



Rueben, Harry and Pio in the snow at Hutt Valley RDA

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From NZRDA

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*Snow in Christchurch
August 2011*



*Whakatane Group RDA
enjoying a river walk in the
lovely weather.*



From NZRDA

As I sit down to write this letter I am aware that today (August 22nd) marks six months since the devastating earthquake in Canterbury, after six months our friends and relations are rebuilding their lives having endured continual earthquakes and a hard winter. Frequently across social media the phrase "Kia Kaha Canterbury" has been used to demonstrate our support for you all. I know that all of us across NZ have not forgotten you and your quiet determination to comeback and rise from this disaster.

This future focus is relevant, albeit in a much smaller way, for us in RDA. Next year will represent 50 years of Riding for the Disabled in New Zealand. NZRDA will be marking this event with a Gala Dinner as well as workshops (both horsey and administrative) and we want you all involved. We understand the pressures to do so but we would like a representative from each RDA Group to attend. You should be there, this is your event and you have made the last 50 years the success that it has been.

In 2005, we published the first RDA Update to Groups, now over six and a half years on it is getting a facelift. After reviewing the content, we are giving some areas a little "lipo", trimming away the fat and botoxing the face, to make us look brighter. There will be more changes to come and even these current changes may not last.

NZRDA is working together with Board Member Belinda Jackson and Mission Hall to create a new branding strategy for RDA, which will identify us more clearly and consistently in NZ.

This month we officially welcome two new co-opted Board Members to NZRDA (see page two) and in late September the "new-boys" will be coming to Wellington to visit the two RDA Groups here and learn about what the NZRDA office does, especially with training. We are pleased to welcome Gavin and Stephen to the RDA family.

The current focus for the Board is the development of the new Strategic Plan and we hope to have the second draft for you in early October. The Board is also reviewing the Rules for NZRDA to prepare remits for the NZRDA Annual General Meeting. Once these are finalised they will be sent to you to consider and comment upon.

On a personal note I would like to offer our congratulations to Louise and Cam on their engagement and the announcement of the impending arrival of a new addition to their family. Louise will be on maternity leave from NZRDA from January of 2012.



Whangarei Group RDA

I thought I would share an observation I have made over the 3 years I have been Office Manager here at Whangarei RDA. When I started here we were Whangarei Riding Therapy Centre and during the first year we changed our name to Whangarei RDA and became affiliated to NZRDA. I go out and about a lot talking to businesses, groups and the public looking for donations, sponsorship etc and found the change in peoples attitudes very interesting. I have noticed that as RDA people recognise what we do, they don't always understand how we do it, but they do understand what we do. While we were Riding Therapy Centre people seemed to think we were a private riding club who helped a few people with disabilities. As RDA we are recognised as a charity people feel good helping and donating to. It is interesting, to me, that the public has been far more interested in giving, coming up here to have a look and to even become volunteers since we have been RDA. Since our changeover I have asked many people if they thought there was a difference and most of them have put into words my observations. The letters RDA certainly make people feel warm and fuzzy inside when they give to us. We have always invited the public up here to have a look at our Centre and I have been amazed how many locals, some of whom have lived here all their lives thought we had 1 horse and 4 riders per week. They are all amazed when they come and have a cup of tea and have a look at our facilities. I have found this very interesting and wanted to share these observations with you.

Sue Neilson,
Office Manager



Taupo Group RDA in the snow

NZRDA is pleased to welcome two new members of the RDA Board

Gavin Whiting

I have been fascinated by the horse for many years in terms of what they can teach us physically, emotionally, and spiritually. While my personal interests include horse trekking and horsemanship generally, I have also used the horse as a tool to assist with leadership and team development training, and observed them in reality therapy with pre-teenage youths yielding remarkable results. Horses have much to offer us, so the opportunity to work with NZRDA is very special for me.

My career background originated in land surveying, although has largely been spent in the corporate



world for the past 20 years in a variety of senior management roles, excepting when I spent 5 years as a business coach working with small companies.

Whatever the environment, I have found that people want to be listened to, to make a contribution, to be clear about the organisation's direction, and to know what the boundaries are. Gosh - just like what horses want!

Although I have lived in Auckland, I have spent most of my life in the South Island and describe myself as a Southerner. My partner Viv and I own a small block just north of Christchurch.

