



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

**2024
Annual
Report**



This image symbolises the **strong connection between humans and horses**, which is central to our programs at **Riding for the Disabled Association (NSW)**, representing a bond that helps people with all forms of disability.

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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.

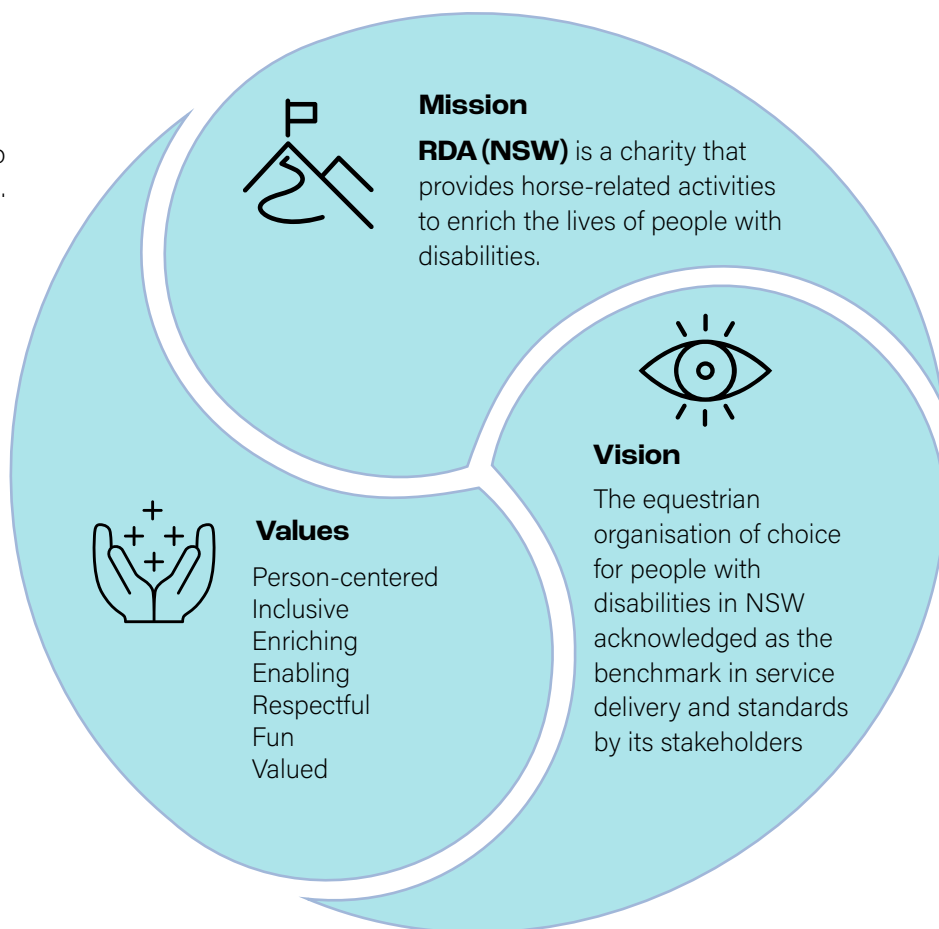
The objectives of **RDA (NSW)** are to encourage, support and assist Centres to provide riding therapy, sport, recreation, connections, training and safety programs for people with disabilities. **RDA (NSW)** offers horse riding, carriage driving, dressage, mounted games and Equine Facilitated

Mental Health and Learning (EFMH&L) and caters for people with physical, intellectual and psychosocial disabilities.

RDA (NSW) currently has 33 Centres spread throughout NSW with 90% of Centres based in regional areas. The Centres cater for 1075 riders annually and are supported by our volunteers. Our community therefore embraces the Centres and the volunteer infrastructure. To adequately support riders with disabilities **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.



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 accreditation procedures

Participation To grow participation by broadening the disciplines and numbers and providing pathways via Centre capacity

Volunteers To retain existing, recruit new and recognise a volunteer's value and contribution

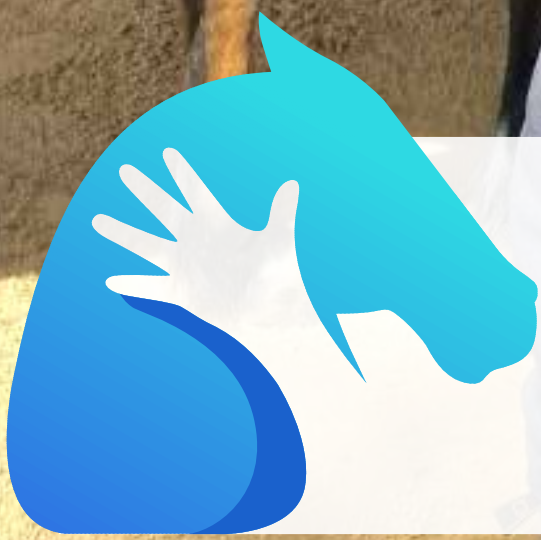
Regional Centres & Representatives



Founder and Life Patron of RDA (NSW)

Pearl Batchelor OAM (dec.)





Director's Reports

Chairperson's Report

As we gather for the Annual General Meeting of the Riding for the Disabled Association (NSW), I want to reflect on the progress and achievements our organisation has accomplished over the past year. Our unwavering commitment to providing equine-assisted activities for individuals with disabilities has continued to make a profound impact across New South Wales and remains our highest priority.

As with most organisations, there have been plenty of challenges. Many of these challenges remain unresolved although there has been much progress. Examples being the distribution of funds from the Golden Eagle and the adoption of a new Constitution. These two achievements place the organisation with a very positive outlook. Thanks go to my fellow Board Directors for their assistance and support during the year.

Throughout the year, RDA (NSW) has steadfastly provided opportunities for individuals with disabilities to engage in therapeutic horse-related activities. Our programs have consistently delivered physical benefits such as improved balance, muscle strength, and coordination; psychological benefits including enhanced self-confidence and well-being.

Our dedicated volunteers remain the backbone of RDA (NSW). The 2024-2025 year has been marked by significant growth, community support, and unwavering dedication from our volunteers and staff.

As we move forward, RDA (NSW) will focus on:

- **Expanding our services** to reach more participants, particularly in underrepresented regions.
- **Enhancing our training programs** to support volunteers, coaches, and staff.
- **Developing new partnerships** with disability organizations, schools, and healthcare providers to further integrate our services into the broader support network.
- **Continuing our commitment to horse welfare**, ensuring our equine partners receive the highest level of care.
- **Improved transparency**, communicating clearer with the member centres
- **Greater Governance**, through the new Constitution and newly elected Board.

Thank you for your ongoing support and dedication to our mission. Stay with us as we surge forward united in our mission. We can't do this without you.

Greg Urand

Riders Representative Report

Firstly, I would like to thank all the wonderful volunteers, coaches, committee members, riders and especially our horses without whom our organization could not continue to operate.

Even though 2024 has been a tumultuous year it has been a year of great achievements both small and large by all riders, volunteers and coaches involved with RDA (NSW) programs and in special events – both physically like SIEC or the awards achieved virtually over other overseas RDA groups.

I have endeavoured with members of the board to assist all RDA (NSW) Centres to continue to follow the legacy of Pearl Batchelor in helping all people with a disability to achieve more than was thought possible over 50 years ago.

All RDA (NSW) centres, large or small, can all be classified as CENTRES OF EXCELLENCE for the wonderful things that they are doing to improve the lives of people with a disability.

We must have a common focus on improving the lives of all participants and volunteers by being united to support them and not by being divisive or promoting personal agendas.

My most important role within RDA (NSW) has been as a volunteer for 34+ years.

Once again, I thank everyone for their involvement in RDA (NSW).

Allan Burton

Company Secretary Report

It has been my pleasure to have been the Company Secretary for RDA (NSW) for many years.

The main duties of a Company Secretary involved me in ensuring that the following matters and tasks were attended to in a timely manner:

- Ensuring that the organisation, including the Centres, comply with the law (especially Company Law but also the relevant State and Federal laws in general);
- Ensuring that the organisation complies with its charter (i.e. the RDA (NSW) Constitution and, where applicable, the relevant Centre Constitutions);
- Providing advice to the directors and Centre Committees on governance, including Constitutional, issues;
- Assisting the Board as needed with meetings;
- With Board approval, ensuring that Centres were notified of Board decisions which affect Centres;
- Ensuring that company records are securely stored and maintained;
- RDA (NSW) being a registered not-for-profit Charity and ensuring that the relevant ASIC and ACNC requirements are met.
- Ensuring that RDA (NSW)'s exemptions from income tax and NSW Stamp Duty are maintained.

The Board of directors of the company appoint the person to the position of Company Secretary and also determines the period for which the appointed person can hold the position of Company Secretary.

Joseph Orland

Executive Officer Report

As I reflect on my role as Executive Officer of this fabulous organisation, it is an understatement to say it has been a privilege and an honour. This past year has certainly brought our share of difficulties, yet through it all, the dedication and passion of our team have been truly inspiring.

I would like to take a moment to extend my heartfelt thanks to our Office Coordinator, Lucy Pentony. Her unwavering passion and commitment have been the backbone of our operations, enabling our directors to focus on their essential responsibilities.

I also want to acknowledge the wonderful work of our Registered Training Organisation (RTO), Nicole, and her invaluable assistant, Kristy. Their contributions do not go unnoticed; we are incredibly fortunate to have such resolute individuals within our ranks.

Additionally, I would like to recognise the expertise of our consultants, Margaret Norman and Jan Pike. Their extensive knowledge of RDA is nothing short of encyclopedic, guiding us through various challenges with wisdom and insight.

While we have faced challenges this year, there have also been brilliant moments that far overshadow the negatives. A huge congratulations is due to Nicole King and all members of the Mounted Games Committee, as well as everyone involved with the Sydney International Equestrian Centre (SIEC) and the Dressage Championships. Your hard work and dedication have made a significant impact on our community.

I must also express my deep appreciation for our centres and the vital services they provide to our riders and participants. We are truly fortunate to have enthusiastic volunteers and hardworking horses who contribute so much to our mission. Without your efforts, we would not be able to fulfil our objectives.

Lastly, I want to address the instances of negative behaviour we have encountered. It is essential to remember that we are all volunteers working toward a common purpose. If you have concerns, I encourage you to communicate openly rather than engage in conflict. Let us come together to strengthen the RDA family and foster an environment of kindness and collaboration.

As we move forward, let us embrace the spirit of teamwork and positivity. Together, we can navigate any challenges and continue to provide exceptional programs for our community. Thank you all for your hard work, passion, and commitment to making this organization what it is today.

Tracy Lucas

Grants Officer Report

As I reflect on my journey as the Grants Officer for RDA (NSW), I am filled with gratitude for the experiences and connections I have made over the years. From the moment I took on the grant's portfolio, I have been privileged to witness the incredible transformations in our centres—whether it is the creation of new arenas, the fencing of paddocks, or the acquisition of essential equipment. Each project has contributed not just to our facilities but to the lives of the individuals we serve.

One of the most rewarding aspects of my role has been overseeing the ongoing grant dedicated to mental health initiatives, including the Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) and Employee Assistance Program (EAP). These programs have been vital for our community, and I am proud to support such meaningful work.

However, this year has been particularly challenging for me on a personal level, as I have faced some mental health struggles of my own. This has necessitated a temporary step back from my responsibilities, a decision that has been gut-wrenching for me. I have always taken our mission to heart, and the negative behaviours and attacks I encountered affected me deeply. For the sake of my family and my own well-being, it was necessary to prioritise my health during this time.

Despite these challenges, I have found immense joy in signing off on several grants that will benefit our centres. One memorable project was assisting the Central Coast Centre with re-roofing, where I was fortunate enough to present 10,000 roofing screws. Moments like these remind me that our work extends beyond financial support; it is about building a community and fostering growth.

Looking ahead to 2025, I am hopeful to return with renewed energy and continue supporting all our centres as they thrive. Thank you for allowing me to be a part of this incredible journey. I look forward to seeing you all flourish in the coming years.

Tracy Lucas



CASP Report

CASP (Coaching and Safety Panel) have been busy helping with going through and checking module updates for aXcelerate and also doing Carriage Driving modules updates.

Also checking the extra information sent through from the Centres when there has been a fall from a horse – we understand this may seem like a lot more paperwork but considering past events we felt it was necessary at this time.

We have also been contacted by a few centres with questions regarding problems. We are always ready to be helpful and respond as quickly and helpfully as possible to sort out any queries that may arise. We've also attended to queries and questions from the Board and hope our replies have been helpful.

CASP has monthly zoom meetings to discuss any issues that arise and come to a mutual agreement on these during our meetings.

Coaching and Carriage Driving manuals are being prepared to be updated and printed and will be sent to each centre early 2025.

A number of assessments have been conducted along with workshops, focusing on areas that meet the needs of trainees. The State Workshop at Tall Timbers last year had an attendance of about 80 people and went really well, it also included a Carriage Driving component for the first time in a long time.

There was also a delivery of a couple of Connections (EFMH&L) workshops as part of the Sport Mental Health grant.

An EAP (Employee Assistant Program) was established and conducted some Mental Health Training – a webinar was made available and attended by many coaches and volunteers.

We also conducted centre support audits throughout the state with Assessors and Regional Representatives attending.

We were pleased to support the Mounted Games and Dressage committees coming together to deliver the 2024 RDA State Championships at SIEC, which was also awarded Sport NSW Event of the Year.

The role of CASP is to oversee and encourage the implementation of a quality coaching system which strongly emphasises safety of riders, coaches and volunteers.

Thank you to Westpac Foundation for supporting our Centres and Trainee Coaches for donating 30 reconditioned laptops that were distributed to Centres around the state to enable Trainees to access our online training resources.

