



RIDING FOR THE DISABLED ASSOCIATION (NSW) RAYMOND TERRACE & LOWER HUNTER CENTRE

JULY 2011 NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 5, 2011

NEWS IN BRIEF:

Ride A Thon

Fundraiser

1 - 31 August

Volunteer Awards

Nominations Open

Close 29 August

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Salamander Recycling Centre Provides Funding to Purchase Post Hole Digger

"The Salamander Recycling Centre is an independent not-for-profit organisation, run by the community, for the community. Supporting many local charities and organisations, [they] specialise in every aspect of material reclamation."

The Salamander Recycling Centre understands that the first obligation of our Centre every year is to raise the funds needed to meet the costs of our programs. We are only able to allocate funds for various yard maintenance or repairs if additional funding has been provided by the community. As a result, during the 32 years of our Centre's operation, our fences have received no ongoing maintenance and only received repairs when it has been urgent.

The Salamander Recycling Centre were approached to see if they could assist us in repairing our fences by requesting financial support to purchase a post hole digger. They generously agreed to provide grant funding of \$1,940 for this purpose.

Our Centre is a working farm, run by volunteers. Fences are vital to keeping our horses safe and to ensure that paddocks can be left empty, on a cyclic basis, to allow the grass to rejuvenate to provide feed. Fences that are in good repair will guarantee that our horses are not hurt by broken fence wire, nor able to escape to the highway. The post hole digger will also be used to dig holes for larger posts that would be positioned to help stabilise sections of our existing fences.

Salamander Recycling Centre is located at 360 Soldiers Point Road, Salamander Bay. They can be contacted on (02) 4984 6244 or via their website at <http://www.salamanderrecycle.blogspot.com>.

Source: Quoted from www.salamanderrecycle.blogspot.com on 4 July 2011.

Photo Source: Photo copied from 'Recyclers Helping Out', *The Examiner*, 7 July 2011, p 3.



Alan Cloke & Roly Taylor at Salamander Recycling Centre

Raymond Terrace Business Association

Breakfast at RDA

“The Raymond Terrace Business Association is a collective body of business leaders from Raymond Terrace, Heatherbrae and Tomago.

The Raymond Terrace Business Association (RTBA) is focused on developing the reputation of the Raymond Terrace area as a retail destination, along with the development of community spirit and social and economic self-confidence for the region.”



The RT&LH Centre was proud to host the RTBA Breakfast on Tuesday 5 July. This was a new fundraiser for our Centre, and it provided a unique opportunity to try our hand at catering. The RTBA was well attended with 35 members arriving from 6.45am for their July breakfast meeting.

Our helpful volunteers converted Murphy’s Room into a food haven for the morning. The members took advantage of a hot cup of tea and coffee when they arrived. During the meeting, whilst they watched a slide show of volunteering and riding experiences of RDA, they were served bacon, eggs, tomato, sausages, and toast (with marmalade or jam) and a fruit plate.

At the conclusion of the meeting, we held a special riding lesson, so that the RTBA members could see first hand what we do, how we do it and the benefits that our riders receive. There was a great deal of interest and questions, and we feel that we have been able to show the importance of our programs and the positive impacts they have on our community.

The RTBA Breakfast raised a net profit of \$440.70 for the Centre. We would like to thank Alexander and Kylie Armstrong, Steven Bender, Carol and Bill Brown, Kristy and Terrey Dalmazzo, Myra Henry, Silvia and Vivian Lyndsay, Richard and Jenny Nicholls, Jude Oliver, Jan Sharp, Doreen and George Sinclair, and Roly Taylor for their hard work in ensuring the success of the breakfast.

Source: Quoted from <http://www.raymondterracebusiness.com.au> on 6 July 2011.

Upcoming Events

The below information is subject to change, and is accurate at time of publication.

Session	Date	Captain
Monthly Meeting	25 July	Carol Brown
Ride A Thon	1 - 31 August	Carol Brown
Management Committee Meeting	2 August	Roly Taylor
Dressage Protocol Day	14 August	Isabel Taylor
Newsletter Contribution Closing Date	15 August	Jude Oliver
Monthly Meeting	15 August	Carol Brown
RDANSW Dressage	27-28 August	Wendy Murray
Regional Mounted Games	18 September	Wendy Murray
Volunteer Luncheon & Awards Presentation	Tues 27 September	Management Committee

Regional Dressage Day by Isabel Taylor

I agreed to take on the running of our Regional Dressage Day this year, as our happy wanderer, Judy Edwards, is off globe trotting (come back soon Judy). After a chilly start, it turned into a lovely sunny day.

