

# The Tall Timbers' Times



Volume 24 No.1

March, 2011

## RIDING FOR THE DISABLED ASSOCIATION (NSW) "TALL TIMBERS" CENTRE, BOX HILL

### SNIPPETS

As we begin 2011 at Tall Timbers we are overwhelmed by the show of support from our local community.

We have had a wonderful response to our Awareness Week at Rouse Hill Town Centre. Despite the hot and humid weather our volunteers manning the stand did really well in selling raffle tickets, receiving donations and signing up prospective new volunteers. Thank you to all of you who helped during that week, we know it was tough but very worthwhile in gaining support for our centre. Thank you also to Rouse Hill Town Centre Management for hosting us as well as McDonalds in RHTC for supporting our volunteers with free drinks and discount food. As a result of our successful week we have had quite a lot of new volunteers start to assist with our programs. Welcome to all of you we hope you enjoy your RDA experience. Thank you also to Ray Williams MP for joining us on the Friday afternoon to draw the raffle.



To finish off our 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year at Box Hill, last year, we hosted our Volunteer Lunch and presented Service Badges and Annual Awards. Congratulations to Charlie Aquilina on being our Volunteer of the Year. Robyn Scott was rewarded with our Volunteer Appreciation Award in recognition of her ongoing commitment to the centre through her coach training, congratulations and Thank you. Pip Lovely was surprised with a Life Membership of Tall Timbers in recognition of her devotion to the centre and ongoing commitment to our committee and riding program. Congratulations to all our volunteers for reaching those milestones of 1, 3, 5, 10, 15, 20 & 25 years service, we hope you wear your service badges with pride.

Presentation week was very special at the end of our Semester 2 program with all riders receiving Certificates

and Achievement reports for their participation. It's nice to see the pride on our riders' faces at the end of their program as they show off their awards to their parents.

Our Saturday Riders Christmas Party was supported by Kuringai Lions Club once again, Thank you to the secret shoppers for choosing fantastic gifts for each of the riders. Georgia Groom was awarded the Bill Harvey Memorial Shield for being the Most Improved Saturday Rider and Georgia Goss was awarded the Kuringai Lions Encouragement Award. Congratulations it was a great year of riding from both of you!



All of our horses finished the year with a high and have a special place in many riders' and volunteers' hearts. Apex was awarded Tall Timbers Horse of the Year for 2010; he was a true workhorse and well deserved the award. We also welcomed four new horses at the end of the year with three of them beginning RDA classes in week one this year. Check out Apex's Diary entry in this edition to find out all the goings on with the horses over the summer break.

We have a very busy 1<sup>st</sup> Term of events on our Fundraising calendar, firstly with Model Railways Canteen and Castle Hill Show Catering and Devonshire Teas. Carmel and Lynn have already been busy behind the scenes with these events. Our Windsor Polo fundraiser will also come around quite quickly at the end of March.

We have already had one Bunnings BBQ this year with more to come at Dural and McGraths Hill stores. We will also be participating in BBQ's on Fridays at the Dural store. Please contact the office if you can help at any of

our fundraising events as we cannot raise the funds we need to operate without your help.



This year we have unfortunately missed out on the support of United Way, a long time supporter of Tall Timbers. United Way has undergone a change of focus which has meant we are no longer eligible for their funding program. On behalf of everyone who has benefited from our programs I would like to thank United Way for the support in previous years.

We are constantly looking for future funding opportunities to secure the financial stability for our centre. Our Centre has been fortunate enough to be able to develop our facilities to an exceptional standard however we are finding it is an ever increasingly difficult task to secure funding for grants as they often exclude ongoing operating costs. If you have a strategy or contact that could help us in this way please let us know.

Our coaching team is getting ready for the Easter Show Mounted Games and Horse of the Year Competition, can Pippa do it again? Good Luck to our riders and horses participating.

This year we are hoping to expand some of our programs by including an After School Program as well as expanding the Carriage Driving Program to operate concurrently at Rossmore and Tall Timbers. To be able to do this we will need to expand our coaching team, if you believe you have the right attributes and willingness to commit to the added training and responsibilities please contact the office.

Thank you to the Committee for organising the purchase of lockers for all of our volunteers to store their personal items whilst our programs are running, we have even had them all full at least once.

