



Riding for the Disabled Association (N.S.W.)

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Mr. Ed Binney,
Hon. President
RDA(NSW) Manning Great Lakes Centre,
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17 July, 2020

Dear Mr. Binney,

Thank you for your email dated 13 July, 2020 addressed to our EO Jan Pike, in which you requested information on why RDA(NSW) took the steps to retire from the National Organisation, RDAA.

As Gerard Murphy and myself represented RDA(NSW) at the RDAA Council Meetings when the RDAA Constitution was discussed, thought it best if I responded to your questions.

I hope the following information may clarify any queries you may have. Please find the following responses, in 'italics', to your queries below:

1.....Anecdotally I have heard that NSW divested from the National RDA body about 20 years ago due to a concern about the ownership of some property in the North West of Sydney. Whilst this information may not be accurate on the specifics, the fact is the RDA NSW split away from the national RDA body

- *It took a little time to collect the information and hope the attached documents that were sent to all Centres through 2005, satisfy your inquiry.*
 - *8 July, 2005 a Special State Council Meeting was held in reference to certain clauses in the new RDAA Constitution. The member centres accepted the Council's decision to retire from RDAA.*
 - *21 July, 2005, a letter was sent to all Centres regarding the new RDAA Constitution*
 - *Attached to this letter is an Information Sheet setting out Why RDA(NSW) retired from RDAA.*
 - *23 September 2005, a further Memo was sent to all Centres explaining reasons taken prior to RDA(NSW) retiring from RDAA in 2006*
 - *Write up for the Spring Edition of Bits'n'Pieces*

2.....So is it time to review the benefits and disadvantages of merging RDA NSW back into the National RDA body?

- *My association with RDAA was from the onset when in 1975 I was fortunate enough to be part of the RDA(NSW) team that met at Mylor, S.A. to discuss forming a National Body and from this Inaugural Meeting of all States, the new National body for formed and named "The Council for RDAA" This 'Council' was in play until 1979 when RDAA incorporated and was renamed "Riding for the Disabled Association Australia" (RDAA).*

Founded: 1972 by Pearl Batchelor OAM

Joint Patrons: Her Excellency The Honourable Margaret Beazley AO QC, Governor of NSW and Mr Dennis Wilson

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"RDA (NSW) is a volunteer organisation that provides horse - related activities to enrich the lives of people with disabilities"

- *It gave me no pleasure in seeing RDA(NSW) retire from the National Body but in all fairness to our Centre Volunteers and Riders whose protection was of the utmost concern on the minds of the then RDA(NSW) 'Council' and that the right decisions were made to ensure the safety and duty of care for all our Volunteers and Riders.*
 - *2016 saw RDAA circulate an updated version of the RDAA Constitution.*
 - *Consideration needs to be investigated and thought of further regarding;*
 - *States rights to State present assets, monies, and Buildings, Leases, or any future assets. At present, I think you will find that RDA(NSW) is the only State Organisation that owns property and Investments to benefit all Centres in NSW.*
 - *State fee contribution, for with many states combined, NSW contributes more in monetary value, and possibly, education and stability.*
 - *NSW Riders would not be fully represented under the proposed voting system with one vote per state. RDANSW have 1507 riders compared to 5 other states totalling 1284.*
 - *The Board will follow up to ensure the plagiarism clause has been withdrawn from the 2016 Constitution for the previous Constitution noted that those who have contributed both written and verbal information to the National in good faith were being informed that RDAA will copyright their material. Any State using their material will, from then on, be committing plagiarism and the states will have to re-write their documents. RDA(NSW) contributed to many of the RDAA documents that are used today.*

RDA(NSW) Member Committees elect the Board to ensure all steps are taken for the day to day smooth running and duty of care is taken for all our Volunteers and Riders.

At your request, the Board is more than happy to send this letter onto all Centres.

The Board hopes the information supplied above may quell any concerns you have in regard to your inquiries and we look forward to meeting with you at our upcoming RDA(NSW) AGM being held Saturday, 25 July, 2020 with Registration at 5pm and the commencement of the AGM at 6pm.

Yours in RDA



Margaret Norman OAM

Hon. Director/ Chairperson

Riding for the Disabled Association (NSW)

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“Riding Develops Abilities”



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