



# NATIONAL SPOTLIGHT

## AUGUST 2013

[A Publication from RDA Australia Ltd](#)

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

### EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORT

Congratulations this month to our National Volunteer Award Winners. It is always so inspiring to read the letters of support and hear about the work of dedicated volunteers.

The Michael Field Memorial Award criteria is for long and outstanding service at a State and National level and no one more embodies the spirit of this award than this year's winner, Pauline Perry.

Pauline started the Peninsula RDA centre on her own property 30 years ago and went on to foster and mentor many more centres in Victoria, serving as the Victorian State President, then the National RDA President. Pauline has trained and mentored 5 National Coaching Coordinators (including me in my 12 months service in the role). As the National Chair of Program Delivery, she has spent her life dedicated to the success and growth of RDA, working tirelessly to support the role of coaches and volunteers.

She has served on many organising committees and selection panels to generate competition opportunities for riders to excel at State, National and International competitions and has fostered RDA as an international movement as President of Federation of Riding for the Disabled International (now known as HETI).

Currently serving as coach of Kingborough centre in Tasmania and the State President of Tasmania, Pauline continues to enjoy her work supporting, coaching and nurturing RDA centres.

It will be my great pleasure and honour to award the Michael Field Memorial trophy to Pauline at the dinner on 1 November 2013 in Adelaide and to meet and thank all the Award winners in this years categories. They represent the steadfast dedication and community spirit of volunteers everywhere in RDA.

*Karen Aspery*

*National Executive Officer*

### RDA NATIONAL VOLUNTEER AWARDS

#### DINNER

RDA Australia is proud to announce the winners of the 2013 National Volunteer Awards. The Awards Panel met on Monday 23 September and unanimously decided on all three winners.

#### **Young Volunteer of the Year**

Tyler Harris

#### **Volunteer Encouragement Award**

Claudia Nevah

#### **Michael Field Memorial Award**

Pauline Perry OAM

All three winners will come to Adelaide for the National Volunteer Awards Dinner on Friday November 1, where they will be presented with their trophies.

We also have special guest, Joann Formosa as a guest speaker. Joann will speak about her time with RDA and her journey towards the Paralympics where she won gold in 2012.

Another special guest is Guy Ockenden, CEO of New Zealand RDA who will be joining RDA for the National meetings to be held over 2 & 3 November, following the dinner.

The Awards Dinner will be held at Morphetville Junction, 470 Anzac Highway, Camden Park and includes a 3 course meal and drinks on arrival. Tickets are \$65 per person and can be purchased from the RDA National Office. We would love to see you there!



## **COACHING REPORT**

Spring is sprung, with some coaches and riders coming out of hibernation and venturing forth from their “dens” to compete at State competitions.

Most States Championships have by now concluded and some coaches are starting to focus on preparing riders for the National Championships in November.

The Early Bird registration deadline passed on the 30<sup>th</sup> September so make sure you get your entries in by the final closing date of the 25<sup>th</sup> October!

There is something for everyone at the Multi-Discipline event, Dressage, Prix Caprilli, Jumping and Le Trec, however vaulting has once again been removed from the program due to lack of entries. Carriage Driving is the demonstration discipline, showing driving dressage and cone courses. Teams are encouraged to come dressed up in a horse and carriage theme for the fancy dress competition the same evening. It should be a fun event and I hope that we have as good weather as we did last year!

In August an RDA National Assessor Workshop was held in Adelaide. 15 existing assessors and 12 trainee assessors attended, representing 6 states. Feedback from the workshop was that they benefitted from the networking and both experienced and trainee assessors said they gained useful knowledge. Regular assessor workshops are needed in order to maintain quality assessment of RDA coaches and are mandatory for assessors to maintain their qualification. Another workshop will be held in WA in February next year for those who were not able to attend this one.