Following the summer break you may have also noticed our new path at the back of the building, Thank you to Mick Haber our bobcat driver and Wayne Bonser, the concreter for donating their services to install the path. Thank you also to Charlie for organising and once again being 'Site Manager' - it is certainly a great addition to our facilities. Thank you also to George Attard who kindly donated and installed some new guttering for the Horse Manager's residence and recovery stables.

In December we were beneficiaries of the World's Best Technology Christmas Sale. Thanks to Kerry and Gerrard Maggs for donating all the proceeds from a BBQ on sale day in addition to a percentage of the total sales

of the day. This donation will certainly go a long way in supporting our programs for riders with disabilities. Thank you also to Wendy and Jim Moreland for donating their time to cook the BBQ all day.

Our Annual General Meeting is also approaching; nominations for Committee positions are open or if you have a specific project you would like to work on please let us know. The AGM will be on March 23 at 7.15 pm, all members or interested parties are welcome to attend and join us for a light supper afterwards. Please let us know if you will be attending.

Thank you to all our volunteers, supporters and sponsors for continuing to look after our programs, 2011 is shaping up to be another happy year at Tall Timbers.

Nicole King

## **"TOGETHER WITH OUR EQUINE PARTNERS WE DEVELOP ABILITIES"**



Thank you to Karen O'Neill, our Honorary President, who has donated a beautiful canvas print to the Centre. Karen took the lovely photo of Pippa and Ishmar at the State Dressage Championships at SIEC last year. It now has pride of place in our volunteer room for everyone to enjoy.

## **RDANSW DRAWING COMPETITION 2011 THEME: WHERE MY HORSE LIVES**

Can you draw (not colouring in a pre printed picture) or create on your computer a picture of where your RDA horse lives? Is it a paddock, or a stable or horseyard?



Forward your picture to RDA NSW, PO Box 710, SYDNEY MARKETS 2129 By Monday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2010. The winner of each age group and section will receive a prize and everyone who enters will receive a Certificate. Age Groups 4 – 8 years, 9 – 14 years, 15 – 20 years.

To ensure the return of entries, please write on the back of each entry the name and age of artist and your RDA Centre.

## 2010 RDA NSW STATE DRESSAGE CHAMPIONSHIPS

By Wendy Moreland, RDA Coach

Our annual visit to SIEC began on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> November in the afternoon. Chanida and Sophie had our new angle float all loaded up and ready to go, Ishmar and Pippa both prepped for the journey, when Ishmar decided there could be some kind of monster lurking in the front of the float! It took a little time for Chanida to convince him that there really was nothing to be afraid of, and then they were on their way to SIEC to begin their State Dressage adventure.

Kirsty had arrived well before the horses and had the stables all set up with shavings, which was a great help as we could put the horses safely away while retrieving the saddles, feed etc. from the float.

Our riders, Natalie Gross and Erin Christie arrived early and with Denise Corbett, (Erin's Coach) we took Ishmar and Pippa for an orientation walk in the large Indoor Arena. The girls were then allowed to ride in the arena and outside in another riding area, to help settle the horses in.

We had an early morning start on Saturday as the girls' tests were near the beginning of the competition. Both horses looked very smart with their plaited manes, glowing coats and oiled hooves and of course the girls looked great in their riding attire.



Both Natalie and Erin rode very well in their first test and then again in the afternoon in their Freestyle tests. Pippa's music included "The Bird Dance" and "The

Hokey Pokey" while Ishmar, being an Arabian horse, had stirring Arabian music. The idea when choosing Freestyle music is to try and match the horse's paces and personality with the music. The Freestyle tests are the most popular to watch for the spectators.

On Saturday evening we were treated to a sumptuous dinner, prepared by Jenny and Jaci Armstrong from Ryde RDA and Zelda Storey from Raymond Terrace RDA along with a number of other ladies lending a hand. It was a fun social evening, during which Nicole announced the Video Dressage Competition placegetters. The more difficult tests for all grades were ridden on Sunday morning and the competition came to an end early in the afternoon. The much awaited presentation took place at 2pm and everyone came away with lots of ribbons – some loaded down with trophies. After many photo opportunities it was time to pack up for another year!

Our own Nicole King did her usual professional job of organizing the event, along with Louise Neill's expertise and was duly thanked with a beautiful bouquet of flowers. Judy Brightman again was fantastic on the microphone.