Maggie Englebach again took on the job of giving out the numbers. We had some proper dressage numbers this year, sponsored by Belinda Flynn. They are much smaller and neater than our old back numbers, which were getting old and a bit tatty.

We had 12 entries from Monday and Wednesday night dressage programs. Wendy Murray was kept very busy all morning, as most of the riders were from her group, but she managed to get through without losing her voice.



Jordan Brown & Jessica Storey in action

We tried one new competition. It is called a Prix Caprilli which combines dressage and jumping, or in our case, poles on the ground. We had two riders who entered this and hope to increase numbers next year.

After a small panic when our scorer couldn't come because of man flu, Merryll (our caretaker and dressage competitor in her own right) stepped in and took on this task. All horse and rider combinations did very well with everyone going home with at least one ribbon. We have four riders who have qualified for State; Jessica Storey,



Edna Bevan & Isabel Taylor Presenting Ribbons

Michelle Dalmazzo, Vicky Gaunt Burns and Leah Harker. We wish them good riding at the State Dressage Championships in Sydney in August.

I would like to thank the morning tea ladies for keeping us well supplied with delicious goodies, and the Pepperalls who kept us well fed at lunch time with a well deserved barbeque.

We had a surprise visitor at lunch time, with Maddie Sobb popping in to say hello. To everyone, it was lovely to see her.

Our judge for the day was Edna Bevan, who did an outstanding job running to schedule and helping the day to run smoothly. Thankyou to all involved for making the day the success that it was.



Robert Deaves enjoying lunch



Keep Your Contact Information Up to Date

Please support RDA Raymond Terrace and Lower Hunter Centre by keeping your contact details up to date. If you have moved or changed your contact details, please inform Vicki in the office when you are next at RDA, via email at raymondterrace@rdansw.org.au or give her a call on (02) 4987 1402. If you change your details throughout the year, please remember to let us know.

Ride A Thon Fundraiser During August

The Annual Ride A Thon is a very special event and a great way for riders, drivers and their families to get involved in caring for their RDA horse. Getting involved is easy. Simply ask your family and friends to sponsor your riding or driving during the month of August. Get them to fill in the sponsorship form, which is available from your coach, and bring it into RDA with your money.



No amount is too small. All sponsorships are appreciated.

All riders/drivers who are able to help with sponsorships will receive a Certificate of Appreciation and will have their name included in our September Newsletter.

Some Important Facts About RDA Presented By RAT - Our Ride A Thon Mascot



- RDA is a registered charity.
- RDA has to fund raise to feed and provide health care for our 16 horses, maintain and improve our facilities, and all ongoing costs.
- RDA is not part of the Education Department, Sport and Recreation Department nor DoCS and receives no financial assistance from them to operate our programs.
- All people who assist yourself or your child in your/their riding/driving experience are volunteers. They bring their wealth of knowledge and experience to RDA freely.
- Volunteers who work in the programs also assist to raise the funds needed to keep our Centre going each year.

Irrigation Installation Begins

The Kiwanis Club of East Maitland is continuing their commitment to assist RDA in creating our Sensory Garden Trail Ride. Kiwanis members embraced the project after an RDA volunteer was invited to speak at one of their bi-monthly dinner meetings. As a result, they organised a fundraising dance in 2010 to pay for essential infrastructure work, and have provided countless hours of on ground support.



The Kiwanis Club of East Maitland have built and repaired fencing to enclose the entire 80m x 20m project area. This involved digging holes, threading fence wire and installing straining posts and gates. All materials were paid for by the Club.

Recently, Kiwanis purchased irrigation equipment and one member has been doing excavation work for the trenches using his own machinery. One section of irrigation is almost complete, and the remainder will be done as soon as it stops raining and the ground dries out. Heavy rains in the last couple of months have hampered Kiwanis' efforts.



The next stage will be to build the paved area, near the sensory garden entrance gate, which will create a space to locate a table and chairs.

If you would like to assist the Kiwanis Club of East Maitland's in their working bees, please contact Jude Oliver by email at judeoliver@iprimus.com.au or by phone on (02) 4934 1456.

