



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



Celebrating the RDA Spirit



**2025
Annual
Report**



Coffs Harbour

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Central Coast			
Raymond Terrace			
& Lower Hunter			
Kendall			

The RDA Spirit during 2025

We are all dependent upon our wonderful climate to provide feed for our horses and bright days for our riding, however during 2025 our centres were truly tested to cope with some very wild, unexpected and extreme weather conditions.

Centres were flooded so badly that horses could not be reached for feeding, roads could not be accessed to get into our centres, and many weeks and precious funds were spent recovering from the devastating effects of this extreme weather. It was particularly bad for our northern centres; whilst our southern and western centres were subject to extreme hot weather and the resultant scarcity of horse feed.



Flooded causeway entrance to Kendall Centre



A kind Kendall neighbour who could reach the centre to feed the horses

The esteem that our centres are held in by their local communities is evident in the assistance and support that they also offered during these times when centres and horses were unreachable.

We even had a centre who experienced break-ins and vandalism on four separate occasions. Again, the local community were amazing with their support for the recovery and restorations necessary to recommence centre operations. It is a testament to the indomitable spirit of our volunteers who witnessed and suffered from these incredible and upsetting disasters, but who bravely battled on to overcome these hurdles to provide the necessary care for our beloved horses and the necessary safe access for our volunteers.

Dealing with the loss (and sometimes unexpected loss) of our volunteers and horses is hard enough to cope with, so this year truly tested so many of our dedicated volunteers and you are all amazing in what you have achieved despite these setbacks.

We are so proud of our RDA family, for everything that you do and for every hour that you give to provide our participants with such wonderful equine activities. It is a privilege to be able to recognise and thank you for your unwavering dedication to our participants and your contributions to the ongoing success of our wonderful organisation.

Thank you for the incredible work that you all do – no matter what hurdles are thrown your way!!!

We do what we love and we love what we do!!!



The green ribbon reflects the **RDA Spirit** – **strength, resilience, and dedication** shown by our centres, volunteers, and communities throughout a challenging year. Its sense of **achievement** and **renewal** highlights the perseverance that carried RDA (NSW) forward despite any obstacles faced in 2025.

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.

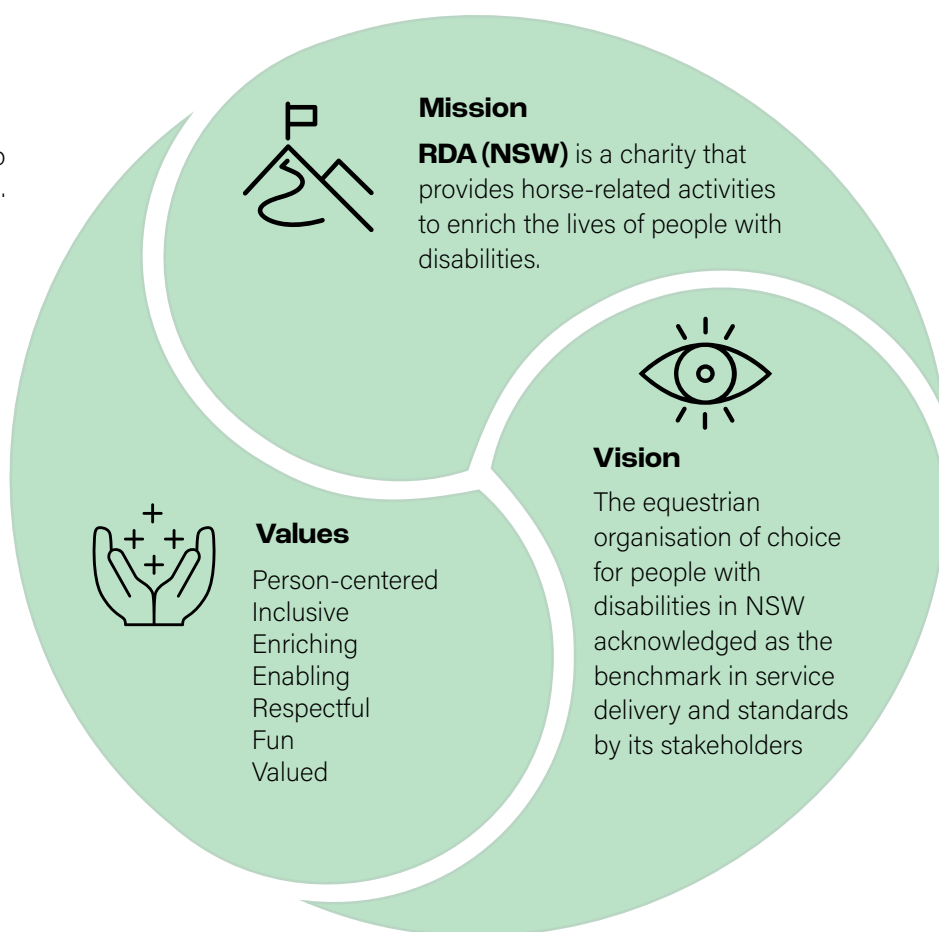
The objectives of **RDA (NSW)** are to encourage, support and assist Centres to provide riding therapy, sport, recreation, connections, training and safety programs for people with disabilities. **RDA (NSW)** offers horse riding, carriage driving, dressage, mounted games and Equine Facilitated

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 1002 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 in 2025

North West
Gunnedah, Narrabri,
Coonabarabran, Tamworth,
Armidale & New England
Rep: Jenny Wilkinson



Central West
Bathurst, Orange, Mudgee,
Forbes (Steering Committee)
Rep: Ann Lawson



Riverina
Cootamundra, Wagga
Wagga, Griffith/Leeton,
Albury-Wodonga, Tumut
Rep: Heather Baker



Southern Highlands
Wollondilly, Moss Vale, Cowra,
Illawarra, Goulburn, Young
Rep: Angus Malcolm
(Deceased January 2026)



North Coast
Tweed Valley, Ballina
& District, Coffs Harbour
Rep: Clarry Quirk



Mid North Coast
Manning Great Lakes,
Kempsey-Macleay,
Wauchope/Port Macquarie
Rep: Sue Hardinge-White



Hunter
Central Coast, Upper Hunter,
Kendall, Raymond Terrace
& Lower Hunter,
Rep: Jenny Cameron



Metropolitan
Ryde, Blue Mountains,
Box Hill, Richmond
Rep: Desley Burns



Founder and Life Patron of RDA (NSW)
Pearl Batchelor OAM (dec.)





Kendall

Director's Reports

Chairperson's Report

It is my privilege to present the Director's Report for the Riding for the Disabled Association (NSW) for the year ending 2025/2026.

Over the past twelve months, the Board has remained firmly focused on strengthening the organisational foundations of RDA NSW, with particular emphasis on governance, structural alignment, and long-term sustainability. This period has been one of purposeful reform and consolidation, positioning the organisation for a more stable and effective future.

A key milestone achieved during the year was the successful development and adoption of a new Constitution. This represents a significant step forward in modernising the governance framework of RDA NSW, ensuring it is fit-for-purpose, compliant with current regulatory expectations, and reflective of the evolving needs of our organisation and stakeholders.

In addition, the incorporation of centres has been a major strategic initiative. This work has required careful coordination, consultation, and diligence, and marks a fundamental shift towards a more consistent and accountable operational structure across the state. The Board acknowledges the commitment of all centres involved in this process and recognises the long-term benefits this alignment will deliver.

Governance has been a central priority throughout the year. Historically identified as an area requiring improvement, the Board has taken deliberate and measured steps to enhance governance standards, clarify roles and responsibilities, and implement more robust oversight mechanisms. These efforts have contributed to a more disciplined, transparent, and effective Board environment.

Pleasingly, we have also seen a general stabilisation of the Board during this period. Greater continuity, improved engagement, and a shared commitment to the strategic direction of RDA (NSW) have enabled more productive decision-making and stronger leadership at the state level.

While significant progress has been made, the Board recognises that this work is ongoing. Our focus remains on embedding these reforms, supporting our centres, and ensuring that RDA NSW continues to deliver safe, high-quality programs that positively impact the lives of our participants.

On behalf of the Board, I would like to acknowledge the dedication of our volunteers, staff, centre committees, and supporters. Their continued commitment is the foundation of everything we achieve.

I would also like to thank my fellow Directors for their professionalism, resilience, and focus throughout a year of meaningful change.

We look forward to building on this progress in the year ahead.

Greg Urand

Finance Officer Report

The financial position of the company remains very stable with net assets \$10.4 million.

The company did generate a profit for the year, thanks to the unrealised gains in shares and property trusts. The operational loss was impacted by one-off expenditures and the write down of assets carried forward from previous years.

For a detailed analysis of our financial position and trading results I refer you to the audited Financial Statements.

Since the end of the financial year there have been no material changes to our financial position.

As from 1 January 2026 we have changed the accounting platform from Reckon to Xero and we expect that the change will provide some efficiencies in processing, management reporting and year end reporting.

The company carries significant cash balances of approximately two million dollars, most of which is in term deposits providing much needed interest income to fund our activities but unfortunately, they do not provide any growth. Investments of this nature are unfortunately losing value due to the effects of inflation.

The Finance Committee is looking at our investment options to incorporate some growth potential to counteract the effects of inflation. This process is necessarily a long-term project as we need to establish a policy that balances security, risk, return and growth.

Finally, I would to thank the finance committee of Tina Clifton, Charles McClintock, Sue Wilson and of course the Late Angus Malcom for their counsel and assistance.

Gerard Looby

CASP Report

CASP has been busy with a lot of enquires/questions from individual people plus some Centres, we endeavour to deal with all these and reply as soon as possible, or we pass on to the relevant person for reply.

We have been reviewing countless documents including ESR01 forms, Fire and Emergency documents and Designated Rider/Groom form to name a few.

We have had a few questions about our Helmet Policy and are following up on them.

CASP have had the pleasure of some Board members attending our zoom meetings, with some questions and suggestions on Coaching and training as well as the syllabus and talks are continuing.

Also being discussed at a few of our meetings are the Audit process and the use of Assessor's and Regional Representatives.

Workshops and training are always on our agenda, recently Tamworth, Arundel, the Admin workshop last year at Bowral and the Connections workshop at Ryde.

Nicole as RTO is always at our meetings with information on training and any issues that need evaluating, info on Conferences she is attending, workshop information, survey results and feedback, plus the updates and continued checking and evaluating of documents.

Anyone or any Centre is welcome to contact us about any disciplines that they wish to, or questions they may have, we are available.

Jenny Wilkinson (Chairperson CASP)

RTO Report

The RTO Operations, supported by myself and Kristy on a part time basis, have continued to support the Coach and Volunteer training during 2025.

In addition to supporting RDA (NSW) Coaches through our student support processes we have also provided access to online training for any interested volunteers in the areas closely aligned with Assistant Coach training.

As a Registered Training Organisation we are bound by the requirements of Standards set by Australian Skills Quality Authority to ensure we are delivering high quality nationally recognised vocational education and meet compliance standards.

We have a set schedule of continuous improvement activities throughout the year where we monitor, review and improve documentation related to training and assessment on an annual basis. This involves consulting with the Coaching and Safety Panel (CASP) and RDA (NSW) Coaches throughout NSW to provide feedback relating to the training material and Risk Management processes.

During 2025 a large focus was placed on reviewing content in aXcelerate Turbo to support the training of Coaches and Volunteers.

The Training requirements under the Australian Qualification Framework is informed by Industry Jobs and Skills Councils and are periodically updated and transitioned through the AQF qualifications. I am a member of the Skills Insight Animal Care and Management Stakeholder Network and have contributed to projects where feedback is sought in relation to the industry. There is also a separate review underway of the Australian Adventure Activity Standards which helps to inform our practices for horse programs where schools are involved.

Feedback is collected from Workshops attendees; Learner engagement, Trainee, Supervising Coach and Assessor surveys following assessments; Trainee update requests; Exit surveys where a Trainee or Coach leaves the organisation. This information is used to identify improvement to the training process and assist with workshop content planning.

As we look ahead to 2026, in conjunction with CASP, workshops and developing training opportunities that ultimately improve outcomes for RDA Participants and support the organisation to be a leader in the industry will continue to be a focus.

Nicole King (RTO & Coaching Administrator)

Box Hill "Tall Timbers"



Financial Report

RIDING FOR THE DISABLED ASSOCIATION (NSW)

ABN: 50 001 823 267

(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

**FINANCIAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 DECEMBER 2025**

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

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DIRECTORS' REPORT

Your directors present this report on Riding for the Disabled Association (NSW) for the year ended 31st December 2025. In order to comply with the provisions of the *Corporations Act 2001*, the directors report as follows:

Directors

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

- Robert Gregory Urand (Greg)
- Suzanne Margaret Wilson (Sue)
- Kelli Jovanovski
- Michelle Eastwood
- Linda Bower
- Allan Burton
- Timothy Gerard Looby (Gerard)
- Olwen Smith
- Christina Clifton (Tina)
- Tracy Lucas

Principal Activities

The principal activity of Riding for the Disabled Association (NSW) during the year ending 31st December 2025 was enabling people with disabilities in NSW to participate in horse related (equestrian) activities for therapeutic, educational, sport and recreational outcomes. Riding for the Disabled Association (NSW) is dedicated to improving the quality of life for riders, developing life skills and attaining rider's personal goals.

There were no significant changes in the nature of Riding for the Disabled Association (NSW) principal activity during the year ending 31st December 2025.

Review of Operations.

During the year Riding for the Disabled Association (NSW) continued to engage in its principal activity, the results of which are disclosed in the attached Financial Statement.

The comprehensive income for the year ended 31st December 2025 was \$260,236 (deficit 2024 \$141,228)

Short and Long- Term Objectives

The board has identified important objectives and are developing strategies to achieve goals that will benefit all members of our wonderful organisation. These objectives are set out below.

Above all, Riding for the Disabled Association (NSW) needs to raise awareness of what our organisation can offer and achieve for individuals with disabilities.

Volunteers

Helen Keller once stated that 'appreciation is a wonderful thing. It makes what is excellent in others belong to us as well.'

- To improve strategies that assist and empower all RDA centres, providing clear expectations, training, and resources to ensure every volunteer can fulfill their role.
- The board continues to empower RDA centres' volunteers to easily carry out duties, attract new members, and promote their services to riders with disabilities in their local area.

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- The board appreciates our volunteers' role in the success of all our centre's programs, as well as the value of quality volunteer training.
- One of the easiest ways to empower volunteers is to provide opportunities for feedback and to act on it. Volunteers know their input matters when they see tangible changes.
- To ensure future success, the board is focused on developing strategies that attract younger volunteers. An essential objective is to maintain our existing centres while proactively increasing the number of volunteers, specifically targeting a younger demographic.
- To achieve this objective, the board will work collaboratively with centres to ensure volunteers' abilities are considered and to overcome potential restraints, such as limitations in computer awareness, capability, and social media skills.

Governance:

Good governance in charitable organisations involves implementing systems, policies, and a culture of accountability to ensure the organisation operates legally, ethically, and effectively to achieve its purpose.

The board considers key components to achieve this include:

- responsible board leadership
- sound financial oversight
- transparency with our centres
- managing conflicts of interest
- and complying with regulatory standards.

To this end the board's short-term objectives are to:

- Develop a cohesive organisational structure through a modern constitution and best governance modelling to support the delivery of high-quality services to members.
- Maintaining organisational participation rates.
- A main objective is focussing on all centres becoming incorporated and introducing successful planning initiatives.

Work, Health and Safety

The board continues to review, update, and implement WHS policies, procedures, and systems to ensure compliance with NSW WHS legislation and to support the physical and psychological safety of participants, volunteers, staff, and members across all centres.

To meet this objective the board will:

- Review and improve incident and injury reporting processes in consultation with members.
- Support WHS capability through training, guidance, and communication.
- Facilitate structured consultation mechanisms to support continuous improvement.
- To develop and implement a complaint handling framework consistent with Office of Sport guidelines, principles of procedural fairness, and contemporary governance practice.
- Appointment and training of one or more Member Protection Information Officer (MPIO) roles.
- Appointment and training of a designated complaints handler.
- Establishment of a complaints review, escalation, and appeals process.