A big THANK YOU to Karen, Kirsty, Kaye and Joan who helped with pencilling and gear checking and the families of Natalie and Erin who were very supportive and a great help and of course Denise.

Natalie & Erin and families did a great job of decorating the stables but it was Raymond Terrace's turn to win "Best Decorated" this year.

Many thanks also to Chanida for the many washings of Ishmar and his tail, I have never seen him look so WHITE and of course Pippa looked great also.

Again thank you all for a great weekend.

Results of Tall Timbers riders were:

### Test 22 – Section C

1 <sup>st</sup>	Erin Christie	Pippa	60.00%
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Natalie Gross	Ishmar	57.368%

### Novice Test – Section C

= 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Erin Christie	Pippa	57.857%
= 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Natalie Gross	Ishmar	57.857%

### Freestyle – Section C

1 <sup>st</sup>	Erin Christie	Pippa	57.375%
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Natalie Gross	Ishmar	56.50%



## CARRIAGE DRIVING

By Janet Muspratt, Carriage Driving Co-ordinator .

The presentation of the State Carriage Driving Competition results and ribbons was the highlight of the first get together for 2011 for the Tall Timbers carriage driving group at Rossmore.

The three Tall Timbers drivers all did very well, in particular Lynne Buckingham who was the Champion Driver for 2010. Lynne, driving Nicholas, won the Photo class from a group of eight entries, the Novice Cones and the Open Dressage, as well as coming third in the Open Bending. Michelle Harris also with Nicholas, came third in the Photo and Open Dressage classes, fourth in the Open Bending and won the Open Cones, whilst Linda Ongley driving Sonny Boy, had four seconds – in the Photo, Open Dressage, Open Bending and Novice Cones classes. Congratulations on a fine effort from everyone.

We are down to one pony (Nicholas) at present with Sonny Boy being retired at the end of 2010. Margaret and John Moore have been bringing Sonny Boy to Rossmore for many years for the monthly driving sessions. He has been a very willing and forward going pony until recently when foot problems have caught up with him. His eye catching liver chestnut coat with beautiful blonde mane and tail has given him many admirers. He will be very hard to replace.

A search is now on for another suitable pony which can be based at the Tall Timbers Centre, Box Hill. An experienced pony of 12 – 14hh which is broken to harness and saddle would be ideal. Please contact Kerry (at our office on 9679 1246) if you know of such a pony.

The calendar for driving at Rossmore in 2011 has been distributed. We will be driving mostly on the second Saturday of the month. A start will be made on activities in the 2011 Carriage Driving Competition in our March driving session.



## “TALL TIMBERS” WISH LIST

*Thank you to everyone who responded to our wish list. Every little bit helps us to provide our service.*

A load of shredded rubber for our indoor arena  
Free-standing carport for our vehicles  
Concrete or bitumen paths  
Fly masks, cob and full size  
Stationary, stamps, copy paper, white board markers etc  
Dishwasher powder or tablets and rinse aid, kitchen towel, tissues, garbage bags, cream cleanser, washing powder or liquid for washing rugs.  
Connections for machinery and materials to improve the surface of our front carpark and driveway.  
Mouseproof metal cupboards for rug storage  
Horse stuff, granulated garlic, hoof oil, wormers  
Manure rakes  
Saddlery gift cards to assist with purchase of saddles  
Sponsors for our program  
Sponsors for vehicles (F100, Jackaroo etc)  
Volunteers – extra hands for our program, garden and property maintenance, and fundraising  
Water tank for sensory garden  
Horses 14hh (contact the office for a horse offer form)  
More horse shelters  
Outdoor settings for our riders and volunteers  
Large heavy duty washing machine for horse rugs

## VOLUNTEER LUNCH

By Gai Campbell, Volunteer

I had a great time with my Tuesday mates at the Volunteers Luncheon & it was lovely to meet some of the other days' folk.

I felt very honoured to get my 1 year pin (most unexpected), after watching the parade of long serving members I have a ways to go. When I commenced with RDA last year no way did I realise what a wonderful experience I was in for. What I gain from the children who come & the girls who make it all happen is far more than I could ever give back. Thank God those girls have eyes in the back of their heads it's needed quite often with this volunteer. The old saying you are never too old to learn is so true.

Thank you hard workers for a lovely lunch & thanks RDA for having me.



