



NATIONAL SPOTLIGHT

FEBRUARY 2011

A Publication from RDA Australia Ltd

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

What an ordeal Queenslanders and Victorians have faced over recent weeks, with some of the severest floods and cyclonic conditions in memory. The experience has brought out the best in Australians – not just for those who have lost homes, possessions and loved ones, but in those who have pitched in to help. People from all over the country donating money, goods, time and energy to help relieve the suffering and support the clean up and rebuild.

Several RDA Centres have been affected and we wish them the best in their recovery and resumption of activities.

Recently, I witnessed some wonderful therapeutic activity taking place at an RDA Centre, with kids learning ground work training of horses, demonstrating the opportunity to develop compassion and understanding of the horse's need to be given clear directions from the handler. This skill helped show the leadership required for people educating horses and how important is self control and consistency in training the horse.

Many volunteers will encounter similar experiences while practicing the skills required in working with people with disabilities and horses. What shows most clearly through these activities are often hidden talents that people have and are only needing the right situation to demonstrate them.

*Ross Goulden
Chairman
RDA Australia*

RDA MEETINGS IN ADELAIDE

April 1-3 will see an RDA gathering in Adelaide to hold various meetings to further discuss the strategic direction of RDA Australia. RDA Australia Board members, State Presidents, EO's and Coaching Coordinators from all states have been invited to attend and give their perspective on the direction of the National Organisation. We look forward to a productive weekend and some positive outcomes for the organisation.

WEBSITE PROBLEMS

Due to the flooding in Queensland, RDA Australia has been experiencing some difficulties with our website as it is hosted by a company based in Brisbane. According to latest reports, Telstra are still working on the lines to the office and is the main hold up to the website working properly. This has meant that although the website can still be viewed, we are not able to make any updates to the site or receive donations. Our Facebook page is being updated regularly and please call RDA National Office to enquire about making donations.

Diary Dates

Feb 26	RDA Alice Springs Rider & Volunteer Registration & Volunteer Training Day
Mar 3-6	RDA QLD State Conference & AGM
Mar 12	RDA SA Carriage Driving Workshop
Mar 12	RDA QLD Vaulting Come & Try Workshop
Mar 18	Hy Gain 'Name the Horse' Auction
Mar 19	RDA QLD Vaulting Come & Try Workshop
Apr 1	NT School term finishes
Apr 1-3	RDA Strategy Meetings in Adelaide
Apr 2	RDA SA Night at the Races Dinner
Apr 3	Daylight savings ends
Apr 8	NSW, VIC School term finishes
Apr 9	RDA WA Hippotherapy Refresher Workshop
Apr 11	NT School Term 2 begins
Apr 11-17	Rideability Victoria Trail Ride Adventure
Apr 15-17	RDA SA State Coaches Workshop
Apr 15	ACT, SA, QLD School term finishes
Apr 21	WA School term finishes
Apr 22	TAS School Easter Break begins
Apr 22-26	Easter Long Weekend
Apr 23-25	Prime Equus SA Dressage Championships, Naracoorte SA
Apr 25	Anzac Day
Apr 26	NSW, QLD School Term 2 begins
Apr 27	VIC School Term 2 begins



NAME THE HORSE COMPETITION

RDA Australia was the official Charity of Equitana, Melbourne in November 2010. During the Expo, a competition was run to name a horse, painted at Equitana, which will be auctioned off with proceeds going to RDA Australia.

Daily competition prize winners were:

- Kim Humphreys
- Debra Ware
- Holly Bast /Lana Thompson
- Liz Barker

Josephine Bonnet from NSW contributed the winning name of 'Capability', named to highlight the capabilities of adults and children with a disability, and won the competition! The word capability is seen in a positive light as opposed to the word 'disability'. She sent the email below:

G'day

I won the "Name the Horse" competition at Equitana, and have just received the Christmas hamper, thanks muchly.

*I'm very excited that a **MASTERPIECE** will have the name I'd given!!! – and especially so when it's a horse statue, and one of its kind.*

Unfortunately I'm unable to attend the auction for the sale of the statue. Pity the auction wasn't at Haymarket in Randwick (since I live in Sydney)! I look forward to checking the result on your webpage.

The work which the RDA does is a very wonderful thing, extremely so. It's nice to know people with a disability can enjoy the company of a horse, and all thanks to the RDA.

Cheers

Josephine

The horse, 229 cm, 208 cm, 52 kg painted by Bärbel Georgi (www.horseart.com.au),



will be auctioned, at the Inglis Bloodstock Sales, Oaklands Junction, Victoria on March 18, with funds going to RDA Australia. There will also be an opportunity to bid online at www.inglis.com.au/sales/onlinebidding/. You will need to register before the auction commences either online or call (03) 9333 1422. RDA thanks competition partners Inglis Bloodstock, Hygain, Alltech and Equitana Melbourne.



