



New Zealand Riding for the Disabled Association Inc.

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Who we are...



Hawera Group RDA showing off their new group vests that were sponsored by Sandfords Carriers.

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News in Brief

SURVEYS

By now you will have all received copies of the NZRDA Surveys, they are: The NZRDA Annual Group Survey, the NZRDA Satisfaction Survey and the Quantitative Survey. Thank you to all the RDA Groups that have completed these already and we look forward to receiving the rest as soon as you can.

NZRDA NATIONAL TRAINING SEMINAR and AGM

Programme/Timetable

On the last page of this newsletter is an updated timetable for this event. As with all events of this nature they are subject to minor change.

Registrations

By mid-February we will be sending you a copy of the Programme for the National Training Seminar, a registration form (remember one form for every participant) as well as a Nomination Form for RDA Members to the Board of NZRDA.

NZRDA Annual Awards.

Just a reminder that if you are sending in nominations for the NZRDA Annual Awards, then we would like to receive these as soon as possible. The cut-off date for receiving these nominations is March 25th 2011.



First Words...

*Fear the goat from the front,
the horse from the rear, and
man from all sides.*



New in Brief Continued

NZRDA Annual Dinner

As is customary NZRDA will be hosting the Annual Awards Dinner and Presentation on Saturday May 21st at the Napier War Memorial Conference Centre. For the first time in a long time we will be giving this event a theme. In keeping with the location the theme is the Art Deco Era. This is, the 1930s. Although we have all agreed a good drop of 1920s costumes, won't go amiss (as we don't want to put you in a "flap", unless you really want to be).

Accommodation and Transport at the National Training Seminar

As part of our planning for the National Seminar in Napier, we have taken note of the comments made at the last event. As a result, because of the varying nature in requests for accommodation we have thought it prudent to allow Groups to make their own accommodations bookings. There is a variety of accommodation types in Napier catering to all budgets.

This year we will not be providing buses to and from either the conference centre or the Napier Group RDA. We know that many of you will be driving to the Seminar or maybe even hiring vehicles and accordingly will not be requiring a chartered bus service

NZRDA Lottery Grants Board Training Programme

The last training courses for the NZRDA Lottery Grants Board Training Programme will be occurring over the next two months. We would like to thank you all for taking part in these training days and we all hope that you have benefitted from these workshops.

NZRDA Annual General Meeting: REMITS/RESOLUTIONS

If any RDA Group is proposing a REMIT to the NZRDA Rules, then in order to meet the requirements of the Rules (18.1), these proposals must be received by the Secretary of the NZRDA Board no later than six (6) weeks prior to the meeting, that is by April 9th 2011. This is so that it can be distributed with the papers for the Annual General Meeting. The Executive Director of NZRDA is also the Secretary to the NZRDA Board.

North Canterbury Group RDA

Recently Formed Branch.

North Canterbury RDA commenced with a community interest meeting in early December 2009. Over fifty interested persons arrived for the meeting, and another twelve apologies were received. The involvement of this number of people, indicated to Des Moore, the initiator of the meeting, and those in attendance, that the community really did have a desire to see an RDA facility in the North Canterbury area. One of these reasons, was, from the fact that the Christchurch branch had a considerable "wait list" from prospective disabled riders, and are now no longer able to accommodate all those who wish to ride on a regular basis.

From this initial meeting, a committee of thirteen have proceeded to complete the requirements from the national association, to become a fully approved branch of RDA. These requirements have now almost been completed, so this new year, will give the branch the ability to move to "the next phase" of its operation.

The committee has been fortunate to attract members with experience in secretarial, financial, coaching, publicity, fundraising, and physiotherapy skills, which will enhance our ability to become a well organised branch in the foreseeable future.

During 2010, a number of activities were organised. These included an open day for the community, when over 200 people visited to see what this new venture was about. The result of this day, was that up to 25 riders expressed an interest in being part of the new venture.

Other activities included, a number of training days (both local and regionally) for both coaches and volunteers, and an assessment day for a small number of riders has been held.

To help raise the profile of our organisation within the community, we were involved in the annual Santa Parade which involves over 60 floats, and an estimated 10-12 thousand people to view the parade, and members of the committee have willingly become involved in a variety of fundraising ventures.

The committee has already commenced discussions with various parties, in relation to prospective sites for our facility, and it is intended to continue with this process in the near future to help us identify a suitable site for our base. Much interest has been shown from other community groups who would welcome a combined site for two like minded activities.

Now that we have completed the mandatory compliance and training issues, the committees believes that the 2011 year is shaping up to be a year of exciting progress for our branch, and we can now move positively forward to provide a valuable association with a horse, for those within our community who have a disability.

Secretary. justine.lester@hurunui.govt.nz.



