



Riding for the Disabled Association NSW

"Bits 'n' Pieces"

SPRING/SUMMER 2018



From my Desk

CONGRATULATIONS to :

State Worksafe Award Winner -_RDA(NSW) for "Excellence in Workplace Health & Safety Culture"

Centre for Volunteering - Regional Finalists: JAN PIKE, EO of RDA(NSW) "Administrator of the Year " category and DOREEN O'CONNOR ,Cootamundra Centre "Senior Volunteer of the Year" category.

We have had a very productive year both at Board and Centre levels. Training and delivery is what we strive for at RDA and it is very exciting to see the interest and enthusiasm for learning at all levels.

2019 AGM/Administration Workshop – Plans are well on the way to take this Meeting out 'west' to support the Towns in drought areas.

New Constitution – was passed at the 2018 AGM. To communicate and discuss Centre issues, a 'State Network Committee' (SNC) has been formed comprising the Board and Regional Representatives.

NDIS/NDIA:- We are appointing a person to investigate and implement procedures for RDA(NSW)'s involvement in NDIS.

WWCC: We are on track with our Volunteers all having WWCC Clearance.

Communications website host is David Clayton of Digital Guru.

Video Conferencing Licence (via Zoom conferencing) is in place.

State Dressage Championships - It was an honour_and a privilege to be invited to present trophies at this event held at SIEC.

Our State Office is working very proficiently with Lucy at the helm who is only too happy to hear from everyone and answer any calls that come her way.

Special thanks to all the enthusiastic people who take the time to place such interesting and informative bits 'n' pieces for our "Bits 'n' Pieces". This communication plays a vital role in RDA and is only achievable by all the snippets of information sent to Lyn for publication. Big thanks to Lyn who volunteers her precious time to make it all happen.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I wish all in RDA(NSW)

a

VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS and a HAPPY and PRODUCTIVE 2019

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

Yours in RDA,

Margaret Norman OAM

Hon. Director/Chairperson

FROM THE CENTRES

CENTRAL COAST

RDA - FAR REACHING

As told by Jennifer, a Life Member of Central Coast Centre

Almost fifty years ago in Jersey, Channel Islands, a friend told me she was starting a Riding for the Disabled group and she needed 'horse' people to help. Already flourishing on the island was Pony Club, BSJA, drag hunting, racing etc., so this seemed an ideal addition to the horse activities. I was a riding instructor, horse owner and competitor. I related to an activity that gave my beloved equines a chance to enhance the lives of people with a disability by giving them pleasure and mobility. Friends had organised facilities and mounts and the riders were introduced to their new friends – two and four-legged. They then enjoyed a gentle ride around the outdoor arena. We were all surprised at how joyful the occasion was.

This happy afternoon was the start of the RDA group in Jersey.

We catered for some adult riders but mostly local school children. We worked at different venues three times a week and were very grateful to those who lent ponies and facilities. RDA examiners came over from England to advise the committee and to train me as a Coach. I attended training courses at different RDA groups in England, educational and enjoyable. A while later the group bought two ponies and a float which I looked after on our farm. The first pony was "Sir James", a very bright and much loved Welsh pony. Hotel L' Horizon sponsored our next pony. He was called "L' Horizon Danny". On one special occasion, our President and "Sir James" walked into the smart reception area of the hotel to be presented with "Danny's" sponsorship money. The newspaper photo that followed was of a handsome and relaxed furry presence standing happily amongst the humans!

A highlight was when a local horse show put on a class for the best RDA mount. So many riders turned up, we had to appeal over the loudspeaker for help to lend and lead suitable animals. It became a very big class. There was much applause from appreciative spectators.

Our Patron, Princess Anne, met riders and volunteers when she visited Jersey to open a new complex at the Gerald Durrell Wildlife Park. She had requested RDA's presence and we were all thrilled to meet her.

I have been attending CCCRDA since 1988 and from the first visit, I felt at home.

I remain a passionate supporter and have no limitations when telling others about the benefits of RDA and its great work. I have experienced obvious differences between the Jersey group (many years ago) and this Centre. The main aim however is the same...



RIDING DEVELOPS ABILITIES

NARRABRI

8 | SOCIAL NEWS

RDA open day

The Narrabri branch of Riding for the Disabled held an open day on Monday, August 27 at the showgrounds.