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Key Performance Measures

Riding for the Disabled Organisation (NSW) measures its own performance through quantitative and qualitative benchmarks which include:

At present:

- Number of Centres - 31 Centres 2 in recess and 1 steering committee
- Number of participants – 962 riders
- Number of Volunteers – 990 based this on Annual Survey 2024
- Implementation and compliance with WHS policies across centres.
- Effectiveness of incident and injury reporting and response mechanisms.
- Complaints managed in accordance with policy, Office of Sport guidelines, and legislative requirement.
- Participation in Board governance, consultation, and oversight activities.

Board Member Information

Robert Gregory Urand (Greg)

Qualifications:

- Bachelor Arts Youth Affairs
- NSW, Justice of the Peace
Member of Institute of Community Directors
- Various Maritime Qualifications

Experience:

Greg has over 30 years' experience in IT Sales and Business Management Software.

Board Responsibilities

- Chair Person

Suzanne Margaret Wilson (Sue):

Qualifications:

- LLB, LLM
- Bachelor of Education, Diploma in Physical Education
- Cert 111 in Equine Therapy Programs for People with Disabilities
- RDA(NSW) Coach

Experience:

Sue has an extensive career as a lawyer and law lecturer. She has participated in the Law Advisory Council UNE, and held many board directorships. Sue was also a secondary school teacher, and is currently President RDA (NSW) Tamworth Centre.

Board Responsibilities:

- Deputy Chair RDA NSW
- Legal Director
- Communications
- Finance Committee
- Coaching sub group

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Kelli Jovanovski

Appointed February 2025

Qualifications

- Bachelor of Applied Science (Occupational Therapy)
- Diploma of Government (Workplace Inspections)
- Diploma of Government (Investigation)

Experience:

Kelli has 10 years' experience as a Principal Inspector with SafeWork NSW, where she provides regulatory oversight and assurance across multiple directorates; including general operations, investigations, workers' compensation, return to work, and the Respect@Work taskforce. Her prior professional experience was as an Occupational Therapist, with expertise in occupational rehabilitation, ergonomics, and medico-legal assessments, supporting a strong understanding of physical and psychosocial risk management.

Board Responsibilities

- Director, Work Health and Safety Committee
- Oversight of Work Health and Safety (WHS) and compliance
- Review, development, and implementation of WHS policies and procedures oversight of complaints handling and risk management frameworks
- Promotion of physical and psychological safety across the organisation.

Michelle Eastwood

Elected 17/5/2025

Qualifications:

- Bachelor of Applied Science(Equine)
Bachelor of Veterinary Biology, Bachelor of Veterinary Science (Hons)
- GCLTHE

Experience:

Michelle is a University Lecturer, Veterinarian and Riding Coach. She is an active competitor in eventing, dressage and showjumping, EA member, EA and HRCav helmet tagger. Michelle is a life member and previous president of the Wagga Centre, Hon Secretary Wagga and District Adult Riding Club, and a member of Horse-Riding Clubs Association Victoria.

Board Responsibilities:

- Director
- Horse welfare coaching working group
- Health and Safety working committee

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Linda Bower

Qualifications:

- Day Secretarial Certificate
- Supervision Certificate
- Additional experience in computer programming
- Courses completed in Project Management and Mental Health First Aid

Experience:

Linda has 40 years of executive secretarial experience in assisting managers and staff in the state's electricity supply industry. She is presently Central Coast RDA Committee Secretary handling all correspondence, meeting, promotional, fundraising and organisational duties to support coaches and her Centre. Linda is currently retired.

Board Responsibilities:

- Director, Marketing/Events Committee
- Producing RDA State's quarterly newsletter Bits N Pieces to raise awareness of what Centres achieve in collaboration with our Office Coordinator the AGM conference, workshop and Awards Dinner.

Allan Burton

Qualifications:

- Retired, having completed an extensive and varied career from 1966.
- Held during career First Aid, Bus /Coach Authority, Security License, Forklift & Crane License.
- In retirement, Computer Course Picton Evening College.

Experience:

Allan has had an extensive working and volunteering career in many capacities. Between 1962-1986 he was a volunteer for Tahmoor Bush Fire Brigade, including being Deputy Captain. A committed RDA volunteer spanning many years from 1988 to the present at the Wollondilly Centre. His roles included; committee member, vice-president and current president. In the years 1999 -2020. Allan was a volunteer at Wollondilly Road Safety Group, which involved council events, going into schools (primary and secondary), retirement villages and local events to give information regarding road safety and risks, including being involved in the initiation of road safety programs such as U-Turn The Wheel, Drives for Learners which have now become state wide events. In 2004, Allan was awarded Wollondilly Citizen of the Year on Australia Day for contribution to volunteering in Wollondilly Shire. He has been a RDA (NSW) director from 2022.

Board Responsibilities:

- Director
- Riders Representative

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Timothy Gerard Looby (Gerard)

Elected 17/05/2025

Qualifications:

- Bachelor of Economics
- Diploma in Financial Management
- Now retired, however, during career; Chartered Accountant, Registered Tax Agent, Self-Managed Superannuation Fund Auditor, Law Society Solicitor's Trust Account Inspector.

Experience

Gerard has 45 years of experience as a Chartered Accountant, including over 35 years as a partner at the country accounting practice Davies, Thompson & Wright. His expertise involves managing financial records, preparing financial statements, tax planning, returns, and auditing. He has provided strategic financial advice to a wide variety of clients and has analysed numerous business plans. Gerard has also compiled and presented reports, budgets, business plans, commentaries, and financial statements. Furthermore, Gerard served as the Engagement Partner for several audit clients, provided litigation support, and offered small business consulting. He has served on various boards and committees and is presently the Vice President of RDA Upper Hunter and the Event Coordinator for the Aberdeen Highland Games.

Board Responsibilities:

- Director,
- Chairman of Finance Committee

Olwen Smith

Resigned 17/05/2025

Qualifications:

- 1969 Matriculation Certificate (Victoria)
- 1974 Medical Laboratory Technician worked at Pathology Dept Preston and Northcote Community Hospital (PANCH)
- In Melbourne for 6 years, 1983 St Lawrence Retirement Home working in Aged Care 29 years
- 2006 Cert 111 in aged Care
- 2008 Cert 1V Lifestyle and Leisure
- 1996 Started at Cootamundra RDA Centre, 2001 Secretary of RDA – ongoing
- 2016 – 2025 Director RDA (NSW)
- Member Protection Information Officer course 2018

Experience:

Olwen's working experience was in Aged Care for 26 years. She attained Level III in Aged Care and Level IV in Leisure and Activities. Olwen retired a few years ago and still misses her working days as a Lifestyle Co-ordinator. She first heard of Riding for the Disabled when her step granddaughter started riding at the Young RDA Centre. It gave her such enjoyment as well as life experience that Olwen could see the benefits of RDA for those with extra challenges in life. With her late husband Olwen raised money for the Young RDA Centre in 1996 by participating in the Melbourne to Sydney Endurance Drive. After a friend's son started to ride at the Cootamundra RDA Centre, Olwen became involved as a regular volunteer. In 1998, she became the secretary at the Cootamundra RDA Centre, a position enjoyed and held until 2016. In 2002 Olwen became the Regional Representative for the South West Slopes, holding this position for 15 years until her election to the Board of RDA(NSW) in 2016. These years as a Board Member has shown Olwen that her efforts can make a difference projecting RDA(NSW) as an organisation with a great future.

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Board Responsibilities:

Resigned 17/05/2025

Christine Clifton (Tina)

Resigned 5/11/2025

Qualifications:

- Bachelor of Medicine,
- Bachelor of Surgery (Honours)
- Bachelor of Health Administration
- FRACMA.

Experience:

Christine (Tina) Clifton is a registered medical practitioner (retired), and a former CEO of a Sydney-based hospital group. She has over 25 years' experience as a company director for ASX listed companies, private organisations both for and not-for-profit, including the University of New South Wales and HCF, the health insurance company. She has been Chair of both Audit and of Risk committees for ASX listed companies.

Board Responsibilities:

- Resigned 5/11/2025 as a board member.
- A member of the Finance Committee.

Tracy Lucas

Resigned 14/12/2025

Qualifications:

- Governance in Action 2025
- Certificate III- in Correctional Practice 2023
- Mental Health First Aid Australia 2024
- Certificate III Therapeutic Equines Programs, People with Disabilities
- Certificate in Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs 2021

Experience:

Tracy has many years' experience at Riding for the Disabled Association NSW in various capacities, including Grants Officer and Chair of the board. She is a coach at Mudgee Centre and a committee member. Tracy is a foster carer and works in the correction system as a Correctional Officer. She has worked extensively in the local community as a volunteer and charitable worker.

Board Responsibilities:

- Resigned 14/12/2025

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Directors' Meetings

	Number eligible to attend	Number attended
Greg Urand	27	25
Sue Wilson	27	27
Tracy Lucas	24	24
Olwen Smith	11	11
Linda Bower	27	26
Allan Burton	27	26
Kelli Jovanovski	24	21
Gerard Looby	17	17
Michelle Eastwood	17	14
Tina Clifton	11	10

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the directors.



Robert Gregory Urand

Dated the 29th day of April 2026.

Assura Group Pty Ltd

ABN : 30 114 712 462

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Sydney NSW 2000

t 1300 55 33 38

www.assuragroup.com.au**AUDITORS' INDEPENDENCE DECLARATION**

In accordance with the requirements of section 60-40 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012, as auditor of Riding for the Disabled Association (NSW) for the year ended 31 December 2025, I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, there have been

- No contraventions of the auditor independence requirements of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 and in relation to the audit; and
- No contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.

Assura Group Pty Ltd
Chartered Accountants



Graham Judkowski
Director

Date: 29 April 2026

THE NAME IN AUDIT

Assura Group is an affiliate of a member of the BPM Global Network. The BPM Global Network is a leading international network of independent accounting firms that are each members of BPM Global Ltd. BPM Global Ltd, a company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales, coordinates the BPM Global Network and does not provide client services. BPM Global Ltd and each member firm of the BPM Global Network are separate and independent legal entities and solely responsible for their own acts, omissions or liabilities and not those of each other. Please see our website for further details.

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RIDING FOR THE DISABLED ASSOCIATION (NSW)**ABN: 50 001 823 267****(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)****STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME****FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025**

	Note	2025	2024
		\$	\$
Income			
Revenue	2	789,519.73	801,147.44
		<u>789,519.73</u>	<u>801,147.44</u>
Expenditure			
Advertising expenses		3,245.00	13,827.74
Bad and doubtful debt expenses		200.00	1,390.91
Employee benefits and expenses		120,077.65	104,045.07
Legal fees and other incurred costs		96,641.83	-
Other fees		49,404.00	-
Insurance		90,972.87	-
Travel and accommodation		51,085.71	-
Other expenses		117,656.42	823,111.94
		<u>529,283.48</u>	<u>942,375.66</u>
Current year surplus/(deficiency) before tax	3	<u>260,236.25</u>	<u>(141,228.22)</u>
Income tax expense	1	-	-
Net current year surplus/(deficiency)		260,236.25	(141,228.22)
Total comprehensive income(loss) for the year		<u>260,236.25</u>	<u>(141,228.22)</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements

RIDING FOR THE DISABLED ASSOCIATION (NSW)**ABN: 50 001 823 267****(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)****STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION****AS AT DECEMBER 2025**

	Note	2025 \$	2024 \$
ASSETS			
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash and cash equivalents	4	2,012,091.29	2,043,393.04
Trade and other receivables	5	2,208.90	10.70
Loans and other debtors	6	23,160.11	23,854.98
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		<u>2,037,460.30</u>	<u>2,067,258.72</u>
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Other financial assets	7	2,762,434.26	2,488,085.32
Land and Buildings	8	5,663,000.00	5,663,000.00
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS		<u>8,425,434.26</u>	<u>8,151,085.32</u>
TOTAL ASSETS		<u>10,462,894.56</u>	<u>10,218,344.04</u>
LIABILITIES			
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Trade and other payables	9	4,724.70	41,412.72
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>4,724.70</u>	<u>41,412.72</u>
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Provisions	10	21,002.29	
TOTAL LIABILITIES		<u>25,726.99</u>	<u>41,412.72</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>10,437,167.57</u>	<u>10,176,931.32</u>
EQUITY			
Reserves	11	2,811,678.93	2,811,678.93
Retained earnings	12	7,625,488.64	7,365,252.39
TOTAL EQUITY		<u>10,437,167.57</u>	<u>10,176,931.32</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements

RIDING FOR THE DISABLED ASSOCIATION (NSW)

ABN: 50 001 823 267

(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025**

	Note	Reserves	Retained earnings	Total
		\$	\$	\$
Balance at 1 January 2024		2,811,678.93	7,506,480.61	10,318,159.54
Movements in Reserves				
Profit/(Loss) for the year			(141,228.22)	(141,228.22)
Balance at 31 December 2024		2,811,678.93	7,365,252.39	10,176,931.32
Profit/(Loss) for the year			260,236.25	260,236.25
Movements in Reserves				
Balance at 31 December 2025		2,811,678.93	7,625,488.64	10,437,167.57

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements

RIDING FOR THE DISABLED ASSOCIATION (NSW)**ABN: 50 001 823 267****(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)****STATEMENT OF CASH FLOW
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025**

	Note	2025 \$	2024 \$
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Receipts from customers		139,651.82	187,029.40
Payments to suppliers and employees		(546,898.66)	(918,686.41)
Interest received		75,876.62	7,617.58
Investment Income		135,042.24	-
Grants		100,000.00	-
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	14	(96,327.98)	(724,039.43)
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Proceeds from investments		-	217,483.97
Proceeds from sale of other assets		37,721.20	-
Return of capital on shares		25,617.80	-
Repayment of loans by centres		1,687.23	-
Net cash from investing activities		65,026.23	217,483.97
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES			
Proceeds from borrowings		-	4,721.35
Repayment of borrowings		-	4,800.00
Net cash provided by financing activities		-	78.65
Net increase (decrease) in cash held		(31,301.75)	(506,476.81)
Cash at beginning of financial year		2,043,393.04	2,549,869.85
Cash at end of financial year	5	2,012,091.29	2,043,393.04

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements

RIDING FOR THE DISABLED ASSOCIATION (NSW)

ABN: 50 001 823 267

(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

The Financial Statements cover **RIDING FOR THE DISABLED ASSOCIATION (NSW)** as an individual entity, incorporated and domiciled in Australia. **RIDING FOR THE DISABLED ASSOCIATION (NSW)** is a company limited by guarantee.

The Financial statements were authorised for issue on 29 April 2026 by the directors of Riding for the Disabled Association (NSW).

Summary of Material Accounting Policy Information

Financial Reporting Framework

The directors have prepared the financial statements on the basis that the Riding for the Disabled Association (NSW) is a non-reporting entity because there are no uses dependent on general purpose financial statement. These financial statements are therefore special Purpose financial statements that have been prepared in order to meet the requirements of the Australian Charities and *Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*. Riding for the Disabled Association (NSW) is a not-for-profit entity for financial reporting purposes under Australian Accounting Standards.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the mandatory Australian Accounting Standards applicable to entities' reporting under the *Australian Charities and Not-for profits Commission Act 2012* and the material accounting policy information disclosed below, which the directors have determined are appropriate to meet the needs of members. Such accounting policies are consistent with previous periods unless stated otherwise.

On an overall basis, the financial statements comply with the recognition and measurement requirements in Australia Accounting standards in relation to cash and cash equivalents, financial instruments, income (including other income) and related receivables and expanses and related payables.

Basis of Preparation

The financial statements, except for cash flow information, have been prepared on an accrual basis and are based on historical costs unless otherwise stated in the in the notes. Material accounting policies adopted in the preparation of these financial statements are presented below and have been consistently applied unless stated otherwise.

Material Accounting Policies:

Revenue and Other Income

Riding for the Disabled Association (NSW) is first required to determine whether amounts received are accounted for as Revenue as per AASB15: Revenue from Contracts with Customers or Income per AASB 1058: Income of Not-For-Profit Entities.

