



**Riding for the Disabled
Association of Victoria**

**2022/2023
Annual Report**



**RDA
VICTORIA**

Our Mission

We strive to ensure that anyone living with disability can benefit from the unique bond between human and horses.

Our Vision

To enrich the lives of people living with disability through horses

Our History

Riding for the Disabled Association of Victoria (RDAV) was founded in 1970 through the pioneering efforts of Michael Field, Wendy Maplestone 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 forcing her to use a wheelchair. Her achievement changed attitudes towards people with disabilities at international levels, inspiring a new focus on ability and achievement.





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SECTION 1 OVERVIEW



About RDA

Riding for the Disabled Association of Victoria (RDAV) has 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 newfound 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.

Our Impact



Volunteers



Coaches

151 registered coaches
plus 54 trainees



**Registered
participants**



**Centres operating
across Victoria**



Registrations



Horses



**Equine
Experiences**

Our People

Patron

The Honourable Linda Dessau A.C., Governor of Victoria (until June 30 2023).

Board members / Trustees

Name	Position	Dates acted (if not for whole year)
Tanya Twaits	President	Term expired 20 November 2022
Wojtek Randla	Secretary	Appointed 23 January 2023 Appointed Secretary 19 April 2023
Jennifer Krawczyk	Secretary	Reelected 20 November 2022 Resigned as Secretary 19 April 2023
Kelly Schulz	Board Member	Appointed 23 January 2023
Gareth Beck	Board Member	Appointed 23 January 2023
Christalyne Look	Board Member	Appointed 23 January 2023
Stacey Murray	Board Member	Appointed 23 January 2023
Sally Francis	Board Member	
Abigail Vidler	Board Member	Reelected 20 November 2022
Di Collins	Board Member	Did not seek re-election 20 November 2022
Andrea Lucas	Board Member	Did not seek re-election 20 November 2022
Angela Cleland	Treasurer	Did not seek re-election 20 November 2022
Taegen Kerley	Board Member	Resigned 11 August 2022
Rachel Taylor	Treasurer	Appointed 23 January 2023, resigned 13 May 2023



Employees

Name	Position
Richard Amon	CEO (from 25 November 2022)
Annette Hatherley	Manager of Operations (from 12 December 2022)
Tara Windhurst	Administration Officer
Andrea Lucas	Interim CEO (until 24 November 2022)
Kathryn Holden	Operations Manager (until 11 December 2022), then Centre Liaison Officer

RDAV Board of Management



Jennifer Krawczyk

As National Integrity Manager for Snow Australia, the Olympic Winter Institute of Australia (OWIA) and the Australian Curling Federation Jen's role focuses implementation, awareness and education relating to Sport Integrity Australia's National Integrity Framework policies including child safeguarding and member protection. In addition, Jen has a part time role as Equine Welfare Consultant for a racehorse microshare syndicate assisting them with transition pathways and traceability of their horses as they retire from racing, and a part-time role coordinating the International Forum for the Aftercare of Racehorses (IFAR) conference. Jen is also Chair of the RDAV's Horse Welfare and Management Committee and volunteers at Bairnsdale RDA.

Prior to this, Jen has 15 years' experience in British and Victorian horseracing regulation in various roles, specialising in developing and implementing practical strategies across integrity and participant welfare.

Jen's professional experience is complemented with a Master's degree in Equine Science, a Master's degree in International Animal Welfare, Ethics and Law, a Micro credential in Applying Behavioural Science to Create Change and a Diploma of Governance.

In her spare time Jen enjoys trail riding and adult riding club activities with her Off The Track (OTT) horses Derby and Star and learning to barefoot trim.



Kelly Schulz

Kelly is the Managing Director of Knowable Me, driving value creation and providing data and insights into the needs and preferences of people with disabilities.

Throughout her career, Kelly has held senior corporate roles in Accessibility and Inclusion, Customer Experience, and Brand and Communications. Kelly holds board roles in disability service provision and is a member of the Technology, Innovation and Value Creation Committee of Swinburne University. She is a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

Kelly identifies as "blind, with just enough vision to be dangerous" and is ably assisted by her guide dog, Velvet. As a child, Kelly participated in RDA services in South Australia and saw joining the RDAV board as an opportunity to contribute to the future of an organisation that supported her formative years.



Sally Francis OAM

Sally was awarded OAM for services to Horse Sports and to people with a disability in the general division of the 2019 Queens Birthday Honours. In 1986, Sally embarked on a career with the Riding for Disabled Association of Victoria (RDAV) as a State Coach/ Integration Officer and later became a RDAA National Assessor and Coach Educator. She also became involved with the Australian Para-equestrian team, attending numerous world championships and Paralympics as a Carer, Chef d'Equipe and, in Hong Kong in 2008, as assistant coach. In 2012 Sally led the team at the London Paralympics, where one of the riders won a gold medal. Sally retired after the Rio Paralympics (2016) as the Para equestrian Team Leader with another

successful overseas campaign. Sally is also involved with numerous Pony Clubs, coaching all grades and assessing riders for the higher certificates, whilst she continues to run the family's horse and cattle agistment business on her 380 acre property, Tooradin Estate. Sally focuses on helping riders of all abilities to achieve their equestrian goals in multi equestrian disciplines.

Sally has had some coaching highlights this year, working as the Assistant Coach with the gold medalist Equestrian Team at the Virtus Global Games in France. On her return, Sally was awarded the Victorian Disability Sport and Recreation Coach/Fitness Leader of the Year.



Gareth Beck

Gareth is the Co-Founder of award-winning public relations agency, Romano Beck and has decade long associations with equestrian events in disciplines from polo to eventing, horse racing to agricultural shows. Commencing his career in 2007, he worked at global and local communication firms prior to founding the agency including Edelman and WPP. His current clients include VRC, Chadstone, Longines, L'Oréal, Emirates Airline and Piper-Heidsieck.

Gareth graduated from RMIT University with a Bachelor in Communication with Distinction; sits on his family's charity board – Missionvale – supporting an incredibly marginalised community in

South Africa; and can be found on horseback in his spare time, hoping one day he'll figure out the right diagonal.



Wojtek Randla

Qualifications: Wojtek is a highly accomplished professional in the field of law, currently serving as the Managing Director at BlueRock Law and holds a BA, LLB, Grad Dip in Risk Management & Corporate Governance. Wojtek is also an Accredited Mediator with extensive expertise in insolvency, restructuring, and commercial litigation. His areas of specialisation includes handling voluntary administrations, receivership and liquidation, advising on creditor's rights and obligations, unsecured recoveries, asset recovery, security enforcement, winding up proceedings, and general commercial litigation.

Wojtek is a seasoned company secretary and is currently serving as a board member across several organisations.



Stacey Murrary

Stacey is a tertiary education professional with over a decade of experience in training and compliance. Bringing a wealth of operational and strategic expertise, Stacey operates her own consultancy, focusing on curriculum development, risk management and compliance in tertiary education.

Much of Stacey's work in vocational education has focused on developing curriculum materials related to Community Services qualifications and, in particular, disability support. This has allowed her to develop a strong appreciation for the benefits of community to individuals living with disability and their families.

In joining the Riding for the Disabled Association of Victoria (RDAV) board, Stacey brings many years of experience as a horse owner, pony club member and equestrian competitor. Stacey joined the board to offer her professional capability development experience and belief in the therapeutic impact of interacting with horses. Stacey's goal is to help children with disabilities enjoy the same joy from interacting with horses as she did as a child and teen.



Maria Di Gregorio

Maria is currently a Chair of the Audit and Risk Management Committee for the Wage Inspection Directorate. Formally, Chair of Women's Health West (now GenWest), member of the Audit and Finance Committee for Health Purchasing Victoria. She has held several executive roles in Telstra, formerly the Director Finance for the Consumer division, the Chief Information Security Officer and the National IT Audit and Risk Manager. In addition she was previously the Chief Financial Officer of the Salvation Army.

Maria's extensive financial expertise and her wealth of experience in top-tier corporate positions and her qualifications and experience at executive level in Finance, Information Technology and Audit and Risk Management with a BA (Econ) and a Postgraduate Diploma in Computing and holding AICD qualifications provide a strategic view to organisational challenges.

Maria chose to work with RDAV as she sees the service as an invaluable opportunity to broaden the life experiences of people with disability and providing a sense of what non-disabled people do. With experience with disability in her family she sees this as an opportunity to provide support to the industry.



Abigail Vidler

Abigail has been part of RDA Family since she was 2 years old and has been a rider and volunteer. Her passion for horses started within this Organisation and she is grateful to now call it her sport. Outside of horses she is currently studying a Bachelor of Media and Communication with a major in Public Relations at Swinburne University and working.

Abigail aims to be a voice for the riders and volunteers who are the key parts of our organisation and share the love for horses.



Christalyne Look

Christalyne is an experienced legal, regulatory compliance and governance professional and has held senior positions in multinational, listed and highly regulated companies operating in the healthcare, technology, banking services, infrastructure, entertainment and manufacturing sectors. She has been trained and worked at top-tier and global law firms.

Christalyne has a double degree in Bachelor of Laws (Hons) and Commerce (Accounting) from Monash University and a Masters of Commercial Law from The University of Melbourne, and she is currently completing her Graduate Diploma in Applied Corporate

Governance and Risk Management at the Governance Institute of Australia.

Christalyne is currently a Fellow of the Governance Institute of Australia and a member of Chief Executive Women and Australian Association of Corporate Counsel. She has also done engagements to promote disability inclusion and diversity in corporate organisations.

Christalyne was born (co-incidentally in the year of the horse!) with a physical disability, and she therefore brings lived experience of disability, as well as diversity in thought and leadership to the RDAV Board. Through her board position, Christalyne is passionate about supporting others with disabilities and special needs to experience the social and therapeutic activities provided by RDAV.



Tanya Traits

Tanya was first introduced to Riding for the Disabled in NZ when she lent her pony to the local riding group. Her passion for horses has never waned and she competes and retrains three OTT horses at her farm in the Macedon Ranges as well as being a committee member for her local adult riding club.

She applied to be a volunteer at the RDA Daylesford centre after watching her autistic son thoroughly enjoy his weekly riding lessons and the care and commitment the volunteers showed towards both children and horses.

Tanya has a double degree in Bachelor of Commerce and Arts and a Masters of Business Administration. She is a senior marketing professional with over 20 years' experience in providing strategic marketing direction to a number of different businesses including Bupa Health Insurance, TelstraSuper, Bendigo Bank, RACV, Kraft, Bonds, McCain Foods. She has accumulated an extensive skill set with proven competencies in building brand awareness, devising digital strategies, generating ideas to better connect with audiences and launching integrated campaigns. Her leadership positions held in a volunteer capacity for other not-for-profit organisations further bolster her aptitude and desire to support RDAV's strategic goals.

Our Supporters



Racing Victoria Off The Track

In 2023 we renewed our partnership with Racing Victoria's Off The Track Program which we commenced in 2020 with an aim to create and promote new opportunities for retired Victorian thoroughbred racehorses.

Through the program, we have helped increase the number of thoroughbred horses we can accommodate at RDA Centres and expand the work they do in the community.

The RESET (Racehorse, Evaluation, Support, Education and Transition) Program provides direct support for those horses that are sound and have good prospects but have not been successful in transition to a second career outside of racing.

This year we welcomed our first RESET horse Blue Hussler to RDA Western Port in February 2023. When Blue Hussler arrived at Abey Performance Horses in January 2021 he was a walking skeleton. He arrived through the RSPCA and RV emergency aid program with a body condition score of 0.5. Lou Abey and the Racing Victoria Equine Welfare team couldn't fathom how a horse could be allowed to get to the state he was.

They started him under saddle in September 2022 and after some time thought he may just suit a unique role and a prospect for the RDA. Lou enquired about what sort of tests Blue would need to pass to be accepted into the RDA and it wasn't long before she was trying out everything and he proved to be excellent. Quiet, inquisitive, and generally thoughtful. It was then they reached out to RDA Western Port and he joined the centre.





Hero

This year we announced a new collaborative initiative with Harness Racing Victoria's HRV Hero – Heroes for RDA program, which brings together HRV Hero and Raising the Standards, to assist us to source more horses to meet the ongoing demands of centres. They are providing a specialised role beyond the track for retired harness racehorses by working with harness racing participants to identify RDA horse prospects and provide oversight across the initial veterinary assessments which are an integral component of the process.

Through consultation with dedicated Heroes RDA Retainer Nic Tassone from Raising the Standards retraining, Hero will coordinate behavioural assessments and transporting horses from racing operations around the state to the Raising for Standards retraining complex.

The first graduate, eight year old gelding Adam was placed at Doveton RDA after undergoing several months of intensive retraining with Nic. She knew pretty soon after starting Adam under saddle that he was something special, he was just so forgiving and gentle and kind. He has such a huge heart, and really deserved to be part of a bustling network of people, to be loved and be adored by many.

Nic was very touched by the quick bond Adam made with long-time RDA volunteer Adam Catton and how Adam strolled off into his new paddock as though he'd been there forever.

Our Supporters



MRC Foundation

RDAV was again selected as one of the MRC Foundation's charities of choice for their Catanach's Jewellery MRC Foundation Race Day on 17th September 2022. We welcomed our volunteer coaches from RDA Doveton, RDA Peninsula, RDA Bundoora Park, RDA Knox and RDA Terang who joined our President on the day. Whilst Emissary didn't win the honours, we were thrilled to receive our share of the fundraising efforts and look forward to a strengthening partnership with the MRC Foundation in the future.

Bendigo Community Bank

RDAV is not only about connection between horses, riders and volunteers it's also about being part of a local community. Bendigo Banks community branches through the Bendigo Bank Enterprise Foundation have generously supported our local centres to achieve their community outcomes.

Community Bank Balnarring & District supported RDA Mornington with their Black and White Charity Night who without their generosity the night would have not gone ahead.

Community Bank Daylesford District provided a much needed grant to this small centre so they could continue to provide riders in their local area the many benefits being involved with RDAV provides.





Our biggest supporters are our volunteers.

We are extremely grateful to all those beautiful people that help with the running of centres, that spend their weekends fundraising, that help with maintenance, or build sheds, erect fences, those that pick up poo or clean up yards, that look after the horses, the equipment, that walk next to or lead riders and those that coach our riders.

