

2017 – 18

# Annual Report



Riding for the Disabled Association  
of Tasmania Inc.

# Contents

Sponsorship & Supporter Acknowledgements .....	3
Mission, Vision, Values .....	4
Board Members.....	5
President’s Report .....	8
Coaching Coordinator’s Report .....	10
RDA Kalang’s Report.....	11
RDA Kingborough’s Report.....	12
RDA North West’s Report.....	13
RDA St Helen’s Report .....	14

riding  
DEVELOPS  
abilities

**Riding for the Disabled Association of Tasmania**

PO Box 279 Kingston Tasmania 7050

m: 0429 943 247 | e: admin@rdatas.org.au

ABN 43 028 124 325

Front cover photo: RDA North West

# Sponsorship & Supporter Acknowledgements

**RDA Tasmania gratefully acknowledges the support of:**



Tasmanian  
Government

**Department of Health and  
Human Services**



Tasmanian  
Government

**Department of  
Premier and Cabinet**



**Tasmanian Community Fund**



**Australian Disability Sports**



**Bentleys Chartered Accountants**

***And everyone who has supported RDA Tasmania***

## **RDA Tasmania Patron**

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

## **RDA Tasmania Ambassador**

Rachael Treasure  
Author, mother, regenerative  
agriculturalist and a lover of life

# Mission, Vision, Values

## mission statement

*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.*

## vision statement

*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.*

## values

*RDA is **Excellence**. RDA is not always about competition but it 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.*

**DEVELOPING ABILITIES ... ENRICHING LIVES**

## Board Members



KINGSTON  
m: 0404 965 547  
e: coaching@rdatas.org.au

### Claudia Nevah

#### *President*

Claudia has been involved with horses throughout her life in the Netherlands, England, New Zealand and Australia. She is a mother of 2 children and their family takes every opportunity to travel parts of the world. Claudia's involvement with RDA started in 2008 with RDA Kingborough where she trained to become a Level 1 Riding Coach. After many years on the centre committee as Secretary, Volunteer Coordinator, Horse Welfare Officer and various other roles she joined the State Board as State Coaching Coordinator in 2013. She was elected to be the State Delegate on the National Program Delivery Riding Committee in 2016. Claudia is committed to continue her dedication to RDA Tasmania and to assist centres to maintain the high standards of the RDA coaching program which provides their riders with a fantastic well-rounded program.



CLAREMONT  
m: 0448 791 805  
e: bob.walker17@hotmail.com

### Bob Walker

#### *Vice President*

Bob has been working in the community service sector for over 10 years. Bob has filled a variety of roles including coordination of a number of programs, working alongside families to help them achieve their goals and work through their challenges. Bob has had the good fortune to manage a great team of volunteers, workers and facilitators. Bob is currently the program coordinator for a program that supports fathers and their children who are homeless and the difficulties they face. Bob lives with a number of horses and a curious miniature donkey that keeps his life busy. Bob is very keen to assist the Riding for the Disabled Association of Tasmania with the experience and skills he has acquired over the years especially in the way of communication and the setting and achieving of goals.

## Board Members contd ...



KINGSTON  
m: 0414 759 802  
e: debbie.wills@utas.edu.au

### Debbie Wills

#### *Treasurer*

Debbie previously worked as an accountant for ten years in a variety of roles including audit of registered associations. She currently works as a lecturer in financial accounting at the University of Tasmania, where she has been employed for the last 12 years. She has recently completed a PhD in organisational legitimacy of a large Australian not-for-profit organisation, The Australian Red Cross.



ROSNY  
m: 0418 500 156  
e: jec1@iinet.net.au

### Janet Councill

#### *Secretary and Public Officer*

Jan has been an educator for forty years, currently working in the tertiary sector. Her nephew participated in RDA as a youngster and enjoyed the experience. Jan likes to travel, bushwalk, read and garden and is finding her role with RDA a challenging and interesting one.



HOWDEN  
m: 0404 828 914  
e: mapurcell.tas@gmail.com

### Mark Purcell

#### *Board Member*

Mark has worked in the not-for-profit and community sector for the past 20 years, with 17 years in volunteer conservation management and three years at Hockey Tasmania. Mark brings a passion for social and community development programs and was drawn to RDA Tasmania by the opportunity to assist an organisation that provides important opportunities for anyone with a disability to enjoy safe, healthy, stimulating and therapeutic horse-related activities. Additionally, he brings skills in volunteer engagement, program management, Board and corporate management, resource management and community development.

