

FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Greetings

Our last newsletter went out in March, 2015 and, if you recall, we said our New Year's resolution was to get one out at least once a year. Well – we have made it, but only just! You know, it would be so much easier if I did what someone suggested, and made notes throughout the year on any items of interest for the next newsletter – but I never do. Perhaps this year's resolution should be to do just that.



Rossi admiring our new fences

Undoubtedly, our biggest project for 2015 was renewing our fencing. This saw three paddocks transformed into six and the electrification and repair of the rest. This has enabled us to make far better use of our grazing. We no longer need to use electric tape and standards to erect temporary fences. This was time consuming and not terribly effective in keeping some of our greedy horses where they were meant to be. We received funding for this from Pelorus Trust and another very generous donation. We could not possibly embark on something of this magnitude without support.

Stephen Field, our Senior Coach, has continued to excel and achieve remarkable results with our riders. I was sitting inside, just the other day, having a coffee and watching a young rider, under Stephen's guidance, independently trotting and cantering in the paddock. The young lad's mother was with me and, I can tell you, she was so proud! I was too.

Bronwyn and Suzi, our other fully qualified coaches, are so committed to RDA and continue to deliver a very professional, and sometimes challenging, programme so they can gain the best results for our clients.

Of course, none of this would be possible without our dedicated volunteers who spend many hours each week assisting with the rides. They do an amazing job and I know they get almost as much out of RDA as our riders.

Shona Belcher
President

Important Dates

Term 1 2016	8th Feb - 15th Apr
Special Olympics Ribbon Day	12th March
Easter Holiday	25th - 29th March
HVRDA AGM	14 th April
Term 2 2016	2nd May - 8th Jul
Training Seminar	20th - 22nd May
Term 3 2016	25th Jul - 23rd Sep
NZRDA Awareness Week	1st - 7th August
Sponsors' Afternoon	3rd August
HVRDA Open Day	7th August
Term 4 2016	10th Oct - 16th Dec

AGM

Our Annual General Meeting will be held at Hutt Valley RDA, County Lane, Silverstream on 14th April at 7pm. A light supper will be provided. You are all very welcome to attend.

At the AGM the committee will propose the following amendments to the constitution.

Proposed Amendments

Under MEETING

Paragraph 10a

Reads : "...no later than the 31st day of March..."

Proposed change : "...no later than the 30th day of April..."

Paragraph 10b

Reads : "Notice of ... in a daily newspaper circulating in the greater Wellington area..."

Proposed change : "Notice of...in a newspaper circulating in the Hutt Valley..."

Under FUNDS

Paragraph 11

Reads : "...paid by cheque signed by any two officers..."

Proposed change: ADD "or online banking with the exception of amounts of petty cash approved by the committee."

Under AUDITOR

Paragraph 12b

Reads : "... all accounts of the group shall be audited by an auditor elected at the AGM."

Proposed change : REMOVE paragraph 12b (explanation: Cost. New Standards from 1st April 2015 apply to registered charities reporting to Charities Services. It is no longer mandatory to have accounts audited. Annual returns still have to be completed and signed off by an accountant.)

Under WINDING UP

Reads : "... shall be paid to the Board of New Zealand Riding for the Disabled Associationassets transferred to the local authority for continued public recreation ..."

Proposed change : "... shall be distributed to such other Riding for the Disabled Groups and/or the New Zealand Riding for the Disabled Association assets shall be distributed to such other local and charitable incorporated societies or to the local community for public recreational purposes."

Games Day

15th November saw us hold our annual games day with Wellington RDA. We had 16 riders in total competing in 3 individual events, with the total points going towards the Games Day trophy. Hutt Valley won the trophy again this year. Many thanks to all the volunteers who worked tirelessly before the event getting everything organised, and to the volunteers on the day who helped the events and activities run so smoothly. We wouldn't have been

able to stage such as awesome event without all of your help.

Open Day

Our Open Day was held on the 3rd of May last year. The pony rides were as popular as ever, with children lining up multiple times to enjoy the experience. This is always a major drawback for our Open Days which give people in the community the opportunity to view our facilities and get an idea of what we do for our riders. There are always plenty of volunteers around to talk about our activities and show people around.

There is another purpose to our Open Days, which is to raise funds to support our programmes. To the usual sausage sizzle, coffees/teas and raffle, we added a bric-a-brac sale, second hand book and cake stalls. These proved very popular. We plan to hold another open day this year, in August to coincide with NZRDA Awareness week.

Annual Rider Awards

We recognise the outstanding efforts and achievements made by some of our riders by presenting trophies at the end of the year. It is extremely difficult to select the recipients of these awards as so many of our riders have risen to meet the considerable challenges that we present them with during the year.