Read more about the competition in the Hygain newsletter at <http://hygain.createsend3.com/t/ViewEmail/r/4A8A3341BCC3D0EE>

2011 PRIME EQUUS SOUTH AUSTRALIAN DRESSAGE CHAMPIONSHIPS



The Prime Equus SA Dressage Championships will be held at the Naracoorte Showgrounds over the Easter/Anzac Day Long Weekend April 23-25.

The Program for the Championships will include:

SATURDAY

PRELIMINARY 1C, NOVICE 2C, ELEMENTARY 3C, MEDIUM 4B, ADVANCED 5B, PRIX ST GEORGES 2009 – **CHALLENGE QUALIFIER**, INTERMEDIATE II 2009, PAS DE DEUX, ENCOURAGE PRELIMINARY 1C, ENCOURAGE NOVICE 2C, PARA-EQUESTRIAN CLASSES

SUNDAY

PRELIMINARY 1D, NOVICE 2D, ELEMENTARY 3D, MEDIUM 4C, ADVANCED 5C, INTERMEDIATE I 2009, GRAND PRIX – 2009, NOVICE FREESTYLE 2008, ELEMENTARY FREESTYLE 2008, ENCOURAGE PRELIMINARY 1D, ENCOURAGE NOVICE 2D, PARA-EQUESTRIAN CLASSES

SUNDAY TWILIGHT CLASSES

MEDIUM FREESTYLE 2008, ADVANCED FREESTYLE 2008, FEI FREESTYLE - INTER I, GRAND PRIX

There will be a workshop with Ricky McMillan presented by the Lindy Wright Memorial Foundation on Monday 25 April, as well as other Para-Equestrian workshops over the weekend.

Please visit Equestrian Australia website at www.equestrian.org.au/event.asp?ID=180784&format=popup and follow the links to find out more about the event, Para Equestrian Classes and ticket information or www.msdc.equestrian.org.au for ticket bookings.

GRANTS FROM AUSTRALIAN SPORTING COMMISSION

As part of an Australian Government initiative, the ASC are now taking applications for a Local Sporting Champions Grant! This grant is for a local athlete, coach or official who participates in a state or national sporting championship. Grants of \$500 per individual or \$3000 per team are available for people aged between 12 and 18 years of age.

Please visit www.ausport.gov.au/champions for more information.



COACHING REPORT

Welcome to a new year for coaching. Many at RDA centres will be headed back to lessons this month with coaches planning their programs and registering their riders for 2011. Our thoughts are with the flood affected centres in Queensland and Victoria and the fire threatened centres in Western Australia. A difficult time ahead for the cleanup and in many cases the rebuilding.

Our own RDA website (hosted by DMS in Queensland) was unavailable for several weeks but through the wonders of Facebook we were able to keep everyone informed and start the donations happening through the various State Offices.

COACH TRAINING

State Offices have posted their training calendars with us and we have featured some of the upcoming workshops in this edition of Spotlight.

A first ever State Vaulting Workshop is planned in Queensland where the newly accredited RDA Vaulting syllabus will be presented for the first time. An exciting opportunity for anyone interested in gaining their vaulting qualification.

There are plans for a National Carriage Driving Workshop this year and upcoming Hippotherapy Refresher course in Western Australia.

Stay tuned to Spotlight for more information.

This year's plans include:

- Development of a Coaching Policy & Procedure manual
- Reprint of the Volunteer Information Booklet
- Release of the new OTC Training Program for Riding and Carriage Driving
- Release of the new Level 1 Training Program for Riding, Carriage Driving and Vaulting
- State Coaching Coordinators will meet in April to discuss Policies & Procedures to support coaches at their centres
- National Competition to be held as a live competition (rather than video) in 2012
- New partnership opportunities with Special Olympics Australia

COACHING ACCREDITATIONS

There has been an unfortunate backlog of coaching accreditation updates to the Australian Sports Commission database over the past few months. RDA Australia took over responsibility for updates and renewing coaching accreditations 12 months ago but we have not had the staffing resource to do so.

Once coaches have sent their paperwork to their State Office they can be approved to commence coaching activities. The RDA Australia Office will follow up with a certificate of qualification (if required) and an Accreditation Card showing their new expiry date. We hope to clear the backlog by the end of the month.

Karen Aspery

National Coaching Coordinator, RDA Australia

Pauline Perry

Chair

Program Delivery

Vicki Price

Projects Officer

Program Delivery

NEWS FROM FRDI/HETI



Greetings to all FRDI Members

I hope everyone had a chance to have a restful and enjoyable break over the New Year period. The challenges being sent by nature throughout the world have in many parts been disastrous and I hope that you have not been too affected by them. In Australia it has been a devastating time with shocking floods and bushfires and in some states they have suffered both at the same time.



On a happier note it really restores my faith when I read or hear about the many wonderful things being achieved all over the world with horses, whether therapeutic, educational or recreational.

I am also very happy and excited about the next 2012 Congress in Greece. The arrangements are progressing very well. I look forward to a congress in a great venue with a wide variety of quality papers and presentations with something of interest for all.

For more information please see the latest edition of FRDI newsletter at

www.frdi.net/pdfs/Newsletters/February%202011.pdf

Pauline Perry

President

FRDI/HETI

RDA AUSTRALIA WINS IN SWEEP!

