



**Riding for the Disabled  
Association of Victoria**

**2023/2024  
Annual Report**



# 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

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# About RDA

Riding for the Disabled Victoria (RDAV) is a not-for-profit organisation dedicated to enriching the lives of people with disabilities through horse riding and equine-assisted activities. Established with a commitment to fostering physical, emotional, and social wellbeing, RDAV provides tailored programs that promote confidence, independence, and connection for participants of all ages and abilities.

Our passionate team of trained coaches, volunteers, and equine partners work collaboratively to deliver safe, inclusive, and empowering experiences at centres across

Victoria. By harnessing the unique bond between humans and horses, we support participants in achieving personal goals, improving physical strength, and building meaningful community connections.

In the past year, RDAV has continued to expand its reach, delivering impactful programs that enhance the quality of life for hundreds of individuals. Guided by our core values of respect, inclusion, and excellence, we remain steadfast in our mission to make horse riding and equine activities accessible to all who can benefit from it.

## Our Impact

1049

### Volunteers

124,680 hours of  
volunteer service

123

### Coaches

85 registered coaches  
plus 38 trainees

622

### Registered participants

34

### Centres operating across Victoria

244

### Horses

17,801

### Equine Experiences

# Our People

## Patron

Her Excellency Professor the Honourable Margaret Gardner AC

## Board members / Trustees

Name	Position	Dates acted (if not for whole year)
Tanya Twaits	President	Re-appointed 23 Nov 2023
Wojtek Randla	Secretary	Resigned 29 Feb 2024
Jennifer Krawczyk	Secretary	Re-elected 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	Resigned at 2023 AGM (Nov 23 2023)
Abigail Vidler	Board Member	Resigned at the 2023 AGM (Nov 23 2023)
Maria Di Gregorio	Treasurer	Appointed 16 August 2023

## Employees

Name	Position
Richard Amon	CEO
Annette Hatherley	Manager of Operations
Tara Wimhurst	Administration Officer (until 19 April 2023)
Florence McIver	Administration Officer



Bruce Spiden, President Woolamai, Richard Amon, CEO, Jennifer Krawczyk, Board Member



Gala Ball Board

# RDAV Board of Management



## Tanya Twaits (President)

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 Off The Track (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 and 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.



## Maria Di Gregorio (Treasurer)

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.



## Jennifer Krawczyk (Secretary)

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.



## Wojtek Randla (Secretary)

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.



## 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.



## 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.



## 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.



## Stacey Murray

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.



## 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.



## 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.

# Our Supporters



**Racing Victoria  
Off The Track Program**



**Vic Sport  
Guiding Sport Program**



**Melbourne Racing Club  
MRC Foundation**



**Victoria Racing Club  
Community Race Day**



**Bendigo Bank  
Community Enterprise  
Foundation**



## Racing Victoria Off The Track

Riding for the Disabled Victoria (RDA Victoria) is delighted to announce the extension of our valued partnership with Racing Victoria's Off The Track (OTT) program for another year, celebrated at our newest centre, RDA Woolamai. This collaboration continues to provide retired thoroughbreds with a meaningful second career as integral members of our therapeutic riding and equine-assisted programs, fostering transformative bonds with our volunteers and riders.



Nestled within the grounds of the Woolamai Racing Club, RDA Woolamai emerged from the closure of the Woolamai Pony Club. Inspired by his experience volunteering over 20 years ago at RDA's South Melbourne police barracks, Bruce, President of the Woolamai Racing Club, proposed establishing an RDA centre in the pony club's former space. Over two years, the team secured grants and donations, recruited dedicated volunteers, appointed a coach, acquired equipment, built yards, and sourced suitable horses. In November 2022, RDA Woolamai opened its gates to a small group of riders, proudly incorporating two Off The Track thoroughbreds into its program.



The OTT network's expertise in identifying and retraining thoroughbreds tailored for RDA's needs is a vital resource for our centres, which are powered by small but mighty volunteer teams. These horses, carefully prepared by OTT retrainers, enable us to expand our life-changing programs, offering more individuals with disabilities the opportunity to experience the physical, emotional, and social benefits of equine connection. This partnership not only enhances the wellbeing of our riders but also honours the versatility and spirit of thoroughbreds, giving them a purposeful new chapter after racing. RDA Victoria looks forward to another year of impactful collaboration with Off The Track, driving inclusion, empowerment, and community connection across our centres, including the promising new RDA Woolamai.



# Melbourne Racing Club MRC Foundation

## Gala Ball

On 24 May 2024, RDAV was deeply honoured to be the beneficiary of the Melbourne Racing Club (MRC) Foundation's Gala Ball, held at the prestigious Crown Palladium in Melbourne. This remarkable event brought together over 640 guests, providing RDAV with a powerful platform to share our story, highlight the transformative impact of our programs, and underscore the critical need for ongoing support.

The overwhelming generosity of the evening's attendees resulted in an extraordinary \$345,000 raised for RDAV. These funds will directly support the expansion of our riding and equine-assisted programs, supporting our horse welfare fund, and the enhancement of resources to serve more people with disabilities. For a grassroots, volunteer-driven not-for-profit organisation, this substantial contribution is truly transformative, enabling us to enrich the lives of more participants. Words cannot fully express our gratitude to the MRC Foundation, the generous

donors, and our dedicated volunteers who proudly represented RDAV, raising both funds and awareness throughout the event.

We also extend our heartfelt thanks to the MRC staff for their tireless efforts in orchestrating such a successful and memorable evening. Their commitment ensured the Gala Ball was a resounding success, amplifying our mission to foster inclusion, empowerment, and connection through the power of horses.





## Melbourne Racing Club

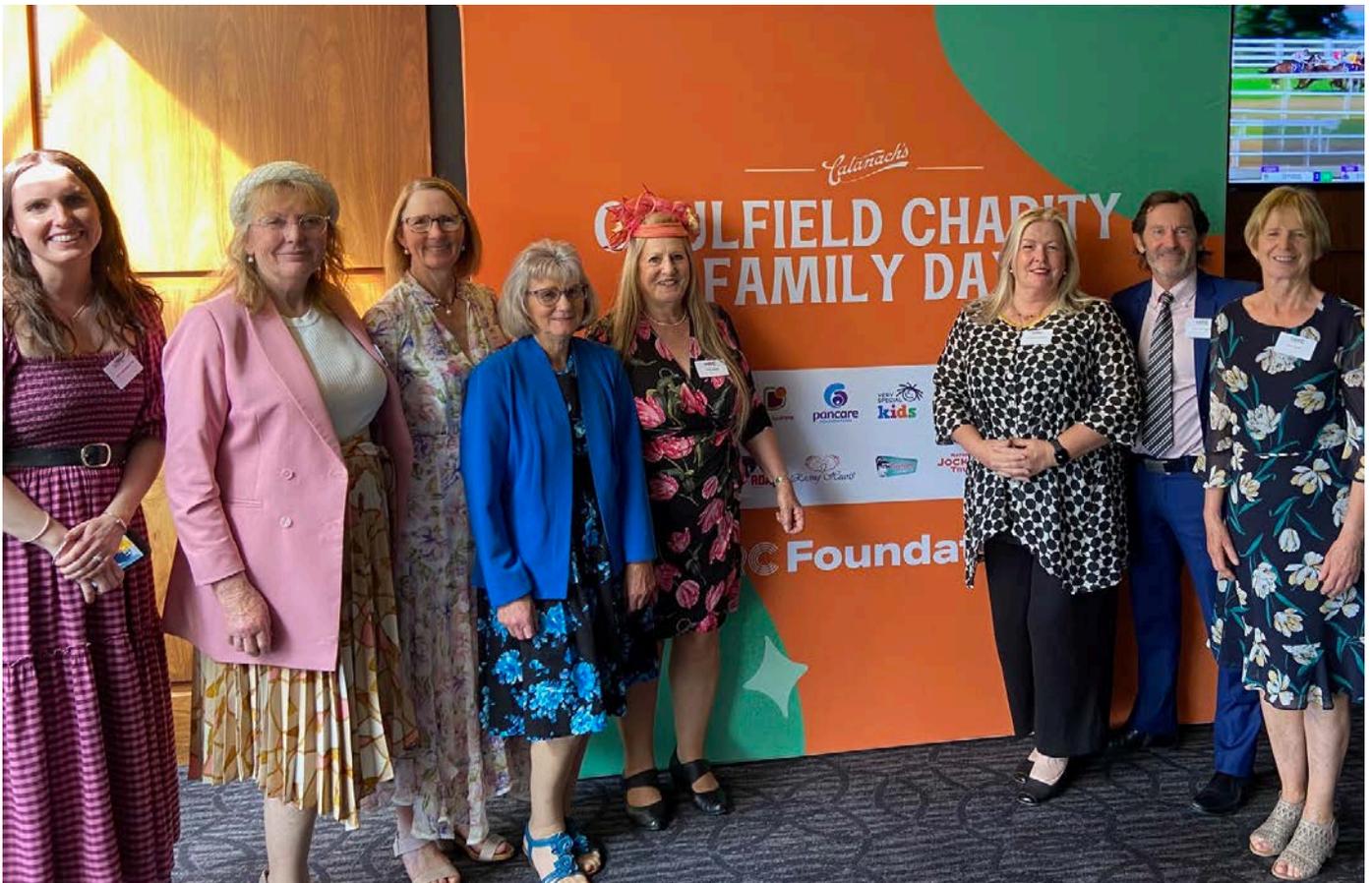
### Charity Family Day

On 21 September 2023, RDAV was proud to be selected as one of 16 charity partners for the Melbourne Racing Club (MRC) Foundation's Caulfield Charity Family Day, presented by Catanach's Jewellers. This vibrant event at Caulfield Racecourse provided a dynamic platform to raise awareness and funds for our transformative equine-assisted programs.



The day was filled with excitement, featuring family-friendly activities and thrilling races, including the Catanach's Jewellers MRC Foundation Cup (Naturalism Stakes). Whilst our horse didn't win, RDAV benefited from the event's fundraising efforts, which included ticket sales, raffles, and auctions. These funds will support RDAV to ensure the welfare of our invaluable horses.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the MRC Foundation, Catanach's Jewellers, and all attendees for their generosity and support. This partnership underscores the power of community collaboration in driving meaningful change for RDA Victoria and our riders.





