



Riding For  
The Disabled  
Association  
(NSW)



# 2019 ANNUAL REPORT

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# ABOUT RDA (NSW)

The primary objective of **Riding for the Disabled (NSW)** is to provide people with a disability, the opportunity to ride and drive and enjoy all the activities connected with horse riding. Riding for people with a disability is both therapeutic and recreational and **RDA (NSW)** is in fact one of the few organisations to offer a multi-diagnostic service, catering for people with a wide range of disabilities.

The objectives of **RDA (NSW)** are to encourage, support and assist Centres to provide riding therapy, sport, recreation, training and safety programs for people with disabilities. **RDA (NSW)** offers programs in horse riding, carriage driving, dressage, v and Equine Facilitated Mental Health and Learning (EFMH&L) and cater for people with all kinds of disability including intellectual disabilities, specific learning disorders, injuries resulting

from accidents, cerebral palsy, psychiatric disorders, spina bifida, muscular dystrophy, multiple sclerosis, thalidomide, visual and hearing impairments, autism and amputees.

**RDA (NSW)** currently has 39 Centres spread throughout NSW with 90% of Centres based in regional areas. The Centres cater for 1,700 riders annually and are supported by 1,500 volunteers. A community therefore embraces the Centre and not only is the volunteer infrastructure required to adequately support a disabled rider very high but **RDA (NSW)** adopts a person-centric focus where all support services are focused on the rider to create a practical, life-changing experience.

## Value Proposition

**RDA (NSW)** provides the highest standards and training for Centres to develop abilities by enabling them to know they are compliant and supported to help people achieve their goals.



### Vision

The equestrian organisation of choice for people with disabilities in NSW acknowledged as the benchmark in service delivery and standards by its stakeholders



### Values

**RDA (NSW)** is a charity that provides horse-related activities to enrich the lives of people with disabilities.



### Mission

Person-centred Inclusive Enriching Enabling Respectful Fun Valued

## Strategic Priorities

**Sustainable Governance and Financial Management** To build a sustainable organisation at all levels by developing and implementing recognised high standard practices

**Communication** To create clear and effective communication strategies with all stakeholders

**Marketing (promotion and revenue generation)** To increase awareness of the organisation and the services provided at local community level that increases and diversifies revenue streams

**Coach development** To retain, readaptation procedures

**Participation** To grow participation by broadening the disciplines and numbers and providing pathways via Centre capacity

**Volunteers** To retain existing, recruit new and recognise a volunteer's value and contribution

## Regional Centres

### NORTH WEST

Coonabarabran, Gunnedah, Narrabri,  
Armidale & New England

### NORTH COAST

Ballina & District, Clarence Valley,  
Tweed Valley, Coffs Harbour

### CENTRAL WEST

Bathurst, Dubbo, Mudgee, Orange,  
Forbes

### MID NORTH COAST

Kempsey/Macleay, Manning Great  
Lakes, Tamworth, Wauchope/Port  
Macquarie

### HUNTER

Central Coast, Kendall, Upper  
Hunter, Raymond Terrace  
& Lower Hunter

### RIVERINA

Albury-Wodonga, Cootamundra,  
Eurobodalla, Griffith/Leeton, Tumut,  
Wagga Wagga, West Wyalong

### METROPOLITAN

Blue Mountains, Nepean, Ryde,  
Box Hill "Tall Timbers", Richmond

### SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS

Illawarra, Eurobodalla, Goulburn, Cowra,  
Moss Vale, Wollondilly, Young





**Pearl Batchelor OAM (dec.)**  
**Founder and Life Patron of RDA (NSW)**



# DIRECTORS REPORTS

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# CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

With the success of the 'one stop shop' for venue/accommodation and, for the first time to support the towns in areas experiencing severe drought, RDA(NSW) changed the venue for hosting the 2019 AGM/Administration Workshop from Sydney to Dubbo Cattleman's Country Motor Inn.

It was thrilling to see the largest attendees at an RDA(NSW) AGM/Administration Workshop. 85 Members coming from 25 registered Centres with many proudly displaying their Centre emblems in the 'Banner Parade'.

This weekend also combined Face to Face Committee Meetings being held by SNC (State Network Committee) consisting of the Board of Directors and Regional Representatives, also CASP, Carriage Driving, Mounted Games and Regional Representatives.

**CONGRATULATIONS to** Winners of our State and Regional Awards. A full list of names are listed in the RDA(NSW) Annual Report.

Board Talk": A summary of issues and decisions from Board Meetings was sent to Centres keeping them informed on current issues the Board is dealing with.

State Network Committee (SNC) held a Zoom meeting in September. We are hoping Meetings to increase in 2020.

The increase in Regional Workshops throughout New South Wales allows our coaches, volunteers and riders to attain up to date essential information and for RDA members from different centres to catch up and exchange ideas. It also assists many new Trainees currently working towards their trainee coach accreditation.

NDIS continues its complexities for Directors, State Office, and our Centres. We are holding a Meeting early 2020 to implement new procedures for RDA(NSW)'s involvement in NDIS.

WWCC - Thanks to the continued negotiations between our State Office and all Centres, this program has been kept on track with our Volunteers all having Clearances.

Directors appreciate the many hours of workload involved with keeping the NDIS and WWCC programs up to date.

## Our Centres:

For the greater majority of our Centres there has been a minimum of problems this year. However, many are still finding it quite a challenge attracting and keeping our volunteers in a world where most households are two income homes.

From September and ongoing through to 2020, our special prayers to the many Centres who have suffered hardship through the devastating drought and horrendous bush fires that engulfed our Centres, some being evacuated until the fires had past, some Centres put on 'watch and act'. Our sincere thanks and appreciation to all the Volunteers and State Fire Services, who helped our Centres in their hour of need.

## CONGRATULATIONS to:

- Centres celebrating a milestone in RDA(NSW), the Centres that became Accredited, Clarence Valley for obtaining Provisional status and the new Centre volunteers recruited.
- The many Centres that took advantage of Awareness Week to promote their Centre by creating awareness of the work our Centres achieve.

## List of Achievements by RDA(NSW):

- Opening of potential new Centre in Malabar. The Centre was visited by the Hon. Greg Hunt Minister for Health.
- State Championships held for Mounted Games, Dressage and Carriage Driving.
- Musical Ride National Championships, Category Winners.
- State Administration Workshop was extremely informative and well attended.
- Increased use of Technology throughout our Association especially in areas of training and meetings is proving successful with Board and some Discipline.
- Meetings being held by the use of Zoom Conferencing.
- Invitation from Local Government NSW for RDA(NSW) to be their 'Charity Partner' at the NSW Annual 3-day Conference for 2019 held in October. The EO and Chair attended the Reception.

Our Office Coordinator helped organise the stand with our Marketing and Grants Directors and myself attending the stand at the Exhibition Area over the 3 days showcasing RDA(NSW)'s Centres' work throughout the State.

- Invitation from Racing NSW to be one of their Charity recipients for the Inaugural Golden Eagle Race held 1 November at Rosehill Race Track. 'Classique Legend' was partnered with RDA(NSW) who received a generous donation of \$10,000.
- The Marketing Director and Chair were interviewed for 2KPH by Elaine Wziontek Animates, to showcase RDA(NSW) activities. The interview was relayed twice in August.
- At the invitation from Lynda Voltz MP, the EO and Chair attended a BBQ at Auburn Botanic Gardens on 15 June. With the open areas in Lynda's precinct, we spoke of possibly commencing an RDA Centre in one of the many Councils in her electorate. Matter ongoing.

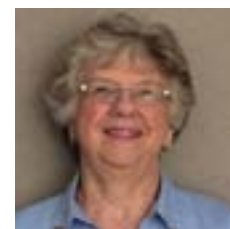
In closing, I would like to give special thanks to the following people who are the cogs in the wheels that keep RDA(NSW) turning, they are our:

- Office Coordinator, Lucy Pentony whose work ethic is invaluable and who is only too happy to hear from everyone and answer any calls that come her way.

- Supporters and those who have so generously donated funds to our Centres.
- Enthusiastic Centre Committee Members, CASP, Coaches, Whips, Assistants, Trainees, all Disciplines who volunteer their time and work tirelessly to make RDA(NSW) the success it is today.
- Riders, who have again done us proud while obtaining enjoyment, also achieving their goals, while safety remaining the priority.
- Lyn Lazarus, who volunteers her time obtaining snippets of information contributed from our Centres to produce the "Bits 'n' Pieces".
- Honorary Advisors, who have been called upon to assist with our NDIS and Strategic Plan.
- Our Team of dedicated Honorary Directors, Jan Pike, Joseph Orland, Olwen Smith, Melanie Spaggiari, Susan Turner-Davis and Tracy Lucas who bring their skills, expertise, dedication and commitment to protect the core values of our Constitution ensuring the future of RDA(NSW)'s exciting move forward.

Extra big hugs for our Horses – there would be no RDA without them.

**Yours in RDA**  
**Margaret Norman OAM**  
**Hon. Director/Chairperson**



## FINANCE OFFICER

As can be seen from the tables below, before taking into account interest, dividends and revaluations of the share portfolio, the net result of RDA (NSW) for the year was a loss of \$6,276.30. This is generally consistent with other years. The net financial result of the Association is strongly supported by the investments that are held by RDA (NSW).

### Summary of the net financial results of the Association:

	2019	2018	Variation
Total Income (excl Interest & dividends)	\$232,322.34	\$264,442.25	-\$32,119.91
Less Total Expenses	\$238,598.64	\$262,395.13	-\$23,796.49
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	<b>-\$6,276.30</b>	<b>\$2,047.12</b>	<b>-\$8,323.42</b>
Add Interest & Dividends (including franking credits)	\$168,092.66	\$159,071.45	\$9,021.21
Net Income	\$161,816.36	\$161,118.57	\$697.79
Change in value & other	\$175,756.73	-\$226,793.47	\$402,550.20
<b>Net result</b>	<b>\$337,573.09</b>	<b>-\$65,674.90</b>	<b>\$403,247.99</b>



The breakdown of the income and expenditure for the year is as follows:

Revenue			
	2019	2018	Variation
Rider Registration & Affiliation Fees	\$133,210.00	\$134,187.27	-\$977.27
Coaching & Assessments (Qld and NSW)	\$6,818.17	\$7,452.24	-\$634.07
Donations	\$20,090.59	\$7,898.54	\$12,192.05
Dressage etc. receipts	\$17,315.12	\$14,207.78	\$3,107.34
Grants	\$20,000.00	\$67,300.33	-\$47,300.33
Other receipts	\$34,888.46	\$33,396.09	\$1,492.37
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>\$232,322.34</b>	<b>\$264,442.25</b>	<b>-\$32,119.91</b>
<i>Add</i>			
Interest and Dividends (including franking credits)	\$168,092.18	\$159,071.45	\$9,020.73
Share revaluations	\$175,756.73	-\$226,792.55	\$402,549.28
	\$576,171.25	\$196,721.15	\$379,450.10
Expenses			
	2019	2018	Variation
Office overheads and fees	\$14,906.40	\$12,679.98	-\$2,226.42
Operational expenses (excluding insurances)	\$43,510.35	\$33,849.56	-\$9,660.79
Insurances	\$44,877.74	\$46,184.03	\$1,306.29
Payroll and Superannuation	\$69,654.36	\$110,451.37	\$40,797.01
Travel and Accommodation	\$18,455.70	\$25,713.79	\$7,258.09
Professional Fees	\$20,479.52	\$15,793.50	-\$4,686.02
Promotions and Marketing	\$9,913.83	\$5,749.70	-\$4,164.13
Other expenses	\$16,800.74	\$11,973.20	-\$4,827.54
	<b>\$238,598.64</b>	<b>\$262,395.13</b>	<b>\$23,796.49</b>

The year's result would have been much worse were it not for the cost-cutting introduced by the Board, with the major difference being the cost of payroll and related expenses.

This saving in payroll was as a result of the Board not replacing the role of Project Officer. The work which was previously performed by that role has been shared amongst each of the Board members, resulting in a saving in costs while at the same time also resulting in an increase in the workload of each Board member, on top of their other volunteer activities for RDA (NSW).

The net income of RDA (NSW) for the year is \$337,573.09, which, on paper, is considerably better than

the result of the 2018 year where a loss of \$65,674.90 was recorded. However, it must be noted that these results are greatly affected by the increases and decreases in the value of the shares held.

As the shares are held as a long-term investment not for trading, the change in value of the Association's share portfolio does not result in any income or payment of money by RDA (NSW). However, such movements in the value of the shares are required to be accounted for as if they were "receipts" or "losses" (as applicable) of RDA (NSW) for the purposes of calculating the Association's net profit or net loss.

The resultant variation, by way of an increase of \$402,550.20 in the value of the shares and other adjustments between the end of the 2018 year and the end of the 2019 year is, therefore, the main reason for the substantial “net profit” for the year, which was an overall increase of \$403,247.99 when compared to the “net loss” of the 2018 year.

A break-down of the results of the value of the share portfolio held by RDA (NSW) is set out below.

#### Share portfolio movements – 2019 year:

	Market Value 31/12/2019	Market Value 31/12/2018	Increase or Decrease
Finance	\$902,325.11	\$894,877.56	\$7,447.55
Resources	\$202,721.00	\$168,572.12	\$34,148.88
Utilities	\$80,764.60	\$64,116.50	\$16,648.10
Retail	\$482,371.33	\$375,496.60	\$106,874.73
Health	\$34,500.00	\$26,532.00	\$7,968.00
Other	\$27,394.81	\$27,052.66	\$342.15
Property	\$124,060.40	\$124,057.00	\$3.40
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$1,854,137.25</b>	<b>\$1,680,704.44</b>	<b>\$173,432.81</b>

#### Share portfolio movements – since acquisition

Category	Original Cost	Current Market Value	Variation
Finance	\$942,814.37	\$902,325.11	-\$40,489.26
Resources	\$175,678.68	\$202,721.00	\$27,042.32
Utilities	\$102,219.21	\$80,764.60	-\$21,454.61
Retail	\$347,468.59	\$482,371.33	\$134,902.74
Health	\$15,308.40	\$34,500.00	\$19,191.60
Other	\$19,844.70	\$27,394.81	\$7,550.11
Property	\$123,895.88	\$124,060.40	\$164.52
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$1,727,229.83</b>	<b>\$1,854,137.25</b>	<b>\$126,907.42</b>

There was a notional reduction in the original cost of the shares held in Suncorp as a result of a return of capital to the amount of \$2,484.30. This return of capital has the effect of reducing the cost (and therefore, in effect, the notional purchase price) of the shares by that amount.

As RDA (NSW) is a not for profit organisation, it does not pay income tax. However it still has the benefit of receiving a full refund of the franking credits which attach to the dividends from shares and distributions from property trusts.

This results in a further benefit of the shareholding

It is noted that the effect of the CPI, which affects the “purchasing power” of the funds invested, either in bank accounts, term deposits or shares, by reducing the true “value” of those funds is not able to be taken into account.

as it represents the greater return (exclusive of CPI adjustments) to the Association. However, even though the investment portfolio held by RDA (NSW) is in what are generally termed as “blue chip” investments, there is still some element of risk in these investments. The fluctuation in the value of these investments year on year is testament to that risk.

However, despite that risk, the return is sufficient, based on the nature of the companies and trusts in which the investments are made, to sufficiently outweigh concerns about that risk to warrant a continued investment in the current portfolio.

The return to RDA (NSW) from the shareholding for the 2019 year was as follows:

Franked Dividends	\$98,889.02
Property Trusts	\$7,046.22
Unfranked Dividends	\$4,539.34
Franking Credits	\$42,620.62
<b>Total Dividends</b>	<b>\$153,095.20</b>

Percentage return on cost of shares	8.86%
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The funds held in bank accounts and term deposits are as follows:

#### Bank Accounts and Term Deposits balances

	31/12/2019	31/12/2018	Difference
Westpac Op xxxx895	\$23,073.92	\$12,358.17	\$10,715.75
Westpac Maxi direct xxxx908	\$10,048.83	\$10,862.87	-\$814.04
Investment Trading xxxx073	\$5.32	\$5.32	\$0.00
Investment Cash Reserve xxxx081	\$214,097.10	\$230,812.80	-\$16,715.70
Cash Invest Bonus xxxx067	\$50,165.07	\$2.07	\$50,163.00
Debit Card xxxx250	\$929.83	\$1,000.07	-\$70.24
	<b>\$298,320.07</b>	<b>\$255,041.30</b>	<b>\$43,278.77</b>

	31/12/2019	31/12/2018	Difference
Term Deposit xxxx037	\$370,454.32	\$266,331.50	\$104,122.82
Term Deposit xxxx942	\$252,481.62	\$249,940.78	\$2,540.84
Term Deposit xxxx934	\$131,570.88	\$129,348.95	\$2,221.93
Term Deposit xxxx242	\$178,606.96	\$154,293.43	\$24,313.53
	<b>\$933,113.78</b>	<b>\$799,914.66</b>	<b>\$133,199.12</b>

Net interest return on average balances	1.31%
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The “average balances” of the respective accounts is the mid-way point between the closing balances of each account for both the 2018 and 2019 years.

