

Riding for the Disabled Association (N.S.W) Illawarra Centre



Tel: (02) 4236 0462
PO Box 332, Dapto 2530
29 Mt Brandon Rd Jerarra

Website: Illawarra.rdansw.org.au
Email: illawarra@rdansw.org.au

Autumn Newsletter 2015

Donations for our New Tractor...Tina

Caltex Oil Refinery

On October 18th 2014 we were delighted to welcome Geoff McKay to the Centre as a representative of the employees in the Maintenance department at Caltex Oil Refinery in Kurnell, to present us with a cheque of \$15,000.00

These employees, all fitters and electricians for the Caltex Oil Refinery, set up a fund about 30 years ago of which they all paid into for the purpose of supporting any one amongst them who had a serious accident or sickness that left them in dire straits after the company's sick pay had expired.



With the work numbers decreasing and the closure of the plant in December 2014 approaching them, they decided that instead of dividing what was left of the fund between the remaining members, they would distribute it among various chosen charities.

Brian Taylor, one of the remaining fund members said "This is a fund that has supported a lot of workmates over the years and can now help others in need."

The RDA committee was asked if there was a specific project that the money could go towards and it was decided that the donation would be most needed towards the majority of the costs of a new and much needed tractor, as the existing tractors were no longer meeting current WH&S standards.

RDA Illawarra would like to thank all the members of this fund (remaining members: Geoff McKay, Alan Lambert, Wayne Phipps, Rod Letton, Brian Taylor, Brendon O'Donohue, and Matt Boes) for their selflessness and generous donation to our Centre.

Gareth Ward MP

In search for the funds to cover the remaining costs of the new tractor, we contacted several of our local MP's of the surrounding area, and it was Gareth Ward who willingly acknowledged our request.

Mr Ward, joined by the NSW Minister for the Illawarra and Disability Services, the Hon. John Ajaka MLC, approached the Premier, Mike Biard, regarding our request and he was able to provide a grant of \$8,500.00 towards the worthy cause.

Both Gareth Ward and John Ajaka came to the Centre on the 11th of February 2015 to present us with the cheque.

"I was very pleased to be able to secure this \$8,500 funding which will go towards helping Riding for the



Disabled (Illawarra branch) to purchase a new tractor to help maintain its premises,” Gareth said.

“Riding for the Disabled do a really fantastic job providing recreation and support for people with a disability in a very caring and safe environment.”

“We really want to thank Gareth for all of his efforts. And we thank him for all of his help and support for our organisation. We really do appreciate all of the work that Gareth does for us,” Carmen Netherclift said.

Both of these generous donations have since been used to purchase a tractor meeting the required standards of the current WH&S laws and including several attachments that will help to carry out various jobs that our previous tractors were unable to do. This will make the work a lot easier for our ‘Grounds & Surrounds’ volunteers to achieve the work necessary to maintain the upkeep of the property so we can continue to provide a safe place for our horses, riders and volunteers alike.

In honour of one of our old mares, a horse loved by everyone she met, the committee has decided to name our new Tractor, Tina.

Upcoming Event

We hope you will join us on

Tuesday 19th May at 3pm

for an afternoon tea with Gareth Ward, local MP.

Mr Ward will be coming to the centre to see and photograph our new tractor of which his most recent donation went towards.

Please RSVP to

Carmen Netherclift 0435 824 776

if you can make it. We look forward to seeing you there!

Fundraisers

RMS Charity Golf Day

Thank you to the RMS for the proceeds of the Charity Golf Day (held in November 2014) going to RDA Illawarra.

Our volunteers who attended the day had a brilliant time as usual and the event raised about \$700 for our centre.

Thank you to Warilla Bowling club for their donation of twelve bottles of wine for our raffle prizes.

New Trainee Coaches

We are thrilled to announce that we have three new trainee coaches stepping up to join the coaching team this year: Jacqui Clarke, Kirsten Parker and Kerry Southwell.

In recent years one of our Centre’s toughest challenges has been the shortage of Coaches and we are excited about our three emerging Coaches and what this will mean for the future of our Centre.

Each one of these new trainees have been an asset to our Centre. They have all volunteered for different lengths of time and have brought their own valuable knowledge, experience and personalities to the team.

Jacqui has been a volunteer at our Centre for almost twelve months now, but she was able to fit in so quickly that it feels like she’s always been a part of the team.

Jacqui has come from a background with horses and her knowledge and contributions have been very beneficial to our Centre.

Jacqui commenced her traineeship during term 4 of last year and is already moving along with flying colours and continuing to impress her Coach and fellow volunteers with her abilities.

Kirsten has been volunteering at RDA since 2010 when she began at 13 years old. Having had minimal pre-

vious experience with horses, everything she knows now she's learnt through the guidance of Coaches and other volunteers at RDA. Over the years her knowledge and confidence has grown immensely and she's ready to take on the next challenge.

