



# ANNUAL REPORT

## 2019 . 2020

# RDAT : 2019.2020

It is fair to say that for all of us 2019.2020 has been a year of two halves. As we closed out calendar year 2019, all of our Centres, coaches, volunteers, riders and the Board were excited about what the new year would bring, but none of us could have predicted how the first six months of 2020 would impact us all. There is no doubt that going forward there will need to be a new definition of “normal”.

We had some fantastic outcomes in this reporting year, with positive results at the Riding for the Disabled Association of Australia National Championship at Werribee, Victoria — see page 6 - and the undertaking of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) Audit.

The NDIS Quality and Safeguarding Commission has developed nationalised standards and requirements for organisations like RDAT and to renew our registration all providers have been required to undergo an audit against practice standards and ensure we are complying with the conditions of registration. This audit meant that RDAT, lead by our Executive Officer Claudia Nevah, undertook a nine-month internal review leading into the official audit of our policies, procedures, and documentation and closing the gaps identified. One key area of focus has been committee, coach and volunteer training to bring all stakeholders up to date with new requirements, including the mandatory NDIS Workers Orientation training for all volunteers as part of our induction training.

This has been an enormous project, but being an NDIS registered provider assures participants in our programs of our compliance with NDIS practice standards as well as a high level of quality and safety (like choosing an accredited builder) and we can all have confidence in our practices no matter where in the state we undertake our activities.



We were extremely pleased this year that Adrian Robertson from RDA Kalang was a well deserving recipient of the National RDA Volunteer Service of Excellence Award 2019. Adrian was nominated by RDAT before the national judging panel determined that Adrian had made an outstanding contribution to RDA at “Centre, State and/or National”. We are very proud to have Adrian as part of RDAT as he continues to go above and beyond in his support of RDA Kalang.

This year we also welcomed a number of new Board Members who have each brought a new set of skills and perspective to the management of RDAT, which helps guide us into the next chapter for RDAT. One of the key projects for the new Board will be the development and implementation of a new strategic plan to take us forward to 2023.

It is also very pleasing that despite very trying circumstances, we have been able to deliver a positive financial outcome for RDAT, an outcome that enables us to ensure we have two-years of operating funds in reserve whilst this year being able to implement the Enhance Rider Experience (ERE) internal grant program to support Centres with funding for small infrastructure, maintenance, coach training, and equipment.

We have reviewed and replaced our State Constitution and we extend significant thanks to Graham Fogarty, Pauline Perry and Claudia Nevah for all their work in driving this important project. We also continued to develop and upgrade our website – a project that is still a work in progress – and we thank Sue Cole and Jordan Bush for their efforts.

In mid-2020 we also undertook a Christmas Card Competition during RDA National Awareness Week, with the entries judged by our Patron Her Excellency Professor the Honourable Kate Warner AM, Governor of Tasmania, Jenny Miller, Tasmanian Illustrator of ‘Why Dogs’ books and new Board Member Conor Hallahan – thank you to our judges and thank you to all our entries. Look out for opportunities to purchase Christmas Cards later this year.

Additionally we undertook our second annual Rider & Volunteer survey – see page 5 – to be used for strategic planning, improvement of services and incorporation in ongoing training of volunteers, coaches and committee members.

Finally, I continue to be in awe of the many generous supporters and volunteers who share our commitment to the Mission, Vision and Values of RDAT. I cannot thank you all enough, it is because of you, and your trust in us, that we are able to make a real difference.

**Mark Purcell**

**President - Riding for the Disabled Association of Tasmania Inc.**

# RDAT STRUCTURE

**Riding for the Disabled Association of Australia (RDAA)**

**Riding for the Disabled Association of Tasmania Board**  
President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Directors

**State Office**  
Executive Officer & State Coaching Coordinator

**State Subcommittees**  
Centre Delegates & Program Delivery Delegates

**State Centres**  
RDA Kalang  
RDA Kingborough  
RDA St Helens

**RDA Tasmania Patron**  
Her Excellency Professor the  
Honourable Kate Warner, AM  
Governor of Tasmania

**RDA Tasmania Ambassador**  
Rachael Treasure  
Author, mother, regenerative  
agriculturist and lover of life

# MISSION, VISION & VALUES

## OUR MISSION

Riding for the Disabled Association of Tasmania enables people with disabilities and volunteers throughout Tasmania to experience enjoyment, challenge and a sense of achievement through participation in equestrian activities, resulting in the development of life skills, improved quality of life and the attainment of personal goals.