Jenny Wilkinson



Finance Officer Report

It has been my privilege to be the Finance Officer for Riding for the Disabled Association (NSW) for 2024. I was ably supported by our accountant who kept me and the accounts honest and for that assistance I am truly grateful.

It was my pleasure to complete the ACNC Reports for numerous centres, and I am happy to continue for those RDA centres that wish me to continue completing these for them. I am also happy to assist any centre to complete their own ACNC reporting.

There have been some generous donations from the Give Now option on our website which I have endeavoured to disperse to the specified RDA centre or to the one nearest the Donor.

The apparent overall financial loss for 2024 is deceptive due to the dispersal of the Golden Eagle money to the RDA (NSW) Centres. I hope this was of benefit to your centre to provide for those riders benefiting from our riding sessions.

As an explanation of the expenses, we have to take into the account that the Golden Eagle funds that came into last year's finances was dispensed to the Centres within this Annual financial year which then gives us an appearance of increased spending that is out of the ordinary.

The Item that is listed in Operational costs: Grants Dispersed to Centres is relating to the Grants applied for by a Centre and has to be passed through RDA (NSW) as the auspicing body. These are always passed on to the relevant centre.

The legal fees of \$68,452.86 relate mainly to the expenses for legal representation for the Mediation hearing between RDA (NSW), RDA Tamworth and RDA Box Hill which led to the "Heads of Agreement".

Other legal costs incurred are related to the expenses incurred by ongoing challenges by an individual operating a private for-profit business on our RDA (NSW) owned property specifically for riders with a disability. Originally this business did not have adequate Public Liability Insurance coverage that satisfied RDA (NSW) requirements.

As you will note the Rider Registration fees of \$101,125.38 are what is used traditionally to pay for the Insurance required annually and office expenses.

Please also note that the listing for Box Hill expenses is for the second lease area that is currently vacant and needs to be maintained due to fire hazards etc. It does not refer to the RDA Centre at Box Hill who are responsible for their Centre's maintenance.

Olwen Smith

Profit & Loss

Accrual Basis

January through December 2024

Ordinary Income/Expense Income

Sponsorships	454.55
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Assessments Coaching

Assessments NSW	
Coaching Assessment	818.16
NSW Registration fee	1,272.74
Total Assessments NSW	2,090.90
Assessments QLD	1,000.00

Total Assessments Coaching	3,090.90
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Books/Publications/videos

Volunteer Information Booklet	115.36
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Total Books/Publications/videos	115.36
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Member Charges

Centre Annual Affiliation Fee	3,100.00
Rider Registration Fees RDANSW	101,125.38

Total Member Charges	104,225.38
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Donations Received	3,458.19
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Dressage

Dressage Income	23,087.16
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Total Dressage	23,087.16
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AGM Dinner & Workshop	1,430.88
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Entry fee	340.00
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GRANTS RECEIVED	59,045.45
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Postage charged on items	87.57
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Promotional Items

Badge - service	340.00
Badges - Gold lapel	54.09
Badges - Life Member Centre	496.37
Volunteer badges - enamel	40.00

Total Promotional Items	930.46
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Box Hill

Box Hill Annual Lease Fee	10.00
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Total Box Hill	10.00
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RTO

Courses	-818.18
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Total RTO	-818.18
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Total Income	195,457.72
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Expense

General Administration

Box Hill Expenses

Garden Maintenance	1,240.00
Survey	17,100.00

Total Box Hill Expenses	18,340.00
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Bad Debt W/O	1,390.91
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Honorarium

RR/Councilors \$100	600.00
Directors \$500	3,500.00

Total Honorarium	4,100.00
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Office Overheads

Computer Expenses

License Fee Axcelerate	8,208.00
Computer Disposable expenses	508.02
Software Expenses	2,734.20
Support - Computer	2,910.00

Total Computer Expenses	14,360.22
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Office/Inhouse expenses

Gifts	841.06
Kitchen Expenses	489.09
Postage and Delivery	880.79
Printing and Stationery	155.28
Security Destruction	245.00

Total Office/Inhouse expenses	2,611.22
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Telephone

Domain.Web Hosting	26.36
Office Phone/Fax/Internet	215.41

Total Telephone	241.77
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Total Office Overheads	17,213.21
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Bank Charges

Merchant Fees	1.00
Bank Service Charges	21.97
Security Box Fee	60.00

Total Bank Charges	82.97
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Professional Fees

EAP Costs	2,194.00
Accounting	1,250.00
Audit Costs	4,810.00
Bookkeeping	9,293.75
Consulting	3,703.75
Legal Fees	68,452.86

Total Professional Fees	89,704.36
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Travel & Accommodation

AGM Travel, Accommodation & Other	12,376.45
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Other Travel & Accommodation - board et

Accommodation	18,473.23
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Meals	115.28
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Travel	6,700.15
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Travel & Accommodation CASP exc assessment	94.55
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Total Other Travel & Accommodation - board et	25,383.21
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Total Travel & Accommodation	37,759.66
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Payroll Expenses

Long Service Leave Provision	1,780.81
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Salaries

Sal Sacrifice FBT expense	18,848.80
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Wages & Salaries - Gross	73,061.37
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Total Salaries	91,910.17
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Superannuation

Employer paid Superannuation SGC	10,354.09
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Total Superannuation Employer paid	10,354.09
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Total Payroll Expenses	104,045.07
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Total General Administration	272,636.18
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Operational Expense

GRANTS DISBURSED TO CENTRES	34,101.28
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Dressage Championships	19,341.98
------------------------	-----------

Vet Costs	367.27
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Judge Payments	200.00
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Catering Expenses	1,285.69
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Coaching Training Support	7,256.79
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Donations Paid	480,562.00
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Entry Fees	363.07
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Equipment Rental & Venue Hire	668.18
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Insurance

Professional Indemnity	11,578.63
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Combined Liability	43,540.00
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Business Plan	692.69
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Corporate Travel	1,000.00
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Marine Transit	2,615.00
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Personal Accident Insurance	16,750.00
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Rental Insurance - Box Hill	2,854.66
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Workers Compensation	1,156.85
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Total Insurance	80,187.83
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Reimbursement/Assistance	140.00
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Subscriptions & Memberships	3,937.28
-----------------------------	----------

Seminars & Training	9,833.18
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Travel & Accommodation**Assessors Travel & Accom Exp**

Travel & Accom - Coaching Asses

5,312.06

Total Assessors Travel & Accom Exp**5,312.06****Centre Support Audit Trav & Acco**

Travel & Accom - Centre Supp

2,719.22

Total Centre Support Audit Trav & Acco**2,719.22****Regional Rep expenses**

Meals - Reg Rep

598.07

Travel - Reg Rep

5,147.11

Total Regional Rep expenses**5,745.18****Total Travel & Accommodation****13,776.46**

Uniforms

3,890.73

Total Operational Expense**655,911.74****Promotional & Marketing**

Advertising

11,102.04

Awards, Trophies Judges

1,504.50

Promo Items

Badges

1,221.20

Total Promo Items**1,221.20****Total Promotional & Marketing****13,827.74****Total Expense****942,375.66****Net Ordinary Income****-746,917.94**

Other Income/Expense**Other Income****OTHER OPERATING INCOME**

Investment Income Received

Interest from cash Investment 66,739.60

Interest from loans 217.54

Share Portfolio

Dividends

Franked Dividend Income 94,204.24

Franking Credit Gross Up 39,458.38

Unfranked Dividend Income 12,662.30

Total Dividends 146,324.92

Property Trusts 4,412.92

Total Share Portfolio 150,737.84**Total Investment Income Received 217,694.98****Roundings & Adjustments -0.65****Interest Income 7,617.58****Total OTHER OPERATING INCOME 225,311.91****NON OPERATING PROFIT/LOSS VALUE**

Revaluations

Inc (Dec) Value Property 11,803.20

Inc (Dec) Value of Equities 368,574.61

Total Revaluations 380,377.81**Total NON OPERATING PROFIT/LOSS VALUE 380,377.81****Total Other Income 605,689.72****Net Income -141,228.22**

Ryde



Financial Report

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

**FINANCIAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 DECEMBER 2024**

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

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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 RIDING FOR THE DISABLED ASSOCIATION (NSW) for the financial year ended 31 December 2024.

Information on Directors

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

Ms Tracy Lucas
Ms Olwen Smith
Mr Joseph Orland (resigned 25 June 2024)
Mr Allan Burton
Mr Clarence Quirk (retired 4 May 2024)
Ms Janet Pike OAM (resigned 30 July 2024)
Ms Linda Bower (appointed 4 May 2024)
Mr Greg Urand (appointed 4 May 2024)
Ms Kelli Javanoski (appointed 24 March 2025)
Ms Suzanne Wilson (appointed 18 December 2024)

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

Operating Results

The loss/(profit) of the company after providing for income tax amounted to \$141,228 (2023 \$714,330).

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 Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission Act 2012, for the year ended 31 December 2024 has been received and is attached.

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

Director: 
Mrs Olwen Smith

Director: 
Ms Tracy Lucas

Dated this 14th day of April 2025

**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 2024 there have been:

- (i) no contraventions of the auditor independence requirements as set out in the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission Act 2012 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: 406/251 Oxford St Bondi Junction NSW 2022

Dated this 14th day of April, 2025



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 2024

	Note	2024 \$	2023 \$
Income			
Revenue	3	420,770.28	905,942.18
		420,770.28	905,942.18
Expenditure			
Advertising expenses		(13,827.74)	(7,694.67)
Bad and doubtful debt expenses		(1,390.91)	-
Employee benefits expenses		(104,045.07)	(99,648.89)
Other expenses		(823,111.94)	(246,679.57)
		(942,375.66)	(354,023.13)
(Loss) Profit for the year	4	(521,605.38)	551,919.05
Other Comprehensive income net of income tax			
• revaluation of equities		368,573.96	155,363.75
• revaluation of properties		11,803.20	8,047.60
Other comprehensive income for the year		380,377.16	162,411.35
Total comprehensive income for the year		(141,228.22)	714,330.40

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

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

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2024

	Note	2024 \$	2023 \$
ASSETS			
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash and cash equivalents	5	2,043,393.04	2,549,869.85
Trade and other receivables	6	10.70	(1,233.30)
Loans and advances	7	23,854.98	28,443.97
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		<u>2,067,258.72</u>	<u>2,577,080.52</u>
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Other financial assets	8	2,488,085.32	2,107,707.51
Investment property	9	5,663,000.00	5,663,000.00
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS		<u>8,151,085.32</u>	<u>7,770,707.51</u>
TOTAL ASSETS		<u>10,218,344.04</u>	<u>10,347,788.03</u>
LIABILITIES			
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Trade and other payables	10	41,412.72	29,628.49
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>41,412.72</u>	<u>29,628.49</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES		<u>41,412.72</u>	<u>29,628.49</u>
NET ASSETS (LIABILITIES)		<u>10,176,931.32</u>	<u>10,318,159.54</u>
EQUITY			
Reserves	11	2,811,678.93	2,811,678.93
Retained earnings	12	7,365,252.39	7,506,480.61
TOTAL EQUITY		<u>10,176,931.32</u>	<u>10,318,159.54</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 2024

	Note	Reserves	Retained earnings	Total
		\$	\$	\$
Balance at 1 January 2023		2,810,720.69	6,792,150.21	9,602,870.90
Movements in Reserves		958.24		958.24
Profit for the year			714,330.40	714,330.40
Balance at 31 December 2023		<u>2,811,678.93</u>	<u>7,506,480.61</u>	<u>10,318,159.54</u>
Profit/(Loss) for the year			(141,228.22)	(141,228.22)
Movements in Reserves				
Balance at 31 December 2024		<u>2,811,678.93</u>	<u>7,365,252.39</u>	<u>10,176,931.32</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

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

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

		2024	2023
		\$	\$
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Receipts from customers		187,029.40	744,489.99
Payments to suppliers and employees		(918,686.41)	(348,885.37)
Interest received		7,617.58	2,588.48
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	13	<u>(724,039.43)</u>	<u>398,193.10</u>
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Proceeds from investments		217,483.97	171,240.76
Proceeds from sale of other assets			
Payments for investments			
Payments for other assets			
Net cash used in investing activities		<u>217,483.97</u>	<u>171,240.76</u>
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES			
Proceeds from borrowings		-4,721.35	6,850.00
Repayment of borrowings		4,800.00	4,800.00
Net cash provided by financing activities		<u>78.65</u>	<u>11,650.00</u>
Net increase (decrease) in cash held		(506,476.81)	581,083.86
Cash at beginning of financial year		2,549,869.85	1,968,785.99
Cash at end of financial year	5	<u>2,043,393.04</u>	<u>2,546,869.85</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

GL

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

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

The financial reports cover 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 Australian Accounting Standards and the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission.

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

The financial statements are special purpose financial statements that have been prepared in accordance with the Australian Accounting Standards and the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profit Corporations Act 2012 and the needs of the members.

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.

The 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.

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).

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

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

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.

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.

GL

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

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

Impairment of Non-Financial Assets

At the end of each reporting period the company determines whether there is 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.

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 ownership of the goods and cessation of all involvement in those goods.

GL

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

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

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.

