



Riding for the Disabled Association NSW

"Bits 'n' Pieces"

Autumn/Winter 2018



Congratulations to Philippa Lovely OAM

OAM FOR PHILIPPA LOVELY

There was some exciting news on Australia Day. Pip Lovely, our long-time Volunteer, Vice President and Treasurer was awarded an OAM for service to the community! Pip has been involved in many organisations as a Volunteer for over 40 years and her commitment to "Tall Timbers" Centre has been exceptional.

Well deserved.



Distinguished Long Service Medal recipients:

CONGRATULATIONS to Doreen O'Connor for receiving the Sport NSW Distinguished Long Service Medal for her volunteer years working at RDA(NSW)Cootamundra Centre. The Hon. Stuart Ayres MP, Minister for Sport presented Doreen with her Medal.



The night was very exciting for Doreen who said it was a special honour to have received her Pearl Batchelor Award and now this one!

The Award Doreen received was a Perspex trophy with the Sport NSW logo and her name on a black backing.

The night of the Sport NSW Award at NSW Parliament House was sold out with attendance of 280 people.

When people know you are from RDA they always recognise the value of our service to those with disabilities in our community. It was also interesting speaking with Maree Tanti from Mudgee Pony Club and chat with some ladies from Taree who were aware of RDA in their area

There were many other disability sports that won awards, Football for kids with disabilities, Blind Cricket, Blind Sports and Wollongong Roller Hawks Wheelchair Sports. Doreen's grandson went blind in his teenage years and the O'Connor family met up with some of Tim's fellow sports friends.

Another recipient of this Award was Elizabeth "Betty" Wallace who was presented with a Distinguished Long Service Award for her many years' work with Pony Club. Betty brought her expertise as a Pony Club Instructor to RDA and along with her late husband Graham, started the Wollondilly RDA Centre in 1986 and since that time Betty has worked as a Volunteer Coach.



It was an honour to be part of this special evening.

Olwen Smith

Hon. Director

Riding for the Disabled Association (NSW)

RDA(NSW) ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

A very successful 9th RDA(NSW) AGM was held on Saturday 5 May 2018 at the Crown Plaza Hawkesbury Valley with Members from 23 Centres registered. The AGM was Officially Opened by Deborah Gersbach, Hon. President of the RDA(NSW) Richmond Centre.

Due to pressing family commitments, Margie Lewis made the difficult decision in September to step down from all RDA (NSW) activities, including as a Director. Margie was presented with a Plaque for her dedication as a Director for eight years. Her expertise will be sorely missed.

Election: As the number of nominees did not exceed the number of positions, the following Directors were elected:

Margaret Norman OAM, Jan Pike, Olwen Smith, Joseph Orland and our two newly elected Directors:

Melanie Spaggiari and Susan Turner-Davis

Thank you for electing the Board of Directors for a further two years. As in the past all decisions made by the Board will be based on a keen desire to protect the core values of our Constitution and a strong commitment to ensure a safe and productive environment for our Riders, Volunteers, Coaches and Staff alike.

The AGM Dinner was well attended with 94 Members representing 23 Centres, many proudly displaying their emblems in the Banner Parade.

CONGRATULATIONS:

To - PIP LOVELY for being awarded the Order of Australia for her work with the RDA(NSW) Box Hill "Tall Timbers" Centre.

To - the following RDA(NSW) Award Recipients:-

Centres who received their Years of Service Plaques:

| | |
|----------|---------------------|
| 40 Years | Albury Wodonga |
| 40 Years | Orange RDA Centre |
| 20 Years | Manning Great Lakes |

Winners of State Awards:

| AWARD | NAME OF WINNER | CENTRE | REGION |
|------------------------------------|---------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Pearl Batchelor | Doreen O'Connor | Cootamundra | Riverina |
| Volunteer Encouragement | Cheryl Beaver | RT/LH | Hunter |
| Rider of the Year | Mackenzie Favva | "Tall Timbers" | Metropolitan |
| Young Volunteer of the Year | Georgia Goddard | Richmond | Metropolitan |
| "Shush" Memorial | "Geebung Ice Cream" | Tamworth | Mid North Coast |