Photo Kindly Provided by Rae Pidgeon.

Officeworks Newcastle West Provide Gift Card to Obtain Office Materials

The cost of office materials purchased by the Centre has increased in recent years due to inflation, even though our consumption has remained relatively constant. To offset this rising cost, we approached Officeworks Newcastle West for grant assistance from the Officeworks' Local Store Donation Program.

"Officeworks aims to partner with organisations ... that are a strong, natural match to ... activities which support educational opportunities and [outcomes], ... activities that enhance local communities in which [they] operate ... [and] activities which support health and wellbeing initiatives, particularly those involving youth."



Jan Sharp with Lynda Corrigan from Officeworks

Officeworks has chosen to support RDA, by providing a \$200 gift card. The gift card was used to purchase regularly used and much needed office items which include one ream each of sand, green, blue and pink coloured A4 photocopier paper; one box of 500 window envelopes; one petty cash book; one pack of 100 A4 laminating pouches; two packs of 50 gloss photo paper; one A4 sign holder; one four tiered brochure holder; 24 pack of adhesive notes and one pack of 50 convention card holders.

Source: Quoted from <http://www.officeworks.com.au/retail/landing/sponsorships-donations>, 25 June 2011.

Bunnings Port Stephens BBQ Fundraisers



On Sunday 5, 12 and 19 June, Trevor and Michelle Bullen captained our first BBQ fundraisers at the recently built Bunnings Port Stephens. This was the first time the Bullens had captained this type of event for RDA, and they did a fabulous job.

The Bunnings' barbecues were very successful. On all three days, we had a good crowd of volunteers that helped out and made the days run smoothly. Most volunteers helped at all three days, which is a wonderful effort. Due to the good weather and warm

conditions, we had a good flow of customers purchasing drinks and sausages.

The net profit from the three days was \$1,824.93 (5 June - \$520.05; 12 June - \$691.51; 19 June - \$613.37).

On 5 and 12 June, we held a raffle. This was something new for the Bunnings barbecues. The winners were 1st prize - A. Newton (Boxed set of 6 glasses and 1 jug donated by Glad Smith); 2nd prize - Duncan (Grocery Hamper donated by Glad Smith); 3rd prize - D. Lupton (Big White Teddy Bear donated by Jodie Breedon); 4th prize - Michelle Dalmazzo (Brown Teddy with a tartan ribbon donated by Jodie Breedon).

Trevor and Michelle would like to thank all of their BBQ volunteers - Jodie Breedon, Mel Butler, Pam Churchman, Kristy, Michelle & Terrey Dalmazzo, Dian Gillespie, Angela Peacock, Jan & Warren Sharp, Malcolm Storey, Roly Taylor, Denise & Ray Tucker, Kerry, Liam and Nikkita Woolfe.

Photo Kindly Provided by Michelle and Trevor Bullen.

Trivia Night Success by Roly Taylor

Our bi-annual trivia night was held in Murphy's Room on the cold winter's night of Saturday 2 July.

As Linda Pepperall was unable to attend, Judy Brown kindly helped out for the first time with compiling the questions, which included some musical posers.

We all had a lot of fun enjoying tea with our trivia. Particularly good was the impromptu singing by Robert, Kristy and Jordan. Look out Talent Time!

There was a good turnout, almost 50 folk divided into 7 or 8 teams. Winners were 'The Aussie Idle' (yes that is spelled correctly). The two raffle prizes were won by Warren Sharp and Judy Brown.

Although the whole idea is to have a fun social event, which I believe it was, the fact is we made a net profit of \$435.00 is a welcome bonus. No doubt we shall have another before year's end.



Robert Deaves, Kristy Dalmazzo & Jordan Brown



Subway Donation Box

Michael Murphy continues to support RDA by having a fundraising Donation box on the counters of his two stores at Heatherbrae and Raymond Terrace.

In May and July, money from the donation boxes were collected from both stores. The donation boxes contained a total of \$266.10 and \$233.30 respectively, and all money is donated to RDA. We would like to thank Michael and his staff for their ongoing support.

Don't forget, if you would like to 'Eat Fresh', why not pop in to see Michael at Subway Heatherbrae, Shop 1, 1A Hank Street, Heatherbrae, (02) 4983 2448 or Trish at Subway Raymond Terrace, Kiosk 2, Raymond Terrace Market Place, William Street, Raymond Terrace, (02) 4987 5767. Why not call and pre-order your meal so you can be on your way in a flash!

