



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

# **2020 Annual Report**





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# About RDA (NSW)

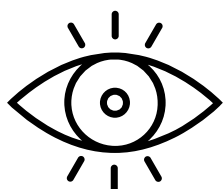
The primary objective of **Riding for the Disabled (NSW)** is to provide people with a disability, the opportunity to ride and drive and enjoy all the activities connected with horse riding. Riding for people with a disability is both therapeutic and recreational and **RDA (NSW)** is in fact one of the 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 39 Centres spread throughout NSW with 90% of Centres based in regional areas. The Centres cater for 1,700 riders annually and are supported by 1,500 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.

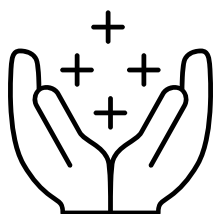
## Value Proposition

**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

### North West

Coonabarabran, Gunnedah, Narrabri,  
Armidale & New England

### North Coast

Ballina & District, Clarence Valley,  
Tweed Valley, Coffs Harbour

### Central West

Bathurst, Dubbo, Mudgee,  
Orange, Forbes

### Mid North Coast

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

### Hunter

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

### Riverina

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

### Metropolitan

Blue Mountains, Nepean,  
Ryde, Box Hill "Tall Timbers",  
Richmond

### Southern Highlands

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





## **Pearl Batchelor OAM (dec.)**

**Founder and Life Patron of RDA (NSW)**



# 5 Directors Reports





# Chairperson's Report

The year of 2020 -- As they say 'oh what a year it was...' for this year has been marred by the COVID -19 Pandemic. Reflecting over the year that's past, some Centres have been able to partially open, but the majority of Centres regrettably having to close until 2021.

Although there were no face-to-face meetings, we can be thankful with new technology for throughout our Association, the Board, our Committees and some Centres were able to meet via Teleconference. The State Network Committee (SNC) held 2 Meetings giving Directors and Regional Representatives the opportunity to provide support and address any issues that may arise between our Centres.

Our AGM/Workshops bring one of the most pleasurable times of the year for it is the one weekend when our members can get together to mingle with their fellow Volunteers and exchange ideas at both Committee and Coaching levels.

It was thrilling to see many Centres proudly displaying their Centre emblems in the virtual 'Banner Parade.'

New Members were welcomed to the Board, those being Janine Osland, Suzanne McDonnell and Wayne Gallagher in their role as Hon. Directors of this great Organisation. Due to work commitments, unfortunately Suzanne had to resign from the Board

Thanks to Olwen and Lucy for their outstanding efforts in hosting our first Virtual Zoom AGM Meeting.

I would also like to thank our legal advisor, Christopher Conolly, from HWL Ebsworth, for attending our AGM.

## **Congratulations to:**

Centres celebrating a milestone in RDA (NSW),

Winners of our State and Regional Awards - Please see a full list of winners in this Annual Report. Our volunteers, riders and horses continue to ensure the strength of RDA (NSW).

Over 2020 the Directors were kept busy ensuring our Centres and Volunteers were kept up to date on all aspects of operating this great Organisation.

NDIS continues its complexities for Directors, State Office, and our Centres. All information, is directed to Centres as soon as it comes to hand.

WWCC - Thanks to the continued negotiations between our State Office and all Centres, this program has been kept on track so far as possible during this pandemic year.

"Board Talk": is a summary of issues and decisions from Board Meetings and sent to Centres keeping members informed on current issues the Board has dealt with over the year.

On the competition front, our Rider's have not had the opportunity to participate in Mounted Games Championships, including Horse of the Year usually held at the Royal Easter Show, our Dressage Championships and Carriage Driving competitions. No doubt, they will all be looking forward to getting back to their activities in 2021.

In closing: On behalf of the Directors, I would like to send

out a BIG THANK YOU to all of those who are the cog in the wheels of our great Association, those being our: -

**Centres:** Although no Face-to-Face meetings were able to be held during 2020, many of our Committees were up to the challenge and held several virtual Meetings over the year keeping all aspects of our many programs up to date. Funding and sponsorship continue to be pursued on behalf of our Centres.

**Volunteers:** Have seen many challenges this year keeping everyone enthused especially with no Riding/Driving programs in place. As part of determining the future direction and requirements of RDA (NSW) in our governance review, the ability and resources available to support and encourage our volunteers is a foremost consideration as without our volunteers, RDA (NSW) would cease to exist.

**Riders:** This year has been especially stressful and disappointing for our Riders and Carriage Drivers. We can only hope 2021 will see them all return to their RDA sessions.

CASP have worked so hard making certain all Government notifications have been strictly adhered to and diligently keeping regular COVID -19 notifications to our Centres as soon as they come to hand. The Committee have also organised virtual workshops to see our Coaches and Assistant Coaches attain up to date essential information and, assisting many new Trainees currently working towards their trainee coach accreditation.

**Staff:** Lucy and Nicole for all their dedication and professionalism they put in to ensuring all proper information and documents are relayed to Directors, our Centres, Regional Reps and Disciplines

Judy Smith: our Bookkeeper who works tirelessly keeping our books in order.

Lyn Lazarus who has for many years published our 'Bits n Pieces' Newsletter, and Flyers for all types of events. Lyn also makes the 'theme' and judges our Drawing competition every year.





Last but certainly not least are the Directors for their tireless dedication and work they have put into the past year ensuring the duty of care has been taken at all times to see that the correct procedures have been followed by our Centres for the safety of our Volunteers and Riders. This year has only made our team a stronger unit.

They say - You can't please all the people all the time" BUT "The Board of Directors can attempt the impossible---it's "Miracles" that take a bit longer.

## Marketing Officer Report

As everyone has been saying 2020 has been an unprecedented year. It has disrupted and changed the way things that in January 2020 could not have possibly been thought of.

As I commenced my duties in early August it was sad that due to Covid the Horses Birthday Celebrations in most Centres was cancelled although some Centres were able to celebrate via a Zoom party which I was delighted to attend. We look forward to our celebrations in 2021 where we can highlight and promote awareness of fantastic work within our Centres.

It has been agreed that as Marketing Office I will be setting up a Marketing Committee and we will be calling for volunteers with marketing experience to volunteer to be on this committee. Information will be sent out to all Centres so please watch this space.

## Development Officer Report

There have been some ups and downs through 2020. Two RDA Centres Clarence Valley RDA and Eurobodalla RDA sadly found they had to fold due to their individual reasons. Hopefully, circumstances may change so they can reform and restart.

Kendall RDA had to relocate from the showground to their new location. This meant a lot of work for the volunteers to dismantle their infrastructure, transport everything to the new location and reassemble. Such is the dedication shown by the Centre to provide for their riders. Well done!

All Members will have their own responses and reactions to this past year but I trust you will also feel you have been true to yourself and to your centres and to the whole of RDA(NSW). It is worth remembering that to be part of this great organisation, you need to tune into some positive energy.

Of course, I could not close without saying a huge THANK YOU to our loving dedicated horses for there would be no RDA without them

**Yours in RDA**  
**Margaret Norman OAM**  
**Hon. Director/Chairperson**

Racing NSW invited RDA (NSW) to be on their Charity recipients in the Golden Eagle Race held at Rosehill Racetrack where a donation was received. Jan Pyke and Tracy Lucas represented RDA (NSW) and met with Gai Waterhouse which was exciting and so wonderful of Gai Waterhouse to give us her time. Through this initiative we also received a personal donation from the owners of Just Thinkin who was our horse in the race.

A little bit of news off the ranks, we have been given a fantastic opportunity to work with Partners for Purpose on a pro bono basis to work on the Strategic Plan for 2021 to 2025. This is a great opportunity which will help give us a great foundation which will help our Centres and State Body to be able to have a strong platform to market and promote our wonderful organisation.

With the hiatus of 2020 behind us it is exciting look to 2021 and be able to promote RDA (NSW).

**Janine Osland**  
**Marketing Officer**

Another Centre that experienced a set back was Mudgee RDA, but with the 2 trainee Coaches achieving their Assistant Coach Certificates, they are powering onwards and upwards. They are expected to become a full Centre in the near future.

Forbes RDA Centre also have had to be relocated. However, as they have the full support of their local Council, they are being offered a new location at the saleyards. The council are offering to build all the infrastructure required for RDA to operate in a safe manner. This is such a fantastic offer which will revitalise RDA in the Forbes area.

**Olwen Smith**  
**Hon. Director/MPIO Officer/DO**


## A note from Jan Pike

As I leave the Board of RDA(NSW) I do so with mixed emotions. 2020 has been a very taxing year for all involved both on a business and personal level.

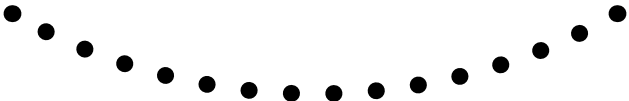
It has been my intention to provide the Association with as much support and assistance that I could possibly achieve. 2020 has given the opportunity to our volunteers across the State to display yet again their incredible tenacity and commitment to RDA(NSW) and to each other as a Team.

I sincerely hope in some way I can continue to contribute to RDA(NSW) in it's forthcoming journey.

**Jan Pike**  
**Executive Officer**



*Life* IS NOT  
ABOUT WAITING FOR  
THE STORM TO PASS  
BUT LEARNING TO  
DANCE IN THE RAIN



# CASP Report

The Coaching and Safety Panel had a very busy 2020 with some key challenges!

Plans for the year changed with the outbreak of COVID-19 and rather than beginning the year with a Trainee Workshop in North West NSW and planning a State Coaching workshop at Central Coast we were instead working out how we could keep everyone engaged with the organisation and provide support as we went along.

Our initial focus was to keep in touch with regular Zoom sessions that enabled personnel at all levels of the organisation to connect with others across the state. There was many topics discussed including how Coaches would need to adapt their session planning and of course the ever important networking that we were unable to do at the State Coaching workshop.

We also engaged with the Trainee's enabling them to participate in Zoom sessions where we would discuss the theory work involved in Coaching Riding programs and Carriage Driving. Understandably it wasn't possible for everyone to get involved but those that did enjoyed the opportunity to share their experiences and discuss procedures to develop understanding of what is involved in running RDA sessions.

Another big challenge for the Coaching and Safety Panel was of course creating the COVIDSafe Plan as part of our pandemic response. Reading legislation, keeping up to date with the daily changing environment and trying to predict the future all contributed to the COVIDSafe plan which ultimately enabled some Centres to recommence programs after the initial shutdown.

Outside of the Zoom Networking/Training sessions and the COVIDSafe Plan development and ongoing review activities, CASP also conducted internal reviews on our Training products, developed Risk Assessments for key areas, reviewed workbooks and resources and answered many questions throughout the year.

Our Assessors remained somewhat active with theory workbooks being marked throughout and completed Practical assessments before the COVID shutdown and at the end of the year when restrictions lifted and Centres were operating again. Each have been involved in Zoom sessions and finalised an upgrade to their TAE qualifications required for RTO requirements.

The RTO obligations were met with annual reporting and internal reviews conducted. Disruption to programs required us to report to ASQA that we were unable to meet the work placement and assessment component of our assessment practices. This has meant that we have had to hold back our full rollout of the Certificate III in Equine Therapy Programs for People with Disabilities. This will now rollout in 2021.

We did see a dramatic change in numbers of personnel in Centres across the organisation. At the end of 2020 we asked each Centre to register their Coaching & CD Personnel and this coupled with the finalisation of the audit of data in aXcelerate has identified some people that were still registered but not attending Centres. This has provided us with a clearer picture of the organisations capability and will inform our strategies moving forward.

We welcomed a new Assessor, Caroline Rogan (Coffs Harbour Centre) and welcomed a new member of CASP, Judy Edwards (RT&LH).

Our job is made easier with the support and understanding of everyone involved in the organisation. We strive to meet the needs at a Centre level while balancing the Legislative and Industry requirements for the organisation as a whole.

Thank you to everyone.

**Coaching and Safety Panel Members**  
**Wendy Torr (Chair), Joan Edwards, Mary Quirk,**  
**Jenny Wilkinson and Judy Edwards**

**RTO & Coaching Administration**  
**Nicole King**





## Grants Risk Management Officer Report

What an honor to have been able to assist our Centres and work alongside an amazing group of people.

Grants are a challenge to say the least but without them many of our Centres would not have what they do.

Talking and helping many Centres through the process of completing many pages of applications and attending Zoom/ Webex meetings to further my skills in order to be beneficial, has been very rewarding.

2021 will hopefully be an awesome year for our riders/horses and Centres. We have most certainly had some challenging times – Drought, Fires, COVID-19 and Floods. To see the smiles and hear the laughter and be apart of the tears has been a pleasure and I personally want to thank each and everyone involved in RDA (NSW), with out you there would be no RDA. Thank you to the directors for the commitment and passion for our riders and their Centres.

**Tracy Lucas**  
**Grants Risk Management Officer**

## Company Secretary

The role of the Company Secretary involves ensuring that a company, in this instance RDA (NSW), complies with all of its legal and regulatory requirements under the Corporations Act 2001 and under the company's Constitution. This also means ensuring that all necessary matters which are required by regulatory authorities are complied with as they fall due. This included such activities as:

- Applied to NSW Fair Trading for the renewal of the fundraising authority for RDA (NSW) and its Centres;
- Lodged Annual Information Statements (AIS) with the Australian Charities and Not for profit Commission (ACNC) to ensure that all Centres are able to retain their Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status;
- Negotiated extensions of time for the lodging of Centre AIS to ensure that a Centre does not lose its DGR status due to delays in the Centre sending its annual accounts to State Office,
- Ensured that all necessary fees and charges are paid to the relevant authorities;
- Applied for, and/or renewed, RDA (NSW) trading names of "Riding Develops Abilities" and "Riding Develops Abilities (NSW)";
- Liaised with the National Disability Insurance Agency regarding NDIS issues affecting RDA (NSW) and some of its Centres
- Corresponded with the NSW Office of Sport on various matters relating to RDA (NSW) and its Centres
- As needed, corresponded with the ATO re Franking Credit and BAS matters on behalf of the Bookkeeper,

In addition to the above, other matters dealt with during the year included such issues as:

- Reviewed leases and licences in respect of properties occupied by Centres. This included:

Reviewing the terms of leases as they are either issued or come up for renewal;

Dealing with landlords, whether they be local Councils, Government Authorities or Instrumentalities and solicitors who act for landowners;

Negotiating, where possible, terms of leases, including successfully greatly reducing the annual rate of increase of a Centre's licence fee, removal of onerous terms of a lease which would have adversely affected the operations of a Centre and ensuring that Centres were not disadvantaged under the terms of the lease.