We received a donation this week from Arterial Marketing of \$200. However, rather than a straightforward donation, this one has a twist. The staff of Arterial Marketing in Sydney held an office sweep for a Melbourne Cup lunch but there were not enough people in the office to have a horse each, so all the remaining horses were allocated to RDA, one of which was the winning horse! Thank you!

STATE NEWS

RDA NT:

It's going to be a very busy 2011 for RDA in the Top End with 5 schools participating on a weekly basis, Life Without Barriers – Post School Options, Carpentaria Disability Services, Indigenous Youth and Youth At Risk programs, plus a school based apprenticeship program. Lesley Monro is also hoping to start a program with the "Australian Employment Covenant" set up by Andrew Forrest for Indigenous employment, apprenticeships etc. Able bodied lessons will start again in February and our Saturday programs are our Day for Inclusion where able and disabled riders have classes together.

RDA SA:

Congratulations to RDA Whyalla volunteers Carol Spargo and Roy Davenport, honoured with Community Service Awards by Whyalla Council at the Australia Day celebrations last week. Also to SA's Grace Bowman who has been selected as one of three riders in the National Elite Paraequestrian squad and Elizabeth "Lizzie" Sobbecki has been selected to the National "A" Squad of ten riders!

RDA TAS:

All Tasmanian centres are currently on holiday but have started to commence volunteer training days in readiness for programs to commence around early March. Also, congratulations go to RDA North West Centre coach Pamela Hutton who won the 2011 Australia Day Citizen of the Year Award, from the Waratah-Wynyard Council. Pamela has been a volunteer and coach with RDA North West Centre for over 30 years and *"has worked tirelessly and continually for Riding for the Disabled since she was the main instigator in establishing the North West Group, conducting this on her Lapoinya farm with her own horses"* (from nomination submission). Well done Pamela!

RIDEABILITY VICTORIA:

RDA Horsham Centre has suffered damage from the floods in Victoria. The kitchen has been flooded and the arena's and fences have been ruined which will require a lot of work to repair. At this stage, lessons have been postponed until March by which point they are hoping to be able to operate again.

RDA WA:

Sunday 6 February was a worrying time for RDA Brigadoon, as a bush fire which started at 9.14pm on Saturday 5 February raged out of control. Sunday brought exceptionally strong 80km/hr winds fanning the flames and pushing it closer to the State Equestrian Centre, home to both RDA Brigadoon and RDA WA State Office. Dedicated volunteers moved horses from paddocks to the safety of the arenas ready to evacuate to a safer area if necessary. The amazing fire fighters of WA managed to hold the blaze away from properties with only minimal damage to a couple of sheds and some fencing lost, despite the heavy smoke we are pleased to report that

the flames never made it RDA Brigadoon. Over 1167 hectares were burnt. Sunday 5 February at 11.42 am a catastrophic bush fire hit the Roleystone and Kelmscott areas. No RDA centre was affected by the Roleystone/Kelmscott fires.

NEWS FROM RDA QUEENSLAND

As you would all be aware, the State of Queensland has been victim to dramatic flooding as well as Cyclone Yasi this year and RDA has not been spared. While we are not sure at this stage of the damage done by the cyclone, below is some information from RDA Queensland about the effects the floods have had on their centres as well as the progress already being made in the cleanup effort.

Queensland Flood Crisis

The recent severe flooding and storms throughout Queensland have seriously affected several RDA centres.

The Cartmill Centre RDA at Burpengary was completely under water and has lost most of its riding equipment, fences, arena, kitchen and office equipment. They will be having many working bees over the coming weeks to repair the centre. A fundraising video can be viewed at www.rda.mwurl.com.

Pine Rivers RDA had their arena and fences washed away and their clubhouse full of equipment undermined when the river rushed through their grounds. Much work and money will be required to get them operational again. It will be many months before these two centres are operational again.

Mackay RDA had a mini-tornado go through their property on Christmas day, demolishing fences and creating holes and hazards across their grounds. They are currently undertaking repair work and hope to be operating again soon.

North Qld RDA have had equipment, arena and fences damaged by water inundation.

Gympie and Toowoomba RDA both had fences down but have now repaired them all.

Warwick RDA had their arena submerged but hope to be up and running again by the start of term 2. Fortunately, no horses were lost at any of the centres.

There have been many offers of assistance from individuals wanting to help with the clean-up and from businesses offering financial help and State and National RDA organisations offering equipment and support. LodgeRopes in Victoria are sending a supply of ropes and tack. KER have offered nutrient and medical supplies for horses affected by flood waters and weather conditions. Horsewyse Magazine and famous horse handler Carlos Tabernaberi are organising a clinic with the proceeds to go to RDAQ centres affected by the floods. We would like to thank everyone that has offered to help.

John Kohnke published a newsletter about caring for horses/ponies during the flood and in the recovery period. Please follow this link to have a look.

www.kohnkesown.com/floodalert.pdf

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

Spotlight.

Next issue: 19 April 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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