



## Volunteer Newsletter

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Term 2016

25/7/16 to 23/9/16

Welcome to our first newsletter dedicated to our great volunteers without whom we could not to operate and provide this opportunity for riders with disabilities. It is our intention (we hope) to produce one of these newsletters per term with what we hope is full of useful information and stories about our volunteers. As this is a new venture we would love your feedback and suggestions of what you would like to see in the newsletter.

First we would like to start by introducing ourselves. Ken Simpson and I (Chris Hogan) are the Volunteers Co-Ordinators and our job is to make your experience with the Hutt Valley Group as rewarding and pleasant as possible. Should you have any issues or suggestions you can contact either one of us. We are also responsible for taking your issues and suggestions to the organising committee so that they can be heard, and where acceptable, implemented. Our photos are below so that you can recognise us along with our contact details.

We also hope to reintroduce the volunteer award system that was previously run on a monthly basis. We will however only be doing this on a term basis starting with the third term. We will be looking for input from the coaches for this along with any suggestions as to whom, and why, you think somebody should be awarded this.

We would also like to include stories from our volunteers and we have started with one about Holly Wright who volunteers on a Monday.



I am a student at Massey University and am currently working towards completing my Honours year of Industrial Design. Having been interested in horses and owning/competing my own, I have decided to combine my interests of horses and design with an area I have had limited experience and knowledge in.

The team at RDA Hutt Valley have been very welcoming to my practical research and knowledge around the opportunities offered through RDAs. I am particularly interested in the area of physical therapy for individuals with disabilities, and how design of a product or system will be of assistance to the individual seeking physical therapy. Along with the focus on the individual, I hope to incorporate experiences of the volunteers, horses and wider group of people involved in the process.

I would be very interested in talking to volunteers and others who have been involved (both directly and indirectly) in what RDA offer the community. Please do not hesitate to get in touch with me either through phone or email. I would love to hear what you have to share!

Many thanks to RDA Hutt Valley for their support throughout the process. What a wonderful group of people doing great things! I look forward to our continued contact.



If you wish to contact Holly directly her email address is - [wright.m.holly@gmail.com](mailto:wright.m.holly@gmail.com) – her phone number is 0273155494. Well done Holly and keep up the good work.

### Monday group taking a coffee break.



You would have already been notified that we have developed a new webpage which will contain a lot of useful information particularly for our volunteers. There is a section dedicated to volunteers and below is the link directly to it. I have also attached the link to the front page of the website as it contains a calendar with useful information such as the school holidays. Many of you ask for the start and finish dates so now you can see that by going into our webpage. There is also a great video about our operation which I suggest you go in and have a look at. We will be constantly updating the information on it and would therefore suggest you access it from time to time to see what is new. We will also advise you through Facebook and by email of changes and additions. We must say a big thank you to one of our volunteers - Hilary Eats - who has put a huge amount of work into getting it up and running.

In the near future we are looking to run a simple survey which is seeking information on what you get out of volunteering for the HVRDA through the webpage. This will include a comments section. This is to ensure we are meeting your objectives and help us to target your specific needs if these are not already being met.

Link to “Volunteers” section - [Volunteers](#)

Front page - [Front Page](#)

One point that we are not sure that all our volunteers are aware of is that we are required to carry out the police check every two years so don't be concerned if you are asked to complete the form again.

Another issue that arises is that our leaders and side walkers are required to attend the courses that are run for these volunteers so keep an eye out for them and if you have not attended one, please enrol when they are advertised.

From time to time volunteers find themselves sitting around with nothing to do as a result of riders not turning up or the occasional oversupply. If you are in this situation don't be frightened to ask Stephen, or the coach for that day, if there is anything they would like done or simply go out and muck out a paddy. Every little bit helps.

On a less pleasant note we regret to advise that Rossi had to be put to sleep as a result of an injury and he will be sadly missed by all.

Finally I big thank you for your efforts – as we said without you the organisation could **not** function so well done. Again if you wish to contribute (which would be really appreciated) to the next newsletter please contact Ken or Chris details of which are below.



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