Funding arrangement are enforceable and certain sufficiently specific performance obligations are recognised as revenue under AASB 15.

Operating grants, donations and bequests

When Riding for the Disabled Association (NSW) received operating grant revenue, donations or bequests, it assesses whether the contract is enforceable and has specific performance obligations in accordance with AASB15. Grants are recognised as Revenue.

RIDING FOR THE DISABLED ASSOCIATION (NSW)

ABN: 50 001 823 267

(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

Interest income

Interest income is recognised upon receipt.

Dividend income

Riding for the Disabled NSW recognises dividends in profit and loss only when Riding for the Disabled Association (NSW'S) right to receive payment of the dividend is established.

All revenue stated is net of the amount of goods and services tax.

Property, Plant and Equipment

Each class of property, plant and equipment is carried at cost or fair value as indicated, less, where applicable, accumulated depreciation and any impairment losses.

Freehold Property

Freehold land and buildings are shown at their fair value based on periodic valuations by independent valuers. In periods when the freehold land and buildings are not subject to an independent valuation, the directors conduct directors' valuations to ensure the carrying amount for the land and buildings are not materially different to their fair value. Increases in the carrying amount arising on revaluation of land and buildings are recognised in other comprehensive income and accumulated in the revaluation surplus in equity. Revaluation decreases that offset previous increases of the same class of asset shall be recognised in other comprehensive income under the heading of revaluation surplus. All other decreases are recognised in profit or loss.

Freehold land and buildings that have been contributed at no cost, or nominal cost, are initially recognised and measured at fair value of the asset at the date it is acquired.

Financial Instruments

Initial recognition and measurement

Financial assets and financial liabilities are recognised when Riding for the Disabled Association (NSW) becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument. For financial assets, this is equivalent to the date that Riding for the Disabled Association (NSW) commits itself to either the purchase or sale of an asset (i.e., trade date accounting is adopted). Financial instruments (except for trade receivables) are initially measured at fair value plus transaction costs, except where the instrument is classified "at fair value through profit or loss", in which case transaction costs are expensed to profit or loss immediately. Quoted prices in an active market are used to determine fair value.

Derecognition

Derecognition refers to the removal of previously recognised financial asset or financial liability from the statement of financial position.

A financial asset is derecognised when the holder's contractual rights to its cash flow expires, or the asset is transferred in such a way that all the risks and rewards of ownership are substantially transferred.

RIDING FOR THE DISABLED ASSOCIATION (NSW)

ABN: 50 001 823 267

(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

All the following criteria need to be satisfied for the derecognition of a financial asset:

- the right to receive cash flows from the asset has expired or been transferred;
- all risk and rewards of ownership of the asset have been substantially transferred; and
- Riding for the Disabled Association (NSW) no longer controls the asset (i.e., it has no practical ability to make unilateral decisions to sell the asset to a third party).

Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents includes cash on hand, deposits held at-call with banks, other short-term highly liquid investment with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts.

Trade and other receivables

Receivables expected to be collected within 12 months of the end of the reporting period are classified as current assets. All other receivables are classified as non-current assets.

Trade receivables are initially recognised at their transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less any provision for impairment.

Goods and Services Tax (GST)

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office (ATO).

Receivables and payables are stated inclusive of the amount of GST receivable or payable. The net amount of GST recoverable from or payable to, the ATO is included with other receivables or payables in the statement of financial position.

Income Tax

No provision for income tax has been raised as Riding for the Disabled Association (NSW) is exempt from income tax under Div 50 of the *Income Assessment Act 1997*.

Comparative Figures

Where required by Accounting Standards, comparative figures have been adjusted to conform with changes in presentation for the financial year. Where Riding for the Disabled Association (NSW) retrospectively applies an accounting policy, makes a retrospective restatement or reclassifies items in its financial statements, a third statement of financial position as at the beginning of the proceeding period in addition to the minimum comparative financial statements must be presented.

Critical Accounting Estimates and Judgements

The directors evaluate estimates and judgements incorporated into the financial statements based on historical knowledge and the best available current information. Estimates assume a reasonable expectation of future events and are based on current trends and economic data, obtained both externally and within Riding for the Disabled Association (NSW).

New and Amended Accounting Policies Adopted by Riding for the Disabled Association (NSW)

There are no new and amended accounting policies which have become effective from 1 January 2025 that have a significant impact on Riding for the Disabled Association (NSW's) financial statements.

RIDING FOR THE DISABLED ASSOCIATION (NSW)

ABN: 50 001 823 267

(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

	2025	2024
	\$	\$
2 Revenue and Other Income		
Revenue		
Other revenue:		
Interest received	75,876.62	7,617.58
Other revenue	<u>713,643.11</u>	<u>793,529.86</u>
	<u>789,519.73</u>	<u>801,147.44</u>
Total revenue	<u>789,519.73</u>	<u>801,147.44</u>
Other revenue from:		
Awards and Sponsorship	1,545.46	454.55
Affiliation & Rider Registration Fees	99,818.00	103,407.20
Assessments	5,771.88	3,090.90
Dressage Income	17,328.00	23,087.16
Donations Received	11,026.01	3,458.19
Grants Received	100,000.00	59,045.45
Investment Income Received	136,053.05	217,694.98
Promotional Items	423.17	2,788.91
Profit on sale of Non-Current Assets	11,073.19	
Rental - Box Hill		10.00
Sales of Manuals/Publications/Videos etc.		115.36
AGM Dinner & Workshop	2,899.99	
Increase in the value of Financial Assets	326,614.75	380,377.81
Sundry Income	<u>1,089.61</u>	<u>(0.65)</u>
Total other revenue	<u>713,643.11</u>	<u>793,529.86</u>

RIDING FOR THE DISABLED ASSOCIATION (NSW)**ABN: 50 001 823 267****(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)****NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS****FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025**

	2025	2024
	\$	\$
3 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	12,433.88	10,354.91
Bad Debts	200.00	1,390.91
Total bad and doubtful debts	200.00	1,390.91
4 Cash and Cash Equivalents		
Cash at Bank - Cheque Account	30,216.13	27,587.23
Westpac Maxi Direct A/C: 154908	11,452.57	101,810.53
Petty Cash - Office		100.00
Investment Trading Account	5.32	5.32
Investment Cash Reserves -201081	296,787.13	223,025.15
Cash Investment Bonus -209067	11,871.50	11,794.34
Debit Cards	1,040.43	1,276.46
O'Conner Legal Trust Account	849.91	26,898.03
Interest Bearing Deposits	1,659,868.30	1,626,911.53
Emergency Relief Fund		23,984.45
	2,012,091.29	2,043,393.04
5 Trade and Oter Receivables		
Other Debtors	2,208.90	10.70
	2,208.90	10.70

RIDING FOR THE DISABLED ASSOCIATION (NSW)**ABN: 50 001 823 267****(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)****NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS****FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025**

		2025	2024
		\$	\$
6 Loans and Other Debtors			
Imputation Credit Due		23,160.11	22,149.30
Loan to RDA Centres			1,705.68
		<u>23,160.11</u>	<u>23,854.98</u>
7 Other Financial Assets			
Non-Current			
Shares at Original Cost		1,476,748.81	1,510,105.91
Changes in Value of Portfolio		1,194,797.45	881,600.61
Property Trusts at Original Cost		63,188.80	82,097.51
Changes in Value of Portfolio		<u>27,699.20</u>	<u>14,281.29</u>
		<u>2,762,434.26</u>	<u>2,488,085.32</u>
8 Land and Buildings			
125 Old Pitt Town Rd, Box Hill	(a)	4,600,000.00	4,600,000.00
Raymond Terrace & Lower Hunter (Partial)	(a)	63,000.00	63,000.00
Ballina, 377 Houghlahans Creek Rd, Teven	(b)	<u>1,000,000.00</u>	<u>1,000,000.00</u>
		<u>5,663,000.00</u>	<u>5,663,000.00</u>
9(a) Directors revaluation 2020			
9(b) Valuation Herron Todd White 17 August 2011			
9 Trade and Other Payables			
Current			
Other Creditors		7,479.45	25,973.99
Interest on Loan		(2,754.75)	18.45
Tax Liabilities - GST		-	(4,570.16)
Accrued Expenses		-	18,990.44
Bonds Received		<u>-</u>	<u>1,000.00</u>
		<u>4,724.70</u>	<u>41,412.72</u>
10 Provisions			
Non-Current			
Provision for employee benefits - long service leave		<u>21,002.29</u>	-
11 Reserves			
Asset Revaluation Reserve		<u>2,811,678.93</u>	<u>2,811,678.93</u>

RIDING FOR THE DISABLED ASSOCIATION (NSW)**ABN: 50 001 823 267****(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)****NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS****FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025**

	2025 \$	2024 \$
12 Retained Earnings		
Retained earnings at the beginning of the Financial Year	7,365,252.39	7,506,480.61
(Net loss) Net Profit attributable to members of the		
Company	<u>260,236.25</u>	<u>(141,228.22)</u>
Retained earnings at the end of the Financial Year	<u>7,625,488.64</u>	<u>7,365,252.39</u>
13 Cash Flow Information		
Reconciliation of cash flows from operating activities with net current year surplus		
Net current year surplus	260,236.25	(141,228.22)
Less Adjustment for Investing Activities	-	(217,694.98)
Profit on sale of investments	(11,073.19)	
Net Changes in Value of Equities	(326,614.75)	(380,377.16)
Changes in assets and liabilities		
Bond write off	(1,000.00)	-
(Increase)/decrease in trade and other receivables	(1,393.60)	(1,244.00)
Increase/(decrease) in trade and other payables	<u>(16,482.69)</u>	<u>16,504.93</u>
	<u>(96,327.98)</u>	<u>(724,039.43)</u>
14 Auditor Remuneration		
Audit and Accounting fees	<u>4,720.00</u>	-
15 Members' Guarantee		

The Entity is incorporated under the Corporations Act 2001 and is a company limited by guarantee.
If the Entity is wound up the constitution states that each member is required to contribute a maximum \$5 towards meeting the obligation of the entity, the number of members is 33.

RIDING FOR THE DISABLED ASSOCIATION (NSW)

ABN: 50 001 823 267

(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

16 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

17 Contingent liabilities and commitments

The entity had no contingent liabilities and commitments as at 31 December 2025.

RIDING FOR THE DISABLED ASSOCIATION (NSW)

ABN: 50 001 823 267

(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

DIRECTORS' DECLARATION

In accordance with a resolution of the directors of Riding for the Disabled Association (NSW), the directors of the registered entity declare that, in the director's opinion:

1. The financial statements and notes, as set out in pages 11 to 23 satisfy the requirements of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* and
 - a. Comply with Australian Accounting Standards applicable to Riding for the Disabled Association (NSW); and
 - b. Present fairly, in all material respect a true and fair view of the financial position of the registered Riding for the Disabled Association (NSW) as at 31st December 2025 and of its performance for the year ended on that date.
2. There are reasonable grounds to believe that Riding for the Disabled Association (NSW) will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

This declaration is signed in accordance with subsection 60.15 (2) of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulations 2022*.



Robert Gregory Urand (Chair)

Dated this 29th day of APRIL 2026

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT
TO THE MEMBERS OF
RIDING FOR THE DISABLED ASSOCIATION (NSW)**

Report on the Audit of the Financial Report

Auditor's Opinion

We have audited the accompanying financial report, being a special purpose financial report of Riding for the Disabled Association (NSW), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 31 December 2025, the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, the statement of changes in equity and the statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies, and directors' declaration.

In our opinion, the financial report presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Riding for the Disabled Association (NSW) as at 31 December 2025 and its financial performance for the year then ended in accordance with the accounting policies as described in Note 1 to the financial statements, including satisfying the requirements of subdivision 60-C (Annual financial reports) of the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission Act 2012.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described as in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report section of our report. We are independent of Riding for the Disabled Association (NSW) in accordance with the auditor independence requirements and of 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 of the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared for the purpose of fulfilling the directors'/trustee's financial reporting responsibilities under the requirements of subdivision 60-C (Annual financial reports) of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

Other Matter – Prior Period Audit Performed by Another Auditor

The financial report for the year ended 31 December 2024 was audited by another auditor, who issued an unmodified audit opinion dated 14 April 2025. Our opinion on the current year's financial statements is not modified in respect of this matter.

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (cont'd)
TO THE MEMBERS OF
RIDING FOR THE DISABLED ASSOCIATION (NSW)**

Responsibilities of the Directors for the Financial Report

The directors of the company are responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 and for such internal control as the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the directors are responsible for assessing Riding for the Disabled Association (NSW)'s ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the directors either intend to liquidate the company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so. The directors are responsible for overseeing Riding for the Disabled Association (NSW)'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 misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

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

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for 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 Riding for the Disabled Association (NSW)'s internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the directors.

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (cont'd)
TO THE MEMBERS OF
RIDING FOR THE DISABLED ASSOCIATION (NSW)**

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report (cont'd)

- Conclude on the appropriateness of the director's 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 Riding for the Disabled Association (NSW)'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, 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 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.

We communicate with the directors regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal controls that we identify during our audit.

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

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

**Assura Group Pty Ltd
Chartered Accountants**



**Graham Judkowski
Director**

Date: 29 April 2026

THE NAME IN AUDIT

Assura Group is an affiliate of a member of the BPM Global Network. The BPM Global Network is a leading international network of independent accounting firms that are each members of BPM Global Ltd. BPM Global Ltd, a company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales, coordinates the BPM Global Network and does not provide client services. BPM Global Ltd and each member firm of the BPM Global Network are separate and independent legal entities and solely responsible for their own acts, omissions or liabilities and not those of each other. Please see our website for further details.

Liability limited by a scheme approved under Professional Standards Legislation

Registered Riders

Centre	No. of Registered Riders
Armidale and New England	12
Ballina & District	22
Blue Mountains	18
Central Coast	73
Coffs Harbour	5
Coonabarabran	8
Cootamundra	9
Cowra	47
Goulburn	37
Illawarra	3
Griffith/Leeton	26
Gunnedah	21
Kempsey/Macleay	21
Kendall	16
Manning Great Lakes	10
Moss Vale	12
Mudgee	30
Narrabri	18
Orange	36
Raymond Terrace & Lower Hunter	38
Richmond	24
Ryde	142
Tamworth	29
Box Hill "Tall Timbers"	113
Tumut	21
Tweed Valley	16
Upper Hunter	25
Wagga Wagga	99
Wauchope/Port Macquarie	18
Young	48
Associate Riders	5
TOTAL	1002

Coaching Stats

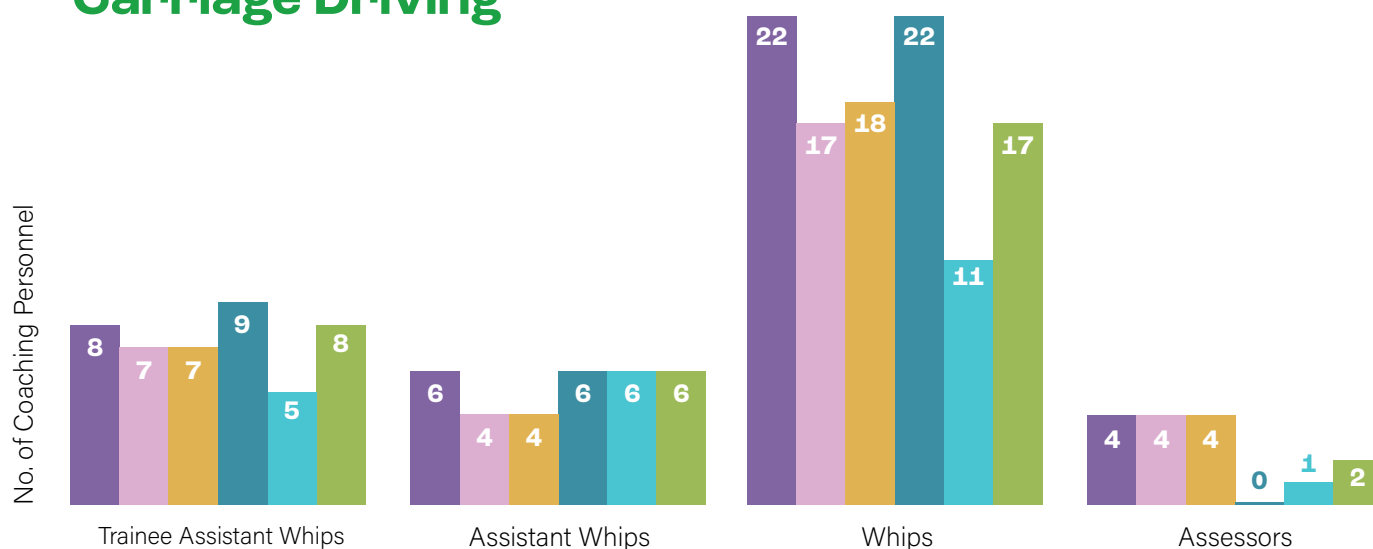
RDA (NSW) Coaching Personnel

Accredited	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Assessors	11	9	8	13	9	9
Senior Coaches	14	12	13	9	8	8
Coaches	89	85	82	115	82	85
Trainee Coaches	20	14	8	-	-	-
Assistant Coaches	37	30	31	35	27	32
Trainee Assistant Coaches	59	40	28	46	51	60
	230	190	170	218	177	194
Non Coach - Hippo Horse Handlers	15	15	15	N/A	N/A	N/A