Winners of each Region;

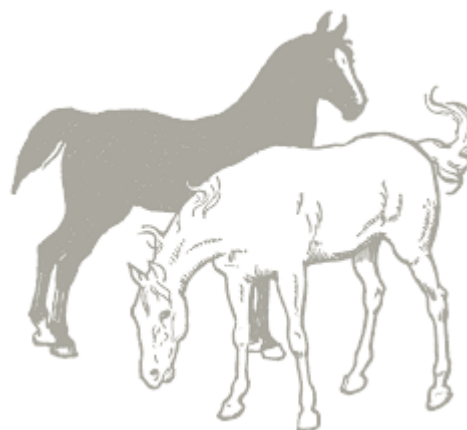
| NAME | CENTRE | DISTRICT | NAME | CENTRE | DISTRICT |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|--|-------------|-----------------------|
| Pearl Batchelor Award | | | Volunteer Encouragement Award | | |
| Doreen O'Connor | Cootamundra | Riverina | Elizabeth | Wagga | Riverina |
| Warren Sparkes | Central Coast | Hunter | Macquarie | | |
| Ross Campbell | Orange | Central West | Helenia Lunnon | Richmond | Metropolitan |
| David Gibson | Nepean | Metropolitan | Cheryle Beaver | RT & LH | Hunter |
| Margaret Fenns | MGL | Mid North Coast | Christine Vincent | Eurobodalla | Southern Highlands |
| | | | Kay Goon | MGL | Mid North Coast |
| Rider/Driver of The Year Award | | | Young Volunteer of The Year Award | | |
| Amelia Musgrave | RT & LH | Hunter | Chloe Quinn | Wagga | Riverina |
| Mackenzie Savva | Box Hill - Tall Timbers | Metropolitan | Georgia Goddard | Richmond | Metropolitan |
| Saskia De Jong | MGL | Mid North Coast | Jessica Pollard | RT & LH | Hunter |
| Lincon Bryant- Waterhouse | Illawarra | Southern Highlands | Ariel McCall | Illawarra | Southern Highlands |
| | | | Chloe Nielsen | MGL | Mid North Coast |
| Shush Memorial Award | | | Rider/Driver Encouragement 2017 | | |
| "Kam" | Central Coast | Hunter | Jonah Thew | Orange | Central West |
| "Geebung Ice Cream" | Tamworth | Mid North Coast | Catherine Hulse | Eurobodalla | Southern Highlands |
| "Tia" | Cootamundra | Riverina | Zak Smyth | Wagga | Riverina |
| "Malvern" | Richmond | Metropolitan | Lakeisha Moore | Richmond | Metropolitan |
| "Lightning Star" | MGL | Mid North Coast | Tara Copp | MGL | Mid North Coast |

Big thank you to Lucy, our Office Coordinator for bringing her car packed with many boxes of merchandise brought from State Office.

Sincere thank you to the host Centre, Richmond RDA and their great band of volunteers - whatever the task over the weekend, they achieved it.

Extra big hugs to OUR HORSES - there would be no RDA without them.

Margaret Norman OAM
Hon. Chairperson
RDA(NSW)





“RDA (NSW) State Coaches & Volunteers”

***RDA (NSW) State Coaching Workshop/AGM
Hosted by the RDA (NSW) Richmond Centre
Hawkesbury Crowne Plaza – Windsor
5-6th May 2018***

Editorial & pictures provided by RDA Richmond

With record breaking numbers and 26 RDA Centres in attendance it was by far one of the largest workshops to take place and a great success. This success would not have been possible without the support of all our loyal Senior Coaches, Coaches, Assistant Coaches, Trainee Coaches, Committee, Regional Representatives, Riders and Volunteers and I would like to thank those who provided feedback to the RDA Richmond Centre, as it was great to hear that you all had a fabulous weekend over the duration of the two days.

As always there was lots of behind the scenes preparation from several key volunteers who spent weeks building up to the event making sure that all aspects of the workshop were covered from run times, catering, accommodation, transport, prizes, goodie bags, OH&S just to name a few and I would like to thank everyone who pitched in their time to ensure the success of our event.