Thank you for helping to enrich the lives of our riders.

Award Winners

Volunteers are the lifeblood of RDA, we wouldn't be able to operate without them! We would like to congratulate the following volunteers on winning the Victorian Volunteer Awards as nominated by the centres.

Outstanding Service Awards

Claire Altmann - RDA Doveton

Kevin Marshall - RDA Maryborough

Sue Ruxton - RDA Bendigo



Centre Committee Member Awards

Chris Homa - RDA Bendigo

Judy Webb - RDA Maryborough

Roger Lord - RDA Doveton

Lauren Eagle - RDA Daylesford



Jen & Lauren, RDA Daylesford

Volunteer Award

Deborah Clark - RDA Bendigo

Jack Sendek - RDA Pakenham

Maria Maes - RDA Maryborough

Claire Alvarez - RDA Doveton

Jen Goldrick - RDA Daylesford



Participation Award

Sebastian Halstead - RDA Doveton

Sebastian started riding at Doveton when he was a student at Glenallen. He then returned to Doveton in 2018. Sebastian's love of riding is so apparent, he puts in so much effort, always listening to my instructions, trying his best, gentle with his horse, laughing with his helpers, offering to help where he can, he especially loves to assist with feeding his horse. He is a favourite with all our volunteers, he is cheeky but always polite, greeting everyone, including the other riders.

During the Covid lockdowns, Sebastian did lots of extra exercises so when he returned to riding his muscles had stayed supple and he had maintained his core strength. The exercise he gets from riding has vastly improved his overall strength and flexibility. Sebastian's riding continues to improve, he is always challenging himself. He has competed in 2 RDAV Dressage competitions. His parents are also great supporters of RDA Doveton. As a volunteer coach, Sebastian makes it all worthwhile for me".



Participation Award

Liam Conaglen - RDA Daylesford

Liam started riding in Term 4 2022 as part of the 6 week Kickstarter program. He has continued riding this year and was the unanimous Committee choice for this award due to the improvement and commitment he has shown. Liam is very focused, follows instructions, never misses a session and has coped really well with a change of horses as his ability to give correct riding aids improved. Liam attended his first show on a horse he hadn't ridden before, no mean feat for a new rider but he embraced the challenge.

More importantly Liam has shown consistent care for his horse, and without fail waits and helps unsaddle, groom and turn out his mount after each session. His care for his horse is a stand out at Daylesford and demonstrates his willingness to learn about and participate in the full gamut of the horse riding experience.

Honorary Life Member Award



Aileen Marshall RDA Maryborough

Aileen co-started the Maryborough RDA in the 1980s, and for over 40 years she has been coach, volunteer and vice president.

Aileen has filled in as coach across a number of centres including Daylesford, Ballarat and Bendigo and is always willing to help out where she can. She is also called upon to judge at shows in which RDA riders compete and always gives them one piece of advice or tells them something they have done well.

She is also a coach and centre assessor and has mentored and provided support to trainee coaches across Victoria.

RDA Australia Awards

Congratulations to the Victorian Nominations selected for the RDA Australia National Awards Program.

Michael Field Memorial Award

Kevin Marshall
RDA Maryborough

Volunteer Service Excellence Award

Jenny Fields
RDA Bundoora Park

Volunteer Encouragement Award

Alison Gibson
RDA Swan Hill

RDA Australia National Volunteer Encouragement Award

Alison Gibson
RDA Swan Hill

Victorian Disability Sport & Recreation Awards

A number of RDAV volunteers were recognised as finalists or award winners at the annual Victorian Disability Sport and Recreation Awards, recognising achievements during 2022/2023. In particular, we were thrilled to see Aileen Marshall being awarded the prestigious Kevin Coombs Lifetime Achievement Award for her many years of service and RDAV Board Member Sally Francis winning the Coach of the Year award for her role supporting the gold medal winning Australian equestrian team at the 2023 Virtus Global Games in France.

Kevin Coombs Lifetime Achievement Award

Aileen Marshall
RDA Maryborough

Coach/Fitness Leader of the Year Award

Finalist - Mary Longden
RDA Pakenham



Coach/Fitness Leader of the Year Award

Winner - Sally Francis
RDA Coach Trainer and Assessor



Years of Volunteer Service Recognition

3 Years of Service

Judi Buck, Moorabbin
Christine Hartstone, Moorabbin
Bernard Doherty, Warragul
Geoff Osborne, Warragul
Margaret Young, Warragul
Debra Bentley, Doveton
Ian Coad, Doveton
Fionas Stewart, Doveton
Lauren Eagle, Daylesford
Jen Goldrick, Daylesford
James Foster, Daylesford
Gary Ralfs, Daylesford
Tanya Twaits, Daylesford
Lauren Eagle, Daylesford

5 Years of Service

Eva Ashman, Moorabbin
Tracy Evans-Whipp, Moorabbin
Sally Claridge, Moorabbin
Pam Strong, Moorabbin
Kate Stankovich, Moorabbin
Katrina Easton, Moorabbin
Jenni Kennedy, Moorabbin
Natalie Pfaller, Moorabbin
Lynden Dempsey, Warragul

Lisa Smith, Warragul
Jean Fear, Warragul
Jenny Thomas, Warragul
David Rak, Daylesford
Jan Mahony, Daylesford

10 Years of Service

Jenny Loveday, Moorabbin
Alyson Chopping, Moorabbin
Jenny Alkemade, Moorabbin
Greg Grant, Moorabbin
Jack Rogers, Moorabbin
Janet Wren, Moorabbin
Viv Reid, Warragul
Karen Taylor-Hunt, Doveton

15 Years of Service

Julie Sheldrake, Moorabbin
Nicki Scarlett, Moorabbin
Laurie Harris, Moorabbin
Cathy Lee, Moorabbin
Anne Wills, Warragul
Maureen Cogo, Warragul
Elaine Micah, Warragul
Roger Lord, Doveton

20 Years of Service

Louise Robinson, Moorabbin
Les Davidson, Warragul
Adam Catton, Doveton

25 Years of Service

Judy Bell, Moorabbin
David Bell, Moorabbin
Dianne Ridd, Moorabbin
Lyn Link, Warragul

30 Years of Service

Rosemarie O'Shannon,
Warragul

Centre Life Membership Awards

Karen Smith, Moorabbin
Barb Burrridge, Moorabbin
Louise Robinson, Moorabbin
Jenny Cato, Moorabbin
Dianne Ridd, Moorabbin
Cathy Lee, Moorabbin
Lyn Link, Warragul
Michael Keary, Barwon



SECTION 2

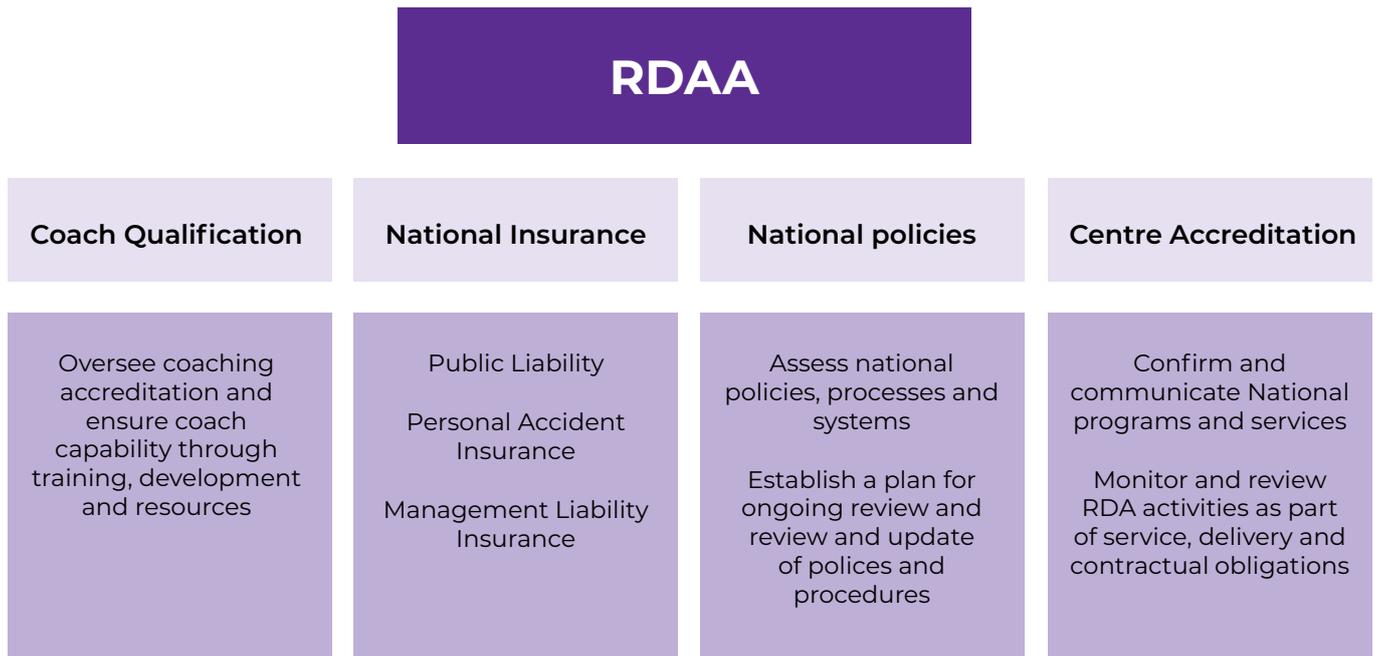
GOVERNANCE



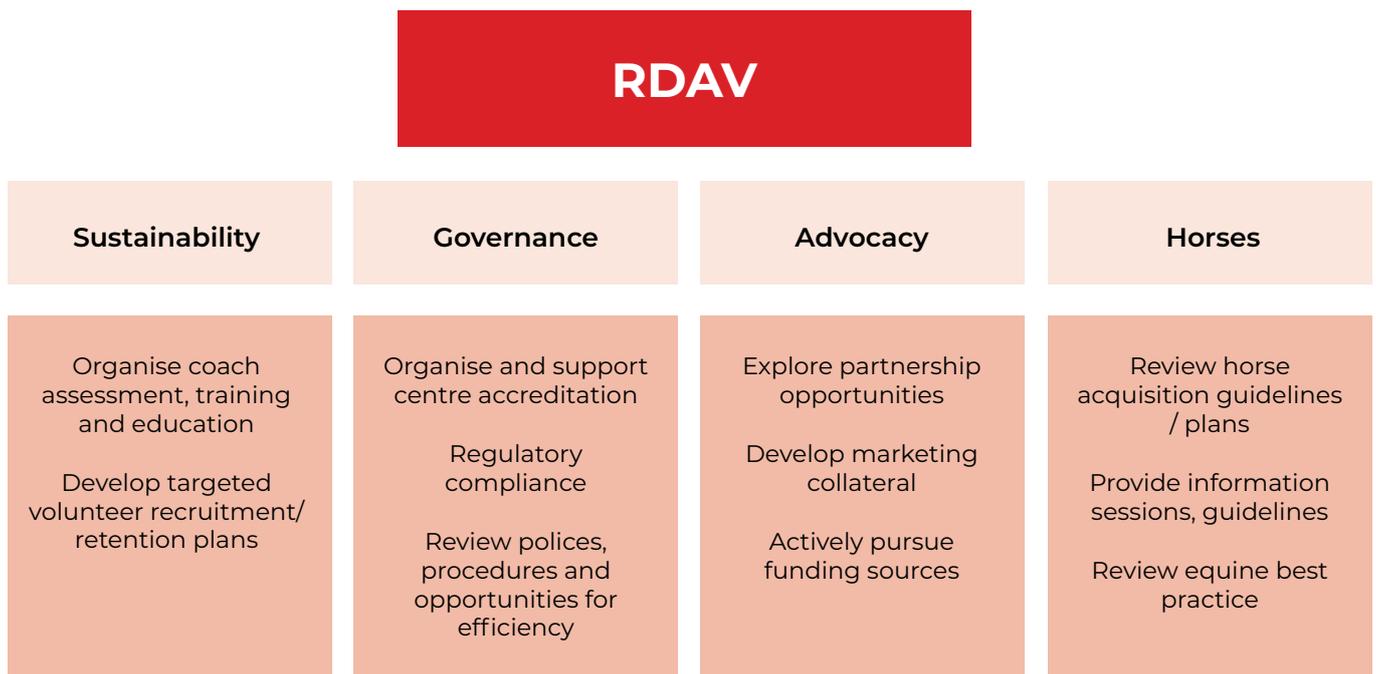
Structure & Management

Riding for the Disabled Association of Victoria (RDAV) is registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC) and operates under a national framework administered by Riding for the Disabled Association of Australia (RDAA).¹ The sub heading can then just be Role of RDAA.

Role of RDAA (Riding for the Disabled Association of Australia)



Role of RDAV



President's Report

This has been a year of change. We said goodbye to our former President and CEO Andrea Lucas, who tirelessly worked to get RDAV operational and compliant post Covid 19. We also said goodbye to Kathryn Holden our Operations Manager who spent hours working with the centres, inducting volunteers all while setting up RDA Knox. I would like to personally thank them for their commitment, support and guidance during my first year as President.

We welcomed Richard Amon as CEO and Annette Hatherley as Manager of Operations and they have very quickly reviewed our administration practices, implemented new processes, and have put a strong framework in place from which we can work.

After preparing a skills matrix to understand what experience we needed on the Board to take the organisation forward, we took our requirements to market and our recruitment efforts attracted high calibre applicants. At the end of January, the Board appointed six new Board members. You can read about each of these wonderful people in this report.

After a "getting to know the organisation" period, undertaking a volunteer induction session, reviewing the centre feedback document and the previous strategic plan we had a full day strategy session in May to start mapping out the next 3 years which we will be sharing with the organisation next year.

I continue to advocate strongly for our organisation and make myself available for interviews where possible to build awareness of our need for volunteers and horses and how the benefits of being involved are immeasurable. We were fortunate to be involved in the Here for the Horses Documentary that was aired on Channel 7, I had a segment on Harness Racing TV, was interviewed by channel 7 on three occasions and was part of a panel at Equitana last year.