For riders and horses it was business as usual, as they walked, trotted, completed obstacle courses or rode in the specially adapted, wheel-chair friendly carriage.

However, parents, carers and visitors were able to watch and chat with the volunteers, riders and each other on the day, before a barbecue at 1pm.

Riders come from Narrabri, Wee Waa and Moree to participate in horse related activities, which include carriage driving, riding horses, riding through bending poles and other obstacle courses or over small jumps. Sessions are held once a fortnight from May until September.

Some of the riders are led on a rein, while others are able to ride independently.

Jordan Girard, from Moree, has been coming to RDA for five years now. Her carer, Anna Stanley said she chose RDA because she loves horses.

Another keen rider, Wee Waa High School student, Elizabeth Horne, has been riding with RDA since she was in Year One. She loves coming and it has improved her confidence.



Elizabeth Horne on Tin Eddie.

"I like trotting and walking," said Elizabeth.

RDA is staffed by volunteers, who help with caring for the horses, saddling up and preparing the riders as well as the host of administrative and other tasks.

The organisation is privileged to have two accredited coaches with many years of experience on their team.

Irene Hobden has over forty years of experience in teaching riding, and has been with Narrabri RDA since 2000, after moving here from Adelaide.

She wanted to continue her involvement with horses and instruction, so chose to join RDA.

"We're one big happy family," she said, "these activities may not seem much to us, but they mean a lot to the riders."

The other coach is Trish Leitch, who also has many years of coaching experience.

Narrabri High School students also volunteer their time with the organisation.

"It's a fun thing to do, and you learn a lot," said Year 10 student, Sara Charles.

The Open Day barbecue was catered for by the Maules Creek Campdraft Committee, many of whom are also involved with RDA.



Luke Stewart riding Paint and Jasmine Smith.



Former volunteer John Barton and coach Irene Hobden.

BELOW: Kerrie Baumann and coach Trish Leitch.



ABOVE: Maules Creek Campdraft committee and Riding for the Disabled representatives: back, Sally Clarke, Jill Clarke, Ian Devine, Lloyd Finlay, Clive Richardson and Grata Richardson, front, Kylie Finlay, Tom Clarke and Anne Bullen.



LEFT, NARRABRI HIGH SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS: Colby Davies, Brock Davies, Jordana Winter and Sara Charles with Snip.

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TAMWORTH



Lucy Pentony
Riding for the Disabled Association (NSW)
Quad 1, Level 2,
8 Parkview Drive
Sydney Olympic Park,
NSW 2127
Australia

1st August 2018

Dear Lucy

RDA National Championships 13th — 15th July 2018

Thank you so much for submitting entries to this year's RDA UK National Championships.

I am pleased to report that once again the event was a great success with over 500 participants taking part in the multi discipline event featuring dressage, carriage driving, showing, vaulting, showjumping, arts & crafts, musical ride and countryside challenge. For the first time this year we were also able to include endurance and a pairs dressage class.

Please find enclosed the rosettes and scoresheets for the two entries that you submitted for the musical ride competition. I would be so grateful if you could pass these on to the riders concerned. As always we would welcome entries from you again for next year's event. 2019 is our 50th Anniversary so I'm sure there will be plenty of celebrations going on!

Thank you again for supporting this event.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Hadley'.

Sara Hadley

National Championships Secretary

01926 405967

shadley@rda.org.uk



**MUSICAL DRILL RIDE/CARRIAGE DRIVE - SCHOOL MOVEMENTS TO
MUSIC DVD COMPETITION 2018**

JUDGES MARK SHEET – REGIONAL/FINAL (please circle)

GROUP: NSW Tamworth

TITLE: When you are smiling

CLASS NO. 23 RIDE/CARRIAGE DRIVE (please circle)

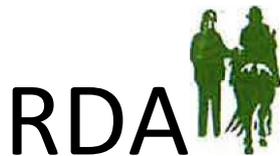
JUDGE 1: A. Conroy JUDGE 2: H. Curran JUDGE 3: K. Armitage