There were various topics covered over the duration of the weekend with workbooks handed out and notes provided to strengthen talk back sessions enabling participants to take back to their Centre new skills to assist them in their own Centre. There were also practical demonstrations (SES Large Animal Rescue) and show and tell times

(Senior Coach Session) where participants could get hands on experience and practice new ways of developing their skills sharing new ideas and encouraging each other along the way.

*With 104 in attendance on day (1) – Hawkesbury Crowne Plaza and 90 in attendance on day (2) – RDA Richmond Centre, there were certainly a lot of mouths to feed with all **enjoying catered morning/afternoon teas, luncheons and dinners with everyone's** needs catered for. Breakfast and accommodation was another luxury that some enjoyed with 80 guests enjoying the hospitality of the Hawkesbury Crowne Plaza.*

*There were many sponsors who came together to support this event and I would like to acknowledge the following organizations and individuals for the support given to the **RDA Richmond Centre over the weekend's program and for the donation of lucky door prizes.** Rotary Club of Richmond Inc, Michael Skinner, Susan Templeman (MP-Federal), Officeworks, Horseland, Newmarket Saddlery, Just for Pets, PETstock, Carrington Road Stockfeeds, Bendigo Bank, NSW State Emergency Service, NSW Govt Local Land Services, TAFE NSW Richmond, Hawkesbury City Council, The Equestrian News, Nova Spring Water, Hawkesbury Harvest, The New Secret Garden, Ardoulis Chocolates, Pet Reunite, Geotechnique Pty Ltd & Geotech Testing Pty Ltd, Dr Christopher Browne. Your support given enabled opportunities for many to share in the moment and take home an enjoyable memory of the event.*

The workshop was very well received by all in attendance, listed are some of the highlights mentioned by various participants where opportunities were given to take something back to their own Centres include:

- *Occupational Therapist activity based learning session*
- *Opportunity and inspiration to learn new games and new ideas in lesson planning*
- *Nice venue, nice Centre, enjoyed the beautiful gardens*
- *SES reaching out to their Centre for assistance in training of their volunteers*
- *Activity based learning and passing on of knowledge*
- *Large animal rescue session by the SES*
- *Tips on how to develop skills and apply different techniques to achieve results*
- *Occupational Therapist knowledge to enhance and develop core strength*
- *Opportunity to learn and understand Occupational Therapy terminology*
- *Opportunity to connect with other RDA Centres and Coaches*

- *Friendliness of the Richmond Centre Volunteers and the inclusiveness of everyone*
- *Excellent venue and great to see the development of the RDA Richmond Centre*
- *Safework NSW was interesting and workshops useful in our RDA Centre*
- *Coaching updates, incident reporting and CASP input was very informative*
- *Gathering of Coaches and sharing of ideas to get the best for our riders*
- *Realization of problems and difficulties faced through lack of volunteers*
- *Comradeship and motivation to keep you going*
- *Workshop very well run and interesting*
- *Opportunity to be involved and part of RDA (NSW) as an organization*
- *Seeing, interacting, socializing with all those that attended was an extremely positive and friendly experience*
- *Workshops were extremely informative especially those that focused on equine activity*
- *Venue suitable and accommodation worked well, food was great*
- *Talking with other Coaches*
- *Learning about the therapeutic values created in different activities*
- *An opportunity to move out of one's comfort zone and take on challenges to move forward motivating others in their learning*

**THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO CONTRIBUTED
TO THE SUCCESS OF OUR WORKSHOP**

"Day (1) – Hawkesbury Crowne Plaza"

– CASP & Coaching Updates with Nicole



"Day (2) – Riding for the Disabled Richmond Centre"

- Ian welcomes everybody and provides housekeeping rules



"Show & Tell – Senior Coach Session"

- OT Observations



***"SES Large Animal
Rescue"***
Practical Demonstration

RDA(NSW) AGM PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION



Aiden & "Milo"
WINNER
RDA Eurobodalla Centre

RDA(NSW) AGM DRAWING COMPETITION

"GROOMING IS GOOD"









Wollondilly

MEDAL (OAM)
OF THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA
IN THE GENERAL DIVISION

Mr Graham Bryce Wallace

(deceased)

Late of Tahmoor NSW 2573

For service to people with a disability,
and to the community.

