

RDA Australia receives Gift of \$2.5m Property

Media Release -1 August 2007



RDA Australia is thrilled to announce the gift of a 271 acre property, valued at \$2.5m; purchased for and on behalf of RDA Australia by a very generous benefactor Mr. Bill Gibbins. Mr Gibbins is the former Owner and Managing Director of FCL Interstate Transport and 2007 Interstate Transport Australian Freight Industry Awards Personality of the Year.

This property will become the new National Training Centre of Excellence and the home of the National body, all within 20 minutes of Melbourne Airport.

Located in Diggers Rest at 351 Coimadai Road, this ideal horse property contains two stable complexes, sheds, dams and paddocks with shelter boxes as well as two 3 bedroom homes and a bungalow.



The acreage and infrastructure already present on this property represent an opportunity for developments of National significance previously only dreamed about.

Dover Park

While the National Board of Management had identified the need for a National Centre of Excellence, the purchase of Dover Park brings forward the National Strategic Vision by at least a decade.

Together with the hundreds of other worthwhile not for profit organisations operating throughout Australia, RDA is constantly battling for the fundraising dollar. Donations like this are very rare.

"I am touched and inspired by the magic that results from people genuinely giving of themselves for the benefit of others. It would be fair to say that in my experience this magnanimous gesture by Mr. Gibbins is without precedence. This incredibly generous gift will make a long lasting and genuine difference to the RDA family". Gillian Thompson-Rogers, CEO, RDA Australia (2007)

This property will be used to expand on the diverse array of activities carried out by RDA; in the short to medium term, horses will be re-education on the property and additional RDA coaches will be trained through 'fast track' programs.

In the longer term and with the investment of sufficient financial capitol, Dover Park will be further developed to enable families who live with disability to participate in a unique farm stay experience, catering to people of all abilities. It is hoped that this property will also play a significant role in the preparation of our Paralympic riders and horses.

For more information, please contact RDA Australia National office on (03) 9731 7388 or national@rda.org.au.