

Totara Park RDA

Report for Website News

Report on Royal Ribbon Day for our Totara Park riders and volunteers

On Wednesday, 12th July 2006 some of our riders and a lot of our volunteers were given the opportunity of a life time. They were able to meet and talk to Her Royal Highness, Princess Anne as well as participate in a Ribbon Day.

HRH is the Patron of New Zealand Riding for the Disabled and, during a short stay in New Zealand; she attended a Ribbon Day which was held by Auckland RDA Groups in conjunction with New Zealand Riding for the Disabled.

The event was held at Ambury Park Centre for Riding Therapy which is one of the seven affiliated RDA Groups in Auckland. The purpose of the Ribbon Day was to identify riders and provide them with an opportunity to experience sport riding and competition. There were riders from all seven groups and some of the them were Special Olympians who received extra ribbons. This will enable them to qualify for future SO events. The riders who attended from Totara Park were: Carlton James, Rod Stent, Maila Sa'u, Hemi Pele-Toalepai, Amandeep Rani and Sarah Jones. They participated in three competitions: a Working Trail, a barrel race and Equitation. They all did really well and wen home with ribbons – as well as a unique celebration rosette which was given to them by Princess Anne.

The Princess Royal watched a demonstration on riding therapy – which included one of our riders, Jan Whimp. This presentation was able to show how the horse's movement can influence the rider's body – and improve the function of posture, balance and muscle strength.

All the Groups worked really hard to make the day special for our riders. Totara Park RDA took 7 horses to be used by our own riders as well as riders from other RDA groups which do not own their own horses. 'Thank you' to Majestic Horse Floats Ltd who transported the horses to and from the venue for free.

The lead up to and the actual day involved a huge amount of work for all our leaders, sidewalkers, instructors and therapist. The whole day was coordinated by a team of people who worked together to produce a fantastic show. It was definitely a team effort and proved to be an outstanding day for all.

Even Her Royal Highness was impressed and made everybody's day by walking into the arena and meeting all the riders, volunteers and horses. She was able to talk to each rider and was obviously very interested in what they were achieving.

All in all – a very special day for everyone at Totara Park RDA.