JUDGES NOTES	COMMENTS	TOTAL	
<p><u>INTRODUCTION</u> - is this clear, concise and suitable? Competitors should introduce themselves individually, when possible.</p>		10	
<p><u>TURNOUT</u> — Turnout and co-ordination of dress of riders/drivers & helpers.</p> <p>Turnout and condition of horses</p>		10	
<p><u>CONTENT OF PROGRAMME</u> - Choice of patterns & movements.</p> <p>Involvement of riders/carrriage drivers and helpers. Accuracy, interpretation, enjoyment & ingenuity with which the ride/carrriage drive is performed.</p>		15	
<p><u>QUALITY OF FILMING</u> - Is the filming clear and inclusive of the <u>whole</u> ride.</p> <p>Does it include some close ups.</p>		10	
<p><u>DISPLAY AS ENTERTAINMENT</u> - Overall impression of the display as a whole as entertainment value.</p>		15	

<u>SUITABILITY OF MUSIC</u> - Is the music clear, suitable and well chosen?		10	
TOTAL SCORE BEFORE DEDUCTIONS IF ANY		100	70
MARKS TO DEDUCT H&S — minus 3 marks for each contravention of RDA H&S	oli		
FINAL SCORE			

RIDE/C.DRIVE.....

GENERAL REMARKS: *Good drill ride, good use of small arena, well ridden.*



JUDGES NOTES	COMMENTS	TOTAL	
<u>INTRODUCTION</u> - is this clear, concise and suitable? Competitors should introduce themselves individually, when possible.	<i>lovely introduction Competitors not introduced</i>	10	5
<u>TURNOUT</u> — Turnout and co-ordination of dress of riders/drivers & helpers. Turnout and condition of horses		10	
<u>CONTENT OF PROGRAMME</u> - Choice of patterns & movements. Involvement of riders/carriage drivers and helpers. Accuracy, interpretation, enjoyment & ingenuity with which the ride/carriage drive is performed.		10 15	6
<u>QUALITY OF FILMING</u> - Is the filming clear and inclusive of the <u>whole</u> ride. Does it include some close ups.		10 10	6

<u>DISPLAY AS ENTERTAINMENT</u> - Overall impression of the display as a whole as entertainment value.		15	
<u>SUITABILITY OF MUSIC</u> - Is the music clear, suitable and well chosen?			10
TOTAL SCORE BEFORE DEDUCTIONS IF ANY		100	
MARKS TO DEDUCT H&S — minus 3 marks er each contravention of RDA H&S oli			
FINAL SCORE			

~~RIDE/DRIVE~~.....

GENERAL REMARKS: *Most enjoyable musical Ride we all loved Stormy and he brought a smile to all the riders faces.*

The A to z of Equestrian Snippets

Reprinted with permission of the Hills & Hawkesbury Equestrian News

A: appaloosa

B: *Budiansky, Stephen*

Author of "The nature of Horses: their Evolution, Intelligence and Behaviour".

This book explains the mystery of the animal using insights of modern science. What does it mean to be a horse? What are they trying to tell us when they stamp their feet and snort? Do they talk to each other? What makes a winning race horse? In this book, published in 1977, Budiansky tells the story of the horse's origins, behaviour, intelligence and language.

C: "Comanche"

D.

E.

F.

G.

TAMWORTH

We have indeed had a very busy and successful 2018 at our Centre. One of the highlights was winning the Musical Ride in the RDA NSW competition and then having it entered in the United Kingdom International Competition in which we took out the first place - what a great achievement and thrill for our four riders Kelly, Sarah, Caitlyn and Nikki who all received a lovely red rosette. We also entered some dressage competitions for the first time, one here locally which The Tamworth Dressage Club put on at The Australian Livestock and Equine Event Centre. Following this our riders and horses travelled to Sydney to take part in the RDA NSW Dressage Event. This indeed was a great effort on the part of so many volunteers and clients who travelled with the horses to Sydney for the four days. Our four riders Samantha, Kelly, Sarah and Nikki performed so well coming home with lots of ribbons. We were very lucky to have had the services of Joey Dernee-Mannion who volunteered her expertise in dressage to give our riders a bit of extra coaching for these events.