Service includes:

President, RDA Wollondilly Centre
1986-2017.

Director, Board of Directors, RDANSW,
2001-2003.

Regional Representative, RDA Southern Coast and Highlands,
1993-2001.

Graham Wallace

● Wollondilly Riding for the Disabled's former president Graham Wallace (pictured) has been awarded a posthumous Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) for service to people with a disability and the community. The Tahmoor resident, who died last year, was the president for 31 years.



"Tall Timbers"

RIDER STORY - MIA

Like most parents of kids with special needs, we were told that early intervention can make a significant difference. Mia started therapy at three months of age and has continued to her current schedule of three to four hours per week, not including home based exercises and revision.

Whilst Mia has progressed far in her sweet six years, she still has many challenges. The key for Mia is the frequency and intensity of therapy. The challenge for us as parents is to find the "sweet spot" where we continue to develop greater capacities and skills, whilst avoiding "burn out" and the inadvertent introduction of behavioural or emotional issues.

This is where the programme at "Tall Timbers" is nothing but pure magic.

Whilst to the trained eye it might seem like through riding and the associated games we are improving the poor integration and modulation of Mia's vestibular-auditory-visual triad, mediating her postural tone and regulating her arousal states, but for Mia... well for Mia it's FUN.

Challenging but Fun. We have never had a meltdown or experienced avoidance about going to riding.

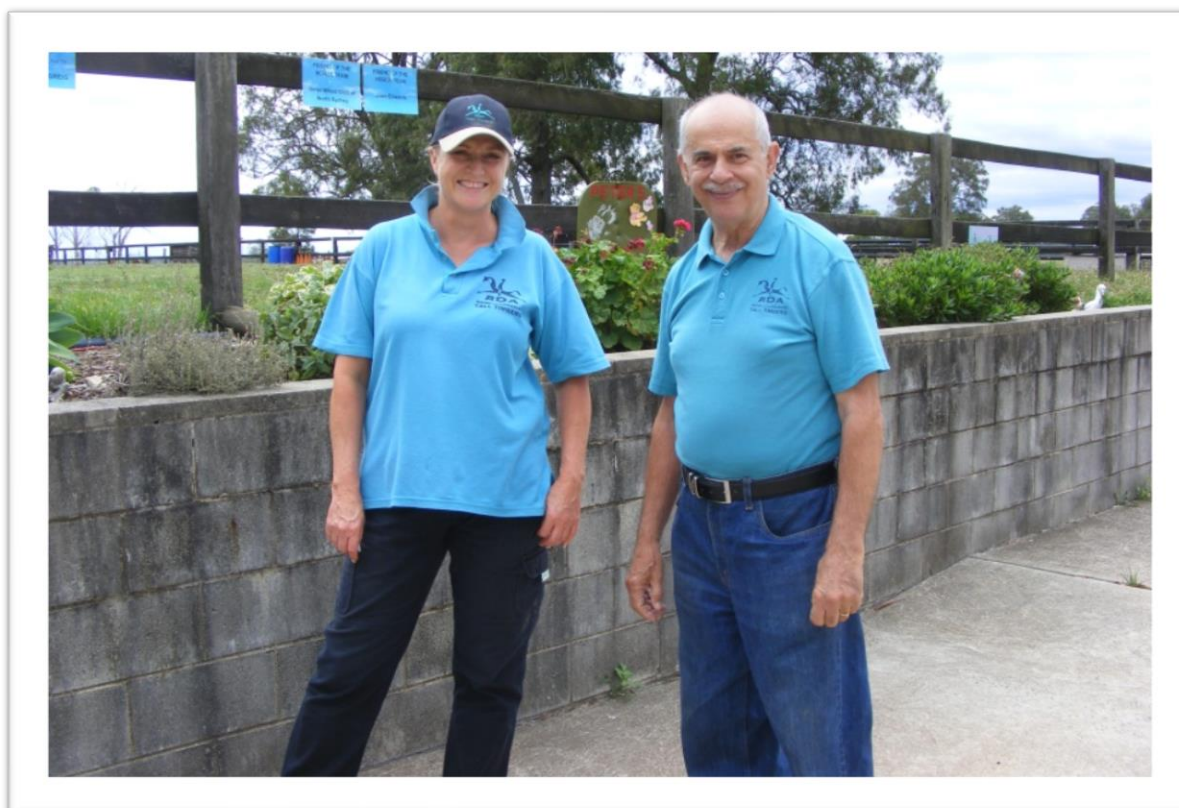
And it's fun for us too.

