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24 October 2023

Per email: centres@rdansw.org.au

Dear Centre Committee Members,

On behalf of the directors of RDA (NSW) I want to express the appreciation of all directors for the remarkable work that each and every Centre, Volunteer, Horse and participant Rider has been doing. The dedication and commitment to your respective roles deserves commendation.

However, it has come to the attention of the directors that Centres have recently received a series of negative emails from Anna Rimac, a coach from the Ballina Centre. The nature of these emails is such that the directors feel compelled to address this matter with you all to ensure transparency and understanding.

As some of you may already be aware, the Ballina Centre is currently undergoing administrative procedures due to three complaints that have been brought to the attention of the directors.

In an effort to resolve the situation and facilitate the Centre's recovery, we have been working diligently to formalise leases for some of the horses which are being used at the Centre. This is necessary to ensure that riders and volunteers who are using particular horses for RDA activities are covered by RDA (NSW)'s insurance. Similarly, we have been trying to formalise a lease for the house located on the property.

To ensure a fair and unbiased process in relation to the lease of the house, the directors engaged the services of a reputable local real estate agency for the management of the house lease.

There is also an issue with Anna Rimac conducting a business that, based on information available, is in direct competition to the activities of the RDA Ballina Centre. Furthermore, this activity by Anna is performed using RDA facilities and assets. Consequently, the directors are responsible for investigating this matter on behalf of RDA (NSW) and the Centre.

Founded: 1972 by Pearl Batchelor OAM. **Joint Patrons:** Her Excellency The Honourable Margaret Beazley AC KC, Governor of NSW and Mr Dennis Wilson

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

Regrettably, these proposed lease arrangements and business investigations have been met with resistance from certain members of the Ballina Centre, including Anna herself.

Despite our genuine intentions to minimize any potential conflicts and foster a harmonious environment, and to attend to what is legally required in order to comply with normal practices with residential tenancy leases, these efforts have been met with opposition and delaying tactics. It appears that the aim of these actions is to prevent the managing agent from being able to formalise what was basic paperwork.

Anna Rimac has consistently denied entry to the Board-appointed Real Estate Agent, who was engaged by the Board to manage the residence at the property. Anna's action is preventing the agent from conducting normal inspections of the property on behalf of RDA (NSW).

These refusals by Anna to allow an authorised inspection by the Managing Agent have happened on multiple occasions and no reasons have been given by Anna for her refusal to cooperate with what is, in effect, normal practice in relation to a rental property.

The directors have now received official notification that Anna has commenced proceedings in the NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal ("NCAT") against the directors.

As no reasons or details have been provided to the directors in support of, or to explain the reason for, this refusal by Anna to grant the Managing Agent access to inspect the property on behalf of RDA (NSW), which is the owner of the property, nothing more can be said.

However, whatever the reason behind Anna's actions, it would appear that these proceedings are intended, in part at least, to prevent the inspection of the house. A hearing date by the Tribunal has now been set.

While it is essential to recognize that there are always two sides to every story, the directors request that any questions or concerns you may have regarding this matter be directed to the State office, the administrator, Clarry Quirk, Tracy Lucas, or myself. We are here to provide clarification for, and to address, any issues that may arise or which you may have.

The directors deeply regret that this situation has unfolded, as it is counterproductive to the progress and well-being of our centres

Our primary objective remains to create a supportive and nurturing environment for all involved, and we trust that, together, we can find a resolution that upholds the values and principles of our organization.

Lastly, the directors have received copies of correspondence and video which the we understand has been circulated to Centres.

These emails and the video have contained material which the directors consider to contain misleading and/or false statements.

Of particular concern is the information regarding the ACNC and the statement that Centres are at risk of losing their charitable status. This will not happen.

Technically, each Centre is supposed to submit reports to the ACNC. However, to save the Centres the need to do this reporting, the directors take on this role on behalf of the Centres.

This reporting involves two separate reports being prepared for all Centres. One report provides details of the committee members of the Centres and the details of the RDA (NSW) directors. This report, Report 3A, has been submitted.

The other reports are much more detailed. A report is completed for RDA (NSW) and a separate one for each Centre.

This second series of reports includes detailed information relating to either RDA (NSW) or the particular Centre and its operations, covering such information as its location and contact details, activities conducted, various statistical details on the Centre and its riders, volunteers and, if applicable, employees, financial details and “trading results” and numerous other matters.

They are extensive reports and, as can be expected, the separate reports take a great deal of time to amalgamate and enter the data as this needs to be done separately for each Centre. The directors undertake this role to reduce the workload of the Centre Committees.

Due to the amount of work involved in amalgamating this information, the directors have this year, as has happened in all previous years, applied for an extension of time to allow for this work to be done. While the application was for an extension until the end of December, there is the option of getting a further extension should it be needed.

In relation to another matter, contrary to what has been alleged, Jan Pike is indeed registered with the ACNC as a responsible person and director and appears as such on the ACNC website as is shown in the following extract (this is a partial extract only, being the second of two pages. The other directors are listed on the first website page of this section.

Current Responsible Persons and Authorised Persons

Contact	Relationship Type	Position	Start Date	End Date	Status 
Edward Binney	Responsible Person	Board Member	21/05/2022		Active
Allan Burton	Responsible Person	Board Member	21/05/2022		Active
Clarence Quirk	Responsible Person	Board Member	21/05/2022		Active
Janet Pike	Authorised Person	Director	15/11/2022		Active

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Thank you for your understanding and cooperation. Your continued dedication to our mission of providing such wonderful support and assistance to those who have a disability is truly

commendable, and I am confident that, working together, we can overcome any challenges that come our way.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to the directors directly if you have any further questions or require additional information.

Regards,

For, and on behalf of, the Board of RDA (NSW),

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Orland', written in a cursive style.

(Joseph Orland)

*Honorary Director, Executive Officer, Finance Officer
Riding for the Disabled Association (NSW)*