- Reviewing the terms of, and cover provided by, insurance policies, including public liability and personal accident insurances taken out by RDA (NSW) to cover RDA (NSW) and its Centres, riders, volunteers and, in certain limited circumstances, horses
- When requested, giving assistance and/or advice to Centres on various matters including, for example, the Centre's obligations under the Centre Constitutions and various insurance issues (including liaising with the insurer).
- In conjunction with other Directors and the Finance Committee, ensuring that RDA (NSW) finances are used and protected in accordance with the requirements of the RDA (NSW) Constitution as well as both legal and regulatory requirements

**Joseph Orland**  
**Director/Co. Sec/Finance Officer**



## Finance Officer Report

The 2020 year was a difficult year for nearly everyone. RDA (NSW) and its Centres were no exception.

**Receipts** from RDA (NSW)'s main source of income, the Rider Registration Fee and related fees was down 70.03% based on actual receipts. The total amount would have been much worse if the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions were not reduced, allowing many Centres to resume riding towards the end of the year.

This reduction in receipts does not reflect substantial amounts that were refunded to Centres which had paid their Rider Registration Fees for the year but ended up not being able to conduct their activities for the year, either entirely or for most of the year. Centres in this position that did not want the money refunded asked for the amount involved to be credited to the Centres in respect of their proposed 2021 fees. This will result in a commensurate reduction in Rider Registration Fee receipts in the 2021 year.

On the income side, using the receipts from comparative operational entries in the 2019 year, income in the 2020 year was 16.2% of that for the previous year. However, there were amounts received by way of Government grants and JobKeeper which greatly offset this substantial reduction.

A substantial donation was made to RDA (NSW) by the Commonwealth Bank. Most of this amount was donated to Centres by the Board of RDA (NSW), with each Centre receiving an equal amount.

The net financial return on the share portfolio, including franking credits, is 4.66% on the net cost of the shares. While greatly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic's effect on the economy, this is considerably better than the current interest rates on the Association's term deposits and general bank accounts which are at historically low levels.

Due to the COVID-19 effect, some Centres, such as the financial sector, suffered substantial reductions in value, while other, in particular retail, resulted in substantial gains, which reduced the net loss of value. However, as the shares are held on capital account, and not revenue account, this does not affect the actual return on the investments, although they are recorded in the accounts.

The net rental return on the Association's investment in the Box Hill property was greatly diminished during the year because of substantial expenditures that were required to be undertaken on repairs to the house located on the property.

**Joseph Orland**  
Director/Co. Sec/Finance Officer

**RIDING FOR THE DISABLED ASSOCIATION (NSW)**  
**ABN: 50 001 823 267**

**FINANCIAL REPORT**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED**  
**31 DECEMBER 2020**

**Liability limited by a scheme approved under  
Professional Standards Legislation**



**RIDING FOR THE DISABLED ASSOCIATION (NSW)**  
**ABN: 50 001 823 267**

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**RIDING FOR THE DISABLED ASSOCIATION (NSW)**  
**ABN: 50 001 823 267**

**DIRECTORS' REPORT**

The directors present their report on the company for the financial year ended 31 December 2020.

**Information on Directors**

The names of each person who has been a director during the year and to the date of this report are:

Mr Wayne Gallagher (appointed 25 July 2020)  
Ms Tracy Lucas  
Ms Suzanne McDonnell (appointed 25 July 2020, resigned 25 September 2020)  
Mrs Margaret Norman OAM  
Mr Joseph Orland  
Ms Janine Osland (appointed 25 July 2020)  
Ms Janet Pike  
Ms Olwen Smith  
Ms Susan Turner-Davis (ceased 25 July 2020)

Directors have been in office since the start of the financial year to the date of this report unless otherwise stated.

**Operating Results**

The profit of the company after providing for income tax amounted to \$247,475.

**Significant Changes in the State of Affairs**

There have been no significant changes in the state of affairs of the Company during the year.

**Principal Activities**

The principal activities of the company during the financial year were to provide most people with a disability the opportunity to ride and enjoy all the activities connected with horse riding.

Riding for the Disabled Association (NSW) is a Registered Charity with the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission (ACNC) and is a Public Benevolent Institution.

No significant change in the nature of the company's activity occurred during the financial year.

**Events After the Reporting Date**

No matters or circumstances have arisen since the end of the financial year which significantly affected or may significantly affect the operations of the company, the results of those operations, or the state of affairs of the company in future financial years.

**Environmental Issues**

The company's operations are not regulated by any significant environmental regulations under a law of the Commonwealth or of a state or territory of Australia.

**RIDING FOR THE DISABLED ASSOCIATION (NSW)**  
**ABN: 50 001 823 267**

**DIRECTORS' REPORT**

**Indemnification and Insurance of Officers and Auditors**

No indemnities have been given or insurance premiums paid, during or since the end of the financial year, for any person who is or has been an officer or auditor of the company.

**Auditor's Independence Declaration**

The lead auditor's independence declaration in accordance with section 307C of the Corporations Act 2001, for the year ended 31 December 2020 has been received and is attached.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Board of Directors:

Director:

Ms Janet Pike

Director:

Mr Joseph Orland

Dated this 16th day of April 2021



**AUDITOR'S INDEPENDENCE DECLARATION  
UNDER SECTION 307C OF THE CORPORATIONS ACT 2001  
TO THE DIRECTORS OF  
RIDING FOR THE DISABLED ASSOCIATION (NSW)**

I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, during the year ended 31 December 2020 there have been:

- (i) no contraventions of the auditor independence requirements as set out in the Corporations Act 2001 in relation to the audit; and
- (ii) no contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.

**Name of Firm:** R L Rodgers & Associates  
Chartered Accountants

**Name of Partner:**

  
Richard Rodgers

**Address:** 408/251 Oxford St Bondi Junction NSW 2022

**Dated this 16th day of April 2021**

**RIDING FOR THE DISABLED ASSOCIATION (NSW)**  
**ABN: 50 001 823 267**

**STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**

	Note	2020 \$	2019 \$
<b>Income</b>			
Revenue		514,738.23	400,414.24
Other income		(46,451.64)	175,917.87
		468,286.59	576,332.11
<b>Expenditure</b>			
Advertising expenses		(9,392.25)	(9,913.83)
Employee benefits expenses		(56,521.84)	(69,654.36)
Other expenses		(154,897.79)	(159,030.45)
		247,474.71	337,733.47
<b>Profit for the year</b>	<b>3</b>	247,474.71	337,733.47
<b>Total comprehensive income for the year</b>		247,474.71	337,733.47

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

**RIDING FOR THE DISABLED ASSOCIATION (NSW)**  
**ABN: 50 001 823 267**

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION**  
**AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2020**

	Note	2020 \$	2019 \$
<b>ASSETS</b>			
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	4	1,510,227.01	1,238,533.85
Trade and other receivables	5	6,187.40	(485.00)
Loans and advances	6	66,991.65	47,307.10
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<u>1,583,406.06</u>	<u>1,285,355.95</u>
<b>NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Other financial assets	7	1,807,685.62	1,854,137.25
Investment property		5,663,000.00	4,500,000.00
<b>TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<u>7,470,685.62</u>	<u>6,354,137.25</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<u>9,054,091.68</u>	<u>7,639,493.20</u>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Trade and other payables	8	24,610.37	22,992.96
<b>TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		<u>24,610.37</u>	<u>22,992.96</u>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>		<u>24,610.37</u>	<u>22,992.96</u>
<b>NET ASSETS (LIABILITIES)</b>		<u>9,029,481.31</u>	<u>7,616,500.24</u>
<b>EQUITY</b>			
Reserves	9	2,803,926.94	1,638,420.58
Retained earnings	10	6,225,554.37	5,978,079.66
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>		<u>9,029,481.31</u>	<u>7,616,500.24</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.



**RIDING FOR THE DISABLED ASSOCIATION (NSW)**  
**ABN: 50 001 823 267**

**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**

	Note	Reserves	Retained earnings \$	Total \$
<b>Balance at 1 January 2019</b>		1,638,420.58	5,640,346.19	7,278,766.77
Profit attributable to members			337,733.47	337,733.47
<b>Balance at 31 December 2019</b>		<u>1,638,420.58</u>	<u>5,978,079.66</u>	<u>7,616,500.24</u>
Profit attributable to members			247,474.71	247,474.71
Movements in Reserves		<u>1,165,506.36</u>		<u>1,165,506.36</u>
<b>Balance at 31 December 2020</b>		<u><u>2,803,926.94</u></u>	<u><u>6,225,554.37</u></u>	<u><u>9,029,481.31</u></u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

**RIDING FOR THE DISABLED ASSOCIATION (NSW)**  
**ABN: 50 001 823 267**

**STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**

		2020 \$	2019 \$
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>			
Receipts from customers		358,434.59	226,738.78
Payments to suppliers and employees		-247,845.07	(235,945.79)
Interest received		210.82	476.42
Government Subsidy – Cash Boost and JobKeeper		54,300.00	
<b>Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities</b>	<b>11</b>	<u>165,100.34</u>	<u>(8,730.61)</u>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>			
Proceeds from investments		101,792.82	187,208.50
Proceeds from sale of other assets			
Payments for property, plant and equipment			
Payments for investments			
Payments for other assets			
<b>Net cash used in investing activities</b>		<u>101,792.82</u>	<u>187,208.50</u>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES</b>			
Proceeds from borrowings			
Repayment of borrowings		4,800.00	4,800.00
<b>Net cash provided by financing activities</b>		<u>4,800.00</u>	<u>4,800.00</u>
Net increase (decrease) in cash held		271,693.16	183,277.89
Cash at beginning of financial year		1,238,533.85	1,055,255.96
Cash at end of financial year	<b>4</b>	<u>1,510,227.01</u>	<u>1,238,533.85</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

**RIDING FOR THE DISABLED ASSOCIATION (NSW)**  
**ABN: 50 001 823 267**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**

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The financial report covers RIDING FOR THE DISABLED ASSOCIATION (NSW) as an individual entity. RIDING FOR THE DISABLED ASSOCIATION (NSW) is an Australian public company limited by guarantee, incorporated and domiciled in Australia and is registered as a charity with ACNC.

The functional and presentation currency of RIDING FOR THE DISABLED ASSOCIATION (NSW) is Australian dollars.

Comparatives are consistent with prior years, unless otherwise stated.

## **1 Basis of Preparation**

In the directors' opinion, the Company is not a reporting entity since there are unlikely to exist users of the financial report who are not able to command the preparation of reports tailored so as to satisfy specifically all of their information needs. This special purpose financial report has been prepared to meet the reporting requirements of the Corporations Act 2001.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the recognition and measurement requirements of the Australian Accounting Standards and Accounting Interpretations, and the disclosure requirements of AASB 101 Presentation of Financial Statements, AASB 107 Statement of Cash Flows, AASB 108 Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates, Errors and AASB 1054 Australian Additional Disclosures.

The financial statements have been prepared on an accruals basis and are based on historical costs modified, where applicable, by the measurement at fair value of selected non current assets, financial assets and financial liabilities.

Significant accounting policies adopted in the preparation of these financial statements are presented below and are consistent with prior reporting periods unless otherwise stated.

## **2 Summary of Significant Accounting Policies**

### **Investment Property**

Although the real property is held primarily for the purposes of the conduct of the RDA (NSW) activities, it is also held to generate rental yields. Properties are carried at fair value, determined by independent valuers.

**RIDING FOR THE DISABLED ASSOCIATION (NSW)**  
**ABN: 50 001 823 267**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**

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**Financial Instruments**

Financial instruments are recognised initially using trade date accounting, i.e. on the date that company becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

On initial recognition, all financial instruments are measured at fair value plus transaction costs (except for instruments measured at fair value through profit or loss where transaction costs are expensed as incurred).

**Loans and receivables**

Loans and receivables are non-derivative financial assets with fixed or determinable payments that are not quoted in an active market. They arise principally through the provision of goods and services to customers but also incorporate other types of contractual monetary assets.

After initial recognition these are measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less provision for impairment. Any change in their value is recognised in profit or loss.

The company's trade and most other receivables fall into this category of financial instruments.

In some circumstances, the company renegotiates repayment terms with customers which may lead to changes in the timing of the payments, the company does not necessarily consider the balance to be impaired, however assessment is made on a case-by-case basis.

**Available-for-sale financial assets**

Available-for-sale financial assets are non-derivative financial assets that do not qualify for inclusion in any of the other categories of financial assets or which have been designated in this category. The company's available-for-sale financial assets comprise listed securities.

All available for sale financial assets are measured at fair value, with subsequent changes in value recognised in other comprehensive income.

Gains and losses arising from financial instruments classified as available-for-sale are only recognised in profit or loss when they are sold or when the investment is impaired.

In the case of impairment or sale, any gain or loss previously recognised in equity is transferred to the profit or loss.

Subsequent recoveries of amounts previously written off are credited against other expenses in profit or loss.

**Available-for-sale financial assets**

A significant or prolonged decline in value of an available-for-sale asset below its cost is objective evidence of impairment, in this case, the cumulative loss that has been recognised in other comprehensive income is reclassified from equity to profit or loss as a reclassification adjustment. Any subsequent increase in the value of the asset is taken directly to other comprehensive income.



