



**Riding For The Disabled
Association (NSW)**



2022 Annual Report

50 Year Anniversary Edition



Why Gold?

Gold represents 50 year anniversaries.
Gold is illuminating, sacred, durable;
it is precious. It is almost universally
associated with the sun.

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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.

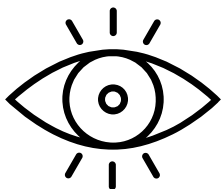
The objectives of **RDA (NSW)** are to encourage, support and assist Centres to provide riding therapy, sport, recreation, training and safety programs for people with disabilities. **RDA (NSW)** offers programs in horse riding, carriage driving, dressage, and Equine Facilitated Mental Health and Learning (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 34 Centres spread throughout NSW with 90% of Centres based in regional areas. The Centres cater for 1,023 riders annually and are supported by 758 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.

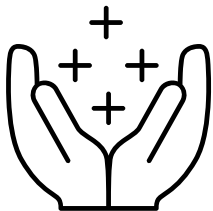
Value Proposition

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 & Representatives

North West

Gunnedah, Narrabri,
Coonabarabran, Tamworth,
Armidale & New England

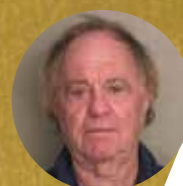
Rep: Mr Glenn Walker



North Coast

Tweed Valley, Ballina
& District, Coffs Harbour

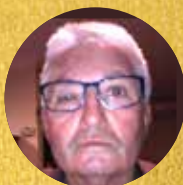
Rep: Mr Clarry Quirk



Central West

Bathurst, Orange, Mudgee,
Forbes (Steering Committee)

Rep: Mr Wayne Gallagher



Mid North Coast

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

Rep: Mrs Sue Hardinge-White



Riverina

Cootamundra, Wagga
Wagga, Griffith/Leeton,
Albury-Wodonga, Tumut

Rep: Ms Olwen Smith



Hunter

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

Rep: Mrs Jenny Cameron



Southern Highlands

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

Rep: Mr Angus Malcolm



Metropolitan

Ryde, Blue Mountains,
Box Hill, Richmond

Rep: Mrs Margaret Norman OAM





Pearl Batchelor OAM (dec.)

Founder and Life Patron of RDA (NSW)



Directors Reports

Chairperson's Report

A blink of the eye and 2022 has gone and now we say hello to 2023.

I believe this will be our year, your chance to shine, a year where the centres will see many positives and ways to move out of the hardship and effects that the weather has forced on us through fires and floods you never gave up. You all dug deep and pulled together to ensure your centres and fellow volunteers, riders, carers, families, friends and our beautiful horses remained strong. For that I thank you and want you to know everything you have done and continue to do is appreciated; at times seeing the benefits is very overwhelming, and the difference that it makes in the lives of our participants and their families is what makes us come back year after year.

Our 50th year of RDA (NSW) has seen some great moments of memories and friendships rekindled. Twelve Life Members together face to face at an afternoon tea hosted by her Excellency The Honorable Margaret Beazley and Mr Wilson at Government House. A book full of great stories and shared memorabilia from 1972 to 2022. To be part of an organisation that provides so many benefits to all involved is staggering and on that note I must thank all involved. My fellow Directors, CASP, Regional Reps, our disciplines – Dressage, Carriage Driving, Mounted Games and EFMH&L, our horse welfare and riders committees and our back bones that keep us on the straight and narrow – Nicole, Kristy and Lucy.

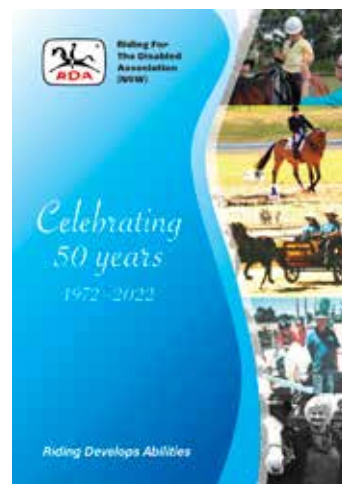
We welcome four new Directors, Allan, Clarry, Diane and Ed and the addition of Jan Pike has made for a Board of nine that are here to work alongside our centres to ensure we are being the best us. How can I forget our consultant Margaret who for almost 50 years has provided RDA with her passion and wisdom.

As face to face is fast becoming a thing again, how fantastic are our assessors? Traveling the state to support and assist our up and coming trainee coaches, assistant coaches and coaches, you are all worth your weight in gold.

They come in all shapes and sizes and many colours BUT all have four legs. Our horses never falter, they never ask for much, a kind word; a gentle pat, a biscuit of hay, the odd day of TLC and perhaps a few meds to keep them at their best.

They walk up to the ramp or mounting block ears nice and tall keen to offer a warm body, a nuzzle and a gentle movement to make their rider smile, achieve and feel that moment of independence.

We have lost a few horses through illness, accidents or unfortunately some have simply gone missing. We are very fortunate to have such gentle steeds.



**Together we share our passions
we dream of the future.**

Together we offer and we provide

**Together we will see that the
dreams and hopes continue.**

Together we will smile and laugh

Together we shall ride.

Grants & Communication Officer's Report

A new horse, float, a bale of hay, perhaps a shelter to protect our riders and volunteers from the weather. Grants, they are and always will be a mystery to me and one that I love to bestow on our centres to support their needs and requirements.

Floods have taken their toll on many of our centres and we have been fortunate that a moment of time, an ounce of quiet and some skilled thoughts have seen many of our centres supported the last twelve months.

I have been very fortunate to attend as a guest several functions to promote RDA (NSW) as an entirety. Links to grants, fundraising ideas and marketing strategies have been laid out on the table. Modernizing the way in which we can source grants and sponsors has become a more hands on challenge and the gift givers ask to see pictures to hear stories of our achievements and the benefits that the bond between horse and rider can provide.

Small fish are sweet, whilst we seek the big dollar the small ones add up, never be afraid to try to ask for help to attempt that grant, that application or submission. We may complete five applications and only receive one grant, but that one win can perhaps buy some new lead ropes, fund the end of year trophies or certificates for our riders. Maybe even be to repair a wall, replace a window, fund a rider to attend a dressage championship or mounted games event. What I am saying is don't give up, keep trying because it what we do best and that is to give to those who don't ask but the smile tells the story. Success is achieved and maintained by those who try and keep trying.



Executive Officer Report

I am truly excited to hold the position of Executive Officer in this, the 50th year of Riding for the Disabled Association (NSW). Pearl's idea has certainly gone from strength to strength to what we see today. She should be so proud of what RDA (NSW) has achieved over this half century.

Being part of this wonderful organisation bringing this activity to those that live with a disability, to give them an opportunity to achieve and overcome their personal challenges. thank all the volunteer coaches for their time and efforts in running riding sessions. Also, I thank all the volunteers as it is your invaluable support that enables the sessions at the centres to occur.

My role as Executive Officer comes with great responsibility which keeps me very busy at times. On occasions there have been some challenging issues that required delicate negotiations, but when you look at the big picture of what our great organisation brings to our RDA riders, the effort is always all worthwhile.

It is still my pleasure to set up teleconferences for some centres – even at short notice. There is also the option now that I don't even have to be present to admit attendees. This gives RDA Centres complete independence. Some centres are now setting up their own meetings. It has even allowed meetings to be held in the evening and there is no long drive home afterwards for volunteers. However now that we can meet again in person the demand is less or perhaps as people become more competent in this area.

I thank the Office Co-ordinator for her efficiency over the last year as well as throughout all years, as many times Lucy has supplied archival information relating to a topic – even before I have made a request. Your perceptiveness is always appreciated and greatly assists my role as EO.

I also appreciate the time and effort exercised by each of my fellow directors. Each director brings something to the table – Tracy continues to apply for Grants with such a success rate that is amazing. Joe who monitors our legal and constitutional obligations while he makes sure we use the RDA (NSW) funds appropriately.

My other directors all have at heart, the continuance of enhancing the lives of our riders. Plus they support and promote any volunteer who puts their hand up to train as a coach. We all need to encourage these wonderful volunteers as this is a critical part of our organisation at present because many of our coaches are getting older. I also thank Clarry for taking over the role of Development Officer relieving me of one portfolio freeing up some of my time which is appreciated.

Finally, I thank our two appointed Directors, Jan Pike and Margaret Norman as your information and advice is invaluable to the Board of RDA (NSW) and to myself personally.

Here's to another 50 years for this wonderful organisation.



CASP Report

2022 saw an increase in assessments throughout NSW as Centres started to get more consistent participation following the disruption of COVID-19.

It was also refreshing to get back to face to face training workshops. The State Workshop was held at Hawkesbury Race Club and Richmond Centre which gave everyone from around the State the opportunity to come together and network.

The great sessions included were Saddle Fit, Identifying Pain in Horses, Rider assessments, Large Animal Rescue, Weed Management and Self Awareness in Coaching, Developing Communication strategies with Participants, Rider Biomechanics, Lesson Planning, Vision Impairment and Laminitis.

We recognised a number of Coaches who had been Coaching for over 20 years with RDA (NSW). This is a huge milestone considering the countless hours of preparation that goes into behind the scenes of coaching sessions.

Raymond Terrace & Lower Hunter Centre hosted a workshop in October 2022 with a focus on trainees that haven't been able to attend a workshop previously. These workshops support the Syllabus requirements for the Certificate III in Equine Therapy programs for people with a disability which is the basis for RDA (NSW) Coaching levels. Existing RDA Coaches have also been completing an upgrade.

We continued our engagement with industry but holding periodic networking sessions including with Arundel Park and Sunshine Coast RDA Centres in QLD.

Ongoing COVID-19 requirements kept us busy ensuring that our Volunteers and Participants were kept as safe as possible and we were following the rules set out by Government.

As we look towards a less restrictive and more open community we look forward to continuing with developing and delivering great training workshops and providing the support necessary for Coaches to continue Coaching which will ultimately develop the capacity within RDA (NSW).

Thank you to all the Coaches who put in the hours and make the sacrifices to make a difference for their participants. We know RDA develops abilities and your dedication to the programs is AMAZING!



Finance Officer Report

The "Riding for the Disabled Association (NSW)" is a public company which is registered with both ASIC and the ACNC as a not-for-profit charity public company. The company's "on the ground" operations are conducted via its network of Centres. Centres are unincorporated branches that are part of that company, RDA (NSW). As is permitted, the company and each of the Centres report separately for accounting purposes. Therefore, the RDA (NSW) accounts are prepared without recourse to the accounting records and financial results of any of the Centres.

RDA (NSW) is a charity which has, as its goal, the provision of therapeutic horse-related activities to those who have a disability. In relation to the company's finances, the aim is to make sure that the charity operates in a business-like and conservative manner in order to ensure that it is able to continue to operate into the future for the benefit of its riders.

To this end, investments are conservative in order to help ensure the future viability of the organisation without the need to raise substantial amounts of funds from Centres. Should the method of operation change so that it becomes a business, instead of operating in a business-like manner, it will become necessary for the organisation to change its aim and operations to being one of making profits, rather than the current object of operating at the least cost to Centres and riders while still providing Centres with the assistance that they may need. This will result in a substantial increase in the amount that is charged to Centres and, therefore, the riders.

The aim is one of looking at the long-term stability of the organisation which runs at the least cost to Centres while still providing the services that RDA (NSW) has been set up to provide – horse related therapeutic activity for those who have a disability. This is supported by the work of the volunteer Directors.

In addition to their voluntary role as Directors, RDA (NSW) Directors also volunteer in their various additional roles in managing the company. This is consistent with other not-for-profit charities the size of RDA (NSW).

An estimate provided by an external organisation a few years ago had indicated that to have the work which is currently performed by the Directors transferred to paid employees will

cost approximately \$200,000 (with wages, leave, superannuation, insurance, etc) for each employee engaged full time. That is in addition to the cost of leasing any office space that may be needed.

But for the work of the volunteer Directors, Centres, and therefore riders, would need to pay considerably more than they do now in order to fund the work of those additional employees.

It is in this context that the accounts of RDA (NSW) need to be considered.

The value of the assets which are directly held by the company total \$9,611,329 as at 31 December 2022. Included in this amount are funds in bank accounts and term deposits totalling \$1,944,701, other investments (including a share portfolio) valued at \$1,945,296 and real property, comprising three parcels of land, which is directly owned by RDA (NSW) and used respectively by the Ballina, Box Hill (Tall Timbers) and Raymond Terrace & Lower Hunter Centres of \$5,663,000 (at Directors' valuation). No value is ascribed to leases and licences held by RDA (NSW) on private or Government-owned land which is used by Centres.

Share values fluctuate according to a number of factors, both local and international. The value of the RDA (NSW) shareholding as at 31 December 2022 was \$110,442 less than for the previous year. Of this amount, \$83,162 was the result of a reduction of value due to fluctuations of the value on the sharemarket and the balance was largely the result of the takeover of the shares held in one of the investments, realising a net capital gain of \$7,436. However, as this asset class is held as an investment, fluctuations in value are not reflective of the trading results of the company.

Although interest rates have been lower than the long-term average rate, this is a diversified portfolio which balances risk to return in what is considered to be a conservative, but safe, investment strategy that is still able to produce good returns to RDA (NSW) while minimising risk to the Association's assets.

While RDA (NSW) already owns three parcels of land on which Centres are located, should a suitable property onto which a Centre could be located (or relocated) become available at a reasonable price (once all factors are considered), the Finance Committee and the Directors will consider the viability of that property being

acquired so that RDA (NSW) operations can be conducted on that property.

I would like to thank the members of the Finance Committee and the Directors of RDA (NSW) for their assistance in helping achieve the goals of having a “fit for purpose” balanced portfolio.



Company Secretary Report

As Company Secretary, my main responsibility has been to advise the Board in relation to the requirements under the various laws and regulations which are to be complied with by the Board and by the organisation.

In that capacity, advice was given in relation to various procedural matters as well as the interpretation and application of various Acts and Regulations. These included such laws as the Corporations Act 2001, the Australian Charities and not for Profit Commission Act 2012, and other NSW and Commonwealth laws that apply to a company such as ours as well as those that affect, or relate to, the operations of RDA (NSW) and its Centres.

In addition to advice in relation to the relevant Acts of Parliament, advice was also given in relation to the application of the RDA (NSW) Constitution and, where applicable, the Centre Constitutions as they related to particular aspects of the operations of RDA (NSW) and/or its Centres.