DRESSAGE

We also have had a great year with all our other clients who turn up each Thursday with their carers or teachers for their riding and carriage activities, all of these are making such great progress in so many ways. One of these is Scotty who so enjoys his ride on the horse and then his cart and sulky rides. Scotty brightens everyones day both volunteers and fellow clients with his wonderful personality and infectious smile he is such a joy to have around and to see the absolute delight he gets out of his sessions with us is wonderful for us all.



SCOTTY

After regretfully having to retire out three of our great faithful horses “Gypsy” and Fussy” and “Addi” we acquired some new horses in the last few months. “Milo” a beautiful 13 hands brown part welsh gelding, “George” 16 hands gentle chestnut gelding and “Chloe” 15 hands standard bred grey mare. “Milo” as well as our other small pony “Sam” are now proving to be great little



“MILO”



“SAM”

all-rounder pony “Gonzo”, one of our carriage horses was accredited by Reigh McCoy through the year, giving us another horse now to back “Harry” up and, they now share the work load which is great. Together with our little sulky pony “Star” they make a great harness team. Congratulations to Stan Day our assistant whip who attained his full Whip certificate.



“GONZO” CHECKING OUT STAN’S CERTIFICATE

Celine Simon joined us early in the year. She had been an Assistant Coach at Richmond and had relocated to Tamworth. It is great to have Celine as part of our team. Unfortunately, we lost the services of McCarthy Catholic High School students this year - they have been coming to us for a long time and they are very much missed. They were a lovely lot of young people who have helped us for a lot of years. We are most grateful to them and the school for such a long-time commitment to us. We have been lucky enough to have some of the Farrer Agricultural School students come on board and Oxley High still continue to come, all such a help.

We were asked to do three major fund raisers this year as well as our regular Bunnings Sausage Sizzles. One was held at one of our volunteer and Vice President Deb Figuera's place in a wonderful setting among the gum trees behind her lovely old restored home which was the original Post Office at Currabubla where we did a BBQ lunch for The Vintage Motor Bike Club who were doing a fun ride around the outlying areas and ended up there for lunch before heading back to Tamworth. The other one was also a BBQ for Furneys Stock Feeds which was held at the race course in conjunction with a race meeting - a great day in spite of races being called off after the third race because of some heavy down pours which was quite ironic as we are in the middle of the worst drought. Can you believe it!!! We also gave pony rides for TEAS Abattoir who were having a big fun day to celebrate 20 years anniversary. What a busy day this turned out to be with so many young ones wanting pony rides and carriage rides. As usual some of our great volunteers, including Coaches and Whips were on hand to help with them all.



BBQ AT DEB'S PLACE

Sadly, Gordon, husband of Jill Laidlaw, our long-time Coach and Secretary, passed away in July. Our very greatest sympathy to Jill and her family. Gordon was very well known and respected for his volunteering work for The Miniature Trains Club who supported RDA in many ways over the years. Unfortunately, we also lost one of long-time clients, Guy, who also died in July. Guy, who came with a group from Barraba was such a great character and everyone loved him. In his early days with us he used to ride one of the horses but then in later years he just wanted to groom one of the little horses, "Buttons" or "Addi".

Deb Figuera and Annette Miller were asked to give a talk and show a promotional video for The Country Women's Club in conjunction with a luncheon. Everyone was so interested to hear and see all we did and they gave a donation to RDA.

Some of our completed new developments for the year are a concrete path from the club house to the carriage area for better wheel chair access, a concrete wash bay at the stable area and shelter shed for volunteers and clients at the carriage driving area. Extra work has

also been carried out around the club house verandah to make it more secure and safe for the clients while waiting to mount horses. We have also installed a water s
ystem for our arena and purchased equipment to rake the arena. A Heart/Start Defibrillator has been purchased with a 50% grant from the NSW Department of Sport and the remainder funded by the Crosby Foundation.

We are just so grateful and consider our Centre very lucky to receive such great support and help from service clubs, business houses the local community and our volunteers who make it possible for us to be able to complete these projects.

We have at present 10 RDA horses and we are most grateful to the people who bring in other horses and ponies when needed.

Our volunteers get great satisfaction from seeing all the little improvements of the clients and enjoyment and pleasure to see the happy smiles and faces on Thursdays and the friendship of fellow volunteers. A group of about 25 of us including partners got together during the last holidays for a very enjoyable lunch at one of the local venues.