Inflation is a factor that needs to be kept in mind as the interest on some of the accounts is below the rate of inflation, resulting, in real terms, a negative interest rate as the spending power is reduced due to the effects of inflation when the inflation rate is higher than the rate of return.

Generally, the interest rate on the Association’s term deposits slightly exceeds the CPI rate. To help counteract the effects of inflation, the income from the term deposits is reinvested in the term deposits in order to maintain the true value of those deposits and provide a further “safety net”.

The above return on the combined investments held by way of bank accounts and term deposits may not always exceed the rate of inflation. However, the security that



is provided via these particular investments, relative to other forms of investments such as shares, must be considered in relation to the overall investment portfolio.

This potential “loss of value”, while very small, may be considered as being the cost of holding assets (the funds) in a more secure investment.

**The combined return on the Association’s investments for the year were as follows:**

	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>Variation</b>
Interest	\$14,997.46	\$17,718.38	<b>-\$2,720.92</b>
Dividends and Trust Distributions	\$110,474.58	\$101,361.46	\$9,113.12
Franking credits	\$42,620.62	\$39,991.61	\$2,629.01
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$168,092.66</b>	<b>\$159,071.45</b>	<b>\$9,021.21</b>

Apart from the value of the land owned by RDA (NSW) as shown in the balance sheet, it needs to be noted that the value of the land held by RDA (NSW) from which the Raymond Terrace and Lower Hunter Centre operates was inadvertently overlooked when the accounts were prepared. The value of that property, as per the latest valuation of July 2019 made by the NSW Valuer General, is \$61,400.00. This error will be corrected in the current (2020) year’s accounts.

On the question of the overall size of the investments held by RDA (NSW) in the form of “liquid” assets such as bank accounts, term deposits and shares, it must be kept in mind that not only is the income from these assets keeping the Association financially viable without having to increase the fees it charges, they also provide a financial “buffer” in the event that income drops dramatically for an extended period or if there are substantial costs which need to be met by RDA (NSW) and its Centres.

By way of example, the combined operating costs of RDA (NSW) and its Centres for one year are in the vicinity of \$2million annually. Even six months without any income can have a seriously adverse effect on the financial status of the Association. This means that organisations, including organisations such as ours, should have reserves to outlast at least one year, and preferably 18 months, without income.

This, of course, varies from organisations to organisation, because a lack of income can, in some instances, also result in a reduction in expenses. However, because of the nature of the role that RDA performs, there are some expenses that will remain, such as the care and upkeep of horses, lease/rent/licence payments, insurances, etc.

Therefore, taking into account the nature of the expenditure that must be incurred, while some Centres have the necessary financial reserves for such an extended period without income, the vast majority of Centres do not. This means that it is all the more important that RDA (NSW) carefully manages its funds to be able to continue and assist those Centres where needed.

In closing, I need to note that I greatly appreciate the assistance that is given to me by others including each of Leigh Hansel, Angus Malcolm and Margaret Norman in their role on the Finance Committee, the Directors, the bookkeeper Judy Smith and the auditor Richard Rogers and his associate Usha Mishra, and wish to thank each of them for that assistance given to me over the year.

**Joseph Orland**  
**Honorary Director**  
**Finance Officer.**



**RIDING FOR THE DISABLED ASSOCIATION (NSW)**  
**ABN: 50 001 823 267**

**FINANCIAL REPORT**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED**  
**31 DECEMBER 2019**

**Liability limited by a scheme approved under  
Professional Standards Legislation**

**RIDING FOR THE DISABLED ASSOCIATION (NSW)**  
**ABN: 50 001 823 267**

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**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT  
TO THE MEMBERS OF RIDING FOR THE DISABLED ASSOCIATION (NSW)  
ABN: 50 001 823 267**

**Responsibilities of Directors' for the Financial Report**

The directors of the company are responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and have determined that the basis of preparation described in note 1 to the financial report is appropriate to meet the requirements of the Corporations Act 2001 and is appropriate to meet the needs of the members. The directors' responsibility also includes such internal control as the directors determine necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the directors are responsible for assessing the company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the directors either intend to liquidate the company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

**Auditor's Responsibility for the Audit of the Financial Report**

My objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the company's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the directors.

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT  
TO THE MEMBERS OF RIDING FOR THE DISABLED ASSOCIATION (NSW)  
ABN: 50 001 823 267**

- Conclude on the appropriateness of the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the company's ability to continue as a going concern. If I conclude that a material uncertainty exists, I am required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify my opinion. My conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of my auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the company to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

I communicate with the directors regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit.

I also provide the directors with a statement that I have complied with relevant ethical requirements regarding independence, and to communicate with them all relationships and other matters that may reasonably be thought to bear on my independence, and where applicable, related safeguards.

From the matters communicated with the directors, we determine those matters that were of most significance in the audit of the financial report of the current period and are therefore the key audit matters. I describe these matters in my auditor's report unless law or regulation preclude public disclosure about the matter or when, in extremely rare circumstances, I determine that a matter should not be communicated in my report because the adverse consequences of doing so would reasonably be expected to outweigh the public interest benefits of such communication.

**Name of Firm:** R L Rodgers & Associates  
Chartered Accountants

**Name of Principal:**

  
Richard Rodgers

**Address:** 408/251 Oxford St Bondi Junction NSW 2022

**Dated this 15<sup>th</sup> day of May 2020**

**RIDING FOR THE DISABLED ASSOCIATION (NSW)**  
**ABN: 50 001 823 267**

**STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019**

	Note	2019 \$	2018 \$
<b>Income</b>			
Revenue		400,414.24	423,513.70
Other income		175,917.87	(226,793.47)
		<u>576,332.11</u>	<u>196,720.23</u>
<b>Expenditure</b>			
Advertising expenses		(9,913.83)	(5,749.70)
Employee benefits expenses		(69,654.36)	(110,451.37)
Other expenses		(159,030.45)	(146,193.14)
		<u>(238,598.64)</u>	<u>(262,394.21)</u>
<b>Profit (Loss) for the year</b>	<b>3</b>	<u>337,733.47</u>	<u>(65,673.98)</u>
<b>Total comprehensive income for the year</b>		<u>337,733.47</u>	<u>(65,673.98)</u>

	Note	2019 \$	2018 \$
<b>ASSETS</b>			
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	<b>4</b>	1,238,533.85	1,055,255.96
Trade and other receivables	<b>5</b>	(485.00)	5,098.58
Loans and advances	<b>6</b>	47,307.10	58,047.90
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<u>1,285,355.95</u>	<u>1,118,402.44</u>
<b>NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Other financial assets	<b>7</b>	1,854,137.25	1,680,704.44
Investment property		4,500,000.00	4,500,000.00
<b>TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<u>6,354,137.25</u>	<u>6,180,704.44</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<u>7,639,493.20</u>	<u>7,299,106.88</u>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Trade and other payables	<b>8</b>	22,992.96	20,340.11
<b>TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		<u>22,992.96</u>	<u>20,340.11</u>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>		<u>22,992.96</u>	<u>20,340.11</u>
<b>NET ASSETS (LIABILITIES)</b>		<u>7,616,500.24</u>	<u>7,278,766.77</u>
<b>EQUITY</b>			
Reserves	<b>9</b>	1,638,420.58	1,638,420.58
Retained earnings	<b>10</b>	5,978,079.66	5,640,346.19
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>		<u>7,616,500.24</u>	<u>7,278,766.77</u>



**RIDING FOR THE DISABLED ASSOCIATION (NSW)**  
**ABN: 50 001 823 267**

**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019**

	Note	Reserves	Retained earnings \$	Total \$
<b>Balance at 1 January 2018</b>		1,638,420.58	5,706,020.17	7,344,440.75
Profit attributable to members			(65,673.98)	(65,673.98)
<b>Balance at 31 December 2018</b>		<u>1,638,420.58</u>	<u>5,640,346.19</u>	<u>7,278,766.77</u>
Profit attributable to members			337,733.47	337,733.47
Movements in Reserves				
<b>Balance at 31 December 2019</b>		<u><u>1,638,420.58</u></u>	<u><u>5,978,079.66</u></u>	<u><u>7,616,500.24</u></u>

		2019 \$	2018 \$
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>			
Receipts from customers		226,738.78	261,651.74
Payments to suppliers and employees		(235,945.79)	(275,337.11)
Interest received		476.42	2,933.84
<b>Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities</b>	<b>11</b>	<u>(8,730.61)</u>	<u>(10,751.53)</u>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>			
Proceeds from investments		187,208.50	191,291.26
Proceeds from sale of other assets			
Payments for property, plant and equipment			
Payments for investments			
Payments for other assets			
<b>Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities</b>		<u>187,208.50</u>	<u>191,291.26</u>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES</b>			
Proceeds from borrowings			
Repayment of borrowings		4,800.00	4,800.00)
<b>Net cash provided by (used in) financing activities</b>		<u>4,800.00</u>	<u>4,800.00)</u>
Net increase (decrease) in cash held		183,277.89	185,339.73
Cash at beginning of financial year		1,055,255.96	869,916.23
Cash at end of financial year	<b>4</b>	<u>1,238,533.85</u>	<u>1,055,255.96</u>

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019**

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The financial report covers RIDING FOR THE DISABLED ASSOCIATION (NSW) as an individual entity. RIDING FOR THE DISABLED ASSOCIATION (NSW) is an Australian public company limited by guarantee, incorporated and domiciled in Australia and is registered as a charity with ACNC.

The functional and presentation currency of RIDING FOR THE DISABLED ASSOCIATION (NSW) is Australian dollars.

Comparatives are consistent with prior years, unless otherwise stated.

## **1 Basis of Preparation**

In the directors' opinion, the Company is not a reporting entity since there are unlikely to exist users of the financial report who are not able to command the preparation of reports tailored so as to satisfy specifically all of their information needs. This special purpose financial report has been prepared to meet the reporting requirements of the Corporations Act 2001.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the recognition and measurement requirements of the Australian Accounting Standards and Accounting Interpretations, and the disclosure requirements of AASB 101 Presentation of Financial Statements, AASB 107 Statement of Cash Flows, AASB 108 Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates, Errors and AASB 1054 Australian Additional Disclosures.

The financial statements have been prepared on an accruals basis and are based on historical costs modified, where applicable, by the measurement at fair value of selected non current assets, financial assets and financial liabilities.

Significant accounting policies adopted in the preparation of these financial statements are presented below and are consistent with prior reporting periods unless otherwise stated.

## **2 Summary of Significant Accounting Policies**

### **Investment Property**

Although the real property is held primarily for the purposes of the conduct of the RDA (NSW) activities, it is also held to generate rental yields. Properties are carried at fair value, determined by independent valuers.

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019**

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**Financial Instruments**

Financial instruments are recognised initially using trade date accounting, i.e. on the date that company becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

On initial recognition, all financial instruments are measured at fair value plus transaction costs (except for instruments measured at fair value through profit or loss where transaction costs are expensed as incurred).

**Loans and receivables**

Loans and receivables are non-derivative financial assets with fixed or determinable payments that are not quoted in an active market. They arise principally through the provision of goods and services to customers but also incorporate other types of contractual monetary assets.

After initial recognition these are measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less provision for impairment. Any change in their value is recognised in profit or loss.

The company's trade and most other receivables fall into this category of financial instruments.

In some circumstances, the company renegotiates repayment terms with customers which may lead to changes in the timing of the payments, the company does not necessarily consider the balance to be impaired, however assessment is made on a case-by-case basis.

**Available-for-sale financial assets**

Available-for-sale financial assets are non-derivative financial assets that do not qualify for inclusion in any of the other categories of financial assets or which have been designated in this category. The company's available-for-sale financial assets comprise listed securities.

All available for sale financial assets are measured at fair value with subsequent changes in value recognised in other comprehensive income.

Gains and losses arising from financial instruments classified as available-for-sale are only recognised in profit or loss when they are sold or when the investment is impaired.

In the case of impairment or sale, any gain or loss previously recognised in equity is transferred to the profit or loss.

Subsequent recoveries of amounts previously written off are credited against other expenses in profit or loss.

**Available-for-sale financial assets**

A significant or prolonged decline in value of an available-for-sale asset below its cost is objective evidence of impairment, in this case, the cumulative loss that has been recognised in other comprehensive income is reclassified from equity to profit or loss as a reclassification adjustment. Any subsequent increase in the value of the asset is taken directly to other comprehensive income.



**RIDING FOR THE DISABLED ASSOCIATION (NSW)**  
**ABN: 50 001 823 267**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019**

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**Impairment of Non-Financial Assets**

At the end of each reporting period the company determines whether there is an evidence of an impairment indicator for non-financial assets.

Where this indicator exists the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated.

Where assets do not operate independently of other assets, the recoverable amount of the relevant cash-generating unit (CGU) is estimated.

The recoverable amount of an asset or CGU is the higher of the fair value less costs of disposal and the value in use. Value in use is the present value of the future cash flows expected to be derived from an asset or cash-generating unit.

Where the recoverable amount is less than the carrying amount, an impairment loss is recognised in profit or loss.

Reversal indicators are considered in subsequent periods for all assets which have suffered an impairment loss , except for goodwill.

**Cash and Cash Equivalents**

Cash and cash equivalents comprises cash on hand, demand deposits and short-term investments which are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and which are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value.

**RIDING FOR THE DISABLED ASSOCIATION (NSW)**  
**ABN: 50 001 823 267**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019**

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**Revenue and Other Income**

Revenue is recognised when the amount of the revenue can be measured reliably, it is probable that economic benefits associated with the transaction will flow to the company and specific criteria relating to the type of revenue as noted below, has been satisfied.

Revenue is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable and is presented net of returns, discounts and rebates.

**Sale of goods**

Revenue from the sale of goods is recognised at the point of delivery as this corresponds to the transfer of significant risks and rewards of ownership of the goods and the cessation of all involvement in those goods.

**Rental income**

Investment property revenue is recognised on a straight-line basis over the period of the lease term so as to reflect a constant periodic rate of return on the net investment.

**Interest revenue**

Interest revenue is recognised using the effective interest rate method.

**Rendering of services**

Revenue in relation to rendering of services is recognised depends on whether the outcome of the services can be measured reliably. If this is the case then the stage of completion of the services is used to determine the appropriate level of revenue to be recognised in the period. If the outcome cannot be reliably measured then revenue is recognised to the extent of expenses recognised that are recoverable.

**Other income**

Other income is recognised on an accruals basis when the company is entitled to it.

**Comparative Amounts**

Comparatives are consistent with prior years, unless otherwise stated.

Where a change in comparatives has also affected the opening retained earnings previously presented in a comparative period, an opening statement of financial position at the earliest date of the comparative period has been presented.