There are also various reporting requirements. As RDA (NSW) is a company and a not-for-profit charity, there is annual reporting required to both the Australian Securities and Investment Commission (ASIC) and the Australian Charities and Not-for-profit Commission (ACNC).

While the reporting to ASIC is only in respect of the company “RDA (NSW)” and its directors, reporting to the ACNC must be done annually, and separately, in respect of RDA (NSW) and each RDA (NSW) Centre.

The Company Secretary is responsible for submitting these reports to the appropriate authorities.

In addition to the above, there are other procedural activities which the Company Secretary is required to ensure occurs, such as the holding and reporting of meetings.

Coaching Stats

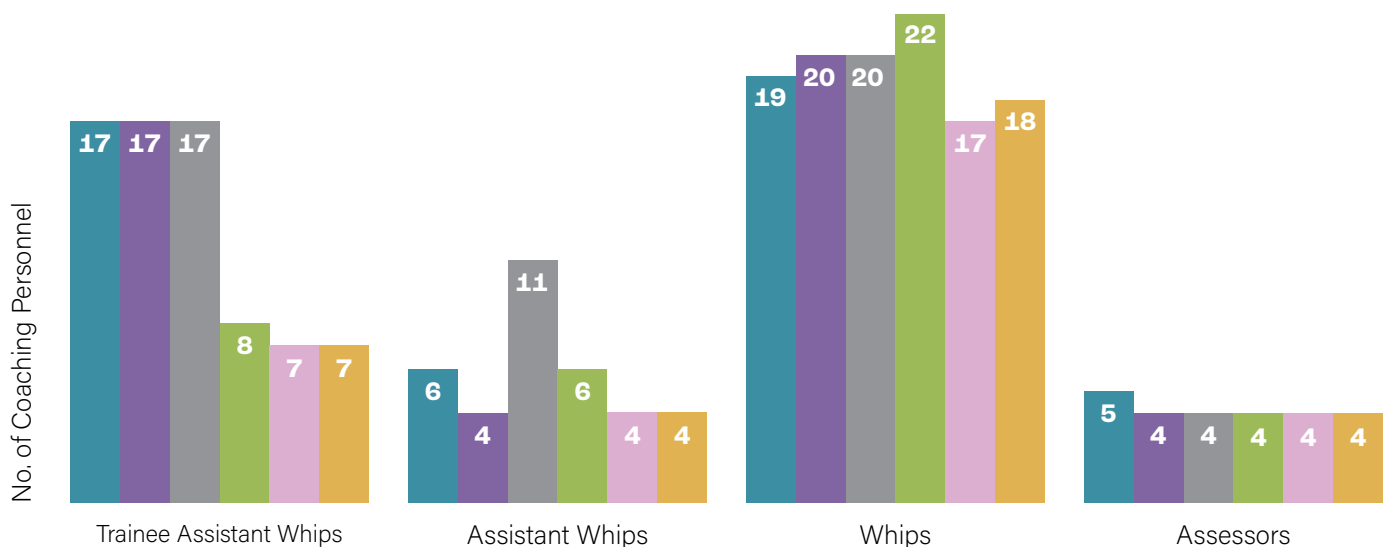
RDA (NSW) Coaching Personnel

Accredited	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Assessors	14	10	9	11	9	8
Senior Coaches	10	10	15	14	12	13
Coaches	119	118	117	89	85	82
Trainee Coaches	8	10	16	20	14	8
Assistant Coaches	55	47	71	37	30	31
Trainee Assistant Coaches	40	69	48	59	40	28
	246	264	276	230	190	170
Non Coach - Hippo Horse Handlers	17	17	15	15	15	15

Assessments Completed						
Senior coaches			1			
Coaches		4	3	2		7
Coaches (Qld)	26	3	4	2	5	
Assistant Coaches		13	11	3	7	10
	26	20	19	7	12	17

Carriage Driving						
Trainee Assistant Whips	17	17	17	8	7	7
Assistant Whips	6	4	11	6	4	4
Whips	19	20	20	22	17	18
Assessors	5	4	4	4	4	4
	47	45	52	40	32	33

Carriage Driving



KEY

2017

2018

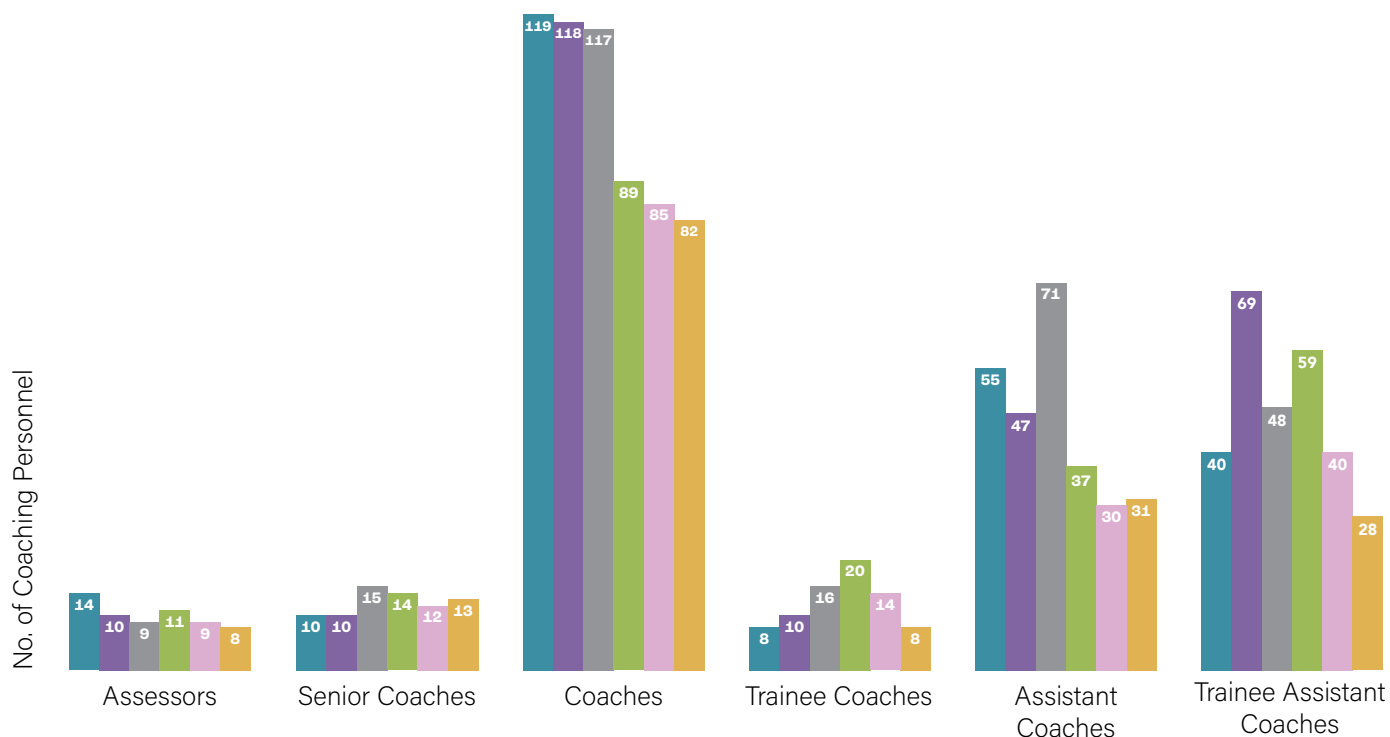
2019

2020

2021

2022

Coaching Personnel



Assesments Completed



Registered Riders

Centre	No. of Registered Riders
Albury Wodonga	6
Armidale and New England	2
Ballina & District	11
Bathurst	2
Blue Mountains	22
Central Coast	93
Coffs Harbour	12
Coonabarabran	13
Cootamundra	11
Cowra	55
Forbes Steering Committee	0
Goulburn	24
Illawarra	0
Griffith/Leeton	35
Gunnedah	19
Kempsey/Macleay	20
Kendall	7
Manning Great Lakes	13
Moss Vale	8
Mudgee	22
Narrabri	3
Orange	57
Raymond Terrace & Lower Hunter	44
Richmond	23
Ryde	76
Tamworth	46
Tall Timbers	106
Tumut	24
Tweed Valley	17
Upper Hunter	32
Wagga Wagga	91
Wauchope/PortMacquarie	29
Wollondilly	24
Young	64
Associate Riders	10
TOTAL	1021

Letters of Support



MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER FOR SPORT

The NSW Government is committed to ensuring that everyone in the State has opportunities to participate in sport and recreation, regardless of age, ability, gender, or background.

The NSW Liberals and National Government strongly supports the role of the Riding for the Disabled Association (NSW) in increasing opportunities for people with disability to participate in equine sport and active recreation through their programs. I am proud to note that the NSW Government provided the Riding for Disabled Association (NSW) funding of \$316,000 in 2021/22.

I congratulate the Association on its 50-year anniversary in 2022, you have a proud history of service to the NSW community. I also commend and acknowledge the commitment and dedication on the initiatives and events you have delivered over the last 12 months.

Your ongoing work through your network of members, coaches, and volunteers ensures people with disability across NSW have access to exceptional equine programs that provides safe and enjoyable experiences in and around horses and riding.

The Hon. Alister Henskens, SC MP

Minister for Enterprise, Investment and Trade, Minister for Science, Innovation and Technology, Minister for Sport, and Minister for Skills and Training



Message from

Her Excellency the Honourable Margaret Beazley AC KC Governor of New South Wales

At the end of another year, Riding for the Disabled Association (NSW) can once again look back with pride on twelve months of committed service to community. Always an innovative and forward-thinking organisation, your flexibility and resilience in the face of the continuing challenges, especially of COVID and the floods this year, has been nothing short of inspirational.

Always with the safety of clients, volunteers, staff, and horses front of mind, your events and programs have begun returning in force, providing those with disabilities access to the physical, psychological, social, and emotional benefits derived from riding and interacting with horses.

Dennis and I witnessed this first-hand in June on a visit to your centre in Tumut. Seeing the joy on riders' faces as they demonstrated their skills is testament to the priceless experiences your dedicated team provides. It also offers insight into the care and professionalism of your instructors, coaches, and volunteers.

This year also marks RDA (NSW)'s 50th Anniversary. To celebrate, Dennis and I had the privilege of hosting an afternoon tea at Government House, welcoming founding and life members and riders, current riders and their carers, volunteer representatives from 16 of your 35 centres, board members, coaches, staff, and supporters. It was a wonderful opportunity to meet and catch up with so many whose passion and expertise is the bedrock of a very special community. The anniversary celebrations also provided the opportunity to reflect on the legacy of RDA (NSW), which has grown from a single riding school to become the largest provider of therapeutic riding for people with a disability in Australia. Undoubtedly, the inspirational duo of Pearl and Nan, so integral to your organisation's foundation and success, would be looking down with pride.

As Patrons, Dennis and I commend and thank all involved with RDA (NSW) for your efforts over the last year, and for the extraordinary service your organisation has given for half a century. In delivering life-changing therapeutic and recreational activities to so many, your contribution to community and well-being in NSW is invaluable.

With congratulations, gratitude, and best wishes for the new year (and the next fifty!),

**Her Excellency the Honourable Margaret Beazley AC KC
Governor of New South Wales**

Mr Dennis Wilson





MESSAGE FROM THE VICE PATRON – RDA (NSW)

I am privileged as the Vice Patron to support the valuable contribution made by the dedicated team of volunteers, and thank them in providing equestrian instruction and opportunities to people with a wide range of disability within New South Wales over the past year. Congratulations to Riding for the Disabled Association (NSW) on your 50th Anniversary, a significant achievement, celebrated at Government House, hosted by your Patron, The Honourable Margaret Beazley, AC KC Governor of NSW on the 27th October 2022. Also a big thank you on the publishing of the 50 Year Book.

A special thank you to all volunteers, including Directors, Administration staff, Coaches, Handlers, Trainers, Horse Owners, Horses and supporters for their dedication and contribution over the past year. I must also commemorate the efforts of all volunteers, statewide for their commitment over the past 5 decades. Their efforts have been responsible for vast improvements since foundation. An old saying "Remember those that dug the well, for those that drink water from it today."

Since 2018, NSW has had to deal with Droughts, Bushfires, Covid 19, and in 2022, Floods, in yet another difficult year. However some of the events achieved this past year included:

- RDA's involvement in the Golden Eagle, for racing NSW and thank you to them for their donation.
- Congratulations for the official opening of the new Centre at Mudgee on the 30/11/22, and to new locations for the Coffs Harbour and Kendall centres.
- The opening of the Memorial Garden at the Wollondilly Centre, for Betty and Graham Wallace, who started the centre 36 years ago.
- Goulburn and Box Hill "Tall Timbers" centres, had the honour of showcasing RDA (NSW) to HRH Princess Ann at the RAS Sydney 200th Anniversary Show.
- RDA (NSW) held a very successful Dressage Championships. Also in August a gymkhana day, the first in 3 years due to Covid 19.
- A well attended state workshop was conducted at the Richmond centre on the 21st and 22nd May 2022.
- Regional coach training workshops were held, and Regional Mounted Games were conducted at several centres.

Congratulations to RDA (NSW) on your achievements over another difficult year, and thank you for the Honour to act as your Vice Patron. I assure you of 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

Office of Sport



Dear Ms Pike,

I am pleased to provide the following message for inclusion in the Riding for the Disabled Association's 2022 Annual Report.

Sporting events such as the Paralympics and the Commonwealth Games remind us of the power of sport to challenge perceptions of what it means to have a disability and break down some of the many barriers people with disability face.

As the lead NSW Government agency for sport and recreation, the Office of Sport is committed to ensuring that everyone in NSW has opportunities to participate in sport and recreation, regardless of age, ability, gender identity, or background.

I commend and acknowledge the Riding for the Disabled Association's wonderful work over the last 50 years to provide opportunities for people with disability to be involved in horse riding and equine programs.

I am aware of the exceptional programs and events delivered by the Riding for the Disabled Association (NSW) for the riding community with disability over the last twelve months. This includes the 2022 State Dressage Championships, Gymkhana & Mounted Games which were held at the Sydney International Equestrian Centre on 26-28 August 2022.

I look forward to the ongoing work of the Riding for the Disabled Association (NSW) in supporting participation by people with disability in equine sports that promote positive physical, social and mental well-being.