We renewed our partnership with Racing Victoria's Off the Track Program and welcomed our first reset horse Blue Hussler to RDA Western Port in February. You can read more about Blue and his journey later in this report. We continue to use their PR team to share our stories and drive awareness of what we do.

We officially embarked on an exciting new initiative with HRV Hero and dedicated retrainer Nic Tassone, from Raising the Standards who will work together to identify and retrain standardbreds specifically for RDA. RDA Doveton welcomed Adam in March the first candidate from this partnership. You can read more about Adam later in this report.

We have been exploring new commercial partnerships and working closely with experienced business development specialists to develop a solid proposal we can take to market.

We continue to be a charity of choice for the MRC Foundation and will have some exciting news to share next year.

There was a vision and after an incredible amount of time and work, new centres RDA Knox and RDA Woolamai opened their facilities to riders for the first time. It was also wonderful to see coaches from other centres helping to get sessions started.



An incredible opportunity to move to new grounds with an indoor arena saw RDA Peninsula and RDA Barwon change locations with the ability to now operate all year round. And it was tremendous to see the community rally around RDA Seymour who lost everything in the 2022 floods and had to move to new premises.

I thoroughly enjoyed meeting so many coaches at the State Coaching Workshop last year and got a lot of insight as to how coaches work with the various participants and their disabilities.



I enjoyed talking to the new volunteers at their induction at Swan Hill last year, having a hug with Blue Hussler at Western Port, supporting Woolamai at their fundraising drive at the Woolamai Race Track in February, watching the riders at Doveton where we announced our renewed OTT partnership and continuing to volunteer at Daylesford where my son is a participant.



We are incredibly fortunate to have such a supportive member base. Our volunteers and coaches are the lifeblood of our organisation and we simply can't operate without them. I can't thank them enough for their ongoing commitment, and dedication to ensure our participants benefit from the unique bond they form with our horses.

With that in mind, the focus for 2024, is how we can support our RDA centres. Support can take many forms, its deciding what infrastructure, systems, staff roles, recruitment and retention strategies, for coaches and volunteers is needed and how can we make that happen to deliver the support required.

I would like to thank the Board, CEO and State Office Team and all RDAV members for their support, their open feedback, their willingness to work with us and their ongoing commitment to this amazing organisation. The smile on faces, the special moments between participant and horse, watching new skills being learned, are what brings us together and makes our time working or volunteering in this organisation so worthwhile.

Tanya Twaits
RDAV President

CEO's Report

Over the past year, RDAV has continued to transform its operations, refine its strategic goals and strengthen its alliances, achieving a number of significant outcomes towards our mission of enriching the lives of people with disability through horses.

Since joining RDAV in November 2022, I have been very impressed by the dedication and commitment of our wonderful volunteers, the lifeblood of our 34 Centres distributed across Victoria. While I haven't visited as many Centres as I would have liked, it has been wonderful to see first-hand and discuss the true magic that happens at an RDA program, not only for our participants but also for their parents and carers, along with our volunteers.

It's very clear that the RDA program simply works!

Unfortunately, our wait list remains too high and the benefits of participation are being held back to many. Following a review of our processes and consultation with our Centres, it became clear that for RDAV to begin addressing these issues, renewed focus needs to be made improving our administrative practices and process, our attraction, retention and support of coaches and volunteers and the development of simplified pathways in collaboration with other like organisations.

Within the general community, volunteers continue to be attracted to the work of RDAV with an impressive 959 volunteers registered during 2022/2023 representing an increase of 30%.

We were pleased to renew our partnership with Racing Victoria with respect to the Off The Track program to rehome more thoroughbred horses into our programs and continue to strengthen our relationship with the MRC Foundation, which is set to expand further in 2024.

Major grant funded projects were completed with support from the Victorian Government including the development of a new strategic plan, organisational structure review, governance improvements, child safe training, training and education for coaches and a focus on volunteer recruitment to address wait list numbers. We were pleased to be successful in achieving further funding for the next 2 years to focus on reducing the administrative load on our Centres, particularly in regional Centres. Working in partnership with Regional Sports Victoria and their Regional Sports Assemblies, this project will pilot a new model of support during 2024 and if successful, expanded across the state.

The relationship with RDAA continues to strengthen and we look forward to revised coaching pathways, e-learning opportunities for skill development, program development and administrative improvements from a new CRM during 2024.

While our financial reserves are excellent, long-term sustainability has been and will continue to be a focus to ensure resourcing of the State Office can be maintained and expanded, to better serve our members so that they can focus on the important work of delivering programs in our Centres. New partnerships and funding opportunities are being explored including a review of our fundraising opportunities.

Support for our Centres has continued with the appointment of Annette Hatherley as Manager of Operations in December 2022, complimenting the administrative support work of Tara Wimhurst. A new development program of webinars and workshops were provided to enhance the skills and capacity of our coaches and volunteers with 12 online sessions delivered to over 209 participants and 9 face to face workshops to 216 participants.



From a customer service perspective, we began tracking our communications in January 2023 with 302 calls and 275 customer service emails handled up to the end of June 2023. Our reach on social media improved with the Facebook page achieving 5,526 likes with Instagram and Linked In a focus for 2024, along with a new website.

An annual task to ensure our centres are operating correctly is the biannual RDAA accreditation process where we worked together to achieve accreditation for 7 Centres with many more planned for 2024.

A number of new KPI's have been developed as a measure of our impact with a pleasing 15,375 hours of equine experiences delivered during 2022/2023 amongst 663 registered participants representing an increase of 27%. With 205 coaches supported by 959 volunteers across the state, there is a wonderful springboard for future improvements in participation.

In conjunction with the board and our Centres, we have reviewed and revised our strategic goals to provide a clearer path forward.

We remain strongly committed to supporting people with disability to achieve positive health outcomes through participation in equine programs. I thank the Board and its Chair Tanya Twaits, our staff, partners, donors, volunteers and members for their support as we strive to achieve important positive social change.

I couldn't be prouder of the professionalism and resilience of the RDAV staff who continued to deliver impressive outcomes to support our Centres while all remaining part time. While 2022/2023 delivered many improvements, there is now a clear springboard for further positive growth in 2024 which all of the RDAV community can look forward to.

Richard Amon
RDAV CEO



RDAV Centres

RDAV would like to acknowledge our Centres for their continued hard work and effort through the year; most notably, their coaches, volunteers and members who have continuously devoted themselves to the organisation.

Bairnsdale	Knox	Stawell
Ballarat	Maryborough	St Andrews
Barwon	Melton	Swan Hill
Bendigo	Moorabbin	Terang
Bundoora Park	Mornington	Viewbank
Cobram	Myrtleford	Warracknabeal
Colac	Oaklands	Warragul
Daylesford	Pakenham	Warrandyte
Doveton	Peninsula	Warnambool
Echuca	Seymour	Western Port
Hamilton	Shepparton	Woolamai
Horsham		

Bairnsdale

With 18 regular clients, 7 horses (3 STB, 1 Thoroughbred, 2 Brumbies and 1 Haflinger) and 34 volunteers registered in 2023 (including 3 coaches) we have had a busy but weather interrupted year to date. We are so grateful to the Bairnsdale Pony Club whose facilities we use and to the many local groups who support us. Local opportunity shops, service clubs, businesses and individuals all give generously. A local family had a Christmas lights display and all entry donations, of more than \$2,500, were directed our way. We have tried to run a session every second Monday morning but, given that the weather in East Gippsland is unpredictable, we have varied the ride days and our clients have happily gone along with the changes.

For many years we have serviced the towns of Sale and Maffra but a unanimous committee decision will see us taking clients from our local area next year. Our waiting list is close to 30.



We have a fabulous group of volunteers. Our dedicated team have worked so well and happily together. It is such a pleasure to be part of this wonderful organisation.

Ian Hall
Secretary



Ballarat

We have enjoyed a great year in 2023 at Ballarat RDA, with our centre running a full and rewarding calendar of sessions. We currently have 26 riders attending weekly sessions who are ably supported by our 36 wonderful volunteers. We feel very lucky to have retained both our rider and volunteer numbers post Covid and we are, as always, grateful for our team of dedicated volunteers. Our 4 coaches (2 of whom have recently been registered) have a wide range of skills which provide our riders with a diverse and, most of all fun filled, programme!

We have been involved in a number of successful community based fundraising activities this year, including attending an annual Greyhounds Great Chase luncheon, which was a great event that raised funds for groups that support people living with a disability. Additionally, we were involved in providing catering at a concert which supported the great cause Dolly's Dream Campaign, which raises awareness for bullying and cyber bullying in the community. We are looking forward to our upcoming 'mini Ballarat Show', at which our riders take part in various events at our centre and are awarded ribbons from a Ballarat Show official.

Many changes are afoot at our premises with the recent purchase of the property by the Ballarat Agricultural and Pastoral Society. The property will be the future site for the annual show and considerable works will transform it into an A grade multi purpose facility. We look forward to continuing our close relationship with the society whilst these works are carried out. Lastly, our centre would like to thank RDAV for their support over the past year. It has been lovely to meet some of the 'new faces' and we are grateful for their ongoing assistance.





Barwon

This has been an exciting year for us as we commenced riding sessions at a new venue. Wallington Park Equestrian Centre is a worldclass facility and we have been thrilled to access all it has to offer. The friendly staff have been extremely helpful in meeting our specific needs. The huge indoor arena is impeccably maintained and there are several outdoor arenas, as well as some tree-lined tracks to add variety to our sessions. Of course, this all comes at a cost and we would like to acknowledge the funding that the Give Where You Live Foundation, the Geelong Community Foundation and the Anthony Costa Foundation have donated through their respective grant programs. We also receive funding from the Ocean Grove Rotary Club as well as, several local op shops. Every little bit helps!

We run during the school terms, providing fortnightly one-hour sessions for thirty-six young riders. We are fortunate to have several fully accredited coaches, as well as some that are in training. Our coaches attended the RDAA National Workshops held at Marcus Oldham and they reported that it was one of the best workshops thus far. While we have about fifty volunteers on the books, there is a core group of about twenty that is usually available. Grey nomads do seem to vanish in the wintry months! The young riders seem to love the experience, in fact, I met one of our ex-riders in the supermarket a few months ago. After a joyous greeting, I asked him why he wasn't coming any more to which he vehemently replied "School won't let me 'cos I've had three years." I tried to soothe his indignation to no avail.



Bendigo

RDA Bendigo has enjoyed yet another successful year. We run our ride program once a fortnight on a Wednesday and is a day of learning new skills, communication, team work & most of all, to have fun. With over 30 registered volunteers, 13 riders and 4 horses, we may not be the biggest, but we certainly put everything into our ride days to make it enjoyable for not only our riders, but volunteers alike.

Earlier this year we saw Sue Ruxton achieve her level 1 Coaches Certificate. Thanks must go to Jan King for her much-needed support before, during and after and a big thank you to Sally Francis for coming to assess Sue on the day and Annette Hatherley for helping on the games. A glimmer of hope to restart our centres Carriage Program was unfortunately short-lived, but not for the want of trying. Thank you must go to our President Nigel King, for putting together a twelve month training workshop for those wanting to complete their training, but due to a number of circumstances, it was not able to continue.

Our ride days incorporate events that happen throughout the year. The Easter egg hunt had the riders track Easter bunny's footprints to different locations for easter goodies. The Football Grand Final theme day saw riders and volunteers dress in their favourite team with many ball handling skills on display. Recently we had Silks Day which was held just before Melbourne Cup day, where riders & volunteers were dressed in race day silks and participated in race day theme activities. A great day was had by all.

We have also been fortunate to receive some monetary donations again this year from patrons who have long seen the rewards that our centre gives to our clients. A big part of that reward, is our beautiful horses. This brings me to our centres new addition, Donny, an 8 year old free lease OTT standardbred, ridden throughout his career & hopefully once he's assessed & given the green light, be ready to join our ride program in 2024. Our fundraiser this year was the Bunnings Sausage Sizzle which was highly successful & currently, manning the Bendigo Rotary Club Xmas Trailer selling raffle tickets each Sunday.

I would like to personally thank our dedicated volunteers, coaches, committee members & those who work tirelessly behind the scenes, because without you, our centre would not be what it is today.





Bundoora Park

Bundoora Park RDA were happy to welcome our new pony Pippa! After a long search we were more than happy to have this little girl in our program. We have now started bringing in more riders off our waiting list. A big thank you to Viewbank RDA for letting us borrow Frosty to keep Pepper company till we found our little Pippa. A big thank you to all our dedicated riders and volunteers for hanging in there till we found our super pony!

Cobram

RDA Cobram have had a fairly successful year. Mainly thanks to our incredible President who provides 4 horses for us to ride. This in itself is a mammoth task considering that he lives 101km away and makes a couple of trips to bring 4 horses. Gordon Gannon is now in his 80's and continues this invaluable work, he also volunteers and provides horses for RDA Deniliquin. We are fortunate to have a core of approximately 15 – 18 volunteers. Four new ones have appeared over the last few weeks making our numbers swell. Word-of-mouth seems to be the method of acquiring them. To keep them motivated and enthusiastic we have incorporated a BBQ luncheon on the completion of the mornings work.

Our 15 riders have improved enormously and enjoy the activity courses we have mainly concentrated on. We have 3 different courses mapped out and they are rotated each ride. The mapping enables our volunteers to prepare the ride area whilst the horses are being prepared for riding. This keeps everything manageable and orderly.

Our sponsors have remained fairly static, although we did receive sponsorship from a new source this year which covered the loss of one of our regulars. Our Secretary always sends out a specially formulated thank you card which is covered with photos of our ride days and lets the recipients see what we actually do. A list of our ride days is usually enclosed along with an invite to come and visit us whilst we are riding, this seems to be greatly appreciated and hopefully encourages them to continue their support.



Our biggest problem each year is the fact that we (us volunteers) are ageing and we find it difficult to encourage men to volunteer. Ladies are different and keen to come and help, but men (unless horsey) are reluctant. This puts pressure on our ride-days as it's getting more and more difficult to find the man-power to actually lift our riders onto the horse. We are probably fortunate that we only have one that is in this position, but next year we will have to assess whether this is a viable proposition and we may have to actually stop riding this particular client. The men that we do have are all over 70 years of age and it's getting to a stage that it's not right to expect them to lift. I daresay many of our Centre's are in a similar situation.