The difference in Mia from her first day riding less than 12 months ago to her most recent ride this Saturday past is so noticeable. She is a different child. Her body and movements become engaged. She is calm with improved self-regulation. She demonstrates improved sequencing, planning and overall organisation. She has improved attention skills and awareness. But perhaps more importantly, she is proud of herself. She feels accomplished and self-empowered. The award for most improved rider is a bonus, proudly hanging on her wall, and talked about to anyone who will listen. I can't thank enough the support team of people and horses at "Tall Timbers" who meet us on Saturdays, and the many people and contributors behind the scenes

.Ange



VOLUNTEER STORY - DAVID KNOX



I'm sure we have all at one time or another been inquisitive about the world of volunteering, especially as a consequence of media coverage when disasters occur. Immediate thoughts come to mind of the SES and the RFB, oh, and don't forget the surf-lifesavers - groups mostly all made up by unpaid members (volunteers). My thoughts on the subject would usually surface along the lines, "Volunteering, why? Surely this is what "other" people do? I've never really given it a thought." Little did I know that a seed had been planted in the depths of my mind, just waiting for the optimum conditions which would allow it to germinate and to produce fruit.

My journey to RDA "Tall Timbers" came about following my retirement when I suddenly found myself with all this free time on my hands. After over 50 years in the workforce and having to cope with all the usual routine tasks associated with running a household and raising a family, I found that having all this extra free time available was rather overwhelming and I could have easily descended into a couch-potato. I rapidly came to the conclusion that I would need to contrive supplementary duties to use up some of this time. Being blessed with good health, I knew a sedentary lifestyle was the last thing I wanted to foster at this stage of my life. A look at my local council's website

revealed a section on volunteering and further digging led me to discovering RDA. Possessing a love of animals and a desire to learn new tricks this was all the catalyst I needed to join the RDA family.

Volunteering for me affords the opportunity to give something back to the community, specifically to help RDA with its programmes and to observe over time the beneficial changes that participation in these programmes brings to the group individuals. Considering that these individuals whose ages range from pre-school to adult and who are subject to a range of disabilities can show so much enthusiasm when attending the classes is a wonderful sight to behold. Yes, there is occasional apprehension, especially at the beginning of term, however the RDA coaches and the carers are skilled in procedures for alleviating the distress and usually the preliminaries are successfully accomplished and the lessons begin.

During my time with RDA I have been involved with two of its programmes. First there is the mainstay "Riding" programme, which introduces participants to the world of horses and involves escorted horse riding. Each rider is matched with a specific horse, which they use during the term and the horse is meticulously handled by one of RDA's experienced leaders. Depending on the rider there may also be one or two side walkers accompanying the horse as an additional safety measure. The riding lessons takes place in RDA's large indoor arena where a range of activities are implemented and which are designed to assist and develop the rider's co-ordination, confidence, etc. On special occasions, depending on the weather, the class will be taken on a trail ride around the perimeter of the RDA complex and this is where the class gets to experience all the bumps and jolts involved with riding a horse. Second is helping Michelle with the "Senses and Fun" programme which is focussed on individuals aged from high school to adults. Unlike the Riding programme this activity does not allow mounted horse riding, however it does involve hands-on activities like horse grooming and learning to identify and name all parts of the horse's anatomy using RDA's life-size dummy. Other activities include mucking out stalls, cleaning food buckets, agricultural tasks like raising vegetables from seed and identifying plants and features from the Senses & Fun walk through the garden. These activities are designed to promote an understanding of the requirements of various tasks, which will hopefully allow the individual to gain confidence and promote improved co-ordination, to enable success when performing everyday tasks.