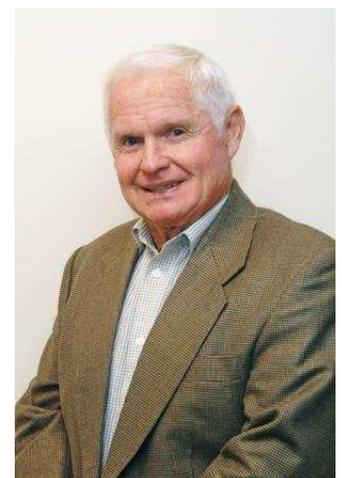
Macka's Sand & Soil Supplies Donate Sandy Loam

Bruce Mackenzie has always shown an interest in Riding for the Disabled. His affiliation with our sister club, Alexander Park Dressage Club, has meant that he has kept himself up to date with what is happening at the Centre. In his role as Central Ward Councillor (Port Stephens) he has actively supported RDA projects.

When approached about our sensory garden, Bruce enthusiastically joined the team of local community donors. Through his company, Macka's Sand & Soil Supplies, he has donated 44 tonnes of sandy loam. The sandy loam will be mixed with mushroom compost to create a nutritious garden bed that will improve the quality of our heavily laden soil.

Macka's Sand & Soil Supplies is located at Nelson Bay Road, Salt Ash. Bruce Mackenzie and his team can be contacted on (02) 4982 6227.

Photo Source: Copied from <http://www.portstephens.nsw.gov.au/council/159482/159504.html#mackenzie> on 7 July 2011.



Companion Credit Union Staff Buy Helmets



Jude Oliver & Greg Davis, CCU Eastern Area Mgr

Companion Credit Union formed a partnership with RDA Raymond Terrace and Lower Hunter Centre earlier this year. This developed after the Community CPS Foundation, of which Companion Credit Union is a member, donated \$5,000 in grant funding to our Centre. Since our partnership began, Companion Credit Union has generously allowed us to display photos and Centre brochures during Volunteer Week, and recently loaned us their projector (gratefully connected to our President's laptop) to show a photo display of our riders and volunteers in action during the RTBA Breakfast.

Companion Credit Union staff are active in their local community, and regularly raise funds for charitable organisations. To help RDA, they held a movie night and casual days. They raised \$656.10 and requested that this money be used to purchase the ten helmets we need to replace this year. The helmets have since been purchased and are already in use.

We would like to thank the staff of Companion Credit Union for their ongoing support. Watch out guys, you'll see some helping out at the upcoming Regional Mounted Games, and they will have a surprise in store!

Photo Kindly Provided by Bill & Carol Brown.

Parker's Landscape Supplies Donate Plants

Sheree Dedere, of Parker's Landscape Supplies, has embraced our sensory garden trail ride project.

Parker's Landscape Supplies has donated eight established camellias. The camellias will be planted throughout the garden to create a splash of colour and textural interest.

Parker's Landscape Supplies is a local business, with a focus on the local community. By supporting our project, they are directly supporting and benefiting people with a disability and RDA.

We would like to thank Sheree and

Parker's Landscape Supplies for their contribution to our sensory garden. Parker's Landscape Supplies is located in Maitland (30 High Street, Phone 02 4934 1814), Rutherford (Lot 62 New England Highway, Phone 09 4932 0466) and Thornton (227 New England Highway, Phone 1800 441 814).

Photo Kindly Provided by Jenny & Richard Nicholls.



Sheree Dedere at Parker's Landscape Supplies, Maitland

Nominations Open for Volunteer and Rider Awards



The RDA Raymond Terrace and Lower Hunter Centre now has their Volunteer Awards Nominations open. We ask you to think about volunteers that you work with and nominate someone that you think does a great job. It may be an outstanding volunteer that goes above and beyond the normal duties of a volunteer, or it may be someone that you think brings something extra special to your day or program.

The Nomination Forms are at the sign in desk and available from your coordinator/coach now, and will be available to download from our website at www.rdaraymondterrace.org.au from Thursday 28 July.

Nominations must be received in the office by the closing time of 12pm, Monday 29 August. Please remember, volunteers who have previously received awards cannot receive another award in the same category.