## Board Members contd ...



LOWER SNUG  
m: 0422 619 596  
e: dellawalla@gmail.com

### Laura Della Pasqua

#### *Board Member*

Laura joined RDA Kingborough as a rider in February 2017. She has dense left-sided hemiplegia, as a result of a stroke in March 2015. Prior to approaching RDA, she had only ridden a horse once 20 years earlier! However, with the skilled guidance and support from the RDA Kingborough volunteers, she was hooked from first go! She built on this confidence and participated in the State Championships in March 2017. She then went on to join other riders on the State team and so had the fantastic opportunity to attend the RDA Nationals in October that year. With this background Laura feels she has had an amazing opportunity to experience and observe the depth and breadth of RDA's impact on a broad range of people's lives across the nation. She brings skills and experience in community development and engagement, service delivery, leadership and governance; developed over nearly 20 years of working within the non-government and higher education sectors.

*On horseback, someone with a disability can be independent, free and in total harmony with another living creature. It's a true partnership based on love, trust and mutual respect.*

## President's Report

At our last AGM, after 10 years as RDA Tasmania's President, Pauline Perry retired from the RDA Tasmania Board. Pauline was presented with Honorary Life Membership of RDA Tasmania for her dedicated service. Pauline is still very active at Centre and National level and the Board can still rely on her expertise, support and advice.

We welcomed new members Laura Della Pasqua, Robert (Bob) Walker and Mark Pursell onto the Board. The new Board members wanted to gain an understanding of the organisation before taking on any executive positions; therefore I took on the role of President in an acting position over the last year. It is great to have some new ideas and expertise on the board and the board members have worked hard over the past year to review the strategic plan, listen to our centre members and build relationships.

We were successful in a couple of grant applications from Department of Premier and Cabinet / Sport and Recreation and the Tasmanian Community Fund, enabling RDA Tasmania to send 11 Coaches to the biennial RDA National Coaches Workshop in September. The annual Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) funding and funding from Australia Disability Sports (ADS) assisted us with our ongoing expenses to run the State Office.

Our office administrator Amanda is also doing a fantastic job, especially with regards to management of the NDIS, which is still rather challenging with some of the riders on NDIS receiving conflicting information with regards to including RDA in their NDIS plan.

We recently launched our new website, created by Jordan Bush with the assistance of volunteers who supplied materials and assisted with editing.

Some other highlights this year included two volunteer nominations for RDA Volunteer Awards which were then put forward to the National Office. Raellene Clark for the Volunteer Service Excellence Award and Rebecca Bennett who subsequently won the National Encouragement Award for centre volunteers between 1 – 5 years service.



As part of the Open House Hobart event, we were invited to the Government House Open Day by our patron the Governor of Tasmania, Her Excellency Professor the Honourable Kate Warner AM to again provide RDA horses to occupy the original old stables for the day. It was a beautiful day in November and the grounds looked magnificent and the two RDA ponies, Amy and Bree, enjoyed being in the old stables in the straw and received lots of attention from the many visitors. The RDA volunteers also appreciated the exposure for RDA Tasmania and were kept very busy answering many questions about RDA on the day.

## *President's Report contd ...*

One of our main challenges is still volunteer numbers across all centres and on the Board. More are needed to be able to increase rider numbers across the State. Most centres also need to replace some of the older horses in their herds, but it seems difficult in Tasmania to obtain horses that are experienced younger horses (between 8 to 14 years of age) of a medium size (13hh to 15hh), with good conformation and temperament.

We have had many enquiries in the Launceston area from organisations who want to refer clients to RDA and from people who would like to volunteer. We hope to start this process as soon as possible due to the high demand in the area.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our volunteers across RDA Tasmania for

their hard work. Without volunteers our organisation would not exist. Also, a big thank you to all our supporters and sponsors. A special thank you to Board Members Debbie Wills (Treasurer) and Janet Counsell (Public Officer and Acting Secretary), who will be stepping down at the AGM.

I am looking forward to handing over the President's role at the next AGM. I enjoyed this position, but I would like to dedicate my full time again to my State Coaching Coordinator role so I can support our coaches and assist Centres around the State to deliver high quality programs to our riders.