**RIDING FOR THE DISABLED ASSOCIATION (NSW)**  
**ABN: 50 001 823 267**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**

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**Impairment of Non-Financial Assets**

At the end of each reporting period the company determines whether there is an evidence of an impairment indicator for non-financial assets.

Where this indicator exists the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated.

Where assets do not operate independently of other assets, the recoverable amount of the relevant cash-generating unit (CGU) is estimated.

The recoverable amount of an asset or CGU is the higher of the fair value less costs of disposal and the value in use. Value in use is the present value of the future cash flows expected to be derived from an asset or cash-generating unit.

Where the recoverable amount is less than the carrying amount, an impairment loss is recognised in profit or loss.

Reversal indicators are considered in subsequent periods for all assets which have suffered an impairment loss , except for goodwill.

**Cash and Cash Equivalents**

Cash and cash equivalents comprises cash on hand, demand deposits and short-term investments which are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and which are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value.

**RIDING FOR THE DISABLED ASSOCIATION (NSW)**  
**ABN: 50 001 823 267**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**

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**Revenue and Other Income**

Revenue is recognised when the amount of the revenue can be measured reliably, it is probable that economic benefits associated with the transaction will flow to the company and specific criteria relating to the type of revenue as noted below, has been satisfied.

Revenue is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable and is presented net of returns, discounts and rebates.

**Sale of goods**

Revenue from the sale of goods is recognised at the point of delivery as this corresponds to the transfer of significant risks and rewards of ownership of the goods and the cessation of all involvement in those goods.

**Rental income**

Investment property revenue is recognised on a straight-line basis over the period of the lease term so as to reflect a constant periodic rate of return on the net investment.

**Interest revenue**

Interest revenue is recognised using the effective interest rate method.

**Rendering of services**

Revenue in relation to rendering of services is recognised depends on whether the outcome of the services can be measured reliably. If this is the case then the stage of completion of the services is used to determine the appropriate level of revenue to be recognised in the period. If the outcome cannot be reliably measured then revenue is recognised to the extent of expenses recognised that are recoverable.

**Other income**

Other income is recognised on an accruals basis when the company is entitled to it.

**Comparative Amounts**

Comparatives are consistent with prior years, unless otherwise stated.

Where a change in comparatives has also affected the opening retained earnings previously presented in a comparative period, an opening statement of financial position at the earliest date of the comparative period has been presented.

**RIDING FOR THE DISABLED ASSOCIATION (NSW)**  
**ABN: 50 001 823 267**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**

	2020	2019
	\$	\$
<hr/>		
<b>3 Profit for the year</b>		
The result for the year was derived after charging / (crediting) the following items:		
Profit before income tax from continuing operations includes the following specific expenses:		
<b>Expenses</b>		
Employee benefits expense:		
contributions to defined contribution superannuation funds	4,843.16	5,640.73
<b>4 Cash and Cash Equivalents</b>		
Cash at Bank - Cheque Account	160,294.79	23,073.92
Westpac Maxi Direct A/C:154908	10,054.87	10,048.83
Petty Cash - Office	100.00	100.00
Investment Trading Account	5.32	5.32
Investment Cash Reserve-201081	112,977.99	214,097.10
Cash Investment Bonus-209067	50,255.17	50,165.07
Debit Cards	982.40	929.83
Interest Bearing Deposits	1,152,729.37	933,113.78
Emergency Relief Fund	22,827.10	7,000.00
	<u>1,510,227.01</u>	<u>1,238,533.85</u>

**RIDING FOR THE DISABLED ASSOCIATION (NSW)**  
**ABN: 50 001 823 267**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**

	2020 \$	2019 \$
<b>5 Trade and Other Receivables</b>		
Other Debtors	6,187.40	(485.00)
	<u>6,187.40</u>	<u>(485.00)</u>
The carrying value of trade receivables is considered a reasonable approximation of fair value due to the short term nature of the balances.		
<b>6 Loans and Advances</b>		
Imputation Credit Due	43,845.31	21,601.42
Box Hill Clearing Account	2,240.66	-
Loan to Other RDA Centres	20,905.68	25,705.68
	<u>66,991.65</u>	<u>47,307.10</u>
<b>7 Other Financial Assets</b>		
<b>Non-Current</b>		
Shares at Original Cost	1,535,459.11	1,535,459.11
Changes in Value of Portfolio	193,299.31	194,617.74
Property Funds @ Original Cost	82,097.51	82,097.51
Changes in Value of Property	(3,170.31)	41,962.89
	<u>1,807,685.62</u>	<u>1,854,137.25</u>
<b>8 Trade and Other Payables</b>		
<b>Current</b>		
Other Creditors	3,513.61	4,071.71
Interest on Loan	2,163.51	3,204.76
Grant Clearing Account	4,000.00	-
Tax Liabilities	399.11	473.94
Accrued Expenses	13,534.14	13,242.55
Bonds Received	1,000.00	2,000.00
	<u>24,610.37</u>	<u>22,992.96</u>
<b>9 Reserves</b>		
Asset Revaluation Reserve	2,803,926.94	1,638,420.58



**RIDING FOR THE DISABLED ASSOCIATION (NSW)**  
**ABN: 50 001 823 267**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**

	2020 \$	2019 \$
<b>10 Retained Earnings</b>		
Retained earnings at the beginning of the financial year	5,978,079.66	5,640,346.19
Net profit attributable to members of the company	247,474.71	337,733.47
Retained earnings at the end of the financial year	<u>6,225,554.37</u>	<u>5,978,079.66</u>
<b>11 Cash Flow Information</b>		
<b>Reconciliation of result for the year to cashflows from operating activities.</b>		
<b>Reconciliation of net income to net cash provided by operating activities:</b>		
Profit after income tax	247,474.71	337,733.47
Less Adjustment for Investing Activities	(101,792.82)	(167,615.48)
<b>Non-cash flows in profit</b>		
Net Changes in Value of Equities	46,451.64	(175,917.87)
<b>Changes in assets and liabilities</b>		
(Increase)/decrease in trade and other receivables	28,650.60	(5,583.58)
Increase/(decrease) in trade and other payables	<u>1,617.41</u>	<u>2,652.85</u>
	<u>165,100.34</u>	<u>(8,730.61)</u>

**12 Statutory Information**

RIDING FOR THE DISABLED ASSOCIATION (NSW)

The registered office of the association is: Quad1, Level 2, 8 Parkview Drive  
 SYDNEY OLYMPIC PARK NSW 2127

The principal place of business is: Quad1, Level 2, 8 Parkview Drive  
 SYDNEY OLYMPIC PARK NSW 2127

**RIDING FOR THE DISABLED ASSOCIATION (NSW)**  
**ABN: 50 001 823 267**

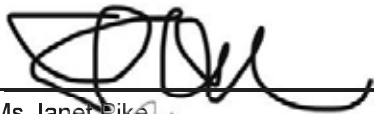
**DIRECTORS' DECLARATION**


The directors have determined that the company is not a reporting entity and that this special purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements.

The directors of the company declare that:

1. The financial statements and notes, as set out on pages 2 to 12 are in accordance with the Corporations Act 2001 and:
  - (a) comply with Accounting Standards as stated in Note 1; and
  - (b) give a true and fair view of the company's financial position as at 31 December 2020 and of its performance for the year ended on that date in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements.
2. In the directors' opinion there are reasonable grounds to believe that the company will be able to pay its debt as and when they become due and payable.

This declaration is made in accordance with a resolution of the Board of Directors.

Director:   
Ms Janet Pike

Director:   
Mr Joseph Orland

**Dated this 16th day of April 2021**

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT  
TO THE MEMBERS OF RIDING FOR THE DISABLED ASSOCIATION (NSW)  
ABN: 50 001 823 267**

**Report on the Audit of the Financial Report**

**Opinion**

I have audited the accompanying financial report, being a special purpose financial report, of RIDING FOR THE DISABLED ASSOCIATION (NSW), (the company) which comprises the statement of financial position as at 31 December 2020 and the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies and the directors' declaration.

In my opinion, the accompanying financial report of the company is in accordance with the Corporations Act 2001, including:

- (i) giving a true and fair view of the company's financial position as at 31 December 2020 and of its financial performance for the year ended; and
- (ii) complying with Australian Accounting Standards to the extent described in Note 1 and the Corporations Regulations 2001.

**Basis for Opinion**

I conducted my audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report section of my report. I am independent of the company in accordance with the auditor independence requirements of the Corporations Act 2001 and the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (the code) that are relevant to my audit of the financial report in Australia. I have also fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the code.

I confirm that the independence declaration required by the Corporations Act 2001, which has been given to the directors of the company, would be in the same terms if given to the directors as at the time of this auditor's report.

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

**Emphasis of Matter- Basis of Accounting**

I draw attention to note 1 to the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared for the purpose of fulfilling the directors' financial reporting responsibilities under the Corporations Act 2001. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose. My opinion is not modified in respect to this matter.

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT  
TO THE MEMBERS OF RIDING FOR THE DISABLED ASSOCIATION (NSW)  
ABN: 50 001 823 267**

**Responsibilities of Directors' for the Financial Report**

The directors of the company are responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and have determined that the basis of preparation described in note 1 to the financial report is appropriate to meet the requirements of the Corporations Act 2001 and is appropriate to meet the needs of the members. The directors' responsibility also includes such internal control as the directors determine necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the directors are responsible for assessing the company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the directors either intend to liquidate the company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

**Auditor's Responsibility for the Audit of the Financial Report**

My objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the company's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the directors.



**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT  
TO THE MEMBERS OF RIDING FOR THE DISABLED ASSOCIATION (NSW)  
ABN: 50 001 823 267**

- Conclude on the appropriateness of the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the company's ability to continue as a going concern. If I conclude that a material uncertainty exists, I am required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify my opinion. My conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of my auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the company to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

I communicate with the directors regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit.

I also provide the directors with a statement that I have complied with relevant ethical requirements regarding independence, and to communicate with them all relationships and other matters that may reasonably be thought to bear on my independence, and where applicable, related safeguards.

From the matters communicated with the directors, we determine those matters that were of most significance in the audit of the financial report of the current period and are therefore the key audit matters. I describe these matters in my auditor's report unless law or regulation preclude public disclosure about the matter or when, in extremely rare circumstances, I determine that a matter should not be communicated in my report because the adverse consequences of doing so would reasonably be expected to outweigh the public interest benefits of such communication.

**Name of Firm:** R L Rodgers & Associates  
Chartered Accountants



**Name of Principal:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Richard Rodgers

**Address:** 408/251 Oxford St Bondi Junction NSW 2022

**Dated this 16th day of April 2021**

# Coaching Stats

## RDA (NSW) Coaching Personnel

### Accredited

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Assessors	9	8	12	14	10	9	11
Senior Coaches	20	20	13	10	10	15	14
Coaches	112	126	108	119	118	117	89
Trainee Coaches	19	21	17	8	10	16	20
Assistant Coaches	42	46	49	55	47	71	37
Trainee Assistant Coaches	53	74	37	40	69	48	59
	255	295	236	246	264		
Non Coach - Hippo Horse Handlers	19	19	16	17	17	15	15

### Assessments Completed

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Senior coaches			2			1	
Coaches	12	15	13		4	3	2
Coaches (Qld)			3	26	3	4	2
Assistant Coaches	18	21	24		13	11	3
	30	36	42	26	20		

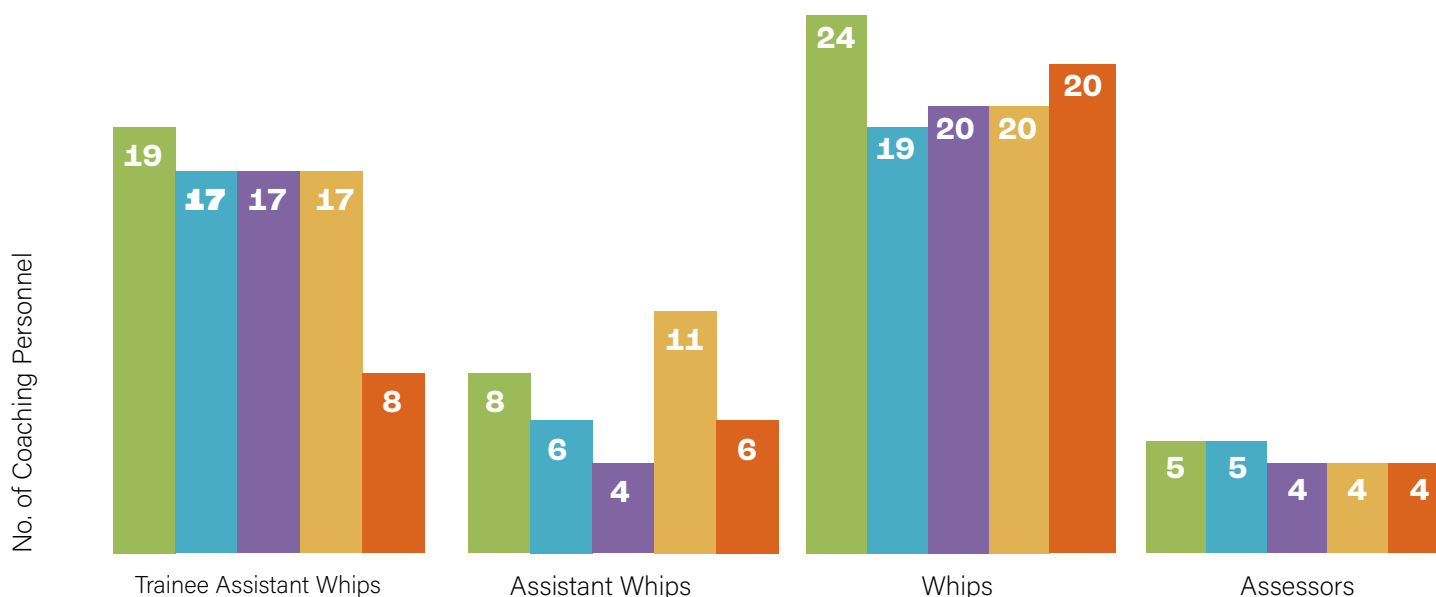
### Ratio Clients to Coaches :1

	2014	2015
Clients	1585	1606

### Carriage Driving

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Trainee Assistant Whips	19	17	17	17	17	17	8
Assistant Whips	8	6	4	11	11	11	6
Whips	24	19	20	20	20	20	22
Assessors	5	5	4	4	4	4	4
	56	47	45				