*Sharon Nichols  
National Coaching Coordinator*

### Diary Dates

Oct 19	RDA SA Centres Forum
<b>Nov 1</b>	<b>National Volunteer Awards Dinner</b>
<b>Nov 2</b>	<b>RDA National Delegates Strategic Planning Meeting</b>
<b>Nov 3</b>	<b>RDA Australia AGM</b>
Nov 5	Melbourne Cup
<b>Nov 12-14</b>	<b>National Disciplines Championships, Werribee Park National Equestrian Centre</b>
<b>Nov 20</b>	<b>RDAA Board Meeting</b>
<b>Dec 11</b>	<b>RDAA Board Meeting</b>
<b>Dec 13</b>	<b>RDA National office closes for Christmas</b>



## **RDA National Discipline Championships**

Monday 12 – Wednesday 14 November  
Werribee Park National Equestrian Centre  
170 K Road, Werribee, VIC

Competition Includes:

**Dressage**

**Jumping**

**Le Trec**

**Prix Caprilli**



Other Events:

**Monday 11 November**  
**Opening Ceremony**

**Wednesday 13 November**  
**BBQ Dinner and demonstration**

**Thursday 14 November**  
**Closing Ceremony**

Contact [coaching@rda.org.au](mailto:coaching@rda.org.au) for more information about the competition.

## **STATE NEWS**

### **RDA NT:**

Congratulations to Karen Eva-Stirk from RDA Alice Springs who is one of four finalists in the Northern Territory Australian of the Year Awards 2014 in the category of Northern Territory Local Hero.

Taken from the National Australia Day council Media Release:

#### ***Karen Eva-Stirk - Disability Support Worker***

*Enabling people with disabilities to experience enjoyment and a sense of achievement through taking part in equestrian activities is what Karen Eva-Stirk loves to do. As the Centre Manager of Riding for the Disabled Alice Springs, Karen is helping people to develop life skills, attain personal goals and improve the quality of their lives. A creative, visionary and inspiring person, Karen harnesses the enthusiasm of volunteers and the generosity of sponsors to provide an invaluable service to the community. Karen's coaching has shown many children and adults how apparent barriers can be transformed into opportunities, and many people pass through the gates of the centre to gain strength and self-esteem, and learn the rewards of caring for animals. A well respected member of the local horse industry, Karen's skill and patience continues to break down prejudices and preconceptions about people with disabilities. A community leader and a role model, Karen's work is laying down the foundations for a more inclusive society.*

*The Northern Territory Australian of the Year,  
Senior Australian of the Year, Young Australian of*

*the Year and Local Hero Award recipients will be announced on **Thursday 7 November 2013** at the **Darwin Convention Centre**. The Northern Territory recipients will then join award recipients from all other States and Territories as finalists for the national awards, which will be held on 25 January 2014 in Canberra.*

Good luck Karen, from everyone in RDA!

### **RDA TAS:**

#### **More About Goblin**

Goblin is still with Sally Francis and both are enjoying each other's company. Sally tunes him up before and after lessons and has had him working in lessons with a range of riders: beginners; riders with a disability; as well as experienced riders.

Goblin continues to gain experience in a wide number of disciplines with Sally working him in dressage, pole-work, trail riding, cross country, EFL and TREC. He also receives lungeing and long reining sessions, as well as additional RDA specific training in regards to mounting, dismounting and familiarisation with games equipment.

Sally enjoys rounding up the cattle with him and he will be a demonstration horse at the forthcoming Equine Touch Course in August.

Goblin will be returning to RDA Kingborough in mid January 2014 and will be used in the RDA Tasmania Coaching Workshop with Sally Francis and Mary Longden.

Not long to go now! We can't wait to have him back and use him in our program.

## **2014 DATES**

**January 13**

RDA Office Reopens

**May 1-2**

Program Delivery Meetings, Victoria

**May 3-4**

National Delegates Meetings, Victoria

**May 31**

National Volunteer Award Nominations Open

**September 19-22**

National Coaches Workshop, Victoria

**October 17**

National Volunteer Awards Dinner, Adelaide

**October 18**

RDA Australia AGM, Adelaide

**October 19**

National Strategic Planning Meeting, Adelaide

Please email [admin@rda.org.au](mailto:admin@rda.org.au) if you no longer wish to receive RDAA's bimonthly newsletter, **Spotlight**.

Next issue: 13 December 2013

## 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**



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