



ANNUAL REPORT

2021 . 2022

CHAIR OF THE BOARD REPORT— 2021.22

Well, another RDA Tasmania year is in the books, and as per every Annual Report, we take the time to look back and reflect on the year that was.

There is no doubt that the past couple of years have had their uncertainties with the global pandemic and its potential and actual effect on our operations. Whilst we have had our challenges, our Centres and Volunteers have continued to meet these challenges head on and with enthusiasm.

In saying this, it has been a reasonably quiet year by RDA Tasmania standards, with RDA St Helen's continuing in their development of their new facility whilst, in the short term, renewing their lease with the council at the Equestrian Grounds to enable them to recommence operations, and RDA South having to manage their operations around access to appropriate horses, and issue that has hamstrung the organisation right across the state.

As per my report every year, both of the Centres are always on the lookout for new volunteers, horses, and volunteers willing and able to train as a coach. With waiting lists at all centres, they are in desperate need for more coaches and suitable horses to be able to operate more days per week.

Earlier this calendar year we undertook our major fundraiser for the year through the running of a Quiz Night at the North Hobart Bowls Club, an event patronised by more than 90 attendees. A fantastic night was had by all and we exceeded our intended income target through the generous support of our sponsors (per the last page of this report) and the attendees digging deep in support of the raffle and silent auctions. Congratulations to the team from Petspiration/Animal Tuckerbox on taking out the whole quiz.

We have had a number of changes at Board level this year with the resignation of Conor Hallahan in March and the addition of Dorothy Topfer and Jane Bendall. Conor, Dorothy and Jane made considerable contributions to the Board and I thank them for their commitment to all things RDA Tasmania.

In 2021 we were also very appreciative of the Governor of Tasmania, The Honourable Barbara Baker AC, continuing as the new Patron of RDA Tasmania and we look forward to working with Government House into the future, especially at the Open Day later in 2022.

Congratulations also to St Helen's stalwart Cindy King who, at the 2021 Riding for the Disabled Association Australia AGM, was awarded a Volunteer Service Excellence Award in recognition of her outstanding service to RDA and her local community. Congratulations also to RDA South volunteer Trish Marsland for her receipt of the Volunteer Encouragement Award

Again we look to the future to see where to for RDA Tasmania.

As you will see later in this report, we continue to manage a strong financial base to enable further development of the organisation and ensure a stable future for all RDA Tasmania activities, something of which we are immensely proud.

At a Centre level, we continue to be challenged by access to suitable and appropriate horses, but we are confident that as we continue to work on this limiting issue, we will be back to "normal" operations at both of the Centres very soon.

Finally, and most importantly, to all our volunteers, volunteer coaches, Board Members, donors and supporters, from me personally - **my sincerest thanks** for everything you have done in support of our fantastic organisation and I look forward again to 2022.23.

Mark Purcell—Chair, 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
Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, Directors

State Office
Executive Officer & State Coaching Coordinator

State Subcommittees
Centre Delegates & Program Delivery Delegates

State Centres
RDA South
RDA St Helens

RDA Tasmania Patron
Her Excellency Barbara Baker, AC
Governor of Tasmania

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

MISSION, VISION & VALUES

OUR MISSION

RDA Tasmania supports our stakeholders to enable people living with disabilities to experience enjoyment, challenge and a sense of achievement through equestrian activities to improve their quality of life, attain person goals and develop life skills.

OUR VISION

To be Tasmania's foremost authority, advocate and resource for equestrian associated activities for people living with disabilities or additional support needs.

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.

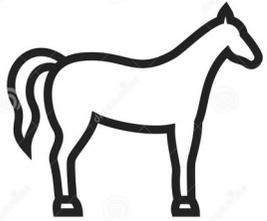
RDA is Innovative

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

RDA is Community

RDA is made up of many communities, working together towards enriching the lives of people with disabilities, locally, nationally and worldwide.