Colac

This year has been really interesting with new participants and volunteers. We are currently trialling a new four wheeled carriage, and there is a lot to like about it. It was designed by Diana, (a qualified driving coach) to specifically suit our needs. It quickly and easily converts from two seats to one, allowing room for a wheelchair. We were very fortunate to secure a grant from the Anthony Costa Foundation to fund this carriage.

The annual fundraising luncheon was extremely successful. Dedicated patrons return each year to support our cause and are always satisfied with the meals we provide. I'm very grateful to the generous people who've donated wonderful things: Raffle prizes, financial donations, horse feed, casseroles and desserts for the luncheon, Woolworths, Coles, Bunnings, Meriba Ladies, and the list goes on. But I must give a special mention to Dominic who, with guidance from our volunteer Michael, engineered a set of moveable mounting steps to replace our old ramp. I must also thank the Freemason's for funding mobility access matting for wheelchairs. Thanks to our coaches and volunteers for the hard work you do, not only during the RDA sessions, but also a lot of running around, making or repairing something, administration and tending to horses.

Daylesford

The 2022/2023 year has not been without its challenges for RDA Daylesford. A small centre, who provides a much-valued service in our community, various natural disasters, the increased compliance demands and costs of living increases are among the things that have challenged us. As a result, the COM has worked hard to improve our financial position and we want to acknowledge the sponsorship support of the Daylesford Community Bank, Daylesford Rotary, and the Hepburn Shire. Their support underpins our horse welfare. We are also grateful to Moorabbin RDA who have gifted us two horses, Panda, and Nutmeg both of whom have fitted seamlessly into the program. Others in the community, including the Guildford Hotel have also supported us. It is this support that makes such a difference to our operation.

This year we said farewell to Lainey Curr. Lainey started riding with RDA when she was 6 years old and as an adult rider has served on our Committee of Management as our rider representative, as Vice president and then President. Lainey also completed her OTC and resigned due to work commitments. Lainey was an important role model for other riders, we miss her and hope that when her work commitments allow that she returns to RDA. Pia Barber, our new President brings fresh enthusiasm, ideas and commitment and is also undertaking her coach training to join Jan Mahoney, Lesley Hewitt, and Wendy Hogben as coaches. Succession planning underway!

Thanks to all our volunteers, new and old for their continued efforts, to Boomerang Ranch for their unwavering support over many,



many years and to our riders and their families whose enjoyment of the program makes it all worthwhile. And finally, all our RDA Centres across Victoria operate in and reflect their local community. RDA Daylesford is no different. We operate in, and with the support of a small and connected community. This report is being written after the tragic and horrific accident on 5th November where 5 visitors to the Daylesford town lost their lives. All of us, riders, families, and volunteers are impacted to varying degrees by these events. We are grateful to those RDA colleagues who have reached out to offer their support. It's a powerful reminder of the strength and value of the organization. Thank you.





Doveton

We started the year with the very sad news of the passing of Judy Mackay. Judy was a Coach, Horse Welfare Manager, Committee Member and Life Member. For 32 years she devoted her life to RDA Doveton, our Centre is simply not the same without Judy.

Riding sessions started in early February, running 3 days a week with 3 sessions on each day. We welcomed Ashwood School, Primary and Secondary, Glenallen School and 19 independent riders.

3 horses were retired this year. Bear after 23 years of RDA Service, what a horse, he has no equal. Billie, after 7 years RDA service and Rebel after 4 years RDA service. These 3 amazing horses

gave so much pleasure to our riders and are now enjoying their well deserved retirement.

2 new horses were added to the herd. George, QH x SH, and Adam, Standardbred, a graduate of the Raising the Standards and HRV Hero program. Both horses have settled in well and are working in all sessions.

A major redevelopment of our Centre will start in early 2024, with a new volunteer / rider room, tack room, kitchen, disabled toilet, seating and viewing area, with funding from the City of Casey and Victorian State Government. Thank you to our volunteers and horses, who make it possible for our riders to experience the joy and benefits of horses and riding.

Echuca

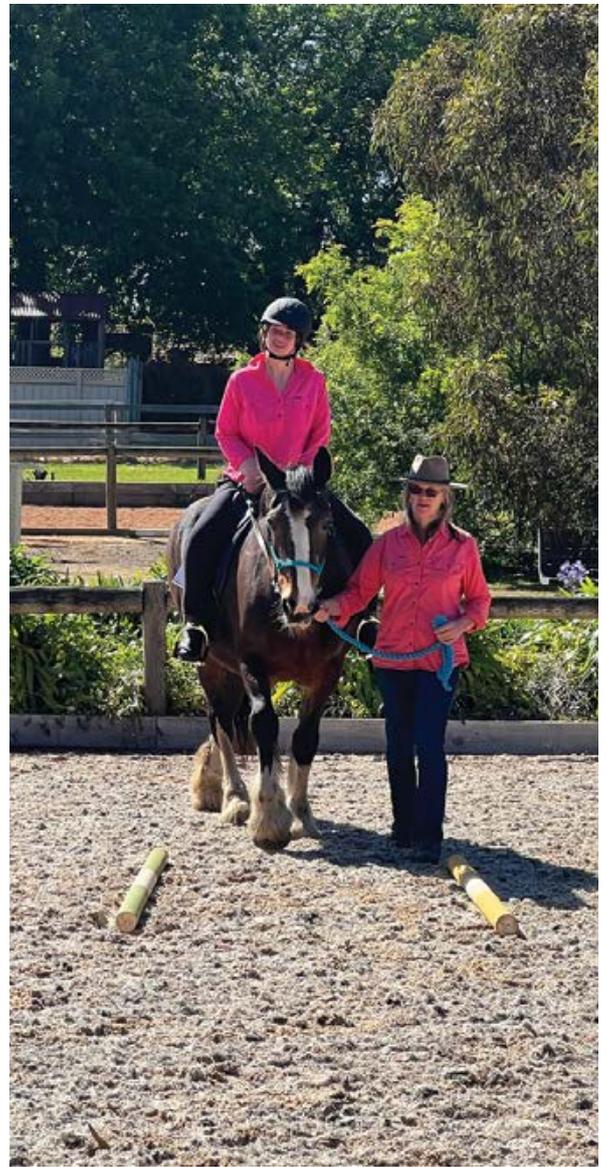
At Echuca, our five horses and 12 volunteers give freely of their time as they work together to build the confidence and skills of our 14 riders. Our horses have a special connection with each rider, as they provide companionship and patience, creating a very special bond.

This year we have three volunteers who have expressed their interest in training to be coaches. This is an exciting prospect for our Centre as it will continue to provide a valuable experience to our riders at each rally.



We are sadly saying farewell and a huge thank you to one of our longest serving volunteers, Lois Tonkin who has given countless hours to our Centre as a parent, volunteer and committee member. We are extremely grateful for all Lois has done and will all miss her as we wish her well.

We thank all of our fabulous riders, volunteers, families and carers – each rally provides us with an opportunity to build the skills of our riders and have fun.



Hamilton

Hamilton RDA has celebrated many highlights during the past 12 months. We have welcomed back 6 of our junior riders this year and our adult group has increased in size to now sport 6 riders as well. Throughout the year, we focussed on encouraging our riders' independence. To achieve this, we have set up intricate laneway systems using bollards and rails. We are proud of the progress our riders made as they navigated these laneways during their weekly riding sessions. Our riders have improved their steering, stopping, and starting skills. The improvement in riding skills led to increased rider confidence which in turn led to better interpersonal and communication skills.

We have built up a large team of horses and are now in the luxurious position of having so many well-trained and assessed horses that we have more than 1 spare mount, should 1 of our regular lesson horses not be available. We continue to receive offers of horses and can ease them into

our program alongside our fleet of 'experienced' RDA mounts. In terms of volunteers, we are proud to report that as well as retaining most of our longtime volunteers, we have had many new volunteers join us over the last 12 months. We have entered a Partnership with a local senior school who bring students and a teacher's aide out to volunteer. Given that these volunteers live in a rural area, most of those come with horse experience already.

On riding days, each horse/ rider combination has 3 volunteers available to work with them.

Most recently, our volunteer of over 2 decades, Melissa Schulz, was rightfully recognised with a regional volunteer award under the 'Inspiring Individual' category. We have sent 6 qualified and aspiring coaches to the national coaches workshop in Geelong earlier in the year – a great achievement for a small Centre like ours. We hope to continue on this upward trajectory over the coming months.

Horsham

The year 2023 will be remembered for its focus on Risk Management and the evaluations of every aspect of RDA, from what we feed our horses to what their workload is, recently our secretary was requested by RDAA to supply instances that our horses/ponies were ridden outside of RDA. The demand to be accountable is ever present and creates a positive Risk Management environment.

Mandatory requirements to have Child-safe training was another new requirement for 2023, this is an annual on-line training that both takes up time and energy. All coaches at Horsham successfully passed their three yearly First Aid in February 2023.

A six-week training for coaches from Stawell, Warracknabeal and Horsham resulted in all coaches receiving their certificate or their reinstatement or partial certificate, we also looked at horses and saddlery. If there is the interest, we will hold another one next year

Our wonderful team of volunteers who collect and bag manure have soldiered-on while not all enjoying good health, Dave Witcher is the leader of the team he has just turned 80 and he is one of the youngest, this valuable income is used for property maintenance among other things.

We are slowly building up our RDA sessions and have enjoyed having Corrie Potter back in the fold with her wonderful horse Snoopy. Our Driving program is in recess but our Vaulting



program is slowly coming back thanks to Corrie and Snoopy.

Four coaches attended the National Coaches Work Shop at Marcus Oldham College near Geelong, it was a most interesting three days, we came away with new ideas and also had our current practises verified.

RDA Horsham were again the grateful recipients of donation of \$7,978.00 from Glencore international AG, in Switzerland, the money is put aside for horse welfare. This year we had horses fitted with new Saddles, Equine remedial massage, Veterinary attention, Special dietary food etc. We are looking to have a volunteer drive to get some new members. We are starting to get our RDA paddocks back into shape after the floods, still much to do. Looking forward to a positive year in 2024.

Knox

RDA Knox has had a year full of challenges and successes. We have been able to continue with the build and have had carpark works, tack/hay/yard shed installed, seating, along with more ground works such as start of sensory trail and sensory garden. We have had some great community support this year along with corporate support from Bunnings, the men's shed, Lions Club Wheelers Hill, RACV, Lendlease to name a few. We were also a recipient of the Queens Jubilee Avenue of Honour grant which has enabled us to prepare our quiet space and treed area. Our challenges have been with finding suitable horses to run our program, along with much needed paddock works to



house horses. We have welcomed new riders and volunteers and hope to continue to grow as we finalise the build. A huge thank you to all involved with making the centre a community.



Maryborough

Maryborough RDA has had a quiet 2023 with only 11 registered riders. We have been very fortunate during the year to pick up several new volunteers who have been keen to join in all aspects of our Centre. Once again we had students from Highview College join us to do their Duke of Edinburgh Award, hopefully this will encourage them to volunteer in the future. Not having many riders, we have been able to include horsemanship into our weekly program for both participants and volunteers who have enjoyed learning to be more hands on.

Fundraising has been an important part of our year with a BBQ at Bunnings and one of our local markets, we held our Pop-Up shop at the end of 2022 and are planning to open another one this December. Bunnings invited us to attend their Christmas Family Night last December, which turned out to be a great PR event. We have also received several donations from local Community groups and families for which we are very grateful.

Aileen was awarded a Lifetime Achievement Award at the Victorian Disability Sport & Recreation Awards in October, we are all very proud of her and also recognise the dedication she puts into our Centre and RDA in general. Thank you to Richard and Annette for attending the Award night and giving Aileen much needed support. Also thank you to Richard for the invitation to attend the race meeting at Caulfield, Aileen went along and enjoyed her day. Our next mission is finding new grounds to be able to continue giving our riders the experience of bonding with our horses and volunteers. Hopefully, 2024 will see us back with more riders and our search for grounds completed. A big thank you to our Committee, Volunteers and the Maryborough Community for their support and dedication to RDA.

Melton

The centre started off slow this year with term one off for the first time in 30 years, we were very excited to get back to business in term two, with riders, horses and volunteers all excited to be back at the centre. In the last year as with many centres we said goodbye to two and four legged friends and welcomed many new ones to the fold.

Woodlea development staff are still very involved with the centre and what's happening with us, at some point in the next year or two we will be moving to new land and centre. Site visits have happened and we look forward to each stage as it begins. Our sensory garden has been a great success with our ridden participants enjoying the new scenery and unmounted programs participants from Melton Special school, Yarraville SDS and Waringa Park school students helping with planting, caring for and harvesting fruit and vegetables. Cook up days have been a great success with school groups tasting the fruits of their labour. Absolute favourite is feeding spinach leaves to the horses, Bruce is very keen on his spinach.

Competition squad have enjoyed getting back into the swing of things with the RDAV video competition, we wish them the best of luck. We look forward to what the new year brings for the centre and its participants both ridden and unmounted programs. Addition to the centre in the next few years will be carriage driving, many thanks to Victorian Government grant that allowed us to purchase the driving carriage from Colac RDA, we look forward to staff qualifying as whips and the centre being able to offer carriage driving in the future.

We would like to thank our regular supporters of the centre: Western Equine Vet Services, Dr Shannon Lee Dentistry, D.McKeen farrier services, Garrards (Dr V.Brosnan)vet services, Kirkpatrick family hay, K.McWade masseuse services, Feed plus Bacchus Marsh and Phoenix feeds Smythesdale, all of which keep our beautiful horses happy and healthy.

A big thank you to our committee of management and volunteers for your continued hard work and dedication to the Melton & District RDA. Without your support the centre would not run as successfully as it does.





Moorabbin

Moorabbin Centre recommenced riding in March and will finish for the year in December. Our program operates 6 days a week using our 8 horses that are kept on site. The weekdays cater to school groups, and we have individual riders on Saturdays. This year we had three new coaches qualify which is always great news and 15 coaches of all levels attended the RDA workshop in Geelong to keep their skills up to date.