## Victoria Racing Club

On 8 June 2024, RDAV proudly partnered with the Victoria Racing Club (VRC) for their Community Race Day, a vibrant celebration filled with joy and recognition. This special event provided an invaluable opportunity to raise awareness of RDAV's mission and to honour the extraordinary dedication of our volunteers.

The day was marked by heartfelt gratitude as we celebrated several long-serving volunteers who have been the backbone of our organisation. These remarkable individuals, with 25, 35, and even 45 years of service, have not only managed their respective centres but also served as Board Members, Committee Members, and inspiring advocates for our community. Their unwavering commitment has profoundly impacted countless lives, fostering inclusion and empowerment through our programs.

Eight races were named in tribute to our dedicated volunteers and VRC-supported RDA centres, shining a spotlight on their tireless contributions. The races included the

- RDA Peninsula Jenny Stidston Sprint
- RDA Horsham Jan Croser Plate
- RDA Pakenham Mary Longden Mile
- RDAV Sally Francis Plate
- RDA Moorabbin Jane Baker Plate
- RDA Daylesford Lesley Hewitt Trophy
- RDA Oaklands Victoria Trophy
- RDA Pakenham Trophy.

This recognition provided a powerful platform to celebrate the heart and soul of RDA Victoria.

We extend our deepest thanks to the Victoria Racing Club for their generous support and for hosting such a memorable day. A special shout-out goes to our centre volunteers who enthusiastically rattled the RDAV tins, leaving the track with a hefty collection of donations that will further our mission to provide life-changing equine-assisted programs. The success of this event underscores the strength of our community and the shared commitment to making a difference.





## Bendigo Community Bank

At Riding for the Disabled Victoria (RDA Victoria), our mission thrives on the deep connections forged between horses, riders, and volunteers, as well as our integral role within local communities. We are immensely grateful for the generous support of Bendigo Bank's community branches through the Bendigo Bank Enterprise Foundation, which has empowered our local centres to achieve meaningful community outcomes.



This year, several community branches have made significant contributions to our programs. Balnarring & District Community Bank supported a volunteer and coaches' workshop at RDA Peninsula, enhancing the skills and confidence of our dedicated team. The San Remo, Cowes, and Grantville Districts Community Banks funded a new purpose-built mounting ramp at RDA Woolamai, improving accessibility and safety for our riders. Additionally, Ferntree Gully Community Bank provided vital support to RDA Knox, while Daylesford District Community Bank bolstered RDA Daylesford's efforts to deliver impactful equine-assisted programs.



These contributions reflect the shared commitment of Bendigo Community Banks and RDA Victoria to fostering inclusion, empowerment, and connection within our communities. We extend our heartfelt thanks for their unwavering support, which continues to transform lives through the power of our programs.



# Our Volunteers

## 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, erects 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.*



# Years of Volunteer Service Recognition

RDAV extends its deepest gratitude to the remarkable volunteers who form the heart and soul of our organisation. From those who tirelessly manage our centres, dedicate weekends to fundraising, and maintain facilities—building sheds, erecting fences, cleaning yards, and caring for our horses and equipment—to those who walk beside or lead our riders and provide expert coaching, every contribution makes a profound difference. Your unwavering commitment and selfless efforts enrich the lives of our riders, fostering joy, confidence, and connection through our transformative equine-assisted programs. Thank you for being the driving force behind RDA Victoria's mission.

## 3 Years of Service

Kate Holmes, Doveton  
Elizabeth Grasso, Doveton  
Lynn Roper, Doveton  
Paige Read, Doveton  
Megan Lucas, Melton  
Brandon Londradelli, Melton  
Joanne Baker, Moorabbin  
Graham Collier, Moorabbin  
Peter Corka, Moorabbin  
Joanne Paturzo, Moorabbin  
Dianne Gaul, Warragul  
Catherine Tinel, Viewbank  
Jude-Bade Boon, Viewbank

## 5 Years of Service

Fiona Stewart, Doveton  
Kat Roberts, Doveton  
Alexandra Ash, Melton  
Leanne Licastro, Melton  
Danny Compagnone, Moorabbin  
Sheila Driscoll, Moorabbin  
Oriana Hasker, Moorabbin  
Danya Driessen, Barwon  
Bernard Doherty, Warragul  
Geoffrey Osborne, Warragul  
Margaret Young, Warragul  
Ruby Jowett, Viewbank

## 10 Years of Service

Claire Altmann, Doveton  
Lyn Wood, Doveton  
Lin Hoare, Doveton  
Sue Barling, Doveton  
Emma O'Brien, Melton  
Paul Alsberg, Moorabbin  
Heather Bottger, Barwon  
Katherine Davis, Barwon  
Wendy Rabone, Barwon  
Lisa Smith, Warragul  
Jean Fear, Warragul  
Lynden Dempsey, Warragul

## 15 Years of Service

Claire Rogers, Doveton  
Kay Collie, Doveton  
Nicholas Behan, Melton  
Stacey Campbell, Melton

## 20 Years of Service

Fiona Hasker, Moorabbin  
Cait Alexander, Barwon  
Margie Pow, Viewbank

## 25 Years of Service

Ambre Bennett, Melton  
Jane Baker, Moorabbin

## 30 Years of Service

Margaret Behan, Melton



# 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.

## Coach Outstanding Service Awards

- Jane Baker - RDA Moorabbin
- Ros De Simone - RDA Shepparton
- Leanne Licastro - RDA Melton
- Lynne Hutchings - RDA Seymour

## RDA Victoria Awards

### Michael Field Memorial Award

**Ray Donnan**  
RDA Shepparton

### Volunteer Service Excellence Award

**Sally Wilson**  
RDA Seymour

### Volunteer Encouragement Award

**Megan Lucas**  
RDA Melton

### Young Volunteer Award

**Evie Keleher - Winner**  
RDA Bendigo

**Lucy Nolan - Runner-up**  
RDA Pakenham



## Committee Outstanding Service Awards

- Fiona Hasker - RDA Moorabbin
- Nicholas Behan - RDA Melton
- Sue Cross - RDA Seymour

## Volunteer Outstanding Service Awards

- Lyn Wood - RDA Doveton
- Kay Collie - RDA Doveton
- Laurie Harris - RDA Moorabbin
- Stacey Campell - RDA Melton
- Jenny Dibben - RDA Seymour
- Sienna Williams - RDA Shepparton

## Honorary Life Member Award



### **Judy Bell** **RDA Moorabbin**

RDAV is proud to bestow the Honorary Life Member Award upon Judy, a remarkable volunteer whose 26 years of unwavering dedication at RDA Moorabbin have left an indelible mark on our organisation and community. As a Life Member of RDA Moorabbin, Judy has exemplified leadership, compassion, and commitment, serving as Vice President for 17 years and as a Level 1 Coach for 22 years.

Judy's contributions extend far beyond her roles at the centre. As a Coach Educator, she has been instrumental in training numerous Operational Trainee Coaches (OTCs) and Level 1 coaches, and she currently mentors three Level 0 coaches, generously sharing her expertise to shape the next generation of RDA coaches. Her willingness to impart knowledge is further evidenced by her active participation in workshops, where she shares meticulously crafted lesson plans and innovative ideas.

A significant highlight of Judy's contributions is her substantial role in co-authoring the games section of the RDAV games book, produced under the guidance of Sally Francis. This resource has enriched our programs, enhancing the experience for riders across our centres. Additionally, Judy has been a steadfast presence at numerous RDA Australia (RDAA) and RDA Victoria events, taking on official roles with enthusiasm and professionalism whenever needed.

Judy's tireless dedication, leadership, and passion for fostering inclusion and empowerment through equine-assisted programs make her a truly deserving recipient of this Honorary Life Member Award. We celebrate her extraordinary contributions and the lasting impact she continues to have on RDA Victoria and the lives we touch.



### **Steve Clare** **RDA Daylesford**

RDAV is proud to confer the Honorary Life Member Award upon Steve Clare, a foundational figure whose 30 years of extraordinary dedication to RDA Daylesford have profoundly shaped both the centre and the broader organisation. As the Foundation Coach of RDA Daylesford since its inception in 1994, Steve coached tirelessly until 2014, stepping back in 2015 due to health challenges. His commitment, alongside his wife Chris, has continued through fundraising, community education, and advocacy, earning him Centre Life Membership in 2014.

Steve's impact extends far beyond Daylesford, addressing critical RDA Victoria challenges by leveraging his extensive network to secure horses and mentoring individuals, including two registered RDA riders, to achieve coaching qualifications. His mentorship of coaches has ensured a sustainable coaching pipeline, with some still serving at Daylesford. His philosophy—"teach it right at the start because you don't know which one will go on to be a Paralympian"—has inspired excellence, and his emphasis on consistent practice and hard work continues to drive the centre's success.

Steve's vision fostered a culture of limitless potential at RDA Daylesford, enabling riders to compete at local, regional, state, national, and international levels, including the Daylesford Show's RDA ring, Tan Hock Chong RDA Regional Games Day, RDA Victoria State Championships, RDAA National Championships, Special Olympics National Games (2010, 2014), and the Hope Cup in Taiwan (2010). His community connections ensured a steady supply of horses, often transforming ranch or farm horses into exceptional RDA mounts, a testament to his horsemanship and ability to connect with riders. Three of his riders were selected for the inaugural Victorian Equestrian team at the 10th National Special Olympics Games, with two eligible for the Australian team.

