

RDAV

A young child wearing a blue jacket and a green helmet is riding a brown horse. The child has their arms outstretched. Three women are walking alongside the horse, smiling and guiding it. The woman on the left is wearing a dark blue jacket and a white knit hat. The woman in the middle is wearing a dark grey jacket and a grey knit hat. The woman on the right is wearing a dark green jacket. They are in an outdoor riding arena with trees in the background and orange cones on the ground.

BUILDING A STRONG FUTURE

36 CENTRES
200 COACHES
280 HORSES
1100 VOLUNTEERS
1200 PARTICIPANTS
10000 LESSONS

MILLIONS OF MOMENTS



RDAV MISSION

To enable people with disabilities and volunteers throughout Victoria to experience enjoyment, challenge and a sense of achievement through participation in equestrian activities to improve their quality of life, attain personal goals and develop life skills.

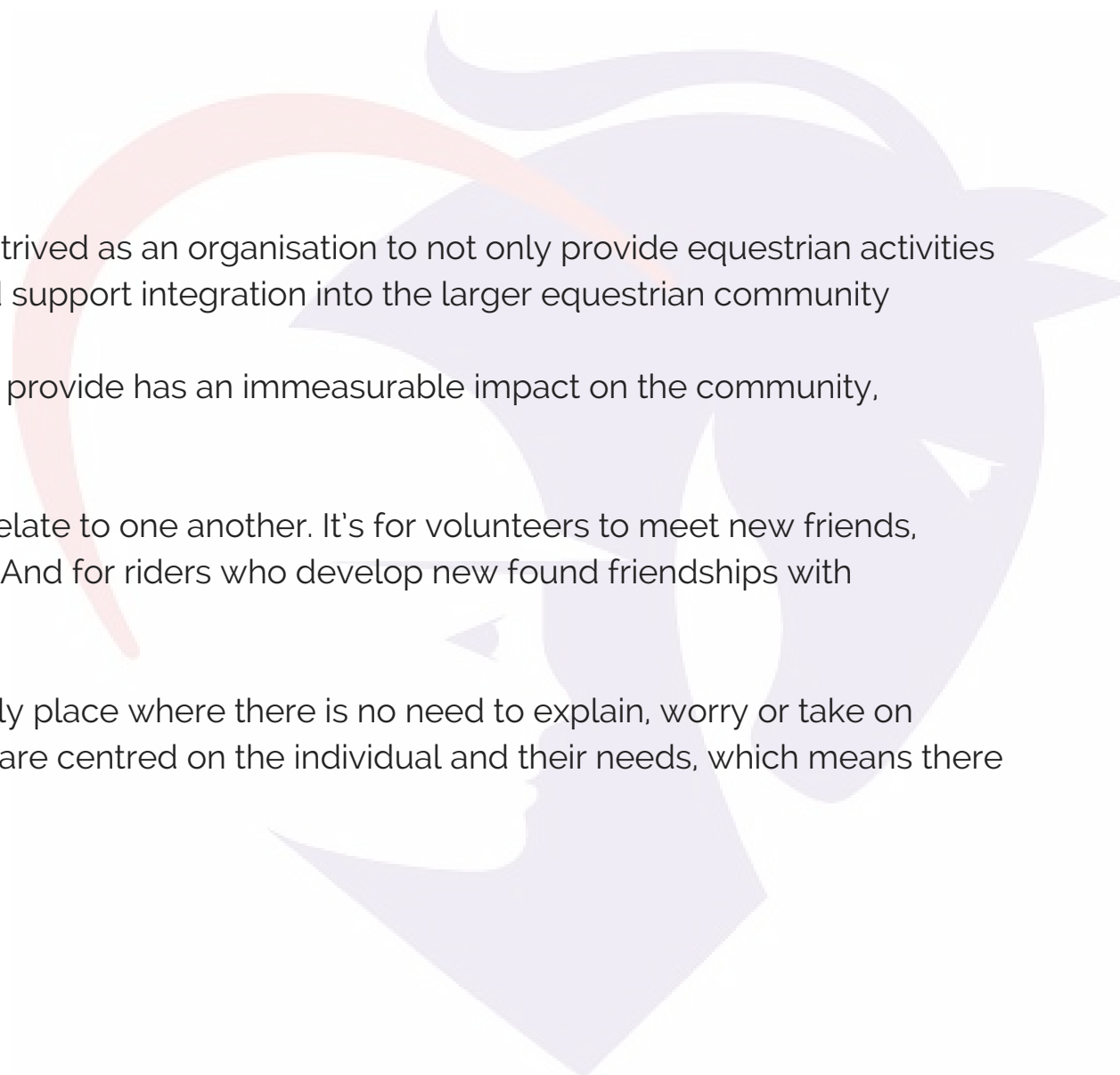
RDAV

Since the inception of RDA in Australia, we have strived as an organisation to not only provide equestrian activities to individuals with a disability, but to promote and support integration into the larger equestrian community through awareness and inclusive activities.

The effect of our organisation and the service we provide has an immeasurable impact on the community, volunteers, parents and most of all, our clients.

An RDA centre is a hub for parents to share and relate to one another. It's for volunteers to meet new friends, partake in physical activity and join a community. And for riders who develop new found friendships with both other participants and their horses.

For some of our riders and parents, RDA is the only place where there is no need to explain, worry or take on questioning looks from strangers. RDA programs are centred on the individual and their needs, which means there is a benefit no matter what their goals may be.