We are looking forward to 2024 as we will be celebrating 50 years of continuous service to the community. We were the third group to open in Victoria, in 1974 and we have operated continuously since that time. We have occupied several sites; but have been at our current site since 11th December 1981. This year, in recognition of the long-term volunteering and commitment to our centre, we are awarding 8 Volunteers, Centre Life Membership for their contributions to RDA Moorabbin.

We are also awarding 25 Years of Service badges to three volunteers, and one for 20 years. It is fantastic to have had such dedicated and long serving volunteers.

We would like to thank our regular supporters: - The City of Kingston, The Commonwealth Golf Club Floggers, Rotary Club of Bentleigh Moorabbin, the William Angliss Foundation, and the Collier Foundation. We are forever grateful to our many supporters who, in these difficult times, are still willing and able to support us. This support enables us to keep our riding fees down and feed our 8 horses and maintain our leased property.

As always, a Big Thank You to all our volunteers and to the Committee for your continuing hard work and dedication. Without you all, we would not exist.



Karen, Barb, Louise, Jenny, Dianne, Cathy with their Centre Life Membership Awards

Mornington

2023 at Mornington has been another fun year with both new and old participants continuing to improve and achieve their personal goals. Our Friday sessions started late this year but with the help of our more experienced volunteers and a few new ones the waiting list has diminished. Its wonderful to see all our newbies (participants and volunteers) develop their new skills.

Our horses have been reliable, unlike the weather and they really seem to enjoy what they do. Of course, their treats after are pretty special. We have had a few visitors from other centres wanting to train with us in the hope of opening new CD centres elsewhere. So exciting.

We have also been very fortunate to have our new fundraising officer – Mary join the team. She has been successful in gaining some very worthwhile donations, taking the pressure off for 2023 and 2024. Mornington is certainly looking forward to the end of year awards and 2024 for what it may bring.





Myrtleford

We have enjoyed an interrupted year this year. Different obstacles have arisen from wet weather interruptions to shortage of Level 1 coaches and illness of volunteers. Nevertheless, we soldiered on throughout this year to achieve some very good results with our 2023 group of students. Being a small and quite isolated area in North East of Victoria, we still seem to be attracting some 15 to 20 students and much the same in volunteer numbers. The volunteer numbers have fluctuated throughout the year. Through the year, The Myrtleford Show Society had a successful grant application, which our RDA centre greatly benefited from. We share a

kitchen with Myrtleford Pony Club and the Show Society which is in the A. Johnson Cattle Pavillion. This is our home base. We had upgrades done to the lighting both inside and outside, a brand new kitchen upgrade, we have laser levelled and moved our round yard, and also erected some new multi purpose day/cattle/pony yards.

Yes, a lot has happened within our beautiful Myrtleford Recreation Reserve. We are now just waiting for a new toilet/shower block which will start early in 2024. Our student range age is from 8-25 years this year. All students have enjoyed all of our 9 RDA herd (from shetlands to stock horse and all the in between). Every week we see improvement and enjoyment. We take delight in the smiles and the laughing from all our riders. It really is the highlight of our week seeing all the effort and determination from them all as they improve week after week. Our volunteers have been enjoying the progression of all students and of course the social side of RDA. We will recess over December and January and give our ponies a well deserved rest over these hotter months. We look forward to a successful 2024.

Oaklands

The year that was 2023! RDA started back with our official training day in February. Visits to schools to meet new riders and staff. Term 1 commenced at the end of February and we were off and running. We welcomed riders, families, schools and volunteers to Chill Lodge. Scheduling a family day in March and another for later in the year. It was a pleasure to see parents, siblings and grandparents watch with great joy and proudness. Four work experience students joined us throughout the year. July school holidays project commenced with the instalment of our new kitchen.

This brought great excitement to everyone. Some of our volunteers had a fabulous time at the Greyhound Charity evening. A visit to the Godolphin Stables at Flemington. Followed by a tour of Flemington Racecourse and with much excitement a photo opportunity with the famous Melbourne Cup. An invitation to the Charity Race Day at Caulfield. The Melbourne Racing Club organised a wonderful day.



September holidays were filled with working bees in preparation for the Lexus Melbourne Cup Tour to Oaklands. Chill Lodge looked amazing. What a big build up, the sun was shining, our horses looked beautiful in their new show rugs. Celebrations continued to Living Legends. A carriage ride awaited to deliver the famous Melbourne Cup with our two riders. A successful and memorable day was had by all.

As we come towards the end of the year. Our riders have reach all their goals. We look forward to our Christmas parties as the year draws to an end. A huge thank you to our volunteers and supporters for another successful year at Chill Lodge. Your dedication, passion and commitment is truly appreciated.

Pakenham

We are very lucky to have an excellent committee and hard working volunteers. A priority is welfare, which includes the grounds management, and on-going training of our horses. Our aim is to ensure that our riders are not restricted in their enjoyment or progress.

During the year we have qualified horse lungers, OTC coaches and re-accredited a Level 1 coach. Coaches continue to gain more knowledge and experience.

We are enormously grateful to Bfirm Personal Fitness in Berwick, who have run a second charity golf day. Last year we erected the Bfirm room which looks over the VRC funded Subzero outdoor arena. This year we are adding power and finishing the Bfirm room. Pakenham Racing Club are funding a roof over the horse yards.

Paddocks continue to be fenced and watered. We thank Pakenham Rotary and Inner Wheel and other local Opportunity shops and businesses for their support. We look forward to the day when the arena has a roof so programs will not be compromised by the weather.



Peninsula

RDA Peninsula has had a SPECTACULAR year this year.

In August of last year, we were offered the use of an indoor arena and stable complex in Main Ridge. This property is a co-operative with many primary producers on it, but we are the main ones who use the arena on a regular basis. We transferred our centre with four horses from Moorooduc in January, and have had a wonderful year, and have been welcomed with open arms by the other people on the property.

We are running two mornings a week, and have just employed a third coach to start on a Monday. There are many paddocks on the property, which allows us to move the horses regularly. Unfortunately, it is very hilly, and we are



all getting very strong legs walking the horses to and from their respective places!!!

We took the horses to the Very Special Kids Camp in Somers in October, and had a wonderful couple of hours there giving rides to the special kids and their siblings. The horses were amazing, and did not put a foot wrong. It was a brilliant day. We are really looking forward to next year.



Seymour

RDA Seymour has been operating for 44 years. It has been 12 months since we lost everything we had built up and accumulated (besides our precious horses) in the Floods. It was a highly stressful and traumatic time for us. We would like to thank volunteers for helping with the clean up and other Centres and RDAV for supporting us with equipment, tack and helping us with tricky and complicated flood relief grant.

We were lucky to set up a temporary Centre at a volunteer's property, and have 6 riders. We have slowly replaced much of our equipment with the flood relief grant and have a new kitchen thanks to Mitchell Shire. We are repairing our paddocks and fences from flood damage.

Our new Disabled Bathroom and roof over our arena are under construction after being delayed due to the floods. We are very excited to be on track to returning to our new and improved Centre ready to start in 2024.

We were deeply saddened at the passing of our Treasurer Vicki Abery in August, a long term, reliable and much loved member of RDA Seymour

We would like to thank Coral Cole for returning from retirement to be our Level 1 Coach until we can get trainees assessed. Thank you to our volunteers for their support and reliability during another very challenging year.

Shepparton

This year at Shepparton RDA we have enjoyed the whole of the year after the pandemic and floods it has been a welcome change.

We received a flood recovery grant to reinstate our Arena including a new watering system. Once this was established, we then received a Community Matching Grant from Shepparton Council and were able to purchase a Ride-on Mower, so our Arena and surrounds are now looking great. Thank you to Graeme Currie and Frank Steen for spearheading this recovery grant. Many other organisations within the Goulburn Valley have supported us and we are most grateful for their continued support.

This year we have been able to add to our Horse Team, Haiti, Alec and Whip, (coming to us from the same family) and Prince. These four boys have fitted in well and we are very grateful to their owners for the loan of these great horses.

Recently Haiti and our Rider/Volunteer Sienna have taken part in RDAV's online dressage competition which is a first for Shepparton RDA. Thank you to our team of volunteers for continuing the great work that RDA is renowned for.



St Andrews

The Centre operated very successfully on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from July 2022 to December 2022 with Maggie Broom as the only Level 1 Coach. We had 3 horses, Benny, Bert and Rascal, 15 volunteers and 8 riders. The arena and equipment were in excellent condition. In preparation for Maggie's retirement in December 2022 meetings were held with RDAV to investigate what would be needed to keep the St Andrews Centre running in 2023. A new Centre Management Committee, to replace the current President and Treasurer, was elected at the AGM held in November 2022. Thanks to Genine Cowell who took on the role of Treasurer and Lara, Judy and Ali who all remained on the committee. The AGM decided that closing the Centre or going into recess was not an option. The new Centre Management Committee developed an Operational Plan which was submitted to RDAV in December 2022. The main targets of the Plan were to find 2 Level 1 Coaches, find a second horse to replace Bert and Rascal and ensure that sufficient riders and volunteers were available.

On behalf of the RDA St Andrews Committee, volunteers and riders I would like to thank Maggie, Bernie and Hazel Fox for the exceptional work that they have put in to starting and running RDA St Andrews for the past 7 years from 2015. An end of year function was held at the Panton Hill Hotel to celebrate Maggie's retirement.

In February 2023 we were pleased to appoint Jemma Barker as our Level 1 Coach, and get Buddy, a 20-year-old 16H Bay Gelding to join RDAV on a Sessional Loan Agreement. Sally Francis visited St Andrews to meet our coach and volunteers and assess our horses Benny and Buddy. Sally gave everyone present some valuable training and tips on horse assessment, preparation, testing and riding. Sally gave us approval to start up RDA St Andrews on the 21st February 2023.

On the 21st February 2023 we started up again with our new coach Jemma, 5 riders, 2 horses and at least 8 of our 15 volunteers on Tuesday mornings from 9am to 1pm. We successfully ran for 14 weeks (School term 1 and 2) until the end of the financial year (June 2023). The riders have enjoyed a varied programme mainly concentrating on games relating to catching, passing and throwing. Our thanks go to our hard-working volunteers and Centre Management Committee who give us so much. In particular Ali, Pam and Rus who load, transport and manage our horses Benny and Buddy.

We would also like to thank Jemma for doing a fantastic job coaching for the past 6 months. Jemma will be leaving us to take on a new venture moving to Pyalong. Unfortunately, we could not find a coach for term 3. Maggie agreed to help us out as a Coach for Term 4 until the end of the year. We are looking for 2 coaches for 2024.





Swan Hill

In 2023, we started the year with an exciting event being held in our arena, and we were very happy to support and encourage Tom Curtain's "Nothin's gonna stop us tour" with his award winning outback show Katherine Outback Experience. Tom Curtain is an official ambassador of Dolly's Dream to fight online bullying.

RDA Swan Hill have a wonderful team of volunteers and supporters and we wish to acknowledge Verna French for receiving Centre Coach outstanding Service Award, she is a tireless long term volunteer and supports RDA Swan Hill in so many ways. This year also saw Alison Henson receive a 25 years' service medal, which is an amazing achievement. We had the opportunity to spend two days of coaching and volunteer induction with Jan Croser, it was great to have her wealth of knowledge and experience.

While continuing to look for suitable horses to join the team: Marvelous Mickey, Beautiful Bella, Wonderful Will and Gentle Jack. Jack, the new Horse, has been exceptional and is much-loved,

proving to be a great addition. We hope in time, Venus will also prove to be a great addition as she is introduced into the program. We hope to be able to increase our rider sessions next year to meet rider demand, dependent on available suitable horses, and volunteer numbers. The warmer weather will be appreciated, and spending time in the sensory garden, and out on trail rides is a highlight for our volunteers and riders.

August 1st was a great day with The Guardian newspaper running an article on Swan Hill RDA to celebrate the Horses birthday. We also submitted a video of this day as part of the "Let the love flow" campaign supported by Tania Kernaghan and Jason Owen. Our AGM was also held this day with a great opportunity to catch up socially and plan for the future of our Centre. As always we are incredibly grateful to our wonderful team of volunteers, our community, and the support that RDAV provide with education and support. We look forward to a successful 2024.

Stawell

Stawell RDA have once again had a successful year with 6 riders, 4 horses and 26 registered volunteers. We have been fortunate to receive a number of grants throughout the year which has enabled us to construct 8 steel horse yards, safety fencing around the mounting area and specialist saddle for our riders.

We thank Northern Grampians Shire Council and Stawell Gold Mines for their continued support of Stawell RDA. Jan Croser completed our accreditation through the year after construction of safety fencing and signage at the front gate. Thank you Jan.

Two of our long serving members Dianne Erwin and Elsie Cray retired throughout the year. We thank them for their dedicated service to Stawell RDA. Michelle and Amy two of our members attended an intensive Coaching Program conducted by Jan Croser at Horsham RDA.



Michelle attained her Level O certificate and is progressing well towards Level 1 .

We catered at the Stawell Agricultural Show again last year which is our main fundraiser for the year. A small band of our volunteers work at the Stawell Harness Racing club on race days and this is also raising additional funds for our centre

A thank you to our President, Secretary, Treasurer and all volunteers for their ongoing commitment to Stawell RDA.

Terang

At RDA Terang we can celebrate another successful year. Our sessions operate for the first two terms with 18 junior school age children. Unfortunately, Covid visited our area and key personnel were laid low , which resulted in sessions having to be postponed.

Each week, four wonderful horses are brought to the centre, three owned by volunteers who bring them to the centre each week prepped and ready for the task at hand. The other is owned by RDA Terang. One of our coaches with her equally knowledgeable and skilled daughter have undertaken the care, training and upkeep of Penny for the benefit of our young riders.

We were delighted to welcome new volunteers to our centre who filled the gaps with their set own of skills. Together with the well trained and experienced regular volunteers, sessions were seamless enabling individual lesson plans and aims to be met to maximise the ability of the riders. With the skill, commitment and dedication demonstrated by our volunteers, the longevity of RDA is assured.