The categories for Volunteer Awards are:

- **Volunteer of the Year**- this award includes any current volunteers that do not fall under the other categories below.
- **Young Volunteer of The Year** – this award is for our volunteers under 18 years of age.
- **Volunteer Encouragement of the Year** – this award is for volunteers that have been with RDA 5 year or under.

Nominations for **Rider of The Year** and **Horse of The Year** are also open. We encourage you to discuss any suggestions for these awards with your coach of the day, as these nominations must be put forward in conjunction with a coach.

The winners of the awards will announced at the Volunteer Luncheon and Awards Presentation, which will be held on Tuesday 27 September at RT&LH.

Our Town Fencing Heatherbrae Donate Fencing Panels for Sensory Garden Sculpture

Jenny and Richard Nicholls thought outside the square when they considered how to include a sculpture in the sensory garden, that introduced a truly three dimensional affect, as well as an interesting element of height. The fantastic idea of using fence panelling to create the sculpture was born.

Tim Smith, Our Town Fencing Heatherbrae, was approached and loved the idea. Tim and his team wanted to support RDA, people with a disability and our volunteers in their work to create our sensory garden. They have provided 40 fence panels, which will be cut, joined and painted into a interactive garden feature.



Frank Pankas outside Our Town Fencing, Heatherbrae

We would like to thank Tim Smith and Our Town Fencing Heatherbrae for their donation of fence panels. Our Town Fencing is situated at 315 Pacific Highway, Heatherbrae and can be contacted on (02) 4987 5922 or via their website at <http://www.ourtownfencing.com.au>.

Photo Kindly Provided by Jenny & Richard Nicholls.

Bunnings Belmont BBQ Fundraiser by Jack Henry



Jack & Myra Henry at the BBQ

The Bunning's Belmont sausage sizzle team has been in this role since 2002, and we have seen it grow to become an important part of the Riding for the Disabled Raymond Terrance centre fund raisers.

This year's event, on Saturday 2 July, was by far our most successful yet, with record numbers of people purchasing our wonderful sausage sandwiches and soft drinks (which we ran out of).

Weather was on our side, overcast to start with then the sun poked its head out, but the wind still had a cool nip in it, but this would have to be one of the best days for sandwiches sold over the last nine years that our team has been doing these sausage sizzles.

Of course the figure of 481 sandwiches, plus 100 drinks sold, could not have been met if it was not for all our wonderful volunteer team who gave up their time on the weekend to get the profit of \$1055.30 for the Centre. "Wow", what a great day.

Belmont has proved to be a popular spot. This venue has proved how much support we have out there in the community, as well as how much people are willing to help an organisation like ours. Bunnings is a great supporter of charities and we thank them for all the assistance they and the staff at Belmont give our team to make a day like this a success. Coles Swansea was kind enough to donate \$50 towards goods purchased, thank you.

Sensory Garden Update

Jenny and Richard Nicholls are planning to undertake work in the garden on Tuesdays and Fridays from 9am-12pm, weather and personal circumstances permitting. Please join them, even for just a walk and talk. Just remember to call them first on (02) 4982 9177 to confirm they will be at RDA on the day.

If you, or someone you know has an idea for the garden; anything suitable to donate; would like to garden or build something, please let Jenny and Richard know. The garden is coming to life, so take some time to take a look.

If you have any of the following, please donate them to RDA for the garden:

- Old boots (work, gum or riding) - to be painted as a planter feature
 - Old garden tools - to be used as sculpture pieces
 - Large beads - glass, wooden etc
 - Coloured glass bottles
 - Suitable artwork - wood, metal, recycled etc which is fun and colourful
 - Left over bright coloured paint only - unused leftover paint. Part/half cans welcome
- There is a lot of work to be done, but over time the sensory garden will develop into a world of wonder for our riders, with hidden objects to find and explore.



Wallsend Nurseries Donate Plants

Recently, David Peterson of Wallsend Nurseries, was approached to assist the development of RDA's sensory garden trail ride. David was interested in how our riders and drivers could be engaged by all five senses in the garden. As a mad keen gardener, with his own radio spot of 2NUR-FM every Monday from 12.00-1.30pm, he understood the educational value of a garden environment for our riders.

Wallsend Nurseries have embraced our garden concept, and provided over \$150 worth of plants.