**RIDING FOR THE DISABLED ASSOCIATION (NSW)**  
**ABN: 50 001 823 267**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019**

	2019 \$	2018 \$
<hr/>		
<b>3 Profit for the year</b>		
The result for the year was derived after charging / (crediting) the following items:		
Profit before income tax from continuing operations includes the following specific expenses:		
<b>Expenses</b>		
Employee benefits expense:		
contributions to defined contribution superannuation funds	5,640.73	9,007.70
 <b>4 Cash and Cash Equivalents</b>		
Cash at Bank - Cheque Account	23,073.92	12,358.17
Westpac Maxi Direct	10,048.83	10,862.87
Petty Cash - Office	100.00	100.00
Petty Cash - Dressage	-	200.00
Investment Trading Account	5.32	5.32
Investment Cash Reserve-201081	214,097.10	230,812.80
Cash Investment Bonus-209067	50,165.07	2.07
Debit Cards	929.83	1,000.07
Interest Bearing Deposits	933,113.78	799,914.66
Emergency Relief Fund	7,000.00	-
	<u>1,238,533.85</u>	<u>1,055,255.96</u>

**RIDING FOR THE DISABLED ASSOCIATION (NSW)**  
**ABN: 50 001 823 267**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019**

	2019 \$	2018 \$
<b>5 Trade and Other Receivables</b>		
Other Debtors	(485.00)	4,098.58
Bonds Paid	-	1,000.00
	<u>(485.00)</u>	<u>5,098.58</u>
The carrying value of trade receivables is considered a reasonable approximation of fair value due to the short term nature of the balances.		
<b>6 Loans and Advances</b>		
Imputation Credit Due	21,601.42	27,542.22
Loan to Other RDA Centres	25,705.68	30,505.68
	<u>47,307.10</u>	<u>58,047.90</u>
<b>7 Other Financial Assets</b>		
<b>Non-Current</b>		
Shares at Original Cost	1,535,459.11	1,537,943.41
Changes in Value of Portfolio	194,617.74	18,704.03
Property Funds @ Original Cost	82,097.51	82,097.51
Changes in Value of Property	41,962.89	41,959.49
	<u>1,854,137.25</u>	<u>1,680,704.44</u>



**RIDING FOR THE DISABLED ASSOCIATION (NSW)**  
**ABN: 50 001 823 267**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019**

	2019 \$	2018 \$
<b>8 Trade and Other Payables</b>		
<b>Current</b>		
Other Creditors	4,071.71	4,633.48
Interest on Loan	3,204.76	4,429.82
Tax Liabilities	473.94	399.00
Accrued Expenses	13,242.55	8,877.81
Bonds Received	2,000.00	2,000.00
	<u>22,992.96</u>	<u>20,340.11</u>
<b>9 Reserves</b>		
<b>Asset Revaluation Reserve</b>	1,638,420.58	1,638,420.58
<b>10 Retained Earnings</b>		
Retained earnings at the beginning of the financial year	5,640,346.19	5,706,020.17
Net profit (Net loss) attributable to members of the company	<u>337,733.47</u>	<u>(65,673.98)</u>
Retained earnings at the end of the financial year	<u>5,978,079.66</u>	<u>5,640,346.19</u>

**RIDING FOR THE DISABLED ASSOCIATION (NSW)**  
**ABN: 50 001 823 267**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019**

	2019 \$	2018 \$
<hr/>		
<b>11 Cash Flow Information</b>		
<b>Reconciliation of result for the year to cashflows from operating activities.</b>		
<b>Reconciliation of net income to net cash provided by operating activities:</b>		
Profit (Loss) after income tax	337,733.47	(65,673.98)
Less Adjustment for Investing Activities	(167,615.48)	(156,137.61)
<b>Non-cash flows in profit</b>		
Net Changes in Value of Equities	(175,917.87)	226,792.55
<b>Changes in assets and liabilities</b>		
(Increase)/decrease in trade and other receivables	(5,583.58)	(2,789.59)
Increase/(decrease) in trade and other payables	2,652.85	(12,942.90)
	<u>(8,730.61)</u>	<u>(10,751.53)</u>

**12 Statutory Information**

RIDING FOR THE DISABLED ASSOCIATION (NSW)

The registered office of the association is: Quad1, Level 2, 8 Parkview Drive  
 SYDNEY OLYMPIC PARK NSW 2127

The principal place of business is: Quad1, Level 2, 8 Parkview Drive  
 SYDNEY OLYMPIC PARK NSW 2127

# RIDING FOR THE DISABLED ASSOCIATION (NSW)

ABN: 50 001 823 267

## DIRECTORS' DECLARATION

The directors have determined that the company is not a reporting entity and that this special purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements.

The directors of the company declare that:

1. The financial statements and notes, as set out on pages 2 to 13 are in accordance with the Corporations Act 2001 and:
  - (a) comply with Accounting Standards as stated in Note 1; and
  - (b) give a true and fair view of the company's financial position as at 31 December 2019 and of its performance for the year ended on that date in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements.
2. In the directors' opinion there are reasonable grounds to believe that the company will be able to pay its debt as and when they become due and payable.

This declaration is made in accordance with a resolution of the Board of Directors.

Director:

Ms Janet Pike

Director:

Mr Joseph Orland

Dated this 21st day of April 2020

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

**ABN: 50 001 823 267**

## **DIRECTORS' REPORT**

The directors present their report on the company for the financial year ended 31 December 2019.

### **Information on Directors**

The names of each person who has been a director during the year and to the date of this report are:

Margaret Norman OAM  
Susan Turner-Davis  
Janet Pike  
Melanie Spaggiari  
Olwen Smith  
Tracy Lucas (since 4 May 2019)  
Joseph Orland

Directors have been in office since the start of the financial year to the date of this report unless otherwise stated.

### **Operating Results**

The profit of the company after providing for income tax amounted to \$337,733.

### **Significant Changes in the State of Affairs**

There have been no significant changes in the state of affairs of the Company during the year.

### **Principal Activities**

The principal activities of the company during the financial year were to provide most people with a disability the opportunity to ride and enjoy all the activities connected with horse riding.

Riding for the Disabled Association (NSW) is a Registered Charity with the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission (ACNC) and is a Public Benevolent Institution.

No significant change in the nature of the company's activity occurred during the financial year.

### **Events After the Reporting Date**

No matters or circumstances have arisen since the end of the financial year which significantly affected or may significantly affect the operations of the company, the results of those operations, or the state of affairs of the company in future financial years.

### **Environmental Issues**

The company's operations are not regulated by any significant environmental regulations under a law of the Commonwealth or of a state or territory of Australia.

### **Dividends paid or recommended**

No dividends were paid or declared the start of the financial year. No recommendation for payment of dividends has been made.

### **Options**

No options over issued shares or interests in the company were granted during or since the end of the financial year and there were no options outstanding at the date of this report.

### **Indemnification and Insurance of Officers and Auditors**



## RIDING FOR THE DISABLED ASSOCIATION (NSW)

ABN: 50 001 823 267

### DIRECTORS' REPORT

No indemnities have been given or insurance premiums paid, during or since the end of the financial year, for any person who is or has been an officer or auditor of the company.

#### Auditor's Independence Declaration

The lead auditor's independence declaration in accordance with section 307C of the Corporations Act 2001, for the year ended 31 December 2019 has been received and can be found on page 3.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Board of Directors:

Director:

Ms Janet Pike



Director:

Mr Joseph Orland



Dated this 21st day of April 2020

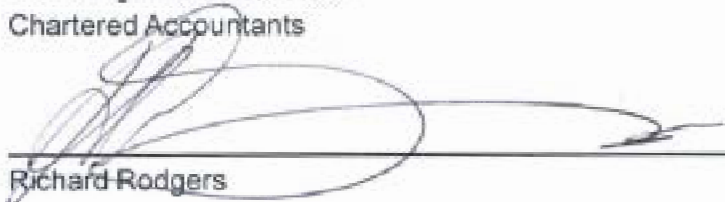
**AUDITOR'S INDEPENDENCE DECLARATION  
UNDER SECTION 307C OF THE CORPORATIONS ACT 2001  
TO THE DIRECTORS OF  
RIDING FOR THE DISABLED ASSOCIATION (NSW)**

I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, during the year ended 31 December 2019 there have been:

- (i) no contraventions of the auditor independence requirements as set out in the Corporations Act 2001 in relation to the audit; and
- (ii) no contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.

**Name of Firm:** R L Rodgers & Associates  
Chartered Accountants

**Name of Partner:**

  
Richard Rodgers

**Address:** 408/251 Oxford St Bondi Junction NSW 2022

**Dated this 15<sup>th</sup> day of May 2020**

## Acquittal certificate for grants under \$30,000

### CERTIFICATION STATEMENT BY GRANT RECIPIENT

#### Certificate by two authorised office bearers of the grant recipient organisation

We, Joseph Orland

and Tracy Lucas

certify that the information contained in the Statement of Expenditure of Grant, books, financial records and financial reports

of Riding for the Disabled Association (NSW)

present the truth, fairness and accuracy of the accounts including the notes to the accounts of the organisation at (31 December 2019)

#### **We confirm that:** (DELETE 1 OR 2 AS APPLICABLE)

1. An amount equal to the total Grant paid (\$20,000.00) **has been expended** in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Sport Development Program Funding Agreement dated 2019 with the State of New South Wales represented by Office of Sport.

**OR**

- ~~2. The total Grant of \$ (insert amount) **has not been expended**. An amount of \$ (insert amount) has not been expended and—~~

~~a cheque for this amount made payable to Office of Sport is attached.~~

~~**OR** we have today transferred by EFT (electronic funds transfer) this amount into the bank account of Office of Sport.~~

~~**OR** we are seeking to retain a surplus. A request form is attached.~~

~~All funds were expended in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Sport Development Program Funding Agreement dated (insert date) with the State of New South Wales represented by Office of Sport.~~

**AND**

A complete set of accounting and financial records relevant to the Project have been maintained.

Date: 14/6/2020

Signature: x



Name: Joseph Orland

Position: Director

Witness signature: x

Witness name: (insert name)

Date: 15/06/2020

Signature: x



Name: Tracy Lucas

Position: Director

Witness signature: x

Witness name: (insert name)



Richard Lucas

# REGISTERED RIDERS

CENTRE	No. of Registered Riders
Armidale and New England	12
Ballina & District	38
Bathurst	38
Blue Mountains	13
Central Coast	96
Clarence Valley Steering Committee	1
Coffs Harbour	18
Coonabarabran	15
Cootamundra	35
Cowra	50
Dubbo	0
Eurobodalla	18
Forbes	0
Goulburn	23
Illawarra	4
Griffith/Leeton	50
Gunnedah	33
Kempsey/Macleay	32
Kendall	25
Manning Great Lakes	26
Moss Vale	20
Mudgee	36
Narrabri	21
Nepean	23
Orange	39
Raymond Terrace & Lower Hunter	83
Richmond	36
Ryde	50
Tamworth	106
Tall Timbers	112
Tumut	26
Tweed Valley	46
Upper Hunter	51
Wagga Wagga	113
Wauchope/PortMacquarie	34
West Wyalong	10
Wollondilly	18
Young	66
Associate Riders	11
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1455</b>



# COACHING STATS

## RDA (NSW) Coaching Personnel

Accredited	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Assessors	9	8	12	14	10	9
Senior Coaches	20	20	13	10	10	15
Coaches	112	126	108	119	118	117
Trainee Coaches	19	21	17	8	10	16
Assistant Coaches	42	46	49	55	47	71
Trainee Assistant Coaches	53	74	37	40	69	48
	<b>255</b>	<b>295</b>	<b>236</b>	<b>246</b>	<b>264</b>	
Non Coach - Hippo Horse Handlers	19	19	16	17	17	15

Assessments Completed						
Senior coaches			2			1
Coaches	12	15	13		4	3
Coaches (Qld)			3	26	3	4
Assistant Coaches	18	21	24		13	11
	<b>30</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>20</b>	

Ratio Clients to Coaches :1	6	5
Clients	1585	1606

Carriage Driving				
Trainee Assistant Whips	19	17	17	17
Assistant Whips	8	6	4	11
Whips	24	19	20	20
Assessors	5	5	4	4
	<b>56</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>45</b>	

## Carriage Driving



KEY

2015

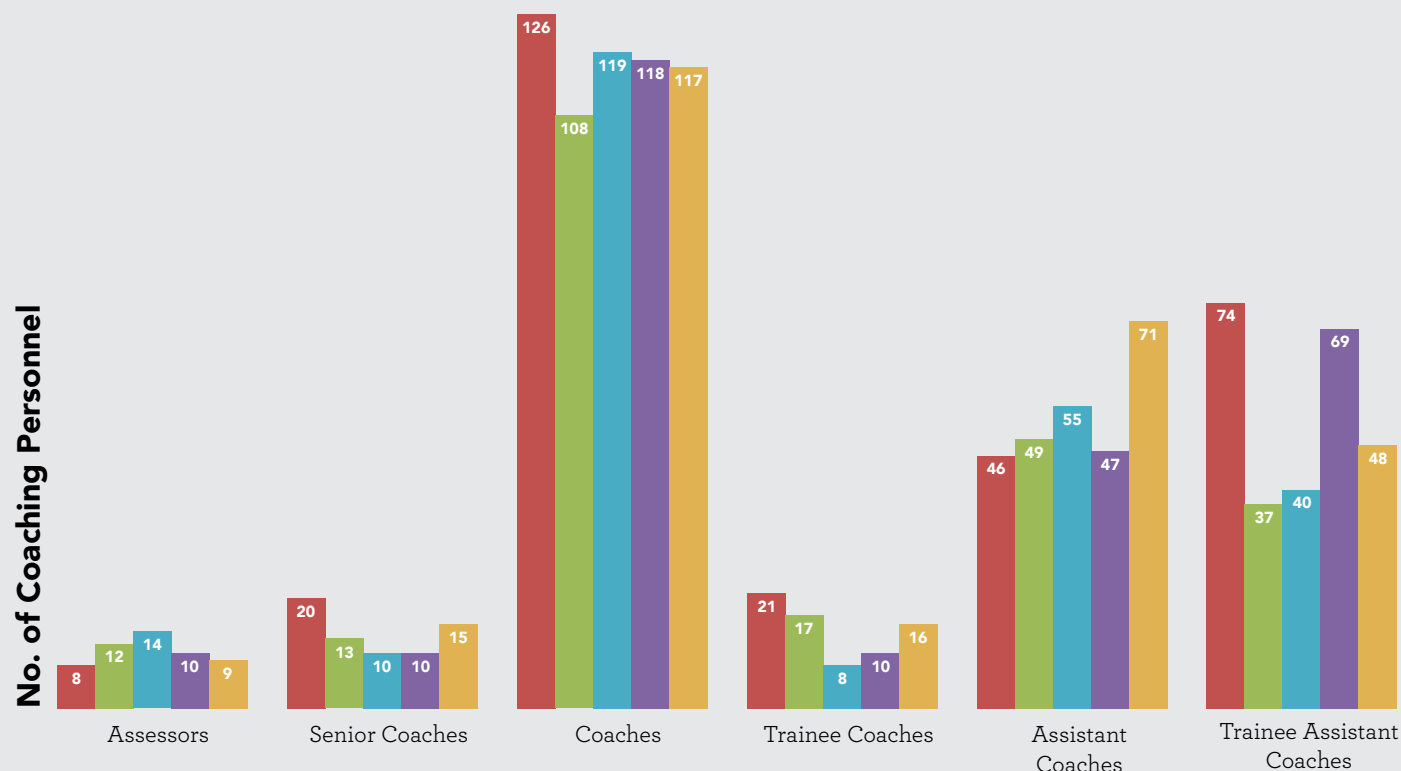
2016

2017

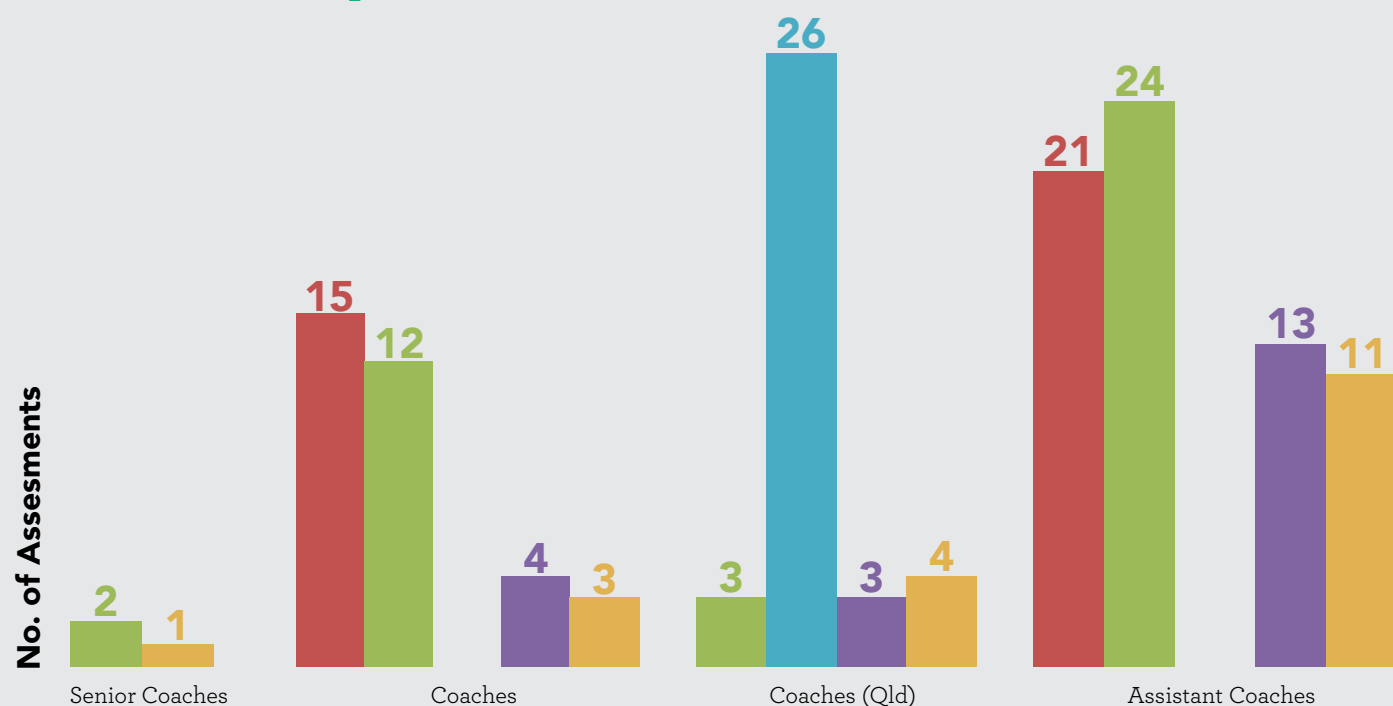
2018

2019

## Coaching Personnel



## Assessments Completed



# MESSAGES OF



Message from

**Her Excellency the Honourable Margaret Beazley AO QC**  
**Governor of New South Wales**

At the end of a very busy year for Riding for the Disabled (NSW), as Co Patrons, Dennis and I are delighted to thank the 1500-strong team of coaches and volunteers for your outstanding contribution in support of over 1600 riders and carriage drivers with disabilities in New South Wales. We were delighted to visit the Box Hill Centre on 19 September and to see the wonderful work of this organisation first-hand.

