

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

## Newsletter October 2012

Volume 5, 2012



### Important Dates:

- Monthly Meeting  
15 October - All Welcome
- Monster Garage Sale at  
Morpeth Fri 19 & Sat 20  
October
- Bushies Ball Saturday 27  
October at 6.30pm

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*As we have not had a Newsletter for a few months, this edition will focus on catching up on important events and letting you know what exciting things are still to happen in 2012.*

*Our November Newsletter will focus on more recent events, so that everyone is up to date with all of the exciting happenings of our riders, drivers, volunteers and supporters.*

## Bushies Ball Saturday 27 October Tickets on Sale Now

Put on your jeans, cowboy hat and boot scootin' gear for a night of fun at our annual Bushies Ball on Saturday 27 October 2012, commencing at 6.30 pm.

Start telling all your family and friends that ticket prices this year are:

- \$28 Adult (18 yrs and over)
- \$60 Family (2 Adults and 2 Children under 18 yrs)
- Children: High School - \$14, 5-13yrs - \$7, and under 5 yrs are Free.

Tickets are available for purchase through Vicki Manuel in the office on (02) 4987 1402 from 9am - 2pm Monday to Thursday.

Buying your tickets early helps the caterers and organisers with planning, so please purchase your tickets now.

BYO alcohol (no glass please). Soft drinks will be available for purchase on the night.

Start spreading the word! Get a group together, or come and join a table, and kick up your heels for a great night of fun.

The Tombola will be back again this year. If you have something you would like to donate as a prize, then please leave it in the office. If you would like further information or to ask about donation options for the night, please contact Vicki in the office.

A copy of the Bushies Ball flyer is on page 11. Why not put it on your fridge for an easy reminder.





## A Tribute to Margie Englebach by Judy Edwards

Margaret Engelbach, Margie to all served RDA for many years. She volunteered at Raymond Terrace and Lower Hunter since 2002, having volunteered at Throsby Park for many years before.

Margie died unexpectedly in April having already signed up her 2012 Volunteer Form to assist as Program Coordinator for the Hippotherapy Program. Having a background of Occupational Therapy and growing up in the country, Margie was passionate about RDA. Her enthusiasm and care for the riders was evident in all the programs she was involved with. She enjoyed strong friendships with many at Raymond Terrace as well as maintaining her links with RDA Throsby Park.

Many of us remember fondly some of the anecdotes and memories of Margie that are relayed in the following tributes written by some of her RDA friends:

Janelle Pearce (friend and former RDA volunteer) - "Margie's love of RDA began seriously when Del Crosby and Margie commenced a riding program for people with disabilities at Throsby Park around the early 70's, which went onto to become Throsby Park RDA. Margie,

using her Occupational Therapy skills, and Del, using her horse handling skills, together presented a therapeutic riding program to Princess Anne when she visited the St Ives Show in the early 1970's.

Margie always enjoyed helping out at RDA events such as the Chicken run, Dressage days and Mounted Games Competitions. She took pride in having the back numbers ready for the riders on the day and then took them home washed, ironed and repaired them ready for next event. I can see her at the table, just inside the back door, back numbers neatly stacked and the trusty thermos ready for anyone who needed a quick pick me up."

Veronika Gudenus, Hippotherapist - "Margie has us well organised. There are name tags for each of us in the Hippotherapy team, for visitors, for mums, dads and even grannies. Helmet numbers are noted, lists of participants and the forms to fill out, the special reins Sadie likes to use for the horse, and more bits and pieces of the equipment used in our sessions. Of course she is the first of us to be at RDA and probably will be the last one to leave after having swept the floor.

You can just imagine what a passionate and efficient Occupational Therapist she must have been. 'No, no I am not an OT anymore', says she humbly, 'but I do like horses, disabled and Hippotherapy'

As our time keeper during the sessions she observes closely what is going on in the arena and so helps the smooth running of the days.

Margie Engelbach was the coordinator of our Hippotherapy programme since 2003. I know that she was also involved in a similar programme in the Southern Highlands before that. Her love of horses and her competency around them was obvious. I respected her keen sense of social justice, especially in connection to the disabled. We miss her."

Mima Ware, RDA Throsby Park - "One of my special moments with Margie occurred one riding day at Throsby Park. Margie had been working with a beautiful autistic boy at the special school in Moss Vale. In some two to three months he had not communicated in any way with anyone at the school.