However, choose we must, and this year we are proud to have presented the following awards :



Award for
Rider of the
Year : Brydon
Wyatt

Award for Most Improved Rider:
Hamish Garmonsway



Award for
Courage and
Determination :
Dean Smith

Award for
Achievement :
Nathaniel Taua



We also gave an award for Volunteer of the Year which was won this year by Sarah Wardle for the consistent, reliable contribution she makes to our rides on Thursdays and Fridays and also to games days, Special Olympics events and open days.

She is knowledgeable and always willing to help. We are very grateful for her work for us.

Many congratulations to them all.

Our Horses

We wouldn't have any riding programmes without our horses and this year they have been stronger than ever.

Scotty

Every so often an extremely special horse or pony comes along that touches so many people. Scotty was one of those ponies. Sadly, Scotty passed away at the start of the year and his loss is still felt. Scotty was known for his exceptional patience and steady nature. He had an endearing ability to gain the trust of his riders, building special relationships with many.



The Girls

Poppy and Milo thoroughly enjoyed a restful holiday through the summer whilst Bella had a great time away in the Wairarapa for a change of scenery. All the girls have come back into RDA work successfully and have continued where they left off being a reliable and integral part of our riding programme.

Ollie, Sprite and PJ

Sprite continues to work his hooves off for us, always full of character but exceptionally reliable, he is doing a great job of supporting his riders whilst they are learning to ride independently. Sprite is also a valued member of our SO squad of horses. PJ and Ollie love to keep our coaches and volunteers on their toes but continuing to do a great job of participating in all the different activities in a variety of rides.

Spi, Rossi, Mac and Junior

These boys are an integral part of the Special Olympics team and are doing a great job helping each rider develop their skills. Spi, Rossi and Mac are also a valued part of our RDA programme and having these three bigger horses throughout last year has enabled our adult riders to return to our programme.

None of our ponies are getting any younger and we are actively looking for suitable ponies to join the team.

Horse Sponsorship

We are aiming to have all our horses sponsored in the next six months. At present we have 10 horses in our riding programme, and it costs approximately \$2,000 a year to maintain each horse. If special veterinary care is required, of course this would cost us extra.

In order to help us meet these costs we have developed a Horse Sponsorship initiative where businesses, and/or friends, could sponsor a horse on an annual basis, with an option to renew at the end of each year.

So far we have four horses sponsored, and we would be delighted if you could contact us if you are interested.

New Office Administrator



Bronwyn Hussey took up the position of Office Administrator last June. Bronwyn has been involved with RDA for more than 25 years and has an extensive knowledge of the organisation. She is also our Head Coach.

Bronwyn has managed her partner, Mike's, electrical business for many years, so she certainly has the skills needed to run our office. Bronwyn has two young boys, both at school, so it was an ideal opportunity to work for an organisation she is so passionate about while fitting in around her family life.

We feel very fortunate to have someone so dedicated and efficient to keep everything running smoothly.

National Training Seminar 2016

We are planning to send three delegates, Stephen Field, Suzi Danes and Bronwyn Hussey, to the NZRDA National Training Seminar in Tauranga in May this year. We are awaiting confirmation of funding for this. It is important for us to attend this event as we, as a group, benefit hugely from the training provided, the exchange of information and keeping up to date with our national body.

Volunteer End of Year Party

Our annual Volunteer BBQ looked a little different this year. So as to include as many of our volunteers as possible, instead of our weekend BBQ we held a very successful evening 'party' It was a great way to celebrate and thank our volunteers for all the invaluable work they do at Hutt Valley RDA. The group is fortunate to have a fantastic core group of volunteers who help on different days throughout the week. Many faces

and names were put together and everyone enjoyed the opportunity to catch up in a relaxed and sociable setting.

We hope this year to see even more of our volunteers celebrating with us and although no date is set as yet, it is planned to be held near the end of Term 4. We will also endeavour to have a photo of the evening too!

A visit from the Fire Service



Each year we have a real problem in clearing our gutters on the arena building. The size of the building means it is a huge job and the correct safety equipment is not readily available or reasonably priced! This year we were extremely grateful to the Fire Service, in particular the crews from Trentham, Rimutaka and Thorndon for being able to combine some training and helping us out with this tricky job!

Special Olympics Wellington Equestrian

Hutt Valley Riding for The Disabled provide our facilities, horses/ponies and a Coach for Special Olympics Wellington Equestrian training which currently operates on a Wednesday morning.

Special Olympics (SO) competition and training is open to every person with an intellectual disability eight years of age or older who registers with their local SO Group or school. We currently have eight equestrian athletes ranging from 11 to 29 years. During a 1 hour training session athletes work on their horsemanship skills and prepare for upcoming competitions.