Sincerely,

Karen Jones

Chief Executive

50 A Royal Visit

After several weeks of complete secrecy, riders from RDA (NSW) were presented to HRH The Princess Royal, Princess Anne on the Opening Day of the 200th Sydney Royal Easter Show in April 2022.

Following a display of riding games and activities HRH Princess Anne spent approximately 20 minutes with the Team, meeting invited guests: Tracy Lucas RDA (NSW) Chairperson, Joan Edwards OAM, Marie Purkis Mounted Games Committee RDA (NSW) and Nikki Albury foster parent of our youngest rider Kaitlyn.

HRH Princess Anne was also introduced to all the riders: Kaitlyn, Erin and Cody, RDA Horses, Horse Handlers and Coaches.

It was a really great event and an excellent opportunity to showcase RDA (NSW) after the tough times of the last couple of years.

Congratulations to all involved and our event coordinator Kirsty Hardman for such a fantastic display!

Many thanks to Royal Agricultural Society of NSW for the invitation and ongoing support of RDA (NSW).



50 Awards

Winners Of Each Region AGM Awards 2022

Pearl Batchelor Award

Boss Duff	Orange	Central West
Garry Kirkby	Central Coast	Hunter
Sue Hardinge-White	Manning Great Lakes	Mid North Coast

Volunteer Encouragement Award

Abigail Thew	Orange	Central West
Ron McHardy	Tamworth	North West

Young Volunteer of the Year

Ayanna Hope	Orange	Central West
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Rider / Driver of the Year

Tracy Herne	Wollondilly	Southern Highlands
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Shush Memorial Award

"Chook"	Orange	Central West
"Tinker"	Raymond Terrace & Lower Hunter	Hunter
"Bishop"	Tamworth	North West

Winners Of AGM Awards 2021

Pearl Batchelor Award

Garry Kirkby

Central Coast
(Hunter)

Volunteer Encouragement Award

Alexa Hearn

Box Hill Tall Timbers
(Metropolitan)

Young Volunteer of the Year

Ayanna Hope

Orange
(Central West)

Rider/Driver of the Year

Tracy Herne

Wollondilly
(Southern Highlands)

Shush Memorial Award

"Bishop"

Tamworth
(North West)

Pearl Batchelor Medal

2010 Margaret Randall

2012 Wendy Torr OAM

2014 Jan Sharp OAM (dec.)

2016 Margaret Norman OAM

2020 Jan Pike OAM



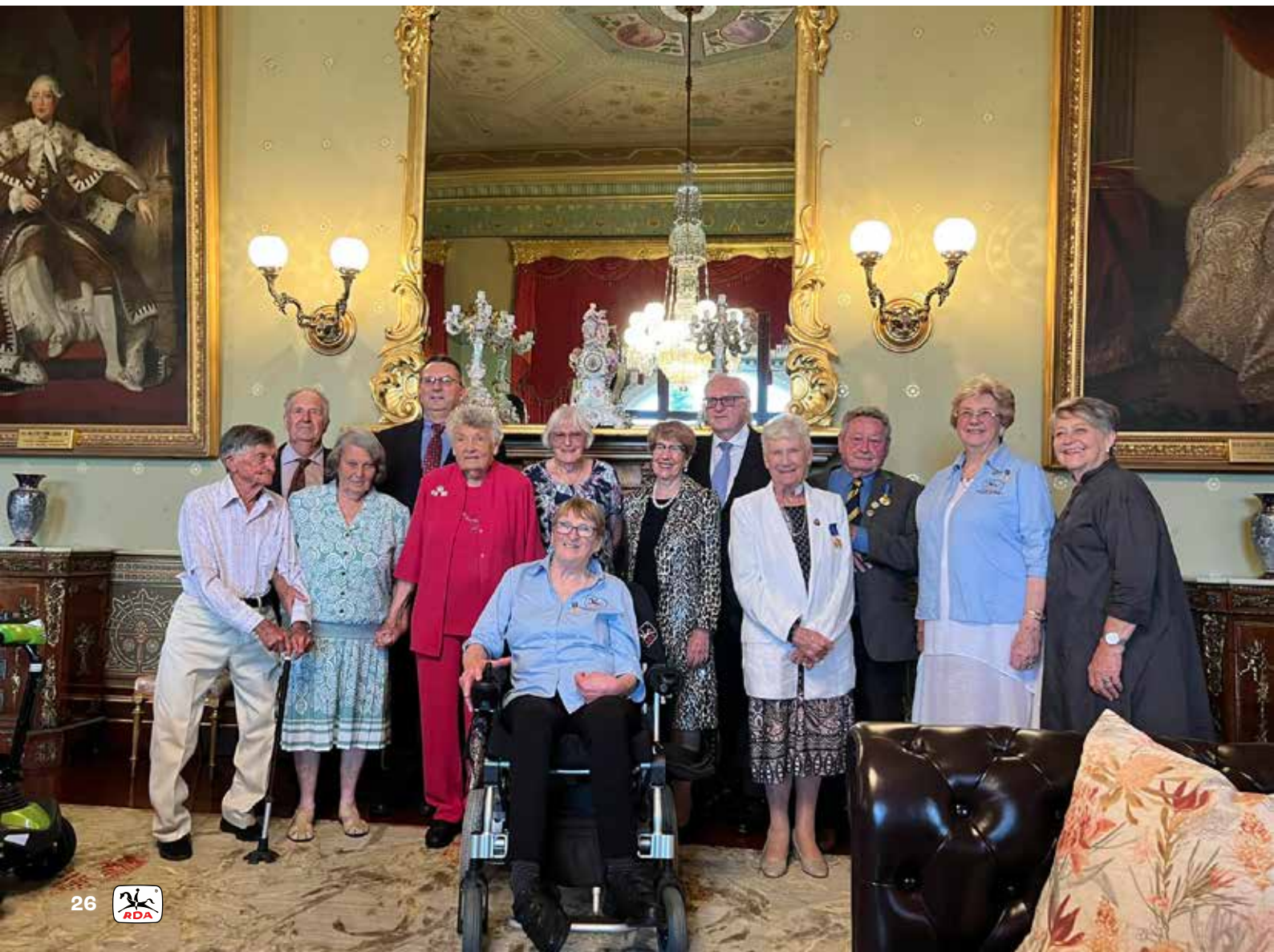
RDA (NSW) 50 Year Anniversary Celebrations at Government House





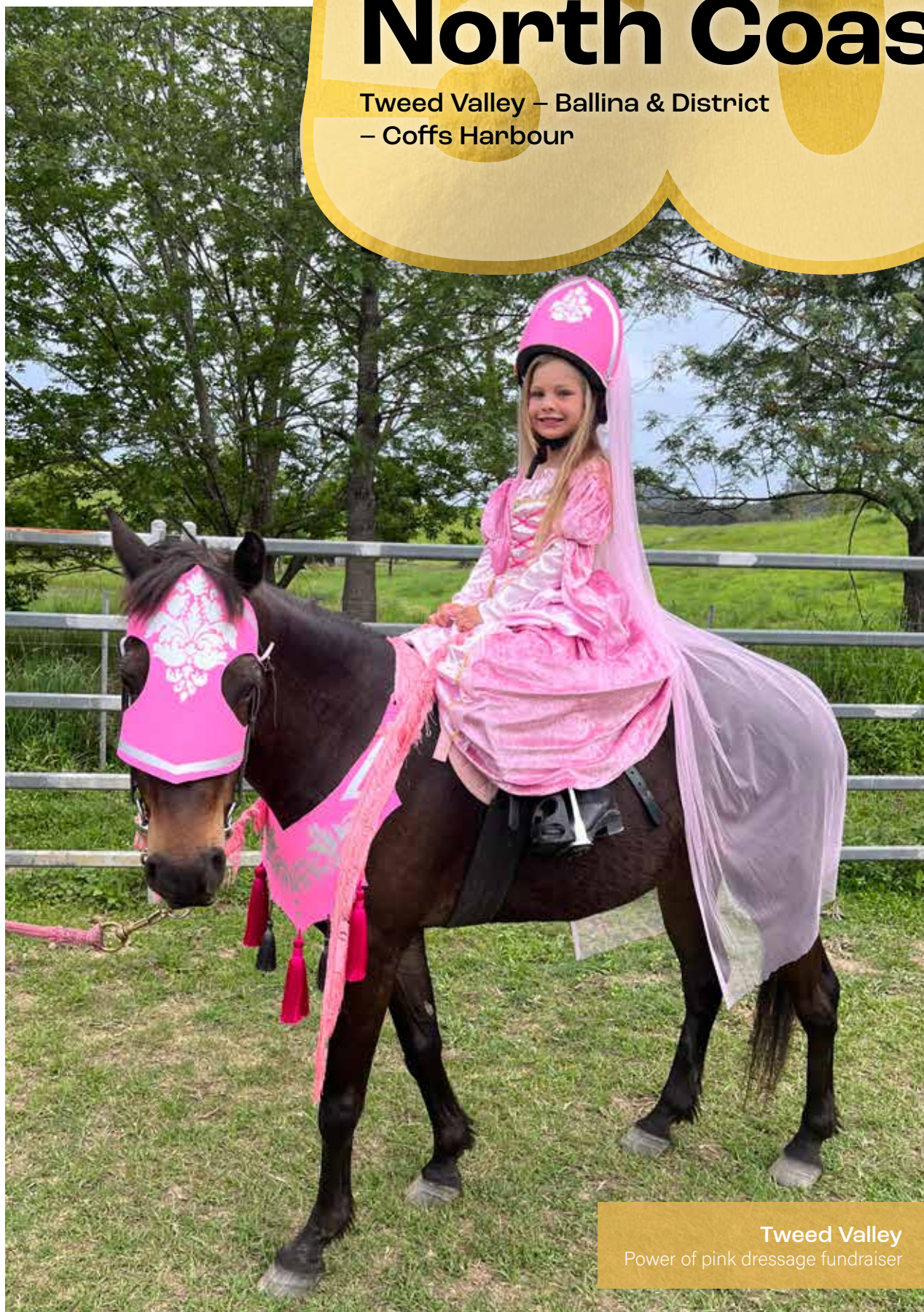
Life Members

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



North Coast

Tweed Valley – Ballina & District
– Coffs Harbour



Tweed Valley
Power of pink dressage fundraiser

Tweed Valley

When reflecting back on the 2022 year at our Tweed Valley centre, one word comes to mind – Resilience!

Floods February 2022

We were keen to hit the ground running this year following the lifting of COVID restrictions, but we were hindered by devastating floods in the Northern NSW area.

Our region was battered in February and March 2022 by unprecedented rainfall, in already wet, saturated conditions. This culminated in the worst flood disaster ever experienced in this region.

Our centre was inundated with water for the second time in 5 years. We are grateful that we were able to keep our horses safe, allowing them to roam to higher ground and into a neighbours paddock out of the floodwater. All our grounds and both sheds went under water leaving devastating damage once the flood waters receded.

Even though the entire community was reeling from the disaster and cleanup, it did not take long for our volunteers to spring into action. An amazing job was done to clean the thick, foul smelling mud from our facilities. We had to salvage as much equipment as possible and removed all the flood debris from the premises. We are grateful to our volunteers for their efforts and to those who donated horse food during our recovery period.



Return to RDA

After several months of cleanup, we welcomed riders back in April on a limited basis.

Given ongoing inclement weather, extreme heat and the flood risk, the committee decided that our main goal moving forward is to build an 'all weather arena.' Although not yet successful, we will continue to fundraise and seek grants to upgrade and cover our main arena to provide a more consistent program for our riders.

Centre Achievements

In spite of all setbacks, our centre has shown true resilience and finished the year on a strong note. We have approximately 20 riders attending over two days, using 9 RDA horses and are supported by 2 coaches / 1 trainee coach.

Our riders have progressed despite inconsistency of sessions due to COVID and weather. For example, one rider with Down Syndrome has shown exceptional achievement progressing from two side walkers to riding independently. Another young nervous rider previously rode gripping onto the shoulder of her side walker. Our volunteers were able to build her confidence to now riding with no side walker and



she participated in our Power of Pink dressage fundraiser.

Our horses have continued to show exceptional temperament during the difficult conditions, taking care of their vulnerable riders. One of our horses in particular, purchased for carriage work is now a reliable riding horse due to the efforts and training of the volunteers.

We also acknowledge our volunteers who support our fundraisers, RDA lessons and have kept our horses in good working condition. We have hosted our annual golf day, operated the canteen for a local dressage club, promoted RDA at local church groups, sold manure through a local nursery and held a Power of Pink dressage fundraiser.

Future

With the ongoing support of our volunteers, riders and the community, our centre will return in 2023 providing lessons, a new carriage driving program and hopefully, an upgraded all weather arena someday soon!



Ballina & District

Looking back over the year there have been many highs and lows for Ballina Centre. The February floods impacted many of our volunteers, and some are suffering long term housing problems as a result. Luckily our centre is in hilly country and the damage was restricted to arena sand loss and stormwater damage, and the horses were safe.

We have completed several infrastructure projects this year. Our stalls now have a concrete/asphalt surface which is great in this wet climate, and we have a wash bay. Lights have been installed in the arena and stalls, mainly for use in the shorter winter days.

These projects were funded by grants from Service NSW, Australian Turf Club, and Ballina Shire Council. RDA (NSW) assisted with funds for the flood recovery, and we are very grateful for the help we received.

Rider numbers are down this year, as we now have only one morning of riding a week. This is mainly due to lack of coaches. We have 12 riders on the books. Biala Special School, Ballina makes up the majority, and these children have progressed steadily through the year.

We have nine horses at the end of 2022. This year we retired Leroy, who has returned to his owner and will shortly "celebrate" his 30th birthday. Hudson moved to the Snowy with his original owner, and unfortunately Banjo was euthanased due to ongoing health issues.

This year we have had one coach, one assistant coach, and one trainee. We still managed to conduct volunteer training sessions, and we hope the coach situation will improve in the coming year.

Volunteer numbers are down, we have about 25 regulars and most are retirees.

Fundraising activities have been limited again this year due to Covid restrictions, floods and the resulting lower volunteer numbers. We have attended Lennox Head market and "shaken the buckets " for donations, and provided information about RDA to the public. We have other bookings for this venue in



2023. Members of our committee have attended meetings and cheque presentations by Ballina Scope, CWA, and Ballina Sports Club. These generous people are always interested to hear what we do at RDA, and many are regular donors.

