



# NATIONAL SPOTLIGHT

## SPOTLIGHT Feb 2009

### Chairman's Message from John Harte

Hello, welcome back and a very Happy New Year to all the RDA community. I hope that the summer was a welcome chance for you to rest relax and enjoy time with special people. As I write this letter the media have moved from their obsession with the global financial crisis to the real tragedy of lives, livestock and homes lost in the devastating bush fires of February the 7<sup>th</sup>. A timely reminder of just how fragile life is.

2009 is going to be a challenging year for many voluntary organisations as donations and funding become more difficult while demands increase. I expect these forces will hit RDA. In the coming weeks we will meet with the state presidents to work on the RDAA constitution - making sure we all have a framework for successful collaboration and support from RDAA to help centres and riders. This will be accompanied by a process of board and financial renewal as we try to ensure that RDA nationally has the right people with the right focus to deliver what the RDA community needs.

In 2008, Spotlight was very successfully introduced by Ken Peters during his time as Acting CEO of RDAA to inform all the RDA community of what was happening in the National Office, short articles about significant events that had taken place, and notice of future events of interest to all in RDA. The 2009 version of Spotlight will continue to provide the same information as before but **will be distributed electronically on the RDAA website on a monthly basis**. As well as informing you of upcoming events, it will also provide a channel of communication to disseminate information on decisions made by the RDAA Board and other matters of interest to all in RDA.

We will try to publish Spotlight every month and I appreciate Philip Walliker and Rosemary Mc Donald taking responsibility for this important piece of communication. Please send news items for spotlight to Rosemary [fundraising@rda.org.au](mailto:fundraising@rda.org.au).

### NATIONAL OFFICE

Caroline Partridge was recently appointed RDAA Office Manager. We welcome Caroline to RDAA.



### 2009 DIARY DATES

Feb 27/28  
Mar 7  
Mar 7

National Coaching & Safety Council  
Board meeting, Brisbane  
State Presidents meeting, Brisbane

### VICTORIAN BUSHFIRE DISASTER

In the last few days, all us will have been touched by the appalling disaster that has unfolded with the bushfires in Victoria. At the time of writing, we understand that no RDA centres in Victoria have been directly impacted by the disaster. However, many volunteers and friends of RDA will have suffered losses and as the National Body, we would like to express our deepest condolences and prayers for all those that have been affected.

RDAA has been able to offer some assistance to those affected. Dover Park at Diggers Rest, VIC, has been made available as an emergency refuge for horses that have been displaced in the disaster.

### NATIONAL COACHING & SAFETY COUNCIL MEETING

The National Coaching and Safety Council (NCAS) meeting is being held on 27/28 February in Victoria. Representatives from all States and Territories will be attending and discussions will be centred on the RDAA disciplines of Riding, Carriage Driving, Dressage, Hippotherapy and Vaulting. A report on the meeting will appear in the next edition.

### FUNDRAISING UPDATE

RDAA has been selected as one of 37 nonprofit organisations to receive a capacity building grant as part of the Myer Foundation's 2009 Commemorative Grants Program. RDAA will focus on 4 main areas:

1. Board Development & Strategic Planning
2. Development of a Fundraising Strategy
3. Communication & Marketing
4. Development of a National Database

*'This grant will strengthen the work and support that the national office provides to the organisation across Australia, helping the national peak body improve the quality and depth of assistance to States & Territories.'* John Harte, Chairman RDAA

The newly launched RDA national website [www.rda.org.au](http://www.rda.org.au) has generated huge interest. Can RDA Centres please send their stories to [fundraising@rda.org.au](mailto:fundraising@rda.org.au) so we can continue to build interest in the great work that RDA does.