

## 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.

Below is a list of the committee members:

President -	Jill Stevenson
Vice President -	Rachel Groenestein
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

## 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.

**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.totraparkrda.org.nz](http://www.totraparkrda.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

May 2009

**Our News** Finally the AGM has passed, and we have now had our first official Committee meeting with the “new” members. This went well, and there will be some new things happening, so we will keep you posted.

Jill is recovering from her stay in hospital, our thoughts are with her during this time, while she is trying to get back on her feet again. We look forward to having you back, Get Well Soon.

**Clothing** we have had our next instalment of clothing arrive, however more orders are going in shortly for jackets. These are “Shower” proof, as we are sure we will cancel if it rains, therefore they do not need to be rain proof! So if you are interested in any clothing then please hold off putting orders in at this stage as Jill is unable to take them and we are sorting out her replacement.

**Volunteers** This month one of our volunteers turns 60 and another 70, no names will be mentioned, but happy birthday to you both from us all. A reminder that 2009 subs are due by June. Please bring \$2.00 to Rally day and deposit in the money tin. Remember to sign your name on the sheet as receipt of payment. Thankyou to all who have paid.

Other news for the volunteers is that we need your help, be it in a big or small way, we still need your help, and this is to do with fundraising. Our newly appointed vice president Rachel has taken on another role, this being to over see the fundraising committee. You may have got my email about it the other week. If not then feel free to email her or see her on a Monday rally.

The next thing we want to do is get a group together who are interested in learning more about Autism. So if you are interested then please email Jo, your details so that we can try and arrange sending you on appropriate courses.

Welcome to our new volunteers, we hope you enjoy the time you spend out here, working with our riders, volunteers, and horses.

**Health and Safety** Just a reminder to take care on the wet and slippery deck, and also a reminder that there is sun block available for your use, this can usually be found on the table, yes even in the middle of winter. Along side it there will also be available hand sanitiser, this is something that you can use to cleanse your hands after dealing with some of our riders, especially those who have any “nasties” you do not need, (such as the flu).

**Our Exquisite Equine** Sadly we had to say good-bye to Bonnie. She has gone back to her previous owners, even though she was a great horse for our riders, her health and well being had to be taken into consideration, and it was decided that it would be to her benefit to be “stood down” from active RDA duties. Bonnie was a wonderful horse to work with, who will, I am sure be missed by both riders and volunteers.

Also Jerry is off site at the moment, he is residing with one of our volunteers at present, who will I am sure keep us posted about his health.

On a happier note however, Windy is back from her “R&R”, where she was able to have a lot of time to recoup and rest, she seems to be back in full force.

Windy is an exceptional RDA pony, you should watch how well she copes with the positioning work some of our riders do with her, she is one of a kind, so welcome back Windy.

As winter is drawing closer, we need more help prior to the rides to prepare the horses for our sessions, this takes longer now, as the horses love to give themselves “mud baths” prior to rally days. So please if you could come out a bit earlier to help with getting the horses prepared this would be greatly appreciated.

Danny and Windy are the only two ponies that are not currently being leased. However the Pony Committee has decided to keep it this way for now.

**Training** As I have mentioned in previous newsletters, if you are interested in doing further training, then please talk to Cilla, she will be happy to send you in the right direction. If not the RDA Coaching certificate, then maybe it is that you have a particular interest in Autism, or Down Syndrome, please let us know.

**Thoughts of the month** A horse without a rider is still a horse, a rider without a horse is no longer a rider.

Life is good horses make it better.

## Other bits and pieces



In case you wondered why we come out each week and give of our time, maybe this will show you why. I received this photo from Caleb’s mum, Caleb has been with RDA for a couple of years, he recently began riding independently, on Danny Boy, who he is pictured with. Here Caleb is saluting the “judges” at the clubrooms, after yet another fantastic effort he has put in to his ride for the week. Well done to Caleb, his instructor, side-walkers, and the horse leader, this is just one of the many examples of how RDA can benefit our riders each and every day.