# SECTION 2

# GOVERNANCE

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# Structure & Management

## Role of RDAA

### Coach Qualification

- Oversee coaching accreditation and ensure coach capability through training, development and resources

### National Policies

- Assess national policies, processes and systems
- Establish a plan for ongoing review and review and update of polices and procedures

### National Insurance

- Public Liability
- Personal Accident Insurance
- Management Liability Insurance

### Centre Accreditation

- Confirm and communicate National programs and services
- Monitor and review RDA activities as part of service, delivery and contractual obligations

## Role of RDAV

### Sustainability

- Organise coach assessment, training and education
- Develop targeted volunteer recruitment/retention plans

### Advocacy

- Explore partnership opportunities
- Develop marketing collateral
- Actively pursue funding sources

### Governance

- Organise and support centre accreditation
- Regulatory compliance
- Review polices, procedures and opportunities for efficiency

### Horses

- Review horse acquisition guidelines / plans
- Provide information sessions, guidelines
- Review equine best practice



# Our Objectives and Activities

## Our Aim

To develop and grow our programs, 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



### 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



### 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



### 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



# President's Report



My heart is full of gratitude for our incredible RDA Victoria community—our 993 volunteers, 150 coaches, hardworking staff, generous sponsors, and the families and participants who bring so much joy and purpose to our work. You are the heartbeat of our mission, empowering 548 people with disabilities through the magic of horses across 33 centres in 2024.

This year has been a whirlwind of moments that have moved me deeply. Standing in front of 650 people at the Melbourne Racing Club Foundation Gala Ball on 23rd May was one I'll never forget. Sharing our story—how our programs change lives and how our volunteers pour their hearts into every ride—while raising \$345,000 was humbling. It felt like the whole room could see the difference we make.

Another highlight was hosting Jo Hall from Channel 9 at RDA Viewbank in May. Watching President Liz share her volunteer journey and hearing riders talk about what RDA means to them brought tears to my eyes. That news story didn't just showcase our impact; it was a call for more volunteers and coaches to join our family, and I'm hopeful it will inspire others to get involved.

Visiting our centres—RDA Oaklands, Peninsula, Knox, Pakenham, and my own RDA Daylesford, where I volunteer weekly—has been the soul of my year. There's nothing like seeing a rider's face light up as they connect with their horse or hearing volunteers share stories of why they keep coming back. Those moments remind me why I'm so proud to be part of this community.

Celebrating RDA Moorabbin's 50th anniversary in April was another special day, honouring 129 volunteers who've supported 63 riders over decades. RDA Terang also marked 30 years, a testament to the enduring spirit of our centres.

We faced challenges, like the closure of RDA Westernport. It was tough, but seeing our team rally to transition participants to RDA Peninsula and redistribute resources showed the strength of our community. I'm so grateful to the Westernport volunteers and riders for their legacy. The State Championships in December tested us too, with wild weather forcing us indoors, but volunteers like Sally and Lyndsay stepped up with horses and support, making it a success.



I was thrilled to join local politicians for the opening of RDA Doveton’s refurbished pavilion at Myuna Farm in May, thanks to the City of Casey. The new viewing platform and safe mounting area have made such a difference for our riders. Another proud moment was hosting the team from RVL Off the Track program at RDA Woolamai in August to announce our deepened partnership. Showcasing their beautiful off-the-track horses felt like a celebration of how we give these animals new purpose, just as we do for our riders.

Recognising our people has been a joy. Sally Wilson from RDA Seymour won the RDAA National Award for Volunteer Service Excellence, and endorsing life memberships for Steve Clare from RDA Daylesford and Judy Bell from RDA Moorabbin felt so right—they’ve given so much.

Our partnership with the Victoria Racing Club for a community race day on 8th June was pure magic. Seeing our long-serving volunteers celebrated with races like the “Jenny Stidston Sprint” and watching them present the winning trophies was a day filled with laughter and connection. It’s these moments—big and small—that make RDA Victoria so special.

Looking back, we’ve navigated tricky regulations and sustainability concerns by focusing on the well-being of our people and horses, refining how we manage risks, and strengthening partnerships. The \$345,000 from the MRC Gala Ball and local fundraising efforts have given us a solid foundation, but I know there’s more we can do to grow our support and reach.

As we look to 2025, I’m excited to keep supporting our centres with better resources, building new partnerships, and deepening our community ties. Every ride, every smile, every volunteer who shows up week after week drives us forward. Thank you for making 2024 a year of impact, resilience, and joy. Here’s to another year of changing lives together.

**Tanya Twaits**  
President

# CEO's Report

During 2023/2024 RDAV 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.

The year has provided numerous examples where I have continued to be impressed by the dedication and commitment of our wonderful volunteers, the lifeblood of our 34 Centres distributed across Victoria. It has been wonderful to see firsthand and hear the many stories of 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.

With a clear understanding of the process and ingredients required for program delivery, we're working hard to deliver systematic change so that more can enjoy the program and our wait list can be reduced. A focus on coach recruitment and development and a number of operational efficiencies has been a key to progress these issues.

Our state training and development program was attended by 16% more than previously, reaching 494 volunteers. Future projects include a new CRM for operational efficiencies and a renewed focus on risk management and fundraising.

I'm pleased that volunteers continue to be attracted to the work of RDAV with an impressive 1,049 volunteers registered during

2023/2024 representing an increase of 10%. Our program delivery continued to rise with an extra 16% of equine experiences delivered to a total of 17,801 hours.

We were pleased to once again renew our partnership with Racing Victoria with respect to the Off The Track program to rehome more thoroughbred horses into our programs. A highlight was being able to work closely with the MRC Foundation who were extraordinary in the delivery of their Gala Ball which raised considerable funds to provide a financial windfall to support our future endeavors. A delight was the contribution on the night from so many of our wonderful volunteers who contributed to the amazing outcome.

A new major 2-year grant funded project was commenced with support from the Victorian Government providing the first stage of the development of a new hub pilot project to support a group of RDA Centres partnered with a Regional Sports Assembly.

The relationship with RDAV 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 2024/25.

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 outstanding work of Annette Hatherley as Manager of Operations, complimenting the administrative support work of Tara Wimhurst who left us in May 2024. It was wonderful to be in attendance to help RDA Moorabbin celebrate their 50th anniversary and to also attend the 30-year celebrations for RDA Daylesford. Congratulations also to RDA Terang who also celebrated their 30-year anniversary. I was pleased to work closely with many Centres to gain a deeper understanding of the operational needs of our Centres including the RDA Doveton team on various projects, RDA Pakenham on their aspirations for a long-term lease and to see RDA Seymour return to their home at Kings Park.

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 2023/2024 delivered many improvements, there is now a clear springboard for further positive growth in 2024/2025 which all of the RDAV community can look forward to.

**Richard Amon**  
RDAV CEO



Caption

# RDAV Centres

RDAV proudly acknowledges the tireless dedication and remarkable contributions of our 34 centres across Victoria. Each centre is a vibrant hub of compassion, commitment, and community, driven by the extraordinary efforts of our coaches and volunteers. Their unwavering devotion ensures that our equine-assisted programs continue to transform the lives of people with disabilities, fostering inclusion, empowerment, and connection.

In 2024, our centres have demonstrated resilience and innovation, overcoming challenges to deliver impactful programs and strengthen the bonds that make RDAV a cornerstone of support for our riders and their families. We celebrate their hard work and shared passion for our mission.

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

\*Closed March 2024



## Bairnsdale

2024 has been a very different year for us at Bairnsdale Centre. We now have a 'hands on' program for our riders where they are involved with grooming and saddling up then leading their horses to the ramp for mounting. They are enjoying this confidence building experience before their rides.

This year our brumby Circles was retired after 12 years of service. Rescued as an abandoned foal in the high-country Circles became a valued, trustworthy mount for so many of our riders over the years. He is a very contented pony in retirement.

Also retiring this year, Marlene Hardy was farewelled at a special lunch in July. Marlene was a great coach for over 25 years and served on the Committee and as President. We all miss her.

On a very sad note we lost our wonderful friend and President Julie Coster in late August. Only 71 and a huge shock to all. She had provided numerous horses and ponies for our program since she joined us in 2010. We all miss our kind, capable and fun-loving Julie.

Our program was in recess until mid-October while we found replacements for her horses who are now retired.

Lastly, special recognition must go to our donors, our volunteers, and to those who bring along their wonderful happy horses and ponies.



## Ballarat

We have had a busy and rewarding year in 2024 at Ballarat RDA. We provide weekly sessions for 20 Riders and are looking forward to welcoming a few more new riders this term. We are extremely fortunate at to have 35 loyal volunteers whom, despite the varying range of temperatures we experience in Ballarat, turn up every week keen and energised to help in any way they can.

Our centre is excited to welcome a new coach, to join our existing amazing 4 coaches. We are looking forward to her sharing her knowledge in the area of working equitation. Over the past year our coaches have been actively making changes to our program to include a wider range of activities for our riders. It has been wonderful to see the results of this, with our riders developing new skills and resulting in increased levels of engagement.

We have been involved in a number of community based fundraising activities this year, including three of our members being lucky enough to participate in the MRC Gala Ball and a record number of our volunteers attending the annual Greyhounds Great Chase luncheon. Both events providing welcome funds for our centre.

We have recently held our own Olympics, which involved our riders taking part in four events and were extremely excited to be presented their medals on the podium from our much respected past President Bob Bath OAM.

Our centre would like to thank RDAV for their ongoing support and assistance.



## Barwon

The level of enjoyment, the successes and the increased number of volunteers, all proves that the decision to move was the right one. This is our second year based at Wallington Park Equestrian Centre, a top-class equestrian facility with very supportive owners and staff. Our riders, primary school aged or in Year 7, have flourished. Having a completely enclosed arena, with roof, walls and electronic doors, seems to have increased our riders' confidence with some even cantering. RDA Barwon is fortunate to have received grants from the Frank Costa Foundation, the Geelong Community Foundation, the Geelong Racing Club, the Bendigo Bank, the Geelong Connected Communities and various smaller groups. We could not function without their support.

We often blend games into our sessions. One requires throwing a small bean bag through a target. We certainly learnt, through one young rider, to ensure the target is impossible to miss! Reins thrown in the air, arms crossed over the chest and absolute fury that he's missed. His horse stood patiently throughout the meltdown. Next time around and the target had mysteriously moved closer. Sam, it turns out, does not handle failure well and is extremely competitive. We keep learning.