Assessments Completed						
Coaches	2	-	7	6	5	2
Coaches (Qld)	2	5	-	4	3	2
Assistant Coaches	3	7	10	7	7	9
	7	12	17	17	15	13

Carriage Driving						
Trainee Assistant Whips	8	7	7	9	5	8
Assistant Whips	6	4	4	6	6	6
Whips	22	17	18	22	11	17
Assessors	4	4	4	-	1	2
	40	32	33	37	23	33

Carriage Driving



KEY

2020

2021

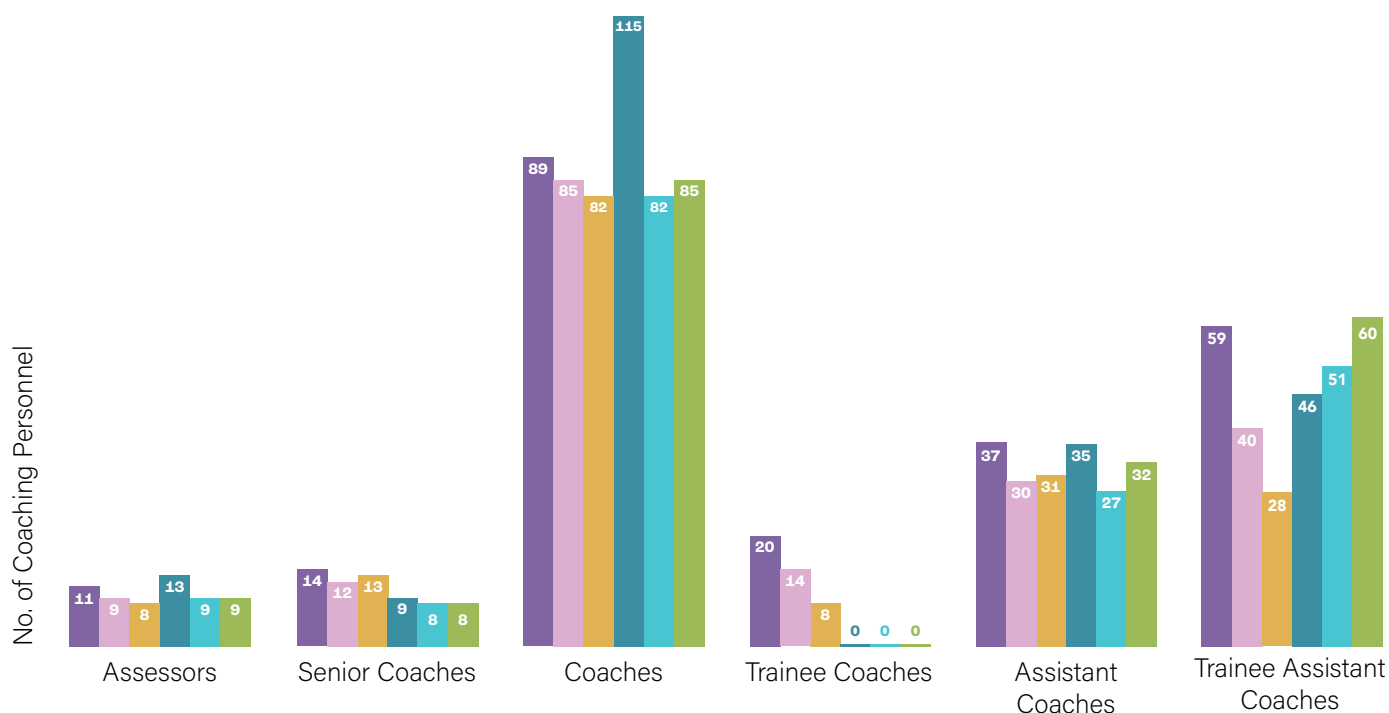
2022

2023

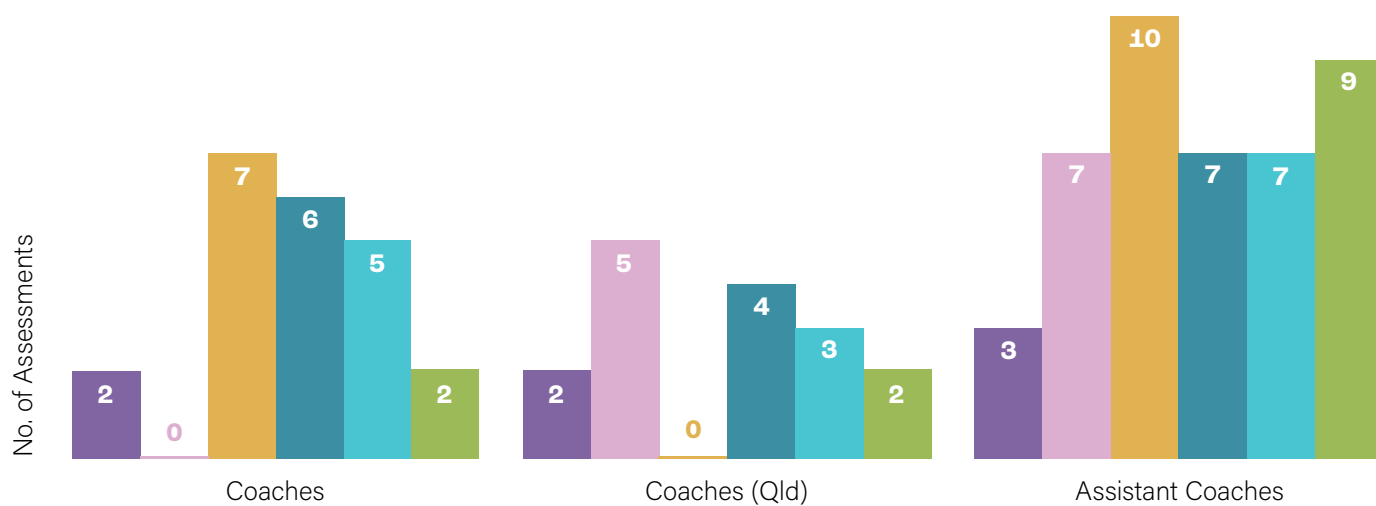
2024

2025

Accredited Coaching Personnel



Assessments Completed



Letters of Support

MESSAGE FROM THE VICE PATRON - RDA (NSW)



I am privileged as your Vice Patron 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.

These many volunteers, coaches, handlers, and supporters have made a significant contribution to R.D.A., NSW over the past year. During the year, extreme weather conditions causing major floods mainly in Northern Centres, and hot and dry weather in South and Western areas, resulted in a difficult year for all RDA Centres.

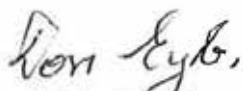
Despite all these disasters and setbacks, with increased costs to our communities and to our RDA Centres, - you have been able to achieve the following benefits: -

- Establish the project of assisting the 33 Centres to become incorporated for their own self governance and legal protection.
- Improved accounting software to a more user friendly and efficient financial system and also clarifying that RDA Centres are no longer required to incur the expenses of an auditor.

I wish to commend and thank all RDA Centres who participated in the 2025 musical ride competitions and to congratulate the two winning Centres being: -

- Mudgee Centre - winner of the musical ride with a theme or story – LED
- Wagga Centre - winner of the musical ride - LED

I acknowledge the hard work and commitment of all involved with RDA NSW during the past year and again thank you for the privilege to act as your Vice-Patron and I can assure you of my continued loyalty and support and also of the support of the NSW Mounted Police.



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

Former Commander - NSW Mounted Police



GOVERNMENT HOUSE
SYDNEY

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

As proud Patrons, we are pleased to express our ongoing support for Riding for the Disabled Association (NSW) and to recognize the efforts of staff and volunteers for all that was accomplished in 2025 to enrich the lives of people with disabilities.

This year was one of both achievement and challenge. In the area of systems and governance, improvements were made to position the organization well for the future, including the provision of support to assist centres to become incorporated for their own self-governance and legal protection. Other measures were put in place to increase efficiency in managing correspondence, improve communication with stakeholders, and facilitate strategic forward planning.

Some of the most significant challenges of the year came in the form of unexpected and extreme weather. Several of the northern centres were affected by flooding, resulting in the cancellation of activities, causing difficulties in access and the need for rehabilitation of facilities. In the southern and western areas extreme heat was a challenge with a resultant scarcity of horse feed.

In these difficult conditions the dedication and resilience of volunteers and the support of local communities shone through.

In November, it was a pleasure to have three RDA (NSW) delegates attend Government House for a Reception in the presence of Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal, President of RDA UK and Patron of RDA Australia.

Dennis and I take this opportunity to commend the RDA NSW family for all that you do to provide participants with wonderful and rewarding equine experiences and congratulate you on all that was achieved in 2025.

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

Mr Dennis Wilson

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



Awards

Winners Of Each Region AGM Awards 2025

Pearl Batchelor Award

Sue Wilson	Tamworth	North West
Margot Bulger	Tumut	Riverina
Tracy Lucas	Mudgee	Central West

Angus Malcolm Regional Award

Helen Huckerby	Raymond Terrace & Lower Hunter	Hunter
Diane Burnicle	Mudgee	Central West
Gary Tozer	Illawarra	Southern Highlands
Dawn Haddon	Wagga Wagga	Riverina

Volunteer Encouragement Award

Aaron Oldaker	Wagga Wagga	Riverina
Don Bower	Central Coast	Hunter
Stephanie Ovington	Goulburn	Southern Highlands
Simone Roach	Box Hill "Tall Timbers"	Metropolitan
Tanaya Knight	Orange	Central West

Young Volunteer of the Year

Tiona Moxey	Tumut	Riverina
Sian Zahra	Box Hill "Tall Timbers"	Metropolitan

Rider / Driver of the Year

Layla Pantaleone	Box Hill "Tall Timbers"	Metropolitan
Busta Mcauliffe	Mudgee	Central West

Shush Memorial Award

"Goldie"	Cowra	Southern Highlands
"Gypsy"	Wagga	Riverina
"Surprise"	Orange	Central West
"Max"	Raymond Terrace & Lower Hunter	Hunter

Rider / Driver Encouragement Regional Award

Paula Kennedy	Tumut	Riverina
Carli Edwards	Box Hill "Tall Timbers"	Metropolitan
Jakoby Rees	Central Coast	Hunter

Winners Of AGM Awards 2025

Pearl Batchelor Award

Margot Bulger

Tumut
Riverina

Angus Malcolm Regional Award

Gary Tozer

Illawarra
Southern Highlands

Volunteer Encouragement Award

Stephanie Ovington

Goulburn
Southern Highlands

Young Volunteer of the Year

Sian Zahra

Box Hill "Tall Timbers"
Metropolitan

Rider/Driver of the Year

Busta Mcauliffe

Mudgee
Central West

Shush Memorial Award

"Goldie"

Cowra
Southern Highlands

Pearl Batchelor Medal

2010 Margaret Randall

2020 Jan Pike OAM

2012 Wendy Torr OAM

2023 Jenny Cameron

2014 Jan Sharp OAM (dec.)

2024 Angus Malcolm (dec.)

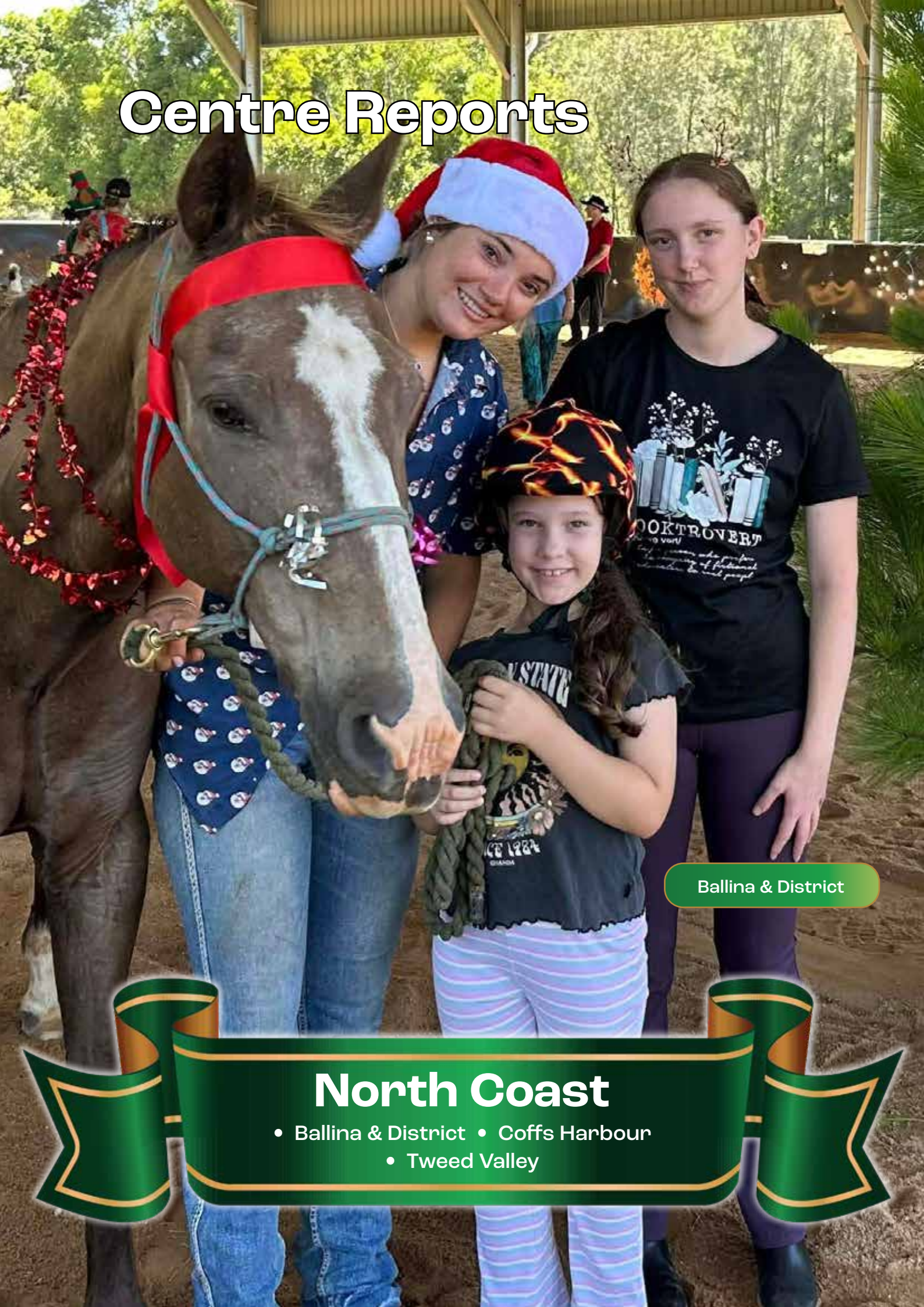
2016 Margaret Norman OAM

Life Members

1979	Pearl Batchelor OAM (dec.) Josephine MacWilliam (dec.)	1994	John Plowman (dec.)
1986	Jenny Davis (dec.) 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 (dec.)
		2014	Jan Sharp OAM (dec.) Gerard Murphy OAM
		2015	Eric Lengling
		2023	Jenny Cameron



Centre Reports



Ballina & District

North Coast

- Ballina & District • Coffs Harbour
- Tweed Valley

Ballina & District

May 2025 saw Ballina Centre recommence our riding programme after nearly 18 months. We are very grateful to our coach, volunteers and participants for helping the centre to be back to full operation so quickly.