We received donations from the above organisations, as well as Ballina Lions, Vietnam Veterans, and Hope Haven Refuge. We were very fortunate to receive these funds, as the focus in our area this year has understandably been flood relief.

Our media coverage is ongoing, mainly community radio in Ballina, Lismore and Byron Shires. We have had articles in Ballina Wave, and our Facebook page has over 1,000 followers. This year we entered the Essential Energy Community Choices Competition and received one of the highest number of votes in Ballina Shire.

We would like to thank everyone who has assisted our centre this year – our hard working committee, volunteers, property and horse manager, parents, teachers and carers.

Finally, congratulations to RDA (NSW) on keeping this wonderful organisation running successfully for 50 years.



Coffs Harbour & District

This year has been very challenging, with heavy rains and floods at the start of the year, followed by the disappointing news that our new property owners could no longer accommodate Coffs Harbour and District RDA. Through hard work and dedication from our amazing volunteers we have relocated and run lessons during Term 4 with the sheer delight of both volunteers and clients alike.

Centre developments

Following the sale of the property, the new owners were originally pleased to continue running RDA lessons. However, Term 1 was extremely wet with majority of lessons cancelled resulting in little income. The owners reconsidered and decided they could no longer accommodate us and the search for new premises began. The original owners, Mary and Clarry Quirk, offered us their new property, which we gratefully accepted. Preparation of our new site began with the build of a new arena and disabled toilet by the owners. Meanwhile, our volunteers sorted, packed and prepared our assets for movement, including an office container, storage container, small shed and a large steel framed mounting ramp. Cranes were hired and our assets moved the short distance to our new premises. Work continued with the painting inside and out of our office and outside of our shed and storage container.

Lessons resumed in Term 4 with a reduced number of clients to test out our new facility and iron out any issues. Reassembly of our steel framed ramp has commenced and will finished by the start of lessons in 2023.

Riders / Rides

Term 4 resumed with 6 clients, who were all delighted to be back. A mounting block was assessed to be safe to use for these clients and with training worked well. All clients settled back into lessons and have shown promising signs of progression. One rider, who is almost nonverbal, has improved his interactions with volunteers over the term and is using more words. This kind of result makes our volunteers' efforts worthwhile, especially when we see him smile and often chuckle when he wins a game.

Horse stories

For this last term we have been using 7 horses, these being Baccardi, Chappy and Midori who are 6 years old, together with their Dad Bundy and Aunt Roo. These are all Clydesdale crosses and very

quiet. We also have our two old favourites Real Deal and Charlie. Unfortunately we had to leave behind 6 of our reliable RDA horses with the new owners.

Coaches

We have three coaches and two trainee assistant coaches who are doing a great job looking after our clients. Both of our assistant coaches attended the workshop at Raymond Terrace which was very motivating for them.

Community Events and Fundraising

A Bunnings BBQ was held in early October to raise funds to help with our moving costs and was well supported by volunteers. We have another fundraising BBQ planned for the 20th December and also a Bunnings Night Market on the 8th December with a raffle to fundraise, but mainly to promote RDA in the Coffs Harbour area with the aim of attracting more clients and volunteers.

We have procured a sponsor for one of our horses for 2023 and will be looking for more sponsorship deals.

Volunteers

We currently have an amazingly dedicated core team of 10 volunteers who make RDA possible. During our move, we appreciated the help of other volunteers, who have since left due to other commitments.

As we expand our clientele into 2023, we will be looking to grow our volunteer team.





Wauhope / Port Macquarie
Brock Slade, Abby and volunteer Julie

Mid North Coast

Manning Great Lakes – Kempsey-Macleay
– Wauhope/Port Macquarie

Manning Great Lakes

Planning for the 2022 riding year started in September 2021 after we brought the Centre out of Administration.

We rolled out multiple TV, radio, print, and social media blitzes leading up to and following Xmas 2021 as we heralded to the community our intention to recommence riding on 3 March 2022 after a two year layoff due to COVID-19.

Our volunteer base had slipped to a handful of dedicated individuals and we didn't know how many of our riders, who had numbered 70 at the start of 2020, would return to the Centre. We have finished the year with about 23 volunteers and will continue to try to attract more.

Our coach numbers also took a tumble from three at the beginning of 2020 down to just one this year.

Fortunately, Sue Hardinge-White, the Administrator of the MGL Centre from September 2020 through September 2021, is also a Coach and has stayed with the Centre in that capacity, and assisted the Centre to get back on its feet through her Vice President role on the Committee, and in her capacity as Regional Representative to the Centre.

In April Margaret Blain, an Assistant Coach from the Central Coast Centre joined MGL, which has helped to lighten the load a little on Sue. We also started the year with two Trainee Coaches. However, one has dropped out of the training course, but remains strongly committed to the Centre and helps with the horses, riding days, and property maintenance.

A couple of riding schools offering riding for disabled people had popped up in our area during the two-year hiatus, and a number of our former high-function riders had moved across to those schools. To date only one of those riders has returned to MGL.

Pleasingly we were able to attract 15 new riders at the start of the year, and while riders have come and gone over the year we are finishing the year with 13 riders.



At year's end our herd consists two minis and four full-size horses; Tullah and Missy the minis, and Goldie, Dolly, Cinnabar and Pax. Scarlet has chronic back problems and was retired to good home during the year, Pax joined in December 2021 and Cinnabar, a retired racehorse in July. Cinnabar is proving to be a very good horse for our riders. However, Pax, our riding and carriage horse has not lived up to expectations after the colossal efforts of our Whip Helen Murrell to get him ready. So we are looking for a good home for him. Pax is a beautiful, 15.2 hand, 6 year old Chesnut gelding, but he simply has too much energy and is too strong and needs much more work than we can possibly give him.

A \$30,240 grant from St George Foundation has allowed us to improve the infrastructure at the Centre and make it more accessible and safer for people with disabilities. The inclusion of a concrete pathway running approximately 47 metres to the Stables allows wheelchair access to horse petting and grooming activities. While the widening of doorways in the Clubhouse and the fitting of a wheelchair ramp provides a quicker exit from the building during emergencies such as fire, and is generally more convenient for everyday access to the Clubhouse.

We hosted a very successful fundraising Fair at Easter, when we joined forces with the local Mustang Car Club. The car club helped to secure gifted items from local businesses that we would then auction to the public, they also gave joy rides in their cars and donated the fee to MGL. On top of that we auctioned off excess Tack, had a BBQ and drinks stall and had the local RFS do show-and-tell sessions with the children. We also had petting sessions with the two minis. In just 4 hours we made \$8,700, and in the weeks that followed continued to sell Tack not sold on the day and added another \$3,000 or more.

This year we bought an old tractor with donated funds and we are now able to manage pastoral improvements to the property.





Kempsey-Macleay

Executive summary – Highlights and Achievements

In summary, 2022 hasn't been without its challenges for the Macleay area. Covid continued to revisit the area intermittently throughout the year. The Macleay river flooded in March for the second year in a row – followed by almost continuous above average rainfall for the remainder of the year.

However our Centre was able to open on most riding days in 2022 and we have seen an improvement in our riders. Our horses have kept generally well and are performing very well.

A highlight of the year was our President attending the 50 Year Celebration of RDA (NSW) at Government House in Sydney. As a Mounted Games Committee member, Marie was presented to HRH Princess Anne at Sydney RES in April.

Four of our members from our Centre attended the combined State AGM/Workshop in May 2022 at Hawkesbury Function Centre and Richmond RDA Centre. A very enjoyable and informative weekend was had by all.

Our last day of riding for 2022 was on 6 December. A Xmas lunch was provided for all riders and carers and all riders were presented with a medallion in recognition of their achievement for 2022.



Finally, our volunteer Xmas lunch was held on 13 December 2022 at the Kempsey Heights Bowling Club. A great day! It was nice to sit down together, relax and reminisce on the year in review. A big thank you to Kempsey-Macleay Centre volunteers for their dedication and commitment to RDA (NSW).

Centre Developments

New internal fencing has been erected in the horse paddocks this year. In addition new horse troughs have been installed in the paddocks. This allows horses to be separated when necessary and will be most beneficial in flood events as we have experienced for the past two years.

Riders/Rides

We had a total of 15 rider registrations of varying ages this year. While Covid, inclement weather and floods affected our riding days and attendances intermittently throughout the year, we managed to continue opening our Centre for most riding days in 2022.

Two of our riders are riding very well and have progressed to trotting and riding off the lead for a short period towards the



end of each which has become a highlight every week for both riders and volunteers.

Horse stories

Our horses are all looking great and have kept generally well, this year. Two Shetlands have been added to our horse family this year. These two cuties provide much enjoyment to those who are unable to ride or do not wish to ride but like to pet/groom and be around horses. "Dunny" and "Tia" have gradually been introduced to our other horses and are getting on well together. We have had two non-riders attend this activity in Term 4 and have already had enquiries for Term 1, 2022. The Shetlands were owned by a previous RDA rider, Sherron, who passed away last year and it was her wish they be offered to RDA.



Coaching

Kempsey-Macleay Centre operated under one active RDA Coach and one Trainee Assistant Coach for most of the year. We were all very delighted when our Trainee Assistant Coach passed her Assistant Coach assessment on the last day of riding for 2022. Another new Assistant Trainee Coach was registered in Term 4, 2022. This will be a great asset to our Centre.

Community Events and Fundraising

Kempsey-Macleay Centre RDA riders and volunteers celebrated our 17 Year Anniversary on 28 June 2022 with a sausage sizzle and celebratory cake. Our local member, Melinda Pavey, was in attendance. A great day was had by all in attendance (including Melinda).

Our President was invited as guest speaker at the combined SWR/Kempsey/West Kempsey Rotary Club Dinner held earlier this year. A 30 minute informative speech on Riding for the Disabled was well received by the Rotarians. Marie was presented with a generous donation on behalf Kempsey-Macleay Centre on the night.

Kempsey-Macleay Centre has received support from many community groups in the form of monetary donations in 2022. We are very grateful for the community support we receive.

Volunteers

Our volunteer numbers have remained low this year. It is hoped we will be able to recruit some new volunteers to join our dedicated team in the new year.

Wauchope / Port Macquarie



A trying but successful year, despite some setbacks, the incessant rain over a long period caused a need for more help. One call and we received plenty of volunteers to join our group. The new volunteers bonded our group perfectly. All working together forming a closer relationship than before.

Our registered volunteers are 41, we have 26 riders, we have already received new enquiries for next year.

We keep 4 horses at the showground. Others are transported for riding and training days. 10 horses are usually used on riding days. Thanks to Sorell and Trish for transporting these horses.

Our coaching staff consists of 3 coaches. 1 assistant coach and 3 trainee assistant coaches. The passion, commitment and tireless efforts by our Coaches were second to none. In the arena they brought out the best in our riders (and horses), and it was obvious to see the improvement in many throughout the year.

Training sessions were regularly conducted for volunteers and trainee assistant coaches and the knowledge gained was invaluable.

Our coaches and trainee assistant coaches' dedication were evident by their attendance at a Workshop at Richmond earlier in the year and more recently one at Raymond Terrace. The learning that takes place at these Workshops is invaluable for our Centre.

Our riders completed in the annual L.E.D. Musical ride. They were placed in first in group 1, second in group 2. A fabulous result. Thanks to Sue and Sorell for the time and effort they put into this event.

Community donations are greatly appreciated, thanks to everyone who donates in this way. Essential energy grant, Service clubs, Lions, Rotary, Inner Wheel Port Macquarie, Anglican OP Shop Wauchope, Greater Bank as well as anonymous donors. All these wonderful donors have enabled us to purchase helmets saddles, boots feed and horse care.

A monster raffle was held, a great fundraiser. The community generously donated all the prizes and our ticket sellers their valuable time. Thank you all. The raffle was drawn at the showground arena, a light lunch and demonstration ride given by some of our riders.

Life membership was awarded to John Smith, Robyn Coombes, Denise Wagner, Warren Baird and Sue Surace. The regional Pearl Batchelor award for 2021 was awarded to our President Mr. John Smith.

On 22nd October 2022 Mr. John Smith and one of our riders Mr. Jason Sonter were invited to afternoon tea at Government House Sydney. Jason was accompanied by his mother Barbara. Jason has been riding with us for 25 years, he was very excited about the trip. They had a very special and exciting day.

A big thank you to the maintenance crew, they do a great job. Many projects have been planned for attention over the holiday period.

Thanks to our secretary Cath, treasurer Carol for job well done. Also, thanks to the early birds that feed and groom the horses early so that the horses are ready when needed on riding days.

Our year ended with a fabulous Christmas party enjoyed by all.

Many thanks again to all.





Kendall

Ari, one of our new horses, enjoyed being groomed by one of the riders.

Hunter

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

Central Coast

This year has seen our Centre endure a major roadwork development that adjoins our yards, office building and paddocks. This has greatly affected Centre access for everyone and paddock use (which was almost halved). Jenny Cameron has done a wonderful juggling act to keep our paddocks in great condition to provide ongoing and safe pasture for our horses.

An extensive drain was installed at the rear of our indoor arena to stop rainwater entering the arena. This work will also result in much garden restoration work being required by our wonderful outdoor team of volunteers.



Grants of \$25,000 were received from local clubs and government and were used for operations, equipment and fencing. We also received \$9,875 for horse sponsorship.

Donations totalling \$14,545 were received and a lot of these were a result of Garry Kirkby's informative and entertaining visits to local organisations.

Riders

We have 90 riders at our Centre with a wide range of differing abilities. Most of these riders are from local schools. We also have 6 independent female riders who have been progressing wonderfully. Their skills were shown at our recent Mounted Games where they entered on-lead and off-lead events with great results.

We are so pleased to provide wonderful report cards for all our riders this year.

Horse Stories

We have 9 horses and they all have their personalities; but we have to say that Eddy (our veteran 28 year-old) is still showing them how

to do it in true 'little gentleman style.' He enjoys leading the way in a few classes – with the lightest of riders of course – and is the quickest to move toward the finish line at the end of the sessions.

Volunteers

We have 125 volunteers, with about 45 dedicated regulars who contribute so much to the Centre's smooth running. They are multi-talented with so many varying skills and are always keen to assist wherever they can in addition to horse activities – from fundraising pursuits to repainting all our stable yard fencing.

From this:



To this:



Coaches

We were fortunate to enjoy having five coaches to organise our classes, but this has changed this year with Christine Gorman and Julie Hurt hanging up their coaching reins.