Adaptive Equipment Part Two

Each RDA Group will have various types of adaptive equipment for their riders, each serving a different purpose.

1. Compensatory equipment accommodates to the rider's limitations. This limitation is not likely to change. Adaptations or modifications to equipment or attire to compensate for:
 - loss of function e.g loop reins for a rider with poor grasp or poor control of limbs e.g. securing stirrup leathers to the girth.
 - to assist the rider to compete on an equal basis with other competitors e.g. use of callers for riders with visual impairment, use of whips where there is no active leg control.
2. Assistive devices that help the rider learn or improve function, these are short term inventions with the goal that the rider progresses so that the assistive device is no longer needed
3. Safety e.g. enclosed stirrups if the rider is not wearing the correct footwear.
Read more: <http://www.horsesport.org/disciplines/dressage/about-para-equestrian-dressage>

When you are considering, or choosing adaptive equipment, the most important thing is to ensure that it is safe. Always consult with the appropriate professionals when deciding on the use and type of equipment; this is definitely a job for your therapist.

Guidelines for determining when adaptive equipment may be used:

- The equipment must not be attached to the rider and the horse at the same time.
- The type of equipment is decided on an individual basis.
- The equipment should not restrict or interfere with the rider's balance or movement. Take into account the riders weight, height, health and ability.
- The riders should not suffer discomfort or embarrassment.
- The horse should not experience discomfort or injury.
- The disability must be considered, is it a stable or progressive condition.
- The coach and the helpers need to know how to fit and use the equipment safely.
- The duration, frequency and type of riding.
- The type, size and temperament of the horse.
- Cost.

Some adaptive equipment you may see at your RDA



Loop Reins



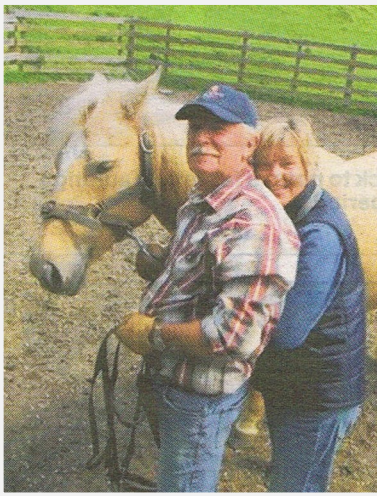
Ladder Reins



Monkey Strap



Romance and Wedding Bells through Volunteering at Tauranga RDA



When Tauranga RDA Volunteers Owen Genty-Knott and Elaine Smith announced their engagement when helping with riders one Friday morning, everyone was delighted. Owen and Elaine first met as volunteers at the RDA sausage sizzle at Tauranga Racecourse Show Jumping trials on 3rd June 2007. They attended several such events over the following months and on the second sizzle, found themselves swapping photos of their favourite horses.

Mr. Genty-Knott says: "We discovered we had a lot in common, having owned, bred, trained, showed and competed in horse events. We soon established an affection, which increased as we began attending places of common interest."

Owen and Elaine changed the days they were volunteering to coincide with each other so that they could meet more often at RDA. Their first official date wasn't until 7th January 08 at Starbucks in Bayfair. Owen finally proposed to Elaine on 8th May 2010 on a bench seat during a walk around Mauao. The couple is to be wed on Wednesday 29th December on the beach in front of Tauranga Yacht and Power Boat Club followed by a reception at The Charthouse, Sulphur Point Marina.

Tauranga RDA Chief Executive Officer says, "It is so exciting to think that Owen and Elaine met because of volunteering at Tauranga RDA and are now getting married. We are all so happy for them here; they are wonderful people and have given so much expertise and time to RDA."

Mr. Genty-Knott concludes, "We both joined Tauranga RDA because of our many years involvement and interest in horses, and we wanted to maintain the connection, whilst helping such a worthy organisation. We get enjoyment out of helping the children and in turn, helping the community and look forward to our Friday volunteering in 2011 as husband and wife."

Henderson Group RDA



We at Henderson RDA were delighted to be offered the assistance of two Young Labour supporters for an afternoon. Shona Jowett and Angus Hodgson from Wellington were on the Clarion Tour, offering their time to charities and voluntary organisations around the country. Shona and Angus enthusiastically helped us build a fence that we've been meaning to tackle for ages. We built the fence under the guidance of our ever supportive Lilo family. Shona was a dab hand with the spirit level and Angus mixed great cement! We all got completely drenched but ended up with a sturdy fence completely made from recycled posts and rails.

Many thanks to Shona, Angus and the Lilo family.

Hawera Group RDA



Hawera Group RDA at the Showparade on 19th November 2010, the theme was recycling.

Don't our volunteers scrub up well. Makes the general public aware of our RDA Group by putting a float in the parade.