This year has been one of exceptional achievement, including the following highlights:

- Opening of a proposed new Centre at Malabar by The Honourable Greg Hunt MP, Minister for Health in July;
- Successful Interstate Challenge/ Dressage Championship and Gymkhana, held from 9-11 August, at Sydney International Equestrian Centre;
- Conduct of a State Administration Workshop;
- Expanded use of technology throughout the State for training and administration purposes; and an
- Invitation from Local Government NSW to become a 'Charity Partner' at their Conference in October

I was also delighted to invest a number of Coaches and Volunteers with their Order of Australia Medals at our two Investiture ceremonies, held in May and September this year.

I congratulate everyone involved in Riding for the Disabled on these achievements, on your deserved community recognition, and the awards conferred on members within the organisation for longstanding service and volunteering and sporting achievements.

Dennis and I are delighted to support the work of this remarkable organisation which has been providing therapeutic, recreational and sporting opportunities to people with a wide range of disabilities throughout New South Wales for over 40 years.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Margaret Beazley'.

**Her Excellency the Honourable Margaret Beazley AO QC**  
**Governor of New South Wales**

Government House, Macquarie Street, Sydney, NSW 2000  
telephone 02 9225 4114 website [www.governor.nsw.gov.au](http://www.governor.nsw.gov.au)



**The Hon. Dr Geoff Lee MP**  
Minister for Skills and Tertiary Education  
Acting Minister for Sport, Multiculturalism, Seniors and Veterans

Ref: CRML20/57

Ms Jan Pike  
Hon Director/Executive Officer  
Riding for the Disabled Association (NSW)  
PO Box 710  
SYDNEY MARKETS NSW 2129

Dear Ms Pike

Thank you for your correspondence of 18 February 2020 regarding a letter of support to publish in your Annual Report for 2019. I am pleased to provide the following message for inclusion.

**Message from the A/Minister for Sport**

Sport has the great power to connect us with others and to enrich our lives as individuals and community members.

The NSW Government is committed to ensuring that opportunities are available for all members of our community to participate and we continue to work with our partners in building active communities through the sport and active recreation sectors.

We are pleased to have again, through the Office of Sport, provided funding and support to the Riding for the Disabled Association (NSW), to enhance their equine programs for people with disability in NSW.

I understand that 2019 has been a busy year for the organisation, including staging of the State Championship for Mounted Games, Dressage and Carriage.

I acknowledge the hard work and commitment that goes into providing these opportunities and extend my congratulations to the Riding for the Disabled Association (NSW).

A big thank you to the devoted team of over 1,500 coaches and volunteers associated with Riding for the Disabled throughout NSW. Your commitment in providing equine programs for people with disability is outstanding.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Geoff Lee'.

**The Hon. Dr Geoff Lee MP**  
Minister for Skills and Tertiary Education  
Acting Minister for Sport, Multiculturalism, Seniors and Veterans

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# MESSAGES OF



OFFICE OF SPORT

D19/112211

Ms Jan Pike  
Hon Director/Executive Officer  
Riding for the Disabled Association (NSW)  
PO Box 710  
SYDNEY MARKETS NSW 2129

Dear Ms Pike

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a message from the Office of Sport for your 2019 Annual Report.

**Message from the Office of Sport**

The Office of Sport has a strong commitment to ensuring that all people have the opportunity to participate in sport and physical activity, because of the benefits in promoting individual well-being and social connections. We want to ensure that we are giving maximum support to the important work of our partners in building a valued and vibrant sport and active recreation sector.

In particular, we are pleased to have again provided funding and support to the Riding for the Disabled Association to enhance their equine programs for people with disability in NSW.

Sport and recreation volunteers represent about a third of all volunteers in NSW. Their contribution is indispensable to making a difference in the lives of so many people who would otherwise be unable to access services such as those of RDA(NSW).

I wish to give my special thanks to the more than 1,500 coaches and volunteers who commit their time to Riding for the Disabled throughout NSW. The significance of your work in equine programs for people with disability should never be underestimated.

Congratulations to Riding for the Disabled and its members for their hard work and dedication, and your continuing success in providing this very special service.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Karen Jones'.

Karen Jones  
Acting Chief Executive

8 October 2019

OFFICE OF SPORT

Locked Bag 1422, Silverwater NSW 2128  
13 13 02 [www.sport.nsw.gov.au](http://www.sport.nsw.gov.au)  
ABN 31 321 190 047

## MESSAGE FROM

### THE VICE PATRON - R.D.A. - (NSW)

As your Vice Patron for Riding for the Disabled (R.D.A. - NSW), I am honoured to recognize and acknowledge the extensive contribution given by a dedicated team of volunteers in providing equestrian opportunities and skills to people with a wide range of disabilities within New South Wales.

I wish to thank the many volunteers, coaches, handlers, and supporters of the R.D.A. (NSW) for their continued contribution and dedication over the past year. This would have been a significant challenge, because of the continuing drought conditions and devastating bush fires within NSW.

I congratulate the R.D.A. NSW on having another busy year including:-

- Opening of potential new centre at Malabar, which was visited by the Honourable Greg Hunt, Minister for Health.
- The state championships were held for Mounted Games, Dressage, and Carriage Driving.
- A state administration workshop was well attended and extremely informative
- Several new volunteers were recruited
- Invitation from Local Government NSW for R.D.A. (NSW) to be their "Charity partner at the 2019 conference.
- Interviews with Elaine Animates interviewer with 2 KPH which was relayed twice in August.
- Directors attended a BBQ at Auburn Botanic Gardens at the invitation from Lynda Voltz M.P. on the 15th June.

Again thank you for the privilege to act as your Vice Patron having had over 40 years association with the R.D.A. (NSW) and being a former long serving member of NSW Mounted Police, I can assure you of the continued loyalty and support of the Mounted Police and myself in the future.




Inspector - DON EYB (Ret'd) - APM OAM

Former Commander - NSW Mounted Police

# AWARDS

## WINNERS OF EACH REGION FOR AGM AWARDS 2019

NAME	CENTRE	DISTRICT
<b>Pearl Batchelor Award</b>		
Rosemary MacAllister	Wollondilly	Southern Highlands
Irene Hobden	Narrabri	North West
Melinda Gavin	Bathurst	Central West
Elizabeth Wallace	Kendall	Hunter
Kevin Waldron	Wauchope/PortMacquarie	Mid North Coast
Bruce Sunderland	Richmond	Metropolitan
<b>Volunteer Encouragement Award</b>		
Barry Case	Wagga	Riverina
Linda Stroud	Cowra	Southern Highlands
Anne Tacon	RT & LH	Hunter
Florence Cook	Tall Timbers	Metropolitan
Sue Surace	Wauchope/PortMacquarie	Mid North Coast
<b>Rider/Driver of The Year Award</b>		
Tyler Warren	Mudgee	Central West
Bradley Partridge	Kendall	Hunter
George Mortlock	MGL	Mid North Coast
Charles Achilles	Wagga	Riverina
<b>Young Volunteer of The Year Award</b>		
Joannah McDougall	Wagga	Riverina
Riley Bryce Trigg	Central Coast	Hunter
<b>Shush Memorial Award</b>		
"Pearl"	Cowra	Southern Highlands
"Geebung Smarty Pants"	Tamworth	Mid North Coast
"Tiger"	RT & LH	Hunter
"Pop Goes The Weasel"	Coonabarabran	Central West
"Cruiser"	Wagga	Riverina
"Fabio"	Blue Mountains	Metropolitan

A background image showing a close-up of a brown horse's head on the left, wearing a light blue halter. On the right, a person is wearing a black riding helmet and a green jacket with a yellow collar. The scene appears to be under a stable roof.

# PEARL BATCHELOR MEDAL

---

**2010**

**Margaret Randall**

**2012**

**Wendy Torr OAM**

**2014**

**Jan Sharp OAM (dec.)**

**2016**

**Margaret Norman OAM**

# LIFE MEMBERS

<b>1979</b>	<b>Pearl Batchelor OAM (dec.) - Founder</b> <b>Josephine MacWilliam (dec)</b>
<b>1986</b>	<b>Jenny Davis</b> <b>Margaret Norman OAM</b> <b>Nan Everingham (dec.)</b> <b>Sheila Hardy (dec.)</b> <b>Del Throsby (dec.)</b> <b>Phillip Edwards (dec.)</b> <b>Ross Field (dec.)</b>
<b>1987</b>	<b>Aileen Davis</b>
<b>1988</b>	<b>Maureen Turner</b>
<b>1990</b>	<b>Marguerite Francis OAM</b>
<b>1992</b>	<b>Judith Adam</b>
<b>1994</b>	<b>John Plowman (dec.)</b>
<b>2001</b>	<b>Kerry Johnston</b>
<b>2004</b>	<b>Jan Pike</b>
<b>2006</b>	<b>Wendy Torr OAM</b>
<b>2007</b>	<b>Peter Carn</b>
<b>2010</b>	<b>Fiona Little</b>
<b>2012</b>	<b>Bev Amery OAM</b>
<b>2014</b>	<b>Jan Sharp OAM (dec.)</b> <b>Gerard Murphy OAM</b>
<b>2015</b>	<b>Eric Lengling</b>



# METROPOLITAN

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## BLUE MOUNTAINS

### Highlights & Achievements

This year we have been able to achieve a number of important projects. The Centre is two and a half hectares and is mainly bush with enormous gum trees. Many of these trees were dead and needed to be removed.

We have been working very hard to obtain funding towards the removal of the trees. A number of working bees were held and we were able to get council to help. Thanks too all the volunteers who helped especially Niki for organizing. We were pushed on by the local RFS as the centre was a fire hazard with fires not far away.

We had our evacuation plans in place. Thanks to Jim at Centennial Glen who was happy to come and get the horses when necessary

One large project that came out of the RDA Audit was the repair and replacement of some of the FENCING. This is an ongoing project as the property needs the external fencing a lot of work. Funding is being sourced but not easy to get. Work was completed on the most urgent fences.

### Quality And Safety Commission

An audit was done by BSI to comply with NDIS Standards and to continue being an approved provider. Thanks to Cheryl for all the hard work.

### Riders And Other Participants

2019 was a slow year and numbers were down. We ran only Monday and Saturday. Saturday was the best day with 8 riders. On Monday the Life Skills and work experience group were assisted by a Coach and volunteers.

### Coaching

Two coaches, one assistant coach. One volunteer wishes to train as an assistant coach next year. Trying to encourage others to train.

### Volunteers

The number of volunteers vary depending on many factors. Each day we need at least 5 or 6 plus a coach. There is also a feeding roster, the horses are fed twice a day. And then there is the Committee, a number do not actually work with the horses and riders. This year we have managed to find some new volunteers. Our Treasurer Richard Vandervelden has wanted to retire for a number of years and we hope to have a new Treasurer well into it by this meeting. Our Secretary Cheryl Kervisen also retired at the beginning of the year. A new Secretary is taking over as we speak.

### Horses

We still have the same five horses. Bernie, Pumpkin, Lexie, Fabio, and Mistar. All are working and have been very stable and co-operative. As usual they went away over Christmas.

Thanks to all the volunteers for their contributions to the centre. The centre needs you so we can carry on the support so many people need to access activities they would like to experience.

## TALL TIMBERS

### Highlights & Achievements

- Karen O'Neill was recognised by The Hills Shire Council, awarded Citizen of the Year at the Australia Day event.
- Jan Muspratt was awarded an OAM for her dedication to RDA(NSW) and Tall Timbers Centre for Carriage Driving.
- Our Volunteer, Liam Benson, was commissioned for the 2019 Museum of Contemporary Art Bella Room installation titled, 'Hello, good to meet you'. It features the Tall Timbers Horse Team and is on display in the MCA in Sydney.
- We won the "Best Group Display" at The Riverstone Festival – a labour of love for many years as we parade with Fred past many of our participants along the parade route.
- Honoured to host the Governor of NSW, The Honourable Margaret Beazley AO QC, for a demonstration afternoon. A great opportunity to present the work that the volunteers in RDA(NSW) do around the state.
- Evi and Lachlan were awarded our Bill Harvey Memorial award for Most improved Saturday riders.



- Rebecca T was awarded the Lions Club of Kuringai Encouragement Award for her achievements throughout the year.
- Our Administrator, Kerry Souter, achieved 25 years of service.

## Centre developments

We commenced the year thinking outside the box with plans to create a future direction that addresses our local community needs. We proceeded with our NDIS re-registration and have added a social enterprise Occupational Therapy clinic as the final phase of our CommBank GrassRoots grant. We are looking forward to the opportunities that this will create in the future.

## Riders & Rides

With the changes to our horse herd we had a later start to our programs in 2019 which resulted in a reduced number of participants however higher participation rates per individual.

Our various programs continued allowing a wide variety of participants to access the centre and develop and enhance their abilities.

Our team of three riders, Riley, Renee and Adam, gained personal bests at the Mounted Games Championships.

## Horse stories

We suddenly had to say goodbye to Hannibal who was the backbone of our independent riding and competition program. He was the RDA(NSW) Royal Easter Show Horse of the Year and SIEC trophy winner of the RDA(NSW) Dressage Championships both 3 times and had countless riders attend their first competition with him. He was a character and one of the few horses in our lives that loved getting on the float! He would lift as soon as he saw it and get cranky if the tailgate wasn't down in time for him to just walk on. We miss him terribly and while we will never be able to replace him we hope to find someone just as safe, reliable and lovable to be part of our lives.

Karoo was recognised as our Horse of the Year a testament to his willingness to please and versatility across programs. He even made his debut in the horsemanship events at the Regional Mounted games!

## Coaching

Our Coaches have continued to push past their own barriers to ensure our participants are receiving the best programs for their individual needs through goal setting



and tracking. We welcomed Wendy Brooks to the team. Maddie Yeaman completed her Assistant Coach training and Julie Simons commenced her training.

We have hit some major Service milestones with Kim Kozis attaining 20 years, Nicole King and Kirsty Hardman both attaining 15 years.

We are incredibly grateful for dedication of our Coaches year in year out and are looking forward to a brighter 2020.

## Community Events and Fundraising

We commenced the year with our Awareness stand at Rouse Hill Town Centre and continued to promote our Centre through social media and local networks.

Our Committee and volunteers work hard to fund raise with regular events such as Model Railway's Canteen, Horses' Birthday Lunch and Bunnings BBQs however are finding it incredibly difficult in a very competitive environment.