## TALL TIMBERS VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR CHARLIE AQUILINA

G'day all and welcome to another year at Tall Timbers.

As a recipient of the 2010 Vollie of the Year Award, I've been asked to write a piece for our newsletter.

I'd like to begin by thanking those who selected me for this award. I am aware that there were many worthy candidates and I feel fortunate to have been selected.

I've been a Thursday vollie for about 6 years and a member of the Committee for the past three years.

Growing up in Quakers Hill, my family was always involved with horses and there was a time when I was breeding and racing thoroughbreds and standard bred for a hobby. I suppose the connection with horses is what initially attracted me to RDA.

From my first Thursday at TT I felt a connection with this wonderful organisation. I enjoy working with our great horses. I am inspired by the dedication and generosity of the staff, the Coaches, the members of the Committee and all the good vollies that keep this establishment ticking. Most of all I get a real buzz out of working with our young riders. Seeing them grow in confidence and having fun is all the motivation I need to do my bit for RDA TT.

Cheers, Charlie Aquilina.



## VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION AWARD ROBYN SCOTT

After retiring from our family business and travelling around Europe for a short holiday I decided it was time to put something back into the community. The answer was to do some volunteer work, so onto the website for volunteers I got and put my name down at a few different organisations. Within a few hours Kerry had me signed up and turning up on Wednesdays. (I am still waiting for the other organisations to reply to my requests).

I have a great passion for children and animals. I own and have bred horses, dogs and cats. I have done a horse management course at TAFE and enjoyed competing in dressage, eventing and have strapped for three eventing and endurance riders I have also fostered

children. I have discovered in the course of time that I actually get a lot more out of the RDA than I put in.

A teacher from one of our schools commented on the improved speech of the class. The children had also participated in dancing and between the two activities the difference in the children was very noticeable.

Last year there was a teenage boy who had a great deal of problems concentrating on what he had to do, so I walked backwards for almost 20 minutes telling him to hold on to the monkey grip and look at me (he wanted to pull the hair out of Apex's rump and eat it). After about fifteen minutes of repeatedly saying, "look at me and hold on to the monkey grip" he finally looked at me and relaxed and smiled. There seemed to be a connection for a short time. After the lesson the teacher said the boy usually had difficulty in sitting still and he was surprised how still he was while he was on the horse and afterwards. It gave me a sense of happiness and feeling of doing something worthwhile.

Whether there are huge differences or no differences at all, the smiles on the faces of the children each week are enough incentive for me to turn up rain, hail or heat wave.

I am looking forward to completing the coach course in the near future.



## CONDOLENCES

Our sincere condolences to Jacqui Wilson, and family, on the passing of her mother Ella. The Wilson Family have been involved in RDA Tall Timbers for many years. Simon Wilson was an RDA rider and Jacqui an RDA Coach.

Also our condolences to Christine Johnson, and family, on the passing of her father John Higman. John was President of the Box Hill and Nelson Progress Association (sponsors of Pippa) and also was editor of our local magazine "Across the Paddock".

**When you have finished reading  
The Tall Timbers' Times  
please pass it on to a friend.**

## RDA TALL TIMBERS' HORSE OF THE YEAR FOR 2010 - APEX



Hi Everyone! Can you believe its 2011 already? The end of last year was so busy I was definitely glad to have a nice rest over summer. Firstly, I want to congratulate Pippa & Ishmar on a great performance at the State Dressage Championships in November. Both of their riders achieved personal bests & I know Pippa & Ishmar were very proud of both Erin & Natalie; they couldn't stop talking about it when they got home.

I was very honoured in December to be announced as Tall Timbers Horse of the Year for 2010. I can't say Thank You enough. My name is now engraved on the trophy & everyone said heaps of nice things about me. They were going on about me being so good to all my riders & working really hard but how can I consider what I do as work when every day I get to put huge smiles on people's faces. Besides, I reckon I make my leaders work harder than I do!

Cheyenne came to live with us at the end of the year. He is a pinto & about 14hh. He's going to be one that everyone likes because he's pretty. He spent the holidays with Daphne, Charlie & Kahlua learning how to be an RDA horse. I'm really glad I already know what I'm doing so I got stand around watching them do all the work while I had a lovely holiday. Kahlua, Charlie & Daphne have all passed their tests & been given their P plates, with all three starting classes in the first week of term. It's great to see the looks on the new ones faces when they make their first rider smile, how they swell up with pride. I hope they have a long happy RDA life.