We shall miss them both but are excited to have six assistant trainee coaches presently undertaking the coaching syllabus training under President Gaynor's expert mentoring and are so proud that Wendy Torr OAM passed Merelynne Southall as an Assistant Coach this November.

This succession planning will ensure the continuation of our three classes for our three days/week classes.

Our dedicated and very experienced coaches Garry and Jenny have been recognised locally in yearly Council Australia Day, Sporting Club Awards and for Volunteering Central Coast. They have represented us wonderfully in TV interviews, local newspaper and magazine publications and were recently honoured as RDA Life Members

– a worthy recognition for these hard-working volunteers!

We look forward to 2023 bringing another rewarding year for our volunteers and continuing horse-riding enjoyment for our classes.



Upper Hunter

Upper Hunter RDA will commence our riding program in school term two riding each Tuesday and Thursdays. Due to lack of volunteers we will only be able to have six riders from each school per year instead of twelve.

Racing Hearts from Victoria are interested in using our facilities and volunteers for some Equine Assisted Therapy Sessions with students from the local schools. They are struggling with funding at the moment.

We will once again provide riding therapy for students from South Muswellbrook Public School, Roger Street Primary School, St James Muswellbrook and Scone Public School and Singleton Public School.

We are currently using four very quiet thoroughbreds in our sessions.



Kendall

Highlights and Achievements

Finally, after the floods and the never ending rain which continued to hamper our progress for the completion of our Centre, we were delighted to be able to finally welcome our riders, parents and carer's back to our Centre early May, it was an exciting day, especially after being closed for over 2 years.

Many thanks go to our dedicated group of volunteers who continued to work, sometimes in the rain and mostly in the mud to get our Centre completed and paddocks properly fenced, so we could finally get our horses back together again.

Riders

We have been able to welcome a few of our long term riders back, as well as some new riders, who are all enjoying the time they have with their special horse, as well as having a great deal of fun!

Volunteers

Over the last 12 months we have lost some of our long term volunteers, but luckily through local advertising on the radio and our newspapers we have been able to recruit some new volunteers who have been doing an amazing job assisting on our Riding days, as well as being able to go onto our Feeding Roster. We continue to accept any new volunteers who are available to give us some time.

Community Events and Fundraising

The SES held a training day for all their local district members at our Centre in August. It was extremely beneficial for all the members of the SES.

We eventually got to hold our official Open Day in September, once again with the weather not being on our side, after having to cancel previously in July due to Covid outbreak, as well as the rain. But luckily, this time the morning stayed fine with



beautiful sunshine. It was well attended with displays from a Horse Chiropractor as well as an Emmetts (soft muscle therapy) display, both very interesting watching the procedures and manipulation. Ari, our horse, had a double dose of muscle treatment to correct any slight problems that he had, at times he looked like he was going to sleep. He was extremely well behaved and relaxed. We also had one of our Riders going through a display course, he did a wonderful job!

Every year the Kew Golf Club hold the Bato Memorial Golf Day fundraiser for the Kendall RDA which is always an extremely good fundraiser for us as well as being a fun day.

We also hold 4 raffles per year being Mother's Day, Winter Warmers, Father's Day and Christmas Raffle, these are always necessary to help with the ongoing feed bill.

We have been successful with a few grants which enabled us to buy some new helmets, shade blinds for our front verandah, a generator and some tools for the work crew, another water tank to ensure we have plenty of water for the septic system and the horses, as well as for our own use in the kitchen and laundry. We also need to be mindful for when we don't have the continuous rain that we have encountered over the last 18 months. There is always a drought around the corner!

We also had a wonder write up on the Kendall Centre in the local October issue of the Focus Magazine, this was very well received with interesting information and photos.

Horses

We have had a couple of changes through the year, one of our long term horses Dash, had to be returned to his owner, due to ongoing issues with an old injury, unfortunately he was no longer suitable as an RDA horse. We have a new addition Ari, but we are still on the lookout for a couple more horses to join our Centre.

Coaching

Our only coach is Judy Rattur, with Sue Tubb being a Supervising Coach. We desperately need someone to commit to the Assistant Coach course. It has been extremely difficult at times with our volunteers taking well deserved holidays. There have been occasions when we have had to cancel classes, because we do not have a coach on that day.

Hopefully next year will be a lot more consistent than this, due to the many interruptions of Covid and the weather!

Wishing everyone all the best for the coming year from the RDA Kendall Centre.



Robbie keeping an eye on the classes!

Raymond Terrace & Lower Hunter

Highlights and Achievements

This year has been one with many highlights and achievements, including:

- A number of our riders, coaches and volunteers received awards from RDA (our Centre and state) and external organisations – huge recognition and congratulations to all.
- A well organised and successful Mounted Games, followed by a fun, colourful and entertaining fundraising Shrek Themed Ride-A-Thon. Well done to our riders who showed lots of progress and success.
- Two successful and well attended gatherings at our Centre – riders, families and volunteers for rider and volunteer presentations and a working bee in October.

- Hosting the State RDA Trainee Coaches Workshop in October – an amazing amount of work, lots of learning and a great success
- An increase in Arena hire (thanks Caretaker Phil) which provides good income
- Great success with grants, fundraising, sponsors and donations of funds and services for works and which keep our Centre running well – all hugely appreciated.
- The caretaker, horse committee, coaches and volunteers have all worked hard to keep our herd of wonderful horses fit and well over the year.
- Programs ran uninterrupted during 2022 and despite the exceptionally wet weather, our caretaker and maintenance crew have done a great job in keeping the facilities, roadway, paddocks and paths safe, accessible and when it was possible, mowed.
- Better communication through an updated website, regular posts on Facebook and our Newsletter has kept us up to date with loads of photos, stories and events.

This year we had 42 riders across programs on Mondays and Tuesdays, and fortnightly programs on Friday (ASH) and Saturdays run by 9 Coaches and assistant Coaches. In exciting news - in 2023, we will have 2 volunteers who will commence their training towards becoming coaches.

One of our Centre's absolute legends – Rosemary Laing, who is our Coach and Whip at Stroud, won a number of State and Local awards for her 25+ years volunteering and commitment to RDA, including the Pearl Bachelor Award which was presented at the State AGM in May 2022. We have around 90+ volunteers and still plenty of inquiries which is always a good sign. And it was with much sadness that we lost one of our longest serving and much loved volunteers, Warren Cohen, who had over 35 years with RDA earlier in 2022.

The Centre had a wonderful herd of between 12 and 14 horses who worked hard and provided so much to our riders. Sadly, we lost Hogan who was one of our favourite ponies during 2022.

Successful grants – thanks to great effort from a new Committee member who is our Grants Officer:

- Volunteer Grants (Paterson Electorate) \$2,000 for equipment (brushcutter)
- Port Stephens – \$400 for skip bin hire for hard rubbish and items from clean up day
- \$1500 for first aid and will go towards funding a defibrillator
- Community Building Partnerships – \$39,000

to concrete pathway and drop off area to improve disabled and general access which deteriorated a lot with all the rain this year

Donations and fundraising – thanks to great effort from a new Committee member who is our also Fundraising Coordinator, our Centre has received donations, sponsorship and fundraising including:

- Imperial Hotel and Woolworths (Greenhills) catering and supplies for events during 2022
- Toyota Maitland – a variety of generous donations, funds, items and other support
- Beyond Bank and McDonalds for supporting the Mounted Games
- Tamburlaine Wines – hugely successful online Fundraising support (~\$4000)
- Benedict & Kendy 38T sand (tie-up area) and 60T crusher dust (general maintenance)
- Lots of gift cards and vouchers, a sponsorship package & new signage, a new dishwasher (Allcott Hire), mulch and plants for our gardens and new brushes and hoof picks for all of our tack bags
- Donations from the Rotary Club in Raymond Terrace after being guest speaker at their meeting and the Shortland Pensioner's Group after a bus of 40+ people visited our Centre to see our programs in action and meet our riders

New infrastructure – with huge thanks to donated materials and labour, our Centre now has:

- A wall to protect hay from the weather (On the Level Builders)
- A larger stall for sick or injured horses (maintenance crew)
- LED lights installed to improve safety and help lower electricity costs (Wayne Hicks)
- A re-built "walk-on bridge" in the HorsePlay area (Maitland Toyota and on the Level Builders and Renovators) a sensory board for our riders (Salamander Men's Shed)

A photograph of a person wearing a grey riding helmet and a camouflage-patterned jacket, petting the forehead of a white horse. The horse is wearing a black halter with a yellow bell. In the background, there is a grassy field with some trees and a person in a black shirt. A yellow text box is overlaid on the top left of the image.

Box Hill "Tall Timbers"

Metropolitan

Ryde – Blue Mountains
– Box Hill "Tall Timbers" – Richmond



Ryde

2022 saw Ryde Centre revitalised after the Covid years.

The wet weather this year has made life difficult for so many people and we send our thoughts to those in our RDA family who have suffered and struggled due to the bad weather. Our volunteers and horses faced the extra challenges with courage and dedication. After a very regrettable start to the year which saw the Ryde Centre placed in "administration" our Committee was finally restored in May. Despite this we have celebrated many important achievements.

Highlights of 2022

We saw the return of four local Public Schools who brought the children for therapy classes two mornings each week. We also returned to our regular classes on four mornings a week. We had around 1,000 horseback riding "smiles" this year in our therapy classes.

We introduced 4 new horses to our herd through a service agreement with a local horse owner. Two of our older horses sadly passed and two others retired at the end of the year.

We are very grateful to our local supporters having received grants and donations from the City of Ryde, Ryde Eastwood Leagues Club, Rotary clubs of Ryde, Epping and Macquarie Park, Australia Post, Eastwood Hotel, Bunnings Gladesville and Pymble, and Woolworths Marsfield. With their support we are erecting a new shed in the horse yards.

We invited the community into our Centre for our 10th birthday celebrations and again for Halloween and had about 800 visitors who are now part of our support network. We also had visitors from Giant Steps, Cerebral Palsy and ran a fundraising program, Pony Play.

We graduated 4 Assistant Coaches and 1 Coach.

Our volunteer base has grown and we now have a skilled and hardworking gardening gang, an events team that has inspired us all plus our regular volunteers who support the horses, the riders and each other.



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Blue Mountains

Our year started with a working bee in February to get the site ready for the return of the horses from their summer agistment and the re-start of the riding year. The arena surface was topped up and levelled at this time.

The \$2,000 grant through State Office enabled us to put a new cover over the viewing area in May. A working bee by a youth church group cleaned and re-stained seating ready for use. Work continues on improving accessibility to viewing area however recent heavy rain has not helped.

The Centre ramp was replaced due to the poor condition of our old ramp. The new to us ramp was brought to the Centre by the kind donation of transport from a local vehicle recovery company. A working bee painted the ramp and volunteers donated the safety chains.

Our outdoor BBQ area was refurbished and re-planted by volunteers for the end of term BBQ. New gates were installed and the ground resurfaced to enable easier wheelchair access.

Rider numbers are on the increase as our operational days and working horse numbers increase. Losing Lexi in August put 4 riders on hold, but these are now back as Lady has passed training. The Centre now operates most Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays.

This year there has been a big change in horse stock. Bernie died in June and MyStar, who was retired, died in July. We had to return Lexi to her owner in August.

On the plus side Pippa arrived in April with Lady following in September both of which are now out of training and working well. Willow has just joined us and is looking like she will make a great RDA horse. We did trial one horse in August but returned it after a month's trial as unsuitable for RDA.

An RDA Assistant Coach has joined our Centre and will continue her training to become a qualified Coach.

On the fundraising side we had an Easter Raffle and BBQ which included a visit by the Easter Bunny. A Christmas in July event was held with a visit from Santa. We are holding a Christmas stall in a local town square in December to raise funds and awareness of RDA Blue Mountains.

Volunteer numbers are on the increase as we open more days. We held Volunteer Training Days in April, June and October and hope to have another for new Volunteers before the end of 2022.



Box Hill “Tall Timbers”

What a year 2022 turned out to be. With our new suburb, Gables, becoming more and more recognised in our local area, we set about raising awareness of who we are and what we do for our new local residents as they move into the ever-expanding development in the area. We have found though that this has increased demand for services rather than the addition of new Volunteers.

Fifty years ago, there was a small group of Volunteers with a vision for RDA and "Tall Timbers" and as the Founding Centre of RDA (NSW) we are grateful to still be doing them proud today. The Centre continues to evolve to remain relevant in the community and the core of the centre remains Equine programs to develop and enhance abilities.

Some key points from our year at RDA (NSW) Box Hill:

- More than 1418 Equine program sessions completed with 109 Participants and more than 4,000 hours of Volunteer contribution. This is an average of 35 sessions a week during school terms, these programs ranged from individual to group sessions, from riding to groundwork, life skills and mechanical horse to Connections programs.
- Volunteer of the Year – Esther Tomaschett
- Volunteer Appreciation Award – Kya Simpson
- Most Improved Rider of the Year – Claire O'Hearn
- Rider Encouragement Awards – Cody Sneesby and Briar Thompson
- Horse of the Year – L.J.

The year also saw a huge amount of work done on the property with as well as the weekly gardening, mowing, whipper snipping, horse yard cleaning, feed bucket cleaning but some other quite big but essential work:

- Tree branch removal
- Driveway resurfacing
- Water tank repairs
- Carpark lighting upgrades
- Replacement of horse shelter number 10 after the February storms reduced it to a pile of scrap metal
- The arena roof rust repairs and purlin replacement thanks to a grant from NSW Government Greater Cities Sport Fund.

Of course we wouldn't be able to do our amazing work without our beautiful horses. All of them have been fantastic throughout the year worked so well with different and challenging environments



through rain, wind, camels and all. They have also assisted participants in Equine Pathways Australia clinics and SES and Ambulance Rescue NSW Large Animal Rescue training courses.

We had an amazing opportunity to represent the organisation at the Sydney Royal Easter Show with Pablo and Bailey meeting HRH Princess Anne!

We have enjoyed seeing riders participate in Dressage events, the Video event and at the State Championships and the Regional Mounted Games event held in September.

Congratulations to Robyn Scott and Elaine van Es for being recognised at the Volunteering Awards with Robyn being named as the Hills Senior Volunteer of the Year and progressing as a finalist to the NSW Volunteering Awards.