GL

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

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

	2024 \$	2023 \$
3 Revenue and Other Income		
Revenue		
Other revenue:		
Interest received	7,617.58	2,588.48
Other revenue	413,152.70	903,353.70
	<u>420,770.28</u>	<u>905,942.18</u>
Total revenue	<u>420,770.28</u>	<u>905,942.18</u>
Other income		
Increase/(Decrease)in Value of Equities	368,574.61	154,363.49
Increase/(Decrease) in Value of Properties	11,803.20	8,047.60
Other Income/(Loss) - Equities	(0.65)	0.26
Total other income	<u>380,377.16</u>	<u>162,411.35</u>
Interest revenue from:		
Interest Received	7,617.58	2,588.48
Total interest revenue on financial assets not at fair value through profit or loss	<u>7,617.58</u>	<u>2,588.48</u>
Other revenue from:		
Awards & Sponsorship	454.55	-
Affiliation & Rider Registration Fees	103,407.20	99,730.27
Assessments	3,090.90	1,454.55
Dressage Income	23,087.16	19,755.75
Donations Received	3,458.19	574,828.42
Grants Received	59,045.45	20,000.00
Investment Income Received	217,694.98	159,534.21
Promotional Items	2,788.91	3,314.05
Profit on sale of Non Current Assets	-	11.65
Rental - Box Hill	10.00	24,705.71
Sales of Manuals/Publications/ Videos etc.	115.36	19.09
Total other revenue	<u>413,152.70</u>	<u>903,353.70</u>

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

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

	2024 \$	2023 \$
4 Profit for the year		
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:		
Expenses		
Employee benefits expense:		
contributions to defined contribution superannuation funds	10,354.09	9,583.00
Bad Debts	1,390.91	-
Total bad and doubtful debts	<u>1,390.91</u>	<u>-</u>
5 Cash and Cash Equivalents		
Cash at Bank - Cheque Account	27,587.23	662,117.66
Westpac Maxi Direct A/C:154908	101,810.53	10,235.48
Petty Cash - Office	100.00	100.00
Investment Trading Account	5.32	5.32
Investment Cash Reserve-201081	223,025.15	213,445.21
Cash Investment Bonus-209067	11,794.34	51,167.91
Debit Cards	1,276.46	1,000.00
O'Connor Legal Trust Account	26,898.03	-
Interest Bearing Deposits	1,626,911.53	1,587,813.82
Emergency Relief Fund	23,984.45	23,984.45
	<u>2,043,393.04</u>	<u>2,549,869.85</u>
6 Trade and Other Receivables		
Other Debtors	10.70	(1,233.30)
	<u>10.70</u>	<u>(1,233.30)</u>

The carrying value of trade receivables is considered a reasonable approximation of fair value due to the short term nature of the balances.

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

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

	2024 \$	2023 \$
7 Loans and Advances		
Imputation Credit Due	22,149.30	21,938.29
Loan to Other RDA Centres	1,705.68	6,505.68
	<u>23,854.98</u>	<u>28,443.97</u>
8 Other Financial Assets		
Non-Current		
Shares at Original Cost	1,510,105.91	1,510,105.91
Changes in Value of Portfolio	881,600.61	513,026.00
Property Funds @ Original Cost	82,097.51	82,097.51
Changes in Value of Property	14,281.29	2,478.09
	<u>2,488,085.32</u>	<u>2,107,707.51</u>
9 Investment Property		
Land & Buildings		
125 Old Pitt Town Rd, Box Hill	4,600,000.00	4,600,000.00
Raymond Terrace & Lower Hunter (Partial)	63,000.00	63,000.00
Ballina, 377 Houghlahans Creek Rd, Teven	1,000,000.00	1,000,000.00
	<u>5,663,000.00</u>	<u>5,663,000.00</u>
10 Trade and Other Payables		
Current		
Other Creditors	25,973.99	4,054.55
Interest on Loan	18.45	235.99
Grant Clearing Account	-	8,850.00
Tax Liabilities	(4,570.16)	(1,721.68)
Accrued Expenses	18,990.44	17,209.63
Bonds Received	1,000.00	1,000.00
	<u>41,412.72</u>	<u>29,628.49</u>
11 Reserves		
Asset Revaluation Reserve	2,811,678.93	2,811,678.93

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

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
12 Retained Earnings		
Retained earnings at the beginning of the financial year	7,506,480.61	6,792,150.21
(Net loss) Net profit attributable to members of the company	<u>(141,228.22)</u>	<u>714,330.40</u>
Retained earnings at the end of the financial year	<u>7,365,252.39</u>	<u>7,506,480.61</u>
13 Cash Flow Information		
Reconciliation of result for the year to cashflows from operating activities.		
Reconciliation of net income to net cash provided by operating activities:		
Profit (Loss) after income tax	(141,228.22)	714,330.40
Less Adjustment for Investing Activities	(217,694.98)	(159,545.86)
Cash flows excluded from profit (loss) attributable to operating activities		
Non-cash flows in profit		
Net Changes in Value of Equities	(380,377.16)	(162,411.35)
Changes in assets and liabilities		
(Increase)/decrease in trade and other receivables	(1244.00)	2,198.38
Increase/(decrease) in trade and other payables	<u>16,504.93</u>	<u>3,621.53</u>
	<u>(724,039.43)</u>	<u>398,193.10</u>

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

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

	2024	2023
	\$	\$

14 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

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

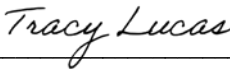
DIRECTORS' DECLARATION

The directors of the company declare that:

1. The financial statements and notes, as set out on pages 1 to 16, for the year ended 31 December 2024 are in accordance with the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission Act 2012 and:
 - (a) comply with Accounting Standards, as stated in Note 1: and
 - (b) give a true and fair view of the financial position and performance of the company.
2. In the directors' opinion, there are reasonable grounds to believe that the company will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

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

Director: 
Mr Olwen Smith

Director: 
Ms Tracy Lucas

Dated this 14th day of April, 2025

**INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT
TO THE DIRECTORS OF RIDING FOR THE DISABLED ASSOCIATION (NSW)
ABN: 50 001 823 267**

Report on the Audit of the Financial Report

We have audited the special purpose financial report of Riding for the Disabled Association (NSW), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 31st December 2024, the statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cashflows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies, and the responsible entities' declaration.

In our opinion the financial report of Riding for the Disabled Association (NSW) has been prepared in accordance with Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission Act 2012*, where applicable including:

- (a) Giving a true and fair view of the registered entity's financial position as at 31st December 2024 and of its financial performance for the year then ended; and
- (b) Complying with Australian Accounting Standards to the extent described in Note 1, and Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission Regulation 2013*.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report* section of our report. We are independent of the registered entity in accordance with 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 our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

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

Emphasis of Matter – Basis of Accounting

We 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 registered entity's financial reporting responsibilities under the ACNC Act. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

Responsibility of the Responsible Entities for the Financial Report

The responsible entities of the registered entity 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 ACNC Act [and the needs of the members. The responsible entities' responsibility also includes such internal control as the responsible entities determine is necessary to enable the preparation of a financial report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

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**INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT
TO THE DIRECTORS OF RIDING FOR THE DISABLED ASSOCIATION (NSW)
ABN: 50 001 823 267**

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

The responsible entities are responsible for overseeing the registered entity's financial reporting process.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report

Our 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 if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with 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 our 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 registered entity's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by responsible entities.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of responsible entities' 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 registered entity's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are 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 our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the registered entity 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.



**INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT
TO THE DIRECTORS OF RIDING FOR THE DISABLED ASSOCIATION (NSW)
ABN: 50 001 823 267**

We communicate with responsible entities regarding, among other matters, the planned scopes and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Name of Firm: R L Rodgers & Associates
Chartered Accountants

Name of Principal: _____
Richard Rodgers

Address: 406/251 Oxford St Bondi Junction NSW 2022

Dated this 14th day of April 2025

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Coaching Stats

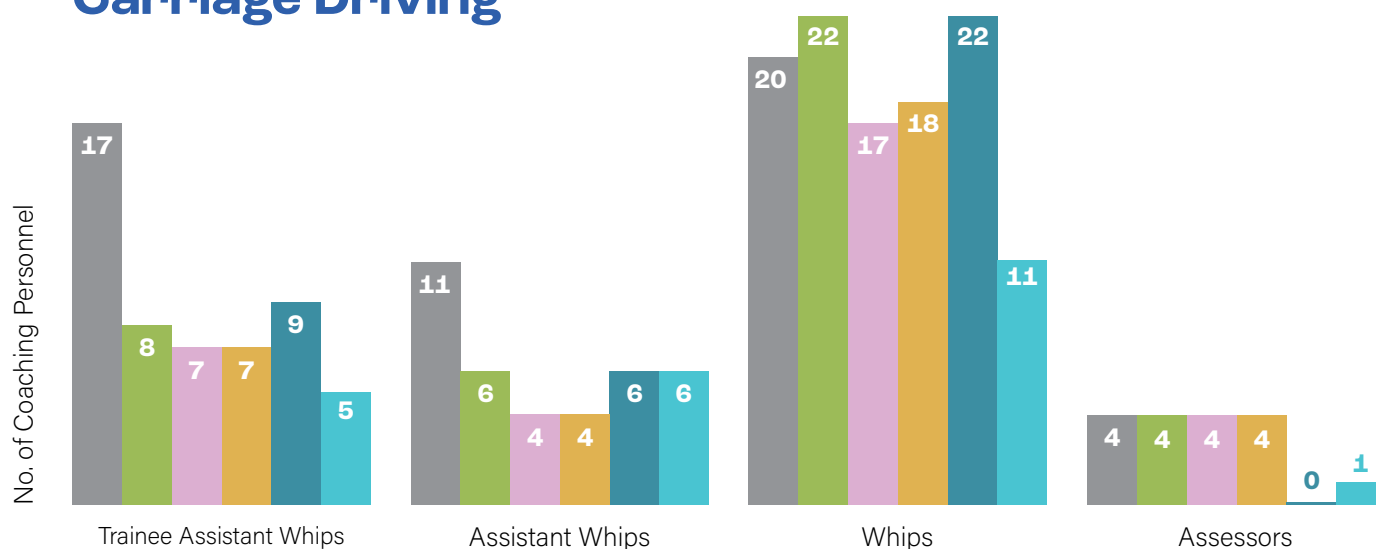
RDA (NSW) Coaching Personnel

Accredited	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Assessors	9	11	9	8	13	9
Senior Coaches	15	14	12	13	9	8
Coaches	117	89	85	82	115	82
Trainee Coaches	16	20	14	8	-	-
Assistant Coaches	71	37	30	31	35	27
Trainee Assistant Coaches	48	59	40	28	46	51
	276	230	190	170	218	177
Non Coach - Hippo Horse Handlers	15	15	15	15	N/A	N/A

Assessments Completed						
Senior coaches	1	-	-	-	-	-
Coaches	3	2	-	7	6	5
Coaches (Qld)	4	2	5	-	4	3
Assistant Coaches	11	3	7	10	7	7
	19	7	12	17	17	15

Carriage Driving						
Trainee Assistant Whips	17	8	7	7	9	5
Assistant Whips	11	6	4	4	6	6
Whips	20	22	17	18	22	11
Assessors	4	4	4	4	-	1
	52	40	32	33	37	23

Carriage Driving



KEY

2019

2020

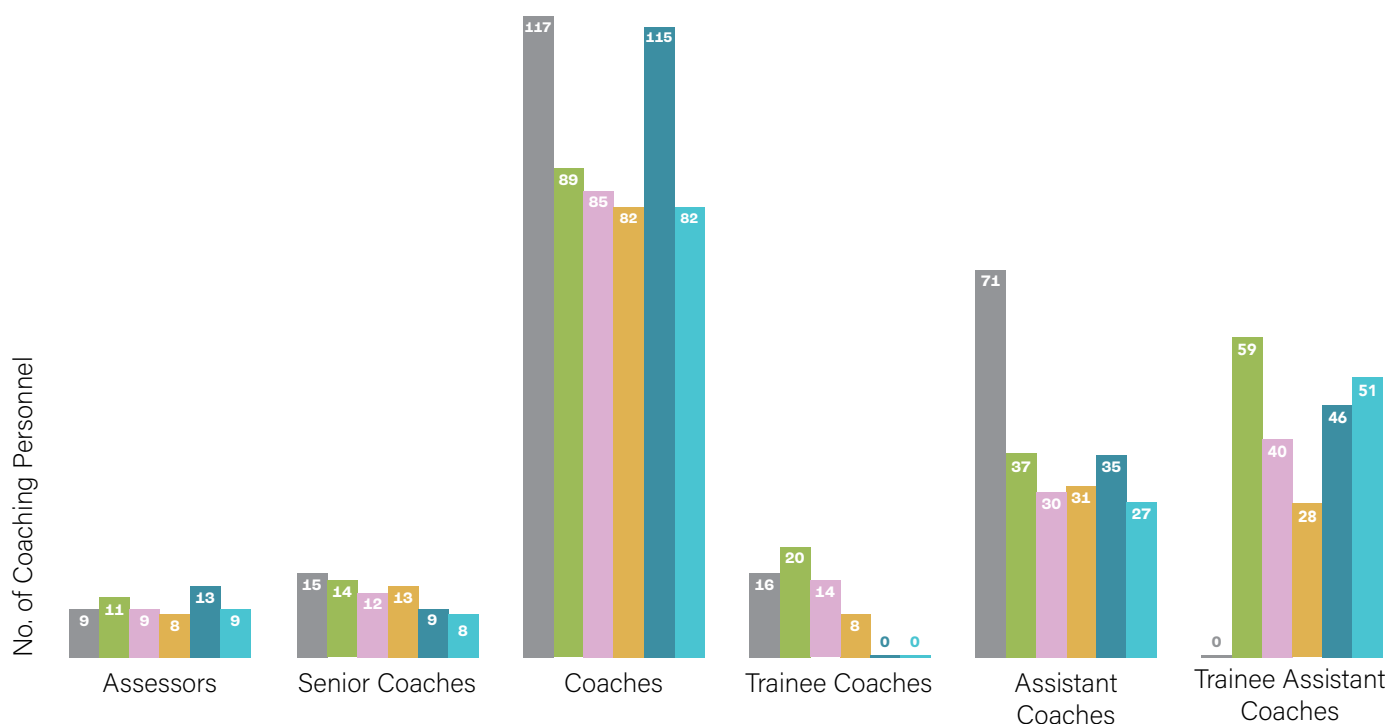
2021

2022

2023

2024

Accredited Coaching Personnel



Assessments Completed



Registered Riders

Centre	No. of Registered Riders
Albury Wodonga	5
Armidale and New England	12
Blue Mountains	34
Central Coast	81
Coffs Harbour	5
Coonabarabran	13
Cootamundra	14
Cowra	36
Goulburn	24
Illawarra	5
Griffith/Leeton	24
Gunnedah	28
Kempsey/Macleay	24
Kendall	16
Manning Great Lakes	8
Moss Vale	11
Mudgee	25
Narrabri	23
Orange	32
Raymond Terrace & Lower Hunter	41
Richmond	25
Ryde	144
Tamworth	43
Box Hill "Tall Timbers"	136
Tumut	22
Tweed Valley	13
Upper Hunter	10
Wagga Wagga	112
Wauchope/Port Macquarie	29
Wollondilly	6
Young	64
Associate Riders	10
TOTAL	1075

Letters of Support



MESSAGE FROM THE VICE PATRON - R.D.A. - (NSW)

As your Vice Patron for Riding with the Disabled (R.D.A. – NSW), I am honoured to recognize and acknowledge the extensive contribution given by a dedicated team of volunteers in providing equestrian opportunities and skills to people with a wide range of disabilities within New South Wales. I wish to thank them for their efforts and support over the past year.