Accordingly, this is my snapshot of what RDA means to me, a fun place with serious overtones, a place of camaraderie where like-minded people form a focused team assisting less fortunate members of the community.

Finally, RDA could not operate without a group of dedicated staff members who keep the administration tasks and horse management in tiptop condition.

"Which horse is your favourite?" I hear you ask. "They are all my favourites I say, however if you persevere I would have to say" Ishmar"." Ishmar" is a remarkable grey gelding who is now into his fourth decade and has developed a quiet, dedicated demeanour as though he fully understands the fragile nature of his riders and acts accordingly."

"Come along, I think you'll enjoy contributing."

Tamworth

We at Tamworth centre are now into the second term of the year and have been having riding every Thursday since 1st March. First term was reasonably quiet as the schools that come have other activities in the summer and find it too hot here in Tamworth for the riders. We still had our adults here from day one, some ride, some go down to our cart and sulky. Now the second term is a different matter and we have a lot of riders. The Bullimbal Special Needs school bring 23 this term and we have the other schools back also, so we have a very busy day indeed. Our great volunteers turn up each week to work as leaders, side walkers or to do anything else that may be required of them.

We also have a great team that go down to the carriage and sulky under the guidance of our whips. A lot of our wheel chair clients love to have a ride around in the cart with faithful "Harry" pulling it. We had a visit from the accessor Reigh McCoy from RDA Young to test another harness horse "Gonzo" who was donated to us by Norm Moran one of our volunteers. "Gonzo" came up tops and Reigh was very pleased to be able to pass him and now it will be great to have him working as well to take some of the work load off "Harry". Our Whips have done a wonderful job in working with "Gonzo" and getting him up to scratch to pass so well. Our clients who are unable to ride get such pleasure out of having their rides in the carriage and some of them are learning to drive the sulky also.

We were also lucky enough to be able to purchase another lovely little grey pony with funds donated to us by one of our local shopping centres "Shopping World" with money from their water feature, where customers throw coins in on their way down the escalator. "Sam" now goes by the name of "Shopping World Sam" and his picture is displayed around the shopping centre, thanking customers for their generous donations.



"Gonzo", Stan Day (driver), Reigh McCoy and Merv Shorten (whip)



Merv Shorten (Whip), Reigh McCoy and Stan Day (assistant Whip)

We have two young wonderful volunteer/clients Tabitha and Emma. They both help us so much on riding days as well as having their riding lessons. They have come along in leaps and bounds in their riding skills since joining us at our Centre. They are both pictured riding on "Ice Cream" our winner of the Shush Award.

We all feel that "Ice Cream" was a very well-deserved winner of the Shush Award. He has taught so many of our clients to ride and progress over the years, and we are most grateful to one of our Coaches, Peter Daly of the "Geebung" ASH stud for allowing our Centre to have the use of him over the years. "Ice Cream" is a horse in a million.

Our Centre has also been able to complete more of our projects with the very generous financial support of our community, businesses and service clubs. One of the big ones has been the cement walkway for the carers to take the clients in wheel chairs from the club house to the harness area with more ease.

We have some of our riders in training now for some dressage competitions coming up in the next few months.

We continue to do a lot of our own fund raising through BBQ's and catering for various local businesses. Our volunteers are always so willing to put their names down to help, I really can't say enough about our wonderful team of volunteers - some have been with the Centre for a great number of years but we have also acquired quite a few new ones this year. Our team who feed and look after the horses have to get a special mention as it is such a big job in this awful drought we are going through - our grounds are now back to dirt and I am sure most of you are in the same boat. Chasing hay is a neverending job and not knowing when everywhere will get some very decent rain makes it all the harder.

Wishing all our Centres a good and rewarding rest of the year.

Gillian Rosewarne,, Publicity Officer



"Shopping World Sam"



Emma on "Icecream"



Tabitha on "Icecream"



Peter Daly with "Ice Cream" and the Shush Trophy and Certificate

COOTAMUNDRA HERALD MAY 2 2018

HONOUR: RDA NSW has recognised Doreen O'Connor's service.