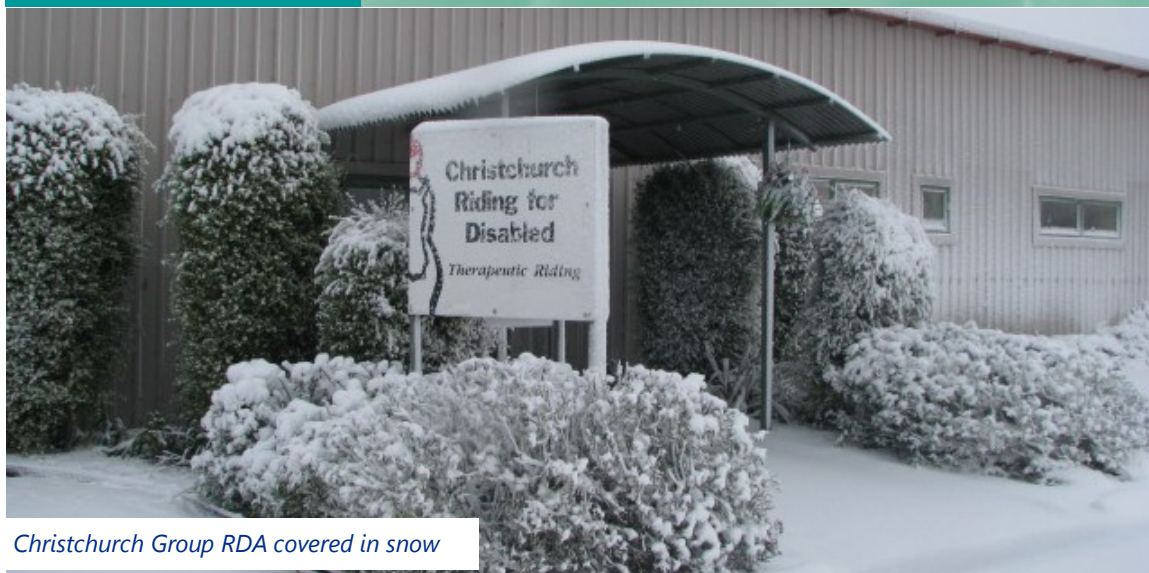
Stephen James

The eldest of my 4 children, Daniel (now 26), has been severely disabled from birth and, in previous years, has been a grateful beneficiary of RDA's programme. When I saw the opportunity to give a little back to the organisation through volunteering as an NZRDA board member I jumped at the chance and have been fortunate to be offered the role. For most of my career I have been involved in the corporate world, working in many places around the world and holding several governance positions.



More recently, I have chosen to take on some new challenges and now own a sheep and beef farm in the Waikato (believe me, this is challenging!). I was also appointed as a voluntary director to the board of Triathlon New Zealand, where I assisted for 3 years (2007 – 2010) and became chairman of the Audit and Risk Committee. I am a member of the NZ Institute of Directors.

In my spare time, I like to keep fit and have completed several multi-sport events and run a few marathons. I also have an interest in classic cars.



Christchurch Group RDA covered in snow

Individual Education Plan (IEP)

The Individual Education Programme (also known as an Individual Education Plan) is a programme developed for students with special education needs. It outlines the student's goals and the time in which those goals should be achieved. The programme also describes the teaching strategies, resources, monitoring and support, and the evaluation required to enable the student to meet those goals.

This programme is developed in a meeting between parents/caregivers, the child's teacher, the child (if they wish to attend) and specialists as appropriate. The aim is to identify current strengths, to set short and long term goals together for the child, and record their learning progress. It is also to identify:

- teaching practices that will help the child learn
- changes that need to be made to the way the curriculum is taught for that child, and to the resources and materials required
- any additional or specialised equipment the child needs
- the best way to provide personal care, where required
- how parents/caregivers and families/whānau can support the learning programme at home
- timeframes, responsibilities and ways to monitor and evaluate a child's progress towards reaching goals

IEPs are not just for students funded through the On-going and Reviewable Resourcing Scheme (ORRS). Students who need an IEP include students with a disability, learning difficulty or behaviour difficulty who requires any or all of the following:

- extra assistance
- adapted programmes or learning environments
- specialised equipment or materials

TTEAM Training with Trisha Wren

TTouches and Ground Work Clinic
Saturday September 24th (9am – 4pm)
Hastings Group Riding for the Disabled
Phone: 06 876 9498
Email: hastingsrda@clear.net.nz

In November 2009 Trisha qualified as New Zealand's first and only Tellington TTouch Equine Practitioner.

What is TTEAM?