Wellington Group RDA

Wellington RDA is on the move! Due to the loss of our current grounds we are relocating. We will need to build a new arena, at the very least, and we are seeking any advice from other RDAs on their experiences with building arenas and/or covered arenas. If we can avoid making common mistakes or learn any practises which worked really well for someone else it will make our rebuild so much easier. If you have any advice or information you feel may be helpful, no matter how big or small, please feel free to contact us either by email wellingtonrda@xtra.co.nz or by phone 04 237 5550. Many Thanks - Wellington RDA.



Thank you to Execam!

Execam is a Wellington based professional production company that every year sponsor several worthy groups or charities with their services of providing professional video footage. Thanks to one of our volunteers, Marge Fowler who found their advertisement and brought the opportunity to our attention. In October we found out our application was successful and in November, Execam came and spent a day filming. From the hours of video footage collected, we have worked closely with Execam to come up with a professional short 5 minute promotional DVD on Wellington RDA that will be especially useful to show future funders and supporters. Our premiere at our December Christmas Party left the whole crowd with a tear in their eye! So Thank you to Jim and Jason and their team at Execam for donating your invaluable time and services to us. Check Execams services out on www.execam.co.nz

Reminder

Please make sure you check your Groups Operational Certificate is current. This Certificate is valid for 3 years. If it has expired contact National Office on 0800 4 NZRDA.





NZRDA/Lotteries Grants Board Training Calendar



Reminder: you need to send two volunteers to each of the five workshops. Please contact your nearest RDA Training Team member if you have not yet been contacted by them. You are not limited to two volunteers you can send more people, but you will have to pay \$115 per day (GST Incl). If the participant can not attend at the last minute you need to send another volunteer in their place. You can also attend the workshops in other regions, if for some reason you can not make the local workshop. Workshops start at 9:30am and finish at 3:30pm.

All NZRDA Member Groups will receive two manual covers. When your two volunteers have attended the workshops they will receive a booklet from each workshop, these are to be inserted into the manual covers to create a Training Manual. These Training Manuals are to remain the property of the RDA Group.

Please remember to send registration forms back BEFORE the closing dates.

Dates for workshops that have been booked as at January 2011.

Region	Groups	Leading	Sidewalking	Mounting/	Medical	RDA Horse	Trainers
1	Bay of Islands, Kaitaia, Whangarei Host Groups Kaitaia and Whangarei	12/02	13/02	04/12	05/12	12/03	Maxine Cates Yvonne Hooper
2	Ambury Park, Auckland Eastern Suburbs, Greenhithe, Henderson, North Shore, South Auckland, Totara Park. Host Group Ambury Park	29/09	05/10	01/04 Host Totara Park	18/03 Host- North Shore	12/03	Debbie Freeman Anne Chamberlin
3	Cambridge, Central King Country, Te Aroha, Te Awamutu, Waikato, Hamilton.	01/02	02/02	18/10	28/02 Host Te Awamutu	15/11 Host Waikato	Dna Wells
4	Eastern Bay of Plenty, South Waikato, Taupo, Tauranga, Rotorua Host Group Rotorua	13/11	14/11	TBC	26/03	TBC	Roslein Wilkes- Leonie Annette
5	Central Taranaki, New Plymouth, Wanganui, Hawera Host Group Hawera	11/09	09/10	11/12	05/02	19/03	Marilyn Surgenor
6	Manawatu, Levin, Wairarapa, Taranaki, Hutt Valley, Wellington Host Group Hutt Valley	11/02	12/02	05/10	05/03	14/10	Colleen Wright Chris Futter Sian BissonPam Harwood
7	Gisborne, Napier, Hastings. Host Group Napier	25/02	26/02	13/11	14/11	27/02	Colleen Wright Chris Futter- Jenny Nicol
8	Golden Bay, Marlborough, Motueka, Richmond, Whakatu Host Group Marlborough	23/08	09/10	10/10	24/08	08/04	Roslien Wilkes Pam Harwood Vicky Melville
9	Christchurch, Geraldine, Mid Canterbury, Timaru, North Otago, North Canterbury, Westwood Stables, Sandow, West Coast. Host Group Christchurch	20/03	19/03	16/10	05/10	06/10	Jenny Nicol Effie Deans Vicky Melville
10	Central Otago, Clutha, Dunedin, Eastern Southland, Southland, Waikouaiti, Northern Southland, Wanaka.	30/10	20/11 Host Dunedin	21/11 Host Dunedin	05/03 Host Southland	31/10	Maxine Hooper Effie Deans Vicky Melville



Plan for a Disaster

RDA Groups should be aware the actions you take before, during and after a natural or man made disaster could save your horse's lives. With the flooding and Earthquakes, I thought it was a timely reminder to reprint one of our update articles.

