



# RDA Newsletter

Riding for the Disabled Association (NSW) Raymond Terrace & Lower Hunter Connections

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## FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hi Everyone

On behalf of our committee – I'd like to wish everyone a happy summer break, Christmas and New Year and hope that with state borders opening up, many of you will see family, friends and loved ones that we haven't been able to see for much of this, and last, year.

Despite the Centre not being open for Programs for most of the last 6 months, it has been great to see the photos of what our horses have been up to on Facebook, and of some of the Program activities that we were able to run earlier in the year. Once lockdowns eased, we also got to see some photos of the Bunnings BBQ which is an important fundraiser, and the working bees Coaches organised with volunteers to keep the Centre in good shape.

At the last meeting for the year, the Management Committee agreed on proposed dates to bring our fabulous horses back for training to be ready to commence Programs in 2022. We are all looking forward to re-engaging with our RDA family - riders, parents, volunteers, supporters, and sponsors in the new year.

Thank you all again for your support throughout the year. We will continue to provide updates by email and on Facebook. If you have not been receiving emails, please make sure we have your most up to date email by sending your details to [raymondterrace@rdansw.org.au](mailto:raymondterrace@rdansw.org.au).



**Alison  
President  
Management Committee**

*Thank you to everyone who was able to support our 2021 Christmas Raffle raising \$1670*

# PROGRAM NEWS

## Tiptoe through the clover at Stroud

As Covid restrictions eased we were able to resume driving at Stroud for the last part of the year & by meeting weekly rather than fortnightly we managed to fit in 5 sessions in October/November, with a few cancellations due to rain. With some helpers and one pony in lockdown to begin with, Tinker was kept busy, and our arena was a sea of white thanks to all the clover in flower.

We were happy to welcome back one of our drivers, Melinda, who had been driving with us for many years but had the last couple of years off. She had not forgotten any of her driving skills. It was also great to have Jenny

Gunter as a fill-in volunteer, saving us from having to cancel one session when regular helpers were unavailable



Tiptoe through the clover



Rosetta meets Harold

Our year finished with our Christmas break-up party which was held in the large new Pavilion at Stroud Showground. Volunteer Pat Thomson brought along three of her llamas, all dressed in their Christmas finery & they definitely stole the show. To begin with our drivers were a little wary of these unfamiliar animals but after a while we could hardly drag them away, little Harold being a special favourite. However, a llama piñata, also supplied by Pat, acted as a distraction. So, a very memorable end to the year

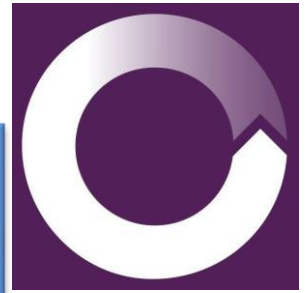


Skip and Harold



Melinda and Pat with Flynn

# Thank you Beyond Bank for our Mounted Games Ribbons

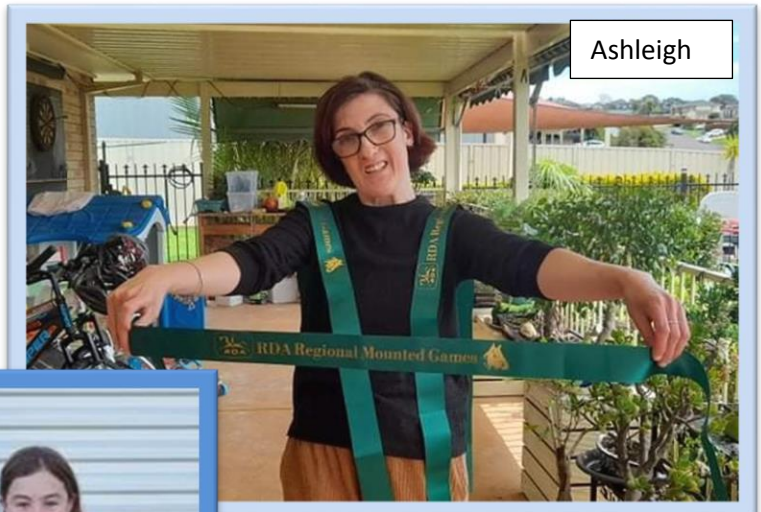


Photos:

Far Left –  
Hayley

Left -  
Seanna

*Thank  
you!*



Ashleigh



Photos:

Above – Emilia

Right - Ava



**Beyond Bank have been a long-time supporter of our Mounted Games supplying ribbons for our riders.**

**Riders with their ribbons**

# VOLUNTEER NEWS

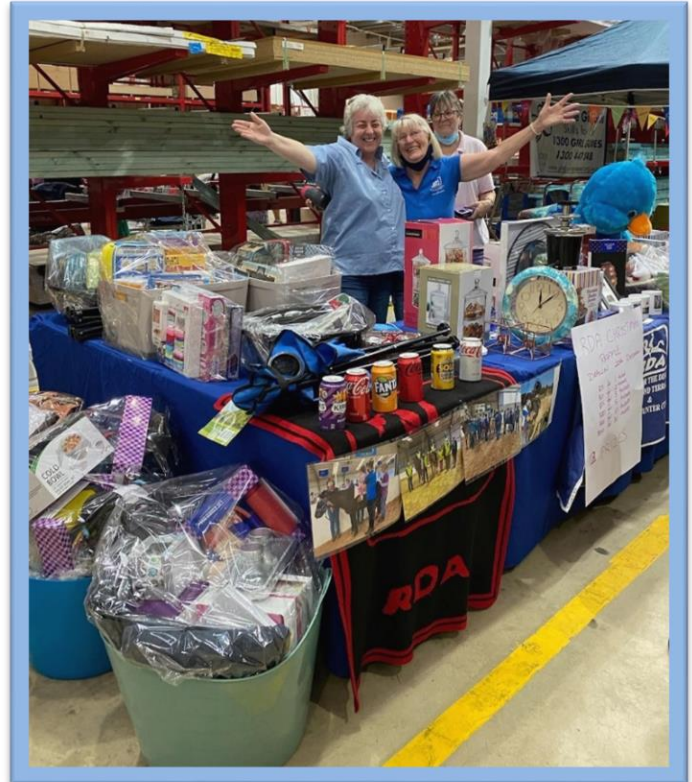
## Bunnings Community Night

On the 9<sup>th</sup> of December Bunnings Heatherbrae had a family community night to which our Centre was invited to attend.

The night was attended by some of our Management Committee and Volunteers to run a White Elephant table and sell raffle tickets.

For the first time we tried our online raffle tickets which went wonderfully, and our White Elephant Table got some offers, and our items found some happy homes.

Thank you to Maree, Carol, Janet, and Lee who did sorting of items and raffle prizes and thank you to Maree, Carol, Lee, and Jenny for attending the community night and raising some money for our Centre.



Maree, Carol, and Lee



<https://au.entdigital.net/orderbooks/342j18>



**Our Centre is looking for a digital frame to use when doing displays within the community, do you have a digital frame you no longer use or are you a business who is able to donate one to our Centre?**

**If you can assist us with this item, please email us on [raymondterrace@rdansw.org.au](mailto:raymondterrace@rdansw.org.au)**

**Thank You!**



## Bunnings BBQ

The Bunnings BBQ has proved to be a great fund raiser for the RDA. As you would know we have had no classes during Covid lockdowns and consequently no income. Our precious horses still need to be fed, have their hooves trimmed, kept safe and dry with rugs when necessary, and have the vet call out if they are feeling poorly. This all costs money!!!

The weather seems to play havoc with us each time we are rostered for a BBQ – it is either really hot, really windy, or really wet! Nevertheless, our extremely dedicated team of volunteers turn up to help us cook sausage sandwiches, sell drinks, and generally have a fun time of it!



Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> November was no exception. Our local Bunnings store at Heatherbrae are great supporters of our Centre and we must pass on our thanks to them for allowing us to be part of the famous 'Bunnings BBQ'. All the staff are wonderful and help us in any way they can.



### THANKYOU TO OUR SPONSORS & DONORS

A very special thank you goes out to **Goodman Fielder** for their donation of bread for our day. One of their staff (who is a Saturday 2 RDA Volunteer) delivered the bread to us on Sunday morning and this helped us tremendously!



Another big thank you to all the volunteers who have donated goods (i.e. drinks, sauces, onions etc) to be sold or used on the day. These donations ensure that all the money we make on the day can go straight to the centre. Don't forget if you can help with donations for our next BBQ, please send us a message: [raymondterrace@rda.nsw.org.au](mailto:raymondterrace@rda.nsw.org.au) or 0418 211 391.

**If you can help us with a carton of Drinks, Sausages, Bread, Sauces, Chopped Onions, Foil Trays or Paper Towel it would be gratefully accepted.**

**THANK YOU TO OUR GREAT TEAM OF BBQ VOLUNTEERS!!!**

If you would like to be part of the team call or message Jenny on the above number.

## Stroud Christmas Party comment from our Volunteer Co-ordinator



Stroud Annexe of Raymond Terrace RDA has an amazing group of volunteers who meet on Tuesdays to provide Carriage Driving to the 'drivers' in the area. Their Christmas party was very special and enjoyed by all who attended!

Well done to Rosemary (Whip) and her team for a wonderful morning filled with love, laughter and festive spirit!