The Tellington Touch Equine Awareness Method (TTEAM) is a teaching method for horses that incorporates body work (TTOUCH), ground exercises and riding exercises, to help improve co-ordination, balance and athletic ability whilst deepening further communication and understanding between the horse and its owner. For anybody who has read the Barbara Engel books *Therapeutic Riding Strategies* you will know NARHA value TTeam as a horse training method. Developed by Linda Tellington-Jones, TTEAM is used widely in many countries across the world by Olympic dressage riders, pleasure and endurance riders, trainers, veterinarians, therapists and horse owners. TTEAM techniques gently guide the horse through non-habitual exercises that can alter existing habitual patterns. As posture affects behaviour, many owners note that unwanted behaviour diminishes as the horse's posture improves. TTEAM teaches the horse to act, rather than simply re-act, and blends well with many other modalities and training methods (particularly Connected Riding!). It is not necessary to adopt the whole TTEAM philosophy in order to make a difference to a horse. Learning just a few of the simple body TTouches and movements can help make a difference to a horse's life. **www.ttouch.com**

We have places available for 4 Owners & Horses at a cost of \$100, you can also attend as an Auditor at \$20 per person – some hands on experience may be possible.

On the Hunt

We are looking for RDA's longest serving member, either paid or voluntary. We have identified at least one member of our organisation that has had at least 25 years uninterrupted service and we are looking for the names of all of those people who have been involved for 25 years or longer. This member could even have started as a rider, moved to being a volunteer and is now Coach, President or continues in the role that they first started in. So who are these champions of RDA. We would like to know your names...

Please email:
admin@rda.org.nz

Resource Manual

October should see the new edition of the NZRDA Policies, Procedures and Resources Manual. This will replace your existing manual.

RDA Directory

Look out for the form to complete to be included in the RDA telephone directory. This directory enables you to be directly in contact with all other RDA Groups in NZ.

Napier Dressage Competition

Sunday 13th November 2011. For enquiries or entry forms please email or phone napierrda@xtra.co.nz 06 834 0556

Thank you to
our sponsors..





Christchurch Group RDA

Despite extreme weather conditions resulting in the cancellation of riding for disabled sessions in Christchurch from August 15th – 19th, the centre was well utilised by rugby teams requiring an indoor training venue. Of particular interest, and causing great excitement for the office staff, was the Canterbury Rugby team as seen pictured here.

The team spent the morning at the Centre preparing for their clash versus Taranaki against whom they had a convincing win!

On-going Resourcing Scheme (ORS)

April 2011

The On-going and Reviewable Resourcing Schemes (ORRS) have been changed to the On-going Resourcing Scheme (ORS) – the Reviewable Scheme no longer exists. Children who were in the Reviewable Scheme at the start of the 2011 school year have been moved to ORS. Children who receive ORS will continue to receive this support for as long as they are at school.

The On-going Resourcing Scheme (ORS) provide resources for a very small group of school students throughout New Zealand who have the highest need for special education. Most of these students have this level of need throughout their school years.

The ORS is additional to staffing allocations and operational grants paid to schools for every student in New Zealand. The scheme's resources are primarily to provide specialist assistance to meet students' special education needs.

Any student who meets the criteria is included in one of the schemes. About 7,000 students receive this assistance at any one time.

Eligibility

Students are eligible when they meet at least one of nine criteria.

To meet the criteria they must have significant educational needs that arise from either extreme or severe difficulty with any of the following:

- learning
 - hearing
 - vision
 - mobility
 - language use and social communication,
- or moderate to high difficulty with learning** combined with any two of:

- hearing
- vision
- mobility
- language use and social communication

Some students require intervention from specialists and specialist teachers to adapt the content of the New Zealand Curriculum because of their rate and/or style of learning.

Other students only gain access to the curriculum through having equipment/technology (e.g. hearing aids) and/or specialised teaching strategies (e.g. signing).

A few students require an adapted curriculum, equipment, technology and special teaching strategies.

Training Courses

Therapist Course

Christchurch Group RDA

14 and 15 October 2011

Facilitator: Vicky Melville

Communication Course

Wairarapa Group RDA

Tuesday 13 September 2011

Facilitator: Colleen Wright

Unit 1, Lakeside Centre
Discovery Drive
PO Box 58 110
Whitby
Porirua 5245

Phone: 04 234 6090
04 234 6091
0800 4 NZRDA



**New Zealand Riding for the Disabled
Association Inc.**