We are excited to have acquired a carriage this year, and are in the process of planning the construction of an enclosed area/track for its use. For this purpose we received a grant from Northern Rivers Community Fund and a donation from the Altus Group.

Rider numbers at Ballina have steadily increased, finishing the year with 20 participants over 2 days. We have a regular group from Biala Special School who have been coming to RDA for many years, plus enthusiastic teenagers and young adults, several of whom are also volunteers.

We now have 11 horses. New additions are Champ and Gogo who are in training to start lessons in 2026. Gogo is a gentle giant, who will be perfect for heavier riders, and Champ will fill the void created by the retirement of 26 year old Jasper, who has been a wonderful RDA pony and is looking forward to an easy life on the property.

In 2025 we had 1 Coach, 1 Assistant and 2 Trainees. Coach Anna and 2 Trainees attended a training workshop at Arundel and enjoyed it immensely. By start of 2026 we plan to have 2 more trainees underway.

Visitors to the centre included a group from the Baptist Care home in Coraki, who did some petting and fed their morning tea scraps to the delighted horses, and several members of the Altus group who presented a cheque donation and watched some sessions.

Our Coach, Anna Rimac, attended the Ballina Lions changeover dinner and spoke about what we do at RDA. Lions gave us a generous donation, as did the Korea/SE Asia Veterans Association in December.

Ballina RDA volunteers were busy Xmas gift wrapping with Ballina Scope Club, with half the proceeds going to our centre.



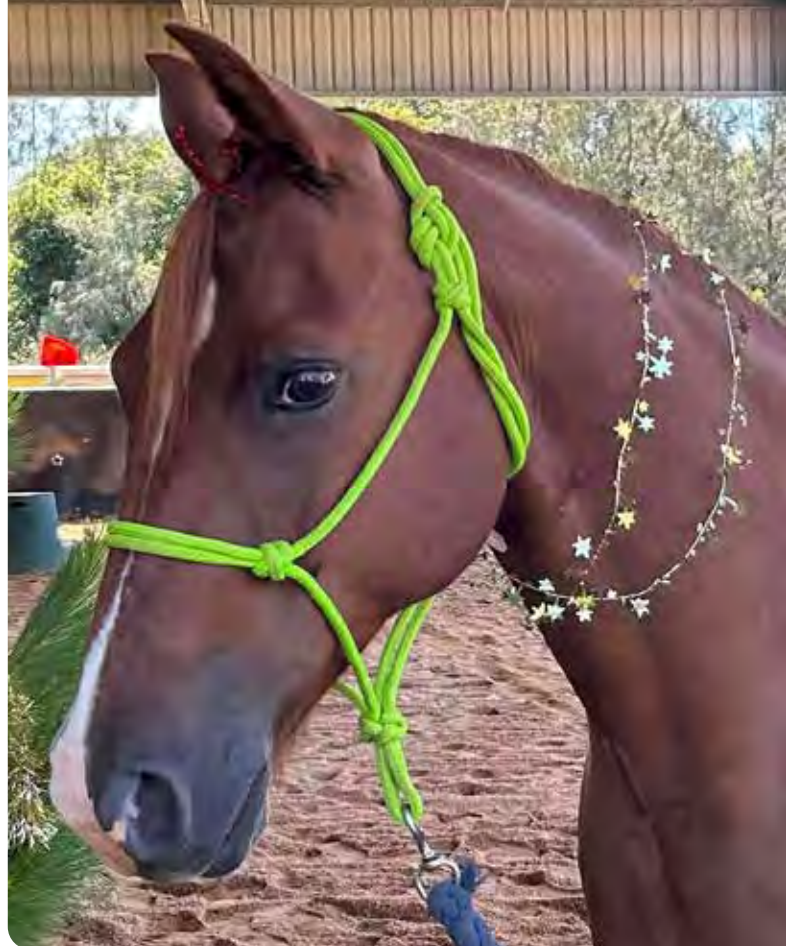
In October we held an information stall at the Wollongbar/Alstonville Fun Run. Mason the horse went along and enjoyed the attention and treats.

Volunteer numbers hover around the 40 mark. Coach Anna has conducted training days for all volunteers, this is reflected in the confidence and skills these dedicated people have developed.

Long term volunteer Jayne says "Volunteering at RDA has been an extremely rewarding experience. I work with an incredible team of volunteers, who help our riders develop abilities and confidence. I have also learnt valuable horse care skills and an understanding of the support horses give."

New volunteer Amanda says "I began volunteering at RDA in August and enjoy being involved with the horses and people. It's an honour and privilege to work with the children and young people as they develop meaningful connections with the horses, and to make a contribution to Ballina RDA."

Our goals for 2026 are to increase coach numbers and continue the upward journey the centre has made in 2025.



Coffs Harbour

The past year we received new interest from riders and volunteers. We also celebrated our 25th year as a RDA Centre, having originally been associated with the RDAA and consequently the NSW RDA.

Horses

Unfortunately we lost 3 of our best horses, Real Deal, Pedro and Buddy. These three served the centre since our commencement. We have 5 other similar great horses available.

Facilities

Upgrading of our office area and gardens continues on a regular basis. We are pleased that our site offers a panoramic, natural view of green valleys and mountains. The property from where we operate is named "Dove Mountain" and recently commenced beautifying the entrance.

After many years, access to our facility will enjoy a sealed road. No more dust or pot holes! This access improvement should be most beneficial to current and future riders.

Coaching and Other Business Operations

We are fortunate that our team has two Senior Coaches, both being Assessors, and one of those

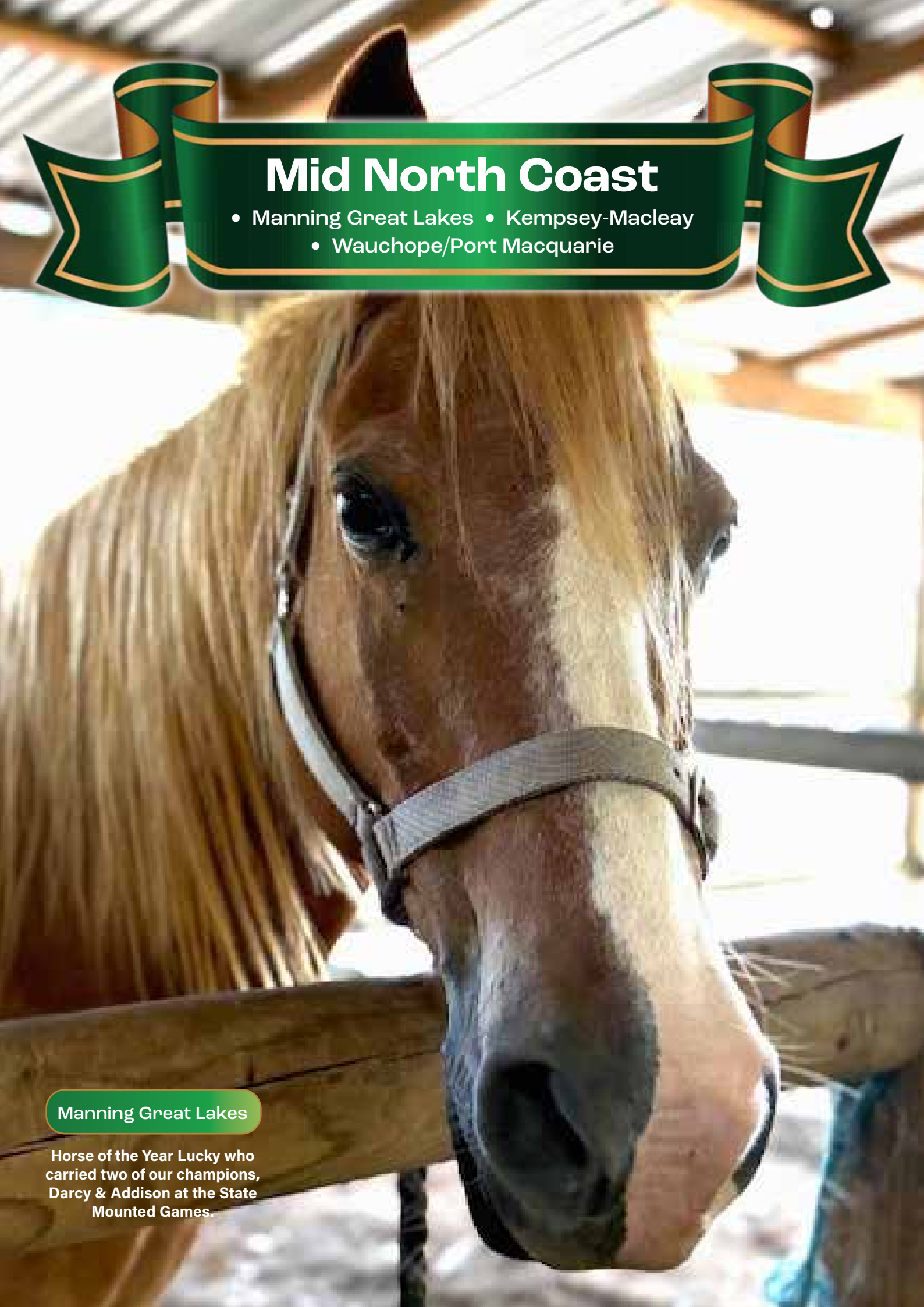


serving on CASP, one Coach and one Assistant Coach. Our President is an ex director and Regional Rep. Most importantly we have a happy compliment of seven dedicated volunteers.

Future

Our centre is considering becoming incorporated. We look forward to a successful New Year and hope it brings happiness and well being to our riders, volunteers and serving our region and community.





Mid North Coast

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

Manning Great Lakes

Horse of the Year Lucky who carried two of our champions, Darcy & Addison at the State Mounted Games.

Manning Great Lakes

2025 has been a transformative year for our riding Centre.

After borrowing coaches from other RDA Centres for more than 18 months during 2023 and 2024 to keep our Centre going; Coach Sue Hardinge-White re-joined the Centre in January 2025.

We commenced riding in early March under Sue's watchful eye supported by our Assistant Coach Margie Blain. Later in March the coaching team were joined by another Assistant Coach Lorraine Wilson, who graduated to a fully accredited Coach in Mid-May.

As you can imagine you can do a whole lot more with two fully accredited Coaches who can both take charge of riding days, than you can with one borrowed Coach who might only be at the Centre for 1 riding day every 6 weeks.

And we have, concentrating on the Mounted Games, an event held at Centres Regionally, with contestants being selected from the Regions for the State Mounted Games Championships. Two of our riders Addison and Maverick won State Championships in Trot and Led Walk respectively, and, one of our riders Darcy won the Reserve State Championship for Assisted Walk. The Manning Great Lakes Centre won the "Best Performing Centre" for the State Mounted Games event. Our Coaches Sue and Lorraine trained our riders to perfection and ran extra classes on Saturdays leading up to the event to fine-tune their skills. The outcome is a great example of our volunteers performing as a unified team to ensure our success and positions us to become "A Centre of Excellence for the Mounted Games", providing a goal for our riders to aspire to, and introducing more diversity into our riding programs.

On the back of this success we are planning to introduce an additional riding day on Saturdays. The Thursday riding day will continue. This will allow us to take on more riders and potentially recruit volunteers who work during the week and would like to be involved.

Without our dedicated volunteers, our riders and their families, and our horses none of the success would have occurred nor would the opportunity to expand our riding program be available.

Our volunteer numbers are 31 and have remained steady during the year although we expect an increase once we commence the Saturday riding day.

Rider numbers are 12 which include a non-rider. Two new riders joined in the last quarter and we had one new rider join in the 2nd quarter. The rest all carried over from 2024. We expect that rider numbers will grow as we introduce Saturday riding in 2026.

During the year we added two leased horses to our herd and finished the year's riding with 5 horses, increasing our riding capacity.

Financially we remain solvent and operate with about 9 months of reserves available at all times. Fundraising this year has been slow. However we have received good support from our sponsors who have funded approximately 35% of our operating costs. Grants have been hard to win this year; we applied for many and only won one small grant to make repairs after the flooding rains in May.



Volunteer of the Year Lorraine Wilson between Karen Hill and Ed Binney.



State and Reserve Champions: Darcy, Addison and Maverick with the Best Performing Centre Trophy



Our Coaches Sue and Lorraine with Addison receiving her Joint Rider of the Year Award, and Ed Binney.

Wauchope / Port Macquarie

Highlights/Achievements

We received a Grant of \$15000 from Wauchope RSL to assist with purchase of new float, which was organised by our fundraiser Jane.

Our new President is very enthusiastic and doing a great job trying to get new Riders to our Centre. She has made several school visits and also visits to Willing and Able and Candia Care.

Riders

We have 15 riders and we are hopeful we are going to gain 5 new riders from Wauchope High School this year. We have lost Westport High School riders unfortunately. Reduced fees for this year will hopefully work in our favour. One of our riders has been nominated for Rider Of The Year.



Horse Stories

We currently have 9 horses. Unfortunately another one of our horses had to have an eye removed later in the year – that's 2 horses this has now happened to. The first one is now back with riders and we are hopeful the second one will start early in 2026. We have lost 2 horses, 1 rehomed and 1 retired.

Coaching

We have 2 Coaches and 2 Assistant Coaches. Unfortunately we haven't been able to get any other contenders.

One of our Coaches, Sue Surace, received a Hidden Treasure Award from NSW State Government Rural Womens Network – a great achievement for all her hard work since 2006. Several of us went to the presentation of awards.



Community Events & Fund Raising

We held a very successful Raffle leading up to Christmas. In addition, we did a Sausage Sizzle at Bunnings which raised around \$1500, and doing the Showground gates for Farmers Markets also raised funds. We are lucky to have a few regular donors to our Centre which helps with our costs, and all up we received around \$12000 from fundraising and donations.

Volunteers

Currently we have 30 volunteers. Two members received Honorary Life Membership during year. Overall we have a great team of volunteers that get on well and contribute to a good team atmosphere. We had one Volunteer we wanted to nominate for the Pearl Bachelor Award however she declined as she is a very private person and says she gets enough enjoyment being volunteer, is not interested in an award!



Kempsey-Macleay

Once again the weather played havoc on the east coast last summer and autumn commencing with Cyclone Alfred. The rain didn't stop, rivers rose and bridges went under resulting in a major flood on the Macleay in May. Many areas were without power for 4-5 days and little phone service and many cattle were drowned. This was followed by another weather event in the form of extremely strong winds de-roofing homes, bringing down trees etc in August this year.

Our riding days were affected greatly by the weather and had a bearing on our well laid plans for 2025.

One of our highlights for the year was a 20th Year Centre Celebration luncheon held in July. Lesley Russell was awarded Centre Life Membership on the day for her wonderful contribution to the Centre. The day was well

attended by current and ex-volunteers and riders. A very enjoyable day was had by all with lots of shared stories from the past.

We received some very unexpected and exciting news on Christmas Eve informing us that our Centre was being nominated for Community Group Australia Day Award. How wonderful is this after a fairly ordinary 2025.

Then to finish off our year we were all very excited to learn that Jenny D'Aubert passed her Coaching assessment towards the end of Term 4. We now have three Coaches and one Trainee Assistant Coach at the Centre. All Coaches have reported an improvement from all participants during sessions and feel this has come from having stability and support provided by our team of dedicated volunteers.

Centre developments were minimal this year due to the weather and mainly consisted of caring for our horses, maintenance and cleaning up of the mess and damage caused by the cyclone and floods.