**PLAY FOR PURPOSE IS A COMMUNITY RAFFLE PROVIDING THE OPPORTUNITY TO WIN MAJOR PRIZES AND CHOOSE RDA RAYMOND TERRACE AND LOWER HUNTER AS YOUR CHARITY OF CHOICE TO RECEIVE RAFFLE FUNDS RAISED THROUGH THE SITE**

<https://playforpurpose.com.au/checkout/rda-nsw-raymondterrace?tcount=1>

# HORSE CHATTER

## Summer Homes for our Horses

It's usually November that we start thinking about finding 'homes' for our horses to rest over the summer holidays but this year is different due to COVID.

Our term 4 riding programs were cancelled so the Horse Committee members had to set things in motion much earlier than normal.

The best-case scenario is that their owners look after their horses during this period but if this is not possible, temporary agistment must be found. This year, 4 horses went back to their owners but that still left us with 4 horses to find a home away from home for their break. We also learnt this year of a revised

State procedure whereby a more detailed risk assessment had to be conducted for each property where we planned to agist our horses.

Fran, ex Thursday Riding Coach, had kindly offered to give a place to one of the horses so Krista from our horse management committee went to do the risk assessment. Jenny Gunter offered to take Ladybird and Waffles again this year, so Faye from our horse management committee went to do that assessment. Finally, we found a new spot for Belle in Stroud and Rosemary, Stroud Whip, kindly undertook the assessment.

One might think "job done" but not so. Floating the horses is one task which is usually undertaken by Janet and Jenny, but trickier is making sure the horses settle down to enjoy their holiday especially when they have new paddock mates. The

photo of Supa meeting Howie looks like they will be good friends but as it turns out, this is not the case. Fran had to rapidly change arrangements and separate them as it turned out that Howie didn't want to share his paddock.

Daily checks were made on Belle and apart from Schooner strutting his stuff on Belle's arrival, they have settled in nicely together. It just goes to show that one cannot always tell from first appearance.



Chase and Tiger



Supa meeting Howie



Belle settling in nicely

During the Christmas period, Janet, and husband Phil, take a well-earned holiday themselves, so the Coaches, Assistant Coaches and Volunteers share the feeding duties during this time. Everybody is happy to only have four horses with Hogan, Ebony, Flame and Albus left at the Centre, the first time for many a year to have so few.

## COMMUNITY NEWS



### BIG SHOUT OUT TO



Thank you for assisting us with prize donations.

Currently Shark and Ray Rescue Centre have a special **12-month pass** so you can buy a ticket once and come back as many times as they like for a year and your entry is free.

They **accept companion card** and are improving their facilities to be **more accessible**.

Jane and Anne from our Management Committee visited **Commonwealth Bank Glendale** to accept a **\$500 donation** from their community fund to assist our Centre with the purchase of new riding helmets in 2022.



Bunnings have been a long-term supporter of our Centre. **Thank you to Bunnings Heatherbrae** for your donation of buckets for our raffle prizes.





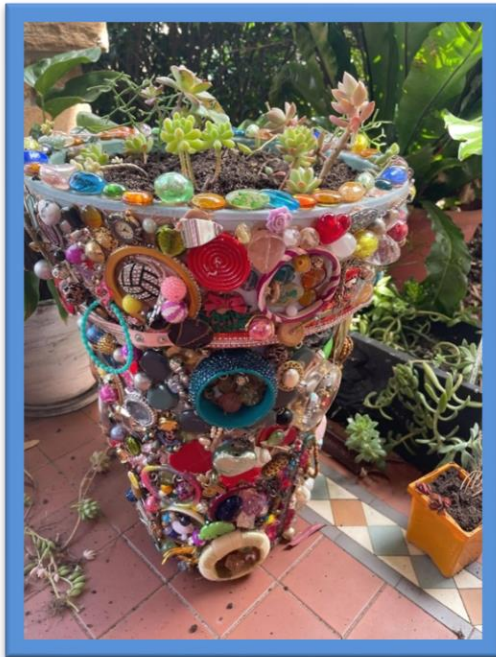
Instagram

facebook 

Follow us on Instagram and Facebook?

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/rdartlh/>

Instagram: @rda\_raymondterrace



Thank you to one of our talented riders who made this decorated pot for our Sensory Garden



Thank you to Atlantic for your assistance with oil for our tractor

Did you know you can buy a Share in one of our RDA Horses for as little as \$50 a year! Check out Share-A-Horse on our website: <https://rdaraymondterrace.org.au/share-a-horse/>

Happy Horsey Holidays!



*We wish all of you a festive season and hope you enjoy time with loved ones. We look forward to seeing you in 2022 for a brighter and happier year.*