## OUR VISION

We are dedicated to providing these services through an organisation that is:

**Relevant, Innovative, Effective and Rewarding.**

Operated by trained and caring people committed to our aims, is recognised as having involvement with the equestrian and general communities.

## OUR VALUES

### RDA is Excellence

RDA is not always about competition but is always about striving for the best; personally, professionally and practically.

### RDA is Inclusive

RDA is a welcoming place where we strive to include all Australians from different backgrounds, genders and abilities.

### RDA is Respect

RDA is a safe environment, where individuals are treated with respect and are respectful towards others and the organisation they care about.

### RDA is Innovative

RDA is always demonstrating that looking at things differently can change a life; RDA encourages new ways of thinking and doing in every field.

# THE IMPACT OF COVID-19

The most significant challenge of 2019.2020 has clearly been the ongoing impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, with RDA only able to undertake six weeks of operation prior to closing down on the 22nd March – meaning we had to stand down all of our riders and volunteers as well as agisting out our horses.

Aside from the personal, human impact of the shutdown, the effect of the pandemic has also meant a 100% loss of income from riding fees and significant impacts on our ability to fundraise through events such as sausage sizzles, quiz nights and the like.

From a state perspective, the Federal Government's Jobkeeper program and Cashflow Boost, as well as the State Government Department of State Growth's Small Business Emergency Support Fund, RDA has been fortunate enough to continue to manage our expenses, whilst also supporting the Centres with some of their ongoing costs. This has been particularly important as our horse management and welfare expenses continue and we are ineligible for Government grants to assist in covering such large expenses as RDA horses are not a display animal in line with grants made available to zoo's, aquarium's and wildlife sanctuaries.

Additionally, we have been extremely fortunate that several supporters have assisted us in sourcing income during this time, including:

- Helen Langenberg from Communities, Sports and Recreation (CSR) who contacted the Tasmanian Farmers and Graziers Association (TFGA), who in turn set the wheels in motion with an appeal to assist RDA Centres with horse care;
- ABC Radio North assisting with media coverage which led to donations of cash, 10 bales of hay (from Deloraine) and 10 bags of chaff from WingRural in Longford, delivered to Roberts in Bridgewater;
- Karolin MacGregor and Chris Kidd from Tasmanian Country and the Mercury assisted with articles and photos;
- Need for Feed Website Campaign set up on Give Now platform;
- The Honourable Elise Archer MP applied to the Premier's Discretionary Fund and we were successful in receiving \$3,000 that was passed onto our Centres, along with all donations received from the public; and
- St Helens and Kalang were successful with RACT grants for horse care.

To ensure that we were able to continue to engage with our riders, RDA established an activities page on our website, enabling people to undertake fun activities and resources to fill in the hours when they're not participating in activities at our Centres.

This involved the sharing of our Horsing Around At Home worksheets, developed by our coaches for our riders (and volunteers) whilst the riding programs were on hold. We had some fantastic feedback and these sorts of activities provide us with a basis for a program of engagement during non-riding periods.

COVID-19 has also significantly impacted our ability to undertake activities and meetings in person but technology has enabled us to continue to work on local, state and national issues, with many video conferences undertaken with Members, National body and external organisations. We have certainly missed the advantages of face-to-face meetings but it has just meant doing business in a different way that enables us to keep going, share information and keeping informed during the uncertain time.

We have particularly appreciated RDA Australia's weekly Zoom meetings with Members across the country, which have been very beneficial to assist each other, and share information and the many resources the National Body provided.