We had 21 participants registered this year and have seen lots of confidence building and improvement as the year progressed. Once again, to the delight of our volunteers, we saw a young rider who didn't have the confidence to actually mount a horse. After weeks of encouragement and patience from the volunteers he mounted the horse and is now able to enjoy his sessions with a leader and help of a side walker.

We had planned to host Regional Mounted Games this year but due to the unpredictable weather conditions we decided to cancel this event for 2025 and unfortunately this was the case with SIEC Mounted Games.

Our 7 horses have worked well and have adapted well to the forced changes in our sessions this year mainly due to the weather situation.

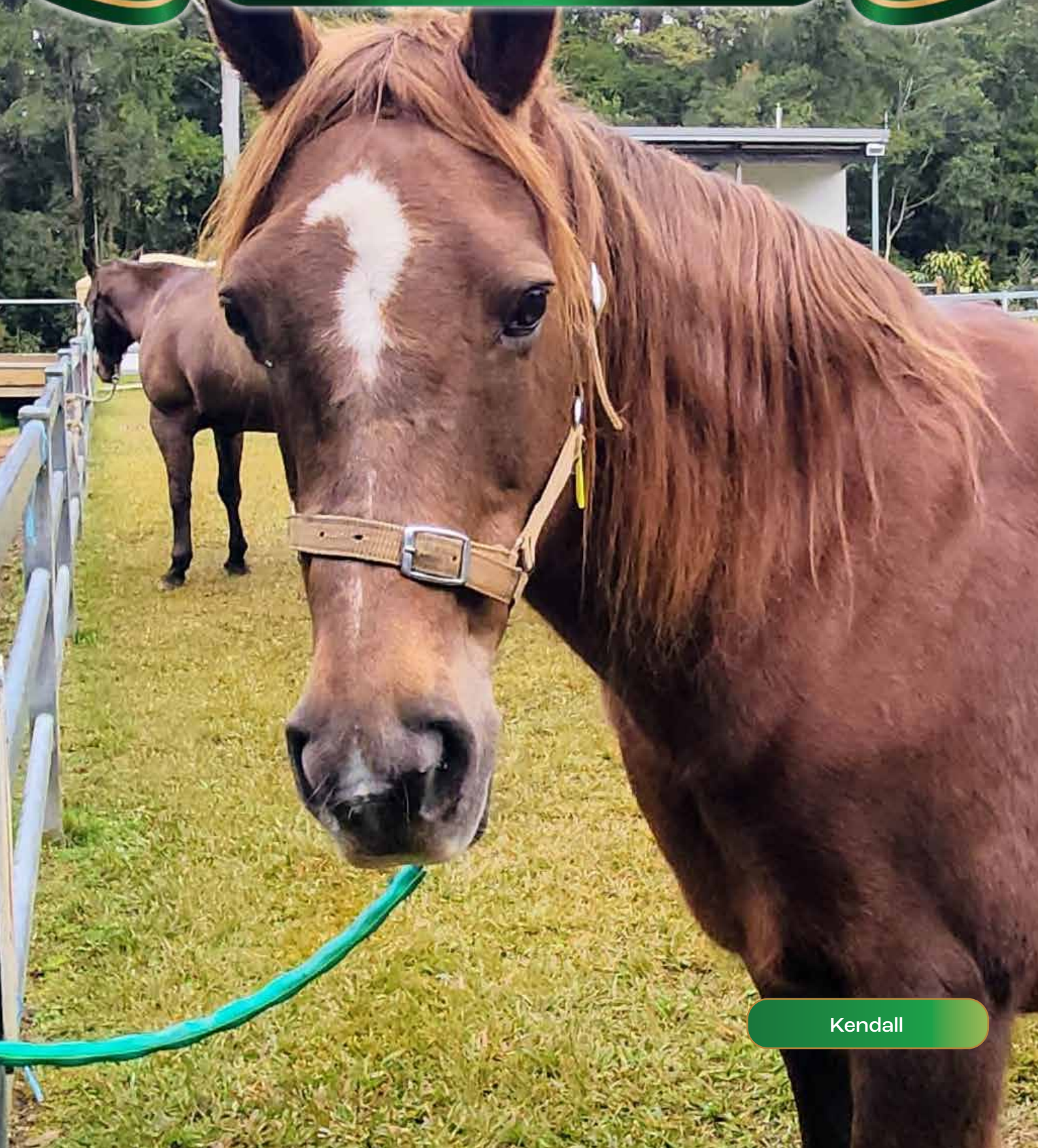
We have an incredible team of 18 volunteers at present. We also have 6 young TAFE students attending the Centre to help out fortnightly and some have indicated they would like to continue as volunteers next year. Our participants have enjoyed the interaction with these young people. The volunteer training days prior to the commencement of each term has been well received by the volunteers. Guest speakers are invited to speak to our volunteers on their specialty fields on these days.

A Xmas Fun Day was held in the riding arena on the last day of term for our participants. Lots of music, dancing and games were enjoyed by all.



Hunter

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



Kendall

Central Coast

Our Centre is extremely fortunate to have some generous and willing volunteers to undertake the 'harder' roles to ensure our Centre's future. Here are the latest 'stars' from the Central Coast.

RDA'S latest Regional Representative

You know the saying "Ask a busy person and it will get done"? Well, our very own President Ann Lawson has volunteered to be the new Regional Representative for RDA (NSW)'s Central West Region.

Congratulations to Ann for being willing to take on this task to assist the Mudgee, Orange (and Forbes and Bathurst) Centres. They will greatly benefit from Ann's previous years of horse ownership and nearly 10 years of RDA volunteering at our Centre.

New trainees and a new Coach

As you will all be aware we cannot conduct our classes without coaches, and we would like to welcome four new trainee coaches who are currently undertaking training to qualify as Assistant Coaches for our Centre. This will ensure the future of our Centre, and we truly appreciate Leanne Barnett, Michelle Cooper, Vanessa Penman and Kerry Waight for undergoing this arduous online and associated required practical training. Also, huge thanks should go to Merelynne and Pru who encouraged these volunteers to consider coaching and who are currently supervising their progress – and supporting them in every way that they can. Huge appreciation also to Bob Blair who has just decided to undertake the training to progress from an Assistant Coach to a Coach. Congratulations and thank you Bob.

Here are some informal photos of these stars:



Bob



Kerry



Leanne



Michelle



Vanessa

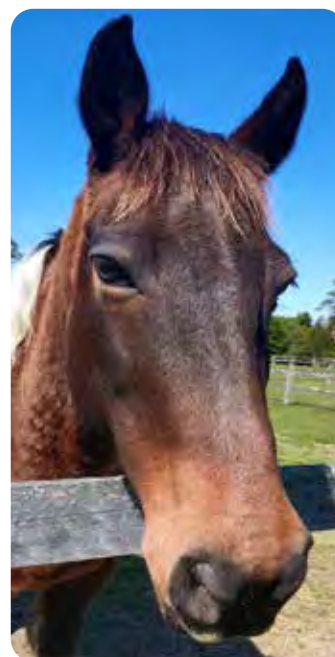
A story about Flynn and Maryanne

We are also very fortunate to have some generous volunteers, and this is a lovely story about our new horse Flynn's purchase. Those who volunteer regularly may be aware that Flynn was our prior farrier Shannon's daughter's horse (who had outgrown Flynn but wanted him to be rehomed to the best of owners).

Enter Maryanne, who has been waiting for ages to purchase a horse for RDA in the name of her dear friends Ray, Denise and Giselle McGuire. You may not have met Maryanne, as she cannot attend the Centre, but she has been busy fundraising for us wherever she has been able to. Maryanne previously volunteered at RDA Manning Great Lakes before moving to the Central Coast

Maryanne was extremely happy to purchase Flynn for our Centre, and she is pictured above handing over the cheque to President Ann to pay for his purchase. She was also very impressed with Flynn's good looks and beautiful nature.

Flynn is a 'paint' breed (or skewbald), 16 years old and 14.2 hands high and has passed his internship, undergone a trial ride by Gaynor and is already appreciated as a good natured 'boy' in nature and during classes.



Flynn



It is a lovely story all around and we are so very appreciative of Maryanne's generosity and Shannon and his daughter's kindness in recommending us to be Flynn's new owners.

Thank you to all of our RDA 'family' members during this year for all the hard work and dedication that you give to our deserving riders and Centre. We truly appreciate you all!!

Left: Gaynor trialing the new 'boy'



Huge thanks to Maryanne for purchasing Flynn

Raymond Terrace & Lower Hunter

It has been another great year for our centre. The same committee members from 2024 have worked hard together again to progress grants and other items for the benefit of our centre.

Programs

This year we had 3 riding programs and one driving program at Stroud. This was made possible with the use of 10 horses/ponies and over 50 volunteers. Thanks to the Horse Committee and the Caretaker for their continued sourcing and care of our trusty steeds, and to our invaluable coaches/Whips who run each program.



Awards

Our volunteer awards day was something different in that we invited all our volunteers and participants to take part in our Family Fun Day. We had a hobby horse gymkhana and a Pony Poo lotto which many found enjoyable, before eating a delicious BBQ lunch cooked by Tony Ross of the Hunter Volunteer Centre and our very own Chris Batch from the management committee.

Volunteer of the year was presented to Susan Schmitte, from Monday group, who has been with our centre for over 15 years in the capacity of volunteer, Assistant Coach, Coach and member of the Horse Management Committee, to name but a few roles. The Encouragement Volunteer of the Year was presented to Tony Smith a Driving Mister Fixit volunteer for our Stroud Annex. Rider/Driver of the Year was presented to Scarlett Casaceli from our Tuesday riding group, and the Rider/Driver Encouragement Award was presented to Tiko Samson from the Stroud driving group. Horse of the Year went to Max from Stroud Driving Group.

Grateful thanks are extended to Janet Hudson, Accounts Manager, for organising the games we played and the presentations on the day. It was great to have so many of RDA family from Stroud and Raymond Terrace come together for the day.

Mounted Games

We held a combined Mounted Games event again this year for all our riding programs. Lots of our helpers came together to support our riders competing against each other. It was a great day for our riders and helpers to see and meet new faces.

Fundraising

We held a Melbourne Cup fundraising function at the Imperial Hotel, Maitland. Grateful thanks to them for allowing us to hold it there again. Our fundraising representative Dani along with Cheryl, from Tuesday group and Janet from the committee were instrumental in making the day a success. We raised over \$3000 for the centre.

In conjunction with Raymond Terrace Rotary, we had two events, the first being the Christmas event at Raymond Terrace Centro shopping centre. Thanks to Dani and Janet for manning the RDA stall on the day and for taking part in the marching band activities. This resulted in a donation of \$2500 being raised. The second event was the Superheroes Dinner Dance at the Spinning Wheel Hotel in Raymond Terrace a week later. The proceeds were a further \$3000. Thank you to Raymond Terrace Rotary for nominating RDA to be the recipients of the total of \$5500.

Further, RDA also filling in gaps at BBQs through Bunnings at Heatherbrae and Kotara to raise funds, thanks to those volunteers who helped in this.

Grants

We were successful in securing a grant from Transgrid, where we were able to replace all the electrical switch boards in the centre and the cottage to provide a safer environment in which to ride and live.

Here's to more achievements in 2026!





Christa holding Ruby Comet with Linnie in the background

Kendall

We started the year with Volunteer Induction and Training in February and commenced riding in early March.

Highlights and Achievements

- Our new President and Committee were elected at the 2025 AGM.
- Installation of Starlink to allow internet access for our Volunteers.
- Creation of Centre related Individual Orientation and Training forms to make it easier to comply with new requirements for documentation to be supplied with some additional requirements for incidents where a fall from a horse occurs.
- Passed our Audit with flying colours.



Katie with Rider James

Riders

We continued to operate on a Tuesday and Wednesday morning with 3 classes being held each day. We had 17 participants registered this year, although the school children did not attend until Term 3, which allowed continued training with our horses and designated riders.

We were unfortunate to lose a few training days due to either the Centre being cut off by flood, or extremes in weather conditions.

To celebrate another year of riding days our Riders Christmas Parties were held across 2nd and 3rd December. These days were sunny, the riders were excited, especially the children, and our Volunteers arrived in full Christmas regalia. There were fun activities, party food, certificate presentations, and a goodie bag for every rider.

Horse Stories

We currently have 5 horses which are owned by the Centre – Ruby Comet, Honey (who lives off-site at Coach Judy's), Jay and Katie, 2 new Standardbreds, who have successfully passed their Suitability Checklist and Bobbie who is currently undertaking broodmare duties. We also have the use of Princess, a Shetland/ Welsh cross who belongs to our Coach Judy.

Program Updates and Plans

We remain committed to expanding our programs to include participation at the Mounted Games.



Volunteers and Riders, Libby on Ari and Lachie on Ruby Comet

Coaching

Our Centre currently has a Supervising Coach, Coach and a Trainee Assistant Coach (who it is hoped will be able to be assessed early in the New Year).

Centre Developments

No major new developments this year however investigations are underway to have a roof over part of our arena next year.

Our Publicity Officer does a great job with our profile in the Community concentrating not only on our Facebook page but also with the local print media.

Volunteers

We have a team of 33 dedicated volunteers, including those who assist on riding days, feeding, maintaining the grounds and also fundraising, with some travelling long distances to help out each week, which is greatly appreciated. It does take a team of hard-working volunteers to run a Centre including conducting classes, caring for horses, maintaining equipment and property and also the ever-increasing administrative tasks.

A very enjoyable Volunteer barefoot bowls/Xmas Party was held at Club North Haven. The barefoot bowls was a big winner.

A working bee is planned during the school holiday break to clean up, oil fences, as well as plenty of training work with the horses by our volunteers.

Community Events and Fundraising

The fundraising efforts of our volunteers this year has been greatly appreciated, especially those who sit outside Coles Laurieton and sell raffle tickets. We recently held our annual fundraising day, the Bato Golf Day held at Kew Country Club, which was a smashing success, raising \$7,277.10. This day is held in honour of Ian "Bato" Barbato and continues to make a real difference to our Centre through fundraising.

Our Coach Judy and Secretary Vanessa attended Kendall Public School Presentation Day, this school is where 7 of our riders attend.



Arena familiarisation for Bobbie with Trainee Assistant Coach Sharon



Frankie with Bobbie, Rider Richard working the ball with encouragement from Garry and Glenda



Jay with Volunteer Frankie



Volunteer Paris and the tiny Princess



Happy days with Honey



Volunteer Kerne with Rider on Honey



Jay



Sharon and Judy presenting a Certificate of Attainment for the completion of the 2026 program at the Riders Christmas party.



Princess



Libby on Bobbie with Trainee Assistant Coach Sharon



Lachie on Ruby Comet guided by Frankie. Ground support by rider Richard and Paris.



Fundraisers Paris and Christa selling raffle tickets



Volunteers helping at the Bato Golf Day – a major fundraiser for RDA Kendall

Metropolitan

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



Richmond



Bam Bam comes to Ryde whenever he can to make new friends at our excursions

Ryde

Riding

2025 has been a busy and successful year. Through passion, hard work, and teamwork, we have provided almost 1800 rides this year to around 150 riders. We now have nine schools participating in our riding programs and have increased our classes for 2026 to help reduce the waiting list.

Special Events

The legendary "Halloween with the Horses" returned in 2025. Our accessible event was bigger and better than ever with 10 horses, dressed up as all sorts of mysterious characters, a jumping castle, a popular craft table, games and other special trick or treat stations to thrill and chill our visitors. We also hosted 4 wonderful new social excursions to our Centre. Our visitors patted, groomed and led our ponies including the adorable Muffin, Bam Bam and George.

Volunteering

While attracting and retaining volunteers is a challenge familiar to all charities, at RDA Ryde we have grown our support again this year. Without our wonderful volunteers we could not exist and we are always grateful for the time they spend with us. We continue to focus on training and we are thrilled that Gail Halbert graduated as an Assistant Coach this year. It was with a very sad heart that we farewelled Kel Lai, a highly valued longstanding volunteer who passed away this year.