Our sessions focus on the basics of riding with the aim to enable the enthusiastic young folk to ride independently. We utilise life skills and activities that involve recognising colours, shapes, letters and numbers etc. and encourage friendly competition, which ensures success with sense of achievement and purpose.

Happy faces and obvious improved riding ability of the riders is ample, but feedback from the teachers, carers and parents is so



positive, that we can take pride in our efforts and be comforted to know that our time is acknowledged and appreciated.

Our band of volunteers are to be commended and the riders congratulated. 2024 is fast approaching, so we look forward to more fun filled days with happy faces.





Viewbank

2023 has been a great year at Viewbank RDA.

Our riders have made progress and are enjoying their weekly rides which include balance exercises, riding skills and games to name a few. Nine of our riders participated in the recent video dressage competition and they all exceeded expectations. It was lovely to see how proud they were of their efforts. The horses were (mostly) well behaved and looked beautiful. We have a recently accredited Level 1 coach, Daniel, who is co-coaching on Saturdays.



On a sad note we lost two horses during the year which was heartbreaking for everyone at the centre.

On a happier note, we are leasing a lovely new horse named Louis and he has settled into the program very well. We also received a grant for a trailer that lifts and carries round hay bales. What was a four person job can now be done by one person without raising a sweat. It's the best!

Many thanks to our coaches and volunteers for their hard work and continued support of Viewbank RDA.





Warracknabeal

All has gone well this year for Warracknabeal RDA. We have continued our riding program, mainly focusing on games. We have also been doing Vaulting on Snoopy when we are short of hands. The year 9 High School students have continued to come and volunteer. These students are a big part of our Centre, and we are privileged to have them and a wonderful teacher that takes the time to bring the students out.

Our SDS and Adult riders have developed wonderful friendships and communication skills with our volunteers and horses. They have loved

the games we play on the horses, and all seem to walk away happy with achieving something. Snoopy, Jock and Ebony have been our main horses for the year. We thank Jan Croser for the use of Jock. We have looked at numerous trail riding options now for our RDA and believe we may have found an option that fits the new RDA regulations. We are also pleased to report that we passed our Centre audit. We thank everyone involved in making our rallies fun for all riders.

We look forward to seeing what 2024 brings.





Warragul

The Warragul Group of RDAV, started our year with two training sessions, in February with Sally Francis and Mary Longden we opened these up to other centres which was very well attended. We only operate on a Thursday during school term. We have a Gala evening close to finish of each year.

Our activities for the year have been unmounted and mounted with a set program for the school term. This has games and pole work incorporated in it as well as reining, halt and walking on.

We have 17 riders, nine from the Warragul District Special School. Eight private Riders. The special school brings in six students at a time, we only have three take part in the arena at one time, so to keep the other three active

and quiet, this is where our fabulous volunteer Margaret goes to work with her activities. They sit at a table in the waiting area and have work sheets, detailing parts of a horse, parts of tack, grooming equipment, colour horse pictures and jig saw puzzles. Also cleaning of tack using the correct products (saddle soap etc) taking apart bridles and saddles then reassembling them. Emptying the grooming bags and repack one of each item, brushes, curry comb, tail and mane comb, sponge etc. So, each student gets a turn at these activities as they are rotated on a weekly basis.

The Special School comes in first up at 10am till 11.30am, then the private riders attend till finish at 2.30pm. We then return the horses to their paddocks, tidy and pack up.



Warrandyte

We started off with a quiet year at RDA Warrandyte, with a couple dozen returning riders from 2022. Thanks to a donation from the Lions Club we could obtain a new saddle for Paris the pony (as pictured), who is helping us get ready for 2024 using the Kickstarter program.

With so much on for term four, the ponies and team will be ready for a well earned rest over the holiday period.

Warrnambool

RDA Warrnambool runs their program on Wednesdays between 10:30 am to 2:30 pm. Groups mainly consist of junior students from the local special development school but they also cater for a small number of individual riders.

RDA Warrnambool programs concentrate on mounted games and activities, sessions are usually run for groups of four riders. Each activity

has a stated focus, e.g. a specific equine focus holding the reins, steering, identifying the parts of the horse, or can be focused on handeye coordination, movement to music, teamwork and numerical activities. RDA Warrnambool hire a large indoor arena and meet on a weekly basis during school terms. In 2023 RDA Warrnambool had 14 volunteers and 14 participants.



Blue has already proven to be such a beautiful loving horse who just wants cuddles and attention and Gilligan only recently arrived so is learning the ropes down at RDA and loving life in our little herd.

We have 5 amazing RDA horses and 4 of them are OTT TB's, we didn't plan it but they just proved to be amazing horses for our program. Our annual Trivia night fundraiser was hosted once again by our local celebrity and MP Paul Mercurio. It was a great success and raised funds towards setting up a homing yard for our horses.

We also recently ran a Wessage competition day at our center for all our riders. What is Wessage you say? It's a fusion of western and dressage, a test which started off as a regular dressage test and then morphed into a reining pattern complete with a western salute where clients and volunteers had to yell "yee ha!" while pretending to swing a rope. We also had a jumping (poles)/barrel racing course and even an impromptu hobby horse race complete with our coach Holly joining in with a shovel. Our volunteers didn't miss out either with a chaotic and hilarious volunteer challenge. Some mild cheating may have occurred. We finished off with a BBQ with all clients, families, friends, and volunteers and had a lovely day together. That's what RDA is all about.

Western Port

The past year at Western Port RDA sure has been a busy one. We have expanded our team of horses with 2 new Off The Track geldings, Blue and Gilligan. Both horses were from the Racing Victoria's Re-set program in partnership with RDA Victoria. They had been previously owned by RSPCA prior to coming to their forever homes here at Western Port. They were retrained by Lou Abey who did a wonderful job with them both, ensuring they were ready to join our RDA team.

Woolamai

RDA Woolamai is now in its 2nd year of operation.

We would like to thank Sally Francis and Claire Altmann for continuing to support us this year by offering their expertise while we have worked towards training our own coaches.

We now have a graduate Level 1 coach, Deb Morris and OTC, Louise Stuteley. Level 1 coach Cathy Lee has also recently joined our team allowing us to offer a consistent weekly program to our Leongatha Yooralla pilot group.

It has been rewarding to see these riders progress throughout the year gaining confidence and independence in their riding skills.

RDA Woolamai hosted a successful day at the Woolamai Picnic Races in association with Off The Track, RDA Victoria and the Woolamai Racing Club in February this year. This event displayed the value of working together to promote RDA both to the local and wider community.



We have also been fortunate to receive a very generous grant from the Bendigo Bank to enable us to build a fully accessible mounting ramp at our Centre. Our sincere thanks go to the San Remo Bendigo Bank and our construction team lead by RDA Woolamai volunteer Peter Mabilia.

Our centre is now growing in capacity, and we hope to offer sessions to the Wonthaggi Special School in 2024.

Our Objectives and Activities

Our Aim

To develop and grow our programmes, coaches, volunteers and member Centres.

Our Strategic Pillars



1. Financial sustainability and governance

To ensure accountability and efficiency across the organisation through governance best practice and regulatory compliance.

To ensure sustainability and growth of the organisation by increasing funding avenues through advocacy and targeted community engagement.

- Financial integrity
- Risk management
- Reputational risk and social license
- Structure and roles



2. Participants & Volunteers

To develop, grow our coaches, and volunteers; highlighting the benefits of volunteering as a pathway/training ground for skill development.

To ensure the organisation remains relevant and accessible through expansion of the program offering.

- Coach recruitment and retention
- Volunteer recruitment and retention
- Rider programs and pathways

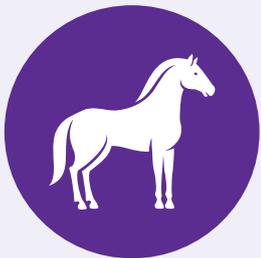


3. Resources for Centres

To reduce the administrative load of our centres.

Improve the collaboration, shared learning and support across the volunteer functions.

- Centre support
- Operational efficiencies (forms and policies)
- Coach support and training
- Volunteer support and training



4. Horses

To ensure equine welfare best practice across the organisation.

- End to end horse management
- Equitation science

Enablers

Strategic partnerships, brand & comms, technology, efficient processes

SECTION 3

OUR FINANCES



Financial Report

Board of Management Report

The Board of Management members submit the financial report of Riding for the Disabled Association for Victoria Incorporated for the financial year ended 30 June 2023.

Board of Management

The Board of Management members throughout the year and at the date of this report were:

Tanya Twaits (President)	Elected 17 February 2021, Appointed President 24 February 2022 until term expiry 20 November 2022, Re-appointed 23 November 2023
Di Collins	Appointed 16 May 2020, Resigned 20 November 2022
Andrea Lucas	Appointed 24 November 2019, Resigned 20 November 2022
Angela Cleland	Appointed 18 December 2019, Treasurer from 20 June 2020 to Resignation 20 November 2022
Kelly Schulz	Appointed 23 January 2023
Gareth Beck	Appointed 23 January 2023
Christalyne Look	Appointed 23 January 2023
Wojtek Randla	Appointed 23 January 2023, Appointed Secretary 19 April 2023
Stacey Murray	Appointed 23 January 2023
Rachel Taylor	Appointed Treasurer 23 January 2023, Resigned 13 May 2023
Taegen Kerley	Elected 31 January 2022, Resigned 11 August 2022
Sally Francis	Elected 24 November 2019, Re-elected 31 January 2022
Jennifer Krawczyk	Appointed 12 September 2020, Re-elected 20 November 2022, Secretary from 6 October 2020 until 19 April 2023
Abigail Vidler	Appointed 28 February 2022, Re-elected 20 November 2022
Maria Di Gregorio	Appointed Treasurer 16 August 2023

Principal Activities

The principal activities of the Association during the financial year were providing equestrian activities for riders with a disability.

Significant Changes

No significant change in the nature of these activities occurred during the year.

Operating Result

The surplus after providing for income tax amounted to \$229,843 (2022 surplus: \$271,189).

Subsequent Events

No matters or circumstances have arisen since the end of the financial year which significantly affected or may significantly affect the operations of the Association, the results of those operations, or the state of affairs of the Association in future financial years.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Members of the Board:



Tanya Twaits
President

23 November 2023, Melbourne

Riding For The Disabled Association Of Victoria Incorporated Declaration By Board Of Management

For The Year Ended 30 June 2023

As members of the Board of Management of Riding for the Disabled Association of Victoria Incorporated, we declare that in the opinion of the members of the Board of Management:

1. the financial report is in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards - Simplified Disclosures, the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Reform Act (Vic) 2012, the requirements of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 and other mandatory professional reporting requirements in Australia and presents a true and fair view of the Association's financial position as at 30 June 2023 and of its performance for the year ended on that date; and
2. at the date of this declaration there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Association will be able to pay its debts as they become due and payable.

This declaration is made in accordance with a resolution of the Board of Management and is signed for and on behalf of the Members of the Board of Management by:



Tanya Twaits
President

23 November 2023, Melbourne

Riding For The Disabled Association Of Victoria Incorporated

Statement Of Comprehensive Income

For the Year Ended 30 June 2023

	Note	2023 \$	2022 \$
Revenue			
Administrative expenses	2	688,611	273,199
Salaries and wages - office	2	791,204	992,915
		1,479,815	1,266,114
State Office Expenses			
Accounting fees		(39,179)	(39,057)
Administrative expenses		(47,203)	(25,046)
Merchandise		(47,764)	-
Salaries and wages - office		(227,815)	(166,677)
Computer/database expenses		(26,317)	(9,122)
Depreciation	3	(3,051)	(3,356)
RDAA fees and insurance		(84,929)	(54,030)
		(476,258)	(297,288)
Centre Expenses			
Administrative expenses		(11,000)	(7,394)
Merchandise		(2,146)	-
Coaching salaries (State Office coaches)		(58,596)	(79,242)
Coaching fees and allowances - other		(21,839)	(21,523)
Centre expenses/riding support		(133,483)	(153,140)
Depreciation and amortisation	3	(123,606)	(118,865)
Fundraising and event expenses		(22,794)	(9,880)
Horse welfare/purchases		(302,558)	(222,390)
Riding equipment purchases		(40,595)	(25,598)
Repairs and maintenance		(57,097)	(59,605)
		(773,714)	(697,637)
State Office Surplus/(Deficit)		212,353	(24,089)
Centres Surplus/(Deficit)		17,490	295,278
Surplus before tax		229,843	271,189
Income tax expense	1(e)	-	-
Surplus after tax		229,843	271,189

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Riding For The Disabled Association Of Victoria Incorporated

Statement Of Financial Position

As At 30 June 2023

	Note	2023 \$	2022 \$
Current Assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	4	2,617,059	2,490,708
Receivables	5	16,504	16,650
Prepayments		16,622	-
Total Current Assets		2,650,185	2,507,358
Non-Current Assets			
Property, plant and equipment	6	1,073,869	981,619
Intangibles	7	343,333	363,333
Total Non-Current Assets		1,417,202	1,344,952
Total Assets		4,067,387	3,852,310
Current Liabilities			
Payables	8	18,376	29,927
Provisions	9	13,931	17,467
Total Current Liabilities		32,307	47,394
Non-Current Liabilities			
Provisions	9	1,427	1,106
Total Non-Current Liabilities		1,427	1,106
Total Liabilities		33,734	48,500
Net Assets		4,033,653	3,803,810
Funds of Association			
Accumulated surplus		4,033,653	3,803,810
Total Funds of Association		4,033,653	3,803,810

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Riding For The Disabled Association Of Victoria Incorporated Statement Of Changes In Equity

For the Year Ended 30 June 2023

	Accumulated Surplus \$	Total \$
Balance at 1 July 2021	3,532,621	3,532,621
Surplus after income tax expense for the year	271,189	271,189
Balance at 30 June 2022	3,803,810	3,803,810
Balance at 1 July 2022	3,803,810	3,803,810
Surplus after income tax expense for the year	229,843	229,843
Balance at 30 June 2023	4,033,653	4,033,653

Riding For The Disabled Association Of Victoria Incorporated Statement Of Cash Flows

For the Year Ended 30 June 2023

	Note	2023 \$	2022 \$
Cash Flows from Operating Activities			
Receipts from fundraising, members, government, etc		1,453,452	1,230,661
Payments to suppliers and employees		(1,150,449)	(824,648)
Interest received		13,055	4,414
Net cash provided by / (used in) operating activities	10	316,058	410,427
Cash Flows from Investing Activities			
Proceeds on sale of assets		9,200	14,822
Purchase of property, plant & equipment		(198,907)	(184,624)
Net cash (used in) / provided by investing activities		(189,707)	(169,802)
Net Increase/(Decrease) in Cash Held		126,351	240,625
Cash at the beginning of the financial year		2,490,708	2,250,083
Cash at the end of the financial year	4	2,617,059	2,490,708

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Riding For The Disabled Association Of Victoria Incorporated

Notes To The Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2023

Introduction

Riding for the Disabled Association of Victoria Incorporated ("RDAV") is an Association incorporated in Victoria. The operations and principal activities of RDAV were providing equestrian activities for riders with a disability. The financial statements are presented in Australian dollars and rounded to the nearest dollar. The registered office and principal place of business is 400 Epsom Road, Flemington, Victoria.