I congratulate the R.D.A. NSW on having another busy year including, the following achievements:-

- Dressage, Mounted Games and Gymkhana Gala Event was recognized as Event of the Year at the NSW Champions of Sport Awards.
- Won the Mental Health Matters Community Initiative Award at the Wayahead Mental Health Matters Awards 2024.
- 8 entries received for our R.D.A. (NSW) Video Musical Ride for 2024. Griffith/Leeton Centre being the winner for their performance by horses, riders and volunteers.
- Goulburn Centre gaining 1st place and Mudgee Centre 2nd place in the UK Virtual Musical Ride, International section.

I have recently Judged the 5 regional winners in the “Shush Award” with “Hillswood Robbi Sox” from Goulburn R.D.A. being the winner, and I congratulate all 5 entries. However I also wish to acknowledge the enormous contribution made to the 35 Centres in NSW by all of the R.D.A. horses.

Again thank you for the privilege to act as your Vice Patron having had over 40 years association with the R.D.A. (NSW) and being a former long serving member of the NSW Mounted Police. I also wish to advise that on the 7th September, 2025 the NSW Mounted Police will celebrate its 200th year celebration since 1825. The launch for this event being held at the 2025 R.A.S. Show. I can assure you of the continued loyalty and support of the Mounted Police and myself in the future.

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

Former Commander - NSW Mounted Police.



Message from

**Her Excellency the Honourable Margaret Beazley AC KC
Governor of New South Wales
and Mr Dennis Wilson**

2024 was a busy and highly successful year for Riding for the Disabled Association (NSW), providing a full program of equine, experiential and therapeutic activities to assist participants gain the skills and confidence to develop and enhance their abilities and achieve important personal goals. Dennis and I were delighted to see the dedication and the skill of riders and volunteers during our visit to the Cowra Centre in August.

So successful was the 2024 RDA (NSW) Dressage Championships, Mounted Games and Gymkhana Gala, held at the Sydney International Equestrian Centre in August, that it was recognised by the prestigious 2024 NSW Champions of Sport Awards as 'Event of the Year'. This event showcased the ability of riders, their determination to perform at their best, and the importance of the Association's work while acknowledging the contributions of the 'small but mighty' all-volunteer RDA (NSW) team in promoting grassroots participation up to the highest levels.

And the awards kept coming ... In September, RDA (NSW) won the *Mental Health Matters Community Initiative Award* at the Wayahead Mental Health Matters Awards 2024. This award recognised the RDA (NSW) Connections program that offers equine-facilitated mental health and learning sessions.

In October, the Judging of the eight wonderful entries for the RDA (NSW) Video Musical Ride for 2024 saw the Griffith/Leeton Centre take out the award for their performance by riders, horses and volunteers.

Then, in November, RDA (NSW) achieved international recognition when Goulburn Centre took out 1st Place and the Mudgee Centre 2nd Place, in the UK Virtual Musical Ride's Musical Drill Ride International Section.

Congratulations, Riding for the Disabled Association (NSW).

Your proud Patrons,

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

Government House, Macquarie Street, Sydney NSW 2000
telephone: 02 9228 4111 | website: www.governor.nsw.gov.au

Life Members

1979	Pearl Batchelor OAM (dec.) Josephine MacWilliam (dec.)	1994	John Plowman (dec.)
1986	Jenny Davis Margaret Norman OAM Nan Everingham (dec.) Sheila Hardy (dec.) Del Throsby (dec.) Phillip Edwards (dec.) Ross Field (dec.)	2001	Kerry Johnston
1987	Aileen Davis OAM	2004	Jan Pike OAM
1988	Maureen Turner	2006	Wendy Torr OAM
1990	Marguerite Francis OAM	2007	Peter Carn (dec.)
1992	Judith Adam	2010	Fiona Little (dec.)
		2012	Bev Amery OAM
		2014	Jan Sharp OAM (dec.) Gerard Murphy OAM
		2015	Eric Lengling
		2023	Jenny Cameron



Awards

Winners Of Each Region AGM Awards 2024

Pearl Batchelor Award

Heather Baker	Wagga Wagga	Riverina
Gary Tozer	Illawarra	Southern Highlands
Allan Everett	Orange	Central West
Merelynn Southall	Central Coast	Hunter

Volunteer Encouragement Award

Mick Piper	Tumut	Riverina
Joy Clinton	Mudgee	Central West
Rigby Gilbert	Illawarra	Southern Highlands
Steven Spinks	Central Coast	Hunter
Desley Burns	Box Hill "Tall Timbers"	Metropolitan

Young Volunteer of the Year

Mikaylah Bater	Box Hill "Tall Timbers"	Metropolitan
Hannah Cooper	Box Hill "Tall Timbers"	Metropolitan
Gabby Hicks	Tumut	Riverina
Emma Hulme	Orange	Central West

Rider / Driver of the Year

Zara Campion	Box Hill "Tall Timbers"	Metropolitan
Erin Norman	Tumut	Riverina
Joseph Brown	Illawarra	Southern Highlands
Addison Jordan	Manning Great Lakes	Mid-North Coast

Shush Memorial Award

"Spark"	Box Hill "Tall Timbers"	Metropolitan
"Bella"	Tumut	Riverina
"Coco"	Orange	Central West
"Hillswood Robbi Sox"	Goulburn	Southern Highlands
"Larry"	Central Coast	Hunter

Rider / Driver Encouragement Award

Charlie Turner	Box Hill "Tall Timbers"	Metropolitan
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Winners Of AGM Awards 2024



Pearl Batchelor Medal

2010	Margaret Randall
2012	Wendy Torr OAM
2014	Jan Sharp OAM (dec.)
2016	Margaret Norman OAM
2020	Jan Pike OAM
2023	Jenny Cameron

NSW Champions of Sport Awards 2024 – Winner of "Event of the Year"

In November 2024, RDA (NSW) was honoured to win "Event of the Year" at the **NSW Champions of Sport Awards** for the **RDA (NSW) Dressage, Mounted Games, and Gymkhana Event**. This incredible night was a tribute to the participants who inspire us and the dedicated volunteers who make this event possible year after year.

Led by volunteers, this event provides opportunities from grassroots participation to advanced levels, with many riders embracing it as a cherished tradition. It is a truly inclusive and supportive family event, rich in history and community spirit.

We couldn't do this without our passionate volunteers and generous sponsors. Congratulations to everyone who contributes – this achievement is for you!



2024 Mental Health Matters Awards – Winner of "Community Initiative Award"



RDA (NSW) were delighted to win this year's **Community Initiative Award** for the RDA (NSW) Equine Facilitated Mental Health and Learning's **"Connections" program**, at the **2024 Mental Health Matters Awards**.

This program offers equine-facilitated learning and mental health support through two key streams: Equine Facilitated Learning for personal growth and Equine Facilitated Mental Health for therapeutic sessions. Accredited coaches ensure safety, while interactions with horses help improve non-verbal communication and boundary-setting.

Congratulations to everyone involved in this outstanding achievement!

Tweed Valley



North Coast

- Tweed Valley
- Ballina & District
- Coffs Harbour



Tweed Valley

A year of rebuilding for a future of growth!

The past year at the Tweed Valley Riding for the Disabled has been one of rebuilding. We have overcome several significant hurdles in the past couple of years but have been focused on securing a bright and successful future for our Centre.

Our journey to rebuild our little Centre started when we were awarded a grant to build a new undercover arena. This was unexpected and exciting news for our members who had dedicated countless hours applying for the development approval and grants over the years.

So at the end of 2023, we were happy to report that we broke ground and started construction on our beautiful new arena. It was a lengthy process with extensive earthworks, construction of the roof and obtaining the final sign off from Council. Thankfully between the committee members and a new volunteer who acted as our Project Manager, we were able to complete the project in August 2024 and recommence classes after 7 months due to construction.

We are so proud of our amazing new facility. It has already made a huge difference to our classes, providing relief from the extreme weather conditions that we experience in our area.

Whilst the new arena has given our Centre an exciting buzz, it has been the dedication and hard work of our 20 regular volunteers that has been ensured our ongoing growth and stability. Alongside this, the unwavering loyalty of our 15 local riders has been a cornerstone of our success. Through collaboration, commitment, and community support, we have set the stage for continued impact and progress in the year ahead.

Of course, we would not be able to function without our 17 amazing four-legged friends. Even though we were unable to hold classes in the first part of the year, our volunteers ensured the horses were well taken care of, maintaining a schedule of regular exercise and grooming. We have since worked on desensitising the horses to the new arena environment given some of the horses felt it was a nice big sandpit to roll in.



Our annual charity golf day fundraiser was a smashing success, raising approximately \$6000 for the Centre. We were unsure whether we would be able to go ahead due to heavy downpours of rain leading up to the day, but the weather cleared and a great crew came out to support our Centre. The support from local businesses and the Murwillumbah Golf Club was very generous, making the day our most successful fundraiser for the year.

We have big plans for our little Centre in the coming year. We are hoping to host an official opening of the arena facility, increase our class numbers, train new coaches and pursue further projects to improve our facilities. Thanks to the recent grant from Racing NSW and a surprise generous bequest, we are hoping to make these goals a reality.





Kempsey-Macleay



Mid North Coast

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

Manning Great Lakes

We started the year with volunteer induction and training in February and commenced riding in early March under the watchful eye of Wendy Dunbar who had committed to be a Visiting Coach for Manning Great Lakes (MGL) for Term 1 and possibly Term 2.

In executing our strategy to deepen our Coaching pool, during Terms 1 and 2 we found five volunteers who were keen to become Assistant Coaches. However, two of the Trainees had barely started the course when they had to pause their training due to personal issues. To date neither has returned to the Centre although we expect that one might come back in 2025. Of the three remaining Trainees, one moved to another Centre and one resigned in late October with health issues. Fortunately in early October one of our Designated Riders decided to give Coaching a crack, so at the time of writing this report (November) we now have two Trainees actively completing their modules of the training course. We are hoping that both will be assessed in the New Year boosting our Assistant Coach numbers to three.

Visiting Coach Wendy worked through until the end of Term 2, and fortunately we have been able to continue riding during Terms 3 and 4 with Visiting Coaches from Kendell, Raymond Terrace & Lower Hunter and Central Coast in charge.

As we look forward to 2025 we have been offered Visiting Coaching assistance by Central Coast and our Regional Representative to keep us riding until our coaching shortfall is addressed. Kendell and Raymond Terrace are also likely to come to the party but that has not been locked in yet.

MGL are very grateful for the Coaching assistance we have been given over the last 15 months, and I believe that we have identified a way for other smaller regional/country Centres to continue to provide riding in their communities when they suffer the loss of a Coach.

Our volunteer numbers have remained pretty steady during the year, sitting around the 30 mark, but with a little more churn than is ideal.

Rider numbers remain around 8 to 10, although we expect start pushing that number up next year. While our rider numbers are small the participants are a very happy group, and some are very competent with two of them competing in the August Mounted Games at SIEC. One became the State Champion in their category, the other became the Reserve State Champion in their category.

Our riding Herd of Horses has been refreshed since last year. We now have two horses that have passed the Suitability Checklist and are being used by Participants regularly, and a third horse that is almost through the Suitability Checklist and should come into regular service next year.

Financially we remain solvent and operate with about 12 months of reserves available at all times. Fundraising this year has been slow, but we have applied austerity measures to ensure that our spending remains as low as practicable. Like all Centres we received the Golden Eagle Grant of \$15,000 and used \$9,000 of that to buy a horse, the other \$6,000 is being used to fund more horse shelters and some paddock boundary adjustments.

Wauchope / Port Macquarie

Where has 2024 gone? It does not seem like one year since our last Christmas party! We have had a very successful year, but very busy because of the weather. Very wet then hot, dry and windy. Not good for our paddocks, more feed had to be purchased. A few days were lost to inclement weather.

We currently have 24 riders, 30 volunteers and 10 horses. Our coaching Staff consists of two Coaches – Sorell Masters who has been with our centre for 14 years and Sue Surace, who is in her 20th year of



Chissy on the late "Abbie"

volunteering with us – an outstanding achievement! And two Assistant Coaches – Jaci Fisher and Robyn Martin.

We have had to use our vet more than usual this year. A big thanks to State office for our share of the Golden Eagle race money, it made a big difference to our centre.