We will be finishing up for the year on the last Thursday of November followed by our Annual Christmas Party the following week.

*We wish RDA NSW and all our Centres
a great finish to 2018
and hope and pray so much
for good rain to come for everyone.*

Gillian Rosewarne
Publicity Officer
RDA Tamworth Centre



Orange



Lucy Pentony
Riding for the Disabled Association (NSW)
Quad 1, Level 2,
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Thank you again for supporting this event.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Sara Hadley'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sara Hadley

National Championships Secretary
01926 4059



RI

MUSICAL DRILL RIDE/CARRIAGE DRIVE - SCHOOL MOVEMENTS MUSIC DVD COMPETITION 2018

JUDGES MARK SHEET – REGIONAL/FINAL (please circle)

GROUP: NSW Orange Colma

TITLE: The Goodwin's Gaily

CLASS NO. 23 RIDE/CARRIAGE DRIVE (please circle)

JUDGE: A. Conner JUDGE2: H. Richardson JUDGE3: J. Conner JUDGE4: I. Aeh



JUDGES NOTES	COMMENTS	TOTAL	
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<p><u>QUALITY OF FILMING</u> - Is the filming clear and inclusive of the <u>whole</u> ride. Does it include some close ups.</p>		10 10	
<p><u>DISPLAY AS ENTERTAINMENT</u> - Overall impression of the display as a whole as entertainment value.</p>		15	

SUITABILITY OF MUSIC - Is the music clear, suitable and well chosen?			10
TOTAL SCORE BEFORE DEDUCTIONS IF ANY		100	
MARKS TO DEDUCT H&S — minus 3 marks er each contravention of RDA H&S oli			
FINAL SCORE			

RIDE/DRIVE.....

GENERAL REMARKS: *Most enjoyable musical Ride we all loved Stormy and he brought a smile to all the riders faces.*

A stubborn horse walks behind you, an impatient horse walks in front of you, but a noble companion walks beside you.



www.thevetshed.com.au

TUMUT

The R.D.A

The R.D.A is in Boondaroo Road
in the Whitaker Centre it's true
It is a very friendly place
For those disabled who want to ride
There's Margot and Clare and Judy
To help you on your horse
And other volunteers to lead you
round a course
The horses are regular gi-gi's
There's Pebbles and Milo and Storm
To mention just a few
And the course isn't very hazardous
If the volunteers lead you through
I come to R.D.A. each Thursday
And others do as well
They make you very welcome
And morning tea is swell
My pony Storm of brumby stock
As black as black can be
But I don't mind how he looks
As long as he carries me.

By John Osbourne.



John and "Storm"

Cowra

COWRA CENTRE RIDERS COMPETE AT LOCAL SHOWS

Riding for the Disabled (NSW) Cowra Centre was pleased this year to be able to again offer its riders the chance to participate in the local Cowra Agricultural Show.

Last year saw some of our RDA Cowra riders compete at the Cowra Show for the first time when the show committee added a range of assisted rider classes to the programme and approached RDA to see if we could support our riders in participating in these events.

One of our riders, Felicity Weal, had already competed successfully in events at the local Canowindra Show in September. Felicity, who joined the RDA programme this year, used her regular RDA horse, "Nina" to compete with great success at Canowindra, taking out the Champion Rider with a Disability.

Felicity teamed up again with "Nina" at Cowra Show to win the Rider with a Disability over 17 years. Felicity is an experienced rider, having competed over many years at Pony Club and shows with ponies and stock horses prior to a farming accident last year which means she is now in a wheelchair. She is very much enjoying getting back to riding horses and competing again.

RDA Cowra had eight riders competing at the Cowra Show on Sunday 14 October. As you can imagine, there was a large amount of preparation and organization necessary for this to happen. Our great team of volunteers helped to make it all happen – from washing and preparing our RDA horses to look their best on the day, to cleaning gear, transporting the necessary equipment to the showground and of course, assisting our riders on the day. The big smiles from our riders – and their family members there to support them – made it all worthwhile. All our riders took home a number of ribbons in the different events and their pride and enjoyment was evident.

Thanks must also go the Cowra Pony Club who generously lent our riders jodphurs and other riding apparel.

RDA Cowra is planning to support our riders in competing at the local shows again in 2019.