## Carriage Driving



**KEY**

**2015**

**2016**

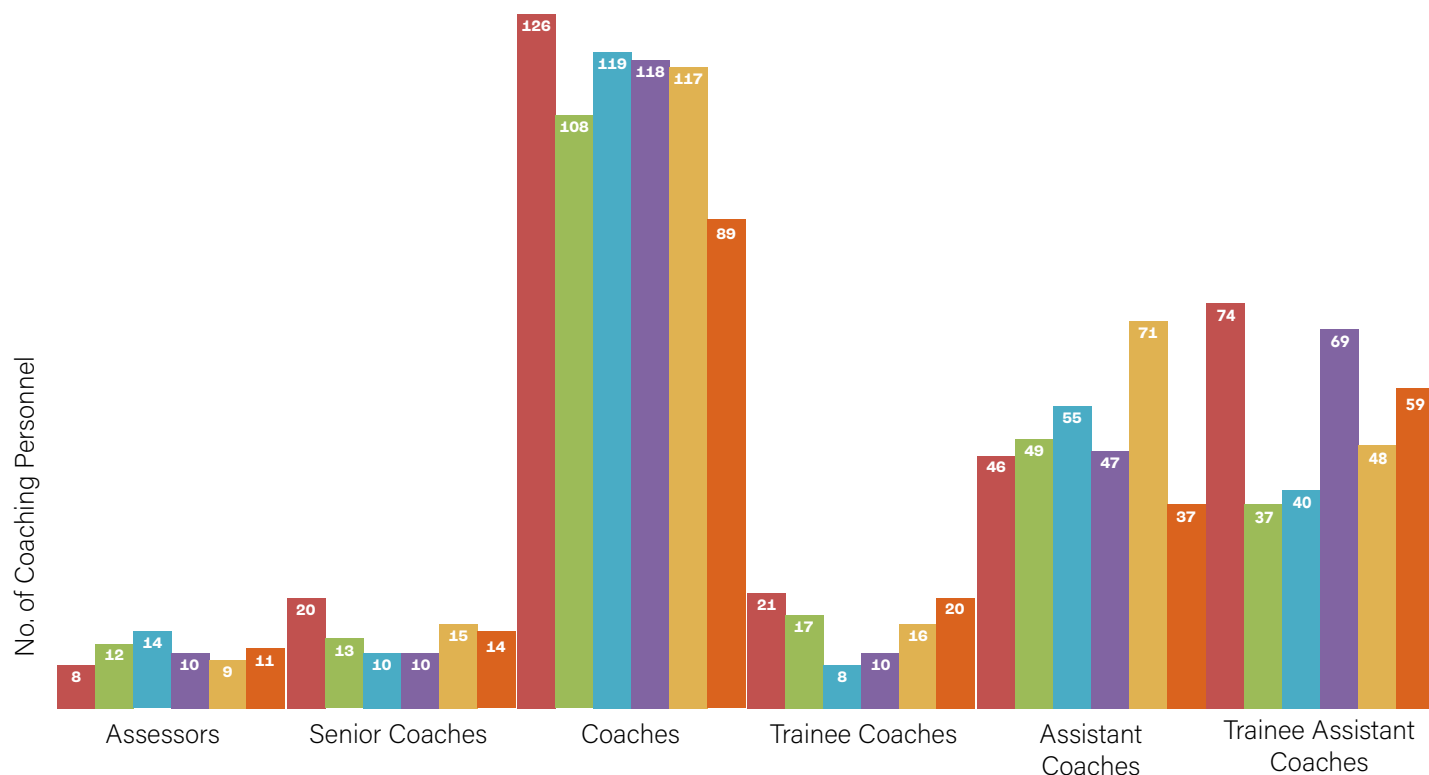
**2017**

**2018**

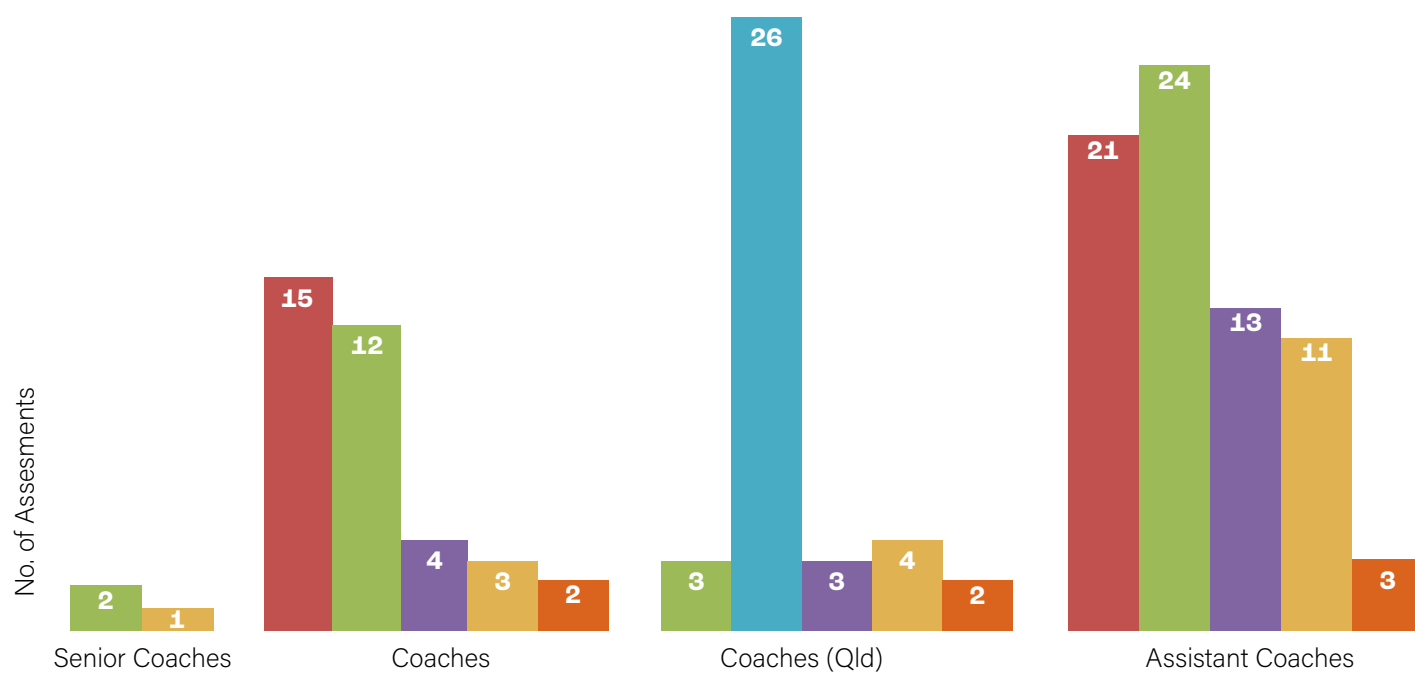
**2019**

**2020**

## Coaching Personnel



## Assessments Completed



# Registered Riders

CENTRE	No. of Registered Riders
Albury Wodonga	0
Armidale and New England	0
Ballina & District	34
Bathurst	23
Blue Mountains	12
Central Coast	39
Coffs Harbour	0
Coonabarabran	11
Cootamundra	0
Cowra	30
Dubbo	0
Eurobodalla	14
Forbes	0
Goulburn	21
Illawarra	22
Griffith/Leeton	0
Gunnedah	42
Kempsey/Macleay	21
Kendall	0
Manning Great Lakes	17
Moss Vale	15
Mudgee	0
Narrabri	0
Nepean	0
Orange	0
Raymond Terrace & Lower Hunter	14
Richmond	30
Ryde	28
Tamworth	24
Tall Timbers	105
Tumut	0
Tweed Valley	0
Upper Hunter	0
Wagga Wagga	64
Wauchope/PortMacquarie	27
West Wyalong	0
Wollondilly	0
Young	0
Associate Riders	7
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>600</b>

These numbers are the result of the effects of COVID-19 pandemic which resulted in the compulsory shutdown, or greatly reduced activity, in many of our Centres



# Letters Of Support



GOVERNMENT HOUSE  
SYDNEY

Message from

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

Navigating the difficulties of the past year has presented its challenges for everyone. For an organisation such as Riding for the Disabled Association (RDA NSW), there are the added concerns of the safety and health of riders, coaches, volunteers - and our equine friends.

In an extraordinary year, as drought gave way to fires and floods and then pandemic, RDA NSW Centres across New South Wales have also been impacted, with riding sessions suspended.

During the pandemic, it was wonderful to hear how quickly RDA NSW developed a COVID State-wide Safety Plan. Further support included financial assistance to Centres, where required, and regular contact with Centres and Volunteers. Now as riding resumes, RDA NSW can look back with pride on the achievements of the past year.

Some of the highlights of the past year have included:

- Increased coaching through intensive online training;
- Facilitation of RDA NSW's first virtual Annual General Meeting;
- Re-housing of two Centres - Mudgee and Kendall Centres - to more suitable venues;
- The presentation of the prestigious Pearl Batchelor Medal, bestowed to a long-standing RDA NSW Director, Jan Pike; and
- RDA NSW receiving Charity recipient status from Racing NSW's inaugural Golden Eagle race at Rosehill.

In a year in which the safety of riders, coaches, volunteers and horses has been paramount, as Patrons, we congratulate Riding for the Disabled Association (NSW) on facing the hurdles with resolve and recording another busy, productive and enriching year.

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

**Mr Dennis Wilson**



**The Hon. Dr Geoff Lee MP**  
Minister for Skills and Tertiary Education  
Minister for Sport, Multiculturalism, Seniors and Veterans

Ref: CRML21/37

Ms Jan Pike  
Hon Director/Executive Officer  
Riding for the Disabled Association (NSW)  
PO Box 710  
SYDNEY MARKETS NSW 2129

Dear Ms Pike *Jan*

Thank you for your correspondence of 9 February 2021 regarding a letter of support to publish in your Annual Report for 2020. I am pleased to provide the following message for inclusion.

**Message from the Minister for Sport**

The NSW Government is pleased to have again, through the Office of Sport, provided funding and support to the Riding for the Disabled Association (NSW) to enhance their equine programs for people with disability in NSW.

2020 has been an incredibly challenging year for sport and society as a whole through the devastating impact of COVID-19. It was great to see the positive response of Riding for the Disabled Association (NSW) in meeting these challenges and continuing to support your participants, volunteers, coaches and clubs. I note that this included developing a State-wide COVID Safety Plan, providing more on-line training and holding your first ever virtual State AGM.

In recognition of the impact of COVID-19 on sport, I was pleased to be able to provide financial support to Riding for the Disabled Association (NSW) and your clubs through the Community Sport Recovery Package.

I acknowledge the hard work and commitment the devoted team of coaches and volunteers associated with Riding for the Disabled throughout NSW have shown again in 2020 and commend you for this. Your commitment in providing equine programs for people with disability is outstanding.

Yours sincerely

11 MAR 2021

**The Hon. Dr Geoff Lee MP**  
Minister for Skills and Tertiary Education  
Minister for Sport, Multiculturalism, Seniors and Veterans

GPO Box 5341 Sydney NSW 2001 ■ P: (02) 8574 5650 ■ F: (02) 9339 5586 ■ W: [nsw.gov.au/ministerlee](http://nsw.gov.au/ministerlee)

Ms Jan Pike  
Hon Director/Executive Officer  
Riding for the Disabled Association (NSW)  
P O Box 710  
Sydney Markets NSW 2129

Dear Ms Pike,

Thank you for your correspondence, regarding a message of support for your Annual report for 2020.

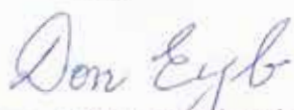
As your Vice Patron, I am honoured to acknowledge the contribution given by a dedicated team of volunteers, in providing equestrian skills and opportunities to people with a wide range of disabilities within NSW.

Thank you to the volunteers, including coaches, handlers, supporters, riders, Honorary Directors, committee members and other staff. This year has again been a difficult year following the drought and bush fires of last year together with the Covid-19 epidemic which affected the whole community world wide. However, congratulations on being able to achieve the following, this year:-

1. Develop a COVID 19 state wide safety plan
2. Offer financial assistance to support centres during the COVID period
3. Increasing coaching to intensive on line training
4. Maintaining regular support and contact with all centres state wide.
5. Rehoming the Mudgee and Kendall centres to a more suitable venue.
6. Charity recipient from Racing NSW inaugural Golden Eagle race Rosehill.
7. The Pearl Batchelor Medal, - being awarded to a long standing Director.

Again, thank you for the privilege for me to act as your Vice Patron. I can assure you of my continued loyalty and support and also that of the present members of the NSW Mounted Police.

