

## THE COMMITTEE

The committee meet twice a term 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.

Below is a list of the committee members:

President –	Jill Stevenson
VP/Rep – Instructor-	Jenny Fegan
Treasurer -	Bill Clarkson
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
Instructor -	Cilla Bell
Photographer -	John McKillop

These names may be changing soon as our AGM is coming up on Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> March 7:30pm, at Totara Park Equestrian Centre. If you would like to be on the committee please come and let us know, we will hopefully see you then.

### Reminders ...

PLEASE make sure you ring **Jill – (Mondays) or Cilla – (Thursdays)** before 7.45am or, if after 8.30am - the **Clubroom 262 0426** if you are unable to come to the Rally.

**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.totaraparkrda.org.nz](http://www.totaraparkrda.org.nz) Check us out!

Or you can use our alternative address that has recently been developed.

This is [www.tprda.org.nz](http://www.tprda.org.nz)



## NEWSLETTER

### March 2009

**Our News** – Boy oh boy has it been busy lately, and it looks like it is going to get busier. Firstly a big thank you to those who helped at the Symphony in the Park the other weekend, selling ice creams. A great time was had by all, well maybe by some more than others (Rachel & Jo)!!! The Poly Fest coming up on the 18-

21<sup>st</sup> March, so please can you let Cilla know if you can help with this event. The money we make from these events is very useful, so the more help we have hopefully the more we sell, then the more we make!

Did you know that Round the Bays is happening on 15<sup>th</sup> March and Linda and Jo are thinking of getting a group of us to WALK the bays. It would be a way of getting our name out there, and hopefully some more donations. So if you are keen on joining us on our walk please can you see Linda (Mondays) or Jo (Thursdays). Before you panic, it is only a short 8.4kms, that's not a lot at all. If you are interested please let us know this week so we can organise registration. Adults \$15 & Children under 16 years \$10.

We are getting a few things up and running at the moment, such as email addresses for our riders, so as to make things easier for our treasurers, who will now be emailing out accounts where possible. Thanks to Jeanne for getting this off the ground.

**Clothing** – Please remember to get your orders in to Jill as soon as possible for the clothes you want so that we can get the order in and clothes back to you. Jill will have some samples still if you want to try something on for size. The prices are Hats \$15, Shirts \$30, Vests \$60, Jackets \$50 these are approx costs.

**Volunteers** – Sadly we will be saying good-bye to Jenny Fegan, who has been a great asset to RDA during her time with us. We will all miss you, and wish you well with your new path.

The use of cell phones when you are with a rider is a big “no-no”. So please be aware that unless it is an emergency, and your phone is in your pocket on silent, do not answer your phone. It is not just a distraction to the rider, but to you as well, and can result in an accident. A big thank you to the volunteers who have been filling in the rider assessment forms for us, they are helping the instructors to set up an appropriate programme for all the riders. Remember that you can write what you like on these forms as they will be thrown away once they have been used for planning purposes.

While on the subject of forms, please remember to fill in the “Comment sheet” in the riders file at the end of each ride. This is a great guide for us to see how the rider is going, and also if you are the usual side walker and are away, then the person who is taking your place for a day can read all about the rider and have an insight into what to expect.

Finally a huge thank you to each and every one of you for being so patient with the chaos lately with new riders and unfilled vacancies for volunteers. All is now on task with our full complement of riders, that being 40 of them in all. (8 riders over 5 rides, 3 Monday and 2 Thursday). So that is a lot of help that is needed.

**Health and Safety** – you may have noticed when you arrive at RDA that on the gate is a sign about the bait and traps they have laid, I’m guessing for the rabbit situation we have. So a word of warning, be careful. Speaking of rabbits, they dig lovely holes in the ground, so while walking in the paddocks with the riders be careful that you the horse and rider do not fall into anything you would rather not.

**Our Exquisite Equine**- Danny Boy was telling me recently how he really is enjoying being one of our leased ponies. He has a family who come and visit him regularly, and who have now got him involved with pony club. He is doing rather well I hear. The family consists of 3 girls, all of whom enjoy spending time with Danny. He is one very lucky pony.

While on the subject of horses, I’d like to thank each and every person who comes up and cares for our horses when RDA is not on, you know who you are. You come and groom, feed, move, and love them, and I know they really appreciate it too.

**Training** – have you completed your initial volunteers training day? If not then please can you let us know so we can organise this for you. However if you have completed this course and would like to continue with further training, then please can you talk to Cilla and let her know what you would like to do. There are some wonderful opportunities to continue your education and gain a deeper understanding of “Things RDA” with this training.

**Other bits and pieces** – I have a few messages this time.

Cilla would really like to have more of your **unwanted newspapers**, preferably the herald, or similar, as now that her puppies are growing they are using more paper. Need I say more!

If you are interested in looking at an **AVON** Catalogue, then please feel free to check out the one left by the phone, if it is not there you can talk to Rachael on a Monday or Jo on a Thursday. One of them will, I am sure, be able to help you.

**Girl Guide biscuits.** Yummy yummy yummy! It is that time of the year again, when you will see all the children from Guides out and about selling their biscuits, however, we do not need to go far! Adele who is a Thursday Volunteer has these lovely biscuits in supply, so if you would like some biscuits, please can you let Adele know what you are after.

If you have anything that you would like me to mention in the coming newsletters please contact me.

Thanks Jo.

**Thoughts of the month** - No one can teach riding as well as a horse. The hardest thing to do on a horse is nothing at all. Life without horses is possible but pointless.