



NATIONAL SPOTLIGHT

RDAA PRESIDENT'S MEETING

The State Presidents and the RDAA Board met in Brisbane on March 7 2009. The purpose of the meeting was to review the current Constitution and consider the changes necessary to comply with standards of good governance, meet the requirements of Federal funding agencies, provide fair and equitable representation of the members and enable the Board and Company to operate within a workable framework.

The constructive and collaborative meeting produced a series of amendments that will be incorporated into the Constitution. A draft of the revised Constitution will be circulated to the Company Members for comment in the next month. We aim to achieve approval of the revised Constitution by the Company at the meeting planned for 24 May 2009.

NATIONAL COACHING & SAFETY COUNCIL MEETING

The National Coaching and Safety Council Meeting in Melbourne on 27/28 February was very successful with committees representing all the RDAA disciplines meeting to share knowledge and discuss their issues. In addition, RDAA Fund Raising Manager, **Rosemary McDonald**, briefed the meeting on the development of a new dedicated Coaches section on the RDAA web site which will enable coaches to access information and ensure a much better channel of communication for all RDAA coaches.

NATIONAL OFFICE

RDAA Coaching Coordinator, **Sue Harris**, has announced that she will be resigning from her position. Sue has been in the position for 3 years and has had to cope with many personal challenges. She will still continue to be involved with RDAA on a consultancy basis producing coaching materials. We would like to thank Sue for her big contribution to RDAA and wish her well for the future.

2009 DIARY DATES

Apr 6	Board Meeting Teleconference
May 24	Company Meeting Melbourne
July 27	Board Meeting Teleconference
Oct 19	Board Meeting Teleconference
Nov 28-29	RDAA AGM & Company Meeting

Rebecca Willis will also leave RDAA to take up another position with a national organisation. Rebecca has assisted Sue with the Coaching Department and planning of RDAA events such as the National Dressage Championships and Coaching Workshop. We thank Rebecca for her efforts and wish her well for the future.

COACHING DEPARTMENT EVOLUTION

During October/November the RDAA Board sought guidance from the State Presidents on what they needed from RDAA. The biggest single need was improvement in the delivery by RDAA of support for coaching and training. The board looked at these critical needs and the available resources. This has prompted a restructure of the Coaching Department to change the way it provides support to the RDA coaches.

The proposed coaching support model will use the vast resource of knowledge and experience within the organisation to provide support and will spread this knowledge across a team of specialist experts rather than rely on one or two people. RDAA will use telephone and internet technology to provide a cost effective and responsive service to meet the needs of coaches in the field.

SUPPORTING THE DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING OF COACHES

A number of specialist coaches around the country will offer telephone support for enquiries on all RDA discipline programs. A National dial in number will allow support seekers to select the type of support they require. The caller will be transferred to the specialist requested and the query dealt with. A coaching mentor will provide support to specialists and ensure that performance standards are maintained.



NATIONAL SPOTLIGHT

SUPPORTING THE DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING OF COACHES...

RDA will continue to work with specialists and writers to progress the completion and distribution of coaching education resources – moving progressively to an online model to reduce costs, improve access and enable more effective delivery of training and resources.

Coach Administration

RDA will continue to support Coaching administration through one person. The role will include registration of coaches, coach accreditation records management and liaison with the National Coaching Scheme.

ATTENTION ALL RDA COACHES

The next **FRDI XIII International Congress** is being held in Munster 12 - 15 August, 2009.



RDA is offering one or more RDA Travel Bursaries to RDA coaches to enable them to attend the next FRDI International Congress in Germany 2009 and to find out what is happening in the field of Equine Assisted Therapy worldwide.

This RDA Travel Bursary will help contribute towards the cost of air fares, accommodation and registration fees for the 2009 Congress.

If you are interested in this fantastic opportunity visit the RDA website www.rda.org.au for more details. Closing dates for applications is 30 April 2009.

RAISING MONEY FOR RDA

RDA has been approached by Robert Fantom, a member of the prestigious Long Rider's Guild who is embarking on an epic ride round Australia and has kindly nominated RDA as a recipient of any monies raised as part of his trip.



Robert will be travelling with his horses and dog Mouse. (You can just make Mouse out in his swag bag attached to the saddle.)

Robert would like to visit as many RDA centres as he can along route and you will be able to follow Robert's travels on www.rda.org.au.

It will be fascinating to have a real swagman visit the Centres and share his adventures with everyone. We hope that you will welcome Robert and his four legged companions.

Robert will commence his journey in Victoria to help raise funds for and awareness of the wonderful work of RDA as he goes.

Watch this space for further information...