## Volunteers

Our Volunteers continued to support our programs with a combined contribution of in excess of 10,000 hours.

We held our annual Volunteer lunch with Service badges presented. Joan Guppy reached 20 years of service and has been an integral part of Mondays, being Joan Edwards right hand woman. She is now going to retire and spend time with her family.

Margaret Wilson was awarded our Volunteer of the Year for her dedication and hard work in our programs and behind the scenes with Committee and Fundraising events. Florence Cook was awarded our Volunteer Encouragement award for her ongoing dedication to volunteering in our programs and looking after our gardens week in and week out.





## Highlights and Achievements

- Riders competed successfully at Regional mounted game 3 qualifying for Easter show 2020
- Four Riders competed successfully at SIAC in Interstate dressage
- Three riders competed in the 2019 Easter Show Fiona achieving a 1st in section
- Elton won Horse of The Year 2019
- Sun covers for horses and volunteers completed
- Arena Extension completed
- Mal Cook passed assistant coach

## Centre developments

- New developments were the sun covers and the arena extension
- Grants of \$10k received from Bendigo to upgrade water troughs, tanks and sprinklers.

## Riders & Rides

- Number of riders 35 to 41 over the years.
- Gretta, Michelle, Vanessa, William, Josh Competed and qualified for 2020 mounted games
- Tanya, Bianca, Michelle, Fiona competed in interstate dressage team Richmond did well and Michelle got a 1st
- Matt, Bianca, Fiona competed at the 2019 Easter show and Fiona got a 1st.
- Marnie Clapham moved away this year and continues to show amazing skills to be competing for a pace in the para squad

## Horse stories

- Number of horses are 6 and looking for 2 smaller horses.
- Details and unique characteristics of existing horses
- Elton 16 hand Horse of the year ex eventer
- Gibson 16 hand ex race horse beautiful with riders
- Mac 16.1 hands and soppy but ideal
- Anna ex polo pony retiring this year
- Burger ex eventer 16 hands knowledgeable but kind and understanding
- Breughel ex dressage but getting on so retiring this year

## Coaching

- Information from coaches and any key achievements that they have experienced this season.

- Mal Cook passed Assistant Coach and is on his way to completed Full Coach
- Tanya Boye competed in numerous driving competitions with some success
- Current coach numbers including trainees and assistants and any achievements by coaches such as professional development opportunities.
- 3 Coaches, 2 Assistant Coaches & 1 Trainee Assistant Coach
- Ian Travers – completed a course on autism – Cert3 in disabilities and a Supervisor course at WS Uni.

## Community Events and Fundraising

- Working with Students from Sydney Uni
- Attending and building relationships with Windsor and Richmond Rotaries and the Ladies Inner Wheel.
- Did events with our supporter Australian Hotel Windsor
- Close relationship with Bendigo Bank our shirt sponsor and fund giver
- Produced a video for Bendigo banks to show in their banks about the great work RDA does.
- Participation in community activities,
- Completed 3 Bunnings BBQ's
- Richmond team worked at Hawkesbury show to raise money.
- Participated in the Men's Shed day with a BBQ





- RDA Stalls at The Spring and autumn fairs at the Secret Garden
- Media coverage
- Articles in the Independent
- Made Videos for Bendigo
- Had press coverage of Grand opening of the Sun covers and Arena
- Got mentioned in the Homes and Gardens program as part of them filming about Secret Garden

## Volunteers

- Volunteer numbers are 20 active and about 50 in total that come when they can

- Description of what volunteers get out of their involvement
- Our volunteers seem to love the team spirit and camaraderie and the satisfaction of helping people with disabilities and seeing them smile when they ride.
- Any major achievements by any individual volunteers Mel Nielson and mal Cook Bruce Sunderland do an amazing job of HMT keeping the horses in tip top condition allowing us to keep a small healthy herd .

## RYDE

The life of our Centre continues thanks to the selfless efforts of our wonderful Coaches & volunteers. Sadly, we must acknowledge the passing of 2 Life Members: Wal Scott-Smith, OAM & Don Davies also Doug Jeffery of Masonic Care a long-time supporter of RDA Ryde.

Our Centre has had a very busy & productive 2019. Not only with the ongoing maintenance of the Centre but with a number of major projects. Including upgrading the air conditioning, a structure over the manure pit, modifications to the mounting ramp & the adjacent arena gate, anti-slip treatment of the walkway, saddle cloths, grooming yard gates, maintenance of the stanchions in the arena, CCTV cameras, new computers & printers to name a few.

The bushfires followed by floods delayed our horses return from agistment due to road & ferry closures. A number of trees needed to be removed as a result of the violent storms early in 2020. Some fencing was also damaged making the horse yards unsafe & one horse shelter had to be removed because of damage. Thanks to the prompt response of Ryde City Council & the SES, followed by an enormous effort of our volunteers the horses were able to return from agistment on 25 February 2020. Feed, vet, farrier, dentist, agistment fees, transport costs, horse medication & immunisation costs have increased dramatically due to the drought, bushfires, & floods.

The work of our Centre is highlighted to the wider community thanks to the efforts of our members & volunteers “spreading the word” by giving presentations

to corporate & community organisations. This includes RDA Ryde’s participation in community engagement functions such as the Ryde Public School Multicultural day, the Granny Smith Festival, Ryde Council Community walks, Ryde Easter Fair, to name a few. All of these presentations & functions are organized, attended & supported by our volunteers. Once again, we hosted the State Assistant Coach Training Workshop which was attended by Coaches & their trainee Assistant Coaches. Many projects have been achieved thanks to the generosity & support of community & corporate organisations with grants, donations, sponsorships for riders & working bees.

We currently have 7 horses & 7 RDA (NSW) Accredited Coaches & 1 Accredited Assistant Coach. Nine (9) volunteers are undertaking their Assistant Coach Training which bodes well for succession planning for the future of our Centre. In addition, two (2) of our coaches are accredited Connections Coaches. In 2019 we had 50 riders participating in our therapy classes comprising of individual riders & students from 4 special needs schools. We have an extensive waiting list with 196 names covering all days.

Amongst our volunteers we also have a number of Duke of Edinburgh Award participants, one of whom was presented with his gold Duke of Edinburgh by our then Patron His Excellency General the Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Ret’d) Governor of NSW, followed by afternoon tea at Government House. The Centre also accommodates Sydney University Veterinary students & Macquarie University Medical & Physiotherapy students.



# HUNTER



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# CENTRAL COAST

## Highlights & Achievements

One of our volunteers Mike Harrison was nominated to participate in the Westfield Local Heroes competition, this competition is for all local volunteers. Mike does a lot of voluntary work with us and other organisations. Mike had a great response and made it to the final six, we are all very proud of him and what he has achieved.

## Centre Developments

Our main achievement this year has been the start of our future proofing our centre with our bore. We have our large rainwater tank in place and pipework from the roof and pipework in place alongside the paddocks, this is still a work in progress, but we will be doing more over the holidays. The Central Coast Freemasons donated \$5640 to help us with this project

## Riders

This year we rode 107 riders, our off lead riders are progressing well and growing in confidence and achieving more than they thought possible. We had a new school, Lisarow join us this year, they are enjoying

their first year with us. Four of our riders attended the Raymond Terrace Mounted Games and thoroughly enjoyed the experience and came home with ribbons.

## Horses Stories

We have fourteen horses at the moment, two retirees and one semi retired. We will be on the lookout to obtain two more horses next year. We have three newcomers Duke, a lovely big boy who is very popular with the volunteers and Woody a little chestnut pony who has a lovely personality and a donated horse called Matey a very laid back easy to do anything with.

Most people would have heard of the riot at the Kariang Juvenile Justice centre, this is adjacent to some of our paddocks, On the night in question a helicopter landed on the roof of the prison and sent our horses galloping off in a panic, thankfully one of our volunteers Sue Watts was on hand to calm them down. In the retirement paddock our two old boys decided to go for a walk down the laneway on their way to the road, Sue came to the rescue again and caught them with dog leads, no casualties with our horses thank goodness.

## Coaching

We have one senior coach, five coaches and one assistant coach and one trainee assistant coach.

## Community Events and Fundraising

We have hosted many morning teas and lunches to various clubs throughout the year, this is organised by Garry Kirkby who also attends the many clubs and gives talks on what we do, he was also on local radio promoting our organisation. Another fun fund raiser is our Christmas gift wrapping which we do every year at Westfield Tuggerah, we have managed to interest some good volunteers doing this. At least once a year we run a barbecue at Glenworth Valley on their gymkhana days, they supply everything and we get to cook it and sell it, all proceeds are donated to us.

## Volunteers

We are lucky to have some wonderful volunteers, we have approximately 90 at present. Most volunteers when asked why they do it say they love to see the difference a horse can make to a child, and to be part of that. A lot of volunteers have had some experience with horses at some time in their life and just love being back with their four legged friends, when they have been trained and able to lead our riders they can watch how they progress.





## Highlights and Achievements

Our Centre has had a very busy year with our Executive, General, Horse and Social Committees having all worked well together which has enabled our Centre to run efficiently which is reflected in our passing the Annual Audit with flying colours.

We are well known in the local community and this community is more than willing to help should we require assistance.

## Centre Developments

We are now registered with the Active Kids programme. Consulting with schools and day centres regarding NDIS. Volunteers have attended local Volunteer Workshops.

## Riders & Rides

We currently have 23 riders of varying ages between 2 ½ to 60 and disabilities, some of which have progressed to off lead with increased confidence in themselves and their abilities. Our youngest rider is a wonderful young boy who is 2 ½ years old.

They really enjoy going for a trail ride around section of the showground.

We are working towards some of our riders competing in next year's Mounted Games and also submitting a Musical Ride.



## Horse Stories

We have seven wonderful horses at our Centre. Four of which are individually sponsored.

Our unique horse is still Dash, or Harry Houdini, he has worked out the quick release knot and unties himself, picks up the end of the rope and walks over to you with it.





We have three new horses, Rosie a 15hh 9yo chestnut Stock Horse mare, Robbie, her brother, who is a 7yo 15hh buckskin Stock Horse gelding and Honey a 12.3 ¾hh 9yo chestnut Section B Welsh Mountain Pony mare.

This year has been a sad one in some ways, we have lost Coco, who was 28, LuLu a 30+year old and Flare who was 22. These three horses had given us wonderful service before they were retired but unfortunately age and illness took its toll.

### Coaching

Our two Assistant Coaches have fitted well into our program and have brought some new ideas into the program.

We also have two qualified Coaches.

We have developed procedures for some of the horsemanship sections of coaching. The USB has only just been received from the camera man and will be sent to Nicole King for vetting.

### Community Events and Fundraising

We are very fortunate to again have support from the Anglican Op Shop Fashion Parade, Bato Memorial Golf

Day, American Motorcycle Club Hastings Chapter, Westpac/RDA Kew Men's Bowl Day as well as continued donations from local Clubs for raffles and other fund raising events.

Our Centre has recently participated in the local Camden Haven Show Society's Annual Show.

With volunteering assistance at the Show and also performing at the local Carols by Candlelight event.

A bi-monthly update advertisement is printed in the Kendall Chronicle

### Volunteers

We currently have 52 wonderful Volunteers these comprise general volunteers who assist with the horses and riders, feeders, and ground crew.

Our Volunteers get great satisfaction from the smiles on the riders' faces as well as friendship.

They have also competed in the local Business House Bowls as well as entering Arts, Craft, Flowers and photography at the local show with varying success.

Some of our Volunteers have also achieved our Service Awards for their dedication to our Centre.





# RAYMOND TERRACE

## Highlights and Achievements

It's hard to believe that the year has gone so quick for us at Raymond Terrace and Lower Hunter. Like most areas we are feeling the pressure of lack of rain in our paddocks and water tanks. We have been blessed with a good hay supplier who has assisted by keeping the cost of our hay to a reasonable level.

"Many hands make light work" has been the case for us and we have updated our Share A Horse brochure, gained some grants, spread the word about our Centre within the community, put some amazing articles in our newsletter, looked at future fundraising and sustainability, and renamed our Indoor Arena.

## Centre developments

Our HorsePlay has been a few years in the making and we will have stage 1 completed and launched in the beginning of 2020. Our outdoor Horse Play includes a labyrinth, trotting lane, tyre bridge, wooden bridge and noodle activities. We were lucky enough to obtain some donations from Paterson Rotary, Bloomfield's, Bunning Heatherbrae, and a grant from Government's Stronger Communities Program to assist funding Stage 1 of this area. Our wonderful Caretaker and volunteers along with staff from Bunnings and Boehringer-Ingelheim who have donated a lot of time to get this finished and thanks to the Maitland Classic Motor Association and Ulysses



Bikers' Club, we have money to go towards Stage 2 next year. We are very excited about being able to use this in 2020.

We were sad to say farewell to one of our long-term volunteers "Jan Sharp" in 2019 and remembered with fondness Jan's ability to achieve the impossible and her enduring and immense love for horses and riders alike. Jan not only left a legacy at our own Centre but also a legacy at a regional and state level with her work on coach training (CASP) and State Board. It seemed a fitting tribute to this amazing lady, who spent many an hour in the Indoor Arena, by officially renaming it to the "Jan Sharp Arena" in a moving ceremony attended by her family and many of her RDA family and friends.



## Riders

Our Centre continues to have in the vicinity of 80 to 90 riders at any given time. However, due to the retirement of long-term coach, Debbie, the Thursday riding program was not able to continue at the beginning of 2019. Fortunately, our Staff Coach was able to take on this program along with the other two programs we have been able to introduce over the last two years. The schools were invited back and in Term 2 riding recommenced on Thursdays. We were also able to resume our driving program at Stroud, after a break of two years, with the continued support of Rosemary Laing and her trusty volunteers and another whip who came to us from Sydney area.

Two of our Dressage riders competed in the State Dressage Competition at SIEC this year and were accompanied by their Coach, parent and volunteers. Both riders did well and thoroughly enjoy their weekend with some wonderful achievements including one of our riders gaining:

1.2 Section C State Competitor Kristie – 1st place of her group.

Two of our riders have qualified through our Regional Mounted Games to attend the Royal Easter Show Mounted Games in 2020 and we look forward to hearing their stories.

One of our Riders “Santana” was the winner of the NSW Rider of the year award in 2018 and we were thrilled to see her make a trip with her family to the AGM at Dubbo to receive her award. Santana has won the hearts of all her volunteers and coaches and has shown wonderful

progress, both with her riding abilities and interaction with volunteers and other riders. This year has seen some real development in her riding and horse handling skills. She focuses well, leading her horse independently on “warm-up” laps and under supervision can ride a lap of the arena off-lead.

## Volunteers

We were proud to have one of our volunteers “Emma” receive the 2018 RDA (NSW) Young Volunteer of the Year Award at the State AGM. This amazing and talented young lady started volunteering for us 3 years ago, when she was only 13 years old. Emma had “horse experience” when she started and from very early on, she became an integral part of Team Tuesday. She is our Tuesday Designated Rider and being light-weight but with excellent riding ability, is able to assist with little “Smokey” sized as well as “Jester” sized horses, ie. around 12hh and 16hh respectively. Emma takes it all in her stride and apart from horses, she is amazing with our riders.

We celebrated volunteer week this year with certificates to our volunteers in appreciation for all their hard work at our Centre. Our Volunteer Morning Tea went well with a good turnout for the morning and we had some volunteers achieve long term badge awards including one of our coaches receive her 20-year badge. As one of our volunteers said this year: “It’s the goose bumps that get you”. We are lucky to have long term volunteers at our Centre with a wealth of knowledge and experience as well as new volunteers joining us every year to build on this wonderful skill and experience base who would do anything to see our Riders smile.



## Horse stories

Like most Centres we are always on the lookout for available horses and we have said goodbye to some long-term RDA horses and taken in new ones.

We welcomed back our horses that were on lease – Jester, Maria and Tiger. Tiger in turn came back with his buddy from home, called Chase, who after a spell of training has settled right in and is now integral to our program.

At the beginning of the year we realised we needed more horses and we went on a short spending spree and bought Flame, a lovely chestnut quarter/stock horse. We were pleased with her progress and she came into the program in the middle of March. Quite unusually she has a dislike for horses in her space and doesn't even like seeing herself in the mirror. Other than this quirky behaviour she works well and especially for one of our riders, who was a stock man, who had an accident and has returned to riding. We have also brought in another pony Spirit who settled into the program later in the year.