## Bendigo

Bendigo RDA has 34 registered volunteers on the books, two of which are coaches and one trainee coach, 9 riders and 5 horses in our program that operates one day a fortnight.

This year had its challenges with not only the weather causing disruption to our program in third term, but the number of volunteers being absent, which had the coaches make the hard decision to cancel a number of ride days throughout this term.

However not all was lost. This term did see the riders participate in an Olympic themed program with dressage, jumps and a cross country trail ride course, with each rider being presented with a mini Olympic medal on completion.

Presently our centre is looking at expanding our program in 2025. To do this, we need volunteers that own their own horses who can bring them

along each ride day. This would alleviate the problem of agistment and feed costs as currently our horses are RDA owned/leased and kept on private properties. Something to put on our Christmas wish list.

One of our longest serving volunteers, Gill King who tirelessly dedicated 38 years to RDA across the state, has stood down as coach to our centre. Gill for many years played an integral part in our centres program with her physiotherapy background, she shared a wealth of knowledge and gave support to many participants and volunteers throughout her time with RDA.

To all our dedicated volunteers, Thank You.



## Bundoora Park

Bundoora Park have had a fun filled year with our riders by enjoying our book club week, Easter egg hunt, Olympic week as well as our Christmas break up!

We have had a busy year organizing to get a yard extension for our horses.

We have extended our yards across from our existing yards and now our horses have more room to run around.

Now we are able to close off any of the yards if needed or if we want to rest any of them.

With the support of the local our communities and Bundoora Park farm our horses can now enjoy the extra space which they are loving!

And of course a massive thank you to all our amazing volunteers, especially the ones that go the extra mile when needed.



## Colac

This year we have lost a few of our volunteers due to health problems, family matters, or other commitments, but have gained some new ones with horse experience and new ideas.

Although our treasurer Heather has resigned, she's remained active helping Robin (her replacement). She also spent many hours with the Colac Adult Riding Club rewriting the Memorandum of Understanding, allowing our centre to continue using their riding arenas. Thank you Heather, your time has been invaluable.

Riding Coach Annie has also resigned after 20 years of service.

Lorraine, who left for personal reasons was a great asset. She helped the participants put on their helmets and checked that they fitted correctly before escorting them to the mounting ramp in a safe and orderly manner. We wish her well.

Jacqueline achieved Level 1 Carriage Driving and is now training for Level 2 Horse Riding.

New volunteer Susanne has been involved in horse racing for many years. She exercises our horses outside RDA program hours. With her experience, I'm sure she'll become a competent riding coach. She has also taken on carriage driver training.

We acquired two young horses, Salute and Reg, trained by acclaimed carriage drivers Diana and her daughter Elizabeth.

We are still awaiting accreditation from RDA for our 4 wheel carriage.

This year's annual luncheon was extremely successful, raising \$4,500. As always, local businesses supported us by donating food or raffle prizes. Damian and the band entertained the guests with a wonderful selection of songs suitable for all ages. Some were inspired to sing along with them.

We thank all the volunteers for the time and effort you put into raising funds for our cause, but mostly, for giving the disabled an opportunity to enjoy the pleasure that horse riding has to offer, to have fun and laugh!

President Brendan Scanlan



## Daylesford

As RDA Daylesford approaches its 30th anniversary in the coming year, 2024 has been a time of reflection and preparation for this significant milestone. Our riders have been diligently practicing a musical ride to showcase their skills at the upcoming celebration, highlighting the talent and dedication that defines our centre.

This year has offered an opportunity to reflect on the achievements, challenges, and growth of RDA Daylesford over nearly three decades. We are deeply grateful for the unwavering support that has sustained our operations, including our devoted volunteers, riders and their families, RDA Victoria staff members (Edwina Boase Stratford, Sally Watson, and Sally Francis), and the vibrant Daylesford community. Their collective efforts have been the backbone of our success.

We extend heartfelt thanks to our long-standing supporters, whose contributions have been invaluable: Wendy Hogben, a volunteer coach,

president, vice president, and committee member for nearly 30 years, who, alongside Stephanie Ashley, sparked the idea for RDA Daylesford after hearing about it on the radio; Steve Clare, our foundation coach, and Chris Clare, a committee member, treasurer, and tireless advocate; Pat Fiskien and Ballarat RDA for early mentorship; Jane Baker, Judy Bell, and Moorabbin RDA for providing horses and equipment; Aileen and Kevin Marshall from Maryborough; Daylesford Rotary; Daylesford and District Community Bank; Megan Evans, formerly of the Farmers Arms Daylesford and now at Guildford Hotel; Hepburn U3A; Glenlyon Sports Club; Daylesford Men's Shed; Mark Rak; and the generous Cook family at Boomerang Ranch, who have provided our venue, horses, and warm hospitality. With their support, RDA Daylesford looks forward to celebrating its 30-year milestone.





## Doveton

As the Myuna Farm Pavilion underwent a major refurbishment at the start of the year, our riding sessions were delayed until term 2. Once the Pavilion was completed, we welcomed 26 participants and 29 volunteers. Unfortunately due to only having 1 coach, we had to cancel a day and now run 2 days a week with 3 sessions on Tuesday and 4 sessions on Thursday.

We purchased 2 new ponies, Lani, a Quarter horse and Sunny, a Welsh Mountain pony. Both settled in quickly and are much loved and valuable members of the team.

In term 3, Kate Holmes was assessed and is now a qualified Level 1 riding coach, we congratulate Kate on this achievement.

Myuna Farm and The Endeavour Hills Men's Shed have built us an activity trail which has provided us with variety, fun and outdoor riding.

Myuna Farm also built 6 stalls at our paddocks to make feeding easier and safer.

We received funding for a new tack room, with building to commence shortly and also a hoist which has been ordered and should be installed by the end of the year.

We hope RDA Doveton can continue to provide its outstanding program in 2025, utilising its amazing facilities.

## Echuca

Echuca has had another fun year with our riders and volunteers.

A big thank you to the Echuca Racecourse - your support each year with the use of your facilities is greatly appreciated.

Our horses have been superstars together with our dedicated volunteers - we couldn't do what we do without either of you. We have welcomed new volunteers this year, it has been wonderful to include you in our dedicated team.

Echuca's riders have been working on their riding skills each rally. It is exciting to see each rider work towards their goals.

Thank you to our riders, your excitement and enjoyment of riding brings a smile to many faces, from the volunteers to those that support you.

We are incredibly grateful to you all.



# Hamilton

The Hamilton Centre riders have enthusiastically received their ribbons from their first RDA video competition attendance earlier this year. These ribbons together with the score sheets were presented to each rider during one of our regular riding days and it was agreed that our riders would like to participate in more competitions.

We currently have 2 groups of 6 riders attend each riding day. Both groups are working towards a Christmas display which we are planning to present to parents, carers, interested persons and the public.

Group 1 will present an obstacle course. This course features a mixture of ridden and groundwork obstacles. The riders will also decorate a Christmas tree from aboard their horses.

Group 2 will present a drill ride to music. The riders will complete the drill mostly independently and the movements are performed primarily in walk and one movement in trot.

We are in the wonderful position of having many riding horses available to us and most recently a Percheron cross mare has been acquired by our Centre. Dolly has been a wonderful addition from her first session with us.

Our Centre continues to benefit from local secondary schools which send out students and teachers aids to volunteer. Having these young students working alongside our experienced volunteers is invaluable. We have observed that many young volunteers will return to the Centre at a later stage in their lives; thereby guaranteeing a steady string of 'future' volunteers.

We work hard towards volunteer retention and attraction and have recently organised a volunteer camp. Many of our volunteers ride at our weekly 'Hags on Nags' session and compete together at Navigation rides and many other competitions. Our volunteers are scheduled to visit the Police Horses in Melbourne next.



## Horsham

Horsham got off to an early start in 2024 with an executive meeting to plan our year which included plans for a volunteer training, RDA horse assessment and ground work clinic which we held in February prior to our rally starting date. Weather played a big part in what we were able to achieve in term one with high temperatures on most rally days, we were grateful for our indoor arena.

Our riders have made significant progress though out the year largely due to the times when they were able to have one-on-one instruction, we are blessed to have six instructors at Horsham RDA.

During the year we have been happy to welcome back two past volunteers returning after being away for many years. We are still campaigning for more volunteers.

Our concentration has been on improvements to our infrastructure at our RDA paddocks after receiving grants we have new yards and hoping to complete our horse welfare shed and ramp before the end of the year.

Horsham RDA was honored with a race called "RDA Horsham Jan Croser Plate" on 8th June, at Flemington, it was the second race over 1400m and won by no 4 Fancify. As a result of talking to the trainer Michael Hickmontt, RDA Horsham received a \$500.00 donation which has

gone to our horse welfare program. A big thank you to RDAV and Victoria Racing Club for the organisation of the charity day.

June was a busy month with preparations to be accreditation ready for when Sally Francis and Annette Hatherley were coming to complete RDA Horsham centre accreditation. As always it is good to have a fresh set of eyes to look at our centre and suggestions and recommendations have been installed to make our centre a safer environment for all. Thank you, Sally and Annette, and big thank you to all who put in the hard yards to be sure we were compliant.

As the year comes to a close, we are grateful to all our volunteers who still make RDA Horsham a fun place to be.



## Knox

RDA Knox has had a great year in 2024. Although we started off very slow, we were able to train new volunteers and increase participation numbers slightly. We have purchased a new horse and have another on free lease which increases our herd to 4. The centre continues to evolve with more infrastructure being built. The sensory garden has been completed and more yards and fencing completed. We were also able to import a Hoist from the UK due to funding being received from the Lions Club. We are fortunate to have received financial support and in-kind support from many throughout the year.

Thank you to all our participants and volunteers who make our centre a wonderful community.



## Melton

Melton RDA wishes to acknowledge the amazing Coaches, Volunteers, Participants and Supporters of our centre throughout 2024.

Our riding program saw riders improve in all key areas, with competition riders enjoying the video competitions during the year.

Our unmounted participants this year excelled in their growth of equine knowledge, community access, resilience in all areas of growth and behaviour management skills.