RDA Cootamundra Centre was delighted to hear its treasurer, Doreen O'Connor, has won the prestigious NSW RDA Pearl Batchelor Award for the top volunteer in the state.

Doreen has been treasurer for 27 years, as well as instructing and driving the horse drawn cart.

The group's AGM was held in March and chaired by Olwen Smith, a director of RDA.

The office bearers for 2018 are: president Trish Taylor; treasurer Doreen O'Connor; secretary Olwen Smith; vice presidents Lenore McClintock and Margot Lyne and catering officer Trish Taylor.

RDA's head coach is Bev Chalmers - a position she has held for 27 years, as well as looking after all our horses. New volunteers would be very welcome.

Regular riding sessions are held on Mondays, and at present are starting at 9.30am. Times vary so

anyone willing to volunteer should contact Trish Taylor on 6942 3309 or 0499 563 956.

Donations of good quality hay are always appreciated

They Said...

They said he couldn't do it
He would never make the grade,
And when all the others rode away
That David should have stayed.
That the horse he loved and trusted
Would just be far too slow
And with all his other problems
David simply couldn't go.

They felt his little pony
Would slow the others down
And a little lad like David
Would be better left in town.
They said the route was far too tough
To difficult a course
But they didn't count on love and trust
Between a boy and horse.

So, he went, and all the riders
Found he never did impede,
Through walk or trot or canter
He was always near the lead.
Though the hot long days of summer
Made him tired, he made it plain
He was always at the ready
When they saddled up again.

And I hope that all those sceptics
Who said he shouldn't go
Will admit that David proved a point
When he set out to show
How his handicaps could vanish
When true love set the course
And he crossed the Snowy Mountains
On his little chestnut horse.

Maureen Turner, Assessor, & Coach RDA Manning Great Lakes Centre



CENTRAL COAST

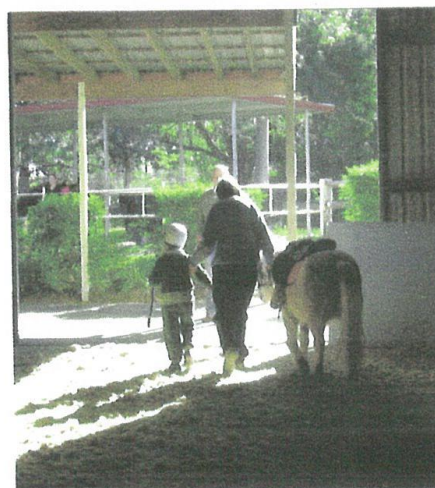
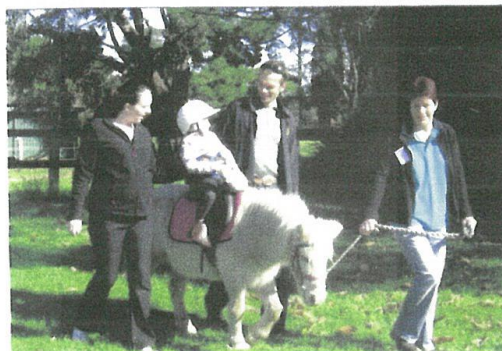
The day begins with jobs aplenty
 Much work to scramble through
 Teamwork surely is the key
 For all there is to do
 Routines set and smiles all round
 Trusty steeds made ready
 Familiar voices on the ground
 Horses sound and steady

Riders come and eye the scene
 Excitement builds and lingers
 Helmets on and all are keen
 To wait at ramp with helpers
 Some riders squeal with sheer delight
 Others stand in silence
 Both are equally polite
 Just with a different essence

Mounted now and ready to ride
 All is good to start
 A riding programme true and tried
 Assistance from the heart
 Games are played for fun and skill
 Learning all the while
 Whatever action fits the bill
 For a riders unique style

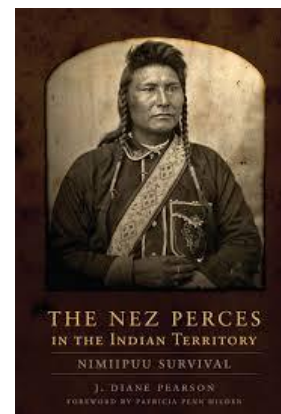
Dismount now and pat your horse
 Give thanks to helpers too
 The day is over – but of course
 We promise to be true
 RDA will help you here
 Gain confidence and trust
 With horses we hold most dear
 And our helpers – they're a must

With gratitude to all who volunteer -
 hands on with horses, maintenance work,
 gardening, fund-raising and so much more



did you know....