Coaches and horse trainers have had a very busy time training five new horses, three of these horses have joined our riding group and two more are nearly ready to go. Five of our older horses have been retired or returned to owners. Sadly, we have lost 3 horses, due to age and injury: Ellie 34 years, Abbie 27 years and Lex 25 years.

Our Volunteers have done a terrific job with all the extra work and time given to training and horse feeding them, our horse feeders need a special mention as we had horses at 3 different agistment areas at one time. We are so lucky to have a marvellous RDA family, no job too hard or too small, and all is done with a smile. All the horses are in good condition and working well.

The volunteer maintenance crew have been kept very busy, fencing, cleaning up our new horse paddock in Rosewood. This paddock is on loan to our centre. Maintaining the fences at the Wauchope Showground, installing larger solar panels for our electric fences as well as normal maintenance.

It was with sadness that we accepted the resignation of our long-term coach. Mrs Robyn Coombes, Robyn's health unfortunately let her down. Our treasurer, Mrs Carol Slaughter (1950–2024) who served 6 ½ years also retired due to ill health, Carol passed in late November 2024 and will be dearly missed.

In November a volunteer lunch was held at the Hastings Hotel in Wauchope. Years of service badges were given to the volunteers as well as a presentation of Life Membership certificates and badges. Life membership acknowledgment went to Jack McKinnon, Lindsay Hartmann, Jaci Fisher and Sorell Masters for their contributions.

Our fundraising event this year was a wheelbarrow of goodies, with a second and third prize. This raffle was very successful. All goods in the raffle were generously donated by the community.

The Kevin Waldron Trophy for Most Improved Rider went to Jayden Staniforth, Jayden has been riding with us since he was about 5 years old and finishes Year 12 this year.

The year ended with our annual Christmas party at which the above trophy was presented, a fabulous time was enjoyed by all. So obvious on the day with all the dancing, laughter and of course a visit by the most popular man at this time of the year, Santa!



Volunteers with new horses: Tracy and Lindy with Kobe



Denise and Chrissy with Indy.



John Smith (President), Mrs Colleen Waldron and Gaylene accepting the Kevin Waldron Perpetual Trophy and medallion on behalf of Jayden



Jayden Staniforth and John Smith with the Kevin Waldron Perpetual Trophy



John Smith with most Popular Horse Trophy won by Abbie



Emily Dalziel



Ally Dalziel



Alex Jones on Kabee Margaret Bentley leading



Jayden Stainforth



Astrid Fenn and Santa



The Macarena!



Caleb McCudden and Santa

Kempsey-Macleay

Kempsey-Macleay Centre experienced a very exciting and successful year of operation in 2024. The weather was kind allowing all the sessions and activities to take place with little interruption.

Marie Purkis was recognised at the RDA (NSW) Awards night by being awarded the Pearl Batchelor Medal for Volunteer of the Year – an honour well deserved and a proud moment for all involved at the Centre. Our Centre was also very excited to receive the news that our much loved and reliable horse “Freddie” received the SHUSH Award for 2024.

Some other combined highlights were celebrated at a Xmas in July luncheon held at Frederickton Golf Club attended by volunteers, riders and their families/carers; long serving volunteers Marie Purkis and Yvonne Couper were recognised and presented with Centre Life Membership badges for their dedication and long service Both ladies were involved from the beginning of startup at the Centre 19 years ago.

Five riders some supported by their carers/family along with our volunteers attended for the first time an event at SIEC in Horsley Park for the Mounted Games in August this year. Our riders and volunteers enjoyed this wonderful event and plans are already in place to attend again in 2025.

Centre development is coming along well with many improvements carried out this year which included a major reorganisation of the Betty Shed – this area is used for the volunteers, kitchen, participants equipment, volunteers training and office equipment. A new fridge generously donated by a local business has been installed. More shelving and room has been made for lockers to be installed for our volunteers in 2025. The container shed was reorganised with many changes to the tack and equipment layout making everything much more assessable and less work for our volunteers

Our Centre was very grateful to receive a share of the Golden Eagle donation this year with plans on how to use this donation under discussion – it will certainly be put to good use!

We had 21 participants registered this year and have seen lots of confidence building and improvement with plenty of great achievements made in our sessions.

A Xmas party was held on the last day of Term 4 with presentations to all participants for their achievements during the year, with some also receiving special awards. A great day was had by all with lots of games, food and laughter – such a rewarding and special way to end the year!

Our horses have all worked extremely well this year in their RDA role whether it's been carrying a rider in a session or partnering up with participants in ground work or grooming sessions. We currently have 7 horses including 2 new horses still undergoing suitability training and assessment.

Tia and Dunny, our two loveable Shetlands have brought many smiles and giggles to faces of all ages this year and will continue to remain an important part of our team Two of our horses, KCE and Diamond travelled to the Mounted Games at SIEC in August.





Sadly, for the Centre we lost our beautiful new horse Mickey suddenly from an unknown cause.

Our Centre currently has two Coaches, an Assistant Coach and a Trainee Assistant Coach.

We have had 6 TAFE students helping out fortnightly for the last two terms which has been a blessing on busy hot days. Some of the students have expressed the desire to continue attending our Centre when they have completed their course.

Plans are underway for Kempsey-Macleay Centre to host Regional Mounted Games in early 2025.

We have a team of 18 dedicated volunteers at the present time with some travelling long distances to help out each week, which is so appreciated. Volunteer training days prior to the commencement of each term

have been great and well attended. A special guest speaker has attended each training day to help improve on our skills and knowledge which has been well received by our volunteers as well.

A very enjoyable end of year Volunteers Xmas Party was held at the Crescent Head Tavern; and to the surprise of the locals we decked their Tavern out with our Centre colours of purple and white, wearing our uniforms and putting up banners! A great day was had by all with a lot of RDA promotional work carried out at the same time so hopefully we gain some new volunteers or participants in 2025 from the little beach area.

Working bees are planned during the school holiday break to clean up and prepare for 2025 as well as plenty of training work with the horses by our volunteers.

Looking back over 2024 has been great and it makes the holiday break enjoyable, but the excitement for 2025 to start is definitely creating a buzz around us all.





Hunter

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



Raymond Terrace & Lower Hunter



Central Coast 2024 Musical Ride – Farmer in the Dell

Central Coast

Another Year of Wonderful Achievements!!

2024 saw some great accomplishments for our Centre and our hard-working volunteers.

Thanks to Treasurer Greg Gibson's hard work, we received \$54,850 in grants – including a \$15,000 grant from RDA from the Golden Eagle Race – which provided funding for two new outdoor shelters for the safety and comfort of our horses. We have worked hard to receive further grants from our supportive local clubs and political leaders, and this has meant that all of the remaining shelters have now been replaced.

We raised \$77,860 from donations, horse sponsorships and grants during the year and we are fortunate to have some regular donors and the continuing support of licensed and service clubs. A big thank you to our volunteers who put in the hard work to acquire these funds as we rely heavily on this income for our operations.

Our 87 riders have enjoyed their classes this year and have all progressed well. Our independent class riders are also becoming competent in more advanced horsemanship. They recently participated in an excellent Farmer in the Dell video presentation for the RDA State Musical Ride entry.

We were also thrilled to celebrate Belinda Jones from that group receiving the Rider of the Year Award at this year's State AGM.

2024 State Awards

This year saw some great recognition for two of our volunteers. Jenny Cameron was awarded her Life Member badge at the State AGM – seen here with Tracy Lucas and Jan Pike OAM. Our Secretary Linda Bower also received the Volunteer Encouragement Award and became a Board Member (in the Marketing role). Well done ladies, we are proud of your dedicated service.



Coach Jenny with Belinda Jones



Jenny, Jan and Tracy



Linda Bower with her award

Gaynor retires as President

Gaynor Hobart has been a huge part of our Centre for over 10 years and was a President for 7 years.

We recently acknowledged and thanked her for her hard work in carrying out the Centre President role for so long. Coach Jenny thanked Gaynor and welcomed new President Ann Lawson who started the role after our AGM in March this year. Gaynor is still our Horse Manager and Vice President and is also continuing to support our new and upcoming coaches. Thank you Gaynor for everything that you have done (and still do) for our Centre!!

Our new and old 'boys'

Of our 10 horses we now have a brumby Teddy who was originally from the Kosciuszko National Park, and he is proving to be a great addition to our horses for classes. He has also quickly established himself as the Boss of whatever paddock he is in.

We sadly lost Larry this year, who was such an ideal RDA horse – if only we could have a million more reliable, friendly and co-operative 'boys' like him for our Centres! He has already been greatly missed by us all.



New Coaches

Our Centre is also fortunate to have a high caliber of trainee coaches qualifying this year under Gaynor Hobart's excellent mentoring. Bob Blair and Pru Butler recently qualified to join Merelynn Southall as Assistant Coaches, and Sally Carey continued her training to qualify as a Coach. We are very thankful that these generous volunteers successfully completed the extensive learning involved in qualifying for these important roles.

As we all know, it does take a village of hard-working volunteers to run a Centre: conduct classes, care for our horses, maintain equipment and property and complete all of the administrative tasks.

A big thank you to all our lovely volunteers for their continuing work and dedication to our Centre. You are so very much appreciated for everything that you do to make our Centre such a great and wonderful place to spend time, meet friends and make dreams come true for our riders!!



Wendy Torr, Pru Butler and Gaynor Hobart



Gaynor Hobart, Sally Carey and Karen O'Neill



Bob Blair, Wendy Torr and Gaynor Hobart



Kendall

Highlights and Achievements

- New, hard-working Committee elected at 2024 AGM.
- Established helpful relationships with local print media.
- Successful fundraising throughout the year.
- Passed our Audit with flying colours.

Centre Developments

- Arranged successful visit to the Centre by David Gillespie MP.
- Appointed Publicly Officer who has done a great job with our profile in the community, concentrating on Facebook sites.
- Grant received to construct an "adventure trail" through our paddocks to heighten rider and horse experiences.

Riders

Our riders continue to gain confidence and to benefit immensely from the riding classes and the various exercises designed by our coaches.

Contributing factors to a very good year for the Kendall Centre include:

- Fine weather for the majority of the year with riding disrupted for only eight (8) days due to rain and for one (1) day due to hot weather.
- No change to the number of riders (currently 16 riders) since last year.
- Riding classes being able to be conducted and appropriately managed when a horse was unavailable due to being unwell or in training.
- Our team of volunteers, many new to RDA, can now build on experience gained through the year, for the continued benefit of riders.

Horse stories

Our horses all look amazing at the moment. We have had some issues with feet with our wonderful pony Honey, but hopefully this can be rectified. They all love playing with the big ball, Ari pushes it with his nose and Honey, Robbie and Ruby Comet kick it with their legs. We are continuing to look for an extra horse but anything decent is very rare.





Coaching

We have had a very busy year; some classes have had to be cancelled due to weather or Coach unavailability.

Our classes have been very exciting at times, the school children can be quite challenging, we have an escapologist who really gives his teachers a hard time, but they have all progressed. Two of our Wednesday riders have come on in leaps and bounds and are now having actual riding lessons, albeit still on the very end of the lead.

We are currently working on getting our adventure trail up and going, this will provide extra stimuli for horses, riders and volunteers.

Extremely happy to receive the community grant from Greater bank, every bit helps.

Community Events and Fundraising

- Hosted the 20th running of the "Bato Golf Day" at Kew Golf Course where proceeds go to RDA Kendall. This is now considered the most popular fundraising event in the Camden Haven.
- Received generous support from the local print media.
- Welcomed an influx of new volunteers, most of whom remain.
- Received an invitation and attended Kendall Public School Presentation Day, where 7 of our riders attend school.

Volunteers

Currently we have 42 volunteers on the books which includes 12 who are feeders only and don't participate on riding days. Our riding days are Tuesday and Wednesday with 3 classes each day.

We have 4 horses who live on site. Our volunteers are very proud of what they are able to achieve with our riders.



Raymond Terrace & Lower Hunter

This year has been eventful as we welcomed a new committee and transitioned from the previous leadership, focusing on progress and continuity.

Our Centre continues to run four programs, supported by a dedicated team of 70 volunteers:

- Monday: 10 riders supported by 24 volunteers.
- Tuesday: 16 riders supported by 27 volunteers.
- Saturday (fortnightly): 6 riders supported by 10 volunteers.
- Stroud Carriage Driving (fortnightly): 7 drivers supported by 9 volunteers.

Achievements and Milestones

We extend our gratitude to Carol Brown for her remarkable 30 years of coaching and wish her a wonderful retirement. This year, three Trainee Assistant Coaches earned their certificates, and we look forward to their transition to full coaching roles. Several coaches also achieved their Mental Health First Aid certification, enhancing the Centre's support capabilities, and many attended the State Workshop to refine their skills. We were proud to win equal first place in the State photo competition with our entry, "Supa Centre Stage."

Program Updates and Plans

While our programs have reduced in recent years, we remain committed to expanding them. In collaboration with Manning Great Lakes RDA, we helped maintain their operations, demonstrating the strong community among Centres.

From 1 to 21 September, we held Mounted Games during program days, delighting riders. We aim to reintroduce the Regional Mounted Games next year. At Stroud Carriage Driving, we piloted a competition based on Ridden Mounted Games, adapted for carriage driving. This initiative was highly successful, and we hope to expand it to a state-level event to replace the discontinued RDA (NSW) Driving Championships.

Infrastructure and Grants

Significant progress was made this year:

- Facilities upgrades: A grant enabled us to improve stormwater systems, repair gutters and downpipes.
- Technology: Two laptops were received from RDA (NSW) for trainee coaches. We have also applied for funding to replace ageing PCs with two additional laptops.
- Wash Bay: Construction has begun and is set for completion early next year.

While our grant application for parking and lighting enhancements was unsuccessful, we remain hopeful for future opportunities.