We are as a centre pleased to have all program days filled with a healthy wait list entering into 2025 for our riding classes, our school unmounted programs set to keep us busy four days a week again next year.

Progress is continuing with plans for next years move to new facilities within the Woodlea housing development, we have been and continue to be grateful for the amazing support and sponsorship of Woodlea (Leakes rd, PTY LTD).

The new centre will have the same facilities we currently enjoy including our centre horses living on site. This has allowed the centre growth

and ability to run on a daily basis with ridden and unmounted programs giving a wonderful number of participants a chance to interact and learn from our amazing centre horses.

A centre report is not complete without again a heart felt shout out to our Committee of management, volunteers, participants and their families, our amazing horses and the following supporters of the centre again this year.

Woodlea Development Group (Leakes Rd PTY LTD) Warringa Park School, Melton Special School, the fantastic carers of our equine friends... Advanced Equine Dentistry, Western Equine Veterinary Services, Melton Saddlery, Feed Plus, Phoenix Feeds, Kirkpatrick Farms, McWade Massage Services and McKeen Farrier Services.

We look forward to the continued support of everyone again for the 2025 year.

Marg Behan, Coordinator Melton RDA

## Maryborough

Maryborough RDA welcomed 14 participants in 2024, who have all made great progress throughout the year. Our Volunteer numbers have been up and down during the year, but when on the job are very dedicated making sure all participants are safe and enjoy their time with us.

Highview College students joined us once again for the Duke of Edinburgh Community Service Award. Horsemanship was again in our weekly program, with participants learning more ground work with the horses. As usual, fundraising takes a priority, with Bunnings BBQ's and also at a local market. Our Pop-Up Shop was successful and another one is planned for December this year.

We are still in the midst of securing new grounds, which we hope will be happening soon, so our fundraising efforts along with very kind donations from Maryborough Highland Society, the Lions Club and other organisations and members of the Community have been very gratefully received.

A few of our Volunteers attended the Greyhound Victoria Great Chase in Ballarat, which was enjoyed by all and we came away with some winnings for our Centre that topped the day off. As the year comes to a close, we are planning on entering three of our participants in the Daylesford Show at the end of November. This will be a first for these three, so we wish them the best of luck, but most of all that they enjoy the day.

We would not be able to operate our Centre without our wonderful horses, so a big thankyou goes to the Volunteers who kindly bring their own horses in for us to use. Also thankyou to our Committee and all of our Volunteers for their support and dedication during 2024.



## Moorabbin

This year we celebrated 50 Years of continuous service to the community. We were the third group to open in Victoria, in 1974 and the only centre to have operated continuously since that time. We have occupied several sites; but have been at our current site since 11th December 1981. We celebrated the achievement with a morning tea in April which was attended by the Mayor of the City of Kingston, the Presidents of RDAA and RDAV, the CEO of RDAV and Operations Manager, our sponsors, representatives from other centres, our volunteers, past and present and a few of our riders. It was a lovely morning, and the weather gods were very kind to us. Andrea Lucas, President of RDAA, presented us with a plaque to commemorate the occasion.

Moorabbin recommenced riding in March this year and will finish for the year in early December. Our program operates 6 days a week, using our 8 horses that are kept on site. The sessions cater to school groups and individual

of all ages.

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, Green Roads by Alex Fraser 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, 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.

Jane Baker – President



## Mornington

The year has passed so quickly, but they do say time flies when you're having fun.

Scotty and Hamish our work ponies have performed perfectly all year to provide the perfect equine experience for our participants and developed their abilities/confidence and sense of belonging.

Janine's mum visited our Monday session and said: "I cannot believe what you have been able to achieve with Janine. I could not believe what I saw her doing today. I cannot thank you enough".

This makes it all worthwhile.

It was sad to say goodbye to our beloved Lyric in April. He had been retired for 5 years and at 30 years was ready to head over the rainbow. He gave so much pleasure to so many.



## Oaklands

With our horses refreshed from holidays. Saddle fittings, farrier and Chiro appointments complete we are ready for our Training Day mid February. Always a great morning, followed by a BBQ. We welcomed 2 new schools to our program and 3 new riders on Saturdays. Including new volunteers along the way.

Family day was a huge success the last week of Term 1. We welcome families back at the end of Term 4. They will see huge progress in the riders having achieved their goals for the year.

The first highlight of the year was an invitation to the MRC Foundation Gala Dinner at Crown for RDAV. What an amazing evening!

The Lexus Melbourne Cup launch at Flemington, with exciting news the cup was returning to Oaklands.

Charity Race Day at Flemington to raise funds for RDAV, where we were guests of the Victorian Racing Club. Presenting the trophy to the winning syndicate. Fabulous day out with volunteers. We were ready for our mid year break after a very cold and frosty Term 2.

Term 3 and students joined us from Penola Catholic College, participating in their community hours. Also joining us were 4th year La Trobe University students studying Bachelor of Health Sciences, majoring in Rehabilitation.

Racing Victoria filmed the horses birthday with our riders from Sunbury and Macedon Ranges Special School. The rain held off and we were

very grateful for capturing what we do at RDA beautifully.

Our mini Olympics was lots of fun and who knew how competitive our riders and volunteers were! Next followed footy week to finish Term 3.

October holidays included working bees in readiness for the Lexus Melbourne Cup Tour. Our horses looking magnificent in their show rugs, along with our riders looking colourful in their racing silks. Wonderful stories from guest speakers, photos with the famous cup and lots of memories.

We look forward to celebrating Christmas with riders, families, staff and volunteers. The year has flown by and we look back and feel very proud of what we have achieved.

Thank you, we are Team Oaklands!



## Pakenham

Riding on Tuesday and Thursday mornings we have had a productive and busy year.

Three Level One coaches, Liz Ellison, Kate Holmes and Terri Wade have qualified and are doing an excellent job teaching 1:1 and small groups. Anne Beck has qualified as an OTC and is a trainee level 1 coach. Anne Wright and Keli Raines are OTC trainees. It is so nice to see our coach and riders grow in confidence and ability.

Our enthusiastic volunteers are our 'life-blood'.

The property is kept in excellent order thanks to the team led by Ken Ellison and vice-president Paul Beck. Rotary Pakenham have helped us

with funding and erecting shelters in every paddock. The golf day organised by BFirm Personal Training in Berwick, was again very successful and our main financial contributor.

We had the Melbourne Cup and Paris para equestrian riders visit in October.

We are very grateful to our sponsors and the support we have from the racing industry. Our yards all have an iron roof thanks to Pakenham Racing Club.

We are working towards a covered arena which will allow us to operate in all-weather conditions.



## Peninsula

RDA Peninsula has had another busy and productive year. With over 30 volunteers, 4 coaches, 2 Level O coaches in training and 20 riders, we are a very active centre. Having the covered arena and on-site paddocks for the horses at Main Ridge has enabled us to ride in all conditions, and allowed us great flexibility in our programs.

We have a number of individual riders who range from as young as 5 years old to our adult riders in their 60s. No matter what age all of our riders are developing skills, confidence and enjoying the physical and mental health benefits that RDA offers.

We have installed a hoist this year that will allow us to assist with mounting safely. This was a big achievement, and was enabled by a generous donation from Mercedes Benz who, for a few weeks, used the facility where we ride to showcase their vehicles.

Peninsula RDA ran a Workshop Day in April and all Peninsula RDAs were invited and involved. We had sessions run by Elinor Hannay and Sally

Francis which were very informative and it was a great opportunity for all of us to meet together. In August we held an Equestrian Competition Day for our riders. The coaches and volunteers all helped, and the families were thrilled to watch.

2024 for us has been a terrific year of all things RDA.



## Seymour

What a year! In January we moved back to our base at Kings Park, which was evacuated during the October 2022 flood. Huge thanks to Sally Wilson who hosted RDA on her property in the interim. Before we could move back, Sally and the executive committee arranged repairs, refurbishment and replacement of all the flood-damaged equipment through numerous grants, donations and acts of goodwill. The relocation of horses and equipment from Sally's to Kings Park was a huge effort from our volunteers.

The AGM saw some changes at the centre executive level, with treasurer Casey and long-term secretary Sally standing down, replaced by Jenny and Sue. Centre President Lynne also took over the role of head coach from Coral. Term one began with a small group of participants and despite many rider enquiries throughout the year, our numbers remained fairly static. We are hoping to attract one or more classes of school-aged participants back to the program in 2025.

We have a wonderful group of volunteers that are the lifeblood of the centre and thankfully have increasing numbers of coaches, assistant coaches and trainees coming on line. We organised a volunteers thank you dinner mid-way through the year as a token of appreciation, thanks to a local grant.

We have some wonderful gentle ponies in our program, our most recent being a sweet 10 hh mare who is very popular for ground work. We are in need of one or two larger horses to cater for our taller riders.

The big event in 2024 was the construction of an accessible toilet and a roof (and lighting) over the "RDA arena" – thanks to a State government grant and funding by Mitchell Shire Council and Sally Wilson's commitment. Following the construction, the arena fence and surface were also replaced. We are grateful for some generous supplier discounts and private donations which made it possible to complete the work and create a top-class facility.

We participated in local Agricultural Shows and Expos to build our profile locally, as well as inviting media to our arena opening and running an editorial in the local newspaper for volunteer week. These events have generated moderate interest from potential riders and volunteers, which we hope results in more active participation in 2025.

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## St Andrews

Our part time paid level 1 coach, Jemma Barker, left us in June 2023 to take on a new venture moving to Pyalong. We would like to thank Jemma for the fantastic effort that she did coaching for us. Unfortunately, we could not find a coach for 2023 Term 3 and the Centre remained closed until October 2023. We reopened in 2023 Term 4 when Maggie Broom kindly agreed to help us out as a volunteer Coach.

The Centre operated very successfully on Tuesday mornings for 3 of the 4 school terms, from September 2023 to June 2024, with Maggie Broom and Hazel Fox as the volunteer Level 1 Coaches. We had 2 horses, Benny and Buddy, 15 volunteers and 4 riders. The arena and equipment were in excellent condition. The riders have enjoyed a varied program mainly concentrating on games relating to catching, passing and throwing. My 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.