**Claudia Nevah**

*President*



# Coaching Coordinator's Report

## Accreditations:

**Level 1** – Sue Cole (RDA Kingborough).

**New Trainees:** RDA Kalang has welcomed new Level O trainee Diana Cowen.

**RDA National Championships:** From the 3<sup>rd</sup> to the 5<sup>th</sup> of October 2017 a State Team of five riders competed in the Championships. The five riders were selected from the State Championships early last year and it was great to see four new riders who hadn't competed before. Only Ashlee McBain from RDA St Helens was a returning team member. Kelly Cracknell (RDA Kalang), Rhiannon Burton, Laura Della Pasqua and Rosie Treasure (RDA Kingborough) went for the first time. State Team Coach Lois Evans and State Team Manager Mel Jones accompanied the riders and some parents to Werribee in Victoria. Finding hired horses (kindly supplied by Sam Peters and Karen Tyquin) is not always easy, but all 5 riders did a great job and managed to get quite a few ribbons between them for three dressage tests, jumping and working trails. Apart from the competition element of the week, which gives our riders a fantastic experience, it is also a lot of fun going to these events and socialising with riders from other States and Centres. Every rider had to fundraise a minimum of \$2,000 each to be able to go. A huge thank you to all donors, supporters and of course to the State Team Coach and Manager who both put in many voluntary hours to make this happen.

**RDA State Championships:** Will be held in St Helens this year on the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> of November. We are currently still seeking funding for this event. Riders from most RDA Centres will be competing in dressage, jumping and working trails and some will be selected for the State Team for the RDA National Championships in 2019.

**RDA National Coaches Workshop:** The biennial 3-day workshop will be held from Friday night the 21<sup>st</sup> of September until Monday afternoon the 24<sup>th</sup> of September 2018. We are the lucky recipients of 2 grants: Department of Premier and Cabinet (DPaC) 2018 State Grants Program and Round 36 of the Tasmanian Community Fund (TCF). Eleven coaches from all 4 centres will be travelling to Marcus Oldham College in Geelong to meet up with other RDA Coaches from across Australia for this high quality, intensive workshop. Thank you to DPaC and TCF for making this happen.

**State Workshop:** A State Workshop is planned for March 2019. This is a great way for all volunteers to refresh their training and gain more knowledge and skills in certain areas. Presenters have not been chosen for this yet and we are currently seeking funding to make this 2 or 3-day workshop as accessible as possible for every RDA Tasmania volunteer with a range of different topics to suit everyone.

**Riders and Volunteers:** Currently there are approximately 50 riders among 4 centres, with more riders starting at centres on a regular basis. All centres operate 1 day per week, with the exception of RDA St Helens, which also offers some sessions on a couple of Saturdays each month. Unfortunately volunteer numbers are still low and all centres desperately need more volunteers to assist with the programs and care for the horses. With more volunteers and the increasing number of coaches, centres could potentially operate an extra day each week, offering more places to people on the waiting list.

**Claudia Nevah**  
*Coaching Coordinator*

## RDA Kalang's Report

This past year has seen a complete transformation of our facilities and how we operate as an organisation within them. As a result of this it's been a time of great growth and transformation for our team. With our friends from RDA Kingborough moving in and joining forces with us it's given us the ability to greater utilise the centre grounds and has lent strength to what we can accomplish together.

The grounds themselves reflect this massive growth in the utilisation of centre grounds with more horses, more storage and more activity. We are grateful to have the opportunity to share the great resource we have in the centre.

Due to the wonderful resource we have in the centre grounds, this last year has been a time of consideration and planning for further development to make the centre a very worthy area hub. Natural wear-and-tear and limitations/circumstances of past work have led to some glaring priorities for further development required on centre grounds.

Though economically challenging at best the importance of these priorities make them our most pressing targets for future work. These include a renewal of the arena, all fencing, tracks and our entrance gate/area.

Development hasn't just been actively noticeable in the above areas but there has also been a huge growth in program numbers a transformation of the scope and structure of the riding programs and an increase in volunteers at our centre (though not perhaps as much as we need). Volunteer satisfaction is higher also as we have a great satisfaction in the gains we have noticed over a short time.