Yours sincerely,



Inspector - DON EYB (Ret'd) - APM - OAM

# Awards

## Winners Of Each Region For AGM Awards 2020

NAME	CENTRE	DISTRICT
<b>Pearl Batchelor Award</b>		
Jennifer Cameron	Central Coast	Hunter
Marie Roach	Box Hill Tall Timbers	Metropolitan
<b>Volunteer Encouragement Award</b>		
Tracy Mills	Box Hill Tall Timbers	Metropolitan
Shannon Norman	Wagga	Riverina
<b>Shush Memorial Award</b>		
"Bailey"	Box Hill Tall Timbers	Metropolitan
"Dreamy"	Wagga	Riverina

## Winners Of AGM Awards 2020

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<b>Shush Memorial Award</b>		
"Bailey"	Box Hill Tall Timbers	Metropolitan

# Pearl Batchelor Medal

**2010**

**Margaret Randall**

**2012**

**Wendy Torr OAM**

**2014**

**Jan Sharp OAM (dec.)**

**2016**

**Margaret Norman OAM**

**2020**

**Jan Pike**



# Life Members

**1979**

Pearl Batchelor OAM (dec.) - Founder  
Josephine MacWilliam (dec.)

**1986**

Jenny Davis  
Margaret Norman OAM  
Nan Everingham (dec.)  
Sheila Hardy (dec.)  
Del Throsby (dec.)  
Phillip Edwards (dec.)  
Ross Field (dec.)

**1987**

Aileen Davis

**1988**

Maureen Turner

**1990**

Marguerite Francis OAM

**1992**

Judith Adam

**1994**

John Plowman (dec.)

**2001**

Kerry Johnston

**2004**

Jan Pike

**2006**

Wendy Torr OAM

**2007**

Peter Carn

**2010**

Fiona Little

**2012**

Bev Amery OAM

**2014**

Jan Sharp OAM (dec.)  
Gerard Murphy OAM

**2015**

Eric Lengling



**Metropolitan**  
**41**



## Box Hill Tall Timbers

Congratulations to Marie Roach who was awarded our Volunteer of the Year for 2020.

Congratulations to Tracy Mills who was awarded our Volunteer Encouragement Award.

Congratulations to Bailey who is our 2020 Horse of the Year.

Congratulations to Madisyn and Mitchell for being awarded our Bill Harvey Memorial Most Improved Rider award and the Charlie for being awarded our Encouragement Award.

Although 2020 was not the year that we anticipated it could would or should be we were happy that we were able to get back to running programs again in Term 3 and 4.

Our team pulled together and focused on what we could do and what the future could hold. We connected through Zoom with each of our volunteer groups having weekly zoom chats. We continued to keep our horses in work and we set about doing all the little jobs we never get time for! We developed online quizzes and videos of our horses for our participants to keep them engaged. While we couldn't have our Annual Horses Birthday lunch we converted it to a Zoom party complete with Party hats and balloons.

As soon as the RDA(NSW) COVIDSafe Plan was released we quickly re-engaged our volunteers to assist with getting back to programs. We held COVIDSafe training sessions, horse training sessions and of course created some new roles for volunteers that weren't ready to come back in the arena.



Our Volunteers were keen to get back to work with our Participants and our Participants that were given the opportunity to return were ecstatic to be back at the Centre. The best part of all was seeing the joy in everyone's faces to have some normalcy back in their lives following the disruptive year. Unfortunately, we had many Coaches and Volunteers who were not able to recommence for various reasons during 2020 so our program days and capacity reduced but we are hopeful of them returning in 2021 so that we are able to re-establish our programs across 6 days a week.

Our local community is changing with a suburb realignment we are now located in Gables! We are adjusting to the increased traffic, increasing number of enquiries from participants and hopefully when people move in we will have more Volunteers to assist with our programs.

We have started to embrace technology not only with Zoom but with QR Checkins, Online Bookings and Scheduling, using Social Media to communicate with our Community and have enjoyed the opportunity to develop and share our program, COVID cleaning and Social Media resources with all Centres.

At the end of the year we held an End of Year Celebration at the Riverstone Schofields Memorial Club which enabled us to bring our Volunteers, Supporters and some of our Riders together to hear about the year's achievements, thank everyone for their contribution and present our awards.

2020 was a challenge for all and we look forward to our new normal feeling like second nature.





## Richmond

### Highlights and Achievements

We survived COVID so far through the determination of the great team at Richmond.

The Centre was the topic of a documentary for Sky Racing "Thoroughbreds are Go" series telling in film the story behind the Richmond Centre and RDA NSW, a beautiful film which had nearly 550 hits on U-Tube and numerous showings on SKY TV.

During the making of the film two of our riders Matt and Tayla both with disabilities took part so we were able to mock up the lessons, all COVID-19 safety precautions were in place.

Elton and Gibson two of our thoroughbred Horses were in the film.

Mal Cook passed his Full Coach Badge with the Help of the team from State office.

Yet another serious Hawkesbury storm ripped off the arena roof, damaged the tack room and flattened the main horse shelter all currently under repair by the WS University.

Bruce Sunderland was voted Volunteer of the year.

Greta Serov was voted Rider of the year.

### Acknowledgements / Recognition Centre developments

We replaced the old dangerous ramp with a new structure and foundations were secured to ensure long life.

A stone path was built to make safe access to the new ramp from the drive.

A new water system was installed by mal Cook in the new covered standings so fresh water can be used when required without heavy lifting of buckets.

2 x 25,000 litre water tanks were acquired and installed next to the first one giving three water catchers, just awaiting plumbing in and connecting to arena roof.

### Riders / Rides

Only four riders rode this year Matt, Bianca, Michelle and Tayla which was mainly to make the sky film and to assist with Malcolm Cooks Coach exam.

Riders have been kept informed regularly so they are aware as things improve, they may be able to recommence riding in 2021.

### Horse stories

Number of horses are currently 5 with an option on two more thoroughbreds should we need them when we reopen post COVID-19.

Elton 16 hand Horse of the year ex Racehorse; Gibson 16 hand ex Racehorse; Mac 16.1 hands ex eventer; Anna ex polo pony retiring companion horse to the herd; Burger 16 hands ex eventer; Breughel sadly passed this year due to age related illness.

Elton and Gibson became Sky TV superstars.

### Coaching

Information from coaches and any key achievements that they have experienced this season.

Mal Cook passed Full Coach Badge.

Current coach numbers including trainees and assistants and any achievements by coaches such as professional development opportunities.

4 Coaches, 1 Ass Coaches & 1 Trainee Ass Coach.

### Community Events and Fundraising

Even under COVID-19 we continued to build relationships with our sponsors and benefactors Bendigo- The Thoroughbred racing association- Hawkesbury Racing

Arrow- field Stud, Fairview stud, Kohnkes Animal supplements, WS University.

No fundraising was done due to GOV COVID-19 restrictions.

### Media coverage

Got another mention in the Homes and Gardens program as part of them filming about Secret Garden.

The Centre was the topic of a documentary for Sky Racing "Thoroughbreds are Go" series telling in film the story behind the Richmond Centre and RDA NSW, a beautiful film which had nearly 550 hits on U-Tube and numerous showings on SKY TV.

### Volunteers

Bruce Sunderland was voted NSW Volunteer of the year.

Volunteer numbers are 10-15 active vols keeping the centre going during shutdown and about 50 in total still on the record that come when they can.

Our volunteers seem to love the team spirit and camaraderie and the satisfaction of helping people with disabilities and seeing them smile when they ride.

Any major achievements by any individual volunteers.

Mel Nielson and Mal Cook Bruce Sunderland do an amazing job of HMT keeping the horses in tip top condition allowing us to keep a small healthy herd.

Greta Serov was voted NSW Rider of the year.



## Ryde

The Ryde Centre was not alone when 2020 started with several setbacks. Fires delayed the well earned departure of our horses on their annual holiday and floods delayed their return. In their absence a huge storm destroyed one of our horse sheds. For so many people it was a tragic summer. We had just returned to classes when Covid struck and therapy classes were ceased. Sadly too, our Senior Coach Brenda Phillips retired from the Centre at this time. Her enormous contribution over decades, her kindness to riders, horses, families and volunteers, and her expertise will be greatly missed. We are very grateful for all she did during her 30 years at Putney and Macquarie Park.

But our year in review does not end there because we were fortunate enough to use the time to rebuild in every sense.

Our trainee Coaches focused on their learning and we now have six students hoping to graduate soon after therapy classes resume. As our 6 horses were resident at our Centre during the year, we used "class times" to train and exercise them and to run mock classes. For Covid safety reasons our volunteer numbers were limited but those who came had the immense pleasure of actually riding our therapy horses. Their grooming had never been so fastidiously performed and a big dose of horse therapy cheered us all.

Now, our shed is rebuilt, our Facebook presence is inspiring and our new website is wonderful, relevant and friendly. One



of our horses retired during the year but another one is in training to reinvigorate our herd in 2021. We also have new volunteers inducted and ready to start. We are also extremely fortunate to have individual and business supporters who have been very generous with donations. Their support encourages us in all our endeavours.

2020 has certainly reminded those of us who were fortunate enough to look after our horses during Covid that "there is something about the outside of a horse that is good for the inside of a human."

We are all eagerly looking forward to the return of the riders with their families and carers in 2021.







**Hunter**  
**45**





## Central Coast

2020 was certainly a year unlike any other but I am glad to say we all survived. Our centre has been closed for the whole year and we are champing at the bit to get back to riding.

We have a daily roster set up to feed and check the horses every day which worked out well. The horses are brought in every week for a thorough groom and a check-up.

The committee thought it was a good idea to clean out the Killcare room and office and replace the old worn linoleum we had. This was quite the endeavour, but with the help of some volunteers we were able to get the rooms empty and free of old and out of date things we no longer needed. The new flooring looks great and I am sure returning volunteers will enjoy the improvement.

We have kept the volunteers up to date with newsletters throughout the year. and we look forward to seeing everyone in March. We are hoping to have some new ones join us in 2021 we have had a big response so far.

We had a tree come down and lost a long stretch of fencing during a rough storm, but fortunately it was located behind the stalls. The horses were safe in the paddocks at the time. We had it replaced in no time at all.

I think it's called murphy's law, after installing a bore and having it set up and ready to go it rained for weeks and our tank is full to the brim. This is a tremendous difference to last year which saw us with dirt paddocks and no grass. What a change it makes to see everything looking so lush.

The fate of the annual Tuggerah Westfield Gift Wrapping seemed uncertain, but it ultimately went ahead. It turned out to be the most profitable year for the centre and we were able to raise over \$4,000 in only a few days. It was a fantastic opportunity to talk to the community and let them know what we are all about.

We have received a number of very generous donations of tack this year including saddles, bridles, and other equipment. We are also able to sell on items we can longer use through a local shop which as been a steady source of income.

Sue Watts, one of our long-term coaches, retired in 2020. Sue spent over 20 years with RDA and we are sad to see her go. She now has time to pursue her passions of art and photography, and we sincerely wish her all the best.

We now have five coaches along with one senior coach, and two people starting their assistant coaching in February. We currently have 11 horses, with one retired and one semi-retired, and we are hoping to purchase two more big boys in the future.

Let's hope we all have a happy and healthy 2021.





## Kendall Centre

In this ever changing world we live in this Annual Report will also be different from the 'normal' as we come to accept what has been and what will be in the future but we will survive.

Early in 2020 due to circumstances beyond our control we had to remove our horses from the Kendall Showgrounds and given a deadline. With the help of the local community, volunteers and friends we found temporary homes and adjustment for our 7 beloved horses which is spread across the region from Kempsey in the north out to Bob's Creek and as far south as Stewarts River.

The Centre was then given an eviction notice for Kendall Centre to leave the Showgrounds completely taking everything we had built even down to the concrete slabs – all had to be removed leaving nothing behind by 30th November 2020!! A search was on for new home and we looked, advertised, we were on television, radio, media you name it we tried it. You find out who is willing to help, who cares, those that come forward – most of all our Volunteers were magnificent giving their all to help above and beyond.

SUCCESS thanks to a generous local land owner, the local community and friends we have a new home – a blank canvas – to make a new Kendall Centre right for us our horses, riders and volunteers, which will meet our needs and all RDANSW standards. Words can never say enough to express how we feel in hearts to all those wonderful people. It is important to remember those who donated, bequeathed legacies without whom we could never have attempted or achieved this new beginning. As we work through the mine field of State Departments, Council and rules and regulations. We are half way there with the land cleared, new boundary fences, sheds up, Admin/Riders/Toilet block up with new roof and verandah nearing completion. The arena is partly finished we had a hold up with all the rain but will soon catch up the ground crew are magnificent.



Horses are fit and well if a bit over weight they think they are retired! Our Coaches and horse volunteers go out every week to each property to exercise and check on them and give a hand to maintain the grounds. Our dedicated feeders also go out to one property every day to feed with the tremendous support from the other properties the families are feeding and caring for our horses.

We keep in touch with our riders, carers and families, they are so eager to restart back see their favourite horse and ride again. We have plans to bring them out for a special day so they can see and experience their new centre before riding. We have set June 2021 as our completion date to have horses, equipment, buildings and volunteers all in the same place once again.

During the year we lost valued volunteers, friends and families who suffered great personal tragedies. We think of all those struggling each day especially our Secretary Sue who has come through major cancer surgery and Coach Judy a horrific car accident.

Thanks to our committed hard working Kendall Executive, volunteers whatever you do, always willing, smiling how valued you are, to State Office for your support, family, friends and local community. It was a great honour, surprise to receive the Pearl Batchelor Award from RDANSW and later to receive the NSW Volunteer of the Year for Mid North Coast. Thanks to all those dedicated volunteers who work so hard each day and it is for them that I think about and share these achievements it is a team effort.

We celebrated the end of 2020 on a high by giving our special volunteers and supporters a Thank You Lunch which was enjoyed by all. Let us all go forward to 2021 with hope for a Big Bright Happy future in riding we can do anything so long as we are working together – upward and onward we go.



# Raymond Terrace & Lower Hunter

## Highlights and Achievements

2020 was certainly a year for change for the RDA Centres including Raymond Terrace and Lower Hunter due to COVID19. It was with a heavy heart the Management Committee closed our RDA Centre for most of 2020. Our programs were missed by many and we missed seeing the regular smiles on our RDA volunteers, riders and families faces.