## Horsing Around At Home

RDA Tasmania



## RDAT BY THE NUMBERS



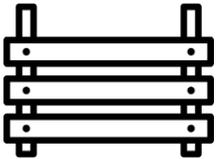
**15 HORSES**



**40 RIDERS**



**9 COACHES**

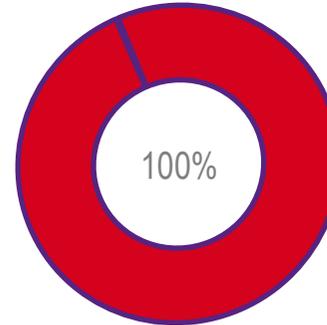


**3 CENTRES**

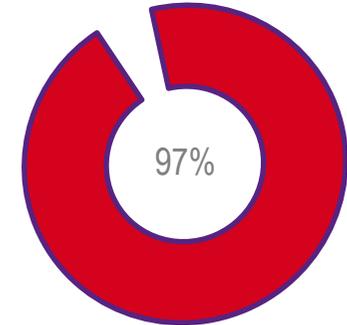


**60 VOLUNTEERS**

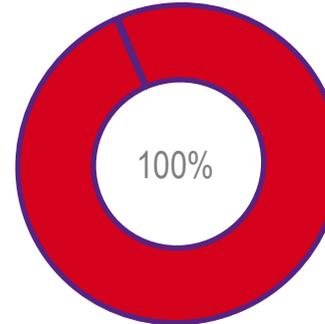
## RIDER SURVEY RESULTS



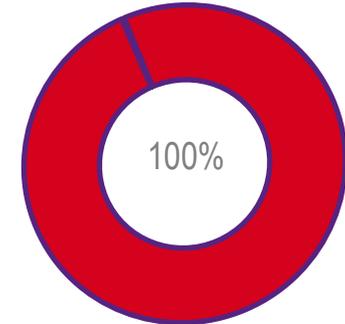
Do you feel safe, valued and treated with respect in the RDAT setting?  
Response—Yes



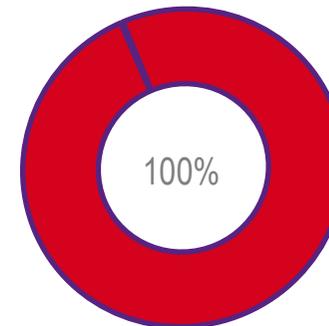
How fun/enjoyable do you find your involvement in the RDAT program?  
Response—extremely/very



How likely are you to recommend RDAT to others?  
Response—extremely/very



Have you been able to set achievable goals with your coach and reach them?  
Response—yes/somewhat



Overall, does the RDAT program meet your needs?  
Response—yes/somewhat

# NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS 2019

RDAT sent a team of five riders to the RDA National Championship at Werribee, Victoria, in October 2019, with all three Centres represented by Kelly Cracknell (Kalang), Eva Torrens, Laura Della Pasqua and Sarah Hilton (Kingborough) and Ashlee McBain (St Helens).

All of our riders were required to raise \$2,500 to participate, which covered entry, accommodation, horse hire and travel. RDAT was able to support costs through the Quiz Night, attended by about 100 people and raising \$1,500. Thank you to many donors of prizes, including big donors like Gordon River Cruises, Pennicot Wilderness Cruises, Scoot Boot, Skindulgence and West Coast Wilderness Railway. Additionally, \$1000 was raised through GiveNow donations.

It is a long few days for those involved in the event and especially difficult for State Team members as they have to get used to a horse they have never ridden before, only a day prior to competition.