The Management Committee ran successfully thanks to the efforts of Genine, Lara, Ali and Pam who all remained on the committee after the 2023 AGM. During the year we had success with the completion of the Licence Agreement between RDAV St Andrews and the St Andrews Horse and Pony Club for the lease of the Arena used by our Centre. We also sent a representative to the RDAV MRC Foundation Gala – thank you Lara for attending. We carried out a Risk Assessment of our Centre in June 2024 and identified and mitigated 2 issues found.

On behalf of the RDA St Andrews Committee, volunteers and riders I would like to thank Maggie and Hazel Fox for the exceptional work that they have put in to running RDA St Andrews for the past 9 months. An end of year function and AGM was held at the St Andrews Horse and Pony Club with past and present volunteers to close off the successful year. I am also pleased to announce that Hazel has agreed to stay with RDA St Andrews as a volunteer Coach for Terms 1, 3 and 4 for 2025.







## Swan Hill

In February our Centre hosted a coach and Volunteer workshop, this was very well attended by our local volunteers and Deniliquin volunteers. Jan Croser, Judy Farrelly, Luke Harrington and Alison Gibson did a lot of the organising, and training which was greatly appreciated. We were able to use our new kitchen and BBQ facilities which has been a very handy addition, improving our comfort and social functions.

This year we decided to address our Rider waiting list, bringing in several new riders. It has been very encouraging for the whole team to see these new rider's progress and improve. The delight on their faces says it all.

In April this year Jordan McGowan's family donated money to our Centre. Her family, friends, and supporters swam, ran and cycled from Barham to the RDA Swan Hill - Robert French arena. Jordan has attended RDA Swan Hill for 12 years and we appreciate the financial support from this fundraising event.

We received money from FRRR to replace the boundary fence from the highway and across the carpark, with a new Entrance gate and

wheelchair friendly personal access gate. We look forward to completing this fencing soon. Thanks to a grant from the Swan Hill Rural City Council, we have further works to be done at our Centre which will continue to improve our facilities.

This Spring our sensory garden is really looking great. It is a great time to appreciate all of the volunteers who contributed to its creation and maintenance. This year we have replaced part of the boundary fencing improving safety, and installed wire mesh to rabbit proof the area. The riders have planted peas, carrots and, radishes which have all been growing nicely. A recent working bee included planting some new trees, pruning and weeding.

While always looking for suitable horses to join our program, we thank our current horses Bella, Will and new Horse, Spirit who are doing a wonderful job.

We are incredibly grateful to our wonderful team of volunteers, our community, and the support that RDAV provide with training. We look forward to another successful year ahead.

## Stawell

Stawell RDA have had another successful year with 7 riders, 22 volunteers and 4 horses.

We average 8 - 10 volunteers each week which allows us to run a varied program.

The grant application with Stawell Gold Mines for purchase of horse was successful.

We were fortunate to acquire a standardbred called Adam on free lease from RDAV.

SGM agreed to provide grant money for upkeep of Adam which was very generous.

A number of special days have been conducted throughout the year.

Olympic games were held along with medals for all riders.

"Footy Day" was held to celebrate AFL Grand Final.

A Facebook page was setup on Northern Grampians Shire website.



This will be valuable to distribute information to general public regarding programs, events etc

We currently have 2 Level "O" coaches in training and hope they will be qualified by the end of the year.

Our long serving coach Margie Taylor retired from coaching this year and we thank Margie for many years of dedicated service to our riders.

A thank you to all coaches, volunteers and those who provide horses each week which allows for the provision of a successful riding program for disabled persons from within our community.

## Terang

RDA Terang enjoyed another successful year. Our weekly sessions were held over terms 1 and 2 with 19 students, 12 volunteers and 7 horses. Our students enjoyed a variety of riding activities and games during our sessions. Over time, our riders improved their riding starts, steering, stopping, balancing, confidence and independence.

In August, RDA Terang celebrated their 30th anniversary. Our committee agreed to hold our very own Equestrian Olympics complete with a 9-obstacle trail course. Our judge, Jo Hearn, in her elegant hat and clip board, encouraged our riders as they made their way through the course on their ponies. Sashes were awarded to all the riders in the various categories and our riders were very proud of their achievements. Lunch was organised for the riders, their families, schoolteachers and our volunteers. A special mention needs to be made of our hard-working volunteer Sylvia Brown, who arrived early to set up and decorate the party table and for the donation of 2 handmade horse quilts which were awarded to 2 of our riders. Special thanks also to Terang Bakery who donated party pies, sausage rolls and mixed sandwiches for everyone to enjoy on the day. All in all, everyone had a fabulous day and even our ponies received a special treat to celebrate the special occasion.



# Viewbank

The past year has been one of growth with added sessions to our program days.

We recently welcomed a new pony, Mr. Lemons, who is coming along nicely.

We had two successful grants for equipment through Banyule Council that enabled us to purchase lovely new rugs for our horses and a set of much needed new paddock harrows.

In April, the Melbourne Racing Club filmed a video for their fundraising gala night, which highlighted how important and meaningful RDA is in the lives of our riders.

We would like to acknowledge and thank Marge Mercay, who recently retired, for her almost 20 years of coaching and her continuing support.

We are fortunate to have an amazing group of coaches, volunteers and horses who work hard to ensure our riders have every opportunity to achieve their goals and smile their way through each ride.





## Warracknabeal

What a busy year we have had! We've got 10 Self Directed support (SDS) riders, 1 adult rider and 2 horses. Our rides have had to be a bit shorter than normal but we pack them full of learning and fun! This year we have focused on developing skills within a course for the SDS children. Each rally we set up a course that is designed to use hand eye coordination, left and right sides of our bodies, and decision making. Giving our riders the responsibility of making their own choices with

in the activities has seen them become more independent and feeling more confident. Our adult rider has been focusing on dressage and entered in his first ever video dressage test. Our Volunteers are absolutely amazing, the work they put into our little group is forever appreciated. We continue to use the Warracknabeal Race Course and thank them for their hospitality in providing a wonderful child/horse friendly environment.

## Warrandyte

Another great year of starts, turns, mazes and bridges at RDA Warrandyte. Packed with dressage, working trail, games and fun times.

Getting the chance to meet lots of new volunteers, horses and also new riders through our trial assessment program.

We look forward to welcoming the next generation of riders to our community with the development of new programs in 2025.

As always a huge thanks to the Team at RDA Warrandyte that make time each week to ensure our participants get the best experience every session.



## Warragul

Earlier this year I began volunteering with Warragul RDA after reading an article in my local paper. I'd had no experience with horses apart from a couple of less than successful trots in my youth. I do have experience with disabilities as I was born with a bleeding condition called haemophilia, so I thought I may have something to offer, be it picking up poo, feeding out hay or the like. So I went along.

After explaining my situation and concerns, and listening to theirs, I watched as the team worked their magic, and it is a special kind of magic. It's very clear about the passion they all share of the wonderful horses but also really caring about the clients and the important positive results.

Now, 7 months later, I'm loving it! Sure it's been a steep learning curve, particularly in horsey jargon, but it's amazing. I'm leading horses, side walking, adjusting stirrups, brushing, saddling and, yes, happily scooping poo.

I feel totally comfortable around the horses, the training is thorough and it's safety first, always! It's a great bunch of people happy to share knowledge and the smile on clients' faces is priceless.

Neil Boal



## Warrnambool

Warrnambool RDA started back on Wednesday the 24th April 2024. We had 4 riders from St Pius Primary and 16 riders from Merri River Primary School. The riders were all very nervous for their first ride but have settled in amazingly with all 4 riders from St Pius now riding independently off lead. We were lucky enough to have Sally Watson coach the first half of the year until our new coaches Lauren Delaney and Natalie

Monaghan completed Level One in June. We were lucky to gain 4 new volunteers this year with two beginning their level 0 coaching. We celebrated one of our Merri River school teachers leaving on maternity leave and thanked her for her support over the years. Watching our kids achieve their goals each week is amazing, and they have all come so far this year. We all look forward to Wednesdays at RDA Warrnambool.

## Woolamai

We have had another successful year at RDA Woolamai with our group from Yooralla. Their ongoing commitment to RDA Woolamai has established a consistent learning framework and a friendly nurturing environment for both our participants and volunteers.

We are currently working with Bass Coast Secondary College to begin an assessment program in term 4. This will enable a pilot group to familiarize themselves with our Centre and establish a working relationship with the school staff and students.

We are fortunate to have 2 new coaches join our team.

Kelly Van der Berg and Jai Rajaram are both experienced Pony Club and EA coaches. We are extremely thankful to them for offering their time to us.

It has also been great to welcome 3 new volunteers to our team.

We are currently trialling a new horse who has been offered to our Centre. He will undergo training with Jai and if suitable will join us at Woolamai when he is ready.

Again, Bendigo Bank has supported us by donating a Defibrillator to our Centre. Thank you to Bendigo Bank in San Remo.

Also, a big thankyou to our fabulous team of volunteers at Woolamai and special thanks to Sally Francis and Clare Altmann for their coaching assistance throughout the year.





# 2023 State Championships

The 2023 RDA Victoria State Championships, held at Werribee, was a vibrant celebration of skill, spirit, and community, showcasing the dedication of our riders, volunteers, coaches, and support teams. Despite challenging weather conditions, with over 30mm of rain creating unsafe conditions in the outdoor arena, the event adapted seamlessly. Regrettably, dressage events scheduled after 11:30am were cancelled, but the indoor arena hosted a full program of English Equitation, Working Trails, and Jumping classes, ensuring ample opportunities for participation and competition.

Our centres rallied with enthusiasm, providing a strong contingent of volunteers who served as stewards, pencilers, warm-up support, and general helpers, ensuring the event ran smoothly. We were privileged to have esteemed judges, including dual Para-Olympian Anne

Skinner and dressage expert Katie Lee, whose experience and encouragement uplifted all participants.