We had many things planned for our Centre in 2020 including celebrations for our 40th Birthday which had to be postponed until 2021.

Our Centre did some trial programs once some restrictions were lifted in preparation for 2021 program commencement. These trial programs ran well and gave us some hope for the next year ahead.

## Centre developments

With the assistance of an \$17,000 grant from Community Buildings Partnership Program (Dept of Communities and Justice) we were able to put two new tanks in at our Centre including one for our Caretaker's Cottage and one near our Horse Yards to catch some valued water for our Centre.

We were thrilled to finally have our new website launch in 2020 and look forward to being able to keep the community informed of all our great work.

## Riders

First day of driving for 2020 was also awards day, when ribbons were presented for the 2019 RDA NSW Carriage Driving Competition in which our drivers participated. There were lots of happy faces as you can see from the photos. A total of 12 drivers from 3 different Centres competed in 2 photo competitions (RDA Driving "On Parade" & "In Action") & 3 timed events (Flag Race, Square Bending, & Precision Cones) all taking place at the individual Centres; with times and photos being sent into Head Office for independent judging. Timed events were run at Preliminary & Open levels to allow for differing abilities of drivers.

Our Riders who took part in our trial programs were thrilled to be back on their beloved friends even if only for a short time.

2020 saw us say farewell to our Staff Coach and wishing her well on her new adventures in life. The Management Committee are looking at the best way to move forward with this position into 2021.



## Volunteers

2020 Volunteer Information Day saw us with many faces who turned up with interest in volunteering at our RDA Centre.

We missed seeing all our volunteer's smiling faces last year and were grateful for the volunteers who were able to assist us in our trial programs.

Our Volunteer Coordinator in her first year has done a great job and we receive a steady flow of interest from within the community for volunteering.

We were thrilled last year when one of our one of our Volunteers, Judy, became one of four finalists out of over 30 applicants in the "Excellence in Volunteer Management" 2020 NSW Volunteer of the Year Awards. Judy has contributed many hours to our Centre over many years in many areas including as a Coach, Volunteer Co-ordinator, Mounted Games Co-ordinator, and a Worker Bee of all sorts of activities and events. She has done an amazing job of bringing smiles to both riders and volunteers faces.

## Horse stories

Like most Centres we are always on the lookout for available horses and we have said goodbye to some long-term RDA horses and taken in new ones.

2020 saw a lot of our horses return to their owners while we were in closure with approximately 8 horses remaining on site at various times.

## Community Events and Fundraising

We have a long-standing relationship with Beyond Bank and felt blessed this year to be one of their nominees for "Double Donation Day" raising \$4925 from donations and with the matching amount of \$4925 we received \$9850 in total from Beyond Bank.

Maitland Classic Car Club continues to be an avid supporter of our Centre and donated \$2500 to our Centre.

We appreciate all the wonderful donors and supporters throughout the year who have supported us in ways of donations and in-kind support. Without these wonderful supporters our Centre would not exist to put smiles on riders faces.



# Central West 49







## Bathurst

When we were planning for 2020 it looked to be a year to look forward to. Our Pet Therapy shed and all the paths to it were completed and fencing and the new yard for the goats, deer and sheep was finished. All was ready for the clients to have easier access to and interaction with the animals on Pet Therapy days.

COVID-19 arrived!

We shut down all our activities till school term 3 and then reopened under the CASP guidelines. Our volunteers and riders were delighted to be back and everyone happily participated in the reduced programme. One of our younger riders, Seth, had been learning to come off lead and is continuing to do very well. The latter part of the year saw the feed in our paddocks growing prolifically and it has been very challenging limiting the horses access to the fresh pasture and keeping them from foundering. Django, aged 21, foundered for the first time in his life but thankfully, with a lot of care, recovered. Now the feed has dried off and feeding has returned to normal. Our other horses were assessed and maintained in good riding condition during the part of the year when we were not operating.

It was also our coach, Melinda Gavin's 20th year of service to Bathurst RDA. We all congratulate and thank her for her generosity of spirit and the amazing amount of work she does for our centre. Our committee continues to function and achieve despite being very limited in numbers. The group of people who are our volunteers have continued to be such a special part of our activities and in December they enjoyed a pizza luncheon as a thank you for their continued support.

All told, in what was a difficult year, we managed to provide a safe and happy environment for our riders, volunteers and animals and we look forward to 2021 bringing some degree of normalcy to our activities.







## Mudgee

2020- The year that Mudgee RDA changed forever and made the best of COVID – 19.

We were so excited to go into 2020 with 6 classes with 6 riders consisting of 3 children's classes, 1 mixed class and 2 adult classes. Unfortunately, COVID -19 restrictions had taken its toll and we lost our coach and with that our horses, leaving us thinking our beloved RDA had come to an end. NO way would we let this hold us down. Our riders were our number one consideration and we knew we had to do all we could to keep our Centre alive. Many meetings and lots of hours of contemplating how we can do this... then that's it. Tracy and Diane need to be assessed as assistant coaches ASAP. Study is a must and the backing of a fantastic committee shows us there is light at the end of the tunnel.

Our only Coach resigned and the horses we leased from her were taken from us also. But with many meetings with Committee Members a decision was made to keep our adult riders involved with morning teas and lunches to keep their dream alive.

We went from a fully accredited Centre to a steering committee which allowed us to train our volunteers and look for some horses. A huge task was put on our shoulders, a task we did not take lightly.

A casual coffee date between Tracy and Diane and lots of talking came up with the idea to have a horseless Melbourne Cup fun day. Money was spent and donations were sought as we were on a mission, we were showing our riders that we will not give up on them. Hobby horses and a racing track marked out and invitations sent far and wide. COVID Safety was number ONE priority. We received sponsorship from

Northside Radio 99. Fm at Chatswood, Baratops at Botobolar, Fire and Water Mudgee just to name a few, our riders were sponsored as were our races. The word had spread Mudgee RDA was Here to Stay. Our General Manager of the local council Brad Cam was invited to see what we were up to as the word got around and yes he was in a race, hobby horse in tow he and our major supporters Peabody Mining came and had a race, a snag or two on the bbq and a great day had by Volunteers, Committee, Riders and Sponsors (also horses)

Our plight to source more horses also was answered, Shelly Barnett is our savior to say the least for she bought JP, Ozzie, Busy and Hooper, 4 amazing steeds. Many hours of riding and desensitisation these 4 boys were started in the program and never faulted. We have done it we got these 4 boys passed to join our RDA family.

2020 is coming to an end when we received that call, we were so desperately waiting on, assessment day was going to happen. December was the month and Wendy and Joan made the trip to Mudgee...Our volunteers stepped up, our horses held their heads with pride, that was the day that Tracy and Diane shone with true RDA pride, many thanks go to all our volunteers for without their help this would not have been possible. Now with TWO Assistant Coaches come 21st April 2021 Mudgee shall recommence and do our Centre proud, we may be still governed by COVID but we have our riders back.

Thank you to our awesome committee and thank you to the Directors and CASP for their continued support as for now all we can say is...

**MUDGE RDA IS BACK & HERE TO STAY.**



## Orange

What a different and challenging year 2020 was. Although we were unable to ride until Term 4, it wasn't a wasted year. We had the support and encouragement of volunteers, and we are almost back to normality.

It was pleasing to see so many of our regular volunteers coming on Wednesdays along with new volunteers who are very welcome to our Centre.

The maintenance team continued to work on keeping the grounds in great condition - painting, fencing and particularly mowing as we have had such a great grass growing season.

The horse committee had a big job on their hands keeping the horses from becoming too fat. While it is wonderful to have so much grass again, it does come with some problems.

Merrilyn, our wonderful coach, had a heavy workload and did a great job of getting us through COVID19 training and running classes.

A very big thank you to all volunteers who give so much of their time to the Centre.

The support Orange Centre receives from the community is outstanding. With generous donations we have been able to continue to run our Centre successfully.

### Horse Stories

We have 12 horses one of which was donated recently. 2020 saw an abundance of feed due to ongoing rain. Regular health checks have ensured our horses are well maintained, and ongoing evaluations are undertaken as regards suitability of donated horses.



### Coaching

2020 saw us learning in a different way. Some took advantage of the break, while others kept the RDA grounds and horses in great condition. Thank you to all involved.

From 4 October we had riders from Anson Street School for 2 sessions, Glenroi Heights School for 2 sessions and 4 independents in 1 session. We had only 6 students for the same "bubble". All riders were very excited to come back and I think the volunteers were happy to return as well.

The training we set in place regarding COVID 19 paid off, with everyone knowing exactly what to do.

We had some new volunteers join us and they have found it very rewarding. We also had some new riders coming as well.

### Riders

Riders enjoyed the Christmas party held 2 December.

Jill Sullivan was accepted to start her training as Assistant Coach and seems very enthusiastic having started her first module of training.

A BIG thank you to one and all who kept Orange Centre going throughout the difficult year

### Community events and Fundraising

Due to COVID restrictions fundraising was put on hold, however, we have been supported with generous donations from the local community.

### Volunteers

Fourteen new members signed on since February, and two school students are helping each Wednesday morning prior to riding sessions.

COVID training was presented by Merrilyn Mendham (coach) and all volunteers were well prepared when riders returned 4 October 2020.

### Publicity

Three newsletters were published during 2020 - many thanks to Celia's photographic and computer expertise.







**Riverina**  
**53**

## Cootamundra

The Cootamundra RDA Centre have received some very generous donations and grants through the 2020 year. This was greatly appreciated as we could not hold our usual fundraisers through this last year. First came the drought, then Covid 19, meant we would have been using our reserves to feed our horses.

Our Accountant's company Twomeys and Twomeys donated \$1,250.

\$1,000 from the Commonwealth Bank and \$1,100 from State Office we were appreciated. This money will be used for the purchase of helmets as well as PPE for our riders and volunteers.

Cootamundra were extremely fortunate to receive a \$10,000 grant from the Australian Turf Club. This has ensured that our centre can purchase pellets and the hay bales for the horses' feed for the coming season.

Currently, our horses are being agisted in various places, some of the ones that need TLC are staying with the Coach while others are together on a large property with lots of feed. It is amazing how drought one year has given way to lots of rain!

Cootamundra, like other centres did not operate during 2020, but plans to reopen in 2021.

## Griffith/Leeton

The 2020 was a hard year as like most centres we did not start our program with the schools. It was sad to that we could not run as the children missed out.

The centre, we mainly kept up with looking after the horses that were there and the maintenance. We did put in for a couple of grants and we were successful with one. We put in rainwater tanks up and a need pumps on them so we can pump the water around the centre which will save on water charges.

Our fundraising, there wasn't a lot of fundraising going on this year as COVID fixed that. We did do the horse sponsorship we receive a few sponsors which was wonderful as there wasn't much money around. We did however have a wood raffle through Facebook which was ok not a great profit. The family that donated the wood are interested in donating again this year and hopefully we can sell tickets around the town. We did a couple of bunnings bbq at the end of the year. The one thing that we were able to do this year which have done for the last few years was the golf day which was great day. It was decided after the day was finished that when the golf club has their PRO AM the money will be donated to RDA this year which will be a great boost to the centre.

The horses, we were very fortunate that we could send some of our horse out to a couple of farms in the area. We did rotate the horses at the farms as the feed was very good and they put a lot of weight so had to keep them in check, so they didn't get too fat. We still do have a few out and we plan to bring them back early March to start getting them back in work at the centre. We last year were able to acquire 3 more horses for the program they are bigger horse which is what we need. We think we may lose a couple as they have gone back to their owners and they have decided to keep.

The volunteers, we kept our volunteers informed by Facebook and few phone calls and the occasional morning teas. As each year starts, we are in need of more helpers so it was thought to have an open day inviting locals to check out the centre and hopefully we will get some interested people to volunteers.

We have our AGM on the 9th Feb and we then will decide on a coaches meeting, and open day.

At the coaches meeting is it when we decide dates to start and volunteer training days.

This year we all hope we can run and have a great year for the children.

Bring on 2021.

## Tumut

As with all other Centres in our Region we were not operating due to Covid 19.

We carried out some essential maintenance throughout the year, urgent fencing replacement was completed on our boundary. We had an expert come and assess two large gums that had been dropping large limbs. Sadly, they were taken down. Once the clean up is completed, new internal fencing will be carried out and some new tree planting.

Our horses have enjoyed the break, just hanging out being horses! So did the Coach and volunteers, we all found when we stopped, we truly needed the extended break.

Our area was affected by fires, our horses were evacuated twice. Our fire plan was put into action twice in a matter of three weeks, the plan was successful. Plans are underway to fire proof our Centre a little more. This showed the importance to have a plan in place.

Our horse sponsorship was again a main source of income with all other fundraisers cancelled due to Covid 19.



## Wagga Wagga

Well, what a different year 2020 was. As sad as we were to not be riding and driving it did give our centre time to reflect on our operations, better plan for the future and diversify our income streams.

Our year always starts with our coaches and caretaker on holidays as well as our horses. Our horses start the year off centre property at a large farm just south of Wagga where they have a very different view and a lot more hills to roam than they do at our centre. This long break means our team is ready to take on a great year and to start lessons with the beginning of school term one, and our herd well rested. Our committee and head coach have lessons planned and paperwork ready for a smooth start.

Our horses returned to the centre and were gently put back into work and reacquainted with their surrounds. Our coaches, volunteers and youth group volunteers fresh from training were ready for term one too. Extra mounted games lessons were planned and we had nine riders excited to compete in Sydney.



We held a fantastic auction night with great food, music, items to auction and a whip cracking demonstration but a father and his two children. To end February off we had a burst pipe resulting in some minor flooding in our rider room/office/tearoom area. Our Wagga Centre newsletter named the NAG was published as usual.