There were some fantastic individual and team results and we need to thank a number of people who played a significant role in ensuring the team had a safe, successful and enjoyable event:

- Volunteer State Team Coach, Lisa Dolliver & State Team Manager, Lois Evans;
- Sally Francis in Victoria for sourcing and transporting horses - huge thank you! – and her pony club girls and Cheree who came to assist with horse-care;
- to all donors who contributed in assisting riders raising funds;
- Tassal for the grant to purchase jackets; and
- Pauline Perry, Scott Perry, Sandra Krueger and Justine Krueger for transporting gear, Belinda Torrens for support on the ground and Sue Cole for daily updates on Facebook



## DRESSAGE - TEAM TESTS

**Trot Advanced & Open:** 2<sup>nd</sup> - Ashlee McBain  
**Trot Assist & Intermediate:** 1<sup>st</sup> - Eva Torrens  
**Walk Independent:** 2<sup>nd</sup> - Kelly Cracknell, 3<sup>rd</sup> - Laura Della Pasqua  
**Walk Led:** 1<sup>st</sup> - Sarah Hilton

## DRESSAGE - CHAMPION TESTS & GYMKHANA

**Trot Advanced & Open:** 2<sup>nd</sup> - Ashlee McBain  
**Trot Intermediate & Assist:** 3<sup>rd</sup> - Eva Torrens  
**Walk Independent:** 2<sup>nd</sup> - Laura Della Pasqua, 3<sup>rd</sup> - Kelly Cracknell  
**Walk Led:** 3<sup>rd</sup> - Sarah Hilton

## GYMKHANA

**Trot:** 2<sup>nd</sup> - Ashlee McBain, 3<sup>rd</sup> - Eva Torrens  
**Walk Independent:** 2<sup>nd</sup> - Laura Della Pasqua, 5<sup>th</sup> - Kelly Cracknell  
**Walk Led:** 4<sup>th</sup> - Sarah Hilton

## FREESTYLE DRESSAGE & WORKING TRAILS

**Trot Advanced:** 2<sup>nd</sup> - Ashlee McBain  
**Trot Intermediate & Assist:** 3<sup>rd</sup> - Eva Torrens  
**Walk Independent:** 2<sup>nd</sup> - Laura Della Pasqua, 4<sup>th</sup> - Kelly Cracknell  
**Walk Led:** 1<sup>st</sup> - Sarah Hilton

## WORKING TRAILS

**Trot Advanced:** 4<sup>th</sup> - Ashlee McBain  
**Trot Intermediate & Assist:** 2<sup>nd</sup> - Eva Torrens  
**Walk Independent:** 1<sup>st</sup> - Kelly Cracknell, 2<sup>nd</sup> - Laura Della Pasqua  
**Walk Led:** 1<sup>st</sup> - Sarah Hilton

## OVERALL DRESSAGE CHAMPION RIDER - WALK LED

Sarah Hilton

## OVERALL TEAM HIGHEST SCORING AWARDS

Dressage Muscatel Trophy: Team Tasmania

## OUR CENTRES

Despite 2020 being a disrupted year, our Centres continue to deliver quality programs to all of our riders, supported by our dedicated and highly valued coaches and volunteers.

As the new financial year progresses, **Kalang** and **Kingborough** will be amalgamating into one Centre and rebranding as RDA South. Kingborough lost their temporary home in Kingston three years ago and since that time have been looking for a new home but with no suitable venue in the Kingborough area, have been operating from Kalang. This gives both current Centres an opportunity to combine resources and ensure even higher quality programs for all of our stakeholders.

**Kalang** was also the very fortunate recipient of a Federal Government facilities grant that enabled the development of a new arena surface and sensory trail on the site.

The Sensory Garden at Kalang is continuing to take shape, with tracks having been developed, although there is still a number of tasks required to complete as there was damage due to a high volume of rain. The Centre team are coming up with amazing ideas for future developments in the sensory garden, so this will be an important, ongoing project. Thanks go to everyone that has dedicated their time in planting over 500 plants, a tireless effort from everyone involved.

To address rainy lesson days, **Kingborough** developed some fun unmounted activities they could use in lieu of riding, which was warmly received. The Centre has been limited in their fund-raising activities due to being out of their namesake area of Kingborough, so it is wonderful when our riders show initiative and run fund-raising activities on our behalf. A warm thank you to riders Jessica and Alanna who held an RDA fundraiser bake sale at their school towards the end of 2019. They baked and sold beautifully decorated purple cupcakes to students and staff and managed to raise just over \$800.