We put him on a pony to ride for the first time. As we went down the driveway - me leading the horse and Margie side-walking - the boy started to babble and pointed out the old moon in the sky and the donkeys in the paddock. A break-through! Margie was crying and so was I - how we got to the riding arena, I'm not sure. From then on, he continued to respond and to communicate at school, too."

Margie and her contribution to RDA will be long remembered. She will be missed. We extend our deepest sympathy to her family Susan and Doug, Lisa and Russell, Meagan, Ashleigh and Clayton.

# Nominations Open for Volunteer and Rider Awards



The RDA Raymond Terrace and Lower Hunter Centre now has their Volunteer Awards Nominations open. We ask you to think about volunteers that you work with and nominate someone that you think does a great job. It may be an outstanding volunteer that goes above and beyond the normal duties of a volunteer, or it may be someone that you think brings something extra special to your day or program.

The Nomination Forms are at the sign in desk, available from your coordinator/coach or from Judy Edwards (Volunteer Coordinator) on (02) 4927 0103 or via email at judymaryedwards@gmail.com.

Nominations must be received in the office by the closing time of 2pm, Monday 15 October. Please remember, volunteers who have previously received awards cannot receive another award in the same category.

The categories for Volunteer Awards are:

- **Volunteer of the Year**- this award includes any current volunteers that do not fall under the other categories below.
- **Young Volunteer of The Year** – this award is for our volunteers under 18 years of age.
- **Volunteer Encouragement of the Year** – this award is for volunteers that have been with RDA 5 year or under.
- **Rider of The Year** - any rider of any ager or ability

**Horse of The Year** nominations are also open. We encourage you to discuss any suggestions with your coach of the day, as these nominations must be put forward in conjunction with a coach.

The winners of the awards will announced at the Volunteer High Tea and Awards Presentation, which will be held on Monday 12 November from 10.30 am in Murphy's Room at the Centre.

## Monster Garage Sale

On Wednesday 21 June, we were grateful for the opportunity to talk with members of the Probus Club of Morpeth on Hunter. Jude Oliver took along a powerpoint photo display and spoke to over 80 members of the Club, with a focus on what we do and how our programs help to improve the lives of people with a disability.

The talk was well received, and another initiation to speak with the Probus Club of Rutherford was accepted for December. The Club generously donated \$50 for our Centre.

Afterwards, some members of the Club were having a get together with their knitting group. They felt that they wanted to do something on their own to help, and the idea of a Monster Garage Sale was born.

The Monster Garage Sale will be held at The Corcoran Centre, cnr James & George Streets, Morpeth on Friday 19 (8am-2pm) and Saturday 20 October (7am-1pm). Please come along to the Monster Garage Sale and grab one of the hundreds of bargains. There will also be tickets available in the raffle, with the main prize being a bbq kindly donated by Bunnings Maitland.

Brian Murphy, who hosts the knitting group, is looking for donations of saleable items. Please contact him on (02) 4934 6668 or Jude Oliver (02) 4934 1456 for further details.



# Companion Credit Union Regional Mounted Games by Michelle Bullen



On Sunday the 16th of September we could not of asked for a more perfect day for the 2012 Companion Credit Union Regional Mounted Games. The sun was shining and RDA was coming to life with people running around everywhere.

We had 25 Riders compete in the Flags, Bending, Barrels and Keyhole Races and all horses behaved exceptionally well. A buckskin by the name of Jackson, from RDA Central Coast, had a little buck whilst starting the barrels, but the rider stayed on and rode it out. All Riders rode extremely well and we had some close ties between first and second place. Robert Deeves was awarded the Encouragement Trophy for all his hard effort and persistence in riding and enjoying his day at RDA.

RDA Central Coast joined us for the day with their entourage of 30 people. We had a mass of people around our centre to celebrate the rider's whilst they participated.

Thanks to Jenny, Terri and Barry and every one else who helped provide us with a beautiful morning tea and a sausage sizzle lunch, for a small fee, to help our Centre.

A great big thanks goes to our time keepers of the day, and to Judy Edwards who ran our Mounted Games Day and to all the volunteers who took time out to come and help our riders participate.

We would also like to thank Companion Credit Union for their ongoing support of our Centre. Companion Credit Union provided sponsorship in 2011 to purchase the presentation ribbons for three years. They also provided drink bottles for all participants, and loaned us their marquee for the day.

In true horsey style, the best part of the end of my day was seeing the Central Coast Horses trying to get loaded onto their horse float, with the horses wearing the covering long boots whilst travelling and buckskin Jackson kicking up his back feet and being unsure how to walk in these long legged blue boots.