We were only able to have a few weeks of wonderful lessons before the life changing news of COVID 19 hit in March.

Lessons were suspended, our assistant care taker took leave and our Opportunity Shop in the main street of Wagga was shut. Our OP shop is operated by a dedicated team of volunteers that keep this important revenue stream selling items to our Wagga community. Many of these volunteers have



been with the OP shop for more than 30 years. The coaches and our committee spent many hours considering our short- and long-term operating options, advice from state and decided unanimously to suspend our operations.

April came and the expected news that Sydney Royal Show was cancelled came. Our riders and team were understandably upset however knew staying in regional NSW was a better option for our health and the health of our community. All but one of our horses were transported back to their holiday farm stay. Our remaining horse requires a few small feeds daily and was kept company by one of our coach's horses.

Our head coach and caretaker kept busy during May with maintenance of the grounds and the repairs they often put off if they can when we are busy. They were able to sow a crop of oats that would hopefully supplement feeding when the horses return. Our publicity officer continued to publish our NAG newsletter. It was not full of the normal happenings as these were not normal times. Our committee wanted to continue to stay connected to our volunteers, clients and community. Our publicity officer included equine themed fun facts, words, jokes, quotes, rider exercises and stretches and a whole lot more.

June brought great news with State allowing our OP shop to reopen with all COVID safe practices in place including the yellow lines and arrows we all became accustomed to following and reduced trading hours. Our dedicated staff were all chomping at the bit to reopen. The shop secured a reduction in shop rent which helped finances. Committee introduced eftpos facilities at the shop. It was a big change for the volunteers but within a few weeks it was realised what a great tool it is. We also had State approval to allow horse clinics to run on our property, these became a great income stream for us while we had no lesson income.

Our assistant caretaker was able to restart with the blessing of both his caseworker and his family. He was extremely happy to be back and our committee were very happy to have him back. Unfortunately, our caretaker resigned as he had found fulltime work elsewhere. We were very sad to see him leave and hope he will remain in our RDA Wagga family as a volunteer. He was nearly finished his coaching training and we hope he will finish this when classes resume.





Our riders suffered a great loss when our unicorn horse Nugget passed away. Nugget was a star RDA performer every day at our centre and was much admired when out at charity days or The Sydney Royal Show. He will always be remembered and will be impossible to replace. We then suffered another blow when only a short time later our big chestnut gelding Jack also passed away. Our team was crushed.

July was a month of committee meetings preparing of the State AGM, deciding what we needed from the meeting and how we felt of the motions that had been put forward. Our centre had eight committee members in attendance at the zoom AGM. The AGM left our committee feeling disappointed and disillusioned with States leadership.

Our centre had another sad loss of our beautiful mare Ochre. A hard to come by medium sized horse Ochre took our students from timid lead riders to confident cantering. She was a typical mare who knew where she liked to be patted and where she didn't. Ochre was on loan to our Wagga centre and we were thankful her owners and our team were with her at her end. Our team had a tough lesson in having a herd of older horses means their death while with us is always a possibility.



Our centre was given the opportunity to participate in a CSU research project. The project is directed at learning more about older horses and how to help them health wise as they age. Having an aged herd of horses, the research findings could be of great assistance to the way we manage our herd.

Through August and October our centre continued to work on different income streams to over come the continued loss of lesson fees. We worked on arena hire, catering and gate entry at working dog trials and sales. Meat testing at our local university, garage sales, online wood raffles, and



worked to maintain connections we had made with the local corrections centre who have been making timber furniture for us to auction and raffle. Some of our team completed the RDA Mental Health training and took part in the State Sub committee and Riverina Working group. We found while these meetings gained momentum, we are yet to see any results of our input. We did find they were at least a good discovery exercise in seeing how our centre operated and our relationship to State. Our horses continued to share their time between our centre and their farm stay property.

November our centre continued to investigate the NDIS and how it could be used at our centre. Unfortunately, it is a very complicated scheme and we found that our student day time lessons, the bulk of our lessons, were not eligible. With the hope of our centre returning to our riding lessons and carriage driving rides we started training with some of our newer horses.

In December we opened the renovated outside toilet block. Our COVID shutdown gave our staff the time to give the project a great deal of attention and it sure does show. The new toilets are unrecognisable and are now not only safer and more ascetically pleasing but will be a lot easier for our disabled clients and their carers to use. Continuing with positive vibes we put great efforts into client and lesson planning for 2021 and advertised for additional coaches.

Our centre finished the year on a few very positive notes, a number of potential new coaches to be interviewed, term bookings coming in and the addition of two new horses and possibly a third. I'm sure all centres can agree with what a huge job it is finding horses suitable to our needs, and how exciting it is when you do. Our centre is looking forward to a prosperous 2021.



# Southern Highlands

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## Cowra

What a year 2020 has been. After getting ready to begin our RDA program, it was shelved. Schools closed, no riders, no Bunnings BBQ fundraisers and horses to be cared for. Thankfully it rained and feed in the paddocks grew – no need to buy hay etc. We are extremely fortunate to have the support of our community, who were generous with donations and our local Vet who gives us incredible discounts for dental checks and all other needs that arise.

Our Volunteers (adhering to COVID regulations) maintained our horses, continuing to train them each week. Finally, COVID restrictions eased and we were able to operate with 4 riders. Although Dept of Education restricted the schools from attending, parents were happy to bring their riders to RDA at their session times.

We still needed to find a way to help our bank balance, so the Giddy Up Club, an after school activity was started. This was open to any person between the ages of 6 and 16 and it was wonderful to see some of our RDA riders join. The interest from the community was phenomenal. Within 2 days, we had

filled 3 x 1hr sessions of 4 riders for a 5 week block. Such was the interest, we filled a second 5 week block and still had 20 on the waiting list. Equine skills, grooming, saddling and riding are offered to all riders. It has been fantastic to watch all riders gain confidence, self esteem and the achievement of riding – some had never been on a horse. The Giddy Up Club has fulfilled the ethos of RDA – our members are developing their riding skills as well as their social skills.

Our Volunteer Co-Ordinator, Linda Stroud was awarded the NSW RDA Volunteer Encouragement Award for 2019. We are extremely proud of Linda and all our Volunteers. Linda was also presented with the Premier's Community Service Award. Well done Linda.

It has been an unusual year but our horses remain fit, fed and trained. Our Volunteers, though numbers depleted for the present, continue their great work and our Giddy Up Club is an amazing success.

We can proudly say Cowra Coped with COVID.

## Moss Vale

We started the year with 3 promising riding days, with quite a few riders returning from last year. Our volunteer numbers were also up from last year- again a promising start!

Then of course we were no longer operating. We have had an enforced break from RDA for the rest of the year.

We have spent some time and energy into training some new ponies, so we feel ready and willing to get started in February with new enthusiasm!

## Wollodilly

Wollodilly along with many other Centres closed operations in February not knowing what might happen and just hoping that all our members, riders and horses all stayed safe and well while we were closed.

Our Coach and Trainee Coach had a much needed break but were still kept busy with enquiries from prospective helpers and riders and also with the overseeing of horse and ground management. Kelly has been busy keeping her studies up to date. She hopes to finish her studies this year and will be a qualified coach.

Our horses have enjoyed their "holiday" but also enjoyed people coming in regularly to feed them and spend a bit of time with them. We think they will be more than happy to be back at work this year.

We were able to apply for and receive a Burn Permit so our ground management people spent quite a lot of time raking and burning and generally keeping the grounds looking good.

After the sad passing of our Head Coach and President Betty Wallace we received from her family a sulky and a rocking horse which belonged to Betty as a child. The local Men's Shed has taken on both these items as a Community Project and are really enjoying rejuvenating them ready to be used again.

Rosie held a Training Day for new helpers and current members in November and is planning on having another one in January.

In July we sent a letter to our local member and following this we were very fortunate to receive a donation from the Premier's Department. Our local member organised a day to come and "present" the donation and meet a new adult rider and some of the horses. This afternoon was a great success and enjoyed by all.

The adult rider is really looking forward to next year when he will be part of our program. He has already fallen in love with the horse he will probably ride.

A few weeks ago we lost our dear horse, much loved Smoko. He will be really missed.

Our horse numbers have dropped and we are in need of ponies but they are hard to find. During the year we were able to obtain a lovely Brumby from Khancoban. She had some basic training but it will still be quite awhile before she is ready for RDA "duty".

We were also extremely fortunate during the year to be able to fundraise and purchase a really good pony which we had on loan. So our "go to pony" Bella is now ours.





## Goulburn

The RDA Goulburn Centre has had an eventful year during 2020.

Covid restrictions had our Centre cease operations temporarily however, as soon as we were able to restart our programs again under the guidance of RDA (NSW) we all jumped at the opportunity to put Covid Safe practises in place so we could get back in the arena to do what we do best. Provide horse related activities to improve the lives of people living with disabilities.

RDA Goulburn Centre currently has 1 Coach- Jolene Grove and 2 Assistant Coaches in training- Kim Mahoney & Katherine Fraser. 30 regular volunteers turn up every session to help run our wonderful Centre. Other RDA Goulburn volunteer roles are Leah Maher (Tack Shed/Horse Care) Aileen Rigby (Horse Care), Monika Augustin (Volunteer Coordinator), Kim Mahoney (Treasurer/AC), Katherine Fraser (President/AC), Richard Irvine (Vice President), Beverley (Grants/Fundraising) & Jolene Grove (Secretary/Coach).





After 3.5 Years of negotiations with the Goulburn Mulwaree Council, RDA Goulburn Centre has been successful in receiving a 15 year lease of 64 hectares of land. This land is situated on the Taralga Rd and is leased to RDA Goulburn for the purpose to relocate and build the new RDA Goulburn Centre. The available land was granted in conjunction with the Goulburn Campdraft Association where both organisations will share the parcel of land on a joint lease agreement. RDA Goulburn is very excited about the future for both organisations working together.

RDA Goulburn's Coach/Secretary Jolene Grove was the winner of the NSW Local Woman of the Year Award 2020. Jolene received this award from Wendy Tuckerman MP. Jolene was recognised for all her hard work and dedication towards the RDA Goulburn Centre.



RDA Goulburn was successful in receiving funding from The Primary Club of Australia to build a new access ramp to the indoor arena, not knowing what our future holds at our current location this beautifully crafted piece of equipment was made to be versatile so wherever the RDA Goulburn Centre is located this ramp is made to be removable and modifiable. The RDA Goulburn Centre was delighted to have members from The Primary Club attend a ribbon opening of the ramp and we are forever grateful that this ramp will enable us to continue operations smoothly at our Centre.



RDA Goulburn Centre celebrated their 40 Year Anniversary with limited numbers.

### **20 years dedicated Service**

Katherine Cole- Owner of Rosemont presented by Wendy Tuckerman MP

Patricia McCormick- Horse Care Manager presented by Geoff Pearson Office Angus Taylor MP

Aileen Rigby- Horse Care presented by Mayor Mr Bob Kirk

Monika Augustin- Volunteer Coordinator present by Dept Mayor Mr Peter Walker



### **Over 10 Years of dedicated service**

Robyne Stockman- Volunteer/Horse Provider presented by Vicki Hyland Office Angus Taylor MP

Roslyn Slater- Volunteer presented by Angus Malcolm RDA (NSW) Regional Representative Southern Highlands

RDA Goulburn Centre also had the pleasure of 2 guest speakers and also the founders of our centre attend Mrs Sue Morrison & Mrs Barbara Carter. We celebrated our wonderful centres milestone's over the past 40 years with lots of tears and laughter. We are very proud to be part of a vibrant enthusiastic group of volunteers that are passionate about the centres future and look forward to sharing our journey with fellow RDA (NSW) Centres.

# North West 61

## Coonabarabran

### Centre developments

Coonabarabran Centre has not allowed the unfortunate events of 2020 to slow it down. We have embraced the positives of the year and thrived along with it. As we didn't have any riding days we put all of our energy into a centre upgrade. The main focus of our energies was being the continuation of replacing the entire facilities tired old timber fencing, with steel.

Our lovely flower tubs have been painted and the flowers are thriving, thanks to the much Improved season. We are conjuring up some ideas for a sensory garden and murals around the centre, to bring in some vibrant colour!

Our ramp and rail finally received t

Entirely volunteer driven, we have had more work and dedication to our centre improvements than we could have ever asked for. 2020 was not wasted!

### Horse stories

Our horses have been on an extended leave... although we're pretty sure they sorely miss coming to the centre. As the season made a huge turn around, from disastrous drought to epic amounts of rain (for our region), the horses are all looking and feeling well.

### Coaching

We snuck in one riding session at the beginning of the year, in which we also snuck in our assessor Jenny Whiteford to assess Aurely for assistant coach. Phew! It was a close call ... Aurely successfully attained her assistant coach qualification. She has continued to study for her coach.

Glenn has wasted no time either and powered through his written assessments for both assistant and coach. Therefore coonabarabran currently has a qualified coach, Melissa, assistant coach, Aurely and trainee coach, Glenn.

### Community Events and Fundraising

At our AGM we appointed our new volunteer Graham as 'grants officer'. Graham wasted no time in writing up grant applications and successfully attained a \$5000 grant for yard repairs.

We all took part in a taste testing fundraising initiative with the university of New England and the MLA. Recruiting 'tasters' and taking part in the tasting ourselves ... In total our centre volunteers raised \$3000. Along with generous donations from community business, we are well on our way to finishing our mammoth fencing project.

We were donated a fantastic carriage that could potentially carry an entire school group. It was in need of some repair and a further generous donation meant that we could pursue those repairs. Now all we need is the horse to pull it!

### Volunteers

If we could bottle up our volunteers and times them by ten ... winner! Everyone has been amazing. We are all so excited about 2021 and operating again, albeit in a more COVID safe way. Nothing will keep this little centre down.

Bring on 2021 Coonabarabran RDA Centre!!!