Something a little bit different and certainly a highlight for Kingborough in November 2019, was the opportunity to hold an afternoon tea for a group of residents from Glenview Community Services. The afternoon tea was delightful, but the highlight of the visit was the opportunity to pat and feed our RDA horses. Amy and Bree were very gentle and made everyone feel very welcomed. They in turn were treated to lots of pats and carrot treats. It was so lovely to be able to give back to a different part of our community.

**St Helens** have recently been in recess but are currently in the process of moving premises from the Council sporting grounds to a private property; a move that will give the St Helens Centre a new focus at a new site and opportunities to engage new volunteers. All of the gear has now been moved to the new location and setting out the area is being completed, ready for work to start in September on the new arena. St Helens have been fortunate to receive grant funding to get started with the infrastructure so they are very hopeful that they will be organised and ready for accreditation by November and start their riding program.

Sadly, earlier this year the **North West Centre** closed after having been in recess over 2019 due to a number of factors, including the retirement of long-term coach Pam Hutton. Pam has been with the NW Centre since its inception more than 40 years ago and sadly North West didn't have another coach available to fill this huge gap. Whilst we are very saddened to see the NW Centre close its doors after being one of the first Centres to start in Tasmania in the mid-late 1970's, we especially thank Pam, and the team of long-term dedicated volunteers, including Lindy Newman and Cynthia Sushames, who have given many committed years of service to benefit people with a disability in the north-west region.

RDAT Centres are always on the lookout for new volunteers, horses and volunteers willing and able to train as a coach in all Centres/areas. With rider waiting lists at all centres, RDAT is in desperate need for more coaches to be able to operate more days per week.



# PROGRAM DELIVERY

The delivery of our program is what makes RDA. Without a program there is no RDA and it is our volunteer coaches who develop and deliver this program to the highest quality and standard and they are supported by dedicated volunteers in all areas of RDA.

RDA, as a National organisation, has always delivered a high standard of training and accreditation to their National Coaches and RDA accredited volunteers. The training that is being delivered is the same across the country, no matter if you deliver it to an RDA Centre in the Top End, metropolitan Victoria or a Centre on our little island State. As part of the Coach Accreditation requirements all Coaches need to attend one State or National Coach workshop every two years. As a coach, you only have to attend the National Coaches Workshop (NCW) once and you will understand what it is like to be part of the RDA family and share knowledge and experience with RDA coaches from other States and Centres. The highly qualified international and national presenters at these 3-day workshops means that it is usually booked out rapidly when registrations open.

The NCW in Adelaide was planned in September this year, but unfortunately, due to COVID-19 this has been postponed. Instead RDA Australia has stepped up to the challenge and being innovative in using the Zoom platform to deliver many excellent training opportunities to trainee and accredited coaches to refresh their knowledge and/or learn new skills. Also available were two mental health sessions, open to anyone in the RDA community, not just volunteers, but riders and their family as well. Plus, an option to enrol in a Mental Health First Aid Course on-line.

With all these training opportunities two additional RDA volunteers have been accepted to enrol in the level 0 coach training. With 1 volunteer already in training this brings the number to three trainee coaches in the south and an accredited level 0 coach is training for her level 1 accreditation in St Helens.

Currently we have long waiting lists and are desperate for more accredited level 1 coaches to be able to deliver more sessions as well as work towards succession planning. As all RDA coaches in Tasmania are still volunteers and there is no payment involved, we are keen to explore the option of paying coaches, in the hope that more coaches are able to deliver that extra day, instead of having to find alternative paid work to support their family at home. That way we can increase rider numbers and hopefully decrease our waiting lists.

Another 'key-ingredient' for our program are our horses – of course! With all Centres experiencing an aging herd, the succession planning is an important part that is proving to be a very difficult task in Tasmania, with not many suitable mounts around who have the right temperament, build, age, health and fitness it takes our horse welfare volunteers many hours to tour around the state to find anything suitable. Perseverance and luck are the key! But it is a high priority with all Centres at the moment and it is a slow process.

