

ANNUAL REPORT 2024



**RIDING FOR THE DISABLED ASSOCIATION OF
QUEENSLAND INCORPORATED**

Riding Develops Abilities

ABN: 985 824 305 76

MISSION

To support member centres to provide high quality, safe equestrian activities to people living with disability designed to improve quality of life, develop life skills and attain personal goals.

VISION

RDAQ member centres across Queensland have the knowledge, skills and resources they need to consistently provide high quality, safe, therapeutic equestrian activities to people living with disability in their community.

VALUES

Ongoing improvement
empowerment
respect for diversity
inclusiveness
quality service

CONTENTS

p4 Chair Report

p6 RDAQ Board

p7 About us

p11 Key Achievements

p13 Financials

p14 Our supporters

CHAIR REPORT

Structure of the Board

The Board restructure of three years ago has worked well however it was felt that the two positions which had not been filled until recently, could better reflect the needs of the organisation by being re-branded as Member Programs (previously Riders) and Business Development to improve the flexibility and sustainability of RDAQ.

The Coach, Horse Welfare and Volunteer positions have remained the same. Currently all positions are filled until October 2025.

Annual Regional Workshops

This year 2 Regional Workshops were held, in Hervey Bay and Greenbank (Crowson Park) with attendance between them of ten of the fourteen centres. Once again volunteers and riders had increased presence, allowing for more assessments of Mounting Officers and Lunging volunteers, increasing the general knowledge base of all centres

Centre Accreditations, Coach and OTC assessments, Lunge and Mounting Certification

A vital task for RDAQ is helping Centres to achieve accreditation every two to three years. This includes auditing of safety processes, financial records, asset management, horse welfare and Coaching observation ensuring that all centres are offering a safe and supportive learning experience. This year five Centres were re-accredited and four of those were passed as Centres of Excellence.

RDAQ also coordinates the assessment of Coaches and Assistant Coaches as well as volunteer assessments such as Lunging and Mounting Officers. Many of these assessments occur at Regional Conferences or during the Centre Accreditation Process.

Championships Video Program

The State Championships will be judged by video this year as they were in 2022. This format allows more centres to participate and, for riders and horses to compete in their own environment.

The State Championships have been updated to include unmounted participants.

Changes

RDAQ has developed reporting processes for Department of Sports and Recreation Qld feeding into Gameplan for State Grant purposes for both centres and RDAQ.

We have also encouraged Centre Committees to undertake the essential on-line training offered nationally through the RDA Arena, the Australian Sports Commission and Sport Integrity Australia.

In November 2024 RDAQ hosted the National Delegates Conference and AGM at North Lakes, Moreton Shire.





Robyn Mapp
Volunteer Rep



Maggie Rippey
Coach rep



Diana Adderley
State Manager



Lynn Rees
Member Programs
Rep



Boaz Bernstein
Business Development
Rep



Rob Thomson
Horse Welfare Rep

RDAQ BOARD MEMBERS

ABOUT US

RDAQ is a registered not for profit incorporated association and is registered as a disability sports charity. The organisation reports to, and is bound by the requirements of, the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission; the Queensland Office of Fair Trading; and the Riding for the Disabled Association of Australia (RDAA).

There are **14** accredited Riding for the Disabled Associations registered as financial members of RDAQ. They range from very small centres in remote locations to large multi-service organisations in metropolitan Brisbane. RDAQ members are independent, incorporated associations run by an elected management committee of local volunteers. RDAQ is focused on removing barriers to grow this number and enable more disabled people to access accredited RDA services in their communities throughout Queensland



Currently there are **290** children and adults living with disability benefiting from the services offered by RDAQ members.

During 2024, our members could offer a range of horse-assisted programs because of the dedication and support of over **450** volunteers and **46** RDA qualified coaches

RDA Maryborough has quite a number of unsung heroes. Quiet achievers who just get on with it and do not expect acknowledgement for their contribution to the success of the organisation. We would like to highlight the hard work of four this time – Barb, Noel, Bev and Eric.

Barb and Noel run our annual end of year raffle and since they started 12 years ago have raised over \$120,000.00. Barb starts approaching local businesses mid-year requesting donations to be used as prizes, collates the prizes (there is usually 5 – 7 for each raffle) and then, with the help of her dedicated team of ticket sellers, starts selling tickets at the end of September. Noel is the person who sets up the 'ticket selling tables' outside local businesses for Barb and her team, collects donations, delivers prizes and does anything else required to ensure the success of the raffle.

Bev runs an online 'Garage Sale' for us. She spends many hours sorting through donations we are given – anything from clothes, books and crockery to furniture and anything in between – before listing it online or storing it for our 6 monthly physical garage sale. Noel is usually the person who collects the donations from local people and delivers them to Bev. Eric repairs and renovates items of furniture where possible. Bev has raised over \$80,000 for RDA Maryborough since she took on the role a number of years ago.