# **62 Mid North Coast**





## Kempsey/Macleay

Following our closure early in november 2019 due to the showground being used as the bushfire evacuation centre 2020 was looking good.

After 2 weeks of riding the rain came, again no riding. Then the unthinkable covid-19 a new threat.

The mounted games were cancelled sydney show then the whole centre.

Our A.G.M. Was held under unprecedented conditions.

Then we were in lockdown. Fortunately the horses are paddocked adjacent to the centre. A few volunteers were able to continue feeding each day.

All volunteers were emailed each week with an update hoping this would keep them involved.

Restrictions began to ease and the paddocks needed some long overdue maintenance. 6 Of us formed our tuesday maintenance crew and worked weeding, digging, spraying clearing under trees etc all with our horses joining in especially at morning tea and lunch breaks.

With guidelines from casp the next challenge was ' do we return or wait until 2021.' With commitment and dedication from a small number of volunteers we researched and implemented our covid - safe plan.

We returned to riding in term 3 with 4 riders and volunteers keeping the centre open. This was beneficial for all including horses.







## Manning Great Lakes

### Highlights and Achievements

We survived 2020 and are still strong and standing.

#### Acknowledgements / Recognition

##### Centre developments

The upgrade to our water tank system is ongoing but when complete, will ensure we never run out of water again as we did during the drought.

##### Riders / Rides

16 riders were lucky enough to enjoy rides before COVID-19 shut us down.

Carriage drivers sadly missed out due to the lockdown.

##### Horse stories

9 horses as at the end of 2020.

A new horse, Scarlet, was generously gifted to us through a will towards the end of 2020. She is in training and we are very pleased with her progress to date. The rest of the herd have accepted her with a few teething problems in the beginning.

Our long-serving, go to and much-loved horse Turbo, retired and now enjoys the green pastures of Wingham.

Lightning is now living and working with Horseabout Tours and from all reports, is loving the fun of going on trail rides and wading in the ocean.

Georgia left us to go to a good home where she is much loved.

Little Spirit also found a good home and is a companion to a young boy and from all accounts, they are kindred spirits.

##### Coaching

Our coaches were only able to conduct 4 rides in the early part of 2020. During the closure of the Centre they still worked with the horses as much as possible assisting with feeding, grooming and exercising.

##### Community Events and Fundraising

Our fundraising activities were limited during 2020 but our reliable committee members and volunteers, Dave and Tara Copp, still held their market stall outside IGA in Taree during school holidays. They helped to raise much needed funds and also helped the community to see that the Centre is still strong and open.

We welcomed the Taree and District Vintage and Classic Motorcycle Club to the Centre later in the year to present us with a very generous cheque for \$500. Other businesses have also sent us generous donations which have been very much appreciated.

We have many collections boxes in the area and the generosity of the public and businesses is so much appreciated during this challenging time.

And of course, our horse manure continues to be in demand especially during lockdown when many people were working on their gardens.

##### Volunteers

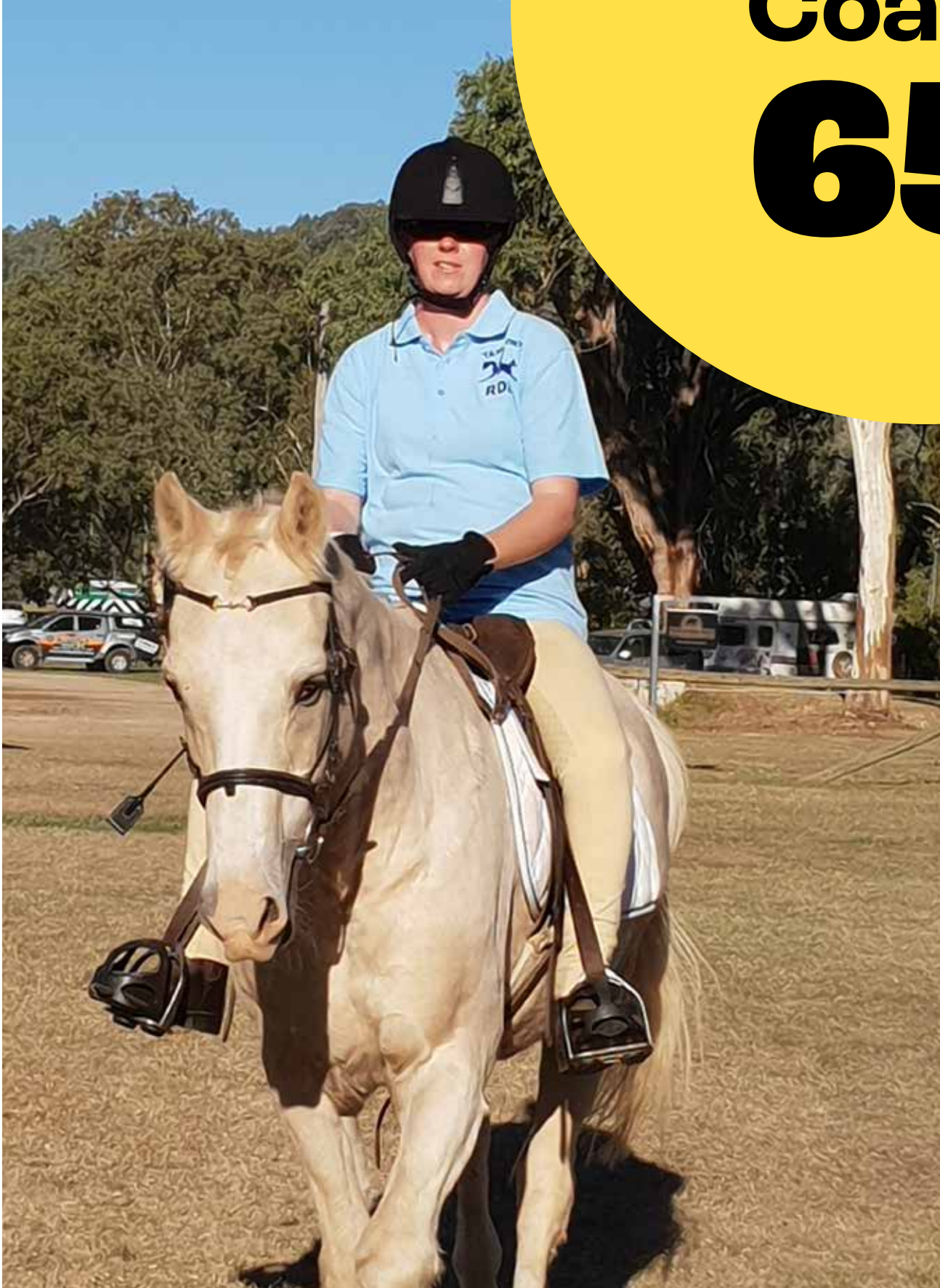
We started off the year with a large number of new volunteers who attended our training days. All was off to a great start and then you know what hit!!

A small number of volunteers kept the Centre going through 2020 assisting with feeding and caring for the horses, maintenance around the property, administration work, cleaning the clubhouse, picking up poo and being a support to Jo Correll, our landlord.

Due to COVID rules, the number of people going out to the Centre was limited but our sincere thanks goes to those who did come and contribute.



# North Coast 65





## Ballina & District

After all the challenges faced in 2020 Ballina is strong and resilient. The committee stayed firmly committed to doing whatever was needed to keep the centre safe and operational. Thanks to active skilled volunteers, donations from service clubs and a grants from Frizelle we were able to complete some projects to improve the grazing area, arena, stalls, kitchen, office, seating, watering areas and shelters. Our volunteers worked tirelessly to ensure the centre grounds, pasture and infrastructure were maintained and improved. We had more enquires from people wanting to volunteer this year than other years. Class numbers were limited to keep everyone safe and school group sessions were cancelled. The centre was able to maintain and build its volunteer base. The wait list grew longer and we hope to be in a position to offer more sessions in 2021.

We have been unable, over the last eight to ten years, to recruit people willing to do the course work required and become accredited RDA coaches and then be in a financial position to volunteer as coaches on a regular basis. While it is a privilege to be an RDA coach and very rewarding most people these days are not so privileged as to be able to

volunteer their time as they need to earn money to live. The volunteer base has shifted so much in the past 40 odd years and the cohort of, mostly women, who were willing and able to volunteer their time is no longer available. We find we are competing with private riding schools as people use their NDIS payment for private lessons where coaches are paid. In order to keep the centre running and increase the number of participants to whom we can offer places we have offered to pay our RDA certified coaches. This means the coaches we have can afford to give up other paid work and work as RDA coaches. It also means riders are using their NDIS payments to pay for RDA lessons. We will continue to run sessions on Saturday, Tuesday and Wednesday and plan to offer more sessions as we train new coaches and volunteer horse handlers. We have three coaches working this year, one on leave, one assistant coach and four coaches in, or about to begin, coach training.

The herd of 10 is in fine shape for 2021 after having their annual dental work, receiving veterinary care as needed and being regularly wormed, trimmed, fed minerals, groomed, played with, rested, grazed, watered, exercised and loved.







## Tamworth

2020 started with an enthusiastic group of volunteers and clients. Our grounds were looking fantastic after the district received rain. We had one riding day and one day cancelled due to rain. Due to the emerging situation with the Covid -19 Pandemic the early decision to cease riding and carriage driving activities was made on the 17th March. Initially the horses and ponies remained at the Centre. As it became clear that we would be non- operational indefinitely they were agisted out with some of our volunteers. Thank You all for your generosity. They are in superb condition and enjoying every moment of their extended break. 22yr old harness pony Star has been retired after 5 years of invaluable service at our Centre. Star a gentle natured mare was reliable and safe. An educated and experienced harness pony, Star enabled clients to experience the thrill of harness driving.

Vale Geebung Ice Cream - 6/08/2020. "A True Gentleman" Loved by clients and volunteers alike. Ice Cream was the go to horse at Tamworth RDA for many years. A gentle horse, safe and reliable he enriched the lives of so many. Ice Cream was the recipient of the RDA NSW Shush Memorial Award in 2017. He also competed successfully at the RDA NSW State Dressage Championships in 2018 and 2019.

The new amenities block is completed, it includes additional storage space. This has been a long term project and is a wonderful asset for our Centre. Thank You to Greg Bartlett Constructions and his team of tradesmen. Also Thank You to our wonderful volunteers who skillfully completed the finishing touches. With our new amenities accessed from outside we are now able to utilize the extra space in The Lodge, expanding our office and communal area. After years of drought, finally we have had plentiful rain our grounds are lush and green. Our volunteers have been kept busy mowing and spraying weeds. What a contrast to the dirt, dust and smoke haze of 2019!

Prior to Christmas with the easing of Covid-19 restrictions we were able to have a BBQ for our volunteers at the North Tamworth Bowling Club. It was a great opportunity to catch up. The Centre has conducted 2 Bunnings BBQ's this year these are an important part of our fund raising activities. A decision is yet to be made as to when activities will recommence at our Centre.

# Vales 68

## **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

**Betty Wallace - Wollondilly Centre**

**Ross Campbell - Orange Centre**

**Patrick Frecklington - Orange Centre**

**David Johnston - Ballina Centre**

## **Horse Vale**

**Nugget, Ochre, Macca, Jack, Charlie - Wagga Centre**

**Dimity - Ryde Centre**

**Ozzy - Box Hill Tall Timbers Centre**

**May - Orange Centre**







# RDA (NSW)

## Patrons



### **Patron**

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



### **Life Patron**

Mrs Pearl Batchelor (dec.)



### **Vice Patron**

Mr Don Eyb

## Directors & Portfolios



### **Chairperson**

Mrs Margeret Norman



### **Finance Officer Company Secretary**

Mr Joe Orland



### **Development Officer Member Protection Officer**

Ms Olwen Smith



### **Director/Grants & Risk Management Officer**

Ms Tracy Lucas



### **Communications Director**

Ms Susie McDonell



### **Executive Officer Riders Representative**

Ms Jan Pike



### **Marketing Director**

Ms Janine Osland



### **Workplace Safety Health & Emergency Officer**

Mr Wayne Gallagher

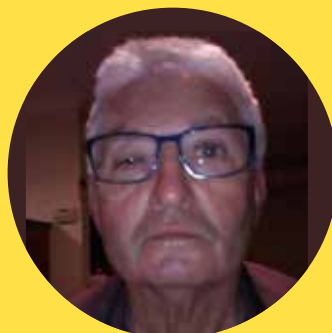
## Regional Representatives



**Southern Highlands**  
Mr Angus Malcolm



**Mid North Coast**  
Mrs Sue Hardinge-White



**Central West**  
Mr Wayne Gallagher



**Hunter**  
Mrs Jenny Cameron



**Metropolitan**  
Ms Paula Gray



**North Coast**  
Mr Clarry Quirk



**Riverina**  
Ms Margot Bulger

## Staff



**Office Co-Ordinator**  
Mrs Lucy Pentony



**Coaching Administrator**  
Ms Nicole King



**RTO CEO & CASP Chairman  
Coaching Co-Ordinator**  
Mrs Wendy Torr Oam



**Centre Audit Officer**  
Mrs Joan Edwards Oam

## Support Staff



# Thank-You

## to all our volunteers & supporters



Without your assistance RDA (NSW) could not service 600 riders who were able to ride throughout the 2020 COVID-19 Pandemic year

### **Why Yellow?**

Yellow is the colour of optimism. Yellow is a compelling colour that conveys youthful and fresh energy. It is the colour of sunshine and is uplifting and illuminating and is associated with safety, success and confidence.





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

Postal Address: P.O. Box 710 SYDNEY MARKETS NSW 2129

Office Address: Quad 1, Level 2, 8 Parkview Drive, Sydney Olympic Park, NSW 2127

Phone: (02) 8736 1256

Email: [stateoffice@rdansw.org.au](mailto:stateoffice@rdansw.org.au)

[www.rdansw.org.au](http://www.rdansw.org.au)