We have had to say goodbye to a small number of horses for various reasons, Jester our big standard bred, Maria a smaller standard bred and Smokey an Australian riding pony who has found himself a little girl to love, ride and cherish him. We wish them all well in their future homes.

We are currently spelling 5 RDA horses on site whilst the remainder have gone home for their summer holiday. We look forward to having them back in February, 2020.

## Coaching

One of our young volunteers “Alex” has made a wonderful contribution to our Centre and has gained her Assistant Coach level. In Alex's word recently: “I feel the greatest amount of happiness when I get to spend the day at RDA with our riders, horses and volunteers.

Along with Alex, Faye (from the older generation of up and coming coaches), also gained her Assistant Coach accreditation. Congratulations must go to both ladies, for taking on this task and I think they'll both be back to take on the challenge of gaining full coaching accreditation in the not too distant future. This brings the number of coaches/asst.coaches at our Centre to 11 with 2 Whips at our Stroud Annex.

The Regional Mounted Games, which go well every year, were held at RT&LH and proved a big, exciting, learning curve for one of our Coaches. This year for the first time, Hayley, took on the task of Mounted Games Coordinator. Hayley did a brilliant job of organising the day with some wonderful help from volunteers and a local Scout Troop. Thanks to our Staff Coach's involvement, we have built a wonderful relationship with this Troop over the last couple of years who are keen to help us with maintenance tasks out of riding season too.





## Community Events and Fundraising

We have been thrilled to receive invitations to talk at a few different community groups in 2019 including Maitland Rotary and St Luks's Anglican Fellowship Group. St Luke's Anglican Fellowship Group have been kind enough to select our Centre for their fundraising this year. We look forward to continuing spreading awareness of our Centre to the greater community of the Hunter and Newcastle area.

This year saw us receive a large anonymous donation which has been specifically given to look after our horses. This generous donation will look after our horses for the next three to four years. We were also left a bequest this year which saw us share this benefit with a family member and Assistance Dogs Australia.

This year was our first year of a fundraising initiative called "Awesome-Horses Birthday". We are asking the wider community including individuals and business

groups to hold an event in August, as large or as small as they would like, in honour of our horses' birthday.

Every year our Riders enjoy taking part in our Ride-A-Thon, assisting in raising money to help with the care of their horses. This year was no exception with the theme of "Cowboys and Cowgirls" with lots of fun activities including roping a cow (quite a well behaved cow that stood still while helping our riders rope her) with a variety of dress-ups making our groups look colourful.

It's always a pleasure to show visitors our wonderful Centre and programs and this year we had some wonderful visitors including Maitland Classic Motor Association, Ulysses Bikers' Club and Commonwealth Bank.

We have a long-standing relationship with Beyond Bank and two of our coaches attended their annual "Cause for a Celebration" night and we were notified of a \$1,388.45 donation from their community accounts program.



# CENTRAL WEST

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# BATHURST

Our Bathurst Centre continues to work with our community to provide the much-needed recreation and stimulation RDA offers.

This year, our coach, Melinda Gavin, has been supported by our new Assistant Coach, Stephanie Cass, welcome Stephanie.

Our 20 volunteers continue to perform an invaluable service. Their professionalism and dedication is to be admired.

We have had two new students from Perthville Public School, they join our riders from Kelso Public and Carrene Schools, along with members from the community who ride each Thursday morning. At present our riders number 33 with a long waiting list.

One of our students, Liam Grainger, came 1st in his test for the RDANSW Dressage Competition. We also entered the Musical Ride with four of our riders and horses coming 2nd in the Drill Ride to Music - Led section.

We currently have 6 horses for riding and one mini horse for pet therapy. All of our horses have been with us long term and are a much-loved part of our programs.

Our Pet Therapy program continues to grow with 60 clients visiting the centre each week. Our Pet Therapy animals have engaged with the public in events at Charles Sturt University, the Artisan Trade Trail weekend and the Art Show at Carrene School. The Dogs for Diggers program, run through the Bathurst Correctional Centre, visit our centre as part of their training program.

Our major project for the year has been the building of a Pet Therapy Shed and access paths to enable clients with major disabilities and wheelchairs easier access to the animals. This project was made possible by a NSW Government grant and will be completed with an upgrade to the car park.

In all, 2019 has been a busy and successful year for our volunteers, riders, clients and the committee.



2019 has come to an end. Just when we thought things could not get any better our riders have turned the tables on us and come out and gained a 1st place in The Musical for 2019. Mudgee centre is very overwhelmed and totally stoked.

This year was a tough year for our centre as we only operate on a Wednesday and with very limited volunteers and we decided to trial ourselves and push our limits and to provide more opportunities to our disabled community we extended our day from 4 classes of 5 @ 45 minutes to 6 classes of 6 @ 30 minutes. WE DID IT!!

We start our day with a group of kids from Gulgong public, followed by a mixed class of Adults and kids then a morning tea break followed by another school Cudgong Valley public. Lunch break and then 2 adult classes from Lifeskills and Glenray.

Our 1st adult class are the riders we asked to perform in our musical and they pushed all their boundaries and went above and beyond and achieved some great outcomes.

One of these riders from this class also represented our centre in the video dressage competition and even though she was out of her comfort zone she ticked every box and rode like the true professional she is. Kodie has unfortunately left us for a while and has come ahead in leaps and bounds and is out in the workforce now. Well done Kodie.

We have been slowly but surely gaining a few more volunteers and they have become great assets and creating great rapport with our riders.

We have 3 trainee coaches amongst us who have been attending workshops and ticking off boxes left right and centre. Well done to Tracy, Diane and Megan. Tracy and Diane hopefully will be assessed before commencement of 2020 and continue on as becoming coaches.

Tracy and Diane are also representing RDA at parliament house in Sydney on November 21st and I am sure they will do our centre proud.

Over the last 12 months Tracy and Diane have visited several centres like Ryde, Tall Timbers (Box Hill), Orange and Young. We feel by seeing how other centres operate we can learn more and more and bring it back to our centre to help improve our programs. Keep up the tremendous work RDA centres you are all doing a fantastic job.

We would also like to congratulate our President Tracy Lucas on being elected to the Board of Directors in 2019 something that she holds in great esteem and has extreme passion for.

Our committee has worked very well together in 2019 and held a successful raffle of a beautiful hand restored 1920's rocking horse generously donated by The Mudgee mens Shed.

We have also struck up a great friendship with the Sydney radio station Northside 99.3 and with the generosity of a presenter Geoff Stanwell on the Drive by show on Wednesdays 4pm to 7pm we are getting loads of advertisement all over the country 110,000 listeners I believe. Plus they supported us in helping with our musical voice over.

We have had several riders who are steadily becoming independent riders and not only are they jaw dropping moments for us, the pride on the faces at just how clever they are is very emotional. We can see great improvements in their balance, co-ordination and core strength and with a few riders some fantastic memory retention.



We have had a couple of non verbal children with repetition say words that correspond with their riding and some signing also. Tears are often shed .

We can not forget our horses in this equation as they are remarkable. We, unlike other centres do not own any horses so we lease our horses and they are truly incredible. That way that they can sense each different rider as an individual is superb, their adjustments to re-evaluate each rider is a real asset and I feel our centre is lucky to have such valuable steeds.

We are looking at bringing in some new horses during 2020 so we look forward to the challenge of bringing these horses up to scratch.

Mudgee centre would like to say thankyou to each and everyone that has volunteered, supported us and sponsored us because without you we can not offer our riders the opportunity that we do.

We look forward to a bigger and better 2020 stay tuned and watch our achievements on Facebook

## ORANGE

### Highlights and Achievements

Orange Centre has experienced a successful year:

- Increased fundraising including a movie premiere
- 2nd in musical ride competition
- Receipt of grants as well as monetary donations from local organisations/public
- Donations of horses and hay
- Upgrade of grounds by volunteers
- Ongoing support from local businesses especially Ashcrofts Super IGA
- Happy and cohesive team of volunteers

### Riders & Rides

Currently there are 40 riders, and negotiations continue in relation to another local school attending in 2020.

Two students have overcome their fear of riding due to the encouragement of teachers, coaches and volunteers.

### Horse Stories

Currently we have 16 horses. Considering the drought they are in good condition. All horses receive regular vet attention. We have welcomed 3 new horses: Dusty, Peggy and Chook. Dusty and Peggy are regularly used in classes and Chook has almost completed training.

On a sad note: Stormy was laid to rest 21 October.

### Coaching

A big thank you to all the hard working volunteers and committee. Two volunteers have completed six modules towards their Assistant Coach training and one volunteer has expressed an interest in undertaking training. Training has been provided to all volunteers. Five (5) classes have been conducted each Wednesday.

### Community events and Fundraising

- Easter Hat parade, Horses' Birthday celebrations and Melbourne Cup Day events with parents and local MP attending
- Major fund raising – annual Horses' Birthday street stall, gate takings at Millamolong Polo Club Carnival and Carcoar Show, raffle at Australian National Field Days, movie premiere of "Ride Like a Girl" and regular BBQ's at IGA
- 4 newsletters in 2019, active Facebook page, interviews with local radio stations, and several articles in local newspapers
- Promotion of our Centre and the RDA program to community groups

### Volunteers

Each Wednesday 30-35 volunteers attend our riding day. Nineteen (19) new volunteers have signed on during 2019, almost half of these are regular attendees on Wednesdays.

On Tuesdays the maintenance team continues to mow, paint, fence and keep the Centre in working order.

What volunteers get out of volunteering for RDA- After each class leaves volunteers enjoy sharing tidbits of things that had just happened eg a child showed regard for another rider, or managed a task they hadn't done before, or volunteers managed to support a child to cope with a change of horse. Each small thing a big achievement.

Major achievements by a volunteer/s – Linda Kelly and her husband Patrick joined us in June 2019 and have attended almost every Wednesday since.





RIVERINA

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## COOTAMUNDRA

Drought has affected most RDA Centres in NSW and so it has also impacted upon us at Cootamundra. All year we have had to purchase chaff and pellets to feed our horses. This has proven to be expensive for this year. Prices go up but hopefully the rains will come again and make life easier for us all.

### Riders

Our Riders from Temora Pinnacle Group have enjoyed a good riding year – the twins Peter and Paul along with Lorne are becoming more confident with riding. Sarah has gained the most confidence, now staying much longer on the horse. Well done Sarah! Josh loves to serenade us with his beautiful singing voice while riding. Adrian has learnt how to hold the reins properly. The Pinnacle employees / carers are very pleased with the customer service Cootamundra RDA provides to their clients and praises our volunteers' efforts.

Elouera School has many riders that, because of the sheer numbers must take turns attending RDA. All the attendees thoroughly enjoy their sessions on horseback with the games and driving the cart!

The teachers appreciate our service as the children are given the opportunity to experience something different, while socialising and being out within the community. While on horseback, behaviours diminish while the rider concentrates on the task at hand. Some riders can't wait for their ride.

Kaitlyn comes independently with her mum to ride our horses. She is a very capable free rein rider. She loves Tia - her horse, RDA and that she gets let out of school to ride. Not sure of the order of preference they come in!

Gavin loves to drive our carriage, as he gets out of his wheelchair and moves at speed!

### Horses

Our horses are good considering the drought. Ralph and Bones take turns in pulling the cart on riding days. Unfortunately, we lost Matilda last summer as her age and health issues made her life a daily hardship. We now have Rango to take her place but as he is young, he is quite a headstrong fellow at times and Barry (volunteer) has him sussed out.

### Community Events And Fundraising

Our usual fundraising ventures running canteens was a huge success again this year thanks to our volunteers. At the Swapmeet, we raised a record \$6,754.39. This was very timely considering the expense of horse feed at present.

Oceania Orienteering Canteen raised \$1,080.33. The Lions Club asked our RDA Centre to assist with a canteen selling Chopped Fruit Salad Cups, sandwiches and fizzy drinks. These cross-country runners travel with a map and GPS, clambering over rough terrain – all without a horse! They thanked us all for the great food selection.

Other money-making ventures were the Cootamundra Show, Bingo Nights at the Ex-services Club. These fundraisers would not be as successful without the organisational skills of Trish Taylor.

### Volunteers

We have a great group of volunteers, some come on riding days, others assist with canteens for fundraising. Each person does what they can so we can effectively finance and run our riding sessions for the riders. Garry does all our maintenance; Frank keeps the grass/weeds short around the club house and carpark. While an anonymous volunteer attacked the thistles and large weeds in the paddocks and cleaned the horse troughs. We appreciate their effort.

## TUMUT

2019 was a year that started with extreme heat and finished with extreme heat. The dedication of our Riders, Volunteers and Horses shone. We lost very few riding days due to weather this year, the weather smiled on Thursdays. Our Sunday riding was once a month this year, rider numbers were down but those who attended really enjoyed it, one regular travelled from Junee to

attend. We had new teenage volunteers attend and they stayed very keen for the year.

At Tumut our Rider numbers stayed constant, they all enjoyed the year and met all the challenges handed to them. There were some wonderful personal goals met and some friendships forged particularly in the afternoon group who come from different schools and



even different towns! We all learnt some wonderful and weird facts from one of our riders in that group who loves to share knowledge.

Our Volunteers were dedicated and committed, our wonderful mob of equine volunteers had some changes, sadly we lost some but we also gained some.

At the Centre we upgraded one of our toilets to current ambulant standards. We made improvements to the grounds, the sensory garden is moving ahead well with gardeners employed financed by the sale of manure. We were fortunate to have good grass up until December, a sign that our pasture improvements over the past 10 years have paid off and also to source feed for the summer.



## WAGGA

Once again, Wagga's Finchley Centre has had a very busy year! We started the year with a new Patron, Wagga local MP Dr Joe McGirr, who has been quite supportive in this role, attending several functions including a morning tea held to celebrate the wonderful work our volunteers do. We have just over 70 volunteers and our centre really couldn't run without them, and we appreciate everything they do.

Drought conditions continued, so our team of 17 horses have been constantly hand fed, which has seen quite a drain on our finances. We are very lucky to have a very generous supporter, who allows our horses to attend

his property each holiday break for a pick of grass and some time out just being horses. This gives us a break from feeding for several weeks each year, and the horses always come back with a refreshed outlook and a spring in their step!

Our new caretaker, Jack, has brought some youthful enthusiasm to the Centre, and along with his partner and baby son, has become a real part of our RDA family. During the year he gained his assistant coach qualification and has recently completed his coaching modules and teaching hours, so will hopefully be assessed as competent in the coming months, adding to





our team of full coaches. He and our head coach Darren work well together do our centre proud.

Costs are ever increasing, and we are always looking for novel fundraising ideas and grants that may help us maintain and improve our centre and meet feed costs. We were very fortunate this year in being awarded the H V McKay charitable trust funding to purchase a new tractor and some hay for the centre, as well as a MMM & Corteva agriscience grant for renovating our client bathroom facilities. Our local community bank, Beyond Bank also once again presented us with a cheque which has allowed us to purchase hay and pay wages for our two staff. We have also received donations from groups such as Lions, Rotary and Kurrajong- Warratah. Junee correctional centre also presented us with a cheque from the inmates, who recognise the contribution we make to the community. They also donated our beautiful rocking horse for this year's raffle – a handmade piece they worked on for some time, as well as a lovely timber chair set and kids farm, all made by the inmates as part of their rehabilitation.

We have held holiday horsemanship clinics to raise funds, where local riders can bring their own horses and learn new skills then test themselves on our obstacle course, as well as a mini ride-a-thon and fun day, which was well supported. Our fabulous arena has seen use by the local adult riding club, as well as a local kennel club, who set up a dog obedience clinic and show, hosting an international judge who was impressed with the facilities we have. Our hardworking volunteers and staff all contribute to keeping our centre looking great, and

it is always fabulous to hear that others recognise the effort they put in. Our arenas both received a top up of sand through the year, which was donated to us by a local quarry, for which both our ponies and volunteers are very grateful. A new letterbox was also donated to our centre, and a competition to name the letterbox was held. "Rusty" now welcomes all visitors to our centre.

As with many centres, we struggle at times finding enough coaches to keep our classes going. We operate 6 days a week, and have 4 full coaches, with several assistant coaches and trainee coaches. It can be difficult at times covering all classes, particularly through the winter when many like to head north to the warmer zones, and the normal colds and winter illnesses mean both coaches and volunteers are stretched. Our volunteer base numbers around 74, with about 40 adults and 17 Youth Group regularly assisting in lessons each week. They are the backbone of our centre and we cannot thank them enough. It was lovely to be able to host a morning tea to celebrate these dedicated people, and we were delighted to see attendees from our Opportunity shop, who don't often get to the centre to see where their hard earned funds go to.

