

# RIDING FOR THE DISABLED ASSOCIATION (NSW) RAYMOND TERRACE & LOWER HUNTER CENTRE

## Newsletter January 2012

Volume 1, 2012



### Points of Interest:

- RTLH Office Reopens  
Monday 30 January
- RTLH Monthly Meeting  
will be held on Monday  
20 February at 7pm
- Centre Planning Day  
Sunday 12 February

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## Warren Cohen Honoured by Nomination

“The NSW Sports Volunteer Awards are a new initiative of the NSW Sports Federation.

The statewide Sports Volunteer Awards recognise outstanding achievements and contributions by volunteers in sport in NSW...

Recognition was given to 21 winners across seven volunteer categories, [with] three winners in each category.

Our own Warren Cohen was formally presented as a winner at a “reception on 7 December 2011 at Waterview, Bicentennial Park at Sydney Olympic Park.”

Warren was one of three people awarded the Outstanding Volunteer Award. Warren is now an official nominee to the “Volunteer of the Year at the 2011 NSW Sports Volunteer Awards to be held on 16 February 2012” in Sydney.

Warren recently stated in an article in The Star, that he believes that every volunteer at RTLH shares in his award. He has also said that everyone should be nominated for recognition, because our Centre would not be able to help support children with a disability without our strong volunteer team.

Whilst Warren was being congratulated by the NSW Minister for Sport & Recreation on his award, he was cheeky enough to propose that the NSW Government needs to support places like RDA by providing funding to keep our programs operating every year. He pointed out that volunteers raise the money needed, and maybe the powers that be should follow their selfless example.

We wish Warren all the best on 7 December!

Source: Quoted from <http://www.sportnsw.com.au/Recognition/2011NSWSportsVolunteerAwards> on 15 December 2011.



Warren Cohen with his Outstanding Volunteer Award, & Graham Annesley, Minister for Sport & Recreation

## Centre Planning Day Now Sunday 12 February - All Welcome



The Centre is now holding a planning day on Sunday 12 February. It was felt that the previously published date of 27 November did not give enough notice for people to attend. We, therefore, hope that as many people as possible will attend. It is a great opportunity to have your say about what improvements you would like at the Centre, and the Management Committee is seeking everyone's input and ideas.

The day is open to all members, volunteers, riders, parents, carers and families. The day will begin at 9.00am, for a prompt 9.30am start, and wind up around

1.00pm. Please bring your lunch/snacks.

Its been two years since our last planning day, so it is quite important that we take time to review our activities during this time and establish a wish list and priorities for the coming twelve months. Many of the improvements to the Centre in recent years have come from suggestions made and agreed to at these planning days.

RTLH is a large Centre with extremely good facilities, a good complement of horses and a long history of providing a wonderful service to people with a disability. The Management Committee are hoping that people will come along and share with us their view of what the Centre's short and long term goals should be, and how they can be implemented. This way we can develop a long term strategy that guarantees the future viability of the Centre.

## Office Reopens 30 January

The RT&LH office will reopen on Monday 30 January.

Vicki will be back in 2012 to keep our Centre running smoothly.

The office can be contacted by:

- Phone on (02) 4987 1402
- Email at [raymondterrace@rdansw.org.au](mailto:raymondterrace@rdansw.org.au)
- Fax on (02) 4987 1434



If you wish to receive regular newsletters and updates by email, please let Jack Henry at [mjac@bigpond.com](mailto:mjac@bigpond.com). Alternatively, if you wish to be removed from our emailing list or have changed your email address, please let Jack know.

## RDA Combined Christmas Party

The RDA Raymond Terrace and Lower Hunter Centre's Christmas Party was held on Tuesday 6 December at Easts Leisure and Golf Club at East Maitland.

This wonderful evening exceeded all expectations with over 35 people attending on the night, with a good cross section of people from different programs. Volunteers, riders, drivers and their family were able to mingle and have a great night filled with good food, companionship and fun conversation.

Everyone who attended had an enjoyable night. Thanks to all who came. We hope to see you at the next one.

## Bunnings BBQ Fundraiser January 26 - Helpers Needed

### by Michelle Bullen



RDA will be holding a Bunning's barbecue at Salamander Bay on Australia Day Thursday, 26 January 2012. Trevor and Michelle Bullen will be the captain of the event and are seeking anyone that could spare just an hour or two to help out on the day.

The barbecue starts from 8 am to 4 pm. At present, we require just a couple more volunteers for the morning shift and a full crew for the afternoon.