1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

The principal accounting policies adopted in the preparation of the financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all the years presented, unless otherwise stated.

(a) Basis of Preparation

The financial report is a general purpose financial report that has been prepared in accordance with the Associations Incorporation Reform Act (Vic) 2012 and the requirements of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 and applicable Accounting Standards – Simplified Disclosures and other mandatory professional reporting requirements in Australia.

The financial report has been prepared on a going concern and an accruals basis using the historical cost method, and except where stated does not take into account current valuations of non-current assets. The accounting policies are consistent with those of the previous year.

Historical cost convention

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

Critical accounting estimates

The preparation of the financial statements requires the use of certain critical accounting estimates. It also requires management to exercise its judgement in the process of applying the Association's accounting policies. The areas involving a higher degree of judgement or complexity, or areas where assumptions and estimates are significant to the financial statements, are disclosed in note 1(q).

(b) New or Amended Accounting Standards and Interpretations Adopted

The Association has adopted all of the new or amended Accounting Standards and Interpretations issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board ('AASB') that are mandatory for the current reporting period.

Any new or amended Accounting Standards or Interpretations that are not yet mandatory have not been early adopted.

(c) Going Concern

The financial report of Riding for the Disabled Association of Victoria Incorporated has been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards, including Accounting Interpretations, which are based on the Association continuing as a going concern. The financial statements incorporate the State office operations of the Association and the financial statements of the Centres that operate under the rules of the Association.

(d) Revenue Recognition

The Association recognises revenue as follows:

Revenue from contracts with customers

Revenue is recognised at an amount that reflects the consideration to which the incorporated association is expected to be entitled in exchange for transferring goods or services to a customer. For each contract with a customer, the Association: identifies the contract with a customer; identifies the performance obligations in the contract; determines the transaction price which takes into account estimates of variable consideration and the time value of money; allocates the transaction price to the separate performance obligations on the basis of the relative stand-alone selling price of each distinct good or service to be delivered; and recognises revenue when or as each performance obligation is satisfied in a manner that depicts the transfer to the customer of the goods or services promised.

Sales revenue

Events, fundraising and raffles are recognised when received or receivable.

Riding For The Disabled Association Of Victoria Incorporated

Notes To The Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2023

Donations

Donations are recognised at the time the pledge is made.

Grants

Grant revenue is recognised in profit or loss when the incorporated association satisfies the performance obligations stated within the funding agreements.

If conditions are attached to the grant which must be satisfied before the incorporated association is eligible to retain the contribution, the grant will be recognised in the statement of financial position as a liability until those conditions are satisfied.

Interest

Interest revenue is recognised as interest accrues using the effective interest method. This is a method of calculating the amortised cost of a financial asset and allocating the interest income over the relevant period using the effective interest rate, which is the rate that exactly discounts estimated future cash receipts through the expected life of the financial asset to the net carrying amount of the financial asset.

Other revenue

Other revenue is recognised when it is received or when the right to receive payment is established.

(e) Income Tax

The Association has been granted tax exemption under Section 50-50 of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997.

(f) Current and Non-Current Classification

Assets and liabilities are presented in the statement of financial position based on current and non-current classification.

An asset is classified as current when: it is either expected to be realised or intended to be sold or consumed in the Association's normal operating cycle; it is held primarily for the purpose of trading; it is expected to be realised within 12 months after the reporting period; or the asset is cash or cash equivalent unless restricted from being exchanged or used to settle a liability for at least 12 months after the reporting period. All other assets are classified as non-current.

A liability is classified as current when: it is either expected to be settled in Association's normal operating cycle; it is held primarily for the purpose of trading; it is due to be settled within 12 months after the reporting period; or there is no unconditional right to defer the settlement of the liability for at least 12 months after the reporting period. All other liabilities are classified as non-current.

(g) Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents includes cash on hand, deposits held at call with financial institutions, other short-term, highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and which are subject to an insignificant risk of changes in value.

(h) Receivables

Other receivables are recognised at amortised cost, less any allowance for expected credit losses.

(i) Contract Assets

Contract assets are recognised when the incorporated association has transferred goods or services to the customer but where the incorporated association is yet to establish an unconditional right to consideration. Contract assets are treated as financial assets for impairment purposes.

(j) Property, Plant and Equipment

Plant and equipment are stated at historical cost less accumulated depreciation and impairment. Historical cost includes expenditure that is directly attributable to the acquisition of the items.

Depreciation is calculated on both a diminishing value and a straight-line basis to write off each depreciable non-current asset over its expected useful life as follows:

Land and Buildings	5%
Plant and Equipment	10% - 33%
Horse Floats	25%
Motor Vehicle	25%

An intangible asset has been recognised in Note 7 for a licence to utilise an Equine Centre in Ballarat over a term of 30 years. This asset is being amortised over the term of the licence.

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2022

The residual values, useful lives and depreciation methods are reviewed, and adjusted if appropriate, at each reporting date.

An item of property, plant and equipment is derecognised upon disposal or when there is no future economic benefit to the incorporated association. Gains and losses between the carrying amount and the disposal proceeds are taken to profit or loss.

(k) Impairment of non-financial assets

Non-financial assets are reviewed for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount may not be recoverable. An impairment loss is recognised for the amount by which the asset's carrying amount exceeds its recoverable amount.

Recoverable amount is the higher of an asset's fair value less costs of disposal and value-in-use. The value-in-use is the present value of the estimated future cash flows relating to the asset using a pre-tax discount rate specific to the asset or cash-generating unit to which the asset belongs. Assets that do not have independent cash flows are grouped together to form a cash-generating unit.

(l) Trade and other payables

These amounts represent liabilities for goods and services provided to the incorporated association prior to the end of the financial year and which are unpaid. Due to their short-term nature they are measured at amortised cost and are not discounted. The amounts are unsecured and are usually paid within 30 days of recognition.

(m) Employee Benefits

Short-term employee benefits

Liabilities for wages and salaries, including non-monetary benefits, annual leave and long service leave expected to be settled wholly within 12 months of the reporting date are measured at the amounts expected to be paid when the liabilities are settled.

Other long-term employee benefits

The liability for annual leave and long service leave not expected to be settled within 12 months

of the reporting date are measured at the present value of expected future payments to be made in respect of services provided by employees up to the reporting date using the projected unit credit method. Consideration is given to expected future wage and salary levels, experience of employee departures and periods of service. Expected future payments are discounted using market yields at the reporting date on national government bonds with terms to maturity and currency that match, as closely as possible, the estimated future cash outflows.

Defined contribution superannuation expense

Contributions to defined contribution superannuation plans are expensed in the period in which they are incurred.

(n) Fair Value Measurement

When an asset or liability, financial or non-financial, is measured at fair value for recognition or disclosure purposes, the fair value is based on the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date; and assumes that the transaction will take place either: in the principle market; or in the absence of a principal market, in the most advantageous market.

Fair value is measured using the assumptions that market participants would use when pricing the asset or liability, assuming they act in their economic best interest. For non-financial assets, the fair value measurement is based on its highest and best use. Valuation techniques that are appropriate in the circumstances and for which sufficient data are available to measure fair value, are used, maximising the use of relevant observable inputs and minimising the use of unobservable inputs.

(o) Goods and Services Tax ('GST') and Other Similar Taxes

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of associated GST, unless the GST incurred is not recoverable from the tax authority. In this case it is recognised as part of the cost of the acquisition of the asset or as part of the expense.

Receivables and payables are stated inclusive of the amount of GST receivable or payable. The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to,

Riding For The Disabled Association Of Victoria Incorporated

Notes To The Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2023

the tax authority is included in other receivables or other payables in the statement of financial position.

Cash flows are presented on a gross basis. The GST components of cash flows arising from investing or financing activities which are recoverable from, or payable to the tax authority, are presented as operating cash flows.

the tax authority is included in other receivables or other payables in the statement of financial position.

(p) New Accounting Standards and Interpretations not yet mandatory or early adopted

Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretations that have recently been issued or amended but are not yet mandatory, have not been early adopted by the incorporated association for the annual reporting period ended 30 June 2023. There is no significant impact on the Association expected from these new or amended Accounting Standards and Interpretations.

(q) Critical Accounting Judgements, Estimates and Assumptions

The preparation of the financial statements requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts in the financial statements. Management continually evaluates its judgements and estimates in relation to assets, liabilities, contingent liabilities, revenue and expenses. Management bases its judgements,

estimates and assumptions on historical experience and on other various factors, including expectations of future events, management believes to be reasonable under the circumstances. The resulting accounting judgements and estimates will seldom equal the related actual results. The judgements, estimates and assumptions that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year are discussed below.

Estimation of useful lives of assets

The Association determines the estimated useful lives and related depreciation and amortisation charges for its property, plant and equipment and finite life intangible assets. The useful lives could change significantly as a result of technical innovations or some other event. The depreciation and amortisation charge will increase where the useful lives are less than previously estimated lives, or technically obsolete or non-strategic assets that have been abandoned or sold will be written off or written down.

Employee benefits provision

As discussed in note 1(m), the liability for employee benefits expected to be settled more than 12 months from the reporting date are recognised and measured at the present value of the estimated future cash flows to be made in respect of all employees at the reporting date. In determining the present value of the liability, estimates of attrition rates and pay increases through promotion and inflation have been taken into account.

Riding For The Disabled Association Of Victoria Incorporated

Notes To The Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2023

2. Revenue from Continuing Operations

	2023 \$	2022 \$
State Office		
Donations and bequests	452,674	77,421
Membership and registration fees	127,654	91,301
Grants and subsidies	101,073	131,430
Interest	3,992	98
Other income	3,218	2,186
	688,611	302,436
Centres		
Donations and bequests	251,202	522,950
Riding fees	188,541	116,712
Fundraising activities	82,644	22,602
Grants and subsidies	137,876	208,605
Other income	77,152	54,671
Interest	9,063	4,316
Profit on disposal of sundry assets/horses	44,726	33,822
	791,204	963,678
Total revenue	1,479,815	1,266,114

3. Operating Result

Operating result before income tax has been arrived at after charging as expenses:

	2023 \$	2022 \$
State Office		
Depreciation		
- Plant and equipment	3,051	3,356
Centres		
Depreciation		
- Land and buildings	66,000	57,760
- Plant and equipment	33,149	36,237
- Horse floats	1,047	4,645
- Motor vehicle	3,410	223
	103,606	98,865
Amortisation		
- Ballarat equine centre rights	20,000	20,000

Riding For The Disabled Association Of Victoria Incorporated

Notes To The Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2023

4. Cash and Cash Equivalents

	2023 \$	2022 \$
Cash at bank	864,386	715,051
Short term bank deposits	1,752,673	1,775,657
	2,617,059	2,490,708

5. Receivables

	2023 \$	2022 \$
Sundry debtor	16,504	12,396
GST receivable	-	4,254
	16,504	16,650

6. Property, Plant and Equipment

	2023 \$	2022 \$
Land and Buildings	1,369,510	1,282,185
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(599,569)	(533,570)
	769,941	748,615
Plant and Equipment	670,921	590,115
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(410,295)	(377,634)
	260,626	212,481
Horse Floats	99,915	99,915
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(85,466)	(84,419)
	14,449	15,496
Motor Vehicle	32,486	5,250
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(3,633)	(223)
	28,853	5,027
	1,073,869	981,619

Riding For The Disabled Association Of Victoria Incorporated

Notes To The Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2023

	2023 \$	2022 \$
Reconciliations of movements in carrying values:		
Land and Buildings		
Opening Balance	748,615	685,875
Additions	87,326	120,945
Depreciation	(66,000)	(58,205)
Closing balance	769,941	748,615
Plant and Equipment		
Opening Balance	212,481	201,200
Additions	91,919	50,429
Disposals	(7,574)	-
Depreciation	(36,200)	(39,148)
Closing balance	260,626	212,481
Horse Floats		
Opening Balance	15,496	12,141
Additions	-	8,000
Depreciation	(1,047)	(4,645)
Closing balance	14,449	15,496
Motor Vehicle		
Opening Balance	5,027	-
Additions	27,236	5,250
Depreciation	(3,410)	(223)
Closing balance	28,853	5,027
	1,073,869	981,619

7. Intangibles

	2023 \$	2022 \$
Ballarat Equine Centre Rights		
At cost	600,000	600,000
Accumulated amortisation	(256,667)	(236,667)
	343,333	363,333
Reconciliation of movements in carrying values:		
Opening balance	363,333	383,333
Amortisation	(20,000)	(20,000)
Closing balance	343,333	363,333

Riding For The Disabled Association Of Victoria Incorporated

Notes To The Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2023

8. Payables

	2023 \$	2022 \$
Trade creditors	15,783	6,652
Trade creditors	554	-
Other payables and accruals	2,039	23,275
	18,376	29,927

9. Provisions

	2023 \$	2022 \$
Current:		
Employees - annual leave	13,931	17,467
Non-Current:		
Employees - long service leave	1,427	1,106
Total	15,358	18,573

10. Reconciliation of Net Cash Provided by Operating Activities to Operating Result After Income Tax

	2023 \$	2022 \$
Surplus/(deficit) after tax	229,843	271,189
Depreciation and amortisation	126,657	122,221
Net (profit)/loss on sale of assets	(9,200)	(14,822)
Changes in assets and liabilities:		
(Decrease) /Increase in payables	(7,297)	22,587
Increase / (decrease) in provisions	(3,215)	326
Decrease / (Increase) in receivables and prepayments	(20,730)	8,926
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	316,058	410,427

Riding For The Disabled Association Of Victoria Incorporated

Notes To The Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2023

11. Commitments for Expenditure

	2023 \$	2022 \$
Non-Cancellable Operating Leases - photocopier Payable:		
- Within one year	2,435	2,435
- Between one year and five years	-	2,435
	2,435	4,870

12. Auditor's Remuneration

	2023 \$	2022 \$
Audit services	7,250	7,250

13. Non Cash Financing Activities

The Association did not have any non-cash financing activities for the year.

14. Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets

The Association had no contingent liabilities or assets as at 30 June 2023 (2022: nil).

15. Events After the Reporting Period

No matters or circumstances have arisen since the end of the financial year which significantly affected or may significantly affect the operations of the Association, the results of those operations, or the state of affairs of the Association in future financial years.

16. Related Parties

The names of Board of Management members holding office during the year were:

Tanya Twaits (President)	Elected 17 February 2021, Appointed President 24 February 2022 until term expiry 20 November 2022
Di Collins	Appointed 16 May 2020, Resigned 20 November 2022
Andrea Lucas	Appointed 18 December 2019, Treasurer from 20 June 2020 to Resignation 20 November 2022 Appointed 23 January 2023
Kelly Schulz	Appointed 23 January 2023
Gareth Beck	Appointed 23 January 2023
Christalyne Look	Appointed 23 January 2023
Wojtek Randla	Appointed 23 January 2023, Appointed Secretary 19 April 2023
Stacey Murray	Appointed 23 January 2023
Rachel Taylor	Appointed Treasurer 23 January 2023, Resigned 13 May 2023
Taegen Kerley	Elected 31 January 2022, Resigned 11 August 2022
Sally Francis	Elected 24 November 2019, Re-elected 31 January 2022
Jennifer Krawczyk	Appointed 12 September 2020, Re-elected 20 November 2022, Secretary from 6 October 2020 until 19 April 2023
Abigail Vidler	Appointed 28 February 2022, Re-elected 20 November 2022

Riding For The Disabled Association Of Victoria Incorporated

Notes To The Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2023

Key Management Personnel

During the year, remuneration of \$119,493 (2022: \$90,458) was paid to Key Management Personnel (KMP). KMP remuneration includes \$51,993 (2022: \$90,458) paid to Ms Andrea Lucas as Interim Executive Officer on a part-time basis.

No other members of the Board of Management received any remuneration during the financial year.

Receivable from and payable to related parties

There were no trade receivables from or trade payables to related parties at the current and previous reporting date.

Loans to/from related parties

There were no loans to or from related parties at the current and previous reporting date.

INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF RIDING FOR THE DISABLED ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA INCORPORATED

Qualified Audit Opinion

We have audited the financial report of Riding for the Disabled Association of Victoria Incorporated which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2023, the statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies, and the declaration by the Board of Management.

In our opinion, except for the possible effects of the matter described in the Basis for Qualified Audit Opinion paragraph, the accompanying financial report of Riding for the Disabled Association of Victoria Incorporated, is in accordance with the *Associations Incorporation Reform Act (Vic) 2012*, and *Division 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* including:

- (a) giving a true and fair view of the financial position of the Association as at 30 June 2023, and of its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended; and
- (b) complying with Australian Accounting Standards (including the Australian Accounting Interpretations) and *Division 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulations 2013*.

Basis for Qualified Audit Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report* section of our report. We are independent of the Association in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's *APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Donations and Fundraising Activities

In common with other entities of its size and nature, the Association receives a substantial proportion of revenue in the form of cash. It is not practicable for us to extend our audit procedures relating to income from the Centres classified as "General donations" for \$251,202 (2022: \$522,950), and "Fundraising activities" for \$82,644 (2022: \$22,602) beyond the amounts recorded in the accounting records.

Responsibilities of Board of Management for the Financial Report

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, management is responsible for assessing the Association's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Association or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

The Board of Management is responsible for overseeing the Association's financial reporting process.

**INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF
RIDING FOR THE DISABLED ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA INCORPORATED (Cont'd)****Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report**

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Association's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Association's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Association to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with the Board of Management regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

DFK Kidsons Partnership
Chartered Accountants



M L Port
Partner

23 November 2023
Melbourne

SECTION 4 OUR OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION



Acknowledgments & Thank You

Bequests

Noel Ford

Edna Kerr

Margaret Hunt

Donors

RDAV Champions

D and X Willamson Charitable Fund

Allbeau Pty Ltd

Gracewon Pty Ltd

Goodman Family Foundation

Allan McCallum

Mildura Harness Racing Club

All Souls Opportunity Shop

Tom Ligeti Ligson Nominees Pty Ltd

Fiona Musson

Lady Marigold Southey Fund

Mark Hibberd

Claire Alvarez

Stavroula Karamboulis

Ann McGeary

Geemac Pty Ltd

John De Bono

Lesley Hewitt

Graeme Thomson

Rwth Stuckey

Barbara Williams

Tooma Recreation Reserve

John & Elizabeth Wright-Smith

Michelle O'Sullivan

Victoria Racing Club

Rodney McLaren

Margaret Nash

Anne Stanhope

RDAV Stars

Richard Oram

Alan G Day

Lucy Forrest

Jane Williams

Elizabeth Lithgow

Catherine Coles

Port Pilates Echuca

Jennifer Hearn

Dr John Dwyer

Ian Johnson

Andree Johnson-Clarke

Marilyn Bassett

Trevor Morgan

Sharon Zammit

PMS Lithography PL
Theo Prosenica

Rosemary Simpson

Joan Gabriel

Anne Morgan

Dugald Benson

James Palmer

Melissa Raby

Sandi- Lee Gabriel

Kelly Weerdenburg

Dean Medic

Deborah D'Adamo

Amanda Dyson

Samantha Strano

Carolyn Stanhope

Andrew Warburton

Sue Jaques

John Troy Shrive

Julie Coventry

Fiona Stewart

Rosemary Abrecht

Margaret March

Margaret Kemp

Peter Danger

Elisabeth (Myrna) Murchison

Anne Rissman

Clifford Bennett

Evelyn Crampton

John Shrive

Emily Cahill

Christine Spinks

Littlewood Charities Club Inc

Nadia Bevan

Grants and funding

RDAV constantly monitors for the availability of grants and informs and assists Centres with relevant opportunities as required. The RDAV Staff and Board works closely with various funding organisations, particularly Sport and Recreation Victoria (part of the Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions), and Vicsport to secure grants to enable the organisation to meet their strategic objectives.

Department of Sports and Recreation - Together More Active (TMA) Program

A key funding source for RDAV has been the TMA program administered by Sport and Recreation Victoria. During 2023 the following funded projects were concluded from the 2021 – 2023 cycle of this program within the 'Foundation' and 'Project' categories.

TMA FOUNDATION Funding

Foundation projects allow organisations to undertake work that result in building / sustaining participation and capacity and / or increasing equity, diversity and inclusiveness. The focus of RDAV's Foundation funding was on the development and implementation of the 2021-2024 RDA Victoria Strategic Plan & Business Plan with the four strategic pillars of Governance, Advocacy & Innovation, Sustainability & Development and Equine Welfare.

While various important initiatives were completed against each of these pillars, the Plan was subsequently revised by the new board, CEO and key stakeholders in May 2023 to guide future operations for the next 3 years (see p 52 – Our Objectives and Activities).

Key activities completed from the funding included:

- Board revitalisation with 6 new board members so the board now includes significant expertise across various skillsets (including legal, governance, marketing, training, equine welfare etc) with improvements in overall diversity as 30% have a disability and 80% are women. New policies included 'Board Delegations' and 'Financial Transactions'.
- State Office Human Resources were improved with a new CEO and Manager of Operations appointed in late 2022 with an increased allocation of hours from 3 days to 4 days per week for both positions.
- Centre support for all Centres included comprehensive Centre Manuals outlining important processes and policies.

- Workforce Development included the development of Child Safe Policy / Practices with volunteer training workshops delivered in individual centres or groups of centres.
- Coach development included the delivery of the annual Coaches Conference (also involving many Centre COM representatives) in November 2022 covering many key issues of Centre governance best practice. The Training and Competition Committee also implemented an extensive coach education training calendar to educate current coaches and upskill volunteers with an aim of recruiting new coaches into the system.
- Advocacy improvements focussed on new marketing collateral, social media audit/management, branding guidelines, logo refresh, staff uniforms, media library, social media Policies and background work for a new website.
- Equine welfare best practice across the organisation was enhanced as relationships fostered and maintained with Racing Victoria (via the 'Off the Track' program) and Harness Racing Victoria (via the 'Hero' program) to transition identified horses from both organisations to a second career as an RDAV horse at a Centre.

TMA PROJECT Funding - Waitlist Co-ordinator and Webinar Training Project

The broad objectives of the project were to build/sustain participation and capacity via increasing the number of volunteers to enhance overall delivery capacity and participation.

- The target was to deliver 12 initial/induction training webinars, while a total of 16 sessions were delivered in partnership with RDAV's Competition & Training Committee.
- The project has helped to deliver a 30% increase in volunteer numbers from 736 in 2021/2022 to 957 in 2022/2023.

- The project has helped to deliver a 27% increase in annual participant numbers from 521 in 2021/2022 to 663 in 2022/2023.

Despite the promising work undertaken in the project, the wait list numbers have increased from 811 in December 2021 to the current wait list of 901. This outcome reflects the increased demand for the RDA programs in the community, possibly due to increased exposure of the benefits of participation.

In response to these issues, in late 2022 additional resources have been engaged to further address pathways to participation to address the growing wait list numbers (note that these resources were NOT funded from this project). For example, the new Manager of Operations (now expanded to 4 days per week)

and the new CEO (expanded to 4 days per week) continue to support improvements in pathway capacity of our programs by focusing on process improvements and the attraction of new volunteers & coaches.

Future TMA Funding

We were pleased to be successful in achieving further TMA funding for the next 2 years in the Project stream to focus on reducing the administrative load on our Centres, particularly in regional areas. Working in partnership with Regional Sports Victoria and their Regional Sports Assemblies, this project will pilot a new model of support during 2024 and if successful, will be expanded across the state.

VICSPORT – Child Safe Standards Support Project

A focus for all sport and recreation organisations over recent years has been the safety of their participants who are children, particularly in Victoria where standards are somewhat more stringent.

RDAV is committed to ensure that its Centres, coaches, volunteers and participants are aware of the child safeguarding requirements applicable to the conduct of RDA programs and activities in Victoria. These requirements arise in Victoria through the application of both the National Integrity Framework (NIF) and the Victorian Child Safe Standards (CSS), revised versions of which came into force on 1 July 2022.

It was identified that RDAA had limited resources available to support the rollout of the NIF and associated Child Safe Practices (CSP) which it adopted and then passed on to its Member States. RDAV similarly had limited resources to implement the NIF and inform its Centres, coaches, volunteers and participants regarding their obligations and requirements to adhere to the NIF.

Funding was subsequently sought and secured from Vicsport to provide support in relation to embedding the NIF CSP and Victorian CSS within the operations of RDAV and its Centres.

The funding allowed the engagement of Sports Integrity & Governance Partners (SIGPA) to provide this support by conducting a review of existing policies and procedures and make appropriate recommendations in relation to specific outcomes sought by RDAV, namely:

The integration of the NIF, particularly around child safeguarding (and consequent repeal of existing RDAV safeguarding policies to the extent of any inconsistency);

The incorporation of the new Victorian CSS 1 (culturally safe environments for first nations children) into the RDAV policy framework;

Resources for Centres and members to understand the new requirements and processes to address the Victorian CSS (including a checklist of items to consider);

Clarifying the role that RDAV (and RDAA, as relevant) plays in the reporting and managing of child safeguarding and member protection incidents;

Determining the complaints handling and dispute resolution process for incidents not related to the NIF; and

Reviewing the risk management framework and recommend changes to meet the requirements of the CSS.

The review was hampered while RDAA conducted a further review of the initial NIF as they sought to ensure it was more suitable to the RDA operating environments which varied from those of traditional sports.

SIGPA produced fourteen recommendations, some of which have already been implemented with others under consideration by the board. During 2024 we will continue to work with RDAA to support the adoption of the revised NIF and the associated documentation and educational resources that will us to address the remaining recommendations.

Looking To The Future

Robust centralised data management system

We need to push forward with the integration of cloud base CRM to manage all information via a shared location. So we can automate the registration process, manage communication with donors, centres and volunteers; provide a central hub of training material, manage rider and horse records in one central place.

Diversity of revenue

We need a comprehensive fundraising strategy and plan to take us forward that we can share with centres. We need to develop strategic partnerships to take advantage of our reach in Victoria and improve our ability to collectively source infrastructure and equipment requirements.

Importance of our volunteer base

We need to find ways to attract and retain volunteers and coaches without them we simply can't run our programs. We need to look at ways to support our coaches and RDA needs to put more emphasis on a practical pathway to becoming a coach and inspire new trainees to come forward.

How You Can Help

Volunteer your time

www.rdav.asn.au/get-involved/volunteer

Volunteering opportunities are endless: you could assist during lessons, care for and feed horses, assist with fundraising or even become an RDA coach!

Make a donation

www.rdav.asn.au/get-involved/donate

Every dollar you donate enables the work of over nearly 1000 volunteers, so that participants can experience the freedom of movement and independence which the RDAV programs provide.

Donate a horse

Email: Board@rdav.asn

Become a coach

www.rdav.asn.au/get-involved/become-a-coach

As a coach, you're trained and supported to help people take the reins on independence and life-changing experiences.

Become a corporate partner

Email: Board@rdav.asn

Donating financially is one of the most powerful ways to support the life-changing work of RDAV. We're a genuinely grass-roots organisation, so every dollar you donate enables the work of nearly 1000 volunteers supported by a team of just three staff. Non-financial contributions and support are also welcomed.





Contact Us

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