RDAT BY THE NUMBERS



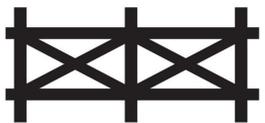
6 HORSES



17 RIDERS



6 COACHES



2 CENTRES



40 VOLUNTEERS





(L) Claudia Nevah—RDAT Executive Officer and (R) Travis Britton— Petspiration Regional Manager, Tasmania—presenting a cheque to mark our partnership, with the Petspiration Foundation providing RDAT with significant financial support in 2021.22



RDAT Quiz Night 2022

EXECUTIVE OFFICER AND PROGRAM DELIVERY— 2021.22

I would like to start by thanking our amazing donors and supporters. Without their financial or in-kind assistance, we would not be able to operate.

- **All donors** who donated to our current 'Horse for a Cause Give Now' Campaign on our website.
- **Angus Green**, a year 8 student from Launceston, who organised a polocrosse training day for his school project, with all the money for registrations being donated to RDA Tasmania.
- **Businesses** who donated prizes for our Quiz Night, Raffle and Silent Auction.
- **Cancer Council Tasmania** who allowed the Board to have their meetings at their premises.
- **Mike Derbyshire**, from Bentleys, continues to audit our annual financial statements each year, donating his time.
- **Participants** who attended our Quiz Night, purchased Raffle Tickets and/or made a generous bid in our Silent Auction.
- **Petstock/Petspiration** raised funds through their amazing quarterly 'Team Giving' program. Last Christmas period they also raised additional donations through their Christmas Bowl project.
- **Scootboot** has been raising funds through their great 'Giving Back' Program, where customers can choose a charity to donate to.
- **Variety** assists riders under the age of 18, who do not have NDIS funding and are unable to meet the riding fees. Riding fees are an important income source for our RDA Centres to be able to feed and care for their horses.
- On behalf of RDA South and RDA St Helens, I would also like to thank people, organisations and/or businesses who have assisted their local RDA Centre in any way.

All donations large and small assist RDA in many ways, which includes horse care, property maintenance and additional projects that may need to be done. It assists RDA Tasmania to run our State Office and to assist Centres through the Enhanced Rider Experience (ERE) Internal Grant for infrastructure, equipment and/or coach training and development.

Last year, RDA Tasmania started the Horse for a Cause Campaign and pushed harder, with assistance of Newspapers, Radio and TV, to find more horses for the Centres. Unfortunately, it is extremely difficult to find a suitable horse that meets the RDA criteria. However, we did receive many financial donations. This led to creating a separate, ongoing fund for immediate and future use.

RDA Tasmania also organised a successful Quiz Night, Raffle and Silent Auction, as a Fund- and RDA Awareness raiser. We received many fantastic donations for prizes from too many sponsors to name here. And we nearly doubled our target, a fantastic result.

We had a successful NDIS mid-term Audit and continue to be a registered provider in Tasmania.

Unfortunately, the National Coaches Workshop in Adelaide in September 2021 was cancelled due to Covid still causing havoc around the country and travel restrictions for some States still in place at the time. RDA Tasmania had committed to fund 3 coaches to attend this workshop. A big thank you to AJ Gallagher, the RDA Australia Insurance broker, who worked hard to get every cent we paid for flights and travel back for us. Funds that are now reserved for a future National Coaches Workshop.

RDA Australia delivered an on-line coaches' workshop instead - two full days on Zoom with various Presenters. However, it is never the same as attending in person and mixing it up with practical components and an opportunity to connect and share your experience with other Coaches throughout Australia.

Every year, RDA Australia (RDAA) has a National Volunteer Award. Volunteers who go above and beyond can be nominated for 4 categories: Young Volunteer Award, Volunteer Encouragement Award, Volunteer Excellence Award and the Michael Field Award. Each category has different criteria. RDA volunteers from Tasmania have won awards over the last years and in November last year, we were very proud that Cindy King, Level 1 Coach from RDA St Helens, won the Volunteer Excellence Award for her dedicated work in many roles at their Centre over the last 17 years. Trish Marsland, from RDA South, won the Volunteer Encouragement Award, a category for volunteers who have been with RDA less than 5 years. Trish is also a volunteer the Centre can always rely on. Without volunteers like Cindy and Trish, RDA would not be possible.