We might not see them turning up on ride days to help out but without volunteers like Barb, Noel, Bev and Eric working hard in the background we would not be in such good financial health or be able to keep our riding fees as low as they are so more disabled people can participate in our program.



Carmel McGrath began as a volunteer with **Samford RDA** shortly after she retired from her nursing duties in 2008. This was the second year of Samford's operations, so she is almost a founding member! She quickly found that helping out at RDA combined two of her greatest passions - caring for others, and horses. She has volunteered twice a week on lesson days for much of the past 16 years, as well as being part of the feed and care roster. In addition, she has been attending committee meetings the entire time, and served as Treasurer for about 9 years. She was made a Life Member in 2022.

Carmel epitomises all that is good about RDA, cheerfully working voluntarily to improve the lives of others, both people and our 4 hoofed friends. Her speciality around the centre has been cleaning. Goodness knows what state we would have been in without her over the years! She ensured the troughs were clean (VERY clean!), swept the sheds, tidied the tack and equipment, and generally made sure everything was ship-shape. There was a standing joke that if you wanted to keep something, hide it from Carmel! She took the gentle teasing with her usual good-natured grace, possessing the priceless ability to laugh at herself.



All this was on top of assisting in lessons, and partaking in her other passion of cycling. She would often cycle up Mt Glorious, or Samford to Dayboro and back, and think nothing of it - she's so very fit and energetic. She also manages to fit in frequent Grandma duties!

So, it came as a great shock to everyone this year when Carmel had to step back from RDA due to a serious illness. She is battling this with her usual positive outlook and good humour, and we at Samford are sure she will prevail. If we could send a gift to every centre in Queensland, we would send them all a Carmel.

Carmel passed away on 25/12/2024 following a short illness

RDA Hervey Bay has had a great year, with 2 new Level 1 Coaches passing their assessments, Nadia & Emma. And Regina passing her Lunge the Horse Assessment. We also have 3 Trainee Assistant Coaches working towards their assessments hopefully next year. We are very excited to have just ordered a Equicizer Classic Horse Simulator that is being custom built for us currently in the USA. This has been a dream we've been working on for a few years now. Lots of fundraising and some very generous support from our sponsors. We hope to receive "Spirit" around February next year. We loved hosting the Regional workshop this year and meeting everyone from all the centres that attended was amazing.



KEY ACHIEVEMENTS 2024

Hervey Bay and Maryborough RDA Sports Day July 2024

Maryborough and Hervey Riding for the Disabled Groups held a combined RDA Sports Day .

24 riders attended, most entering the three individual events offered and the team event. Individual timed events were the keyhole, Texas Barrel and Cow roping while five mounted teams and one volunteer foot racing team battled it out to dress the Coaches, who then had to race to the finish line on foot.

Thanks Maggie and Kellie and the Maryborough volunteers for coming over to Hervey Bay and having such a fun day with us and thank you to Councillor Michelle Govers who took part in all events including the underwear challenge.

Robyn Mapp (Coach)





REGIONAL WORKSHOPS

RDAQ South regional workshop was hosted by Crowson Park RDA on 13th and 14th April. 26 participants included coaches, volunteers and committee members from 7 regional RDAQ centres.

Our central and wide bay regional workshop 2024 was held on 21st and 22nd September, hosted by Hervey Bay RDA. 32 participants attended consisting of coaches, volunteers, and riders from 6 regional RDAQ centres.

Our sessions over the 2 days included

- ♦ RDA E-Learning, unmounted activities
- ♦ Volunteer and coach training with arena activities
- ♦ Saddle fitting by Horseland
- ♦ Occupational Therapy in our centres
- ♦ Stretching, Mounting and Dismounting
- ♦ Horse body scoring
- ♦ Dressage riding, tests and terminology
- ♦ Auslan and communications



FINANCIALS

Revenue/receipts

Revenue from Government inc grants	\$93,000.00
Donations and Bequests	\$7,800.39
Revenue from providing goods or services	\$44,161.41
Revenue from investments	\$0
Other revenue/receipts	\$798.36
Other income (e.g. gains)	\$0
Total Income/Receipts	\$145,760.16

Expenses/Payments

Employee expenses/payments	\$61,404.42
Grants and donations made for use in Australia	\$0
Grants and donations made for use outside Australia	\$0
Other expenses/payments made for	\$186,324.51
Net Surplus/(Deficit)	(\$33,673.78)

Balance Sheet Extract

Total assets	\$171,262.46
Total liabilities	\$2,884.63
Net assets/liabilities	\$168,377.83

MAJOR SUPPORTERS



Kohnke's Own