Administration

Administrative improvements included creating a central database for data integrity, setting up cloud storage for secure document access, implementing mailing lists with an unsubscribe option, and streamlining filing systems for better organisation. Additionally, we introduced professional email addresses for each role at our Centre.

Volunteer Recognition and Fundraising

Two dedicated volunteers received Volunteer of the Year awards, hand-delivered by the President. Both were thrilled with the recognition. Fundraising efforts included Bunnings BBQs, a Ride-A-Thon with a colour theme, and Melbourne Cup events. While we faced some challenges in fundraising this year, these events were well-received and supported our operations.

Looking Ahead

We are optimistic about expanding our programs in the coming year, with the continued support of our skilled coaches, volunteers, and community. Thank you to everyone who contributed to this year's success.



Metropolitan

- Ryde • Blue Mountains
- Box Hill "Tall Timbers" • Richmond



Box Hill "Tall Timbers"



Ryde

Riding

2024 has been a busy and successful year. Through passion, hard work, and teamwork, we have provided over 1,900 rides this year. This is a 50% increase from 2022. To achieve this we have expanded our volunteer base, enlarged and improved our herd, graduated more Coaches, broadened our community engagement and upgraded our facilities. We provide lessons four mornings a week, for individuals and school groups.

Special Events

What better birthday to celebrate than the Horses' Birthday? On Sunday, 28th July 2024, over 300 locals enjoyed a jumping castle and face painting. The star attraction was our horses who delivered over 100 pony rides! In November 2024, our first Ryde Centre Mounted Games in Marsfield were held, with riders of all abilities participating.



Volunteering

Attracting and retaining volunteers is a challenge familiar to all charities. We have a dedicated core of volunteers, with new members joining each year. To deliver safe and enjoyable classes we focus on training and welcoming our new volunteers to the Ryde family.

Community Support

Ryde Centre is run by volunteers, with no paid coaches or admin staff. This keeps us busy, but it also attracts and inspires ever growing support from the local community. We are fortunate to have backing from local Rotary Clubs, sport clubs, and other local businesses who support our riders directly or indirectly. We even received a donation of Mobi mats from the Sutherland Shire's Surf Life Savers! This year, we were fortunate to receive two generous grants from Bendigo Bank, enabling us to have another horse and to build a small outdoor arena over summer. The Hogan Foundation continues to support us and the Goodman Foundation has funded one of our horses for two years.

The City of Ryde has been a great landlord, building a much-needed new car park and providing practical grants to assist our classes. Corporate working bees enable us to address the backlog of maintenance

jobs. Many of our volunteers not only provide their time but also donate. Without all this support, we would not exist.

Horses

With the retirement of 27 year old Rolly at the end of this year, the average age of our herd is now quite young. Our seven resident RDA horses are strong, healthy and energetic. We are so fortunate to have such adorable four legged partners who are willing to carry their precious cargo and who connect in a magical way with our riders.

New Developments

In 2024, we finally put a handsome roof over our grooming yards. Over summer, we are landscaping to create a small outdoor multipurpose precinct where people in wheelchairs can safely pat, groom, chat, and connect with our horses.

Governance and Strategic Direction

The future of RDA (NSW) Ryde is bright. We greatly admire the work of past and present volunteers without whom we would not exist. While we face challenges in an increasingly complex workplace, at Ryde, we remain optimistic that we can continue to blossom for the sake of our riders, their families, and others living with a disability.



Box Hill "Tall Timbers"

2024 was a great year enabling 139 Participants and their families to benefit from the equine programs at Box Hill "Tall Timbers".

We continued to diversify our programs in response to participant needs and offer the programs to individuals and school groups and adult day programs.

We attended and held many events throughout the year to help spread the word about what we do. Box Hill "Tall Timbers" representatives attended the Premier's Volunteer Reception. Fran, Karen and Cuddles celebrated Australia Day 2024 along with the local Lions Clubs and the Community at Bella Vista Farm. Beyond Bank held a Double your Donation Campaign to benefit Tall Timbers. Golf Day is held in March at Lynwood Country Club.

Box Hill "Tall Timbers" received funds for 2024/25 equine programs through Castle Hill RSL ClubGRANTs. We received a grant from Coca Cola in the Community. CommBank Staff Foundation Community Grants will allow Box Hill "Tall Timbers" to mentor trainee Coaches. Community Enterprise Foundation of Bendigo Bank Galston assists with the cost of the Tots and Tiny Tackers Programs. We received a Small Equipment grant to purchase safety equipment for the volunteers.

The Profield Foundation continued to support of the Centre. BNI Sydney North West and Penrith included Box Hill "Tall Timbers" in their Charity Collective Golf Day. We participated in the Orange Blossom Parade through Rouse Hill Town Centre, attended Community Connect as well a market at Castle Hill Art Society.

Congratulations to Fran and Lauren, nominated for Volunteer Recognition Awards in the NSW Volunteer of the Year Awards through the Centre for Volunteering. Fran Prudames was presented with a Life Membership of Box Hill "Tall Timbers" and Kim Kozis was awarded a 25 Year Service Award.



Awards

- Volunteer of the Year – Desley Burns
- Volunteer Encouragement Award – Trish Martin
- Young Volunteer of the Year – Awarded jointly – Mikayla Bater-Brennan & Hannah Cooper
- Horse of the Year – Spark
- Most improved Rider of the Year – Zara Champion
- Rider Encouragement Awards – Charlie Turner & Angelina Saciacchitano
- 10 year service award to Nugget



Richmond

Our top 10 Highlights for 2024 were:

- 1 Richmond celebrated its 10 Year Anniversary in June with a party.
- 2 The year started with a very successful volunteer induction day which got us through the year.
- 3 Some of our amazing volunteers worked with me at the Hawkesbury Show again this year and we received nearly \$3000
- 4 Had great articles published in local papers in march that keeps everyone aware of RDA.
- 5 Ian attended Royal Randwick to receive a donation from the Carbine Club and the promise of two OTT horses in the future.
- 6 In June Dulux came to site with an amazing team and painted the volunteer kitchen and the whole inside of the arena supplying all the materials and equipment.

- 7 Sadly, we lost Margaret Geelan to cancer in June – she was a founding team member of Richmond
- 8 7News Sydney did a doco on Richmond – all good PR!
- 9 Horses went on holidays to North Kurrajong at the end of year
- 10 This year's centre Audit went well thanks to Wendy Snider, Ian and Greg's financial reporting.

Centre developments

No major new developments at Richmond this year but with forethought and planning got the ramp supports repaired ready for 2025, the horse standing area floors refreshed and a plan is in place to refresh the volunteer outdoor seating area in early 2025, long term plan is to cover the area between ramp and arena and grants to be applied for to carry out this work.

Riders

- Number of riders currently was 22.
- Rider goals were all on track with many now achieving using reins and free riding.
- Katie Leech continues to surprise us every week by attending even after life threatening medical issues; Adrian abilities continue to develop and his enthusiasm is contagious; Gretta's drive and determination to overcome her Cerebral Palsy to allow her to ride is wonderful to see. All riders were amazing at all levels!
- We were not able to attend SIEC again this year due to the Uni quarantine regulations, we may be able to in 2025 if we get two more horses to cover.

Horse stories

We currently have 4 horses. Burger continues to be the head of herd and Gibson, the film star is still everyone's favourite; Monty gets cuddles because he has a forelock and mane like a punk rocker and Big Mac is just Big grumpy Mac. We may have two new horses at beginning of 2025.

Coaching

The current team consists of three Coaches – Wendy, Ian, Mal and one Assistant Coach - Bruce, one Training Assistant Coach – Laura. Sadly Clare had to step down due to health issues.

Community Events and Fundraising

- A big response from our volunteers to do the gates at the Hawkesbury Show and annual event raised nearly \$3000 and everyone had fun at the show doing it.
- Ian did two presentations at the Richmond Rotary where the centre received a certificate of thanks for helping Rotary with their work.
- Sky Sport TV asked Ian to assist with making TV programs at the centre for Sky TV. The Shed Company and Dulux Paints are all supporters of Richmond. The riders and volunteers did a TV interview for 7 NEWS which was shown on TV which they were all excited about.

Volunteers

Volunteer numbers were stable throughout the year around 6-8 each session attended. Most volunteers describe their volunteering as a warm feeling of satisfaction being able to help others.



Southern Highlands

- Wollondilly • Moss Vale • Cowra
- Illawarra • Goulburn • Young

Goulburn

Wollondilly

We were to start back on the 30th January with a Working Bee which unfortunately was cancelled due to bad weather.

On Australia Day Rosie our Coach received an award – Wollondilly Citizen of the Year for her work with RDA and Pony Club.

In February the wonderful apprentices from Simec Mine at Tahmoor came and started on more jobs from our "bucket list". They made a wash bay near the horse stalls, erected a safety fence and made a footpath to improve access from the car park to the building.

In February the local RFS did a Training Exercise on our grounds and also on another day did some pile burning on our grounds.

In early March we had a Training Day. We also held a barbecue to thank the apprentices and staff from Simec mines, the army personnel from Holsworthy and a representative from the Department of Community Justice to thank them for their continued support of our Centre. Matilda and Tracy, our two individual riders gave the visitors a demonstration of what they do at RDA.

In March our Treasurer Evelyn, Rosie and Marie received a certificate at a Morning Tea at the office of our local member Judith Hannan MP.

Also in March we finished spending the last of our Black Summer Bushfire Grant with slashing done on the Denmead Street side of our block.

Our first RDA riding day for 2024 was Tuesday 19th March with everyone happy to be back and looking forward to the year. Our individual riders, riders from Aspect and Beverley Park schools were also happy to be back. Our wonderful horses and ponies, Hummer, Sarge, Bella, Bonnie, Willow and Chris came back ready to start the year.

In May a local organisation OSCA contacted us regarding a donation to our Centre. They donated \$500 to be used for Equine Therapy which enabled the horses to enjoy the benefits of a lovely, relaxing massage.

We were also supported during the year by Coles at Picton who have been supporters of our Centre for a few years as have Picton CWA, Picton Social Tennis Club and Camden Lioness Club. The support these people give us is truly appreciated.

Local tradesman Rocco called round in June to clean the gutters on our shed and treat mould of the roof. He also cleaned the gutters on our building. Another local tradesman, Luke, did repairs in one of the toilet roofs to fix a leak.

In August Angus Malcolm came to do our Full Audit – no problems were noted. We enjoyed having morning tea with Angus.

Our last day for the year was on Tuesday 3rd December. Coles Picton gave us a voucher which we used to buy food, nibbles etc for a lovely lunch for our riders and volunteers.

It was also Rosie's last day as she was retiring so she was presented with a lovely native flower arrangement and thanked for her many years of commitment to our Centre as Coach and volunteer.

Rosie presented Centre awards to Chester and Mannie.

Our Centre is now in Coach Recess for twelve months. We still hope to possibly reopen in 2026 with a new Coach. Our horses are hopefully being relocated to another centre.

Just as a footnote – some time ago Jill wrote to the local Council regarding naming the new road beside the eastern boundary of Pony Club Wallace Street, in honour of Betty Wallace OAM and Graham Wallace OAM who started Wollondilly Pony Club and Wollondilly RDA. We were thrilled to see last week that the street has been named Wallace Street.

Everyone at Wollondilly Centre wishes all Centres and the Board a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Young

Young RDA Centre continued to operate successfully during term time in 2024 with a few very welcome and much needed volunteers. Most importantly, they were under 70 and it was a real boost for us to attract some younger energy into our group of volunteers.

We had our usual number of students from the local primary and secondary schools on Tuesdays as well as about 10 adults who come and enjoy Carriage Driving.

Forbes Primary School continues to drive to Young on Thursdays. It's 120km away and the teachers are all enthusiastic about the benefits of RDA for the young children in their care, despite the distance and time traveling.

We have received wonderful support from our community, both financially and in kind. Donations from various clubs and from Racing NSW have enabled us to purchase a side by side which will be used to feed out hay to our ponies. This will mean no more hay in volunteer's cars!

A very cold winter meant volunteers bravely trudging through frost to bring in the horses on Tuesdays and we purchased a heated chair for our founding member who had to sit in the freezing cold for record keeping. A great addition!

Many of our High School riders improved so much during the year and we felt very proud and pleased with their competency skills which they have learned at RDA (NSW) thanks to our excellent volunteers.

Our Christmas party is always a much anticipated festivity for the children and adults alike. The food is made by the volunteers and includes some marvellous Christmas themes which the children love, judging by the empty plates. Well deserved trophies were presented to some very thrilled and excited students by our President who we were very pleased to see walking well after having broken her leg earlier in the year. Santa Claus arrived to the delight of the children towards the end of the festivities and it was a wonderful culmination to a successful year.

A really lovely little thank you speech given by a high school student who has been coming to RDA for many years, made us all realise that a little bit of help and kindness for some children has a lasting and positive effect.

Moss Vale

What a year it has been for Moss Vale! We began with business as usual for our first 6 months. Our riders were progressing well and everyone was happy with our centre.

The retirement of Angus and Neatie Malcolm meant that Fitzroy Equestrian Centre was to be sold which we all thought would take at least until the end of the year. However, with outstanding interest and a quick settlement, we found ourselves looking for a new venue.



We were so lucky that Jan Chesterfield-Evans from Hollyhall Farm was keen to take over and was ready straight away. This meant no break in the riding program – same riders, same coaches, same volunteers, just a change of horses and venue. As the new venue is close to the old one, we have not lost a single rider or volunteer.

We are so grateful to Wendy Torr and Jenny Wilkinson for inspecting the new centre so promptly and giving us the tick of approval.

We certainly didn't expect the transition to be as easy and happy as it's been. Many thanks to Jan and her husband John for making us feel so welcome. We hope to continue for many years to come!