It is still a bit of a challenge to recruit volunteers, especially volunteers who would like to train to become a Coach. Volunteers are the lifeblood of the organisation and we wouldn't be able to operate without them. A huge thank you to all RDA volunteers, everyone is valuable, whether you pick up poo, do the paperwork, feed horses, fundraise, assist in the program or are a committee or State Board Member. **THANK YOU!** Without you, RDA wouldn't exist.

Claudia Nevah—State Executive Officer, State Coaching Coordinator, Chair of the State Program Delivery Committee

OUR CENTRES— RDA SOUTH

Our AGM was held on Saturday, 14th August with people able to attend either face-to-face or online. Carl Miller stepped down as Treasurer and Lisa Herring announced she would be stepping down as Secretary. Thank you to Carl (outgoing Treasurer) and to Lisa for hanging on a few more months following the AGM in the hope we would find a replacement Secretary. Both positions were temporarily filled, but we are still seeking people to join the Committee to fill these positions permanently and there are two other vacancies for Committee members that we hope to fill in order to spread the workload.

Covid has continued to keep us on our toes with regular changes to requirements for vaccinations, mask wearing and the 3-day snap lockdown in October. Thankfully it did not impact much on our lessons and we would like to thank everyone for their ongoing patience and cooperation as our Centre policies evolved throughout the year.

Managing the changes with Covid regulations has been relatively easy compared to managing our equine team. We have had horses leave the program for various reasons and it has been so hard to replace them. This has been the biggest impact on our program throughout this period.

On a brighter note, the National RDA Volunteer Award recipients were announced on the 2nd December, and we were very proud that one of our volunteers, Patricia (Trish) Marsland, was the recipient of the Volunteer Encouragement Award. A much-deserved award for Trish as she is a real asset to our Centre. She works tirelessly on Tuesday riding days, regularly attends our Working Bees, helps with fund-raising events and has been a Committee member with RDA Kalang prior to the amalgamation. Her list of jobs is endless and we truly appreciate the time and effort she gives.

Our end of year Volunteer Christmas function was a great opportunity to celebrate two more of our volunteers who reached volunteering milestones. Congratulations to Diana Cowen for her 5-year Volunteer Service Award and Sue Cole for her 10-year Volunteer Service Award.

We tried running regular monthly Working Bees and our most memorable one was held on 1st August, which coincided with the Horses Birthday during National RDA Awareness Week. We had a great turn-out of volunteers from RDA South, Travel With a Cause and the Rotaract Club of Sandy Bay. Lots of helping hands managing to complete many tasks and a great celebration, complete with a "Birthday Cake" for our lucky ponies.

We had our audit for the RDA National Accreditation earlier in the year and passed with a high standard. We also had our lease agreement with Hobart City Council renewed for another 5 years. A longer-term lease would have been more reassuring, but it was a relief none-the-less to have the lease finalised.

We are very thankful to the following people, businesses and groups who have supported us in the 2021 to 2022 financial year: Rebecca White, Llanherne Golf Members, Friends School, Rotary Club of Glenorchy, Pet Barn / Animal Tuckerbox, Hobart Equine Practice, Nutrien Ag Solutions, RDA rider Rosie Treasure and her family, students from Ogilvie High School - Big Picture program and RDA Tasmania. There have also been some private donations throughout the year that we are very grateful for; as every little bit helps to go towards the upkeep of the horses and the maintenance of the Centre.

We are also very fortunate to have had the ongoing services of two wonderful and knowledgeable vets, Janet and Mark Buckerfield who give their time, advice and expertise to RDA regularly. As always, they have done a marvellous job and have continued to spend many hours testing and treating the sometime quite perplexing issues our equine herd presents to them.

As always, a big thank you to all the volunteers who dedicate their time to RDA to allow lessons to continue. The program could not happen without you.