Horses

While we know that we are extremely fortunate to have our eight wonderful resident horses, they too probably realise how lucky they are. They have around a hundred fans every week grooming them with love. They are led with kindness, skill and patience so they can be the best version of themselves for our precious cargo of riders.



Goose thinks he is in charge of organising the class... well done Goose

Community Support

Being volunteer run, keeps us busy, but it is one of the factors that attracts and inspires ever growing support from the local community. We are fortunate to have backing from the local sports clubs and local Rotary clubs. This year, we received generous grants from Bendigo Bank, the Hogan Foundation, the Goodman Foundation and several other donors who are volunteers or friends of volunteers. Many of our volunteers not only provide their time but also donate. The City of Ryde has been a great landlord and grant giver. We love the Corporate working bees which enable us to address the backlog of maintenance jobs. Without all this support, we would not exist.

Projects

In 2025, with funding from Bendigo Community Bank Epping, we landscaped a section of the oval to create a small outdoor multipurpose precinct surrounded by portable fencing. This space has proved very useful for our new excursions.

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.



Volunteers loving their "work" getting ready for guests



When riding class is finished, all they want is more horse time – Prince loves them too

Box Hill “Tall Timbers”

The equine programs continued with participants in groups, from schools, individual sessions for riding and groundwork, Horse Sports and Connections Programs.

We have continued to organise many fundraisers and provided speakers for networking events to spread awareness.

Chanida and Nicole were recognised for 20 years of Service for RDA(NSW) Tall Timbers Centre with Nicole being announced as a Finalist in the Parramatta Westfield Local Hero's Awards!

We were excited to offer opportunities to Madiyson, Layla, Aayan, Issa and Sebastian to participate in the 2025 RDA(NSW) State Mounted Games event and Layla and Zara also managed personal bests at the RDA(NSW) Dressage Championships both coming home as Champions. Thank you to the volunteers that create these events.

Congratulations to Mikaylah and Hannah for being nominated for Volunteer Recognition Awards in the NSW Volunteer of the Year Awards through the Centre for Volunteering.

We said goodbye to three of our special ponies this year. Apollo, Spider and Honey all had very special places in the team, each excelling in different areas but each complementing our program immeasurably. Apollo and Honey had been with us since 2018 and Spider since 2020.

Our ponies continue to participate in EPA clinics, helping teach para riders the steps to becoming elite athletes, and in SES Large Animal Rescue workshops, helping to train emergency services personnel in the restraint and relocation of horses in emergency situations.

To finish, we loved this quote from a family member of a participant during the year....“Riding for the Disabled isn’t just about horses—it’s about freedom, confidence, and connection. It opens up a world of movement and joy for those who may have never experienced it before”

Annual Awards & Recognition

- Cloud was celebrated as Horse of the Year 2025
- Simone Roach was named Volunteer of the Year
- Geoff Walker received the Volunteer Appreciation Award
- Sian was recognised as Young Volunteer of the Year
- Layla was named Rider of the Year
- Macy and Julia received Most Improved Rider awards
- Carli and Mitchell were honoured with Encouragement Awards





Richmond

Our top 10 Highlights for 2024 were:

- 1 The year started with a very successful volunteer induction day which got us through the year.
- 2 A few of our amazing volunteers worked with me at the Hawkesbury show again this year and we received \$3000.
- 3 We took on two OTT TB racehorses but after months of training we had to send them back to ATC as they were too traumatised to work in RDA, but it has left us with positive views of looking at more.
- 4 We had a corporate day where staff from Abbotts Sciences came and assisted with various tasks.
- 5 Laura Porter and Christine Shaw are working through their coaches' exams hopefully with a positive outcome.
- 6 Sandra Mills has taken on the role of Equipment Manager and has done a great job sorting out tack to keep and has found outlets to sell on excess equipment, this year raising nearly \$4000.
- 7 Great partnership with RANVET has continued to flourish keeping our boys fit and healthy.
- 8 As we close the year and after seeing many horses, we now have a Standard bred and an OTT TB to support us next year.
- 9 The University finally mended the leaking roof of the RDA Kitchen.
- 10 This year's centre Audit went well thanks to Kaya, Brittony, Wendy, Ian and Gregg.

Centre developments

Richmond had no major new developments this year, but there is forethought and planning in place to enclose the last open space between the ramp and the arena gate to make a dry path for the riders.

Riders

- Number of riders currently is twenty-four and are at various levels of skills but progressing to their ability, many using reins and free riding,
- This year again Adrian's 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, Michelle Cocoris-Nguyen has returned after a serious op and settled back into the saddle. All our riders are amazing.

Horse stories

- Number of horses this year at Richmond is five, with two additions waiting in the wings a 16.1hh OTT Racehorse called Clayton and a Standard Bred 16.1 HH called Cozzie; both horses acquired after months of searching to get ready to start 2026 in a better place than last year.
- Burger continues to be the head of herd and Gibson is everyone's favourite; Andy a new horse this year has settled in well and riders enjoy riding him. Monty has had behaviour issues and only ridden by the best riders and Big Mac had to be retired due to heart murmurs.

Coaching

The current team includes:

Coaches – Wendy and Ian. Malcolm Cook retired after 11 years volunteering.

Assistant Coach – Bruce. Two volunteers currently in training – Laura and Christine.

Community Events and Fundraising

- Again, this year lots of our volunteers did the gates at the Hawkesbury Show and annual event
- Ian attended presentations at the Richmond Rotary Club
- Ian took part in an advert for The Shed Company who did the metal works for us at the centre, so the PR all helped.

Volunteers

- Volunteer numbers were stable throughout the year again around 6-8 each session attended over 3 days.
- Most volunteers who are semi retired or retired, describe their volunteering as satisfying by being able to help and at the same time give them a purpose.





A young boy is riding a brown horse with a white blaze on its face. The boy is wearing a purple long-sleeved shirt, light-colored breeches, and a black riding helmet. He is holding the reins of the horse. The horse is standing on a dirt path. In the background, there is a green field and a wooden fence. A green banner with gold trim is at the bottom of the image, containing the text 'Southern Highlands' and a list of locations. A green rounded rectangle in the top right corner contains the word 'Goulburn'.

Goulburn

Southern Highlands

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

Moss Vale

We have had a challenging and productive year at Moss Vale. Moving in to our new venue has been a relatively easy experience thanks to the guidance and direction of the owner Jan Chesterfield-Evans. We have managed to keep most of our riders and volunteers through the change and this brings a better experience for our riders. We hope to continue for years to come!

Our riders have flourished this year – some making the leap into riding off the lead. This is always a time of fear and trepidation, but if set up well it can be a real breakthrough for some. Our attentive and sensitive coaches have done wonders with our long-standing riders who were ready to move on.

We were grateful to Karen O'Neill who came to do our full audit and found us largely compliant. Having just moved in we were glad to only have a few items to attend to – all of which now have been! We are so lucky to have executive committee members such as Ann, Leonie, Dianne and Neil to distribute the duties with such energy and enthusiasm.

As you may know, my health has declined this year and this means I will have to resign as President and more-importantly as Coach. I have been coaching at Moss Vale for 50 years and can honestly say I've enjoyed every minute. The feedback from riders has been more than enough reward for me.

Angus Malcolm, President, 2025



Angus Malcolm sadly passed away in January 2026. Angus was awarded the Pearl Batchelor Medal in 2024 and will be greatly missed.





Wollondilly

2025 started off with a lovely surprise for our Treasurer Evelyn, who received Wollondilly Senior Citizen of the Year at the Australia Day Awards held at Picton Botanical Gardens. She has been our Treasurer since we started in 1985.

As we were in recess two of our ponies that normally lived on our grounds were taken down to Cootamundra Centre by Rosie and Greg. We were extremely lucky that Cootamundra were able to take Bella and Willow.

In February Rosie held a Meet and Greet morning at our Centre for people who had shown interest in possibly starting the journey to become a Coach. We were really pleased to find that Cami who attended on the day was interested in becoming a Coach. Cami has since started her course and is enjoying it.

In June our Treasurer Evelyn received an OAM on the King's Birthday Awards. We were all really proud of Evelyn and later in the year she was invited to Government House to receive her award, which she wears with pride.

Workers from the Department of Community Justice are still looking after our grounds and Pony Club grounds next door. We are extremely grateful for their time and help in maintaining our grounds.

In December Mitchell from Crown Lands met Allan at our Centre to do an audit. Mitchell was extremely satisfied with the way our Centre has been using the land and was impressed with the condition of the land and facilities.

In November we were contacted by Haley Salter from Toyota Material Handling Australia Pty. Ltd as they were interested in giving us a donation. When we found out it was to be a presentation of a cheque for \$10000 we nearly fell off our chairs.

Haley and five of her team members arranged for us to meet them at Picton Social, a café in Picton for the presentation.

We met with Haley and her team in December – see attached photo. A lovely afternoon was had by all and the team from Toyota were really interested in our Centre and it's operations and they asked many questions about RDA.

Everyone at Wollondilly Centre would like to wish Lucy, the Board, all Centres, volunteers and horses a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, as 2026 is the Year of the Horse.

Young

We got off to a somewhat chaotic start in 2025 with lots of very excited little riders come for the first time. Plus we had new teachers and staff who had not been to RDA before, so it was a big learning experience for them all. Eventually it settled down to 55 adults and children enjoying riding and carriage driving.

Volunteer numbers remain reasonable steady around 23 which is just enough. We would like to attract a few more volunteers in 2026 to help cover days when volunteers are away sick or on holidays. Currently we have two Coaches, one Coach/Whip, one Whip and a Trainee Coach.

Fundraising continued with three Bunning's barbeque and raffles. The Centre also catered lunch for the 140 participants in the Variety Club Bash Car Rally. The competitors were very generous bringing sporting equipment and other gifts for our Schools and the Centre. We were also able to obtain a grant through the Variety Club to purchase new boots, helmets, a carriage driving harness set and a new saddle. All items were sorely needed and we were grateful to have them funded. Woolworths also gave us a generous donation which allowed us to purchase bread and other food free of charge. The day was very enjoyable and full of fun for all the participants who dressed up in many well known characters and entertained the township of Young as they drove through.

The Centre has attracted great support from local businesses, organisations and people. Not only financially, but also with goods and services, equipment use and expertise and help with maintenance for our paddocks and fences. A very big thank you goes to each and every one of them. Without the support of our local people, we could not provide the programme of riding and carriage driving.

Sadly we lost our beautiful black and white pony JD, and also Darcy this year. Greatly missed by the children. All other horses and ponies remain well enjoying their summer break.

Most riders are making steady progress with specific programmes developed for some of our more advanced riders. All are enjoying the contact with horses and ponies. We farewelled rider Max this year as he graduated from High School. He has been coming to the Center for 11 years, was a great favourite and his smiling face with be missed.

There were the usual interruptions to riding days caused by wet weather, with an unusual number of days of very strong wind. We were forced to cancel one day due to the high wind-a first for us. Weather events in Young always seem to arrive on Tuesdays-our riding day!!

This year ended with Presentation Day and trophies and awards presented, followed by a visit from Santa with a gift for each of our participants. Family and friends all joined in to celebrate the end of the year and Christmas. A morning tea with delicious home made Christmas treats followed by a barbeque lunch was enjoyed by all.





Cowra

Highlights & Achievements

It has been a fun, eventful and successful year for RDA Cowra.

The new covered arena was officially opened by NSW MP for Cootamundra, Steph Cooke. Steph received a special bouquet made of flowers that were retrieved by riders from points around the arena. Riders returned flowers to a volunteer who combined them into an impressive bouquet for our special guest.



From funds raised through our Op Shop and Bunnings BBQs RDA Cowra was able to purchase a new horse float. We constructed a pathway and fence from the new arena to a disabled toilet and most significantly we saw the installation of solar panels and a battery to power the arena, kitchen and tack rooms. Having power is a welcome luxury after years of getting by with a noisy generator. RDA Cowra thanks the Cowra Showground Trust for their contribution to these important safety amenities.

Coaches and volunteers

The riding program is run by Head Coach Joy Webster, Coach Jenny Wright and a team of amazing volunteers and horses. Trainee coach Peter Saville is about to begin and will be a welcome member of the horse coach team. 15–18 volunteers assist with the riding program each week and another 21 volunteers covering the shop that operates 5 days per week. We can't thank our volunteers enough for their time and efforts to care for the riders and horses and in the op shop for the endless sorting, organising, pricing, displaying and selling of donated goods.

Riders

Students from Mulyan Public School, Holman Place Public School, Cowra Public School, Canowindra High and Cowra High plus two out of school participants took part in the riding program for 2025. 49 riders were able to enjoy the program and develop their skills. The Program runs on Wednesdays during the school terms at the new covered arena behind the Cowra Showground. We run 5 sessions each Wednesday and only missed 3 days this year due to high wind and excessive rain.

Riders enjoyed warm up activities, they learned about properly fitting boots and helmets and the correct sequence of mounting and dismounting. Some riders progressed to short off lead sessions in the arena. Some fun activities included finding models of birds hidden in and around the arena and identifying them as well as various games where riders matched their horses with cards displayed around the arena. They learned about horse colours and their facial markings. These activities were both fun and educational. All children in the riding program made exceptional progress, improving their riding abilities and skills around the horses.

Horses

The horse team is made up of RDA owned horses, Fame, Digger and Rocket. Leased horses, Sabira and Barney and horses loaned to RDA and brought each week by their generous owners, Clydie, Pally, Goldie and George. This year our miniature horses, Topsy and Orie, retired and moved to a new home with some young children who are thrilled to look after them.

Fundraising

The Op shop run by RDA Cowra is our major source of fundraising. It moved to larger premises in 2025 to the corner of Lachlan and Vaux Streets in Cowra's CBD. RDA Cowra is especially thankful to the people of Cowra and visitors for their continued support of the RDA Op shop. Kind donations received from locals and visitors are sold to provide much needed funds to run Cowra RDA and the amenities we use. The work of our volunteers to run the shop is invaluable.

Donation

It was great to be able to donate some of our funds to RDA Kempsey after the devastating floods. \$2000 and riding boots were donated.



Goulburn

2025 has been exceptionally active for the Goulburn centre leading us to operate every Tuesday during Term 4. Our program includes 13 horses (with 3 on long-term leases), 41 registered participants, 23 rotational volunteer students from Trinity Catholic College, and 14 regular RDA volunteers.

We extend our appreciation to our 2025 Pony Sponsors who cover 12 months farrier fees to our herd. Thank you to – Amy's Flower Shop, Jim and Leanne Divall, Ross Ginn, Price Transport, Kristy McBain MP, Aviagen, Lisa Clements, Goulburn Western Wear & Comfab.

Thank you to the RDA Young Carriage team of volunteers and especially Karen Harrington who has taken the time to mentor Jo Grove and Kim Mahoney in becoming Assistant Whips, we really appreciate your expertise around Carriage Driving and are grateful for welcoming Goulburn to your wonderful centre.

Fundraisers for 2025 were the Tully Park Early Birds Golf Day, Goulburn Rodeo, several Bunnings and Rotary BBQ's, SteamPunk Victoriana Fair and the Goulburn District Race Club Country Championships. RDA Goulburn were thrilled to receive \$25,000 from the Rotary Club of Goulburn and another \$8,500 from the Clubs Grant for a custom-built Carriage for our centre. RDA Goulburn also had the pleasure of facilitating a SES Large Animal Rescue program we thoroughly enjoy helping the community out where we can. Jo Grove and Kim Mahoney also represented RDA Goulburn Stewarding for the Wallinga Park 'Ponies by the sea', the APSB Annual Show held in Goulburn and the APSB YoungStock Show held at Sutton Forest. Our Lilac Queen handed over her crown and we are so very proud of Sam's achievements representing our centre.





Griffith-Leeton

Riverina

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

Wagga Wagga

In 2025, Wagga Wagga Centre ran 22 classes over 4½ days each week, serving eight schools, offering eight independent classes, and six after-school able-bodied classes. Carriage driving lessons were held on two mornings weekly. Approximately 100 riders attend the Centre each week and 50-60 volunteers assist with these lessons. Our full time Coach Tash left in October to move to Melbourne. We replaced Tash with two part time (now Assistant Coaches). Currently we have 4 part time Assistant Coaches, five part time Coaches, two Whips and one Assistant Whip. Five of these are paid staff. 16 beautiful horses graze on our lease.