Goulburn

RDA (NSW) Goulburn Centre started off 2024 by attending the local Goulburn Show with 6 participants and 5 very well-behaved horses competing in the Led and Agility sections, all our amazingly talented participants and horses thoroughly enjoyed the experience with everyone coming home with place ribbons and huge smiles.

RDA (NSW) Goulburn Centre attended the RDA (NSW) State Championships for Mounted Games and are extremely proud to announce Goulburn won Best Performing Centre for 2024. This accolade is a testament to the skill and commitment of our riders, horses and the unwavering support of our coaches and volunteers.

In addition, our talented team recently found out our centre won the RDA Musical Ride Competition for the UK 2023, showcasing our creativity and precision on an international stage. This victory was a proud moment for everyone involved, reflecting the high standards we strive to maintain at RDA Goulburn.

Sam Schweers, a long-term participant from our Centre, was crowned the 2024/2025 Goulburn City Lilac Queen. Our Centre supported Sam throughout her journey as she proudly represents us. During the Lilac Festival, Goulburn entered and won the 2024 Best Float in Parade and the Rosie Johnson Memorial Trophy.



Our coaching team, led by Jo Grove and Kim Mahoney, has been instrumental in achieving these milestones. We are excited about the future as Mel Cobban and Anne Muir progress through their Assistant Coach modules, additionally, the completion of volunteer modules by Steph Ovington and Lyn Whittaker demonstrates our commitment to fostering a supportive and knowledgeable RDA, these achievements cannot be done without the support of our valuable volunteer group members Ros Slater, Lil Ryan, Mon Trewin, Allen Smith, Robynne Cardwine, Cheryl Thrower, John McCulloch, Richard Irvine, Kath Cole, Terri Sparrow, Raylene Neville and Peter Townley, along with 22 Trinity Catholic College Students. The dedication and hard work of our coaches, volunteers, and participants have truly paid off, making 2024 a remarkable year.

Ongoing donation support from Belinda Bateman, Cuppit Foundation, Quota, Rodeo Club Inc, Jim and Leanne Dival, CWA Goulburn, Workers Club Goulburn, Simon Neale and Family.

To our wonderful 2024/25 Pony Sponsors whose funds go directly towards horsecare – Woolaringa Meats, Comfab Constructions, Goulburn Western Wear, Clements Family, Rebecca Burch & Family, Jackie Graham & Family, Ross Ginn & Family and Niki's Day Care Centre.

Looking ahead, we are eager to build on this year's successes and continue to provide outstanding opportunities for our participants. With the dedication of our team and the enthusiasm of our riders, we are confident that RDA Goulburn will continue to excel in the coming years.

Heartfelt thank-you to Katherine Cole for housing RDA Goulburn on her private property since the year 2000.





Cowra

Centre developments and highlights

The highlight of our year was a visit to our Centre by Her Excellency the Honourable Margaret Beazley KC AC and Mr Dennis Wilson. This was brought about by the occasion of Her Excellency visiting Cowra to celebrate the 80th Anniversary of the Breakout of Japanese soldiers who were kept prisoner at the Cowra Prisoner of War Camp in August 1944. Her Excellency had a good time speaking to our riders and watching their riding efforts as well as admiring our covered equestrian arena which was facilitated by Cowra Showground Land Managers through a Grant from the State Government and Crown Lands.

Riders

We had approximately 44 riders registered this year from four schools in the area as well as a group of home-schooled students. Their improvement over the Term was a credit to them.

Horses

We were honoured by the presence of 5 horses which are owned by the Cowra Centre, namely Rocket, Fayme, Orrie, Topsy and our latest acquisition Digger. We had 6 horses which were privately owned and brought in by their owners each lesson day: Goldie, Clydie, Pally and George with Sabira and Barney being leased by RDA (NSW).

Coaching

Our team of Joy Webster as Head Coach and Jenny Wright as Coach are looking forward to being able to train an Assistant Coach to ensure the future of Cowra Centre. We attended the Coach Workshop in May.

Community events and fundraising

President Dave still holds Cowra Bunnings BBQ title of "best sausage sandwich" because of his monthly effort on Saturday mornings. Our Op Shop has been a huge contributor to self funding, enabling us to replace horses and an ageing horse float. We also hold BBQs at the yearly Cowra Festival Markets and Christmas Night Markets.

Volunteers

We have a core group of reliable consistent volunteers who help out every Wednesday plus our Shop volunteers of 3 each day for 5 days of operations each week.





Riverina

- Cootamundra • Wagga Wagga
- Griffith-Leeton • Albury-Wodonga • Tumut



Griffith-Leeton

Cootamundra

Cootamundra has had a successful 2024 year with a great team of Volunteers working together to provide the best experiences for our riders.

Riders

Although our rider numbers were down, the adult riders from the Pinnacle Activity Centre from Temora continued to ride with our centre. They have been coming for several years now. The riders, Peter, Josh, Adrian, Cassie and Sarah arriving after their morning tea in the Park, first they have their turn in the Carriage behind Ralph with our whip Bev. Josh always serenades Bev with his lovely singing voice while they drive the carriage. Next it is their ride and games on the horses supervised by Karen. All our riders love the various games introduced by her as it provides greater stimulation and improves concentration.

There are some participants that come with their carers. Some come from Temora with their respective carers. Another Josh is our only participant that uses a wheelchair, so he loves his carriage drive as it is the only activity that is all his own. He particularly loves the "Bumpy" drive in the paddock. Christopher has been attending RDA for many years with the pinnacle Group, but as his day at the centre changed, his Monday carer brings him on riding days.

Finally, there is Lucy, from Cootamundra who has ridden for many years with the school and now comes with her carer. She is always very cheerful, loves her ride and is always helpful. From Junee, comes Emma with her carer. Previously Emma came as a volunteer at Cootamundra some years back and now is a keen rider with a lot of horse experience. Also, there is an entire family attending as participants at RDA including mum, Amber, due to her recently acquired disability.



We held special days with our riders such as celebrating Paralympics with our riders competing for medals. Also Remembrance Day was with our riders respectfully standing still on horseback for one minute at 11.00 am on the 11th November

Volunteers

Towards the end of 2024 year, we gained a few new volunteers who are very keen and eager. Some are volunteers with horse knowledge and experience which has been a most welcome addition.

One volunteer, Robyn has cleaned out our hayshed in preparation of the delivery of the new season's bales of Lucerne. I have never seen it so clean! Plus, the forecourt area has been cleared to make it easier for our participants and horses with no loose large stones and rocks.

Robyn has also agreed to look at Grants and apply for appropriate grants for our centre. We have several areas that could benefit from grants to improve our Centre and its efficiency.

Another new volunteer, John is keen to learn to be a Whip. This would be great as it would relieve Bev to work with individual riders in the round yard to increase their horse riding skills by learning to ride free rein.

We appreciate the regular volunteers that have been coming to the centre for many years and continue to work tirelessly for the Cootamundra Centre. Our President Trish is one such volunteer that has been organising our fundraising and catering for many years now and is the reason that we are successful at these events. The number of hours she puts in for the centre is phenomenal.

Trish and Olwen attended the Cootamundra Expo day, manning a stall with displays of RDA Cootamundra photos and pamphlets. This was a great advertising campaign for our RDA Centre and contributed to a donation from a community member, plus some new volunteers. It was certainly a successful campaign and worthwhile.

RDA Cootamundra Centre were nominated for the "Cootamundra Outstanding Community Organisation Award" which were the winners out of a long list of nominees. It was a privilege to be the recipient of this Award as a group of volunteers.

Fundraising

The fundraising efforts of our volunteers for this year was awesome providing BBQ for the attendees of the Cootamundra Antique Car Swapmeet. The weather was perfect with a large number of attendees all looking for food. We were complimented on our efficiency. We did however have competition with another organisation manning a BBQ as well.

This year we agreed to run the BBQ, food and drinks all day Saturday as well as on the usual Sunday. The early start at 5.30am and continued till 3pm gave us some good sales without competition.

Due to the shortage of eggs at the time, we put out the word to the Cootamundra community on Facebook and the donations of eggs was so overwhelming! Those eggs that were left over from the day, were donated to Food Bank so nothing was wasted.

We appreciated the new signs donated by Braden. These signs are colourful and advertise that food was available. Previously, as the Food Hall is tucked away behind stalls, the attendees do not know we are there except for the smell of BBQ luring them our way.

We also used the signs again for the Cootamundra Show Canteen. This is not such a big a fundraiser for our RDA Centre due to the other food stalls and outlets.

Everything comes together to ensure our RDA Cootamundra Centre continues to provide our services to those with disabilities in the community at Cootamundra and surrounds.



Griffith-Leeton



Sadly, this year our centre founder and Coach Jess Horder passed away.

In 1987, Jess and Kalinda School began lessons. Jess was a pivotal person in the Centre for many years.

She will be remembered very well within our Centre and the Griffith Community

Centre Developments

Our centre is always on the improve. We obtained a grant allowing us to purchase two table/chairs with roofs for seating near our arena. Two of our volunteers erected them and they look great. Trees growing over the arena area were trimmed to avoid rubbing. We have made a start on our Activities Paddock with 1-10 activities, plus a slippery dip used for ten pin bowls.

Riders/Rides

This year we had 24 riders, some began learning to ride offlead which is a big step for them. Melbourne Cup Day was again a huge success. Kids got to wear real jockey silks and compete in races on the day to win ribbons and a cup!! We are lucky enough to have great trails at our Centre, so Trail riding was embraced enthusiastically.

Horse Stories

We have 17 horses this year with Rocky our newcomer. We celebrated horses birthday with our caretaker making individual cakes for all the horses, who absolutely loved them.

Patches did need the vet for a mild case of colic but she was all patched up and soon back to her happy self again. Polly forgot gates have to be opened to get out of the paddock, and ended up stuck half way through one, but luckily help was on hand and she was freed unharmed.

It has been three years since two horses were stolen and they are still missed dearly.

Coaching

We had quite a year with coaching continuing to run three days, but with fewer classes, due to school staffing.

Our Coaches Julie Karen Denise and in training, Lisa and Crystal do an amazing job.

Highlights were Melbourne Cup. The Children were jockeys for the day, with much fun and 2024 Horses birthday, the children gave the horses carrot cakes. Both horses and children loved it.

Biggest thrill for our centre was our Wednesdays participating in the Musical ride for 2024, and being announced the Winners!!!

Everyone put in a lot of hard work and we were very surprised due to the small size of our centre.

Community Events and Fundraising

Again our fundraising is so important to the running of our centre.

Golf Day, Pie Drive, Biggest Lap, Showgate Movie night and Raffle .

Community in Griffith is very generous and sponsorships and donations from businesses and individuals are appreciated.

Volunteers

Our most valuable volunteers are our coaches, Our Caretaker Karen and Committee and who work tirelessly to provide the best opportunities for our Centre. We also thank our volunteers in all capacities. Together we are amazing.





Tumut

2024 year was a very pleasant and successful year for our Centre.

Our volunteers helped make our riding days fun and interesting, with all inputting in the planning of sessions and developing some new activities. The grounds were kept up and the feeding roster grew, making it easier for everyone.

Riders had a great year with lots achieving goals. We had two riders travel to compete in State Mounted Games at SIEC, this was a wonderful experience for them, the volunteers who supported them and Bella, the 25 year old mare who thought she was five years old for the next month.

Our horses enjoyed the benefits of four good seasons, we sadly lost one of our long term ponies, Storm. Storm gave many years of joy to many, he travelled away to competitions and was our go-to horse for 10 years, he also provided quite a few challenges to volunteers, due to his quirky personality! Once a brumby always a brumby! Our Horse Sponsorship is well supported in our community – community members are very proud to be part of our Centre.

Centre improvements this year: We replaced the very old and much repaired internal fencing and put a new roof on the hayshed, just in time for our load of hay.

Financially our Centre is in a very good position.



Mudgee



Central West

- Bathurst • Orange
- Mudgee • Forbes (Steering Committee)

Orange

Highlights and Achievements

Highlights are: the work the volunteers have put into improving many areas, devising new games and creating new artwork; the money our Centre has received through various means; the consistency we experience from our coaches, children, and volunteers; the satisfaction gained from seeing improvements in children; the connections many volunteers have with the horses to ensure their health and wellbeing; and the willingness of our fantastic team to do what needs to be done to support each other.

Centre Developments

Volunteers have worked hard improving our centre facilities by regular maintenance and painting. We are planning for replacing our wooden fenced arena in January 2025 with galvanised steel which will stand up to the weather better.

Participation in the Kinross Wolaroi TREES program has had several year 10 students attending each Wednesday for a few hours. They helped to run our final Christmas party program which was a lot of fun for everyone.

Riders / Rides

We have had a total of 46 riders this year holding four classes each Wednesday. We all thoroughly enjoyed our year with these riders and had a wonderful celebration on the last day.



Horse Stories

Orange Centre has 15 horses. We gained Goldie, Izzy and Bella but lost Sid and PJ. We found new homes for Milly, Lilly, Twiggy, Peggy and Ned who needed a bit of TLC and rest.

We had a wonderful Horses' Birthday and Melbourne Cup Day celebration this year with many parents coming out to our Open Day as well as people interested in volunteering due to local publicity.

Coaching

We currently have two coaches and two assistant coaches. One of our volunteers became a Coach early in 2024 and another achieved Assistant Coach by October 2024. An excellent outcome for our Centre.

Community Events and fundraising

We are very well supported by our community receiving great coverage by our local paper, Orange City Life. The Golden Eagle money was well used for a few projects including purchasing steel for new fencing for 2025. We assisted at Carcoar Show which helped with our fundraising. We had a stand at the National Field Day for our annual raffle.

Volunteers

We have about 43 active volunteers. Our volunteers are quite social and love the lunch breaks to catch up on life happenings. Many solid friendships have been built this year!



