



NATIONAL SPOTLIGHT

RDA BOARD MEMBERS REQUIRED

In 2009, RDA celebrates its 30th Anniversary. As we start our fourth decade our organisation is changing and adapting to better meet the needs of our clients.

The RDA board is one of the areas of renewal and the national President is leading a process of Board Renewal to deliver a skill based board that will serve and lead RDA to better meet the needs of our clients.

We seek applications from individuals with the skills and experience to be part of a board that will deliver significant benefits to our local, state and national organisation. We are in the final stages of recruiting a new treasurer and seek directors with the skills, time and commitment to serve RDA.

To register your interest, please contact admin@rda.org.au.

RDA PROGRESS IN CANBERRA

We have been working with the Australian Sports Commission (ASC) and we are currently working on the preparation of 2008/09 reporting and business activity plans for 2009/10 to support ongoing funding.

The ASC have also given us some very useful support and advice as the State Presidents work with the RDA board to update the RDA constitution to comply with ASC requirements.

RDA had meetings with The Hon. Bill Shorten, Government Minister for Children and Disabilities and received strong support for the role of equine sport and recreation in the improvement of the health, welfare and therapy of children and adults with disabilities.

RDA FUNDRAISING RESULTS

RDA is delighted to announce that the **Ian Potter Foundation** has approved a grant of **\$100,000** for the **RDA National Coach Development Program**. This is an important grant, not just in terms of money but in recognition of the great work of RDA and its volunteers/coaches, particularly in the current economic climate. www.rda.org.au

2009 DIARY DATES

June 28	Presidents Meeting Melbourne (tbc)
July 27	Board Meeting Teleconference
Oct 19	Board Meeting Teleconference
Nov 28-29	RDA AGM & Company Meeting

NATIONAL OFFICE UPDATE

The RDA national office is staffed five days a week by our Administrator, Caroline Partridge. She is contactable by telephone on 03 9731 7388 or you can email Caroline at admin@rda.org.au.

DOVER PARK

In 2007 Bill Gibbins, the owner of Dover Park gifted the estate near Diggers Rest, Victoria for the use of RDA. The board have reviewed the viability of Dover Park against the background of the global financial crisis, a tough funding environment and the need for RDA to focus on coaching and serving the needs of coaches and supporting RDA in Australia. As a result we have advised Bill that we are not in a position to develop Dover Park and will hand back Dover Park in the coming months. We applaud Bill for his vision and generosity.

NATIONAL COACHING & SAFETY COUNCIL

Applications are being sought for the Chair of Program Delivery. The RDA Program Delivery Committees will be supported by an 'Expert Panel of Consultants'. This Panel will consist of recognised technical experts in RDA Program services, Disability services, Equine services and Medical and Therapeutic services. Various members of the panel will be used as a point of reference or expert review team for policy changes, etc. If you are interested in applying for this position please contact RDA National Office on 03 9731 7388 or email national@rda.org.au.

COACHING DEPARTMENT REORGANISATION

Mary Longden has been appointed as a Coaching Consultant for RDA. In addition to helping support existing coaches and coaching courses she

will also be rolling out a series of tailored coaching courses and workshops to increase the number of existing RDA coaches.

Coach Administration

Coaching administration will be the role of one person. The role will include registration of coaches, coach accreditation records management and liaison with the National Coaching Scheme.

Dedicated Online Coach Support

Work is currently being carried out on the development of a new dedicated Coaches section for the RDAA web site which will enable coaches to access information and ensure improved channels of communication for all RDAA coaches. RDA Discipline Committees are helping RDAA collate content required for website pages.

RDAA COMPETITION CORNER

RDAA Travel Bursaries

RDA Coaches Julie Nicholson (WA) and Rikki Raadsveld (VIC) have been awarded 2 RDAA Travel Bursaries to attend the 2009 FRDI XIII International Congress in Munster, Germany in August. They will be required to give a report to the RDAA Board on their return from the Congress. Congratulations to Julie and Rikki. For further information on FRDI Congress visit <http://www.frdi.net/congress.html>.