In preparation of the NDIS Audit coaches developed the same standards for all Centres with regards to formalised goal planning for riders in line with NDIS requirements. Even though goal planning was already being done at Centres, from the start of 2020 it is now happening the same way across the State.

Weekly National Members Meetings were organised by RDAA and not only were the State Delegates able to assist RDAA in developing many new COVID-related requirements and documents, it was also great to share our experience together and support each other. As part of these meetings the State Coaching Coordinators across the Nation developed a new booklet for coaches for lesson planning in a COVID environment, including ideas with limited (easy to sanitise) or no shared equipment.

It is with regret that our State Championships planned for November this year, will now have to be postponed until next year. Due to the limited time available leading up to the event, the riders wanting to compete would not have sufficient time to learn their tests and practise.

On the up-side, our planned State Workshop early next year will still go ahead, even though we may limit to only one interstate presenter and more local presenters due to the possibility of some travel restrictions still being in place in six-months time.

RDA has proven over more than 50 years of operations, to be resilient and innovative in difficult times and join together as a strong and united organisation to pull everyone through. It feels great to be part of such an excellent organisation.

**Claudia Nevah**

**State Coaching Coordinator - Riding for the Disabled Association of Tasmania Inc.**

## FINANCE

RDAT understands that it is important for all of our stakeholders to know how their money is used in support of our programs that contribute to the organisational goals. We appreciate all the financial contributions and strive to ensure that funds are used wisely, efficiently and in line with our governance policies.

### WHERE DOES THE MONEY COME FROM

Donations & fundraising	\$6,925	11%
Grants & Sponsorship	\$6,560	10%
COVID-19 cash boost and JobKeeper	\$16,000	24%
National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS)	\$16,496	25%
RDA National Championships fundraising	\$11,518	17%
Rider registrations and insurance	\$2,636	4%
Other	\$5,799	9%

### WHERE DOES THE MONEY GO

Distribution of grants & sponsorship	\$11,735	18%
RDA National Championships	\$11,923	18%
NDIS distribution	\$10,821	17%
Wages, JobKeeper & superannuation	\$18,043	28%
NDIS & Centre audits	\$3,811	6%
RDA rider registrations	\$3,916	6%
Administration/other	\$4,809	7%

## THE BOARD



**Mark Purcell**  
President



**Andrea Shooobridge**  
Director



**Belinda Torrens**  
Secretary



**Alex Johnston**  
Director



**Givantha Sam Naragala**  
Treasurer



**Conor Hallahan**  
Director



**Madeleine Figg**  
Director



**Claudia Nevah**  
Executive Officer

# THANK YOU

- **All of our volunteers, donors & supporters** - in all capacities, including our volunteer coaches
- **All of our riders:** for their support, and patience, over the course of a challenging year
- **Graham Fogarty:** constitution redevelopment
- **Mike Derbyshire** from Bentley's: auditing our books
- **Pauline Perry:** our Honorary Life Member, who still supports RDA, especially in her role of National Assessor
- **Sue Cole:** Facebook & website
- **Jordan Bush:** ongoing IT support
- **Laura Della Pasqua and Belinda Torrens:** outgoing Board Members
- **DPaC/Premier & Hon. Elise Archer MP:** funding support
- **Senator Catryna Bilyk:** printing
- **ScootBoot:** support through their 'Giving Back program'
- **Cancer Council Tasmania:** for use of their offices for meetings
- **RDA Australia:** connecting with Members during COVID-19, listening to Members' needs, providing resources and practical tools, including the fantastic coach webinars and other training opportunities for coaches
- **RDAT Centres:** Kalang, Kingborough and St Helens and their committees and supporters
- **RDAT Board Directors**

## Riding for the Disabled Association of Tasmania Inc

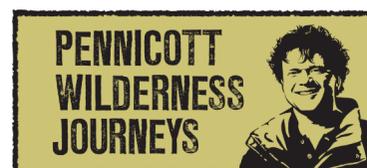
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