Special thanks go to Sally Francis and Lyndsay Davies, who generously provided many of the horses for the event, going above and beyond to support our riders. Their contributions, alongside the tireless efforts of our volunteers and coaches, created a memorable and inspiring day.

Congratulations to all participants and winners for their outstanding achievements, demonstrating resilience and excellence in the face of adversity. The 2023 State Championships highlighted the strength and unity of the RDA Victoria community, leaving us inspired for the year ahead.

# Coach development Program

RDAV remains committed to fostering the professional growth and expertise of our coaches and volunteers through targeted development programs, ensuring our equine-assisted programs are delivered with excellence and safety. In 2024, we offered a range of educational opportunities to enhance skills and share knowledge across our network.

On 3 August 2023, we hosted a webinar on 'Nutrition for Horses,' open to all coaches and volunteers. This session provided valuable insights into equine care, empowering participants to better support the health and wellbeing of our horses. On 12 August 2023, RDA Bundoora Park facilitated a workshop on 'Sharing Lesson Plans and Coach Assessments,' fostering collaboration and best practices among coaches to enhance program delivery.

RDAV also played a key role in planning the RDA Australia (RDAA) Coach Conference, held from 1-3 September 2023 at Marcus Oldham College in Geelong. This national event brought together coaches from across Australia, offering a platform to exchange innovative coaching techniques and strategies tailored to riders with disabilities.

Additionally, on 6 April 2024, RDA Peninsula hosted a workshop focused on coach development, further strengthening the skills and confidence of our coaching community. These initiatives reflect RDA Victoria's dedication to continuous learning, ensuring our coaches and volunteers are well-equipped to deliver transformative experiences for our riders.



# SECTION 3

# OUR FINANCES

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# Financial Report

## Riding For The Disabled Association Of Victoria Incorporated 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 2024.

### 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
Kelly Schulz	Appointed 23 January 2023
Gareth Beck	Appointed 23 January 2023
Christalyne Look	Appointed 23 January 2023
Stacey Murray	Appointed 23 January 2023, Secretary from March 2024 until October 2024
Jennifer Krawczyk	Appointed 12 September 2020, Re-elected 20 November 2022 Secretary from 6 October 2020 until 19 April 2023
Maria Di Gregorio	Appointed Treasurer 16 August 2023
John Tran	Appointed October 2024, Secretary from October 2024
Sally Francis	Resigned 29 November 2023
Abigail Vidler	Resigned 29 November 2023
Wojtek Randla	Resigned 29 February 2024, Secretary from 19 April 2023 until 29 February 2024

### 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 \$323,406 (2023 surplus: \$229,843).

### 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  
26 November 2024, Melbourne

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

For The Year Ended 30 June 2024

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 2024 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

26 November 2024, Melbourne

# Riding For The Disabled Association Of Victoria Incorporated

## Statement Of Comprehensive Income

For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

	Note	2024 \$	2023 \$
<b>Revenue</b>			
State Office	2	782,868	688,611
Centres	2	851,660	791,204
		<b>1,634,528</b>	<b>1,479,815</b>
<b>State Office Expenses</b>			
Accounting fees		(39,628)	(39,179)
Administrative expenses		(57,159)	(47,203)
Merchandise		-	(47,764)
Salaries and wages - office		(278,444)	(227,815)
Computer/database expenses		(23,660)	(26,317)
Depreciation	3	(4,221)	(3,051)
RDAA fees and insurance		(99,507)	(84,929)
		<b>(502,619)</b>	<b>(476,258)</b>
<b>Centres Expenses</b>			
Administrative expenses		(12,706)	(11,000)
Merchandise		(401)	(2,146)
Coaching salaries (State Office coaches)		(59,264)	(58,596)
Coaching fees and allowances		(32,800)	(21,839)
Centre expenses/riding support		(106,610)	(133,483)
Depreciation and amortisation	3	(137,001)	(123,606)
Fundraising and event expenses		(12,889)	(22,794)
Horse welfare/purchases		(351,868)	(302,558)
Riding equipment		(42,873)	(40,595)
Repairs and maintenance		(52,091)	(57,097)
		<b>(808,503)</b>	<b>(773,714)</b>
<b>State Office Surplus</b>		280,249	212,353
<b>Centres Surplus</b>		43,157	17,490
<b>Surplus before tax</b>		<b>323,406</b>	<b>229,843</b>
Income tax expense	1(d)	-	-
<b>Surplus after tax</b>		<b>323,406</b>	<b>229,843</b>

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 2024

	Note	2024 \$	2023 \$
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	4	2,968,796	2,617,059
Receivables	5	15,399	16,504
Prepayments		18,225	16,622
<b>Total Current Assets</b>		<b>3,002,420</b>	<b>2,650,185</b>
<b>Non-Current Assets</b>			
Property, plant and equipment	6	1,086,585	1,073,869
Intangibles	7	323,333	343,333
<b>Total Non-Current Assets</b>		<b>1,409,918</b>	<b>1,417,202</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>		<b>4,412,338</b>	<b>4,067,387</b>
<b>Current Liabilities</b>			
Payables	8	40,302	18,376
Provisions	9	12,143	13,931
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>		<b>52,445</b>	<b>32,307</b>
<b>Non-Current Liabilities</b>			
Provisions	9	2,834	1,427
<b>Total Non-Current Liabilities</b>		<b>2,834</b>	<b>1,427</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>		<b>55,279</b>	<b>33,734</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>		<b>4,357,059</b>	<b>4,033,653</b>
<b>Funds of Association</b>			
Accumulated surplus		4,357,059	4,033,653
<b>Total Funds of Association</b>		<b>4,357,059</b>	<b>4,033,653</b>

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 2024

	Accumulated Surplus \$	Total \$
Balance at 1 July 2022	3,803,810	3,803,810
Surplus after income tax expense for the year	229,843	229,843
<b>Balance at 30 June 2023</b>	<b>4,033,653</b>	<b>4,033,653</b>
Balance at 1 July 2023	4,033,653	4,033,653
Surplus after income tax expense for the year	323,406	323,406
<b>Balance at 30 June 2024</b>	<b>4,357,059</b>	<b>4,357,059</b>

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

For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

	Note	2024 \$	2023 \$
<b>Cash Flows from Operating Activities</b>			
Receipts from fundraising, members, government, etc		1,599,351	1,453,452
Payments to suppliers and employees		(1,149,958)	(1,150,449)
Interest received		35,792	13,055
<b>Net cash provided by operating activities</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>485,185</b>	<b>316,058</b>
<b>Cash Flows from Investing Activities</b>			
Proceeds on sale of assets		490	9,200
Purchase of property, plant & equipment		(133,938)	(198,907)
<b>Net cash used in investing activities</b>		<b>(133,448)</b>	<b>(189,707)</b>
<b>Net Increase in Cash and Cash Equivalents</b>		<b>351,737</b>	<b>126,351</b>
Cash at the beginning of the financial year		2,617,059	2,490,708
<b>Cash at the end of the financial year</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2,968,796</b>	<b>2,617,059</b>

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 2024

### 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. Material Accounting Policy Information

The accounting policies that are material to the Association are set out below. The accounting policies adopted are consistent with those of the previous financial year, 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.

#### 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(j).

#### (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) 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 2024

### *Donations*

Donations are recognised when the pledge is made and funds received.

### *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.

### *Other revenue*

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

### **(d) Income Tax**

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

### **(e) 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.

### **(f) Receivables**

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

### **(g) 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.

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.

### **(h) 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.

# Riding For The Disabled Association Of Victoria Incorporated

## Notes To The Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

### **(i) 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.

### **(j) 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(i), 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 2024

### 2. Revenue from Continuing Operations

	2024 \$	2023 \$
<b>State Office</b>		
General Donations	187,346	451,883
Membership and registration fees	129,783	127,654
Fundraising Activities	354,870	791
Grants and subsidies	100,982	101,073
Interest	5,622	3,992
Other income	4,265	3,218
	<b>782,868</b>	<b>688,611</b>
<b>Centres</b>		
General Donations	277,621	251,202
Riding fees	227,016	188,541
Fundraising activities	67,892	82,644
Grants and subsidies	153,469	137,876
Other income	82,789	77,152
Interest	30,170	9,063
Profit on disposal of sundry assets/horses	12,703	44,726
	<b>851,660</b>	<b>791,204</b>
<b>Total revenue</b>	<b>1,634,528</b>	<b>1,479,815</b>

### 3. Operating Result

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

	2024 \$	2023 \$
<b>State Office</b>		
Depreciation		
- Plant and equipment	4,221	3,051
<b>Centres</b>		
Depreciation		
- Land and buildings	70,822	66,000
- Plant and equipment	39,225	33,149
- Horse floats	616	1,047
- Motor vehicle	6,338	3,410
	<b>117,001</b>	<b>103,606</b>
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 2024

### 4. Cash and Cash Equivalents

	2024 \$	2023 \$
Cash at bank	1,150,831	864,386
Short term bank deposits	1,817,965	1,752,673
	<b>2,968,796</b>	<b>2,617,059</b>

### 5. Receivables

	2024 \$	2023 \$
Sundry debtors	15,399	16,504

### 6. Property, Plant and Equipment

	2024 \$	2023 \$
Land and Buildings	1,420,178	1,369,510
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(670,942)	(599,569)
	<b>749,236</b>	<b>769,941</b>
Plant and Equipment	745,691	670,921
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(453,190)	(410,295)
	<b>292,501</b>	<b>260,626</b>
Horse Floats	99,915	99,915
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(86,082)	(85,466)
	<b>13,833</b>	<b>14,449</b>
Motor Vehicle	40,986	32,486
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(9,971)	(3,633)
	<b>31,015</b>	<b>28,853</b>
	<b>1,086,585</b>	<b>1,073,869</b>

