

The Committee

The committee meet regularly and make the necessary decisions that need to be made, such as important issues of riders, horses, and what to do when we are rained off!! And also any coming fun events, we will keep you posted. We also have sub committees for both fundraising and for our ponies. So thank you to all who give of their time to help us out in these areas too, who are not mentioned below.

Below is a list of the committee members:

President -	Jill Stevenson
Vice President/Fundraising -	Rachel Groenestein
Treasurer -	Bill Clarkson
Financial Advisor -	Jeanne Clare
Secretary/ Privacy Officer-	Jo Price
Health & Safety Officer -	Carole Sanders
Horse Manager -	Elizabeth Roberts
Rep -Fundraising/Therapist -	Anne Chamberlin
Rep - Horses & Ponies -	Margaret Hansen
Rep - Riders -	Barbara Pritchard
NZRDA Spokesperson-	Cilla Bell
Fundraising Assistant -	Kim Rossiter

Sorry to Jeanne & Kim who were left off last months list, it was a deliberate error to see who is reading their newsletters from the committee!

Cancellations If we need to cancel a Rally, we have been using the email system that has been working really well. So please remember to let us know if you change your email address.

Web site www.totarparkrda.org.nz Check us out!

Or you can use our alternative address that has recently been developed. This is www.tprda.org.nz



NEWSLETTER

June 2009

Our News Jill is on the mend, slowly but surely. During her recovery we ask that while you think of her, please give her and her family the time and privacy they would appreciate.

Clothing This is now being handled by Rachel our Vice President. So if you wish to place an order please get in touch with her, you will see her at TPEC for our Monday rallies.

Volunteers While some were away last month at conference, they found out who the RDA Volunteer of the year was. This year it goes to no other than our one and only Bill Clarkson. Well done Bill, you deserve to be noticed for all that you do for us, we are lucky to have someone like you with our group. I am sure it was a great day having the Mayor of Manukau Len Brown come out and present you with your award. This month sees another 60th birthday, again without mentioning any names, I hope you have a great birthday, you know who you are. Also we have had to say a "good bye" this month to Belinda Thompson, she has been with us for a while now, but has been offered a job she couldn't resist. Good luck to you Belinda. We have got a few new volunteers this month too, it is a great pleasure to welcome you to TPRDA. Please make our new volunteers feel welcome.

Reminders ...

PLEASE make sure you ring **Anne (Mondays) or Hana (Thursdays)** before 7.45am or, if after 8.30am - the **Clubroom 262 0426** if you are unable to come to the Rally. This is due to Jill being away at the moment and Cilla having a holiday this month.

Health and Safety With winter finally upon us, we are finding that there are a few more bugs around than we have been experiencing, so we ask that you stay home if you are unwell. Also if you have another injury which may interfere with you ability to lead or sidewalk as you usually do during our rallies, then please let the instructor of the ride know well in advance so that we can put you in a position that suits you best.

Also just prior to me sending this out, we have received from NZRDA the Health and Safety Handbook for 2009, so please see our health and safety officer (Carole Sanders) to read this booklet. We are all meant to read it.

Our Exquisite Equine

Ever wondered what our horses think of our rides? Well I have, so I decided to investigate the matter further. I went out into the paddocks after a rally one day, and listened to the conversations the horses had with one another.

Tobi was telling her friends how she was refusing to walk on, and the leaders and side walkers didn't know why. It turns out, she was telling her paddock mates, that she was on strike until she gets an indoor arena, that is heated! (Best we get on with that arena I say).

Next I went over to see Windy, she was so happy to be back from her R&R, she is so excited to be ridden again by the kids, that she almost burst her sides with excitement, (or maybe it was wind! Hence the name!!!!)

Shay was too busy running around with the wind in her mane for me to catch what she was telling the non- RDA horses about her day. Well enough of the mares I thought so off I went to the "boys" paddock.

Hamlet was busy sunning himself, trying to get the last of the days warmth, before another cold night, where he was hoping to dream of riding in an indoor arena, or at least being housed in warm stables (Hmm seems to be a theme here).

Hershey must have eaten some bad grass, as he was talking about strange objects floating in front of him (then I realised that no he was quite right, it was the bubble mixture we had used earlier).

Shorty was telling the others about going for a really long walk up and down the paddocks, and what he saw along the way, and how his rider was chatting away so much, but that not one of the side walkers noticed as they were too busy talking to each other!

Klyde, well he was saying how he just adores doing his job, caring for the riders and also the volunteers. Klyde has had to go and "growl" some of the horses for "playing up" during rides. Klyde is really the Horses Rep- for the Committee. He keeps all the horses in toe, or should that be hoof!

Finally Danny Boy – well what can I say about his day? He has been so busy walking through the paddocks trying to keep up with the "big" horses, but he was saying he doesn't mind one bit, he just wishes he could have a new friend, seeing as Jerry has had to retire.

So to sum it up, we need more horses, money for the indoor arena (and stables), and no talking amongst side walkers. Imagine if the horses all started to talk to each other during a ride, how hard would it be for us to concentrate? I bet it's not

much different for them or our riders either, so please keep the chatting to morning tea and after the rally.

Training



Training is on going, and thank you to all those people who have responded to my last request for those interested in training in autism. I will keep you posted. If you are interested in learning about anything in particular please feel free to chat to Cilia (when she's back) or you can email Jo horsemad3@xtra.co.nz. I am sure more leading training will be happening in the future, above is a photo of one of our future volunteers in training with Ringo, under the guidance of our horse manager Elizabeth. Zavannah is only 8 years old, so if you ask me (and yes I may be biased as she's my daughter) but if she can do it, I am sure you could too.

Thoughts of the month

With Swine flu around, I asked Klyde what he'd like for a cough and cold he suggested "Cough Stirrup".

Other bits and pieces

If you are interested in a really good book, then you should try and get your hands on a book called "The Horse Boy", it is written by a father who's son has autism, and what lengths he went to, to help his son. Written by Rupert Isaacson. Here is just a snippet "... research had shown that any repetitive rocking motion that requires the person to continually find and refined his balance stimulates the areas of the brain where the learning receptors are located..."

As I said this is just a snippet but one of my favourite bits for now at least, I've not finished the book as yet.