Make a plan before a disaster occurs

- What type of disasters could occur in your area? Some disasters to consider are floods, earthquakes or severe weather conditions, environmental and hazardous material spills. Floods are a common natural disaster that our RDA Groups could face as some of our Groups are located on flood prone land.
- Develop a plan to deal with each type.



Make sure everyone understands the plan.

Survey your RDA to find the best location to confine your horses.

Check for alternative water and power sources.

Do you need to evacuate your horses from the RDA grounds, find out about alternative locations and how you get there? Know the evacuation route. Make arrangements in advance with the owners and contact them before relocating the horses.

Keep good records for identifying each horse, and keep this information with your important records.

Be sure your horse's vaccination and medical records are up to date. Have documentation of any special requirements needed for each horse (medication, feed etc).

You may even have to consider which horse/s will be saved if all cannot be saved.

Prepare an Emergency Kit

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| ◆ Plastic rubbish bin (large) | ◆ Sharpe Knife |
| ◆ Water buckets | ◆ Wire Cutters |
| ◆ Leg bandages | ◆ Bolt Cutters |
| ◆ Halters and leads | ◆ Extra clothing for both horses and humans |
| ◆ First aid kit | ◆ Shovel, axe |
| ◆ Portable radio and batteries | ◆ Leather gloves |
| ◆ Torch | |



Arrange horse floats and horse trucks to be available and ensure all horses are trained to load and float.

Have enough fresh water and feed available for 2- 3 days.

You will also need to consider, does your insurance cover facilities and horses in the event of such disaster

At the time of the disaster, plan who and how they can be contacted for help.

Take the horse records with you.

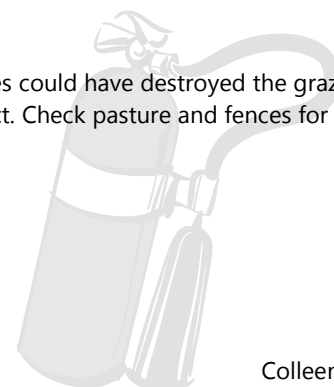
After the disaster, how are the horses to be returned.

Assess the condition of the RDA as to when the horses can return. Floods and earthquakes could have destroyed the grazing and fencing. There may be inadequate grazing left. Check fences to be sure they are intact. Check pasture and fences for sharp objects and beware of fallen trees, power lines and debris.

Handle the horses with extreme caution as they may be frightened.

Check the state and health of each horse in consultation with your veterinarian.

Be aware that security measures may need to be taken to protect the assets.



Colleen Wright



NZRDA National Training Seminar 2011 "Walking the Talk"

Friday 20 May -Day One

Napier War Memorial Conference Centre

- 12:00 pm Registrations
- 1:00 pm Welcome and Housekeeping
Amanda Paige, President of Napier Group RDA
Joy Durrant, Chair NZRDA
- 1:15 pm Keynote Speaker - Kevin Hanson
- 2:00 pm Guest Presenter One - Anne Barrer (Med. BA. Dip teaching. Dip Tert teaching), "Walking the Talk"
- 3:00 pm Afternoon Tea
- 3:30 pm Guest Speaker Two - Rachael Stratton (BvSc lecture in animal behaviours), Equine Learning.
- 4:30 pm Guest Speaker Three -Kath Palmer (BEd MEd Psychology, P.G Dip Educational psychology), Assessment for Special Needs.
- 5:30 pm Finish

Saturday 21 May -Day Two

Napier Group RDA

- 9:00 am Housekeeping including Health and Safety
- 9:15 am Workshops 1 –3
Kath Palmer, Anne Barrer, Gary Winchombe (Equine Dentist)
- 10:45 am Morning Tea
- 11:15 am Workshops 4 –6
Kath Palmer, Anne Barrer, Gary Winchombe
- 12:45 pm Lunch
- 1:45 pm Workshop, Dot to Dot -Yvonne Hooper
- 3:15 pm Afternoon Tea
- 3:45 pm Presentation
- 5:00 pm Finish
- 7:00 pm NZRDA Annual Dinner (Art Deco Theme) and Presentation of Awards at Napier War Memorial Conference Centre.
- 12:00 am Evening Ends



Sunday 22 May – Day Three

Napier War Memorial Conference Centre

- 9:00 am Housekeeping and Group Projects
- 10:00am NZRDA Open Forum
- 11:00 am Morning Tea
- 11:30 am NZRDA Annual General Meeting
- 12:30 pm Closing words and Lunch
- 1:30 pm RDA attendees depart

Note program may be subject to change.

Websites we Love...



<http://www.closedforgood.org/>

<http://www.rda.org.au/readmore-floods.aspx>

Bad Joke Corner....



Did you hear about the walnuts that went on holiday?

They had a cracking good time

Last words...

The air of heaven is that which blows between a horse's ears.

~ Unknown

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