David Peterson & Tom at Wallsend Nurseries

"[Wallsend Nurseries] have one of the best ranges of plants, garden goodies and giftware available in the Hunter. [They] supply quality plants to the home gardener and the professional alike. [They] are Newcastle's only industry accredited nursery." Wallsend Nurseries are located at 95 Lake Road, Wallsend. David and his team can be contact via their website at <http://www.greengold.com.au/wallsend/> or by phone on (02) 4951 6960.

Source: Quoted from <http://www.greengold.com.au/wallsend/> on 22 July 2011.

Photo Kindly Provided by Jenny & Richard Nicholls.

Non Perishable Goods Needed for Spring Fair

Glad Smith and Terrey Dalmazzo have hit upon a new way to raise money for RDA. They are requesting donations of non perishable food items. The items will be tagged, and sold for \$1 each (regardless of their market sale value) at the Spring Fair. The idea is, if they sell 50 items, then RDA receives \$50. Please bring your non perishable items in to RDA (everyone has something in the cupboard), and Glad and Terrey will store them for sale at the Spring Fair on Saturday 10 and Sunday 11 September.

Bristol Kotara Donate Paint to Brighten Garden



Graeme and his team at Bristol Kotara

Bristol Paints Kotara is a local business that wants to make a difference in their community. Graeme Wilkins and his team were approached to see if they could support our sensory garden trail ride, and they were excited to take part.

The plan for the sensory garden is to make it bright, interactive, colourful and engaging. To achieve this effect, we knew that we needed bright colours that could be used to paint the recycled tyre retaining walls and planters throughout the garden.

Bristol Paints Kotara has provided the paint we need to start creating an explosion of

colour in the garden. We would like to thank Bristol Kotara for their generous donation. Bristol Paints Kotara can be found at 14 Northcott Drive, Kotara. Graeme and his team can be contacted on (02) 4956 1099 or via the Bristol website at www.bristol.com.au Photo Kindly Provided by Jenny & Richard Nicholls.

ELIMINATE The Eliminate Project

maternal/neonatal tetanus



“With The Eliminate Project, Kiwanis International and UNICEF have joined forces to eliminate maternal and neonatal tetanus [MNT]. This deadly disease steals the lives of 60,000 innocent babies and 30,000 mothers each

year. The effects of the disease are excruciating - tiny newborns suffer repeated, painful convulsions and extreme sensitivity to light and touch.

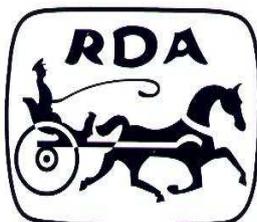
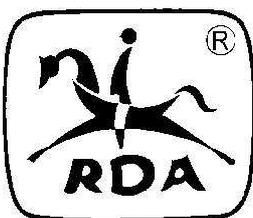
To eliminate MNT from the Earth by 2015, 61 million mothers and their future babies must be immunised. This requires vaccines, syringes, safe storage, transportation, thousands of skilled staff and more. It will take \$110 million - and the dedicated work of UNICEF and every member of the Kiwanis family.”¹

The astonishing facts of MNT are:

- “1 baby dies every 9 minutes from tetanus
- 160 babies die each day from tetanus
- 3 doses of tetanus vaccine equals immunity from tetanus
- Woman + vaccine = protected baby
- \$1.80 protects a mother and all her future children
- The Eliminate Project saves and protects 61 million women and all their future children
- Elimination = <1 case of MNT every 1,000 births”²

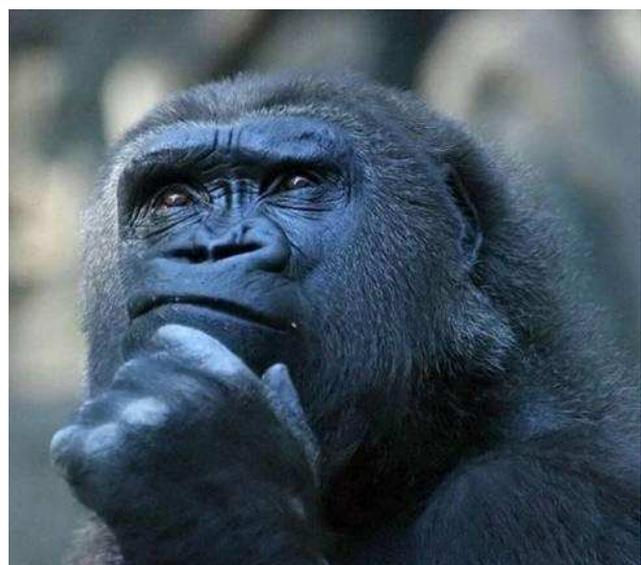
If you are shocked that such a small amount as \$1.80 will save a mother and her children, and would like to find out more about the Eliminate Project, please visit the Kiwanis Club of East Maitland’s web-site at <http://www.eastmaitlandkiwanis.org/Projects/Kiwanis-Eliminate-Project.aspx>. Alternatively, why not come along to their next casual dinner meeting on Monday 1 August at The Bank Hotel (private function room), Melbourne Street, East Maitland at 6.30pm and find out more.