Layla

AT "TALL TIMBERS"

Layla has been riding with RDA "Tall Timbers" for one year now and has gained so much from this fantastic, professional organisation.

Layla was diagnosed with episodic Ataxia amongst other disorders as a baby. Her balance, coordination and muscle strength have all been affected as a result.

The programme that Layla is participating in is tailored to help improve all these weaknesses. We have seen such a fantastic change in Layla not just physically but mentally as well. Her communication has flourished and confidence around both the horses and people is heart-warming to watch.

Layla's improvement has superseded all our expectations and we are so very grateful to both the employees and volunteers for all they do to make our little girl smile.

Lorell,
Layla's Mum

"Tall Timbers"



NOTE: Layla also featured in a "Through the Window" segment of an episode of Playschool. You can watch it on ABC iview. Playschool: Through the Windows: Move your Body: Horse Riding.

VOLUNTEER WEEK AT RDA (NSW) “TALL TIMBERS”

VOLUNTEER WEEK - I volunteer because ...

...I strongly believe that the work RDA specifically does is of tremendous benefit to the children. I adore working with the horses, the environment, the passion of all who work and volunteer here, the happy social interaction, the care taken of the volunteers and their well-being. My day spent at Tall Timbers fills me with joy and is one of the highlights of my week.

...the feelings and usefulness I feel is fabulous – to make a difference in another person’s life is gratifying.

...I like to have contact with other similar people and also the ponies. The children are an added bonus.

... I love to work with children and horses and because I am valued by the organisation and have met a group of like-minded people who are fun to be with.

... I want to do something to enhance the lives of those who are disabled or aged. The benefits are twofold – help for someone in need and the care and love that’s shown by fellow volunteers.

...it gets me out of the house.

... it’s rewarding to see the impact we can have on people by the little things we do. It’s amazing to see the skills grow.

...seeing the joy in the children by teaching and improving their skills.

... it’s an amazing way to meet some incredible people who share the same passion for giving back and helping and seeing the smile on the kid’s face.

... it’s amazing to see how much joy these horses bring to the kids. So rewarding – can’t think of a better way to spend my Saturday mornings.

...my sister did RDA and seeing her so happy I want to volunteer to replace the time by doing something that makes me happy and the fact that I love working with kids with disabilities and to see them so, so happy.

... originally, we came for the horses, but have stayed for the kids. Working with these incredible children is truly amazing. To be part of their journeys at RDA is such a privilege. The smiles on their faces makes ours even bigger! Every single person in this amazing facility are remarkable in the way they selflessly give. Thank you everyone.



RIVERSTONE PUBLIC SCHOOL AT RDA (NSW) “TALL TIMBERS” CENTRE

by

Indira Reddy, Teacher

It has been an amazing experience for six fortunate students from Riverstone Public School, some of whom have never been horse-back riding before and can barely wait until Friday afternoon each week. While the rest of our students back at school are engaged in Peer Support activities, Alasdair, Mankaran, Jayden, Tobi, Domenik and Christina are practising their riding techniques at the RDA Centre in Box Hill.



Riding for the Disabled Association, ‘Tall Timbers’ Box Hill, is run by a group of dedicated volunteers who show endless patience and kindness towards the children and their horses. Their expertise in teaching the skills involved in riding is highly regarded by both parents and teachers alike.

We attended an orientation day at the beginning of last semester and since then, haven’t looked back. The same smiling faces greet us every week as we walk slowly towards the arena, filled with excitement and anticipation. It is pleasing to see the efforts made to ensure a safe and aesthetically pleasing environment for our children. The students are always welcomed warmly by the volunteers before getting ready with riding boots and helmets. They are taught safe mounting and dismounting procedures, balance, posture, how to follow verbal instructions, steering and many other riding skills through play and fun games.

Each rider has a leader who follows instructions from a coach. When the weather is especially warm the riders are taken on a course across the many paddocks and past the dam at the centre. They enjoy chatting informally with their leaders as they look out for local wildlife. The lessons always end with a ‘Rider of the Week’, selected by the coach. The student then gets to choose a trophy and a certificate for outstanding riding skills that week.

