



## **RIDING FOR THE DISABLED ASSOCIATION (NSW)**

### **SHUSH AWARD**



Every horse at RDA is special and each deserves an award and every Centre has their 'go to' pony/horse who they couldn't do without. We want to hear about these ponies/horses

#### **Award Criteria:**

- ❖ Each Centre may nominate up to two (2) ponies/horses each year
- ❖ Each nomination must be forwarded to the Regional Rep by 31<sup>st</sup> December.
- ❖ Nominations received after the closing date cannot be accepted under any circumstances.
- ❖ Nominated pony/horse must be active in riding/driving program for a minimum of two (2) years at the time of the nomination.
- ❖ The award is presented at the RDA (NSW) Annual General Meeting held in May of the year following the nomination.

#### **Selection Process:**

- ❖ Each Regional Representative organises a non-RDA (NSW) member of the community to review all nominations for the region and select the winner for the region.
- ❖ Each Regional winner is forwarded to the State Office (PO Box 710 Sydney Markets) by 10<sup>th</sup> March in the year of the AGM.
- ❖ State Office organises a non-RDA (NSW) member of the community to review all regional nominations and select the overall State winner.
- ❖ Regional Shush Award winners will be notified before the AGM.
- ❖ The Centre with the winner of the Shush Award will be notified before the AGM in May and a representative of the Centre must attend the AGM for the presentation of the Award.

**SHUSH AWARD  
NOMINATION FORM**

Name of Horse/Pony:			Age:		
Height:			Colour:		
Gender:			Breed:		
RDA (NSW) Region:		RDA Centre:		Years at RDA (NSW):	
<p><b>Supporting Statement of Nomination:</b></p> <p>The Management Committee support this nomination as acknowledgement of the valuable work and joy this pony/horse brings to the riders of our Centre.</p>					
Name of Centre President:					
Signature of President:			Date:		

**Note:**

- ❖ Nomination must be accompanied by a colour photograph of the pony/horse
- ❖ Photograph must be at least 10cm x 15cm
- ❖ Supporting Statement from Rider/Driver

## SHUSH AWARD

### Supporting Information

Please provide the following information regarding the pony/horse. Information can be entered in bullet points or free form. **Maximum of 500 words**

Tell us about the qualities that make this pony/horse extra special and how the riders experience is improved:



## THE STORY OF SHUSH

Shush's full name was Shush Hanover and he was a 15.2 hh bay Standardbred gelding. Shush arrived at Wagga Wagga RDA on 10 April 1997 and at the age of 15 years he died whilst on tour for the Sydney Royal Easter Show and the NSW Mounted Games Competition in April 2001.

Shush was bred and registered with a well known name in the trotting world. The Hanover name goes back many years and is well respected especially in the South West Slopes area. Shush did not quite make it as a racer as it takes speed. Speed and Shush did not come together as the ideal partner.

Shush was offered to RDA Wagga on a trial basis and at first it did not appear if he would settle in. He was quiet enough but could not seem to adapt to the RDA way of life. For Shush there seemed to be too many bosses and too many selfish horses. Luckily for RDA he quickly overcame these concerns and soon found himself being worked regularly in lessons. He passed every test given to him. He had already been ridden and was used to a rider on this back and leg aids. He quickly learnt to accept leaders and side walkers, the ramp, wheelchairs, unsteady riders and to canter. Cantering was the hardest as it was not natural for him.

Richard Atherton who rode Shush at RDA Wagga Wagga was given "RDA ownership" (Shush was on permanent loan, so could not be officially given away) to give him a horse of his own to care for and ride. Richard would save all his money to buy Shush tack, rug and anything he needed. Richard and Shush must have had an understanding as Richard could get away with things that no one else could. His tolerance of Richards's style of riding and continual change of direction was amazing. In spite of being kicked along all the time by Richard's habit of throwing his legs back and forth Shush would never attempt to run off. He seemed to know how to ignore the mixed signals and yet respond correctly to the right ones.

As well as being ridden by Richard, Shush was worked in most RDA classes as well as the after school lessons for able bodied riders. He would accept small learner riders as well as adults who could ride. Shush was one horse that coaches could use in a lesson and know exactly what to expect. He was not shy of equipment used in lessons and was comfortable in traffic when out on parade or trail riding. From the first Sydney Show he was taken to, he never showed any signs of stress or nervousness.

It was a great shock and very distressing when the night before the 2001 Sydney Show whilst being stabled at Tall Timbers RDA Centre Shush suffered severe colic as a result of travel sickness and was unable to be saved. He developed extreme dehydration and serious complications and died soon after arriving at the vet hospital.

He is sorely missed and many a tear was shed when the Wagga truck returned from Sydney without him.