4 Decades

THE INSPIRATION

RDA Victoria was founded in 1970 through the pioneering efforts of Michael Field, Wendy Maplestone A.M. and Betty Wood. Michael brought the idea with him from England, where RDA was already well established. Victoria was the third Australian state to establish Riding for the Disabled, after Queensland (1964) and South Australia (1970).

The original inspiration for the RDA movement was the Danish dressage rider Elizabeth Hartel. She won a silver medal in the 1952 Olympics in Helsinki, despite a disability from polio contracted in 1940, forcing her to use a wheelchair. Her achievement caused a change in attitude internationally towards people with disabilities, to focus on ability and achievement.



1970-79: GRASSROOTS BEGINING

The first ten years of RDA in Victoria were marked with expansion. Meetings were called, helping hands were found and by the end of the decade 19 RDA Centres were formed

1980-89: WORKING TOGETHER

National and State bodies were formed so knowledge and resources could be shared and work together for the benefit of RDA.

1990-99: PROGRAM EXPANSION

RDA activities were expanded in the 90's with the development of a Carriage Driving, Vaulting and Therapeutic programs.

2000-10: RESEARCH AND INCLUSION

The Royal Children's Hospital Project commenced, a study on the therapeutic effect of horse riding for young riders with cerebral palsy. Adaptive Riding Manual was completed for use in Pony Club



Foundation for growth

2010 - 2016

From new OH&S laws to Child Protection standards and the formation of the Australian Charity & Not -For-Profit Commission, the past 5 years has seen major changes in the charity sector. RDAV has been at the forefront of these changes, ensuring the safety of volunteers and participants.

Developments in training and policies and procedures to improve governance have been the driving force of these changes, giving our centres and volunteers the foundation and tools to create a safe and accommodating environment.

Future of RDAV

RDAV's focus in the coming 5 years is to build the capacity of our 36 centres, facilitate growth and address the considerable waiting list in the high demand areas. There are 292 individuals on the RDAV waiting list for our current program. The estimated waiting period is 6 months to 3 years; however for the most popular days and locations, the wait list can be up to 4 years.

By focusing on our current centres' capacity for growth, we will be using the resources of existing facilities and volunteers, with their sizable knowledge, to provide our program to more individuals with a disability.

Centres with potential for expansion will be identified and an in-depth profile will be developed to examine their community, and to ascertain what resources will be required in order to assist growth. RDAV will then assist the Centre to obtain these needed resources.

The desired outcome will be an increase in 1) volunteers 2) volunteers undergoing coach training and 3) horses. Once a foundation is built to sustain growth, the centres will be able to offer their program on more days and times and therefore increase participation.

In conjunction with capacity building, RDAV's emphasis on governance, promotion, partnership and program development will aid the centres in attracting more volunteers as well as clients, when there is no waiting list.

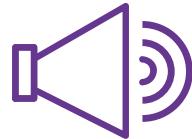


Program Development



Growth

THE FOCUS



Awareness



Partnerships



Growth

Increase access for people with a disability

1. Information Gathering

Data collection and brain storming sessions will create a clear picture of the centre's need to build their capacity.

2. Development of resources

Resources, training, promotion and fundraising through the identified need areas will be developed.

3. Campaign development

Develop campaigns to drive the increase in horse stocks, volunteers, coaches and other elements for growth.



Program Development

Provide high quality, accessible services and programs to ensure that the horse related recreational, sporting and therapeutic aspirations of riders with a disability are met.

1. Training

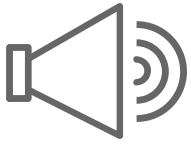
Further develop coaching and volunteer skills through national, regional and centre training.

2. Program Diversity

Increase in the diversity of programs available at centres (Carriage Driving, Vaulting and un-mounted programs).

3. Competition and State Squad

Further development of competition pathways and specialised participant training.



Awareness

To strengthen the RDAV brand throughout the Association, develop and enhance our brand profile in the community.

1. Local

Increase awareness of RDA centres to drive community support through financial and volunteer means to increase participation.

2. State Wide

Awareness to the greater public of the services RDAV offers across Victoria and the importance of the program in the lives of thousands of people with a disability.

3. Aligned sectors organisations

Promote RDAV within sectors and organisations that align with or have commonalities with RDA to secure project partnerships.



Partnerships

To develop closer ties with equestrian related organisations

1. Inclusive equine community

Advocate and work cooperatively with equestrian organisations for an inclusive community for leisure and competitive equestrian streams.

2. Sector development

Collaborate towards the achievement of each organisation's common strategic goals and objectives, such as riding services, coaching development and horse welfare.

3. Sector advancement

Working with both equestrian and disability sports organisations to advocate the importance of our service to the public and government bodies.

INITIATIVES

1

Scholarship

We feel we have a responsibility to make sure families are able to provide their children with RDAV lessons. At times this can be an onerous cost to bear and we feel that families going through hardship are still able to access lessons. The scholarships will be designed to provide support for an individual to undertake a full-year riding program.

2

Development Training

Development Training is provided through our "Regional Workshop Program" which has been established to provide Centers, Committees, Coaches and Volunteers with the tools they need to provide the best possible program. The workshop focus is to improve techniques and governance while bringing together volunteers to share ideas and collaborate.

3

Horse Fund

In order to help grow the centers, remove riders from waiting lists and provide the ongoing service RDAV offers, we have an ongoing responsibility to invest in horses by increasing the number of horses in our centers. This fund will be established in order to aid in purchasing new horses for our centers who need them the most.



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