Our committee remains strong, all doing our best for RDA as times become ever more challenging. 2020 is looking to be another year full of challenges for many Centres, and I hope that all centres can continue to work together for the benefit of our clients – there is nothing quite like seeing the smiles of one of our riders or drivers when they achieve a new goal with us!

# SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS

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## Centre Developments

This has been a very good year from a financial perspective for our Centre.

The Kiama Masonic Lodge chose us as the local charity that they wanted to support this year & they have so far raised \$12,000 for us. They have decided to continue this support for another year. The Cheque was presented at a BBQ which they provided for all our riders & volunteers.

We secured a grant from Dapto Leagues Club for Horse Welfare & Centre maintenance - they are a regular sponsor of ours - & also from Windang Bowling Club.

The money received this year will enable us to replace our Arena fencing & Mounting Ramp which after 20 years were starting to deteriorate & raise safety concerns. The work should be carried out over the summer & be ready to go when we start back in March.

In August volunteers ran a very successful Bunnings BBQ that raised nearly \$2000!

We have also raised money through recycling. We became a Donation Partner within the Tomra Return & Earn Scheme & the local Golf Club are donating their bottles to us.

## Riders

There have been 24 regular riders this year spread over 4 classes - Tuesday & Saturday. Six started riding for the first time. They range in age from 4 upwards. Most of our riders have some level of Autism & we are trying hard to include effective strategies in our classes to deal with that - more use of visuals, more effective communication, etc. The Pegasus workshop in Canberra provided some great ideas & the Coaches who attended felt it was very worthwhile.

## Horses

We now have 11 horses. Most of which are in regular work.

We have one new horse - Milo - who came to us this year on loan, a beautiful grey 15 hand gelding with a lovely temperament. He is proving very valuable in class.

Molly was euthanized this year. She had been struggling with arthritis for some time & we made the decision to not put her through another winter. She had been wonderful in class & gave some of our most nervous riders great confidence.

A few of our horses are around 30 years old & so we are always on the lookout for replacements, particularly in the 12 -14 hand range.







## Coaching

The Centre now has three regular Coaches Jacqui Clarke, Kirsten Parker & Kerry Southwell. Stephanie Raethel passed her Assistant Coach assessment during the last class of our year. She will be a terrific Coach!

We also have Carmen, Denise & Linda who are able to stand in when necessary.

## Volunteers

We would have around 40 volunteers regularly involved with our centre. Some are involved in administration - Sponsor a Horse, Fundraising & the Committee.

We also have two great teams of volunteers who support our Tuesday & Saturday classes.

Gary Tozer & Norm Power - our Groundsmen - do a great job of keeping the paddocks in top condition

We lease our land from Kiama Council & they are very supportive of the Centre. The use of the 100 acre paddock which adjoins our property is something we are extremely grateful to them for. It allows us to turn the horses out at the end of each Term for the duration of the holidays & gives them a well deserved break.

All in all it has been a very successful year! We look forward to a wonderful 2020.





Wollondilly Centre has had a busy year with new riders from each of the schools. We now have twenty riders who are all enjoying their riding days with our dedicated helpers and wonderful horses.

One of our riders Tracy first visited us about eighteen months ago and would only go about six feet away from a horse, while at the same time clutching for dear life the hand of her carer. Gradually with each visit our coaches encouraged Tracy to walk near a horse and to pat the horse. The coaches also nominated “Bella” for Tracy to ride if she wished at a later date. Tracy gradually began to relate to Bella and look forward to seeing her. All the while the coaches and her carer kept on encouraging Tracy.



On one unforgettable day Tracy agreed to try getting on the horse. Not only did she get on but she actually rode. I doubt that there was a dry eye anywhere. By chance her parents were there that day and were able to see this wonderful event. They too were extremely moved and grateful for all that had gone into making this happen.

Tracy now enjoys riding so much she now doesn't want to get off.

Our new garage which we received part funding for has been used extensively to store feed and our tractor plus items used in riding sessions thus making it easier to access what's needed.

We have six horses. They are all much loved and they all enjoy riding days. Kelly, our Trainee Coach entered Hummer an ex-pacer in the Standard Bred Class at the recent Picton Show where he placed Second and received Reserve Champion. We are all very proud of our special boy. His is a feel good story as we were able to re-home him and our coaches were able to re-train him when his racing career was over. We have another ex-pacer who is a much loved member of our Centre.

Dilly Drought Drive came to our rescue this year with a very substantial donation of feed which saw us through nine months. Without this donation we would have been really struggling.

In September we had a very successful Pet Show which was enjoyed by all who attended. Kelly took on the job of organising all that was required beforehand and helping to run the event on the day.

Our Chief Coach Betty Wallace received her OAM, which was really deserved after all her years volunteering at RDA and Pony Club and other community organisations and activities.

One of our dedicated young members Kelly has started her coaching journey and is working hard with her studies.

Three of our original and still current members received their Lifetime Membership Badges. A fitting thank you for all their time and dedication to our Centre.

We are still very fortunate to have Army personnel from the Rehab. Unit at Holsworthy Barracks come along each riding day. As always they are a great help and they really enjoy interacting with and helping the riders and they also really enjoy grooming the horses and generally helping out wherever they are needed.

## Highlights and Achievements

RDA - Young Centre has had a busy 2019. Both our rider and volunteer numbers have increased. The Centre was very proud to have sponsored a Coaching and Carriage Driving Workshop in October, with participants coming from as far away as Mudgee. Our Coaches have been very busy with training and professional development of both themselves and the volunteers.

As with many rural centres we have been in drought conditions and keeping our precious horses well and in good condition has been challenging at times.

## Centre Developments

The Centre has been successful in partnership with Young Pony Club in obtaining a dollar for dollar grant from Hilltops Regional Council to build a concrete ramp to provide improved wheelchair access to the clubrooms.

The fencing for our main paddock on Telegraph Road is being replaced in sections new for old. We have purchased a new set of harness for our carriage driving programme with funds received in a bequest.

## Riders

We have had approximately 65 participants this year, from primary school age to adults. Our participants come from Young Primary School, Young North Primary School and Lambing Flat Enterprises (LFE). Every second Thursday Forbes Primary School comes over for a session.

All our riders are improving, over time you can see them build their confidence. We now have quite a few riders who can ride with some independence and minimal supervision.

## Horse Stories

We have twelve horses in our programme. Sally and Rumpy still continue to provide the horsepower for our Carriage Driving Programme.

Franco continues to be a well-loved favourite with our riders from Young High School. Our smaller horses continue to be themselves each having their own little quirks and sometimes minds of their own.





We have had two horses retire this year, Leilani who has gone back to her owner. Miley has been retired to her forever home with the daughter of one of our volunteers at Bribbaree.

Sadly, Caddie passed away this year from advanced Cushing's Syndrome. Caddie is sadly missed by her owner and all at the Centre.

### Coaches

We have two qualified coaches, two assistant coaches and two whips. One of our coaches and assistant coach attended a two-day programme offered by Pegasus ACT in October.

Our two assistant coaches are also undertaking also their Certificate IV in Workplace Training and Assessment by Distance Education.



### Community Events and Fundraising

The Centre's President and Coach attended a presentation morning tea given by the Ladies Auxiliary of St John's Anglican Church, Young. Our Senior Coach gave a radio interview with local radio station 2 YYY.

A film night was held in September with a pre-screening of 'Ride Like a Girl'. It was a sell out with a profit of \$3000 going to our fencing programme at Telegraph Road.

The Young Services Club donated in December \$2000 towards our fencing programme at Telegraph Road.

We have had numerous donations from both the Community and Volunteers of cash and hay to feed our precious horses.

### Volunteers

We have approximately 30 active volunteers from a diverse range of age and backgrounds and they all have something to give, which they do generously. We all learn from each other and work together as a team.

One of our volunteers was recognised as a nominee for the 2019 Volunteer of the Year Award which is an NSW Government and Centre for Volunteering initiative.





# NORTH WEST

# 70



# ARMIDALE & NEW ENGLAND

## Highlights and Achievements

Despite the drought and terrible bush fires, we managed all but one of our monthly rides this year thanks to our coach, riders and volunteers being very committed and flexible about ride dates.

## Centre developments

We are raising money to repair the concrete area at the Armidale Equestrian Centre and the Disabled Children's Foundation grant of \$1,000 is our first big contribution for this.

The Regional Bank Community Partnership Program supported RDA Armidale & New England with a grant of \$2796.03.

## Riders & Rides

Rider numbers at our small centre continued to increase this year and we had 12 riders on our books, 7 adults and 5 children. Most months we had between 7 and 9 riders in three or four groups.

Adult rider, Beverley, improves in strength and balance every month. She now brings her own horse, Maple, to RDA. Thanks to Beverley's generosity, Maple is now being used by other riders in our program.



## Horse stories

We have five horses available for RDA – two 14hh ponies and three bigger horses. All our horses are owned by generous community members and are brought to the equestrian centre on ride days..

## Coaching

We only have one coach and this limits our ability to expand the program. This year several riders have started to become independent riders. At our October ride day, a group of four riders rode independently in the round yard, around obstacles and practicing starting and halting.

## Volunteers

This year, the commitment and generosity of our amazing volunteers has been even more apparent. Despite the drought and bush fires, that have put a huge extra work load on our coach and many volunteers, we have maintained our volunteer numbers and been able to run nearly every scheduled session.

Gaylia is one of our regular volunteers. She is happy and capable of just about any job – side walking, meeting & greeting, setting and packing up. And we all appreciate the delicious home-cooked biscuits and slices that she brings for morning tea on ride days.



# COONABARABRAN

## Centre developments

Our gorgeous coonabarabran centre is going places! Our grant applications this year have meant we can make a start on the replacement of the fencing at our facilities, going from timber to steel.

Thanks to our never tiring volunteers Sandi and Glenn, we have received horse feed donations and an entire bulk bag of horse pellets from Manildra Feeds! We have also been tirelessly applying for grants to improve our tech in our office and get a sand base in our arena.

The centre beautification plan is in full swing with Gardens in place and money secured to paint the flower bed tubs, thanks to the regional Australia bank donation of \$400.

## Riders

Everyone is progressing beautifully in their riding and general horsemanship skills.

From the Coonabarabran Public School, Tyler has been awarded several times at his assembly for great progress at RDA. Also Alex got on a horse for the very first time! Alex has been coming and watching the action for a couple of years but this year surprised us all with a sudden decision to hop on our Shetland pony 'Pop Goes The Weasel'. Well done Alex!

From Breakthru People Solutions Megan has been kicking some goals for sure! Megan is now trotting off the lead and successfully steering within the arena. Shelley is no longer trying to get off the horse early and is now starting to relax and staying to ride on her horse much longer.

## Horse stories

In total we had five horses in use this year, A new addition being 'Summer', 10hh with a gorgeous little nature to suit her name. Summer is donated by one of our new volunteers, Kirrilee.

Towards the end of the year we gained a further two horses. A Shetland named 'Rusty' and quarterhorse named Penny. They are still being trialled but we are positive these guys will be a huge asset to our riding in 2020.

We also have a new horse that may prove to be suitable for carriage in 2020. Her name is Nicky and She is a 12 year old standardbred. We keep our fingers crossed she

passes her horse suitability checks and we can get our carriage back on track.

## Coaching

We are still operating with one coach, and have one trainee assistant coach.

Our centre attended the Pegasus training on the subject of autism. Bringing autism to the forefront of our minds as it becomes a more prevalent disability at our RDA Centres. An excellent couple of days!

## Community Events and Fundraising

Our centre attended the coonabarabran oz tag disability awareness games this year. Also ran a very successful raffle at the north west area equestrian expo.

Our centre is active on Facebook and has recently added to their social media footprint by getting onto Instagram. By this means we are continually acknowledging our community and its support for our centre.

## Volunteers

We had a greatly improved number of volunteers this year, by the end of 2019 we had 8 volunteers coming to the centre to help. One of our newest recruits is 14 year old Jude. Jude is a very keen volunteer and willing to help in any capacity required of him. Thanks Jude!

Also we have our new treasurer who has whipped the entire show into place with her drive, impeccable organisation skills and determination to make RDA Coonabarabran thrive. Thank you Sandi!

Our coach Melissa has the weight of the centre on her shoulders as without her we can't ride. Thank you Mel! Never misses a day.

Bring on 2020 Coonabarabran RDA Centre!!!

# GUNNEDAH

## Executive Summary

It is impossible to pick out 10 highlights from our year. Every Riding Day is rewarding.

We have continued to provide a fortnightly Riding & Carriage Driving experience for our clients who along with the volunteers all enjoy & benefit from the experience.



## Centre developments

No new developments at the areas of the Showground we use to hold our riding days. It continues to be adequate for our needs.

## Riders

Each fortnight we have 13 Riders & 18 others who ride in a Carriage. We now have a client learning to drive the Carriage. It is intended to expand on this.

We felt complemented when it was reported to us that some clients from our Centre needed placating when their 'RDA Friday' was unavoidably cancelled.

## Horse stories

We have 7 horses all of which are used regularly. The riding horses are retired Polo Ponies, very quiet & bomb proof. The horses are all transported by volunteers for each riding day.

We are in need of a trained carriage horse.

## Coaching

We have 1 Coach & 2 Assistant Coaches. Our Centre volunteers are hosting a Carriage Driving & Coaching Workshop in March 2020.

## Community events and fundraising

Local community groups such as the Rotary Clubs & Lions Club have been generous with their support to us.

We are humbled to have received a generous donation from the P&C of the local School for people with special needs. A number of their students are our Clients.

Volunteers have worked at the local Show and run raffles to raise money.

Media coverage is through the local newspaper and RDA Gunnedah face book page.

## Volunteers

At each Riding Day we have the assistance of up to 15 Junior Volunteers & 20 Adult Volunteers. Our adult volunteers are ageing and we have difficulty enlisting new adult volunteers. We could not operate without the co-operation of the local High Schools who allow Year nine students to volunteer as leaders and side walkers. It is a wonderful community service experience for these young people and we are very grateful to them.

# NARRABRI

Despite the rather unkind weather with ample wind, dust and still no rain in sight, our RDA riders braved the conditions and have progressed in their fortnightly rides amazingly.

Inspiration to do just as well lingers at RDA at every corner but not just our riders spark the urge to live life to the fullest, our ninety-one year old coach Irene Hobden does just the same.

At ninety-one, Irene arrives early to help set up the arena for the days ride, always agile and alert, knowing exactly what needs to be done to get the day on its way. All while being graceful and presenting herself like she has just had a photo shoot with vogue.

Each riding session Irene gives two blind/mute participants individually the experience of feeling and smelling a horse for half an hour, then whips up to the trotting marshalling arena to encourage and share her world of knowledge with three riders, [one at a time] off-lead. Under her watchful eyes, said riders execute minor



dressage courses taking control of their horses in a walk with the goal to do the same while trotting.

Continuing after lunch, Irene is ready and willing to coach our six primary school riders, teaching them in a playful way how to sit correctly or use their reins. Finally after completion, she helps pack up and returns 20 kilometres to her home to tend to her small farm, dogs and respite ponies.

With that example at heart, everyone at RDA feels uplifted and inspired to “keep going”.

Our riders enforce this feeling. Their willingness and joy is infectious and seeing them on their precious mounts, always trying their best, just puts a smile on everyone’s face. Our riders are being encouraged and supported by an incredible bunch of volunteers who make it their highest deed to turn every ride into therapy, while

teaching control of the horse, giving enjoyment and above all keeping everyone safe.

Narrabri RDA have also been accredited as of the 26/8/2019, with a fresh young “Assistant Coach”. Jasmin Smith has been studying and fulfilling the requirements for this position over the last twelve months and is now ready and excited for the future to come. Our congratulations, Jasmin.

Due to the drought our carriage horse was unavailable, except for the very last ride.

16 riders, 2 deaf/mute participants, & 2 on ground horse handling as usually in carriage.

14 amazing adult volunteers & 9 high school volunteers.

2 coaches & 1 assistant coach qualified near end of our year.