The Appaloosa.....a spotted horse said to be the oldest identifiable breed in the world today. Ancient paintings found on the walls of Ice Age caves of Central Europe depict the images of these horses. Archaeologists estimate they were created about 18,000bc. long before the dawn of recorded history. The Spanish conquistadors took spotted horses through Mexico and South America. They were prized by the Nez Perce Indians of Washington, Oregon and Idaho, who developed and improved the breed. They called them palouse horses after the name of an Idaho river. The breed has a variety of coat patterns and no two horses are ever the same. The Australian Appaloosa Association, based in Tamworth NSW was formed in 1972. To be registered as an Appaloosa, a horse needs to have a white sclera – the area of the eye surrounding the iris-, the skin should be mottled and the hooves must be marked with vertical black and white stripes.



Sunday Telegraph 20 May 2018

Snowy brumbies to be heritage listed

Famous Snowy
brumby Paleface
and a foal from
his mob in the
national park.
Picture: Judy
Goggin

EXCLUSIVE

LINDA SILMALIS
CHIEF REPORTER

THEY were made famous in the Banjo Paterson poem "The Man from Snowy River", now the brumbies in the Snowy Mountains are to be given legal recognition as part of Australia's heritage.

In an unprecedented move by the state government to stop the slaughter of thousands of wild horses, Nationals leader John Barilaro and Environment Minister Gabrielle Upton will introduce the so-called "brumbies bill" into Parliament next week to set the framework for giving the horses legal protection.

Culling, which is underway in the Kosciuszko National Park to protect its fragile environment, will be halted with a "wild horse community advisory panel" comprising ministerial, animal welfare, tourism, indigenous, environment and community representatives to be established to conduct a re-count of the population.

Horses found to be having an environmental impact will be relocated to less-sensitive areas of the park with the committee to advise on non-lethal methods, such as fertility control, of reducing numbers.

The new laws will require Ms Upton to prepare a "heritage management plan" for the brumbies which will identify areas within the National Park where populations will be maintained, while setting management rules.

Mr Barilaro, said the primary focus of the committee would be rehoming with a national marketing campaign to be launched to encourage members of the public to adopt a brumby.

The proposed new laws put in question moves by the state government's NSW Threatened Species Scientific Committee this month to legally list the horse population as a "key threatening process" to native wildlife.

But Mr Barilaro, whose electorate of Monaro includes the much-loved Kiandra brumby mob led by grey

stallion "Paleface", said the horses had a place in the park, having roamed the Australian Alps for almost 200 years while becoming "part of the cultural fabric and folklore of the high country".

"The heritage management plan will specifically prohibit lethal culling of the brumby, aerial or otherwise, and will identify those areas in the park where brumbies can roam without causing significant environmental harm," Mr Barilaro said.

"If brumbies are found in highly sensitive alpine areas of Kosciuszko National Park, resources will be allocated towards relocation first, followed by rehoming, should population numbers grow too high.

"I have always opposed cruel forms of culling and have advocated for non-lethal ways of managing

brumby numbers. Kosciuszko National Park exists to protect the unique environment of the Snowy Mountains, and that unique environment includes wild brumbies."

The exact number of horses in the park has been the subject of heated debate with locals challenging the figure of 6000 as put forward by an Independent Technical Reference Group set up by the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service to guide the future management of the horses.

The existing draft five-year Kosciuszko National Park Wild Horse Management Plan had recommended reducing that figure by 90 per cent, leaving about 600 horses in the park, based on "serious concerns" of the impact the brumbies were having on the unique alpine reserve.

The 6900sq km Kosciuszko park is the largest national park in NSW and one of the largest conservation reserves in Australia, containing the sole true mainland alpine zone.