*The below Companion Credit Union Regional Mounted Games Results are continued on Page 5.*

Section	Rider	Horse	Bending	Flagging	Barrels	Keyhole
<b>Lead Walk</b>	Andrew Craig	Wedge	1	2		1
	Ian Hilkmann	Wedge			1	2
	Jordan Iljevski	Bobby	2		3	
	Gabriel Lord (CC)	Forrest (CC)	3			
	Bianca Mena (CC)	Jackson (CC)				Participation Ribbon
	Ben Reynolds	Holly				Participation Ribbon
	Sali Tipa	Sprinkles		3	2	3
	Telarah Sonter (CC)	Forrest (CC)		1		
<b>Transition Trot</b>	Riley Broadfoot	Gypsy	3	3	3	3
	Brittany Carter	Nirvana	2	1	1	2
	Jeremy Innes (CC)	Jackson	1	2	2	1



# CCU Regional Mounted Games cont'd

Photos Kindly Provided  
by Michelle Bullen



Photo Kindly Provided by Carol Brown



Section	Rider	Horse	Bending	Flagging	Barrels	Keyhole
<b>Free Walk</b>	Carolyn Earle	Suzie	1	2	2	1
	Karley Moran	Aria	2	1	1	2
<b>Transition Walk</b>	Kristy Dalmazzo	Sprinkles	1	2	2	2
	Robert Deeves	Wedge				Participation Ribbon
	Emma Ellis	Gypsy				Participation Ribbon
	Charlee Hall	Dora				Participation Ribbon
	Bayley Hoy	Gypsy	3	1	1	1
	Bryce Lloyd	Buddy				Participation Ribbon
	<b>Free Trot</b>	Jordan Brown	Suzie	3	1	2
Rebecca Gordon		Rags (Own)				Participation Ribbon
Lleyton Lloyd		Aria	1	2	3	3
Sharni Thompson		Wedge	2	3	1	
Shannon Woods		Nirvana				2



## A Tribute to Vale Gumnut by Rosemary Laing

Sadly, the RDA RT&LH Centre's first carriage driving pony, Gumnut, died in early August at the age of 32.

Gumnut was a 12 hand registered Australian pony, bred by the Yeo family in Sydney. I purchased him in March 1992 as a stallion from Raymond Terrace, where he had been kept in a series of backyards. He was well loved by the local children and driven around the streets in a little gig by his owner. However, following a series of breakouts in search of mares, one of which took him across the Pacific Highway, it was decided to sell him and I was lucky enough to buy him.

I had wanted a pony and sulky ever since I was a child, and when I heard that some RDA Centres were starting carriage driving, it made me keen to introduce it at Raymond Terrace. Of course, before Gumnut could be used for RDA he had to be gelded. As it turns out, he was just as well mannered as a stallion, apart from the screaming out to let all the horses along the way know that he was passing. I also had to learn to drive him, and in this I had very good tutors in Karl Hvirf and Owen Maytom, as well as members of the Hunter Horse Driving Society.

Gumnut was accredited in early 1993 and started his RDA career both at Stroud and Raymond Terrace. Gumnut's official introduction was at Stroud Show that year, performed by the then Governor of NSW, Peter Sinclair, who was the Patron of RDANSW at the time.

Gumnut went on to represent RT&LH at five Sydney Royal Easter Shows, including the last at the old showground and the first at Homebush. He won best RDA Driving Pony twice, Best RDA Turnout once, as well as many other placings. When he did the lap of honour wearing his blue sash, he really played to the crowd, arching his neck and showing himself off. At the old showground, the stable door was too high for him to get his head over, so he put both front feet on the rail of the wall next to the door so he could look out.

He celebrated his 21st birthday the same year as RDA RT&LH Centre, and enjoyed his own special cake at the celebrations.

I drove Gumnut at many shows and Combined Driving events, and she could not have had a better pony to learn with. The only thing that fazed him were the pigs!!

Gumnut retired from driving at the age of 22, but went on to teach many small children to ride, including my grandchildren. My eldest granddaughter used to come up from Sydney every year to ride him at Stroud Show in Tiny Tots class, where they graduated from also ran when she was two to the blue ribbon event at the age of five. Unfortunately, he suffered from Queensland itch, which eventually led to him being sent over the range each summer, where he was enjoyed by families at Tenterfield and Tamworth over several years. He was also loaned to families at Stroud where he was a regular at Pony Club and learnt new skills such as drafting and jumping. He was a perfect small child's pony, but did not tolerate sloppy riding. If the thought his riders were getting too casual he would give a gentle shy or pigroot to deposit them on the ground and then stand and wait for them to get back on.

