

RIDING FOR THE DISABLED ASSOCIATION SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Enriching Lives



HERO FUND

buying special horses for special people

*“Every child and adult participating in our therapeutic programs is enriched,
through their relationship with horse and volunteer,
to achieve success in their own important way”*

RDA Australia

ABOUT HERO

Hero has been the equine “face” of RDA SA for many years, appearing on printed materials and collection tin labels with RDA client Louise Howson. But why was he so special?

Hero was a 12.2 hh Welsh Mountain Pony. He was a portly bay pony with a big white blaze, and had as much mane on one side of his neck as the other.

He was bought for Jennibrook Farm RDA in 1989 and had a knack of knowing what clients needed, and when. If RDA had a difficult client, Hero was used.

He did his job well – most of the time – without complaint. If his rider was off-centre, he would stop to let his people know there was a problem. If his leader wasn't listening, he would – sometimes – give a little nip as if to say, “Fix it.”

Every client who came into contact with him fell in love with him, as he had a knack of making every client feel special.

One of Hero's rider friends was Ryan. Ryan didn't like touching anything and wouldn't even hug his mother. But as part of his riding program he had to give his pony a hug. One night, when there was a bad storm, Ryan was so worried about Hero that he woke his mother so that he could come over to check that Hero was all right. His mother brought him over to Jennibrook straight away.

He had never before shown any concern for anyone or anything in his life. To this day, Ryan tells everyone that Hero taught him how to love.

His mum says, “I remember little arms reaching gently around a shaggy little head dropped to say ‘goodbye’. I remember a child angry at the world until a little hairy ‘Hero’ taught him to love and accept touch.”

Hero died in 1999 from a cancer, and was so special that Onkaparinga Council allowed him to be buried at Jennibrook Farm. Volunteers and clients paid for his burial plot and gravestone, and regularly pay homage to this magnificent RDA pony.

Ryan's mum has the last word, “There is a future and a little pony called ‘Hero’ has shown it to us all.”

The “Hero fund” is intended to bring many RDA Heroes to all the children and adults like Ryan who need their own special horse.



HERO HORSE FUND GUIDELINES

1. Accredited Riding for the Disabled centres affiliated with RDA SA may apply for funding from the "Hero Fund". Application is to be made per the official application form addressed to the RDA SA Board (or its delegated authority).
2. Each Riding for the Disabled centre is responsible for sourcing its own horses to be assessed for accreditation.
3. Except in extenuating circumstances, no more than \$2,000 will be available per request. The Board reserves the right to pay a percentage of the sum requested.
4. Except in extenuating circumstances, no more than \$2,000 will be available to any centre per calendar year.
5. Once approval has been given by the Board, funding is to be made available within five working days.
6. The centre is responsible for registering the horse on RDA SA's 'horse management list' and 'asset management register'.
7. The centre may not 'on-sell' the horse to another centre or entity external to the organisation without prior notification to and approval of the Board (or its delegated authority).
8. The horse is to be retained in the centre's RDA program for a minimum of 12 months, otherwise the centre is to return the funds or will be ineligible for all future funds, extenuating circumstances excepted.
9. The centre is to provide clear digital photographs of the horse with its application, for identification and promotional purposes.
10. Subject to funding availability, applications will be assessed against the following criteria:
 - The horse must meet accreditation criteria, as assessed by a currently qualified RDA SA coach;
 - Horse must be fully accredited as an RDA horse before the Board will accept any funding request;
 - The purchase is not to result in the centre's horse-rider ratio (as agreed by the State Coaching and Safety committee) being exceeded;
 - The centre can demonstrate how the purchase will assist in the provision of its riding programs and/or the reduction of client waiting lists;
 - The extent of centre involvement in regular whole-of-state RDA SA activities may be used to determine eligibility for funding.
11. In the event of refusal of an application, the centre may reapply to the Board, including any clarifying and/or additional information.

The Hero Fund was set up in 2005 to raise money to assist RDA SA centres in purchasing suitable horses.

RIDING FOR THE DISABLED ASSOCIATION SA INC.
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HERO HORSE FUND APPLICATION FORM

CENTRE: Date of Application:

CURRENT NUMBERS: Horses:..... Riders:

CURRENT Horse:Rider Ratio:..... **Waiting List:**

Name & Description of Horse:
Attach copy of the Horse/Pony Accreditation Form

How will this horse meet your current program needs?

.....

.....

... and help reduce your centre's waiting list?

.....

.....

Is this horse replacing another RDA horse? YES / NO

If "YES", which horse, and why, and date of retirement of other horse:.....

.....

Cost of Horse: **Amount Requested:**

Attach additional supporting information to this page.

CENTRE CHECKLIST

OFFICE USE ONLY

RDA SA Affiliation fee paid

Centre Accredited Date:

Horse:Rider ratio confirmed

Photos attached

Horse/pony Accreditation form

Signed:.....

Position:..... Date:

OFFICE USE ONLY

Last successful application to the Fund (if any)

Date:

No outstanding payments / paperwork

RDA SA event / meeting / workshop attendance record

Nil / Poor / Good / Excellent

Board Approval (current application)

Date:

Payment forwarded

Amount & Date:

Horse Accepted into RDA Hero Fund program

Date: