



NATIONAL SPOTLIGHT

APRIL 2011

A Publication from RDA Australia Ltd

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

April 2011 will record two significant events for RDA Australia, one being the two day meeting in Adelaide over the first weekend of the month, where State Presidents, Executive Officers, and Coach Coordinators met with the Board to discuss strategies for better management of the Organisation. Meeting as separate groups and together as one, ideas were presented and considered, with agreed resolutions as outcomes and action directives to move forward.

One of the current issues raised was in regard to branding and use of the logo. Future RDA strategy will be to develop policies that identify appropriate use of the organisations brand. This is an important part of respect and value needing to be demonstrated both inside and outside of RDA Australia.

There is an extraordinary amount of talented young people involved in responsible roles within RDA, giving encouragement and optimism for the future. It is heartening to see the high level of intelligence and maturity amongst the young members of RDA, who also have the confidence to speak up and engage in rational debate.

The second event is the VRC Community Race Day at Flemington on Saturday, April 16th, when RDAA and RDAV will represent us as among the chosen charities. Features of the day will include a race named after each charity (ours will be the Riding for Disabled Australia Hcp), an interview after the race, advertising on the course at trackside and the big screen as well as an advertisement in the Race Book. The NEW RDA Fundraising Vouchers will be sold at the entrance gates and at booths selling Race Books. This is a great promotional and fundraising opportunity for RDA and appreciation must be directed towards the Victoria Race Club for its wholehearted support.

*Ross Goulden
Chairman
RDA Australia*

STRATEGY MEETINGS IN ADELAIDE

Adelaide played host to National Strategic Meetings on 2-3 April. Interstate guests arrived on Friday. Guests who stayed all enjoyed the accommodation at Adelaide Shores Resort and SportSA where the meetings were held on Saturday and Sunday. The discussions throughout the meetings were very productive and there was a lot of positive feedback from those who attended about the direction of RDA as a whole organization.

"Discussions were very productive, with everyone gaining a clearer picture of where we are heading as a national organisation dedicated to providing positive horse riding experiences for people with disabilities."

– RDA Queensland.

It was announced at the meetings that Karen Aspery will be appointed Acting Executive Officer (see article on page 2 for more details).

On Saturday night, RDA SA held its Annual Charity Dinner, *Night at the Races* which a number of interstate guests attended and enjoyed.

Diary Dates

Apr 22-26	Easter Long Weekend
Apr 23-25	Prime Equus SA Dressage Championships, Naracoorte SA
Apr 25	ANZAC Day
Apr 26	QLD School Term 2 begins
Apr 26	RDAA Board Meeting
Apr 27	VIC School Term 2 begins
May 1	TAS Easter Break Ends
May 2	ACT, SA School Term 2 begins
May 5	RDA SA Annual General Meeting
May 7	RDA Pegasus ACT Open Day
May 9	WA School Term 2 begins
May 9-15	National Volunteer Week
May 14	RDA V Tan Hock Chong State Games
May 15	RDA SA Mounted Games
June 1	RDAA Board Meeting
June 3	TAS School term finishes
June 13	Queen's Birthday Public Holiday
June 20	TAS School Term 2 begins
June 24	NT, QLD School Term 2 finishes

COACHING REPORT

The Coaching Department sadly farewelled Vicki Price this month. Vicki had been working in the RDA Office assisting with the editing of the new RDA Coaching syllabus and preparing documents for submission to the Australian Sports Commission (ASC). After much hard work to ensure that all the documents met the ASC requirements, the final submission was sent at the end of March. Thanks are extended to all those who contributed to the development of the syllabus review including, National Discipline Representatives on the Vaulting, Riding and Carriage Driving Committees, Mary Longden, Sally Francis, Pauline Perry, Karen Aspery, and Vicki Price.

We hope to receive some positive news soon before finally delivering the new syllabus to trainees. In the meantime, trainees can continue to order the current OTC and Level 1 Riding manuals by contacting your State RDA Office.

Vicki also spent some considerable time clearing the backlog of coaching accreditations and renewals, issuing a massive batch of accreditation cards and certificates before the end of her contract. Some outstanding information is still pending for Victorian coaches, but if you haven't received your accreditation information, please contact the office at admin@rda.org.au so we can follow up any missing information.