Kerry began as a volunteer during 2013 and with his extensive amount of horse-knowledge, has quickly become the Coaches' right-hand man. He's a willing worker and can always be relied upon whenever there's a job to be done.

So things are looking bright for the Centre this year. We're all looking forward to a year of success, accomplishments and being proactive to keep RDA Illawarra moving forward into the future.

Classes

Tuesday 2014

The rest of 2014 was filled of lots of fun and achievements. Due to unfortunate, but unavoidable circumstances Carmen was unable to continue coaching throughout the rest of 2014, so Linda became the full time Tuesday Coach for most of the year.

Linda was very grateful for all her reliable volunteers who faithfully turned up every week to do their part in contributing to accomplishing the days' work. Although altogether we only have a handful of regular volunteers, every set of hands make a difference. Everyone knew what had to be done and we had the day running like clockwork.

The riders had a lot of fun with a variety of different games and activities each week such as Egg and Spoon races, trail rides and especially "What's the time Mr Wolf?"

Also, with Jacqui having begun her coaching traineeship during term 4, everyone had a lot of fun with her fresh new games ideas. This included games like Follow the Leader and even the Hokey Pokey!

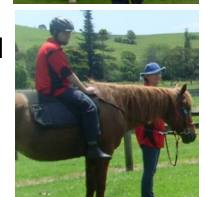
Tuesday 2015

Classes for 2015 have kicked off to a great start. All six riders from last year have returned and they haven't forgotten a thing! We also have a new rider who began at the beginning of the year and we're so pleased to see his rapid improvement already.

Our three trainee coaches have begun their training, each alternating in different areas such as organising the preparing of horses before class, mounting, leading the warm-up exercises, and planning and conducting class activities.

The recent wet and windy weather has made it a challenge to have many classes since we began back for term two, but when we are able to have class, everyone has fun with new and interesting games, going on trail rides and we've even played "Ring around the Roses" on horseback!

We're also hoping to pick up where we left off last year and master the Hokey Pokey!



Horse's Birthday Gift

On the 1st of August 2014 we were visited by Dr Gillian Rickard of the Illawarra Equine Centre to give one of our horses a dental check-up as a gift to the Centre as part of a promotion to highlight the need for horses to have their teeth checked regularly.

This particular day was chosen as August 1st is the official birthday of all horses born in the southern hemisphere.

Our Standardbred Mini was the lucky horse chosen for the event.

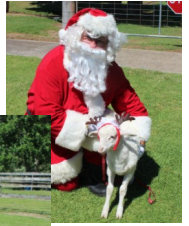
As a special birthday treat to all the horses at RDA, Dr Gillian also donated a large bag of carrots, which were of course thoroughly enjoyed by our four-legged friends!

Christmas Party 2014

We held our 2014 End of Year Christmas Party on Saturday 8th of November and it was a fun day for all.



It's hard to decide who was the star of the day: Santa, who came to deliver presents; Little Min, who performed brilliantly for all the kids to have pony photos on her; or the adorable little lamb!



We were also very privileged to have a special attendance of Gareth Ward, local MP, who has done so much for our organisation over the past few years.

A sausage sizzle was shared and enjoyed by all and it was certainly a day of celebration of all the riders, coaches, and volunteers' hard work throughout 2014.



Each of the riders were presented with a trophy and each volunteer with a token of appreciation.

A big "congratulations" to our award winners for 2014: Rider of the Year, Luke Van Duin; Volunteer of the Year, Kerry Southwell; and Young Volunteer of the Year, Kirsten Parker.



**Our three
Award
Winners
2014!!**

WISH LIST

Do you know anyone who could donate any of the following items?

Horse feed, Portable PA system,
Water tanks, Horse float

DONATIONS

A huge thank you to the following for their generous donations/grants, donations in kind and product:-

Bill Galway Equine Dentist,
Carl Winkler Farrier,
Berkley cakes and pies,
Renee's easy eats -Berkley,
Warilla Bowling club,
Windang Bowling Club,
Dapto Leagues Club,
Woonona Weight Worries,
Local SES,
RMS Charity Golf Day,
Caltex Oil Refinery,
NSW Government,
Illawarra Equine Centre

Sincere apologies to those whose names may have not been mentioned, your donations are very much appreciated



Help us Build our Sponsor a Horse Program

This program is a fantastic way for people to get involved, especially those who do not have a lot of time on their hands. If you can help by distributing some of our Sponsor a Horse Program forms amongst your friends and colleagues, please contact the Centre. Sponsorship starts from as little as \$10 a month and makes a great present.

Mini and her friends would like to thank their present sponsors for their continuing support!