The Centre was recognised as Finalists in the Hills Local Business Awards, WSAB Awards, Australian Disability Service Provider awards and many of our Volunteers were also involved in the State Dressage Championships which was a finalist in the Sport NSW Champions of Sport Awards for Event of the Year! Congratulations to all for making the Centre what it is today.

Our Committee and Volunteers were busy with our Fundraising events; Bunnings BBQs, Trivia Night, Plant Fair, Play for Purpose Raffles, Return and Earn and Bivianos Gala Ball. Our Allied Health Services included Speech Pathology, Occupational Therapy and Connections Counselling sessions and remain a key fundraiser to support the Centre operational costs as well as supporting the Participants as part of a holistic service.

We have some major supporters to thank as part of this year and while we can't name everyone we have been humbled by the support of The Alternative Board and BNI Sydney North West and Penrith Networks helping us to grow and develop a sustainable future for the Centre.

Volunteer condolences:

- Graham Gapes
- Raema Walker OAM
- Leslie Pickering
- Barry Sloggett



Richmond

2022 in review

Due to covid restrictions, torrential rain and multiple flood events in the Hawkesbury region our riding calendar for 2022 got off to a late and interrupted start. Despite this, by the time we had completed our 2nd semester we found that we had accomplished having our riders in the saddle for approx 80% of scheduled riding days thanks to the dedication of our loyal group of volunteers.

During the year we had the honour of again hosting the RDA (NSW) AGM and workshop for the second time. The first day being held at the lovely venue of Richmond Race Course and the second (rather cold and stormy day) at Richmond Centre and despite the weather it turned out as a great opportunity for all to network and exchange information.

A new activity and opportunity for our Centre developed during the year when Hawkesbury Race Club hosted a midweek race day for the benefit of our centre.

The day was most beneficial to our centre in making the racing fraternity aware of what is accomplished by RDA centres and the day in general raised considerable funds for our centre due to the generosity of Hawkesbury Race Club and those attending the race day.

Despite covid and weather restrictions we did manage to have two of our riders attend the annual RDA dressage competition at SIEC and both competed with distinction.

Our Centre

Richmond Centre has now been operating on our site within the campus of Western Sydney University since 2014 and during those 8 years has evolved into an integral part of the local community.

Richmond Centre conducts riding sessions Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday of each week with these sessions being managed during 2022 by 2 coaches and one assistant coach.

Due to the weekday nature of our riding sessions we do not cater to the "school" age bracket with the youngest of our 25 regular riders being 18 and our eldest at 75, median age probably being the mid 30's.

Our Volunteer Workers

Our weekly riding sessions, facilities maintenance, horse preparation and all the other background jobs are performed by a group of volunteers, some having been with us for many years, some newer, but all with a mixture of great skills and

determination to support our riders, look after our horses and promote the development of our centre.

Our Horses

We commenced 2022 with a team of four 16H bay geldings. Two of these horses being rehomed racing thoroughbreds. Both of these horses (Elton and Gibson) have now twice been featured in episodes of Thoroughbreds are GO shown on TV and available for viewing on YouTube.

These videos have been instrumental in raising awareness of how OTT (Off The Track) race horses can be adapted to a second career and can fulfill a useful second life.

Sadly one of our horses, Elton succumbed to a severe paddock injury in September and is no longer with us.

Elton was foaled 20 or so years ago at a local stud in Hawkesbury not far from our Centre. He had a short racing career followed by a long career Eventing before being donated to us.

During his time with us Elton has helped many people learn to ride, taught new volunteers how to handle horses, taken many riders to competitions and was awarded RDA horse of the year at the 2019 Easter Show.

He is sadly missed by all.

Our Supporters

For the continuing operation of our Centre we are grateful for the support of RDA (NSW), our volunteer base, local businesses and the equine industry in general.

The awareness created by our use of rehomed racehorses has generated a great deal of interest within the racing and equine industry in general who have been most generous in promoting and supporting our ongoing activities.

A photograph of a person wearing a red jacket, dark riding pants, and a black helmet, smiling while sitting on a grey horse. The horse is wearing a dark blue and purple halter and white leg wraps. They are in a stable with a wooden floor and a corrugated metal roof. A yellow banner is in the top left corner.

Goulburn

Southern Highlands

Wollondilly – Moss Vale – Cowra
– Illawarra – Goulburn – Young

Wollondilly

We were all looking forward to the start of 2022. Prior to this we had been looking after the horses living on our grounds, mowing and general grounds maintenance. So we were all well and truly ready to start back Tuesday 22nd February, 2022. This was not to be as we had to cancel due to bad weather and look forward to the next riding day Tuesday 8th March only to have that day cancelled as well due to heavy rain and the grounds being extremely wet.

The wet weather went on for quite a while and unfortunately we lost thirty plus bales of hay. The hay started going mouldy so we had to get rid of it. Local nurseries weren't interested in taking it and the local tip would take it if local council approved but then may have to pay tip charges of \$350+. One of our members happened to mention our predicament to a friend who belongs to a local Community Garden and they took our hay and donated \$700 to our Centre. They had received funding from a grant and were able to use this, so it was a win-win for everyone.

We finally were able to welcome riders, volunteers and horses back on the 22nd March much to everyone's joy! Twenty two riders started back along with our volunteers and five new volunteers started. Fortunately, army personnel from the Rehabilitation Unit at Holsworthy Barracks were again able to join us. They are a great help and enjoy helping as much as we enjoy having them. Our pony and horse troop consisting of six much loved four-legged people were also welcomed back.

Our Coach Rosie welcomed everyone back and our Trainee Coach Kelly had her progress delightfully interrupted by the arrival of William who was born in October. Kelly hopes to be fully on deck next year.

On Saturday 30th April we were at last able to invite people to attend the opening of the memorial garden we had made for Mrs Betty Wallace who along with her husband Graham started our Centre thirty six years ago. It was opened by Betty's older brother and her two sons and their families were able to attend along with riders, volunteers, Pony Club members and members of the Board of RDA (NSW).

Our Coach and her husband went on a well deserved break during the year and Neil Hughes from Moss Vale Centre filled in while she was away. We really appreciated his input and help. Kelly ably assisted him during his time with us. It was a nice interaction between centres.



We were fortunate to receive this year funding from a 2021 Angus Taylor MP Volunteer Grant. From this we were able to purchase a Defibrillator, shelving for storage in our shed, tools and equipment and paint for our shed floor. One of the pieces of equipment we purchased is a trolley which has come in really handy transporting items to be used in riding sessions around to where it is needed. We also purchased shelving for new helmets.

We were also extremely fortunate to receive funding from the Black Summer Bushfire Recovery Grant. This money covers a two year period and involves clearing/fire proofing our grounds and fencing. The clearing/slashing was held up by heavy rain but is now progressing as per grant guidelines.

Thanks to a grant that Tracy Lucas received we received funding from that which we put towards much needed repairs on our three-horse float. The rubber was replaced, new marine ply for the floor, the roof was patched and an air vent replaced.

We applied for a Stockland Care Grant and were successful, receiving funding with which we were able to purchase ten new helmets.

A local father and son trucking company Northko heard of our work from one of our volunteers and were impressed and interested in helping where they could. They heard we had a need for an internal paddock which could be used for training purposes, riding sessions and a place to hold a horse requiring treatment. These two wonderful men then on the spot donated the money to build this infrastructure.

Camden Hire who have helped us in the past again offered to assist us during the long weekend in October by donating \$10 from every hire to our Centre. They had 66 hires so we were thrilled to receive a \$660 donation. They then amazed us by bumping that amount up to \$2000. In their words "to help with the brilliant work RDA does".



A local coffee shop Picton Social has a "Coffee for a Cause" each month and when approached and after receiving information about our Centre were more than happy to have our Centre for October. For the first weekend in October they donated 50c from every hot drink sold on those two days. They also accepted donations for the month. They had our brochures on display and also wore our RDA shirts to further advertise where the money was going to. We received approximately \$600 from the month of October. They have indicated that they will do another month for us next year.

It really gives us a boost when local businesses support us as they do. We don't want thanks and pats on the back all the time, that's not how we do things at Wollondilly, but it makes us so proud when people support us as they do. In doing so we believe they recognize and acknowledge the work we do with our disabled riders. It really gives us the impetus to keep going, especially after the bushfires, torrential rain, Covid and other things that nature and the world throws at us.



A local much respected horse trainer offered to break in and train our brumby mare Bonnie. She is coming along really well and before coming to join the team of horses and ponies at RDA will have a few months at Pony Club.

Picton Rotary Club received funding from a grant and our Centre and Pony Club next door were the extremely lucky recipients of a new kitchen each. We are really happy with it and so grateful as it would have been one thing on the bottom of our bucket list. Five local businesses, D&D Kitchens, Cedar Creek Electrical, Team Penguin Plumbing, Wollondilly Renovations and Fowlers Carpets all kicked in to help.

In October some of our members attended a Community Awards Volunteers Morning Tea put on in the rooms of local M.P. Nathaniel Smith.



At the State AGM in May our President Allan Burton was elected to the Board of RDA (NSW). Our Centre is proud of this achievement and we wish Allan well as he carries out this new learning experience.





Moss Vale

This year has been a very quiet one for Moss Vale. Although we have returned to regular riding days, our numbers of riders and volunteers have been low all year. We can only put this down to the uncertainty of the last 2 years of Covid and bad weather.

Our riders continue to improve in ability and confidence and we are happy to have had a consistent flow of the same riders all year.

We have had a few changes to the committee this year and we are grateful to those who have stepped up to fill any vacancies.

Hopefully 2023 will make a strong recovery and we can swell our numbers back to where we were before!

Cowra

2022 was divided into 2 semesters to accommodate the number of riders. Semester 1 ran in school Terms 1 and 2, and Semester 2 ran in Terms 3 and 4. Six sessions were held on Wednesdays with 6 riders in most sessions.

In Semester 1 two new schools – Mulyan and Canowindra High joined the program for one session each. Holman Place riders attended 3 sessions and one session was allocated to Out of School riders mostly made up of riders who are home schooled. On Tuesdays Frances Woodbridge, Jo McCabe and Karen Cave with other volunteers ran a successful program – Introduction to Horses for a small group of High School students struggling with school engagement. For most of the term the horse team was made up of Nina, Egg, Sabira, Monty, Nitro, Diamond, Lucy, Remy, Goldie, Ember, Gypsy and Topsy. Sadly, in Term 2 Frances decided not to continue coaching. We are very grateful for the enormous contribution Frances made to RDA and the horsemanship she brought to the team and the many things she taught volunteers, horses and riders. Horses Nina, Egg and Nitro returned to their owners during Term 2 and Gypsy's owner requested to have her for the holidays and her daughter fell in love with her so she was not returned to the centre. In April Jenny, Frances and Joy attended Coach workshop in Richmond.

Semester 2 was interrupted by rain and floods. Cowra High School and Out of School riders were joined by Mulyan and Canowindra High for several sessions and then Holman Place. It was possible for these



schools to attend in Semester 2 because 3 sessions became available when Cowra Public withdrew for this year. Horses in the program were Sabira, Monty, Diamond, Lucy, Remy, Goldie, Ember and Topsy, and Caesar came out of retirement. 4 new horses joined the team in Term 4. Fayme purchased by RDA, Rocket and Barney on lease arrangements, and Orie, a handsome miniature was donated. One horse was trialed and rejected. Monty was on leave and not used in Term 4. Monty's owners requested his return and this occurred in December.

In 2022 there were 59 registered riders and the centre ran sessions on 19 Wednesdays.

In Term 4 Angus Malcolm our regional representative visited our centre for an overdue administrative and program audit. The centre passed the audit and we finally got a tick for having a suitable toilet block. On this day Jenny Wright passed her assistant coach assessment. Due to Covid this has been a long process for Jenny. Thank you for your efforts and Congratulations! Jenny will now move onto the coach assessment process.

Thank you to the Showground Trust and the members of the committee who facilitated the building of the toilet block and who continue to work towards building the covered arena.

It takes many hands to make Wednesdays program happen (especially when the coach breaks both!). Frances, Jenny and I are very grateful to all volunteers who help with the many tasks. Welcome to the new volunteers who have joined the team and farewell and best wishes to those who left in 2022.

This year the highlight for me as a coach has been the enthusiasm, gratitude and wonderful manners displayed by our riders and the support of dedicated volunteers.

Illawarra

Centre Developments

A new water trough has been installed in top of the hill paddock. A bitumen driveway has been installed from the main road to the bottom of the hill. This work was carried out by Kiama Municipal Council. This replaces a dirt driveway which washed away during heavy rain. Many fences were fixed in this time due to flooding.

Riders

At the start of 2020 we had 24 Riders. Since then, owing to Covid and the amount of wet weather through 2022 we have not been operating.

Horses

With the arrival of three new horses which brings our total number to 10. These horses have either been gifted or donated to the Centre.

Each horse has their own personality. One horse is a bit cheeky and tries to put it over you, but once you have established who's boss, he's fine. But mostly the other horses are quite easy going.

A little grey pony named Chloe we have decided to retire her as she has been at the Centre a very long time, is almost in her mid-thirties and has earned her retirement. Chloe has taught many riders over the years to ride and given joy to everyone she meets.

Coaching

We have four Coaches and one Assistant Coach at the present time. Hopefully next year we can start back up with classes on Tuesday mornings and Saturday mornings.

Community Events and Fundraising

We have nothing to report in this category owing to the Centre not operating.

Volunteers

In 2020 we had roughly 40 volunteers, then we went into lockdown and haven't re-opened again.

We are planning a BBQ and will be contacting volunteers on our books to see if they are still available to volunteer again next year.



Goulburn

RDA (NSW) Goulburn Centre has had the busiest, most successful year (we think) our Centre has ever had to date.

RDA G along with RDA "Tall Timbers" had the honour of showcasing RDA (NSW) to HRH Royal Princess Anne at this year's Sydney Royal Easter Show as the RAS were celebrating their 200th Anniversary.

RDA G were absolutely ecstatic to be part of such a monumental event, so, when opportunities arise you need to embrace them with both hands and that is exactly what RDA Goulburn did. What an exceptional day!

RDA G for the first time in history, attended SIEC for the RDA (NSW) State Dressage Championships. Robyne Stockman along with her shared beautiful black mare Montanna, 22 years young, participated and made us proud, 7th in the Dressage Prix Caprilli Trot Test and 3rd in the Rider Agility Test. Coach Jo Grove and rider Robyne Stockman worked very closely together for many long hours. It was an absolute privilege to watch Robyne grow as a rider at our Centre and we feel that is exactly what the RDA world is all about.