Over the past year we have been fortunate to receive some financial support from The Commonwealth Bank through a grant of \$10,000. This has been allocated to one of our development priorities in repairing the fences, as it was generally the job we could complete with that amount and it gave us a bit extra to improve our security system at the centre to better protect the investment both of our teams have in the centre grounds.

Last of all we'd like to report on the great satisfaction of our riders who are at the heart of everything we try to achieve for the centre, we've included some photos to illustrate this. Of particular note, one of our riders got the opportunity late last year to join the state team in competing in the National Dressage Competition and came back feeling very enriched and grateful for the experience.

We hope this next financial year continues to be a time of further development and growth where we can tackle some of our more difficult challenges and provide a further enriched experience for our riders, horses and volunteers.

### Jordan Bush

*RDA Kalang Vice President*



# RDA Kingborough's Report

RDA Kingborough would like thank Jos and Daphne Driessen for allowing our centre to operate on their property on Roba Court for almost eight years (2010 – 2017). It was never meant to be for so long, but with each passing year, it was getting harder and harder to find somewhere to move to in the Kingborough area and with the Driessen's selling the property, it was time to move on.

The only option left was to move out of area and on 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2017 we commenced our first lessons at RDA Kalang in Glenorchy. What an amazing opportunity it has been to work together with another RDA centre. It is a beautiful setting tucked away in amongst the trees with an arena and bush tracks. Our horses, riders and volunteers quickly settled in to their new surroundings. Admittedly strange at first, but everyone at Kalang has made us feel very welcomed and we thank them for enabling us to relocate to their premises in order to be able to keep our riding program running. Our committee will continue to follow up any leads in the Kingborough area for potential properties, but for the interim, our focus will be on operating our program at RDA Kalang.

Congratulations to Sue Cole on finally attaining her Level 1 Coaching Accreditation. Sue is now coaching a lesson every week and that now brings the total of qualified coaches at RDA Kingborough to four.

Congratulations also to our three riders Rhiannon, Rosie and Laura who competed as part of the RDA Tasmania State Team at the RDA National Discipline Championships. This is the first time all three riders have been to a National event and they all came back with ribbons. What an amazing effort and a credit to our centre Coach Lois Evans who was the Team Coach and the Team Manager Mel Jones for all the coaching and organisational hours they put in. Congratulations also to the Tassie Team's other two riders Ashlee (RDA St Helens) and Kelly (RDA Kalang).

Three main events for the past period were our volunteers and two ponies Amy and Bree going to Government House for the Hobart Open House event, Sue and Lois attending the You and Me Community Festival in Huonville and the Open Day at RDA Kalang. All very great awareness opportunities not just for RDA Kingborough, but also for RDA in Tasmania.

Christmas Puddings were once again our major fundraiser in 2017. Puddings were baked at the Government House kitchens, so we hope you all got to enjoy a very stately pudding last Christmas.

We held our Volunteer Christmas Dinner at Southern Lights Hotel in Kingston. Southern Lights have been a wonderful supporter of RDA Kingborough donating proceeds from their monthly Quiz Nights. It was lovely to have RDA Kalang volunteers join us and it was an evening to celebrate some wonderful achievements from our volunteers. Claudia and Greta received their 10 Year Service Award and it was with great pleasure that we presented Lois with an Honorary Life Membership. Three amazing volunteers who have given so many hours of their time to RDA Kingborough over the years.

## Lisa Dolliver

*RDA Kingborough President*



## RDA North West's Report

This past year has been a challenging year for our centre, with several issues arising.

Towards the end of 2017 our gentle little Arab mare Bella, became extremely head shy and nervous which resulted in her being withdrawn from riding sessions. Our wonderful Equine Bowen Therapist, Gill Brame, found that Bella was extremely sensitive in her neck and poll. Because of this, Bella has required many treatment sessions and some retraining to enable her to take riders again. Sue Peters who is a volunteer at our centre, has spent many hours working with Bella to help her regain her confidence, Sue is now exercising Bella on a regular basis and we are very hopeful she will soon join Chief and Ali and be part of our riding sessions again.

In late January we were very disappointed to find out that the Burnie School of Special Education would not be bringing their students to ride at our centre this year. This happened due to difficulties regarding having to have their students on NDIS Plans.