Source 1: Quoted from ‘The Eliminate Project’ at <http://www.eastmaitlandkiwanis.org/Projects/Kiwanis-Eliminate-Project.aspx> on 15 July 2011. Source 2: Quoted from ‘Eliminate Article’, email from Steve Hughes, The Eliminate Project Coordinator, Kiwanis District of Australia on 23 July 2011.



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 Phone (02) 4987 1402
 Fax (02) 4987 1434

Email: raymondterrace@rdansw.org.au
 Website: www.rdaraymondterrace.org.au



Hmmmmm. I know you think you understand what you thought I said, but I'm not sure that what you heard is what I actually meant!

Equitana Comes to Sydney in 2011 for the Very First Time

Sydney Showground will play host to the new and exciting equine spectacular, EQUITANA Sydney, which promises four days of Education, Shopping, exciting competition and family entertainment from 10 to the 13 November.

The inaugural Sydney spectacular will see the launch of "The Australian Grand Final", as Equestrian Australia has joined forces with EQUITANA to develop a national annual grand final for Dressage, Jumping and the new and thrilling Exhibition Eventing. The Grand Final will be conducted within EQUITANA annually, alternating between Sydney and Melbourne.

EQUITANA Sydney will also feature the "EQUITANA Australian Open", which incorporates Australian finals in Campdrafting, Reining and Cutting. The Equitana Australian Open brings the action of elite competition to the Showgrounds, with the best Australian riders competing for a substantial collective prize pool.

As part of the extensive Education Program, the Sydney event offers a world class range of Australian Trainers, equine Health Practitioners and International Clinicians. The Dutch superstars, Edward Gal and Hans Peter Minderhoud, will be presenting the Dressage Clinic together, which promises to be a phenomenal training experience. The Horsemanship Clinic will be delivered by the amazing Stacey Westfall (USA), winner of major AQHA and NRHA competitions – without a bridle or saddle! And, our Cutting Masterclass will see the renowned Bobby Ingersoll (USA), winner of countless competitions and trainer of many star horses, impart his wealth of knowledge to fans.

The Education Program will deliver over 200 informative sessions and demonstrations over the four days. Riding for the Disabled (NSW) have come on board as EQUITANA Sydney's Official Charity and will be delivering education sessions on Saturday 12 and Sunday 13 November. RDA (NSW) will also have a booth to promote the Association, so pop in and visit them at Booth 250 in the Riverina Pavilion.

The Sydney event will see new and exciting elements such as:- a 3-day "Way of the Horse" – Horsemanship Challenge, the Arabian Showcase, Indoor Carriage Driving and Trick Riding Championships, Team Penning, Vaulting, Mounted Games and Miniature Horse competition and much more. Entertainment is also high on the list with displays by the Light Horse Skilled Arms team and Mounted Police, Miniature Horse jumping, music and even Bison Campdrafting, so there is something for the whole family to enjoy at EQUITANA.

And the Exhibition will be the largest ever equine shopper's paradise seen in Australia and at the Sydney Showgrounds, visitors can "shop till they drop" in air conditioned comfort.

For more information on the Sydney program or ticketing and accommodation packages, visit the Equitana website at: - www.equitana.com.au." *Source: Quoted from 'Equitana Comes to Sydney in 2011 for the Very First Time', Official Media Release, 22 June 2011 and included at the request of RDANSW.*



If you wish to receive regular newsletters and updates by email, please let Jack Henry know by email at myjac@bigpond.com. Alternatively, if you wish to be removed from our emailing list or have changed your email address, please send Jack an email.