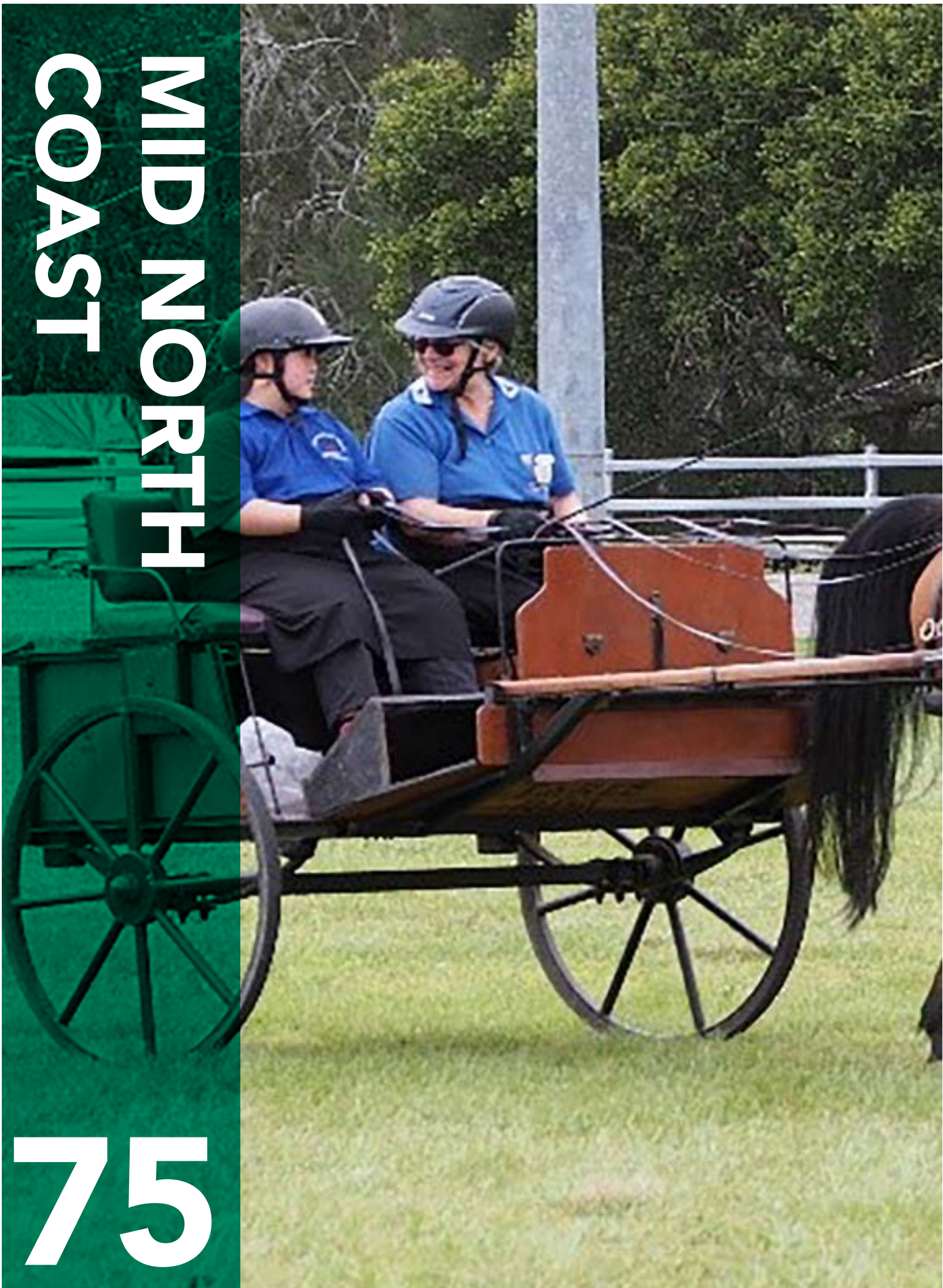
7 magnificent horses – very biased we are





# MIDNORTH COAST

# 75





## Highlights and Achievements

- Several wins at the local Taree Show for carriage driving
- Successful hosting of Regional Mounted Games

## Centre developments

- Cover on mounting ramp completed
- Improvements in wheelchair access for clubroom, funded from a grant
- Covered observation area constructed beside arena, funded from a grant

## Riders & Rides

- Approx 50 riders
- Carriage drivers achieved several awards at the local show
- Life memberships awarded to 5 members
- Continuing to have a local school participate in riding

## Carriage Driving

The Manning Great Lakes carriage driving year started with a BANG! We were informed three of the drivers had received awards in the RDA NSW CD Competition, including Grand Champion and Reserve Champion. What a great start to the year!

We meet once a month at the Taree Showground. This gives the five drivers a greater scope to perform different activities, including cones, driving under trees and using the old trotting track. Although we have had to cancel three sessions, two due to (you've guessed it) rain, and one when our dependable horse, Monty, became ill, we have still been able to practise in a comfortable environment and achieve individual goals.

Our end of year objective is to attend the harness section of the Taree Show. All the drivers are gearing up to the day, sourcing "uniforms" and willing for a fine day. The excitement is showing.



Carriage driving would not happen without a dedicated group of volunteers. Thank you to all of you, and to the two volunteers who regularly float Monty to the showground.

Pei Yong Forbes & Helen Murrell

Jo Correll, Tara Copp, Monty, MJ Ramsden, Stephanie Grolimund, Stephanie O'Toole, Helen Murrell, Evelyn Roberts.

### Horse stories

- 12 horses
- A new horse, Dolly, was generously donated through funds raised by a local op shop
- Our long-serving, multi-award winning and much-loved horse Cinnamon, retired and returned to his original owners

### Coaching

With great sadness our Coaching team will be losing two wonderful coaches at the end of the year who have dedicated years of commitment to inspiring not only our riders but all who have volunteered alongside them. All except one of our present coaches, assistant coaches, trainee coaches and whip have been mentored by Maureen or Margie. Maureen will be staying on as Horse

Manager, mentoring a team for a while to come, and will always be available for advice.

2019 saw Jane accredited as Assistant Coach and she will continue with her studies to reach full coach, so with one whip, two full coaches, two assistant coaches and three trainee coaches we hope to continue to inspire our riders as Maureen and Margie have done before us.

- Information from coaches and any key achievements that they have experienced this season
- Current coach numbers including trainees and assistants and any achievements by coaches such as professional development opportunities.

### Community Events and Fundraising

- We provided volunteers to be marshals at a local running festival
- Provided morning teas and lunches at an open garden day
- Provided volunteers in the canteen for a local horse racing meeting

### Volunteers

- Community announcement on local radio stations have been effective in raising interest in volunteers
- Volunteer numbers are reasonable however it is often difficult to get enough numbers to cover events

## TAMWORTH

The weather in our part of the state has been very dry and windy this year. It has had a large impact on our activities at the Tamworth Centre. There has hardly been any rain and lots of windy and smoky days. The grounds are very dry and frequently there is dust blowing everywhere. It makes horse and pony riding and harness difficult.

There was a change of President at the AGM in March with Colin Rosewarne retiring and Bob Pontifex elected President. Colin is a Coach and his wife Gill was our Volunteer Co-Ordinator and Publicity Officer. Gill retired also and they have since moved to the south coast to live. Colin and Gill made a huge contribution to the Centre and it has been very much appreciated.

The Centre has two Coaches who coach at the Centre, one Assistant Coach and three Whips to provide horse activities for one hundred and five clients from the beginning of March to the end of November. Some of our clients travel from outer towns and villages

to attend. Some volunteers also travel from out of Tamworth to volunteer. Currently there are ten horses and ponies at the Centre and two ponies are brought in each week. Two horses and two ponies are accredited and used in the harness cart and sulky.

They have all done a great job this year as far as the weather has been. Sadly one of our horses Geebung Jake passed away from unknown causes in August. He was one of the horses who travelled to Sydney and competed successfully in the Dressage Competition with rider Kelly.

Five of our clients have completed in local dressage competitions and travelled to Sydney to compete in the RDA NSW State Dressage Championships. They were very successful and the girls are very proud of their success. The Dressage team was named as a finalist in the Tamworth Regional Council Sports Awards on the 30th October which was a great achievement.

Three long term volunteers John Stokoe, Denise Warden and Jill Laidlaw were made Centre Life Members during the year and they were presented with their badges by Tamworth Regional Council Deputy Mayor Helen Tickle at a luncheon at the Centre in the presence of other volunteers and family.

Two of our volunteers Deb and Annette were invited to speak to members of the Tamworth Town and Country Club earlier in the year. The members warmly welcomed them and a lot of interest was shown in our Centre. The

Town and Country Club gave a generous donation to assist our Centre.

Our Centre was awarded The Volunteer Team of the Year for 2019 in the Tamworth Regional Council Community Volunteer Awards in May this year. We were very excited to receive this prestigious award on behalf of our dedicated volunteers including a number of school children who assist us on a regular basis. We were then nominated for the NSW Volunteers Awards and received a certificate.

## WAUCHOPE/PORT MACQUARIE

Another fabulous Year, with the help of funding from NSW Smarty Grants and the wonderful efforts of our volunteers, (a big HOORAY to them). We now have a wonderful vermin proof feed shed. It has taken a long time but for our volunteers who feed, life is a little easier.

We have 45 volunteers of which about 30 are able to come each week. Mr. Kevin Waldron who has been our President since 2004 and seen and been involved with many changes to our local RDA, stood down early this year due to health problems. Kevin accepted the position of Vice President; he continues to play a big part in our organisation. Kevin is a life member and has 20 years' service with us.

Mrs Robyn Coombes who has been coaching with us for over 12 years received an OAM this year. Congratulations to Robyn for this award.

This year we have received donations from many service clubs as well as the local community in our area, we had a very successful barefoot bowls day at Wauchope Country Club.

We have 33 riders who are continuing to enjoy their riding and make steady progress.

Two Groups entered the musical Ride competition and did really well. We also took a group to the mounted games at Manning Great Lakes Centre. We had a very successful day, and it was lovely to see our riders and parents/carers becoming more confident, helping each other and helping care for our horses.

We have been starting to work towards doing some dressage with our riders. Several riders who have enough parental support have joined our local dressage club and ride as dressage club members. Next year we look forward to entering the video dressage competition

Our group has two new thoroughbreds making a total of three. One new horse arrived in February his name is Ideal Heights better known as Eric and our other horse arrived in May, her name is Joy Division better known as Joy. These two horses are in training and doing very well. We have had the other horse for about six years, he has turned out a great success.

It was with sadness we said farewell to two of our retired ponies, Tango who died in September he was 34 years old and his mate Jimmy followed him in October he was 30 years old.

Our horse feeders have had a big job as our paddocks are all bare and feeding is a big challenge to keep our horses in good condition. Despite the conditions our riding has had a good year. We have gained new riders and volunteers this year and attendance is up.





NORTH  
COAST

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## BALLINA & DISTRICT

The big event of the year was our 40th Anniversary Celebration. The event was attended by our friends and participants from far and wide. It gave the disabled community an event created for and by them where they were the stars. We farewelled Beatrice Gray our retiring president. Beatrice will be sorely missed but she calls in from time to time to catch up.

We built many new pathways for funding and volunteers. We also built a bridge to ride over on the cross country course. We successfully hosted our first RDA NSW workshop at Glen Burnie and hope to host many more.

Our herd of eight horses is doing well. Suzy MALONEY is now an accredited RDA coach and a welcome addition to the coaching team. The coaching team has four coaches and two assistant coaches. Anna Rimac, the Saturday coach, has engaged a new group of teenage girls who are learning to become capable horse handlers. Lorraine Tranter the Tuesday coach continues to provide lessons to Biala Special School. RDA Ballina and District has been providing equine experiences for Students from Biala for 40 years. Wednesday has students from



three years old to forty three years old. Alstonville High School continue to send at risk students who are poor attenders to do EAL and as work experience. This program has been running for five years and is proving an effective strategy to assist at risk students.

Lessons ran three days a week with around thirty participants. The highlight to end the year was Sarah Carriage arriving at her year 12 formal mounted on RDA Ballina's fine paint steed Bosco to much applause.





## COFFS HARBOUR

Our year has been a most interesting one. We experienced the fires, fortunately it did not affect our area but sadly, others close by were.

The installation of shade cloth covering 1/3 of the arena has been a great plus for us. We are in the process of revamping our arena and mounting ramp.

We sadly lost one of our long term regular riders last week who unexpectedly passed away. Her happy smile will always be remembered and she will be sorely missed by us all.

Our volunteers are the biggest part of our great team and without them we would not be where we are today.

RDA is always a busy day here with around 20 riders and the same number of volunteers.

Recent TV and newspaper articles have highlighted our RDA Centre. Bunnings have been a great help to our financial status and is a great opportunity to meet /greet new and old contacts.

Overall we have had a very successful year.



# VOLUNTEER VALE

Our volunteers have a deep, spiritual connection with RDA and we'd like to pay our respects and acknowledge those volunteers who have contributed many years of service and are no longer with us:

Jan Sharp – RT & LH

Jean McAinsh – Wollondilly

Hermione (Mima) Ware – Moss Vale

Len Crowe – Cowra

Sheila Cuncliffe - Nepean

# RDA (NSW)

## Patrons



### **PATRON**

Her Excellency General  
The Honorable Margaret Beazley  
AO QC Governor of  
New South Wales  
and Mr Dennis Wilson



### **LIFE PATRON**

Mrs Pearl Batchelor (dec.)



### **VICE PATRON**

Mr Don Eyb

## Directors & Portfolios



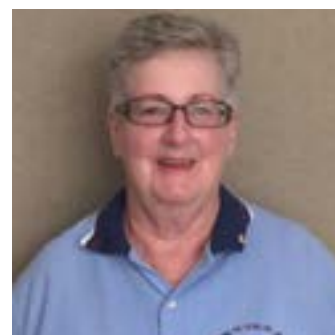
### **CHAIRPERSON**

Mrs Margaret Norman OAM



### **FINANCE OFFICER COMPANY SECRETARY**

Mr Joe Orland



### **DEVELOPMENT OFFICER MEMBER PROTECTION OFFICER**

Ms Olwen Smith



### **COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR**

Ms Susan Turner-Davis



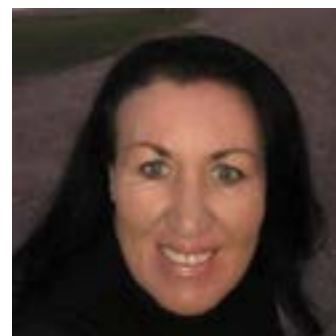
### **EXECUTIVE OFFICER RIDERS REPRESENTATIVE**

Ms Jan Pike



### **MARKETING DIRECTOR**

Mrs Melanie Spaggiari



### **DIRECTOR/GRANTS & RISK MANAGEMENT OFFICER**

Ms Tracy Lucas

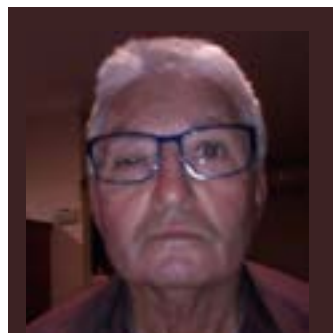
## Regional Representatives



**SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS**  
Mr Angus Malcolm



**MID NORTH COAST**  
Mrs Sue Hardinge-White



**CENTRAL WEST**  
Mr Wayne Gallagher



**HUNTER**  
Mrs Jenny Cameron



**METROPOLITAN**  
Ms Kirsty Hardman



**NORTH COAST**  
Mr Clarry Quirk

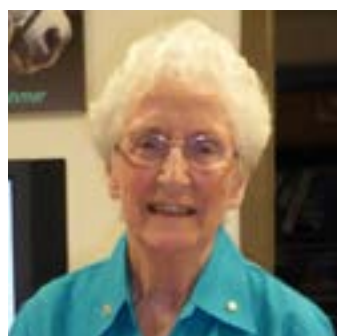


**RIVERINA**  
Ms Margot Bulger

## Support Staff



**RTO CEO & CASP CHAIRMAN**  
**COACHING CO-ORDINATOR**  
Mrs Wendy Torr OAM



**CENTRE AUDIT**  
**OFFICER**  
Mrs Joan Edwards OAM



**OFFICE**  
**CO-ORDINATOR**  
Mrs Lucy Pentony



**COACHING**  
**ADMINISTRATOR**  
Ms Nicole King





# THANK-YOU

**to all our volunteers & supporters**

Without your assistance RDA (NSW)  
could not service 1455 riders.





## Riding For The Disabled Association (NSW)

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