Unfortunately, we were unable to resume riding during first term, due to storm damage which occurred on the 14th February. The storm caused major damage to the roof of the barn we lease from Multicap. The barn lost almost half of its roof including structural timbers and electrical supply. The barn is situated very close to the parking, waiting and riding areas at our centre. Because of this damage Multicap instructed us that due to safety concerns we would be unable to resume riding until all repairs were completed, which took until the last week of Term 1.

On a more positive note, we have had several new volunteers join us, all of whom are very eager to learn and willing to perform any tasks asked of them. We have also had several new riders join us, these new riders are very enthusiastic, and it is wonderful to see how much they have achieved in such a short time.

Emily Fielding will be attending the National Workshop in September. Emily obtained her OTC in 2017 and is very willing to learn new skills and bring her newly acquired knowledge back to our centre.



We have decided to conduct riding sessions through Term 3 this year as we missed all of Term 1 due to the potential danger from the damage to the barn.

I would like to thank all our wonderful, dedicated volunteers who donate their time and skills, also for their ongoing support and dedication by coming along on a regular basis to assist at our Centre.

**Pam Hutton**

*RDA North West President*

## RDA St Helen's Report

We recommenced our riding programs on 14<sup>th</sup> September after our winter break. Horses, riders and volunteers were well rested and ready to finish off the year. Unfortunately this only lasted for three weeks due to a large fire and helicopters in close proximity to the horses for five weeks; our sessions were very limited. We took our riders to the paddock to groom and play with the horses on the leads instead of riding. There are still many benefits gained through hands on contact and learning to communicate with the horses from the ground rather than the saddle. The whole experience was a great desensitising exercise for the horses too.

Our final sessions were planned around having fun and celebrating everyone's achievements for the year. Our final day was sad for our riders as it was the last session with Daisy the Clydesdale, who we have had for five years. Daisy is the last of her line of Clydesdales which have been in her owner's family for three generations and they would like to try for one more foal before Daisy gets too old. We will all miss Daisy heaps and wish her well with her pending motherhood.

After a much needed summer break we had a great start to 2018, being successful with grants and financial donations to purchase a new horse to replace Daisy, new therapy saddle, financial support to build required equipment for upcoming State Championships and the funds to cover and upgrade our existing stalls so we can still provide horse therapy regardless of the weather.

A huge thank you to St Marys Branch for putting us up for the Commonwealth Bank Centenary Grants, L J Hooker St Helens Staff Funds, BODC Community Grants and BODC Staff Charity Funding. The upgrade and covering of the stalls has been an ongoing project since 2015 so it will be fantastic to see it finally happen.

We have also increased our rider and volunteer numbers from 2017. We started off with three ponies and 1 horse so had to limit the riding for our adults and larger school riders but they all enjoyed working with the ponies on lead and brushing up on skills learnt the previous year during the fires.

In May we finally found our new horse Casper who is already a huge hit with volunteers and riders. He is pictured getting some body work from Gareth, Blue Tier Chiropractic's. Gareth has graciously offered to be a sponsor for RDA St Helens and I know Casper is very pleased and appreciative of his work. Casper has continued to be integrated into the program and will be going off to a trainer for some refining over the winter break.



## *RDA St Helen's Report contd ...*

We are very excited about hosting the State Championships in November this year. For many of our riders this will be the first time they have been exposed to competition and they are all keen to take part.

We worked with some of our older school students and getting them to teach the ponies tricks in preparation for taking the ponies to the school and doing a small display for awareness week in August.

We would like to thank RDA Tasmania on behalf of the four coaches and trainees who will be attending the upcoming National Coaches Workshop, for once again being successful with obtaining the funds to cover costs. We are

looking forward to updating our current knowledge and learning new skills and content for running alternate equine assisted programs.

We will be on winter break until mid September during which time we hope to complete the works to the stalls and we have engaged the services of the local Men's Shed to make the equipment required for the State Championships.

We wish RDAT and Centres all the best for the remainder of 2018 and look forward to showing you all a great time in November.

***Cindy King***

*RDA St Helens Centre Delegate*



### **Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Report**

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with the financial reporting requirements of the applicable legislation and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of a financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, management is responsible for assessing the Entity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters relating to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Entity or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Entity's financial reporting process.

### **Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report**

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.



**Michael Ian Derbyshire**  
Director

3 August 2018