Friday is the best day of the week for these six students who are gaining first-hand experience and insight into a totally different world; a world where they will no doubt develop a mutually respectful partnership with these ‘gentle giants’. Not long to wait... Friday is just around the corner!



I'm on a committee

Oh, give me your pity, I'm on a committee
Which means from morning to night, we attend, and amend, and contend, and defend,
Without a conclusion in sight.
We confer and concur, we defer and demur,
And re-iterate all of our thoughts;
We revise the agenda with frequent addenda,
And consider a load of reports.
We compose and propose, we suppose and oppose,
And the points of procedure are fun!
But though various notions are brought up as motions,
There's terribly little gets done.
We resolve and absolve but we never dissolve,
Since it's out of the question for us.
What a shattering pity to end our committee,
Where else could we make such a fuss.



Author unknown

Ryde

Northern Times August 1 2018

“do something day”



Roxy Reynolds, 6, rides “Dimity”, led by Linda Power

Photo by Troy Snook



RIDING FOR DISABLED IS A 'SMILE FACTORY'

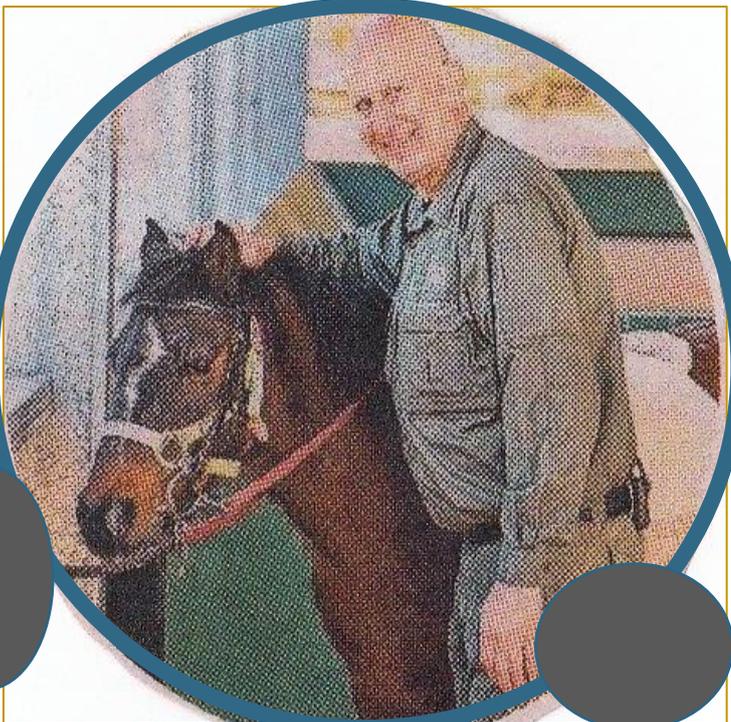
RON Marton is one of about 120 people who give their time to help at Riding for the Disabled Ryde's stables.

"We have a saying here, 'another day, another miracle'," he said.

"The main aim of every volunteer is to put a smile on every face. We like to call it a smile factory."

Mr Marton (inset) is one of the sidewalkers, who walk along the horse and rider and ensure safety. Then there are the coaches; they have studied horse mastership, safety and first aid, and oversee the rider activities.

While Mr Marton has given plenty of his time to the cause, he said he had received much satisfaction from it. "It's not only therapy for the kids, it's therapy for all us volunteers as well," he said.



IT'S HORSES FOR FORCES

THE WORLD'S OLDEST MOUNTED POLICE UNIT IS STILL RIDING HIGH
WRITES JANET FIFE-YEOMANS



Mounted police officer Patrick Condon and his horse Prince and (below left) fellow officer Chloe Green with Angus at the unit's Redfern HQ. Picture: Richard Dobson

Daily Telegraph, Saturday November 10 2018

INSIDE SYDNEY

YOU can take the boy out of the bush but you can't take him out of the saddle.

Chris Stiles has gone from stock riding on his parents' cattle and dairy farm to head of NSW's "Mounties", the world's oldest continuous mounted police unit.

"The riding instruction in those days from my dad was 'don't fall off', whereas today the riders are highly trained and skilled," Chief Inspector Stiles, 61, said yesterday.

While the NSW Police Force's patrol cars are full of the latest technology, walking into the Mounted Unit's stables at Redfern it is like entering a zone where time has stood still.