Karen Aspery
National Coaching Coordinator
RDA Australia

Pauline Perry
Chair
Program Delivery

NEW EXECUTIVE OFFICER FOR RDA AUSTRALIA

Judith Van Unen (Vice Chair, RDA Board) announced the appointment of Karen Aspery to the position of Acting Executive Officer for RDA Australia during the meeting of State Presidents, EO's and Coaching Coordinators on 3rd April 2011, in Adelaide.

Karen has been working as the National Coaching Coordinator for the past 12 months and has been in the role of State Coaching Coordinator for RDA South Australia for the last six years where she has regularly participated in national meetings. Last year she wrote several sections, edited and produced the Level 1 Coaching Manual (Riding) to support the 2005 Level 1 Coaching Workbook, delivered the National Coaching Workshop in July, facilitated the delivery of 5 national training programs and presented at 2 of them. She also facilitated the planning, implementation and delivery of the demonstration sport for the National Special Olympics Games in Adelaide in April 2010, including training riders for the SA team. Her qualifications include Level 2 RDA Coach, Level 1 Hippotherapy Horse Handler, National RDA Assessor, Cert 4 in Assessment and Workplace Training, Cert 4 in Contracts and Risk Management and Associate Diploma in Management.

Karen's new role will combine the functions of the National Coaching Coordinator until this vacancy can be filled. She is available in the RDA Office on Mondays and Wednesdays on (08) 8364 4444 or email to admin@rda.org.au.

NAME THE HORSE COMPETITION

The RDA horse, named "Capability" was sold at auction by Inglis Bloodstock on 18/3/11. This life size fibrecast horse was painted by artist Barbel Georgi during the Equitana Melbourne Festival in November 2010 and donated to Riding for the Disabled Association of Australia. The paintings on the horse reflected the spirit of Equitana, depicting a horse and rider from every discipline represented during the festival. A competition was held during the Equitana festival to choose a suitable name for the horse, with prizes donated by Hygain feeds and Alltech supplements.

Following Equitana, the finished horse went for auction by Inglis Bloodstock and was sold for \$2,000 with proceeds donated to Riding for the Disabled Association of Australia.

RDA Victorian President, Martin Gray was present at the auction and reports that the horse was purchased by Shane Morrissey. Shane's son has been a rider with the RDA Moorabin centre in Victoria and he purchased the horse in support of the worthwhile cause of RDA and all the wonderful work the people and organisation have done to help his son and other riders every week. When asked what new life the horse will go to – he hasn't quite worked that out yet!

RDA thanks all the supporters in this wonderful initiative, Equitana, Alltech, Hygain and Inglis Bloodstock.



AUSTRALIAN SPORTS COMMISSION

Celebrating 100 years of Women in Sport



Australian Government
Australian Sports Commission

Article from ASC website:

www.ausport.gov.au/participating/news/story_420069_a_sc_celebrates_100_years_of_women_in_sport

Tuesday 8 March 2011 marked the centenary of International Women's Day. The day provides an opportunity to celebrate the countless achievements of women over the past 100 years.

The Australian Government is committed to supporting and improving female participation at all levels of sport. In 2010–11 the Australian Government through the Australian Sports Commission (ASC) made a record investment in Australian sport of \$23 million additional high performance funding and \$11 million new participation funding.

This funding is part of the Australian Government's record investment in sport of \$195 million through its new vision – [Australian Sport: the Pathway to Success](#). The record books show that this investment is paying off, with Australian women claiming 18 world championships and world titles in 2010, not to mention winning the women's football (soccer) Asian Cup and the Commonwealth Games hockey gold medal.

www.ausport.gov.au/participating/women/get_involved

NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK

9-15 May 2011

www.nationalvolunteerweek.com.au

Celebrate volunteering at your centre with a 'Thank You' morning tea, awards dinner or a 'Thank You' card signed by all the riders and their parents.

You can issue Certificates of Appreciation or take a group photo and hang it in a prominent location.

Let us know about your event for the next issue of Spotlight.

Email admin@rda.org.au with your stories and photos.

FACT: 34% of population, volunteer every week contributing 713 million hours per year.

SILVER BRUMBIES REPORT

From Robert & Joan Lemmon



Although we haven't visited any RDA centres yet we have good news to report.