Mudgee

Mudgee RDA Centre's Journey

The Mudgee RDA Centre, nestled in the mountains, has been a beacon of generosity, admiration, and respect for the invaluable services it provides. This report highlights the centre's remarkable journey, its dedicated volunteers, and the profound impact it has on the lives of its riders, families, and the wider community.

A Year of Challenges and Triumphs

The centre operates every Wednesday during school terms, with each session presenting new challenges, obstacles, and hurdles. Despite these, the centre has fostered a strong sense of connection and bond among its riders, volunteers, and horses. The centre's ability to adapt and overcome adversity is a testament to the dedication and resilience of its team.

Volunteers: The Backbone of the Centre

The Mudgee RDA Centre relies heavily on its volunteers, who selflessly devote their time and energy to support the centre's programs. These individuals are the unsung heroes of the centre, and their contributions are invaluable. One volunteer, Joy, stood out for her exceptional commitment and was nominated for an award on International Disability Day.

Horses: The Heart of the Centre

The centre's equine team, comprising four boys (Theo, Toby, Sunny, and Sparky) and one girl (Chiquita, now retired), plays a vital role in the centre's programs. These horses have formed strong bonds with the riders and volunteers, providing a sense of comfort, trust, and joy.

Community Engagement and Partnerships

The centre has fostered strong relationships with local schools, families, and community organizations. Its participation in events like Pink Up Mudgee (breast cancer awareness) has helped raise awareness about the centre's services and the importance of supporting individuals with disabilities. The centre's collaboration with the Pink Up committee and volunteers like Fran has been instrumental in promoting its cause.

Conclusion

The Mudgee RDA Centre's journey is a testament to the power of dedication, resilience, and community spirit. As the centre continues to grow and evolve, it remains committed to providing invaluable services to its riders, families, and the wider community. The centre's success is a direct result of the tireless efforts of its volunteers, the generosity of its supporters, and the unwavering commitment of its team.

We would like to express sincere gratitude to the Mudgee RDA Centre's volunteers, riders, and horses for their inspiration and dedication. Special thanks our supporters near and far for their exceptional contributions.



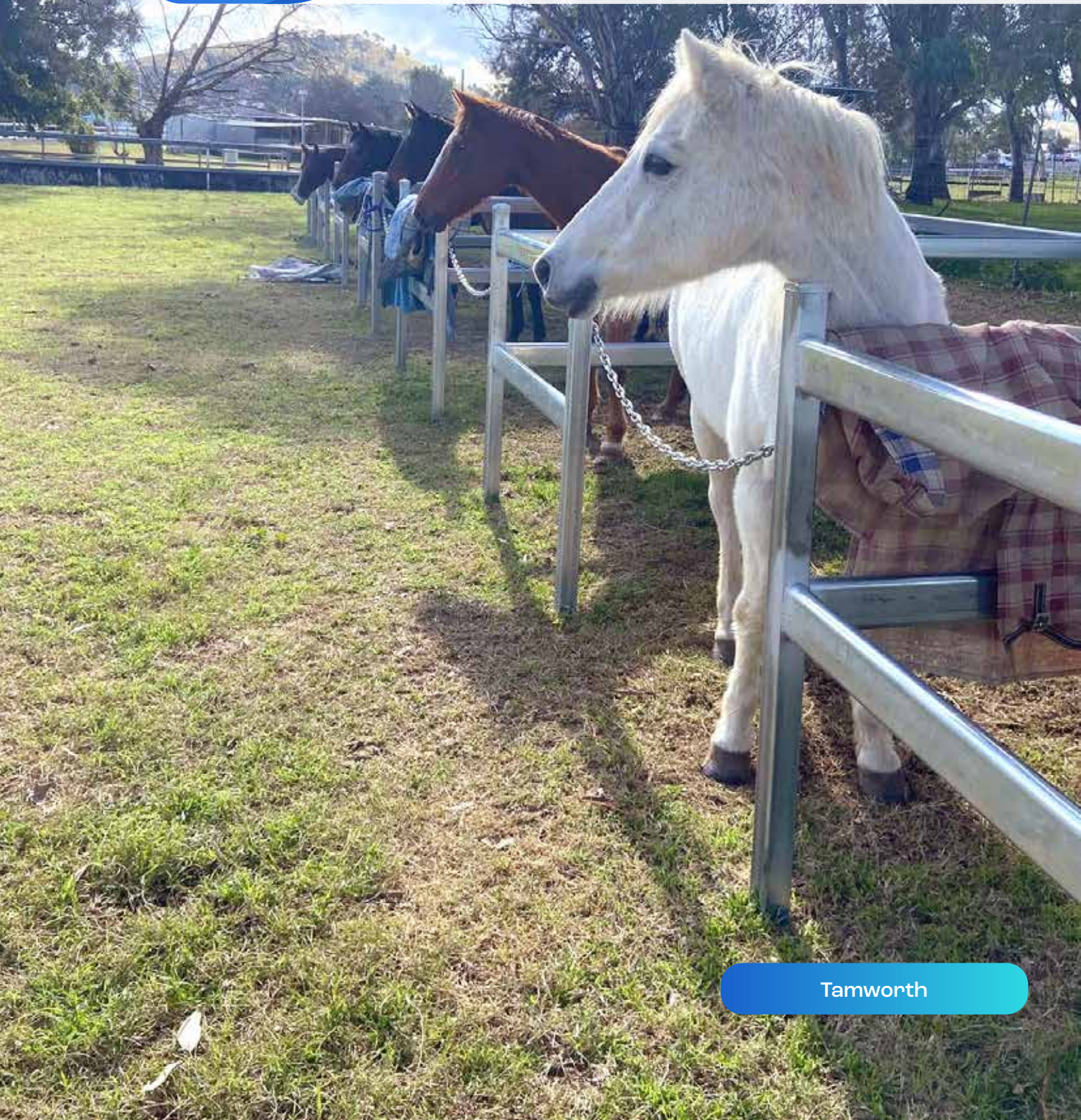






North West

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



Tamworth

Gunnedah

The fact that this centre managed to survive is in its self a significant achievement. Numbers of riders have been declining since the Covid epidemic and this is a significant strain on the efforts of our ageing volunteer group. As one of our senior coaches stated it is a lot of hard work for only 9 riders. It is rather underwhelming when the parents of needy suitable children do not follow the requirements for enrolling their children who would benefit from our services. For some reason they balk at getting the appropriate doctor's certificate or the payments necessary for acceptance to benefit from the interaction with horses and willing helpers. The general community really appreciate our work it is obvious that some who would benefit do not. It may sound a bit gloomy and at times it feels beating your head against a brick wall.

Currently we are using three riding horses and our whips are providing their own horses for carriage work. Gunnedah has two very good carriages which are used for people with severe disabilities and those deemed to be too heavy for the riding horses. The centre also has two very suitable horses in reserve but no actual carriage horses.

At the time of writing we have approximately 18 regular clients but this number can fluctuate wildly depending on the day. We have only 2 adult clients who ride in the carriage.

This centre is financially secure at the moment especially with the release of the \$15,000 from the winnings of the Golden Eagle horse race but that notwithstanding the Gunnedah community seems to consider RDA to be a great service and have been extremely generous over the last 12 months.

This centre is well equipped with fully trained and competent Coaches and Whips. Currently we have 2 fully qualified Coaches, 2 Assistant Coaches, a Senior Whip as well as an Assistant Whip. It is not that we are short of coaching talent we are having difficulty attracting people who would benefit from our services. This year we have been particularly fortunate to have youthful volunteers from the Gunnedah High School to help on riding day. These young people have provided sterling service on every riding day, their legs are much fitter than the rest of us.

As previously mentioned the lack of the appropriate people needing our services is the main concern of this centre and it is a worrying situation for the committee not to mention our ageing volunteers. (a common problem we are led to believe in all volunteer organisations) It would appear that there is an apparent unwillingness to find time to help or that social pressures have taken over with both parents of disabled children having to work.

At the moment the initiative is trying to drum up business for next year. However, it is fair to say that the centre had a reasonably successful year and we are looking forward to improvements for 2025.

Narrabri

A great year with 21 volunteers, two coaches, 19 riders, three ground participants. eight amazing horses, with Tony Pony joining us at end of season, which was perfect for the on-ground participants and any not wanting to ride.

The atmosphere of enthusiasm was contagious and great to be around. The organization of willing volunteers and willing coach created far less chaos and a less stressed head coach!!

Along with faithful horse donors – delivering their “babies” and having them in a good frame of mind and good health.

All participants noticeably improved, gained confidence and had obvious enjoyment, although some did not like to let on!! Lexi especially pushed buttons, riding off lead-walk, trot and a short canter. Great excitement!

On the whole our goal of “Safety, Therapy and Enjoyment” was fulfilled.

Very grateful to all participating in committee meetings and the executives fulfilling their rolls, keeping us on track. Jenny Wilkinson completed a full audit this year, thanks to Rose for fulfilling a lot of those needs.

Our status was reinstated to Accredited from Provisional.

I sincerely want to thank each individual – you make it ALL happen – Trish (Head Coach).

Tamworth

The Tamworth Centre is busy seven days a week looking after our nine resident horses. We have daily rosters for feeding and checking horse welfare. Our wonderful volunteers take great care of our horse family. We held riding sessions on Tuesdays and Saturdays whilst our main riding and carriage day remained on a Thursday during school terms in 2024. Our wonderful participants were of a wide range in age and abilities, from primary school to adults, attending from Hillvue Public School, Quirindi Challenge and various independent riders from around the Tamworth district. Riding and horse activities including carriage driving were thoroughly enjoyed by all. Throughout the year we welcomed 41 registered participants.

We were very pleased to host a session with the SES Large Animal Rescue and assisted them in their training. Our Coaches, trainee coaches, volunteers and horses assisted with the horse handling session. Our horses were on their best behaviour and an enjoyable and worthwhile session was had by all.

The Tamworth RDA Centre was afforded the opportunity to install day yards for our horses with the help of a grant from State Office. These yards have greatly assisted the horse welfare volunteers by providing a safer environment to secure, feed, and care for the horses efficiently.

We have had three Trainee Assistant Coaches working through their course throughout the year. They have made excellent progress and are a very valuable addition to the team of volunteers.

We thank them for all their hard work.

The Tamworth Show invited us to participate in the Grand Parade where several of our volunteers walked in the parade wearing our RDA uniform and Sue Wilson, our President, spoke about what we do and the opportunities for volunteering at our Centre and gratefully accepted a cheque for \$2000.

We continue to receive generous community support with donations that greatly assist the running of our centre. This year again we were again asked to participate in the Interschools Horse Extravaganza (ISHE). We acted as volunteers for pencilling for the dressage and assisted with marshalling. All proceeds from the four-day event went to volunteer organisations and for our presence we were generously supported financially. The Longyard Golf Club kindly named us as the beneficiaries of their raffle held in conjunction with the Longyard Cup event, this also provided us with a great way for our volunteers to meet more members of the community whilst also fundraising for our Centre. We had a table at the local Volunteers Day Expo, where we met locals and discussed our work at RDA Tamworth Centre. We met many others who are also doing their part volunteering in this great community.

We have had a happy and productive 2024 and look forward to again assisting our RDA Community by providing therapeutic equine activities and opportunities for our participants with special needs and disabilities in 2025.





Carriage Driving



Dressage



Disciplines of RDA (NSW)



Mounted Games



Connections EFMH&L
(Equine Facilitated Mental Health & Learning)



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:

Peter Carn – RDA (NSW) Honorary Life Member

Alex Livermore – Orange

Carol Slaughter – Wauchope/Port Macquarie

Warren Ricketts – Raymond Terrace & Lower Hunter (Stroud Carriage Driving)

Judy Buckley – Raymond Terrace & Lower Hunter

Carol Taylor – Tumut

Jess Horder – Griffith / Leeton Centre

Margaret Geelan – Richmond

La Reine Beale – Young

Horse Vale

Charffie – Wagga Wagga

Larry – Central Coast

Tia – Albury/Wodonga

Toby – Albury/Wodonga

Mickey – Kempsey/Macleay

Ellie – Wauchope/Port Macquarie

Abbie – Wauchope/Port Macquarie

Lex – Wauchope/Port Macquarie

Topper – Wauchope/Port Macquarie

Blondie – Wauchope/Port Macquarie

Storm – Tumut

RDA (NSW) Team

Patrons



Patron

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



Life Patron

Pearl Batchelor OAM (dec.)



Vice Patron

Inspector Don Eyb (Ret'd)
AMP OAM Former
Commander – NSW
Mounted Police

Staff



Office Co-Ordinator

Lucy Pentony



RTO & Coaching Administrator

Nicole King



RTO Administrative Assistant

Kristy Ford

Support Staff



CASP Chairman

Jenny Wilkinson



Centre Audit Officer

Judy Edwards



RTO CEO

Wendy Torr OAM

Directors & Portfolios



Chairperson
Greg Urand



Riders Representative
Allan Burton



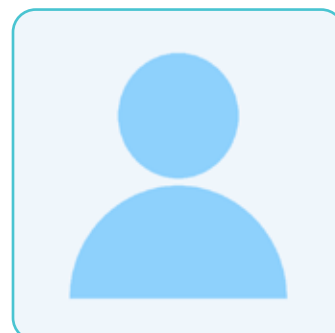
**Executive Officer/
Grants Officer**
Tracy Lucas



Finance Officer / MPIO
Olwen Smith



**Marketing /
Fundraising Officer**
Linda Bower



Company Secretary
Bruce Manefield

Board Consultants



Appointed Director
Sue Wilson



Margaret Norman OAM



Jan Pike OAM



Thank you
to all our volunteers
and supporters



**Without your assistance RDA (NSW) could not service
the 1075 riders who were able to ride during 2024.**



Riding For The Disabled Association (NSW)

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