# Riding For The Disabled Association Of Victoria Incorporated

## Notes To The Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

	2024 \$	2023 \$
<b>Reconciliations of movements in carrying values:</b>		
<b>Land and Buildings</b>		
Opening Balance	769,941	748,615
Additions	50,668	87,326
Depreciation	(71,373)	(66,000)
<b>Closing balance</b>	<b>749,236</b>	<b>769,941</b>
<b>Plant and Equipment</b>		
Opening Balance	260,626	212,481
Additions	74,770	91,919
Disposals	-	(7,574)
Depreciation	(42,895)	(36,200)
<b>Closing balance</b>	<b>292,501</b>	<b>260,626</b>
<b>Horse Floats</b>		
Opening Balance	14,449	15,496
Depreciation	(616)	(1,047)
<b>Closing balance</b>	<b>13,833</b>	<b>14,449</b>
<b>Motor Vehicle</b>		
Opening Balance	28,853	5,027
Additions	8,500	27,236
Depreciation	(6,338)	(3,410)
<b>Closing balance</b>	<b>31,015</b>	<b>28,853</b>
	<b>1,086,585</b>	<b>1,073,869</b>

## 7. Intangibles

	2024 \$	2023 \$
<b>Ballarat Equine Centre Rights</b>		
At cost	600,000	600,000
Accumulated amortisation	(276,667)	(256,667)
	<b>323,333</b>	<b>343,333</b>
<b>Reconciliation of movements in carrying values:</b>		
Opening balance	343,333	363,333
Amortisation	(20,000)	(20,000)
<b>Closing balance</b>	<b>323,333</b>	<b>343,333</b>

# Riding For The Disabled Association Of Victoria Incorporated

## Notes To The Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

### 8. Payables

	2024 \$	2023 \$
Trade creditors	27,137	15,783
GST Payable	12,899	554
Other payables and accruals	266	2,039
	<b>40,302</b>	<b>18,376</b>

### 9. Provisions

	2024 \$	2023 \$
Current:		
Employees - annual leave	12,143	13,931
Non-Current:		
Employees - long service leave	2,834	1,427
<b>Total</b>	<b>14,977</b>	<b>15,358</b>

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

	2024 \$	2023 \$
Surplus after tax	323,406	229,843
Depreciation and amortisation	141,222	126,657
Net (profit)/loss on sale of assets	(490)	(9,200)
<b>Changes in assets and liabilities:</b>		
(Decrease) /Increase in payables	21,926	(7,297)
(Decrease) /Increase in provisions	(381)	(3,215)
Increase / (decrease) in receivables and prepayments	(498)	(20,730)
<b>Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities</b>	<b>485,185</b>	<b>316,058</b>

# Riding For The Disabled Association Of Victoria Incorporated

## Notes To The Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

### 11. Commitments for Expenditure

	2024 \$	2023 \$
Non-Cancellable Operating Leases - photocopier Payable:		
- Within one year	-	2,435
- Between one year and five years	-	-
	-	2,435

### 12. Auditor's Remuneration

	2024 \$	2023 \$
Audit services	7,250	7,250

### 13. Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets

The Association has been named as a defendant in a claim relating to a horse related incident on 24 September 2021 resulting in an injury. The incident was not caused by a horse controlled by RDAV or in an area leased by RDAV. The amount of the claim has not yet been specified. The claim is being defended and is covered by insurance if required.

The Association had no other contingent liabilities or assets as at 30 June 2024 (2023: nil).

### 14. Events After the Reporting Period

No matter or circumstance has arisen since 30 June 2024 that has significantly affected, or may significantly affect the Association's operations, the results of those operations, or the state of affairs of the Association in future financial years.

### 15. Key Management Personnel Disclosures

#### Compensation

The aggregate compensation made to members of key management personnel of the Association is set out below:

	2024 \$	2023 \$
Aggregate compensation	125,922	119,493

# Riding For The Disabled Association Of Victoria Incorporated

## Notes To The Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

### 16. Related Parties

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

<i>Tanya Twaits (President)</i>	<i>Elected 17 February 2021, Appointed President 24 February 2022 until term expiry 20 November 2022, Re-appointed 23 November 2023</i>
<i>Kelly Schulz</i>	<i>Appointed 23 January 2023</i>
<i>Gareth Beck</i>	<i>Appointed 23 January 2023</i>
<i>Christalyne Look</i>	<i>Appointed 23 January 2023</i>
<i>Stacey Murray</i>	<i>Appointed 23 January 2023, Secretary from March 2024 until October 2024</i>
<i>Jennifer Krawczyk</i>	<i>Appointed 12 September 2020, Re-elected 20 November 2022, Secretary from 6 October 2020 until 19 April 2023</i>
<i>Maria Di Gregorio</i>	<i>Appointed Treasurer 16 August 2023</i>
<i>John Tran</i>	<i>Appointed October 2024, Secretary from October 2024</i>
<i>Sally Francis</i>	<i>Resigned 29 November 2023</i>
<i>Abigail Vidler</i>	<i>Resigned 29 November 2023</i>
<i>Wojtek Randla</i>	<i>Resigned 29 February 2024, Secretary from 19 April 2023 until 29 February 2024</i>

#### *Key Management Personnel*

Disclosures relating to key management personnel are set out in note 15.

No 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 2024, 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 material accounting policy information, 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 2024, 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 \$277,621 (2023: \$251,202), and "Fundraising activities" for \$67,892 (2023: \$82,644) 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

26 November 2024  
Melbourne

# SECTION 4 OUR OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

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# Acknowledgments & Thank You

## Donors

### RDAV Champions

All Souls Opp Shop Sandringham  
Allbeau Pty Ltd  
Arkhadia Fund  
D and X Williamson Charitable Fund  
Garry White Foundation  
Goodman Family Foundation  
Lady Marigold Southey AC  
Kylie Richardson  
Eros Siciliano  
Julie Thomas  
Truong Family Foundation



### RDAV Stars

Rosemary Abrecht  
Andrews Family Charitable Fund  
Gail Bacon  
Gareth Beck  
Clifford Bennett  
Bronwynne Casement  
Catherine Coles  
Jesse Colquhoun  
Heather Curren  
Deborah D'Adamo  
Joanne Forbes  
Declan Gaffney  
Robert Gregory

Glen Griffiths  
Peter Heinz  
Kerryn Ireland-Jenkin  
Emma Lees  
Jun Liu  
Rosemarie Mahony  
Maroondah City Council  
Alexandra Mattei  
Carolyn McMillan  
Novatech Controls Pty Ltd  
Dave Owen  
Diamond Papazoglou  
Zoe Rees

Imelda Rennick  
Tracey Richards  
Sallis Family  
Debra Sant  
Anne Stanhope  
Paula Starrs  
Samantha Strano  
Jessica Stringer  
Steven Thomas  
Andrew Warburton  
Cameron Wyllie

# Grants and funding

Riding for the Disabled Association of Victoria is committed to securing financial resources to support our mission and strategic objectives. In 2024, our dedicated staff and Board actively monitored grant opportunities and provided tailored guidance to our 33 centres, ensuring they could access relevant funding to enhance their programs and operations.

RDAV worked closely with key funding partners, including Sport and Recreation Victoria (part of the Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions) and VicSport, to secure grants that align with our strategic goals. Many of our centres were successful in receiving funds through the Sporting Club Grants Program to purchase much needed equipment, first aid safety and uniforms.

By fostering strong relationships with funding organisations and proactively supporting our centres, RDA V continues to secure resources that empower our network to deliver transformative equine-assisted programs, enriching the lives of individuals with disabilities across Victoria.

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

A significant achievement this year was securing a further two year funding from the Together More Active Grant for Inclusive Participation, aimed at piloting a new regional support hub model. This initiative involves aligning a group of regional RDA centres with a relevant Regional Sports Assembly (RSA) to establish a new RDAV regional support hub based at the RSA.

The regional support hub model fosters partnerships between RDA Victoria, regional centres, and their local RSAs to reduce

administrative burdens, enhance volunteer recruitment and training, and boost operational efficiencies. By increasing financial and personnel resources, these hubs enable centres to expand their capacity, delivering more safe and effective equine-assisted programs to a greater number of participants. This grant aligns with our strategic goal of enhancing accessibility and impact, ensuring RDA Victoria continues to transform lives through inclusive equestrian opportunities.

## Vic Sport Guiding Sport Program

RDAV received funding through the VicSport Guiding Sport Program, as part of Sport and Recreation Victoria's Together More Active initiative. This grant has supported a critical project to strengthen our risk management framework, aligning with our Strategic Pillar 1: Financial Sustainability and Governance, which prioritises accountability, efficiency, and regulatory compliance through robust governance practices.

The project focused on enhancing RDA Victoria's risk management processes to ensure best practices are embedded across our network of centres. Key activities included reviewing and finalising the draft RDAV Board Risk Management Policy and Risk Registry in collaboration with the board, and ensuring compliance with the National Integrity Framework's Child Safe Standards.

The initiative also involved identifying strategies to mitigate and manage risks, assigning individual responsibilities, and updating crisis management tools and templates to support centres in developing effective internal and external communication plans and training programs for staff and volunteers.

This project equips RDA Victoria with the tools, resources, and knowledge to meet governance best practice standards, ensuring regulatory compliance and fostering confidence among funding bodies, sponsors, and partners. By strengthening our risk management processes, we continue to safeguard our community while advancing our mission to deliver safe, inclusive, and transformative equine-assisted programs for people with disabilities.

# Strategic Vision for the Future

**RDAV's strategic priorities for the coming years include:**

## 1. Support Our Centres

Enhance resource availability and prioritise the wellbeing and sustainability of our people and horses.

## 2. Strengthen Our Position

Expand fundraising, corporate partnerships, and community engagement to drive growth.



# How You Can Help

## Volunteer your time

[www.rdav.asn.au/get-involved/volunteer](http://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](http://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

If you own a horse you'd like to lend, lease or donate to RDAV, visit our website to see if it fits our criteria to help in the RDA program, or contact us at [opsmanager@rdav.asn.au](mailto:opsmanager@rdav.asn.au)

## Become a coach

[www.rdav.asn.au/get-involved/become-a-coach](http://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.au](mailto:board@rdav.asn.au)

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

400 Epsom Road, Flemington VIC

Ph: 9258 4730

[info@rdav.asn.au](mailto:info@rdav.asn.au)

[www.rdav.asn.au](http://www.rdav.asn.au)



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