Cruiser came to our Centre 2012 and quickly became a go to pony for new riders and helping volunteers that were a little nervous about working with horses. Over the years Cruiser has helped to build the confidence for so many riders. But like us all, as he has gotten older, he has slowed down. Cruiser has now reached full retirement age and will live out his days happily at Darren's.

In term three our Friday morning class practiced a musical ride routine with Coach Tash and volunteers. They put in a lot of effort; it was filmed and sent to state to compete against other centres. We are so proud to announce that they came first in their category. We hope these riders are incredibly proud of their effort.

In May this year the Centre celebrated its 50th anniversary. An open day was held at our Centre as well as a formal dinner at night. We were fortunate to have a lot of past volunteers, clients and coaches attend the weekend for a great catch up.

Unfortunately, 3 months later Jenny Davis our founding member passed away. Jenny had a wonderful night at our 50th birthday celebrations in May, catching up with people she had not seen in years, sharing many stories and having a laugh. A night she said she would remember forever. I know we will always remember Jenny.



During the dinner a plan was hatched for a 50x50x50 fundraiser. The plan being to raise funds to purchase a side by side for our Centre. This was achieved within the 50-day target. It is a great benefit to the running of our Centre and gets used every day.

Other fundraisers for our Centre included Bunnings BBQ, our 4th Hoedown, catering for Wagga working Dogs, car boot sale and raffles. Our main source of funding is through our Opportunity Shop in the main street of Wagga. This is run by a loyal group of volunteers. We are very fortunate to have a wonderful community who really support the centre. Donations are also received from community groups and Service Clubs.



We have been lucky to receive a Grant from the Australia Turf Club for the purchase of rubber matting for our concrete horse yards. This will be purchased and put down during the holidays.

Also, the Murrumbidgee Turf Club selected RDA Wagga to be their chosen charity for 2025. A nice cheque was presented at a recent race meeting. (A good excuse for us to go to the races).



This year we have held two volunteer training days, a 'Volunteer Week' morning tea and our Regional Mounted Games. This was very well attended by our local riders; however, it would be lovely to have participants from other centres attend.

Dan is our quiet achiever at the Centre. Dan works 3 days a week and is employed by Kurrajong. Dan has been part of Wagga's RDA family for 14 years and helps our caretaker Darren with all the odd jobs.



During 2025 Dan was present with a Shine Award by Wagga Rotary Club. Everyone who attends the Centre is greeted by his wonderful smile and happy personality.

The Rotary Club of Wagga recently held their meeting at our Centre. It was wonderful to show them around our great facilities. It is surprising still the number of people who do not understand what RDA does in the community.

Guest Speakers were provided for a local Probus Club and Junee Rotary Club. After the Junee presentation we received some large bales of hay for our horses.

The horses look forward to the holidays as they spend time off site on a local land owner's farm who has plenty of room for them to run around and explore.

Our volunteers, including those from the youth group, constitute an essential support system for our Centre. The range and frequency of riding lessons we offer would not be possible without their dedication and commitment.

Cootamundra

2025 was a complex year for RDA Cootamundra.

Significant achievements this year include the fundraising initiatives led by Trish Taylor and Bradon Lambert, who collectively raised over \$10,000 through sales and organizing barbecues at markets and canteens. Additionally, Trish coordinated further fundraising events at venues such as the Cootamundra Show and the Antique Motor Swapmeet, resulting in a total of \$21,000 raised throughout the year.

Regrettably, Trish will be resigning at our 2026 AGM after 28 years of dedicated service to the centre. She was awarded the Pearl Batchelor Award in 2008, which subsequently led to her receiving the 2008 NSW Sports Volunteer Award. Trish has served on the centre committee at Cootamundra RDA, predominantly as President, and has also undertaken the roles of fundraiser and caterer since 2012. Her significant contributions and commitment will be deeply missed by the RDA Centre.

Cootamundra welcomed our new carriage horse, Virgil, a new carriage horse who is performing admirably at the centre. Trained to walk gently and respond smoothly, Virgil makes it easier for drivers with disabilities to learn carriage driving.

Our centre is delighted to welcome two new carriage driver trainee Whips. As carriage driving participation declines, having these trainees is especially positive. In addition, another volunteer has begun training as a Coach. We offer our wholehearted encouragement for everyone's success in their training.

Cootamundra has gratefully received a donated carriage from another RDA Centre. This new carriage, which is lower to the ground, will be configured for use by drivers in wheelchairs, while our original carriage will continue to accommodate drivers with other disabilities. This arrangement will facilitate a smoother transition between driving and wheelchair activities.

The number of riders has declined compared to last year. Fewer participants are coming from the Pinnacle Activity Centre in Temora, although some still attend with their carers. Additionally, several young local riders now join us, accompanied by either their carers or parents. These young riders are making steady progress every visit; in particular, one rider named Ivy has shown impressive horse-riding skills.

As is common with most RDA Centres, we depend on the dedication of our volunteers, who consistently participate in riding sessions and fundraising activities. While we are grateful for their invaluable contributions, there remains a need for additional volunteers to help distribute responsibilities more effectively. We hope to welcome increased volunteer numbers in 2026.



Central West

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



Mudgee

Orange

Highlights and Achievements

- Very successful Trivia night held in May.
- Extensive work on our outdoor arena and other grounds projects.
- Some fabulous celebrations during the year.
- The joy for each individual being able to participate in what we do with horses and children.

Centre Developments

- Our maintenance team has worked really hard on replacing the old wooden fencing for our outdoor arena with new powder coated steel. It is going to last a long time and won't need painting! We have also installed a tank to ensure water supply to the new water troughs for the horses. Our maintenance volunteers do an absolutely amazing job of looking after the grounds for us and the horses! We really can't stress our gratitude enough!
- We developed a 'Horse Policy' for our Centre to use to help guide getting new horses, looking after them, when to retire them etc and successions planning. We also developed a simple guide for knowing that we follow the Child Safety Standard.

Riders / Rides

We have had up to 40 different riders this last year across four classes each Wednesday. There is no one rider we can pick out for having 'achieved anything major' because each rider is special in their own way and we see the joy they gain from each visit.

Horse Stories

We have 12 horses who have all worked really well this year. They are all quite lovely horses with interesting personalities so it is always a rush by the 'horse people' to get their favourites each class! We celebrated the horses' birthday with 'carrot cake' and special photos with the children and really enjoyed by all.

Coaching

We have two coaches and one assistant coach currently. Having the two coaches has been great for us to cater to holidays and sick days etc and not relying on just one coach to be there 24/7. They share the classes and the training.



Community Events and fundraising

- Our trivia night could not have happened without the wonderful donations from our local businesses. We are so well supported here in Orange. We also had some very enthusiastic volunteers who managed the organisation of this big night for us! It raised good money for us, so we almost did not have our usual raffle at the National Field Day, but we decided to still be a visible presence there, besides which, we all enjoy the time in the community too.
- We had a stall at a local Rotary Market in March, a Volunteer Expo in August and chatted to lots of people interested to know what we did and how we worked.
- We have also been very fortunate to be the recipient of some donations from the community, from some regulars but also one offs. We have a wonderful local lady that gives us \$50 every year and we know that is a big deal for her, but it is that way for us too.
- We have had some great media coverage this last year with articles in the local Orange City Life for our Easter celebrations and Melbourne Cup Day 'races'.
- Connection with the community has been through regular posts on Facebook, articles in the Orange City Life and visits to the centre by local dignitaries such as the Mayor as well as State and federal politicians.

Volunteers

- We have about 50 volunteers who regularly turn up to help out, we have 30-35 there most weeks. Which is fabulous because there are enough jobs for everyone!
- We are fortunate to also have help from Kinross Wollaroi students who attend from 10-12am each Wednesday. This gives them an opportunity to extend their interactions with the horses, children and volunteers so it has been beneficial to all.
- Emma Hulme won the Young Volunteer of the Year Award and we were very proud of her.
- We gained some new volunteers this year that have been amazing but one has special skills in organising! She is excellent at grouping things and putting them in the right places, with labels!!! She has boots with the helmet on top ready for each group! There is some new signage, everything has its place and it makes it very easy!





Mudgee

RDA Mudgee is pleased to submit this centre report for the Riding for the Disabled Association (NSW) Annual Report. Despite a challenging year, our team remained focused on delivering safe, inclusive, and enjoyable equine-assisted activities for our local community.

Challenges

2025 proved to be a tough year for the Mudgee Centre. Our arena surface remains a challenge: in wet weather it can become boggy, and during hot periods the temperature inside can be extreme. However, we did not let these setbacks hold us back.

Participation

We were fortunate to support thirty-six riders/ participants across 2025.

2025 Highlights

- Recognised the ongoing contribution of our volunteers, riders, horses, and the wider community.
- Supported Good Sports in 2025 by holding a sporting day with games and activities for our riders (unfortunately cut short due to rain).
- Held a remarkably successful barbecue for Pink Up Mudgee, raising just under \$1,000 for the McGrath Foundation (breast cancer). Thank you to everyone who contributed.
- Entered the RDA (NSW) Musical Ride in August and were thrilled to receive certificates for 1st

place for our entry "The Man from Snowy River" for the category Musical Ride with a theme or story – led. Our riders, horses and volunteers showed outstanding dedication in preparing for this activity.

- Welcomed our Federal Member, Andrew Gee, who visited the centre, participated in our activities, and presented end-of-year certificates, including certificates for riders involved in the musical. Andrew also enjoyed a ride on Sunny before leaving.



2026 Season

For the 2026 riding season, we are welcoming a new group of children from Mudgee Public School, Gulgong Public School, and Cudgong Valley Public School, along with participants from Life Skills (plus adults' disability service) and a few independent riders who are not attached to schools or disability services.

Looking Ahead

As we kick off 2026, we are grateful to have welcomed a number of new volunteers—an excellent achievement for Mudgee. We are also pleased to welcome two new Trainee Coaches, Brian and Lucinda, who are working alongside supervising Coach Tracy and Coach Diane. This year we plan to increase our ground-based horsemanship sessions, as well as incorporate more mounted games activities.

We wish all RDA (NSW) centres the absolute best for 2026/27 and look forward to catching up with other centres, volunteers, and riders. We also extend our sincere thanks to CASP, Nicole and Kristy, and a special thank you to Lucy at State Office for her support. And finally, a big welcome to our new girl Ruby!





A woman wearing a wide-brimmed hat and a Christmas-themed t-shirt stands next to a grey donkey. The donkey is decorated with a large red tinsel bow on its head and a small white dog figurine on its back. A boy in a red shirt and helmet stands behind the donkey. The scene is set in a dirt paddock with trees in the background.

Tamworth

North West

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

Tamworth

The Tamworth Centre is busy seven days a week looking after our eight resident horses. We have a daily roster for feeding and checking horse welfare. Our wonderful volunteers take great care of our horse family. We held riding sessions on Thursdays and Saturdays during school terms in 2025. 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 28 registered participants.

In March 2025 we completed the extension to our outdoor sand arena in time for the hosting of the RDA (NSW) State trainee workshop held 29/30 March. Despite the rain and the floods, the 25 attendees received much appreciated training and instruction and the interaction with attendees from visiting Centres was enjoyed by all.

In early April we experienced the first of what would turn out to be four different break-ins in a five-week period. The support of our community, both financially and physically at our numerous

clean ups and working bees was amazing and greatly appreciated. Committee members have attended many functions, spoken at lunches and dinners, made presentations of Certificates of Appreciation and sent Thank You cards to all our wonderful benefactors.

We have had two 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.

We continue to receive generous community support with donations that greatly assist the running of our centre. This year 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.

We look forward to leaving the stress of 2025 behind and proceeding with our major project that has been put on hold, to put a roof over our Arena.

Our slogan for 2026 "Help us raise the Roof!"





Narrabri

This year has been a great year for us and we have managed to have enough horses and volunteers to do our job. Trish Leitch has been super and has pre-organised riding days and emailing volunteers her plans and goals for the day. This has been wonderful as volunteers feel much more empowered with the jobs at hand. Trish also organised a whiteboard, outlining horse allocation, rider and volunteers to be with that rider. This also lets volunteers know what they are doing next.

Special thanks to our coach Jasmine Smith, who has taken time of work unpaid to volunteer for us. We could not run our days without her, and I thank her very much.

I'd like to thank all our volunteers for their wonderful contributions and hard work. Our fearless leader Trish Leitch for guiding us through our daily missions plus all the work behind the scenes work she does. Big thanks to Kylie Finlay our secretary, who is always working in the background and keeping on top of administrative work. Annie Lampe our Treasurer for keeping our books. Thank you to our two young members, Mikaela Smith and Olivia Verrier starting their Assistant Coaches' certificates. These two young ladies have been great support for each other.

A shout out to our suppliers whom have donated labor to us. Our farriers, Bo Saunders and Scott Richardson, Electrician Toot Kelly, plus another organisation who serviced our fire extinguisher for free. Most of these services were acquired by using Facebook. The community has been very generous.

This year we have found Facebook to be a helpful tool to engage the community and add a lot of interest to our organisation. We have had lots of Narrabri locals tune into our weekly adventures and triumphs. This I believe has also helped us with our supplies and their generosity

As for our most important members, our riders. This year our 18 participants have developed more confidence and skills. We have a couple of riders off lead, some even trotting. It has been wonderful to watch their skills develop. One of my favorite riders has been coming to RDA for the previous 2 years and this year we finally got him on a horse this year. He is nonverbal but now says "GO" and "Trooper" his horse's name. Very special! All our participants have not only become better riders they have grown in their own self-confidence as well.

We run a successful end of year event, with all our riders, completing obstacle events and receiving ribbons and medallions for their efforts. Our riders were also awarded with a special embroidered cap "RDA Rider 2025". We also had a special visitor to this event, John Carter who is one of the founding members of RDA Narrabri, he was very pleased to see how all his hard work and effort paid off. We did send John a framed picture with all our volunteers as a tribute to his past contributions and continued interest.

We still must arrange some sort of gift for our horse donors as a thank you. This will be done in the near future. RDA could not run without these unicorns, and we need to thank the owners who donate their horses for these days. I believe we have six horses.

I believe we have had a very successful year with all our goals achieved. Next year I am hoping that we will have a permanent traffic diversion in place. I personally would like to see a bridge and gate built for extra obstacles for our riders to navigate. (I'll work on that one).

Thank you to everyone for your support, it takes a village! The Narrabri team really is a fantastic, caring village.

Tanya Rae, President







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:

Angus Malcolm – Moss Vale – Recipient of the Pearl Batchelor Medal

Jenny Davis – Founder of Wagga Wagga Centre & State Life Member

Don Laing – Founder of Kendall Centre

Doug Cook – Kendall

Kel Lai – Ryde

John Webb – Raymond Terrace & Lower Hunter

Jenny Webb – Raymond Terrace & Lower Hunter

Horse Vale

Rebel – Cowra

Lucy – Cowra

Teddy – Central Coast

Bobby – Central Coast

JD – Young

Darcy – Young

Teddy – Manning Great Lakes

Kate – Tumut

Tesbags – Wagga Wagga

Ruby – Wagga Wagga

Slim – Wagga Wagga

Jake – Wagga Wagga

Real Deal – Coffs Harbour

Pedro – Coffs Harbour

Buddy – Coffs Harbour

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



Company Secretary

Bruce Manefield

Support Staff



CASP Chairman

Jenny Wilkinson



Centre Audit Officer

Judy Edwards



RTO CEO

Wendy Torr OAM

Directors & Portfolios



Chairperson
Greg Urand



**Deputy Chairperson /
Legal Director**
Sue Wilson



**Oversight of Work
Health and Safety and
compliance**
Kelli Jovanovski



**Horse Welfare /
Coaching Group**
Michelle Eastwood



Marketing and Events
Linda Bower



Riders Representative
Allan Burton



Finance
Gerard Looby

Thank you
to all our volunteers and
supporters!

Without your assistance RDA (NSW)
could not service the 1002 riders who
were able to ride during 2025.





Riding For The Disabled Association (NSW)



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