The athletes travelled to North Canterbury SO Equestrian in November which was a fantastic trip and a good indication to see how they both travelled and coped with new mounts in a new venue. They competed in the Dressage event and, for the first time, in the Working Trail. Our riders performed admirably; all winning medals in their respective divisions. There were big smiles and lots of cheering and congratulations all around!

Walk On

The riders are currently training for the Special Olympics Wellington Equestrian Tier One event to be run at Hutt Valley Riding for the Disabled on Saturday March 12th where they will compete in Dressage, Barrel Racing and Pole Bending. We have had a lot of interest from other SO groups nationally so it should be a fantastic event.

With the National Summer Games (NSG) being held in Wellington in November 2017 our goal is to have all our athletes qualified and eligible to compete at this incredible event. There is a lot of work and commitment involved but I know the SO Wellington athletes are up for the challenge. On behalf of the Special Olympics Wellington Equestrian athletes I would like to thank Alice Collard who assists with their training every Wednesday. Alice has proved most popular with everyone and was an instrumental part of our recent success down at North Canterbury SO Equestrian in November.

If you would like any information on Special Olympics Wellington Equestrian please do not hesitate to contact Bronwyn at hvrda@xtra.co.nz.

Stephen
Coach for Special Olympics Wellington Equestrian

Pony Parties



Pony Parties have become so popular, with one being run each weekend throughout 2015!

The charge is \$230 which includes the use of the venue for the party and six ponies. Twelve children would be the most we can cater for with six riding at one time. The arena is set up with fun activities and we even have "little races" - the kids love it.

If you are considering a party it is essential to book several weeks in advance to secure the date you want.

Please phone Shona on 528 6364 or 027 2286365 for more information.

Christmas Trees

Once again we rented out the front paddock to the "Xmas Tree Man" for the sale of his Christmas Trees. They are always beautiful trees that he grows especially for Christmas. We raised \$1200 for HVRDA.

Conference Room Hire



Taylor Room

RDA is a unique location for people wanting to hold a variety of functions from business meetings to family gatherings. The outlook is superb, overlooking our paddocks and horses, with very easy access and lots of parking, close to the railway station. Our facilities are well equipped with a modern kitchen, ideal for catering.

We are extremely proud of our lovely building and it would be great to see it utilised on a regular basis, generating much needed funds.

Please contact the office for further information



Mr Stewart MacKenzie with Shona and Lucy celebrating his 100th birthday in the Taylor Room at RDA last September

Trust and Grants

We are grateful for the continued support we receive from grants and donations which are essential for the salaries of our office administrator and senior coach, training of the volunteers,

upkeep of the horses and to buy specialised equipment.

Thank you all most sincerely, and you are very welcome to visit us and see the progress we are making whenever you are passing.

Subscriptions

Subscriptions for 2015/2016 are now due and this income is an important part of our fundraising. We enclose the form with this newsletter.

Thank you to all those who have become Life Members and if you have received a subs notice by mistake, then please forgive us.

Please note that we have added our bank details to the subscription form should you wish to pay via internet banking. If using this method please ensure that you put your name and 'subs' in the reference sections, otherwise we will not know who it is from.

If you no longer wish to receive a Newsletter, then please let our Administrator, Bronwyn, know. You can either send her an email at hvrda@xtra.co.nz or telephone her on 04 527 8360.

Do you have skills we could use?

Keeping all our buildings, fences and paddocks up to scratch requires continuous maintenance. All of this is yet another drain on our resources which means we have less money to spend on horses and training. So we are looking for volunteers who might be able to help us from time to time when we need some work done.

We are hoping to build a list of people who have skills we could call upon when needed. For example; plumbers, electricians, painters, fencers - and so forth. If you are willing to help, could you get in touch with the office with your contact details and how you could assist us.

When we have a problem we will call you to see if you have some time to give us a hand. It would be a real bonus if we could call on the talents of volunteers and supporters to keep HVRDA running properly.



A sunny stopbank ride, indoor activities and instruction towards independent riding

Useful Information from Work and Income for Parents and Caregivers

Financial support may be available because of your child's needs. Information brochures and application forms are available from your nearest Work and Income Branch or you can call them free on 0800 559 009. The following are some of the types of benefits that may be available :

- Child Disability Allowance - this is a non-taxable, non-means-tested allowance for the parent or guardian of a dependent child who has a serious disability
- Disability Allowance - this is an allowance in addition to the Child Disability Allowance. It reimburses people for ongoing regular costs associated with having a disability that is expected to last 6 months or longer.