Lisa Dolliver
RDA South President



OUR CENTRES— RDA ST HELENS

The year began with us full of ambition and hope that, after a two year break, we would be able to get things up and running and once again be in a position to provide this unique opportunity to those in our community who's right to normal everyday living is challenged or impeded. Unfortunately we have been unable to reach our goals to improve our financial position and replenish our small herd of horses. The challenges keep presenting themselves and adding remote area isolation we have had to rethink our situation.

We took a lease back on the Equestrian Grounds in St Helens in August and had planned on commencing programs later in the year. We unfortunately were halted with these plans when we were unable to fulfil insurance requirements and were left to hope 2022 would bring us better opportunities. We would take this we look forward to being buddied up with another board member in 2022.

We continued to strive to reach our goals with the idea we would start up again in 2022. The new arena site was cleared and levelled ready for the post and rail fences to be built. We had hoped to be organised to start up at the new site but we have had to halt works for now and hopefully have the new centre ready for 2023. The relocation of the centre will address many of the threats and weaknesses we addressed in our S.W.O.T. analysis and allow us autonomy and opportunity to grow and work in a safe inclusive environment. With continued support and determination we will reach our goals and have a great centre for years to come. In the meantime we will work at fixing the old arena up at the equestrian Grounds to standard for accreditation and find some local horses to use as sessional loans till we can find suitable horses to purchase and the funds to complete the new centre.

We have been working with the local school who have identified the need for alternate opportunities to address the continued rise in mental health problems amongst students. We hope to start an 8 week program with the first group of students in October once the grounds are accredited and we have found some suitable horses. We still have a lot of work to do but thanks to the continued support from local community members and a grant from MyState Financials to help run the program we will succeed and be out there making a difference in the very near future.



FINANCE

RDA Tasmania 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	\$37,049	50%
Grants & Sponsorship	\$700	1%
National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS)	\$28,312	38%
Interest	\$1,812	2%
Rider registrations and insurance	\$1,700	2%
Other	\$4,855	7%

WHERE DOES THE MONEY GO

Distribution of grants & sponsorship	\$1,350	3%
NDIS distribution	\$18,875	40%
Wages, superannuation & workers compensation	\$19,359	41%
Insurance's	\$1,210	3%
RDAA rider registrations & affiliation	\$1,404	3%
Administration/other	\$1,675	4%
NDIS & RDA Centre audits	\$3,013	6%

THE BOARD



Mark Purcell

Chair



Madeleine Figg

Secretary



Givantha Sam Naragala

Treasurer



Dorothy Topfer

Board Director



Jane Bendall

Board Director



Claudia Nevah

Executive Officer



Conor Hallahan

Vice-Chair (thru March 2022)

THANK YOU

- **All our volunteers, donors & supporters** - in all capacities, including our volunteer coaches. None of the coaches in RDA are paid.
- **Mike Derbyshire from Bentley's** – auditing our books
- **Sue Cole** for Facebook & website and **Jordan Bush** for ongoing IT support
- **Petspiration Group** for Team Giving donations and other fundraising campaigns they have undertaken
- **Variety** for providing rider scholarships
- **ScootBoot** for ongoing Giving Back Program donations
- **Cancer Council** – meeting space

QUIZ NIGHT / RAFFLE / SILENT AUCTION PRIZE DONORS

Wrest Point	Spirit of Tasmania	Blundstone
Petspiration Group / Animal Tuckerbox	Pennicott Wilderness Journeys	West Coast Wilderness Railway
Ruth Malcolm – Wolf Properties	Roslyn 1823 Vineyard	Bonorong Wildlife Sanctuary
Pressing Matters Vineyard	Putters Adventure Golf	Wobbly Boot Vineyard
Bunnings Warehouse	Bruny Island Cheese	Hon Elisa Archer MP
Hon Julie Collins MP	Mortgage Choice	Walker & Walker Richmond
Tasmanian Cider Plenty		

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