RDA G also hosted (for the first time) this year's Southern Highlands Regional Mounted Games for 2022. Unfortunately no other Centres were able to attend so Goulburn held a Regional Mounted Games day with all of our Registered Riders. It was a fantastic day of brilliant riding and we look forward to taking some riders to the Sydney Royal Easter Show in 2023.

RDA G were sad to hear the news that our neighbouring West Wyalong Centre would be closing after many years of wonderful service. RDA G were very humbled by West Wyalong's generosity of goods and 3 beautiful therapy horses

and trust that they are in good hands in Goulburn. We are truly delighted by the 3 ponies and are very pleased to say they have all passed the Horse Suitability Checklist and we can't wait to have them participate in our 2023 programs.

Crescent School is still attending (42 years) along with the Trinity Catholic College Duke of Edinburgh Students. Secretary/Coach Jo Grove, AC/President Kim Mahoney together run all of the RDA G sessions with the assistance of Monika Augustin, Marilyn Campbell, Lil Ryan, Mel Cobban, Kath Cole, Ros Slater, Grant McClory, Terrie Sparrow, Richard Irvine (Horse Care), Steph Ovington, Robyne Stockman, Deb Alskine, John McCulloch and John Moyes.





Young

The 40th year of operation at Young Centre has been something of a roller-coaster with Covid 19 lurking, rain, rain and more rain but, thankfully no floods.

Young Pony Club, whose facilities we use, have secured a State Grant, with our support, to erect a roof over the small arena which is used for our sessions, a big benefit for our riders and volunteers.

The Centre has completed the electrification of the new boundary fence for the horse paddocks.

The BBQ trailer received from State Office is undergoing refurbishment, we look forward to using it in our fundraising activities.

Riding and Carriage Driving commenced in 2nd term with 73 participants registered.

All 4 schools plus adults from the local Disability Service again attending bring a number of first-time participants.

Carriage Driving continues to be a major part of our programme allowing those who can't ride to take part. We have seen an increase in participation of adults and those using wheelchairs.

Sadly one of our long time former participants, Tiffany, a very talented Carriage Driver and a State Driving Competition winner, lost her life in a car accident. An Encouragement Award trophy has been instigated in her memory. Volunteer "Stoney" who helped with Carriage Driving also passed away.

Our wonderful horse "Phoenix" has retired home to his family, our herd is now 13.

Shetland Ponies have enjoyed an easy year, most of the riders requiring a bigger pony or horse. Like every Centre, we keep watch for that elusive "bombproof" horse or pony. Carriage horse "Rumpy" celebrated his 21st birthday along with the other horses with a party and special cards made by the participants. While everyone enjoyed party treats the horses shared their carrots and chaff birthday cake.

Young has 2 coaches, one coach/whip, two whips and one trainee whip. They have taken opportunities to attend Risk Management and Conflict Resolution Seminars, a saddle fitting clinic, a Carriage Driving competition and a Heavy Harness Horse weekend.

Cherry Festival Charity Queen entrant Kim selected our Centre as her chosen charity. She worked tirelessly to fundraise and promote the Centre's programme culminating in a wonderful donation of \$4,687.91.

Once again, the local community has given whole hearted support with substantial donations from the S&C Club, Lions Club, the Anglican Op Shop, Riverina Stockfeeds, IGA and Bunnings with many contributions to the Golf Day. Everything was in place for our Golf Day, then down came the rain closing the course! Maybe 2023 will be 3rd time lucky.

The Centre entered a very popular Float, prepared by volunteers, in the Cherry Festival Street Parade showcasing our programmes.

Volunteer numbers remain steady at around 24 with some new faces joining us including 2 high school students. All have great pleasure in sharing the achievements of riders/drivers watching them gain confidence and having fun.

The year ended with Santa and his sack of gifts arriving in small sleigh led by "Freddie" to the delight and astonishment of the children. It was a very special conclusion for our Presentation Day and Christmas Party. "Freddie" is owned by Jantein our local vet who looks after the horses.

Riverina

Cootamundra – Wagga Wagga
– Griffith/Leeton – Albury-Wodonga
– Tumut

Griffith/Leeton



Cootamundra

Our centre at Cootamundra were so pleased to reopen this year, to reunite with our riders from the Pinnacle Activity Centre from Temora. We also welcomed back Caitlyn Shoard who is proving to be a very competent rider.

Cootamundra RDA takes this opportunity to thank the parents for the Ray family for bringing all their five children. This is no mean feat of organisation as it involved picking up and dropping back of the children from their two schools in relays to enhance their individual children's benefit.

Unfortunately, the Elouera Special school chose to do other things for their students for 2022 rather than attend RDA. This was a direct result of the Covid lockdowns and closure of our RDA Centre during 2020/21. As we have operated throughout 2022 this may change again allowing our young riders to return and benefit from our program.

Our biggest fundraiser, manning a canteen for the Cootamundra "Swapmeet", was the first since Covid struck and with a beautiful sunny day, the number of stalls and the attendance ensured that our profits were one of our centre's best!

Weather also interfered with our sessions as it always seemed to rain at the weekend prior to our

sessions making it hazardous catching the horses because of the muddy ground. Or alternately it rained on the Mondays. The torrential rain destroyed our driveway making it impossible to enter our carpark safely.

Luckily our centre was not part of the Community that had to be evacuated when the flood came through. It did however affect some of our riders where their group home had to be evacuated to the local Club at 11 pm. Thank you to the duty staff. Our president, Trish had her yard inundated. The water took time to subside so after the insurance claim was made came the big clean-up.

Our Christmas Party at Cootamundra was a huge success, lots of food provided by us all. We thank Santa for coming to Cootamundra RDA and presenting all the certificates, but more importantly everyone loved that Santa arrived on his 3 wheeled massive motorbike! This proved to be such an attraction for both the riders as well as all their parents and carers. The bike was the most photographed object at the party that there was a queue.

We look forward to 2023 and hope that we are able to present our RDA program for everyone again.



Wagga Wagga

Gosh what a year 2022 was!

After two years of struggling through COVID, we were saddened to hear how many centres were impacted by flooding, needed to take a recess or close due to lack of coaches or volunteers, particularly given this is our 50th birthday year. Whilst we also experienced high local rainfall, the flooding that impacted us was minimal in comparison to some, causing waterlogging and some fence damage. Our thoughts went out to all those impacted.

With the return of our horses from their summer break, we were very keen to start our recovery from COVID and build up our program again. We held our volunteer training day on the 19th February and it was really great to see so many returning volunteers, as well as quite a few new faces, with coaches and riders alike excited to be back doing something they love.

We were lucky to be selected to take part in Wagga Takes 2, a fabulous fundraising initiative for local charities. We held two very successful events, a "Hoedown showdown" in our beautiful indoor arena in February, and "Music by Moonlight" at Borambola Winery in March with the main Wagga Takes 2 shows held in April. The entire initiative was a great success and we are so very grateful to everyone who was involved and supported us in any way.

It has been absolutely fabulous to see the return of so many riders, drivers and volunteers back to our centre this year, after the disruption COVID caused over the last two years. We have missed the smiling faces and being able to provide the opportunity to provide our services again to those who need them and have missed their equine interactions over the last two years.

On the fundraising front, our Op Shop has moved to a bigger and better new premises! While the fit out and move took a fair bit of effort, the results are more than worth it, with more room to move behind the scenes, more room for stock and a brighter outlook. This has resulted in sales increasing and more efficient running of the shop. We appreciate all the effort our Op Shop team put in to supporting our centre – the volunteers there may not be as visible at the centre as those helping in lessons, but we rely on them just as heavily to keep our programs running!

We held a morning tea for all volunteers to thank them all for sticking with us through the tough times and keeping us going, we know that the restrictions COVID imposed were difficult for all, but here we are picking up the reins again after a quiet couple of years.

On the first Saturday of the September holidays, we held a mounted games day for our riders. There was a great turn out for the day, both participating and watching and cheering! There were certainly some big smiles that day – what a great start to the holidays for our riders! The fun continued into the first week, when we held a holiday riding program took place over 3 days, with some new faces learning about ponies from the ground up before hopping on board and learning some key riding skills. It is always so rewarding to see how quickly these young riders pick up some key skills.

In October, several members of our centre were able to travel to Sydney to attend the 50th birthday celebrations at Government House. We all enjoyed ourselves, not only catching up with old friends from other centres, but also meeting the Governor and being given a tour of the beautiful premises.

Not long after this, we held a farewell for our long time member and past president Bev Amery, who has left the cold of Wagga to head north to enjoy being close to family and a warmer climate. Bev has contributed so much to the Wagga community over so many years outside her involvement with RDA, so she will no doubt be missed by many.

It is so wonderful to see so many of our clients returning to riding and driving after what has been a very difficult couple of years for all of us. The smiles and achievements of our riders and drivers when they are here are so heart-warming and had been dearly missed during COVID.



Griffith Leeton

Griffith Leeton Riding for the Disabled have seen the two ends of the spectrum of human nature. At the beginning of 2022 we had the misfortune of having two of our beautiful horses stolen from a paddock they were billeted out over the Christmas break. The police were informed, and the Stock Officer was very helpful but to no avail. We had people all over the state and further afield on the lookout for them including the radio stations, papers, truck drivers, Stock and Station agents but with no luck.

It was then our wonderful community came on board and helped with some fundraising. Our local Community Radio Station gathered some very generous businessmen and community groups for Fundraising events, we were quite taken-back with the generosity of individuals, groups and the time and effort people gave to help.

Through the generosity of our community Griffith Leeton RDA were able to purchase another horse that is being trained and all our Committee and Volunteers have had their faith in human nature restored through the generosity of our community. We also were donated a pony from an amazing family from Adelong.

We miss our beautiful horses very much and we are all devastated that someone could do this.

Coaches

With 2022 we were hoping for an uninterrupted and smooth-running year after 2 years of COVID. However, that was not to be with unprecedented rain and flooding. Thankfully our riders made the most of the weeks they were able to ride and did well to achieve their goals.

Also, with volunteer shortages the Coaches became very adaptable as some weeks it was just not possible to run the planned classes and last minute changes were made.

All in all, everyone enjoyed their time together and some new friendships were formed whether it was volunteers and riders, riders and horses or volunteers and volunteers the year finished off on a happy note with everyone looking forward to 2023.

Volunteers

Griffith Leeton RDA has a wonderful group of volunteers. Currently we have approximately 50, who dedicate their time.

Ranging from our Coaches, our Caretaker, class volunteers, centre helpers and our fundraising group. Volunteers ages range from high school students to 80+.

Each volunteer offers different skills which enhance our centre.

Not only riders benefit from attending. Volunteers gain new friendships, learn new tasks and have a great time socialising.

Our high schools send students each week as volunteers. The maturity and confidence they gain during the year is outstanding.

We are extremely proud of all our volunteers.

Grounds

During covid we had 2 water tanks and pumps installed, each tank can run a sprinkler for 11 hours so a big help with our water bill. We didn't have to use them very much the last couple of months .

Our next lot of projects is to add 2 more day yards and to covered stables in the paddocks and a lockable shed for our equipment as there has been jumps and jump wings stolen at Griffith Pony Club which is next door to us. We are also on the lookout for a slasher for the tractor with all the rain our paddocks have grown heaps of weeds so would be good if we could slash, it would also help with fire reduction this summer.

We have had a up and down 2022 – hope 2023 will be better.

50



Our stolen horses –
Saff and Victory



Albury Wodonga

Even though in 2022 we did not have the restrictions of previous years, we have still found it very hard at Albury Wodonga with continued illness amongst the committee, their immediate family and volunteers. Nobody is getting any younger. Because of this Albury has run a limited schedule for the year. We continued by running only on a Saturday again for the last year.

The main stayers, even through illness, were trying to work as normal throughout the year. Just because you might be running a limited schedule with riders, the horses and Centre still demand full-time attention and bills need to be paid.

Can only hope that there is an improvement Healthwise in 2023, to take the pressure of those that continue to support the Centre.

If it wasn't for the main volunteers and their family members conducting working bees to cover ground maintenance, yard and fence maintenance, the continued feeding, health checks, farrier visits for the horses, and just general duties, the Centre would not be able to continue.

We have unfortunately and very sadly had a couple of horses go over the rainbow to the large paddock in the sky and have not been able to replace them yet.

We are always on the lookout for new horses, new volunteers and continually trying to encourage the younger community to get involved in Riding for Disabled.

Riding is due to get under way in March as per normal, we normally start in March to escape the heat of summer, but we haven't had much summer this year, if anything some mornings probably nearly too cold.

Here's hoping 2023 is a better year for everybody, all centres, riders, volunteers and horses.

Tumut

It was great to get back to some normality this year! We started off with great concern at the lack of volunteers. Winter proved to be the wettest I can remember, we had lots of riding days cancelled. We also found that a shortage of teaching staff at the Snowy Valleys School (formally Gadara School), meant that riding days were consisting of a few adult riders. Fourth term was almost a return to pre Covid times, everything fell into place and riding was well attended. We had a group of students come 3rd and 4th term from Gundagai High as helpers, this proved to be a great partnership and they plan to attend in 2023.

Our Rider numbers were approx. 23, we also managed to fit in some Connection sessions for one rider.

We were able to remain in a good financial position, our horse sponsorships proved our main form of income. The community continues to support this very well. At the end of 2022 we carried out some improvements to our main shed, extending the office area and lining the roof. We managed to source a couple of new horses who should work out very well for us.

Our President Judy Britton retired after many years of hard work as an active Centre Volunteer, Committee member and fundraiser.