Whilst we were in Ceduna (SA) we visited their Pony Club (Far West Pony Club) and chatted about RDA and gave out some Smiley badges to the riders. The following week we put up a display (trailing our new data projector) at the Ceduna Races and received over \$100 in our donation tin and of course spread the word about RDA and had a good day.



Next stop Fowlers Bay Caravan Park (SA) where again the truck was the catalyst for conversation. The owners, Simone and Rod, run monthly

fundraisers for people/families in need. They have chosen their closest RDA centre as April's fundraiser. Whyalla RDA Centre on the Eyre Peninsula, SA, have asked for the money to go towards a heavy horse to replace Isaac, the Norwegian Fjord who they lost last year. Losing him has meant that 4 riders are unable to continue their therapy and riding programmes as none of the current equine team is suitable. Simone and Rod raised \$500 in their first fundraiser – 3 more to go

Several travellers we met whilst crossing the Nullarbor are proud owners of a Smiley badge –and thank you to those who put money in the RDA tin too.

Bob and Joan have started their travels around Western Australia, starting in Esperance.

Find out more by following their blog:

www.silverbrumbies.com



STATE NEWS

RDA ACT:

Pegasus opens its doors to the public on the 7th of May from 11am to 3pm. There will be plenty of activities, food stalls, other stalls and demonstrations! Please come and join us, everybody is welcome. Feel free to invite your friends and family!

RDA QLD:

This year's State conference was a huge success, with 35 coaches and volunteers attending. We all enjoyed demonstrations of various activities of RDA. Many lively discussions on coaching and many other RDA matters were held over the weekend followed on Sunday with the RDAQ AGM.

Centre Changes

Please be advised that the following centres are no longer affiliated with RDAQ or RDA (Australia):

- Arundel Park
- Gympie
- McIntyre Centre
- Sunshine Coast

RDA SA:

RDA in South Australia is leaping from zero to two hoists this year. RDA Victor Harbor was the first to install a hoist, believed to be the first ever installed at a centre in SA. Funded largely by donations from Port Elliot CWA and Savings & Loans Credit Union, the hoist was commissioned in February, along with a brand new ramp – materials donated by a rider's parents. Their hoist achieved, Victor Harbor's sights are now set on building a sheltered riding area, in keeping with RDA SA's strategic goal of attaining covered riding arenas at several centres by 2015.

RDA Mount Barker will tap into Victor Harbor's hoist experience to install a hoist this year, made possible by a donation of \$10,000 from the Liquor Industries Charity Golf Day Committee.

Port Lincoln centre recently raised more than \$20,000 at their "Dinner on the Deck", where they auctioned 21 deck chairs decorated by local artists and a bottle of Penfolds Grange. They, too, have their sights firmly set on a covered arena to provide year around riding.



RDA TAS:

All centres completed volunteer training days prior to the commencement of the 2011 programs. Most centres are delighted to have gained some new volunteers.

Many horses went on holiday throughout the Christmas break to have a rest and returned fat but have been worked in readiness for the year. All centres will have their Band Accreditations completed throughout this year and a state Coaching workshop is planned to be held in November.

RDA Kalang commenced Riding and Carriage Driving programs in March. They are hoping to obtain a new carriage for "Indy" and make some necessary repairs to the complex road after it being washed out during the year.

RDA Kingborough are still searching for a permanent home but are operating temporarily from their presidents property after having to make way for redeveloping of council land that had been their home for many years.

They currently operate every Tuesday, Thursday & the last Saturday for the month. They will hold their annual gymkhana later in the year which is their major fundraiser along with the selling of their home made Christmas puddings.

RDA North are awaiting the arrival of their new RDA Dual Purpose vehicle, a Bennington Beeby which is on its way from the UK and will enable them to increase their client numbers with two horses working at the one time. This centre is currently holding a raffle to help with the shipping costs.

RDA VIC:

RDA V is on the move - or will be soon. Thanks to a very generous invitation from the Victorian Racing Club (VRC) we shall move the State Office and RDAV HQ to 400 Epsom Road, Flemington around August time.

The State Games Committee has this year introduced Carriage Driving competition and a forest drive will be undertaken by the carriage entrants. The Games are to be held at the RDAV Bendigo Centre Grounds [Saturday 14 May] at Mandurang South all Centres are encouraged to consider supporting a team or individual Riders or Drivers to get to Mandurang South and make it the biggest Games to date.

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

Next issue: 15 June 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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