Gumnut finished his days in the good care of Wendy Murray (RT&LH Coach) where he was enjoyed by her grandchildren. He died peacefully in his sleep, as far as we can tell - the end he deserved. He gave so much pleasure to so many people.



*Gumnut competing at the 2000 Royal East Show*



## Volunteer High Tea & Awards Presentation

Our Volunteer High Tea and Awards Presentation day is fast approaching – mark your calendar and come along to RDA on Monday 12 November at 10.30am.

It's a great chance to come out to RDA for a good old chin wag. As there'll be no partners, parents, riders or children you'll have an opportunity to get to know volunteers from other days who you don't often have a chance to meet.

Your Invitation is on page 10. Remember RSVPs close on Monday 5 November, so please get your replies in on time to Vicki in the office by phone on (02) 4987 1402 or by email at [raymondterrace@rdansw.org.au](mailto:raymondterrace@rdansw.org.au). It helps us greatly with the organising and catering. As this is a fully catered event, please do not just turn up on the day. You must RSVP before the closing date.

So, here's hoping for a great turn out. With the spring weather well underway, we're crossing our fingers for a bright and shiny day.

Please support RDA Raymond Terrace and Lower Hunter Centre by keeping your contact details up to date. If you are an experienced volunteer, rider or parent/carer, who has moved or changed their details, please inform Vicki in the office when you are next at RDA, by email at [raymondterrace@rdansw.org.au](mailto:raymondterrace@rdansw.org.au) or give her a call on (02) 4987 1402.

If you change your details throughout the year, please remember to let us know.



Zane, George Sinclair & Kristy Dalmazzo in 2011

## Fashion Parade Fundraiser

A Fashion Parade Fundraiser was held at the Blue Illusion store at The Junction Village, The Junction on Saturday 25 August.

Judy Edwards reports that 35 people attended on the day and had a fabulous time. The event was a great success, with invited attendees receiving champagne and canapés, provided by Blue Illusion, to fortify them for the fashion parade to come.

As part of the fashion parade, Blue Illusion had promised that RDA was to receive 20 per cent of the sales made on the day. Judy also approached local businesses to donate raffle prizes which included a \$100 gift voucher from Dai-Mons Shoes (Shop 4, The Junction Village), \$50 gift voucher from Earthworks (Shop 3, The Junction Village) and two \$50 gift vouchers from Jewellery Affair (The Junction Village).

The day was a great success with \$1,410 being raised for RDA. This consisted of \$860 from clothing sales, \$500 raffle and a \$50 donation.

We would like to thank Blue Illusion for their support of people with a disability. Blue Illusion can be found at 196 Union Street, The Junction and can be contacted on 4962 4511 or via their website at [www.blueillusion.com.au](http://www.blueillusion.com.au). *Photo Kindly Provided by Judy Edwards.*

blue illusion®



# Karl Hvirf Memorial Driving Arena Dedication by Carol Brown

On Saturday 19 May, family (including 2 great grandchildren), friends and RDA people, current and past, gathered together to officially dedicate our Carriage Driving Arena in memory of a wonderful volunteer, who was instrumental in the building of Carriages (Joggers) for RDA. Whilst the arena has been in use for many years, mainly for Carriage Driving programs on Monday and Tuesday, it has always been known as just “the outdoor” arena. Karl’s daughters, Jenny Proctor and Karleen Quinn were there to unveil the plaque, resplendent at the hub of a miniature carriage wheel, in Karl’s memory.

Some may remember the name “Karl Hvirf” from the old horse holding yards, which bore his name for many years. When they were demolished to

make room for our undercover horse yards, the sign was held for safe keeping until it was passed over to the Sensory Garden, where it has been placed in the Memorial section of the Garden.

For those who do not know of Karl – an excerpt from a Vale to Karl, from Jenny’s husband, Steve, is below.....

“I can recall that I came here with Karl to RDA, Raymond Terrace, to slash the ground prior to the first stage of the *indoor* arena being constructed and he was still acting as pick-up for the Morpeth Medicine Ride stragglers using his trusty Dodge well after he could no longer come to RDA to drive for ‘the kids’... This remarkable man drove that old Dodge to RDA twice a week for many years and it took quite a bit to stop him and the remainder of his life interests were arranged around his times at RDA. Some will recall the day that he wasn’t feeling too well, after a session of driving the kids, so he sat beside the truck until he was feeling better and then drove home, it turned out that he had suffered a heart attack.