Central West

Bathurst – Orange – Mudgee
– Forbes (Steering Committee)



Bathurst



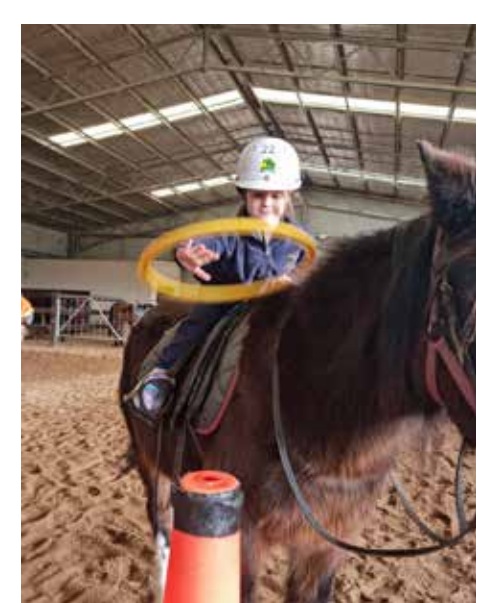
Bathurst

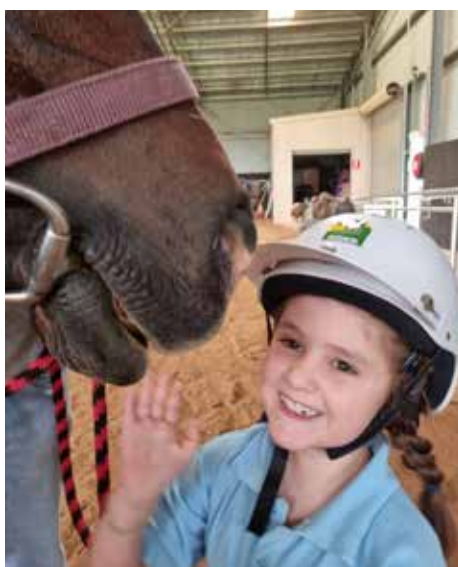
2022 has been a year for the quiet achievers. Our volunteers have once again been steadfast and active in their commitment to our riders and the Bathurst Centre. We have maintained our usual number of participants in the program and as usual, field constant enquiries regarding people wanting to ride. We will be introducing a new horse into our program in 2023 as one of our veterans is retiring to be a companion to another older horse.

Our pet therapy program is still fulfilling the needs of our non-riders. This year we welcomed a group of elderly ladies from New Horizons who trialled the program and will be coming permanently.

Our small committee continues to give of their time and energy, for which we are extremely grateful, and this year we welcomed our new treasurer, Patrick McArdle.

We look forward to carrying on our programs in 2023, giving our participants an important addition to their activities.





Orange

Executive Summary – Highlights and Achievements

Highlights of the year have been community engagement, volunteer numbers staying high to assist with our busy schedule and gaining new assistant coaches.

Centre developments

Orange centre maintenance crew have been working hard all year on replacing old, unsuitable fencing and dividing the paddocks up to better manage the horses. We have also bought purpose built water troughs to replace the old bathtubs.

We are purchasing a second mower and upgrading the slasher as the grass is growing very fast with all the rain and becoming unmanageable for time and volunteer effort.

Riders / Rides

- We have had five groups of children each Wednesday comprising up to 8 children each time. We have four primary school classes and one class of independent riders.
- One rider, Piper, has needed adapted seating and support on the horse as well as two side walkers to assist her to stay upright and stable. Over the course of the year her core muscles have developed greatly and she has better movement.
- Millie's mum tells us that Millie's life has changed simply because she started with us at RDA. She adores horses and through that love and fascination she has developed more communication and social skills. She loves all the activities, and her core has strengthened a lot with the stretching etc she has to do.

- We had a new school join us this year and it has become a highlight of the week for those 8 children.

Horse stories

- We currently have 14 horses and just had a new pony donated, Max, currently on trial.
- We held a Horse's Birthday celebration and the children loved singing to them and sharing in the 'carrot cake'.

Coaching

Orange gained two new Assistant Coaches this last year and currently have a trainee coach and trainee assistant coach.

Community Events and Fundraising

- We had visits from local politicians eager to see our programme and talk about us to the community. The highlight being the speech given by Hon Scott Barrett MLC in parliament for RDA's 50th Anniversary that particularly mentioned our centre, the wonderful volunteers, the children and the horses.
- Orange have had some great donations during the year. Our community supports us wholeheartedly, from IGA, to the Rural Centre who donated a lot of fencing materials, to a large donation from a local grazier, to the \$50 given by an elderly local.
- The raffle we normally had at the National Field Days was cancelled due to very inclement weather. We then decided to use a 'community table' in our shopping centres for 3 sessions to sell tickets to the public, which worked out well.
- Our publicity officer has worked hard this last year with a lot of Instagram and Facebook posts. We have been mentioned in our local Orange City Life paper about four times, some with a number of photos!
- Had the local RFS meet with us to advise on fire safety and evacuation needs for our centre.
- Liam Benson, artist, collaborated with us to assist in manning his interactive exhibition about horses at the Orange Art Gallery. We could add an extra element to this show.

Volunteers

Currently we have 40 active volunteers. We have particularly been grateful for our three young people who arrive early and assist with getting the horses ready and being so enthusiastic all the time.



Mudgee

We did it! Mudgee at it's finest!

Riders

Achievements just hit highs each time, our riders have reached milestones. Independence and self achievements, smiles, laughter and tears of pride and joy this is what Mudgee see each week our riders are awesome.

Horses

Never do they flinch, big bold bays, buckskins and chestnuts, the most handsome and sweetest guys and gals you could imagine.

They walk up proud and know they are the ones that must hold their rider secure and safe, provide comfort and warmth, an experience where they do not falter a slow and steady walk to a gentle trot.

We must boast our horses live 2 lives. They cut bison, round up cattle and a few barrel races and dressage events are all tucked under their girths.

The bond on Wednesday between horse and rider is simply – Love and respect

Volunteers

We have some of the best. Committed, passionate and never afraid to put their hands up. Rain hail or shine our dedicated volunteers are there.

If it rains well. it may prevent a horse interaction so we offer Joy's cooking class, cakes, cookies, and slices are made and lots of laughter and music ensures we all have a great day that is meaningful and fun.

10 Years of Mudgee RDA

4 chairs and 2 gumtree's you provided us with a foundation and one that worked for many years.

Now though we have said goodbye to the 2 trees and keep the 4 chairs as a reminder of how if you set your mind to something, you can and will achieve.

We now have a home "The Mudgee Ride Ability Hub" – a 9x9 meter hub, a place that offers shelter, a meal, comradeship, friendship, mate ship and a place that is equal. We are the lucky ones.

Thankyou to Peabody we have a home. We have 2 coaches in Tracy and Diane, 24 superstar riders, 7 incredible horses and the most committed and passionate volunteers.

We are the lucky ones.





North West

Gunnedah – Narrabri – Coonabarabran
– Tamworth – Armidale & New England



Coonabarabran

Gunnedah

The year of 2022 has been a very frustrating one mainly due to the ongoing wet weather. Because of the constant rain over the last 12 months we have only achieved 4 riding days. It would seem that each Friday (our riding days) the heavens would open and require us to cancel. This has been very frustrating for all concerned.

We have achieved a significant improvement to the functioning of our centre as we were able to remove the stalls from a redundant pig shed on the show ground and turn it into a great secure shelter for our clients, especially during the summer. The area can also be used as a static demonstration area.

The centre now has a reasonable number of riding horses, 5 in all, as well as a new carriage. This was achieved as a result of a grant from the Gunnedah Shire Council. The grant also allowed us to purchase and refurbish a 2 horse float for transporting the riding horses.

The Gunnedah community has been very generous to the centre with several wonderful donations. It seems that the population of the area consider RDA a very worthwhile charity to help.

As with all organisations relying on volunteers to operate we are finding it very hard to attract any younger members of the community to act as volunteers. The median age of our volunteers is ever increasing and it would be fair to say that the current list of volunteers will be the last. This is an extremely sad situation but it seems that the 60 and 70 year olds are last to commit to voluntary work. There are at least three of our volunteers worthy of mention. These are Prue Lister who has been a senior coach and general horse keeper, Bruce Hill has been a stalwart for the carriage driving and Lurline Wilson who was a foundation member and has worked quietly in the background especially with the children. What is going to happen to organisations that rely so heavily on voluntary help in the future.

It is true to say that both helpers and clients get a great deal out of RDA and the joy you see on the client's faces when they are on a horse is a sight to behold



Narrabri

19th and 20th April at Narrabri Showground provided safe and well manicured grounds for 5 disabled and 3 abled riders, using 5 reliable mounts.

With 10 willing volunteers, they enjoyed courses to ride through, trail ride and a few games, which enabled them to have fun and execute riding skills.

One Coach and an Assistant Coach attended. The Assistant Coach was then assessed and was approved. We are very thankful to all that were involved.

Another riding morning was held on July 14th with our new coach was held with 3 riders, 7 volunteers and 3 horses. They enjoyed great weather and an interesting trail ride.



Coonabarabran

Coonabarabran Centre started again with great enthusiasm for 2022. We continued the usual operation of riding once per week with our two riding groups from the school and Breakthru. There was new interest from individual people in the community, which is very encouraging for our centre who dearly wishes to grow.

The centre is looking very smart indeed. Along with the great steel fencing and two dedicated arenas, we now have a transportable shade structure for our riders and carers to sit under. The ramp access to the hall has had the railing and kick board repaired, the lawned areas are naturally lovely and lush with the garden beds flourishing.

Fundraising continues in earnest. With a variety of activities ranging from facilities hire, catering at clearance sales, selling items no longer required at the centre, facepainting at the local show and a planned open day for the beginning of next year. In terms of grants we have had some success. \$2000 from a social service grant, \$1,100 from the grass roots sports fund, \$500 from post office grant and \$500 from the council. We continue to apply with the help of our newly appointed grants officer Mr. Robert Noakes.

In terms of donations, we couldn't be more grateful for the kind people in our community and further afield. We have received donations in the form of money, hay, and books, to name just a few. Gunnedah centre kindly loaned to us Miss Paddywack for carriage, absolutely amazing, thank you Gunnedah!! A big Thank you to State office for the donation of a float.

We have had so much fun riding this year. Our primary school group have been vibrant and enthusiastic during their riding sessions. Many varied abilities but the centre managed to cater for all. Hunter and Khaleessi did ever so well getting used to the horses having a quiet sit on Poppy. The rest of the crew practiced lots of new techniques and showed great skill, some bursting at the seams to do some trotting. Breakthru groups riders had great fun, especially when we introduced some music to the mix. We would have liked to enter Megan for the Royal Easter show events but unfortunately the rain interfered and took out too many riding days for us.

Our Volunteers – wow! We grew indeed gaining skills, knowledge and incredible enthusiasm with Cate, Linda, Rhiannon, Craig, Jo and Rob. With everyone in attendance we would make a team of 10! The Centre now has two coaches Melissa and Aurely, an assistant coach Glenn, and a whip Melissa. THANK YOU to all the centres volunteers, without you there simply wouldn't be a centre.

Our team of horses is also growing with some fully approved and some coming up the ranks to being approved RDA horses. Mable is one of our newest members, a clydesdale stock horse cross. She is beautifully steady and strong to carry our heavier adults. Trigger was sold to us for \$1! He is a classy chestnut with quite some education behind him. Hunter is also being assessed for suitability and we are getting to know our carriage horse Miss Paddywack. New and already approved horses include Flika, sexy little black shetland, Tally, perfect sized bay Australian riding pony, and Rusty, our tenacious little one eyed stable door jumping shetland. Then we have Luke our tall dark and handsome thoroughbred, Pop Goes the Weasel, the 'I'll do anything' pony, and Jack steady old Eddy. All together what a crew!

Coonabarabran Centre is humming with excitement an we can't wait to get stuck into 2023.



Tamworth

The Tamworth Centre operated during the four school terms in 2022. Our enthusiastic participants ranged in age from primary school students to adults. They were involved in riding and carriage driving activities.

Tamworth South Public School and the Hillvue Public School students enjoyed a variety of activities, in particular riding over the jumping rails, around the barrels and over the adventure trail. Their riding improved as the year progressed. They also enjoyed the carriage driving. The adults also enjoyed similar activities and were keen to improve their riding skills.

The grounds are in good condition thanks to the favourable weather conditions and the huge amount of maintenance work attended by our wonderful volunteers. The horses and ponies are also in good condition in both the riding and carriage driving sections.

The Tamworth Centre continues to receive generous support from the Tamworth and district communities.



Armidale & New England

Sunday 18th December was a fitting end to a fantastic 2022. Thank you to all our amazing riders – it is a pleasure and privilege to work with you. And thank you to our remarkable volunteers who make it all happen without any fuss. A special thank you to Super Coach Robin, Gaylia for providing morning tea every month and our horse owners who generously allow us to use their treasured steeds.



Vales

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:

Graham Gapes – Box Hill "Tall Timbers"

Raema Walker OAM – Box Hill "Tall Timbers"

Leslie Pickering – Box Hill "Tall Timbers"

Barry Sloggett – Box Hill "Tall Timbers"

Warren Cohen – Raymond Terrace & Lower Hunter

John Murray – Raymond Terrace & Lower Hunter

Fiona Little – Wagga Wagga

Hazel Price – Wagga Wagga

Stoney Bourke – Young

Sheron Sheard (Rider) – Kempsey/Macleay

Tiffany Mason (Former Carriage Driver) – Young

Horse Vale

Spud & Noodles – Albury Wodonga

Banjo – Ballina & District

Bernie & My Star – Blue Mountains

Jack & Tia – Cootamundra

Willie & Princess Sparkles – Goulburn

Cinnamon – Manning Great Lakes

Chook – Orange

Hogan – Raymond Terrace & Lower Hunter

Elton – Richmond

Jim & Ollie – Ryde

RDA (NSW)

Patrons



Patron

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



Life Patron

Mrs Pearl Batchelor OAM
(dec.)



Vice Patron

Mr Don Eyb

Staff



Office Co-Ordinator

Mrs Lucy Pentony



RTO & Coaching Administrator

Ms Nicole King



RTO Administrative Assistant

Ms Kristy Ford

Support Staff



RTO CEO & CASP Chairman Coaching Co-Ordinator

Mrs Wendy Torr OAM



Centre Audit Officer

Mrs Joan Edwards OAM

Directors & Portfolios



**Chairperson/Grants
Officer**

Ms Tracy Lucas



**Executive Officer
MPIO**

Ms Olwen Smith



**Finance Officer
Company Secretary**

Mr Joe Orland



**Coaching Liason
Officer**

Mrs Jenny Cameron



Riders Representative

Mr Allan Burton



**Marketing &
Promotions Officer**

Mr Ed Binney



Regional Reps Liason

Ms Diane Burnicle



Horse Welfare Officer

Mr Clarry Quirk

Board Advisors



Mrs Jan Pike OAM



Mrs Margaret Norman OAM

Thank-You

to all our volunteers & supporters



Without your assistance RDA (NSW) could not service
the 1023 riders who were able to ride during 2022



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