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# RDA

**Riding for the Disabled SA  
Mount Barker Centre**

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## RDA Mt Barker Newsletter December 2011

*Merry Christmas!*

This newsletter brings you up to date with events in 2011 and outlines our plans for 2012.

### Events in 2011

RDA Mt Barker committee would like to thank you all for your support through a challenging 2011.

As you are aware, due to the lack of volunteers and coaches availability, we were forced to restructure our program for the second term of 2011. This also affected the remaining two terms of 2011, with reduced numbers of riders. However, as a result of our volunteer drive during term three, we now have 22 active volunteers and five coaches supporting the program.

With regret we had to accept Michelle Leach's resignation due to Michelle's personal responsibilities. We would like to thank Michelle for her contribution to RDA over the past 4 years.

2011 saw the arrival of three new equines: Sergeant Dibs, Wally, and Sam. Wally and Sam are on lease, whilst Dibs has been purchased. All are working well in the program. Some of you may have noticed that Carlton is missing. He has been retired to live out his days at Vicki Tye's farm in Aldgate, where he will receive the daily attention and routine that his remaining years dictate. Carlton has been with RDA Mt Barker for 10 years and will be sorely missed by all the riders and volunteers who loved him. Thank you, Carlton.

Earlier this year we were the recipients of a \$10,000 grant from the Liquor Industry. This grant was for the supply and installation of a hoist, which will assist coaches in the mounting and dismounting of some of the riders.

A working bee facilitated the installation of three new yards for our ponies, which have been a great asset.

On 30 August we underwent our two-yearly accreditation inspection. We have successfully maintained our Band 1 Centre of Excellence status.

## **Committee Members**

At our AGM in September the following new committee was elected:

President	Lisa Burd
Vice President	Kerry Callaghan
Treasurer	Marg Whelan
Secretary	Liz Ball
Committee Members	Kate Howie (Horse Manager) Ian Foot Marie Roma Debbie Westerholm Bob Gurr Anne Dowbnia
RDA Coaches	Liz Ball Lisa Burd Vicki Tye Kate Howie Debbie Westerholm

Liz Ball has been secretary for many years and has requested that this be her last year in this role. If anyone is interested in this position, please let me know so that we can arrange for you to shadow Liz to learn the ropes before Liz steps down as secretary.

## **Fundraising in 2011**

On the holiday weekend at the end of September/beginning of October, a few stalwart volunteers braved the cold and wet weather to man the Coke van at the Tom Quilty endurance ride in Mt. Pleasant. Fourteen hardy volunteers were rostered over four days. Unfortunately, due to the bad weather, our profit was a disappointing \$230.48 Thanks to all who helped out and congratulations to committee member Bob Gurr for completing the 160km endurance ride on his horse Bindi.

## **Plans for 2012**

It's that time of year again and all riders and volunteers are required to complete and return to us their registration forms. This year state office (RDASA) are pre-printing the forms for you, but please check that *all information is correct*, and that *all parts of the form are completed*. Don't forget to *sign the form* (both sides) and return it to us or to your school or organisation (St. Patrick's, Hills Options and Cornerstone riders) as soon as possible. Riders are also reminded that they must pay the annual \$60 rider registration fee. This fee goes to State office and covers the rider for insurance regardless of whether they ride once or 50 times a year.  
*This fee is non refundable.*

Volunteers – we have your pre-printed registration forms in the shed. If you haven't already signed yours, then please ask one of the coaches next time you are at RDA.

### **Banking and Payment of Fees for 2012**

We have now arranged to do our banking online. The preferred method of payment for individual riders in 2012 will be *online* and *one term in advance*. This includes both the annual rider registration fee and the lesson fees. Please contact us if you are NOT able to pay online or in advance.

Fees for Term 1 2012: \$60 annual registration  
\$72 (9 x lessons, Tue 7 Feb - Tue 3 Apr).  
**Total for Term 1 \$132.**

RDA requires the rider registration fee of \$60 for each rider to be paid *before lessons start*. This amount is separate from lesson fees, and we pass this onto State office to insure all concerned in the event of accident or injury. *You cannot ride unless your insurance has been paid*. Schools will be invoiced in arrears for lessons.

