



Volunteer Newsletter

4th Term 2016

10/10/16 to 16/12/16

Welcome to our second newsletter. Unfortunately this newsletter must start on a very sad note as you would all be aware that last term our Senior Coach Stephen passed away suddenly - RIP Stephen. This created some very difficult and stressful times for you all and particularly Bronwyn. As an organisation we are extremely grateful for the way you, as volunteers, stepped up to the plate and helped us during these difficult times – well done and thank you all. We would also like to say a big hi to all our new volunteers that joined us during the term and hope that you are enjoying your time with us.

Senior Coach

This leads to happier news with the appointment of our new Senior Coach **William (Wil) Cooper**.



Wil joined us on the 8/9/16 and is already having a great impact on the running of the HVRDA. Wil comes to us as a qualified farrier with a growing business in that area. Although not formally qualified he has been teaching at a Pony Club for a number of years. He has also been active in retraining horses, competing on them and on selling them. One of his many talents has been the Head Coach at the Upper Hutt Roller Skating club and competed in roller skating at a National level. Wil has already attended an RDA training course.

Wil has a partner Kate, and a 16 month old daughter Charlotte (Charlie for short).

Welcome Wil and we hope you enjoy your time with us.

The picture shows Wil with our new pony Sienna

Wil will be contributing to our term newsletter and below is Wil's first contribution – thanks Wil.

Greetings all,

Firstly, I must express my gratitude to you all for making my transition into this new and exciting role, so easy. It has been a busy few weeks, getting to know all of the Riders, Ponies, Volunteers and RDA's programme and "Culture," and the support I have received from you all has been invaluable. I am very excited to be working with you all, alongside these fantastic riders and Parents/Teachers in offering these programmes and therapy sessions. As an outsider coming into RDA, I had absolutely no idea of the contribution you all make to the organisation, and it has been humbling to see the time and effort that you all pour in, week after week,

It is timely to mention my predecessor and the amazing contribution he made to this Program. Stephen was a good friend, and my family, who learned from him at the young age of 4, have been deeply moved by him and his contribution to our lives, and hurt by his sudden passing. I thank you all for stepping up, and carrying on the work you do in such a time, so that the RDA could continue to offer rides to the many kids who enjoy coming here.

Some people have told me that I "Have big shoes to fill" stepping into this role. My answer is a simple one – I have different shoes to fill. Stephen, Alice and Suzie have set up a good, successful program, my job now is to steer the Organisation forward to the future. As a businessman myself, I will seek out opportunities to improve where I can, to best benefit the Group as a whole. This may mean some things change. I'm a firm believer that a change is as good as a holiday, so I ask that you all bear with me – I am new to running a riding school, I will make mistakes, and there are some lessons that I will need to learn for myself. While taking nothing away from what Stephen and the team have set up, I'll be looking to the future, and implementing some changes, and I hope you'll all continue to support me as you have done in my first 6 weeks here.

As mentioned, I will make mistakes and learn lessons – I'm human. My request of the volunteers is simple – always keep the lines of communication open to me – if you feel something isn't working, or I have missed something, I'd encourage you all to speak with me privately – by now you all know I love a chance to chat, and I value your feedback – after all, you're the folks that have seen these kids for years

Thanks again team, for all you are and do – the programmes couldn't run without you, and I look forward to working alongside you all – you have my respect, I hope in time, I'll earn yours

Best Regards

Wil
Senior Coach

Volunteer of the Term Award

As we mentioned in our last newsletter we were going to start this to replace the monthly award and we can now announce our first winner is **Catherine Croucher**.



With the passing of Stephen, Catherine has stepped up to the mark by adding to her already large commitment by being the person who is bringing the ponies and horses in in the morning, preparing them and then helping with the leading. However her help has gone well beyond that as she has worked tirelessly on the preparation of our new pony Tin Tin. She takes every opportunity to bring him in to get him used to the RDA environment. The award has been endorsed by the committee. Well done Catherine and a big thank you from us all.

Volunteer Training

It is a requirement of the Riding for The Disabled Association for all volunteers who act as side walkers and leads to have attended one of their courses. You would have already received a note about one we are holding on the 30th October with a request to notify Bronwyn of your attendance. We will be running others but we strongly recommend you attend if at all possible. The course will cover

NZRDA requirements.

Health and Safety responsibilities.

How riding can help and assist riders with disabilities.

Essential roles and duties for Leaders and Side Walkers.

Horse behaviours and dangers of working with them.

An intro on Horse tack and preparing horses for Therapy rides.

Warming up horses and leading horses during rides.

Mounting procedures - dos and don'ts.

Assisting riders during rides.

Emergency dismounting procedures with practice.

The course will commence 9am and finish around 3pm. Could you please make an effort to attend if you have not been to one already and contact Bronwyn ASAP to put your name down.

Ribbon Day

Again we have already put out a notice about this day (27th November) where we not only want groomers, leaders, side walkers, but also bakers to provide and help with the refreshments. If you have not already helped on one of these days it is a great day for all including the volunteers. If you can help please contact Sarah Wardle on 027 325 4124 or sarah.wardle222@gmail.com

Calendar

There is a calendar on our web page which we try to keep up to date with things like school holidays and upcoming events. Keep an eye on that from time to time so you know what is happening. The link is below:

[Calendar](#)

Hutt City Youth Awards



In early September Bronwyn and Stephen decided to nominate Jonathan for the Youth Award for Service to the Community for the work he has done at the HVRDA over the last three years. It was Stephen who wrote the document describing Jonathan's work going from a quiet helper out the back, to riding and preparing the horses (under Stephen's tutelage) and leading and side walking. He has become a respected team member on a Monday with a good sense of humour. The kids love having Jonathan side walking and he has performed so well he now works at the Kimi-Ora school and instructing kids at the Naenae pool. Jonathan had no experience with horses before joining the HVRDA.

Although Jonathan did not win it he got through to the top three finalists out of a field of some 24 entries. Well done Jonathan – keep the great work you are doing.

Feedback

If there is anything you would like to see in the newsletter or ideas you have of information you would like to see in it please contact Ken or I as we are always looking for better ways to do things.

Have a good Term

Chris Hogan, Ken Simpson, Volunteer Co-Ordinators