One of the things that his family remembers most, is the joy he got from the kids laughing and squealing in the jogger and as he said, ‘the bumpier the ride was, the more they laughed’.”

One of the earliest memories of Karl’s expertise as a carriage builder, was when he joined Rosemary Laing at Stroud where they had a jogger from RDA Kellyville ..... “he came home very excited about building an improved version for RDA at Raymond Terrace. The end result was 2 joggers“, both of which are still in use – one here at Irrawang and one at Stroud. Even for the barrels that are used by riders for stretching, prior to riding; we have Karl to thank.

Karl, an expert horseman, entrepreneur, Polo & Polo-cross player, Australian Champion Carriage Driver in all disciplines, as well as Clerk of the course at Maitland & Newcastle Trots and Newcastle races for 25 years. In 1984/85 he built the beautiful wedding carriages for his youngest daughter, Noni, for her wedding.

Karl brought all this expertise to RDA, but was a bit miffed when he was told “he couldn’t drive on site (RDA) because he wasn’t accredited; his answer was ‘who is going to accredit him because he taught them to drive.’” He did consent and did his RDA whip accreditation with current RDA whip, Helen Huckerby. All our current RDA Whips and the Centre itself have been influenced by the input of this wonderful man.



*Karleen & Jenny Unveiling the Plaque*

*Photo Kindly Provided by Carol Brown.*



# Calendar of Events

The below information is subject to change, and is accurate (as provided) at time of publication.

Event	Date	Captain
Monthly Meeting (All Welcome)	15 October	Roly Taylor
Monster Garage Sale (Morpeth)	19 & 20 October	Jude Oliver
Bushies Ball	27 October	Roly Taylor
Management Committee Meeting	6 November	Roly Taylor
Closing Date for Newsletter Submissions	15 November	Jude Oliver
Monthly Meeting (All Welcome)	20 November	Roly Taylor
Combined Christmas Party	To Be Announced	Management Committee

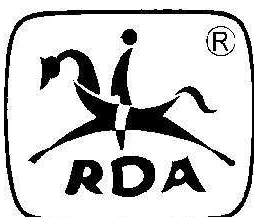
## More Photos from CCU Regional Mounted Games



### Updated and New Emails Needed to Receive Newsletter and Centre Updates

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

Jack Henry kindly sends out our newsletters, and group emails regarding our Centre, on behalf of RDA. Please support him by contacting him directly with any email address changes you may have.



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 Website: [www.rdaraymondterrace.org.au](http://www.rdaraymondterrace.org.au)

**Riding for the Disabled Association (NSW)  
Raymond Terrace & Lower Hunter Centre  
Requests Your Company at the**

## **2012 VOLUNTEER HIGH TEA & AWARDS PRESENTATION**

**Come Along and Have Fun by  
Meeting New Friends  
And Catching Up with Old Ones**

**on**

**Monday, 12 November 2012**

**In Murphy's Room at the RT&LH Centre**

**Morning Tea Scheduled to begin at 10.30 pm**

**RSVP: Monday 5 November**

**To: Vicki on (02) 4987 1402**

**or Your Coordinator**

**Please Note: This is a  
Volunteer Only Function to  
Celebrate the Achievements of  
our Volunteer Team**







Riding for the Disabled Association (NSW)  
Raymond Terrace & Lower Hunter Centre



# *Bushies Ball*



Put on Your Jeans,  
Cowboy Hat and  
'Boot Scootin' Gear  
For a Night of Fun on

**Saturday  
27 October 2012**

Commencing 6.30 pm at  
**RDA's Raymond Terrace  
and Lower Hunter Centre**

3219 Pacific Highway, Raymond Terrace  
(Watch for the RDA sign 3 kilometres  
north of Raymond Terrace)

This family themed evening includes  
a delicious 3 course Spit Roast  
Dinner, a Live Band (Chalk 'n'  
Cheese), Tombola Raffle with huge  
prizes and a Lucky Door Prize

***Ticket Prices:***

Adult: \$28 (18 yrs and Over),  
Family: \$60 (2 Adults and 2 Children under 18 yrs)  
Children: High School - \$14, 5-13yrs - \$7,  
under 5 yrs are Free

BYO Alcohol - No Glass Please  
Soft Drinks available

RSVP & Payment to secure your  
booking by Thursday 6 October

Contact Vicki Manuel on 4987 1402  
Mon – Thurs (9am – 2pm)