### **Protocol for paying RDA Mt Barker online**

BSB: 085 745  
Account number: 20 758 6117  
Account name: RDA Mt Barker

In the line that will appear on RDA Mt. Barker's (the Payee's) statement please enter your rider's surname and the term. **Example: Smith T1.**

Schools should enter the school name and term. **Example: St Pats T1.**

Please note - you *must* provide the surname/school name and term, otherwise your payment cannot be credited to you. Please make a note of your receipt or transaction number and date of payment for your records.

### **Cancellations**

If we have to cancel lessons due to weather, OR if you are unable to attend because of a medical or other emergency (AND you tell us), you will be given a credit towards the following term. If you do not attend and do not tell us, no credit will be given. In general, no monetary refunds will be given unless in exceptional circumstances. By paying in advance, you take advantage of our discount rate (\$8 per lesson, a saving of \$2). We have found that paying in advance increases commitment to the program and therefore *everyone* benefits – horses, riders, and volunteers.

### **Hot Weather policy**

If the weather forecast for Tuesday in Mt. Barker on the 6.00pm News (Channel 7 or 9) on Monday night, is 32 C or above, then lessons will be automatically cancelled, and no texts will be sent. *It is your responsibility to check the forecast in the event of hot weather.*

If we have to cancel for any other reason, we will text or call you as soon as possible.

### **Fundraising plans for 2012**

To date the following two fundraisers are in the planning stages:

*BBQ at Bunnings. We are waiting on Bunnings to give us a date; and  
Open Garden Scheme (in April). We will be selling teas.*

If anyone is interested in helping out with either of these fundraisers, or if you have any ideas, or if you would like to host your own fundraiser for RDA Mt. Barker, we'd love to hear from you.

### **Things you may not be aware of**

Please remember: if you are late arriving we cannot give you extra time, and if you arrive more than 15 minutes after the official start time for your lesson, you will not be able to ride at all.

RDA Mt. Barker's policy is that if a rider is absent on three occasions and we have not received a call or text, then that rider will be terminated and their place offered to a rider on the wait list. You will be charged for lessons missed if no call or text has been received in advance.

**RDA's mobile number is 0434 379 277.**

The RDA horses need feeding, deworming, visits from the farrier, vet, dentist, and (occasionally) the chiropractor, in order to keep them fit and healthy for use in our program. We also have to pay agistment fees to keep the horses on the property. All these expenses need to be met whether you ride or not. We have to plan the workload carefully for each horse or pony according to its age and condition, so it is important that we know whether you plan to ride or not. Each horse also has a maximum weight it can comfortably carry, so not all riders can ride all horses.

### **Ride timetable for 2012**

The ride timetable for 2012 is at the bottom of this newsletter. Term 1 commences on Tuesday 7 February 2012 and run until Tuesday 3 April, inclusive.

Please make sure you note your ride time and try to be there at least five to ten minutes early to get your helmet on. We have built in a 15-minute gap between each ride; this is to give our volunteers time to grab a drink or use the loo, and to give us extra time for mounting/dismounting.

## Volunteers

Since we are operating on one day a week for 2012, it will be a long day with volunteers required at 8.30am to help catch the horses, through to 2.30pm to help feed and put the horses back out in the paddocks. To make this a bit more manageable we are splitting the day into 2 volunteer shifts: 8.30am – 11.30am and 11.30am – 2.30pm. Please can all volunteers let me know as soon as possible which shift you would prefer, or if you can manage both shifts. (doughurd@adam.com.au)

As an appreciation for all your volunteering efforts in 2011, we are offering a volunteer ride on Tuesday 20 December. We are starting the day with a fundraiser ride for a scout patrol group from 9.30am – 11.30am. After that we will offer rides to volunteers in groups of six or less, where we will have a brief lesson, followed by either a drill ride, mounted games or a trail ride. If you'd like to ride, be there by 8.30am to help get the horses ready and to help with the scout ride.

## Thanks

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Coaches and Committee members for the tremendous job they have done throughout this past year. I would also like to thank all the volunteers who come each week, and the RDA horses and ponies, without whom there wouldn't be a program.

We wish you and your families all the very best for Christmas and the New Year, and look forward to seeing you all in February 2012.

Lisa Burd  
(President and Coach)