Canon – Be Creative for a Cause

Canon is running a national campaign designed to generate awareness of Australian Charities. Canon is looking for photos depicting the work of charities. The best photos will be selected by popular vote and the overall winning photo will win **\$60,000** for the charity in question.

RDAA would like to encourage all RDA Centres to mobilise their supporters and get creative. Any RDA member or supporter can take a photo which they feel best represents RDA.

Closing date for entries is 10 July 2009. For further details go to:

www.canon.com.au/creativeforacause

RDAA ASIA/PACIFIC VIDEO DRESSAGE COMPETITION 2009

RDA Australia is holding a 2009 Asia/Pacific video competition for **unclassified riders** (classified riders not eligible). Riders need to submit a **DVD** recording of the two tests in their Section. Tests will be judged by three qualified Judges. For further information visit the RDAA website.

Please complete the official entry form available online at www.rda.org.au and return with your DVD to:

Mrs R Vincent, P.O. Box 113, Houghton
South Australia 5131

by 1 August 2009; late entries will not be accepted. Results of RDAA Video Dressage Competition will be announced on 1 September, 2009.

RDAA NATIONAL VIDEO DRESSAGE COMPETITION 2009

The National Dressage Competition is an important part of the RDAA calendar.

However, it can be expensive to compete when travel and accommodation costs are taken into account. These costs can also restrict the number of contestants who wish to participate.

So, in response to the current financial climate and in the interests of making the competition as accessible as possible, RDAA wishes to announce that the 2009 National Dressage Championships will be conducted through the submission of videos by contestants. No travel or accommodation required, compete at your local RDA centre!

This exciting and innovative approach aims to engage a wider audience than we have ever had before. The RDAA Dressage Committee will be running the RDAA National Dressage Video Championships and details of the competition and competition tests will be announced shortly.

Watch the RDAA website for further information!



FLOODS CAUSE CHAOS AT LOCAL RDA CENTRES

RDA staff & volunteers were devastated when severe storms lashed SE Queensland and Northern NSW and flooded to local RDA Centres in QLD. Two



horses from Burpengary's **Cartmill RDA Centre** drowned and the organisation lost valuable equipment in flooding last week.

The **McIntyre RDA Centre** also suffered large losses in the flooding. The organisation is facing a \$15,000 clean-up bill after flooding devastated their property. Fortunately all the horses were moved to safer ground as the waters rose.

If you would like to help contact:

Cartmill RDA Centre on 07 38885611

McIntyre RDA Centre on 07 3202 6300

FANTOM RIDER RAISES MONEY FOR RIDING FOR THE DISABLED

Willie Robert Fantom has set out on an epic journey to ride across Australia. As Willie travels across Australia he is also raising awareness and money for RDA.



You will be able to follow Willie's travels on a dedicated RDA Champion's Page on the RDAA website which will be launched in June 2009.

Willie is currently travelling through Victoria and would like to visit as many RDA Centres as he can enroute. You can contact Willie on 0428591509 or email him at fantomhorse@gmail.com.

WILD BRUMBY UPDATE

RDA has benefited from national exposure in the R.M. Williams Outback Magazine courtesy of the Mountain Cattleman's Association VIC.

R.M Williams followed the story of the capture and gentling of the wild Brumby mare, Rose River, by members of the Mountain Cattlemen's Association.



Photo by Bill Backman

River Rose was auctioned in aid of RDA at the MCAV's Annual Get Up in Buttercup Valley, Merrigan, Victoria. The sale of Rose River raised \$650 (50% to RDAA/RDAV).

Read the full story in RM William Outback Magazine Issue 64 Apr/May 2009.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONSHIPS

RDAA fundraiser, Rosemary Mc Donald, visited Coleraine RDA Centre whilst on a recent visit home to Ireland. Rosemary was presented with a Coleraine RDA sweat shirt to commemorate her visit.

Whilst there she was shown round Coleraine RDA's new flagship Centre. This centre will be officially opened in Sept 2009 by UK RDA Patron The Princess Royal. Over \$2 million was raised to build this wonderful new facility set on 14 acres.



Rosemary met with Column Henry (RDA President) Christine Hankin (RDA Coach) and Albert Clyde (RDA Secretary) who expressed interest in twinning with a local RDA centre here in Australia.