first of two Centres' Forums scheduled for 2011 and our AGM.

Please see more from RDA SA on the next page

A draft new Constitution has been circulated for discussion and debate among members and centres, along with a new Agreement for Centres to establish mutual obligations of RDA SA and its centres. These are available on our website.

We are implementing a new database, "Gestalt", to eliminate double- and triple-entry of rider records for government reporting, and to improve how we fundraise and manage memberships – financial, riders and volunteers.

The RDA SA Challenge Quiz Night will be held on 2 July, with an amazing array of prizes donated by wineries and other businesses, mostly from the famous Southern Vales region.

The annual state dressage Championships will be held on 18 September, once again at the magnificent Mallala Indoor Equestrian Centre. We are grateful to the Brice family for their generous support and allowing RDA to use this venue.

RDA Blackwood has started to operate at its new O'Halloran Hill site. A safe riding area has been set up beyond the building construction site. Riders and volunteers are happy to be back to normal lessons, and are becoming acclimatised to the windy conditions on top of the Hill.

RDA Yorke Peninsula has moved to a new site on the old racecourse grounds it shares with a Pony Club.

The new site offers much more opportunity for the centre to develop according to its own needs.

Several centres have embraced RDA SA's strategic focus on achieving at least four sheltered riding arenas by 2015. Judging by the rate at which they are planning and fundraising, the goal may well be exceeded.

In 2012, RDA SA will celebrate its 40th anniversary, so even if we feel the busiest time of the year is behind us, busier times lie ahead.

RDA TAS:

RDA Tasmania will be holding a coaching Workshop from 4 - 6 Nov at Edinburgh Park, Gravelly Beach approximately a 30 minute drive from Launceston. The program at this stage consists of watching the Mounted games DVD followed by discussion on it and planning some centre structures on the Friday night.

Saturday will be riding lesson role play by scenarios, followed by Emergency dismount procedure practice. Saturday evening we will have a guest speaker on Autism and Early Childhood behaviour.

Sunday will be a carriage driving demonstration, followed by emergency procedure and Unload demonstration.

More details will be published as they become available.

Pat Fisken; face of RDA Awareness Week 2011



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

Next issue: 18 August 2011

Mission Statement

RDA enables people with disabilities & volunteers throughout Australia to experience enjoyment, challenge and a sense of achievement through participation in equestrian activities, resulting in the development of life skills, improved quality of life and attainment of personal goals

We are dedicated to providing these services through an organisation which is relevant, innovative, effective and rewarding.

RDA SPONSORS & SUPPORTERS



Australian Government
Australian Sports Commission



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