If you could spare a couple of hours, can you please contact Trevor or Michelle Bullen on 041830903 or 024010 3338 for the cost of a local call.

## International Volunteer Day Awards

### by Vicki Robinson

*In our October/November Edition of the newsletter, it was announced that Warren Cohen had been awarded the Hunter Region NSW Senior Volunteer of the Year Award. The following is an update of Warren's attendance in Sydney for the New South Wales finals.*

International Volunteer Day, on 5 December, was certainly celebrated in style at Parliament House, Macquarie St, with Warren Cohen and wife Aileen being feted amongst 87 nominees for various prizes. Jaquie Armstrong (RDA Board Member) attended as representative of RDA NSW.

There was a delicious morning tea served before the official procedures which were entertainingly compared by Adam Spencer (ABC - Quantum and Sleek Geeks) and volunteers would have felt very valued after the speech by Victor Dominello MP, who is responsible for the State Volunteering portfolio.

There are 3 main categories open for nomination, Individual (including Youth and Senior Volunteers), Teams, and Corporate Volunteer of the Year - 350 nominations were received over these categories which covered 5275 volunteers. Mr Dominello has estimated that the monetary value of the hours donated by volunteers throughout the state totals several billion dollars.

Warren was one of 19 regional finalists in the Senior Volunteer Category, who were presented with awards - unfortunately he was not the State winner, but the 83 year old lady who sprinted up the stairs and across the stage to receive her prize could have won it on energy alone, never mind her 37 years of volunteering with over 10 organisations.

The dedication, commitment and energy displayed by individuals and groups who volunteer throughout the state, are inspiring. Warren is a wonderful example of selfless dedication to our centre, and it was exhilarating to see his efforts acknowledged.

Congratulations to Warren, his generous supportive wife Aileen, and of course RDA Raymond Terrace.



**Warren Cohen (far right, third row from bottom) with all of the Finalists outside Parliament House.**

*Photo Kindly Provided by Vicki Robinson.*

## Please Come Along to our Monthly Meetings

The RTLH Centre's first Monthly Meeting of 2012 will be held in Murphy's Room on Monday 20 February at 7pm.

The Management Committee would like to invite all interested volunteers, riders, carers and family members to take part in running the Centre. As they say, many hands make light work.

We need fresh ideas, community supporters, people with special skills, and people willing to be part of working bees to get needed jobs done at the Centre.

The Monthly Meeting is the place to raise your concerns and solutions, and tell us of your innovative ideas that will improve RDA's effectiveness and provide better services to people with a disability.

So come along. After February, the Monthly Meeting will be held on the Third Monday of each month.

## Christmas Pudding Fundraiser Cancelled

Unfortunately, our Christmas Pudding Fundraiser was cancelled due to low order numbers. This is very disappointing, especially considering our 2010 success.

Daphne Bridges had offered to use her scrumptious recipe to assist us to raise money to operate our programs for people with a disability. Low order numbers meant that it was not economically viable to go ahead, as a profit for RDA is only reached after a certain amount of puddings are sold. To keep the costs low, our fundraising lies in having lots of orders. In 2011, we had less than 15 orders.

Daphne is willing to try again this year, but to do so, we need the support of our volunteers, riders, families and friends. We hope that when announcements are made for orders for these yummy puddings, that our RDA family will get behind it to make it a success.

## Request for Newsletter Articles



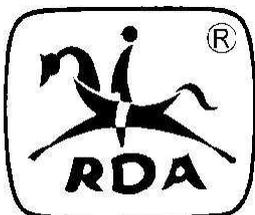
We invite you to become involved in the RTLH Newsletter. If you wish to include any item/article in our Monthly Newsletter, please hand it in for inclusion by the 15th of each month so we can have the Newsletter dispatched to all by the end of the month.

All submissions are welcome and will be included. This is your newsletter, so if you would like to see something in it, please give the information. It would also be greatly appreciated if captains of events can provide information before and after an event.

Without information, an article can not be included.

Submissions can be forwarded by:

- **Email** - send your article in Word format only to [judeoliver@iprimus.com.au](mailto:judeoliver@iprimus.com.au). Please include a photo no larger than 500kb in size. Please do not include the photo in the body of your email, but as an attachment.
- Leaving the item clearly marked in the Thursday Pigeon Hole for collection **from the beginning of Second Term Programs only**. Please keep in mind that items can only be collected on Thursday, so some may not be collected until after the 15th and will be included in the following Newsletter.



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