The only hi-tech things around here are body-worn video cameras and MobiPol, mobile phones with built-in GPS so the horses and riders can be tracked during riot and crowd-control operations.

There's still the grooming and mucking out to do by hand for the 34 horses.

The iconic unit was formed in 1825 to hunt down bushrangers. It was founded three years before the London metropolitan police launched its mounted branch, and 38 years before the famous Canadian Mounties saddled up for the first time.

Being its boss entails more than the day-to-day running of the unit. There is also its legacy and legend to protect.

At its height, there were 800 Mounties with 900 horses stationed across the state riding out to capture crooks like the infamous Captain Moonlite, aka Andrew Scott, who was caught after a shootout that killed one Mountie. Captain Moonlite was hanged at Darlinghurst Jail in 1880.

Insp Stiles admits he "absolutely" has a hankering for the romantic days when the Mounties went off with a pack



Mounted troopers who caught bushranger Captain Moonlite in 1879 (left), and (right) on patrol today.



saddle into the bush for a few days.

The last officer to do that was Trooper Stewart Thompson, stationed at Bellbrook, who as late as 1961 was still heading out with his wife Joan and his dog to camp under the stars and search for missing stock. Mr Thompson is still telling his tales of the bush as a volunteer taking tours around the Redfern stables.

For Insp Stiles, it's a dream job.

He describes himself as a "shortie" as well as a "Mountie".

After studying dairy farming and horse management at Tocal Agricultural College, he was only able to join the police in 1987 — aged 29 — when the height restriction was reduced from 178cm. He was 170cm.

"I had been working on the family dairy farm but I always had a desire to work in law enforcement," Insp Stiles said.

His career took him from Sutherland to Waverley and Walgett to looking after police in witness protection and back out to the bush at Moree where there were nine police stations in his region including two of the most isolated, Garah and Boomi, which were still one-person stations.

At Moree he was the first officer to be given the Moree Murri Gaba Nginda Corroboree Award as the non-indigenous community member of the year.

"I am only as good as the team," he said.

At the Mounted Unit, he has the best of all worlds although he doesn't get to ride out with the troops, just around the stables.

The Mounties' role was slowly reduced when cars came along and they were reduced to doing point duty.

Today, the core functions

carried out by mounted police officers including Chloe Green (pictured left) and Patrick Condon, are crowd control, ceremonial duties and community engagement. His favourite horse, Rommel, 800kg and 17 hands high, is always a crowd favourite.

"People who wouldn't talk to a police officer will pat a police horse so they can break down barriers." Most of the horses are now tough Clydesdale crosses but they used to be thoroughbreds like 1978 Melbourne Cup winner Arwon.

Insp Stiles said the Mounties do everything their fellow officers do, including stopping vehicles for RBTs — although they leave the chases to the patrol cars.

Among the civilians helping out at the stables is Ed the cat, who was adopted as a stray.

"He earns his way by keeping the rodents at bay," Insp Stiles said.





ANOTHER YEAR IS COMING TO A CLOSE SO I WOULD LIKE TO, FIRSTLY, THANK ALL CENTRES WHO CONSISTENTLY CONTRIBUTE TO THE RDA NSW NEWSLETTER "BITS 'N PIECES"

I WAS A VOLUNTEER AT RDA RYDE CENTRE FOR SOME FIFTEEN YEARS WHEN THE CENTRE WAS AT THE RYDE REHABILITATION CENTRE, AND ON AND OFF OVER THE YEARS I DID STINTS AT STATE OFFICE, SO I DO ENJOY CATCHING UP ON WHAT IS HAPPENING AT OUR CENTRES IN NSW

SECONDLY, I WOULD LIKE TO WISH EVERYONE, VOLUNTEERS, BOARD MEMBERS, PAID STAFF, RIDERS, SUPPORTERS AND ALL THE BEAUTIFUL MUCH - LOVED HORSES, WITHOUT WHICH RDA COULD NOT OPERATE,

A

Very Happy Christmas

AND A

Happy New Year

I LOOK FORWARD TO 2019 AND ANOTHER YEAR OF NEWS FROM RDA NSW CENTRES

LYN LAZARUS

EDITOR

"BITS 'N' PIECES"