



# Riding for the Disabled Association (NSW) Illawarra Centre

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Spring Newsletter 2012

Well the second half of 2012 has been a most productive time. A major fundraiser "Rock & Roll with the Illawarra Stars" was held, the amenities block has been upgraded, and a working bee has seen many improvements in the grounds. Classes have been going well, with lots of fun and achievements, and a new assistant coach has qualified. We finished the year with a Christmas Party. All the riders received trophies (donated by New Millennium Trophies and Gifts). Congratulations go to our Rider of the Year

Anthea Scott, Young Volunteer of the Year Ashleigh Campton and Volunteer of the Year Karin Haubruk.



A very big THANK YOU to all our volunteers this year. Without you guys, the centre would not exist.



## Amenities Upgrade

Thanks to a NSW Government grant obtained with the assistance of Gareth Ward, State MP for Kiama, our amenities block has been upgraded. Gone are the cement floors and gaps under walls, they are now beautifully tiled, making them not only aesthetically pleasing, but functionally more hygienic as well. On Saturday 20th October, Gareth visited the centre to present the cheque, and officially open the refurbished amenities block. Thanks also to our Secretary Carmen, and her assistant Karin, who put in all the hard work organizing to get this done!

Check out the before and after photos.



## Volunteers at RDA Illawarra

### *New Assistant Coach*



Congratulations to Karin Haubruck, our newest Assistant Coach.

### *Volunteering at RDA—a family affair*

Volunteering at RDA is not only an individual thing, we have whole families who volunteer together, and sometimes as many as three generations volunteering together. In this photo we have Carmen, our new secretary who has been working very hard, her daughter Danielle who helps promote and coordinate the sponsor-a-horse program, and her son Jimmy who helps out on Saturdays.



### *A young volunteers perspective*

I have been a volunteer at Riding for the Disabled for the past two and a half years. I originally began my involvement at the age of thirteen because I had been searching for somewhere I could be around horses and learn more about them. RDA has certainly done that for me and a lot more. Being around them every week has undeniably built up my confidence and knowledge of these beautiful animals. Prior to my involvement with RDA I hadn't had much to do with horses or people with disabilities. I have enjoyed getting to know the riders, horses and other volunteers and building a relationship with each of them. It has been remarkable to watch each rider progress and improve week by week and to share in their excitement and achievements. Working with the riders has shown me how much horse riding really does for them. It is amazing therapy for them; physically, mentally and emotionally.

As I am home educated, I have been available to volunteer during the week and I have learnt so much from this unique experience. By being able to be hands on with the horses and physically do the things I am being taught, I have discovered so much about looking after horses, understanding them and working with them, and a lot about myself in the process. I have learnt to undertake each task as it is given to me, and deal with each situation as it comes. Communicating and working with lots of different kinds of people has been something I have had to learn to put into practice down at the centre and is something that has helped me in life outside of RDA. The days are often long and very busy, but I always look forward to my weekly dose of horses and the smiles on the riders faces when they accomplish things others, and they themselves, never thought they could. Though there is a lot of work to be tackled every week, I love being out there with the horses and helping the community all at the same time.



By Kirsten Parker (Kirsten volunteers along with her mother and two siblings on Tuesdays)

## Rock & Roll with the Illawarra Stars

What a fantastic fundraising event this is turning out to be. After the success of our first Dancing with the Illawarra Stars attempt in 2010, this year we held "Rock & Roll with the Illawarra stars".

Ten local "celebrities" and business people consented to be our "Stars" for the night, with each star being paired with a dancer from the Footloose Rockers dance group, with many hours of practice put in by some of the stars.

We had fantastic support and sponsorship from Wave FM radio station, and Prime TV. Three of our stars were Presenters from Wave FM, and these guys really whipped up the support and excitement for the night!

The night kicked off with the Stars arriving to a red carpet entry. They performed two rock & roll dances, each putting their own flair and signature moves into the mix. The Footloose Rockers did a demonstration dance, and some of our riders, ably assisted by a couple of our young volunteers did a great line dance, which proved so popular, that they were called back for an encore performance later in the night.

We also had a visit from "Tina Turner" & "Bett Middler".

The audience was able to vote for their favourite star by making donations to the centre. The winner was the star who raised the most money for RDA.

Everyone there had an absolutely fantastic time, the night was so much fun, and the best part was that nearly two hundred people got to learn about what RDA does and we raised over \$16,000 for the centre!

A very big thank you to our stars Jade Papesch, Travis Winks & Wally from Wave FM, Brittany Doyle (Superstar Cars), Corinne Hyde (Illawarra Credit Union), Ian Fitzgibbon (Martin Morris & Jones), Laurelle Swan (Labelle Beauty Therapy), Jeff Zuiderwyk (Betta Wardrobes & Shower Screens) Adam Pitt (Dapto Otesopathic Clinic), Julie Price (It's Booktime), our dance coaches Geoff & Sue Routh (Footloose Rockers), to all those people and business that contributed to the night and of course Denise Tozer who was the moving force behind this event.



## Retired Trade's People

On occasions we require trades people to do small jobs around the Centre. If you are a tradesperson or know someone (retirees most welcome) who would be willing to give a hand, please contact Carmen on 0435 824 776.



Thank you to the **Working Caravan Crew** (Heddy & Denise, Graeme & Lorri, Bob & Bev & Gary & Denise, who held a working bee during the last school holidays, doing a heap of clearing and cleaning up around the property. A very special thank you to Wayne Beckett, who brought his digger along and proceeded to work miracles in our paddocks!



Also a big thank you to the concretor Ted McGuiness, Dick Downs and Holcim (Australia) Pty Ltd Albion Park Rail for the two cement slabs that have been layed.



## 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!**

## WISH LIST

Do you know anyone who can donate any of the following items  
heater, bbq  
stationery,  
horse feed,  
portable PA system, water tanks,  
dishwasher, horse float,  
Generator

## DONATIONS

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

Shellhabour Industrial Distributors,  
Rotary Club of West Wollongong,  
Dapto Leagues Club,  
Dept Ageing & Disability Services,  
NSW Government,  
Superstar Cars,  
Terry Cross Financial Services,  
Wollongong Window World,  
Beta Industries,  
Lions Club of Woonona,  
South Coast Decorative Concrete,  
New Millennium Trophies and Gifts,  
Community Alliance Credit Union,  
Woonona Weight Worriers,  
Lions Club of Kiama,  
RDANSW,  
Prime Television,  
Wave FM Radio,  
Footloose Rockers,  
Eyecatcher Art,  
Mick Taylor,  
Touchdown Helicopters,  
Menzies Hotel,  
Winjammers Novatel,  
Illawarra Fly Treetop Walk,  
Captain Cook Cruises,  
Patty Fuller,  
Paul Atkins,  
RTA Southern Charity Golf Day