I do feel sorry for Daphne sometimes. She's always getting teased about her name. She gets all shy when people laugh & point at her or say that Daphne is a silly name for a horse. I think her name suits her, it's what make her unique(I certainly don't know another horse called Daphne) & besides, maybe some others around here should listen to their own names & see how silly they sound - I mean who in the world came up with Chanida???

It's a relief to have a proper routine again now that school has started back. I think most of us were thinking the same thing. We have met our riders for this semester & while it's always nice to meet new people & teach them how to ride, I am actually enjoying having some returning riders & am secretly ecstatic that they remember me. It's nice to know that I leave an impression on the people I meet ☺

Anyway, I hope to see you all soon. May 2011 be full of fun, laughter, success & most of all smiles, I love the smiles!

*Apex (from Apex's Diary as told to Chanida)*

## LIFE MEMBER – PHILIPPA LOVELY

**By Karen O'Neill, Hon President**

Pip is a lady with many talents and we are grateful that she has brought her enthusiasm and dedication to RDATT. She started with RDATT in the early 1980s helping with the horses, riders and classes. Pip was involved with Sue -Ellen Lovett's "A Ride for Mobility" in 1988 raising funds and awareness for the Blind Society and RDA. This fundraiser started in Cairns and finished at Surfers Paradise going down Highway 1. As Pip wrote in the "Tall Timbers' Times" previously "The whole experience was hard work, very tiring but very rewarding as I learnt a great deal about how much you can do if you commit to a cause".

As well as being regularly involved with classes, Pip has helped many new volunteers by being their "buddy" and passing on her experience and knowledge.

She also is very active with promoting our Centre by speaking at service clubs, functions and promotional stands and encourages other organisations to support us by assisting the Centre financially and in other ways such as attending working bees. Pip is always involved somewhere with fundraising including Trivia Night organiser, obtaining prizes, working bees, garage sales, lamington drives, chocolate drives, raffles, book fair, workshops, catering and Bunnings BBQs. Also Pip has been involved with property maintenance and as a sign writer, has produced signs for the property and events. Her husband Dennis, family members and friends have also been encouraged to help RDA Tall Timbers in many ways and we appreciate their help as well. She is also a valued member of RDA Tall Timbers Committee as Hon. Vice President and Treasurer.

For Pip variety is the spice of life - as well as giving so much of her time to RDA Tall Timbers she is also involved with other organisations including Girl Guides Australia and the Rotary Club.

Thank you Pip for all that you do for RDA Tall Timbers and the people involved. Your Life Membership award is well deserved.



## SATURDAY RIDERS' CHRISTMAS PARTY

By Judy Brightman, Coach

Wow – where did 2010 go??!! I know I seemed to exist in a parallel universe there for a while – so busy was I at work- , but even so – it was the Christmas party before I knew it! It kind of crept up on me too as I was away sadly for my groups' last riding day in 2010 - thanks to Nicole King for stepping in.

Kaye Bracken, my fellow Saturday coach, was unfortunately away, so the official part of the day – presentation of certificates and progress reports, was handled by Nicole King, in Kaye's absence, and me. Karen O'Neill – TT President was there to say some kind words, announce the Horse of the Year – Apex, volunteer of the year and other awards presented at the Volunteers lunch in November – as well as present service badges to Saturday volunteers. It's a pity that more volunteers couldn't attend the party - I know we all get so busy - and our typically young Saturday vols have end of year freedom on their minds – but it'd be great to see some of them in the future. You guys are such a massively important part of our programs and we'd all appreciate the chance to have a bit more of a social time with you!



As usual, we were supplied with delicious food by parents, and many soft drinks had kindly been donated by Kong Tang, Matthew's dad; so wonderful to see the parents of Saturday riders contributing and helping us so much – we greatly appreciate it!

John Norris was on hand to represent the Kuringai Lions Club which has sponsored this party for many years, providing generous and thoughtful gifts for all riders in addition to providing a lovely trophy as an Encouragement Award for a rider that has shown considerable improvement and/or desire to improve

throughout the year. Thank you John, Carmel (who couldn't be there this time due to a major party at home that night – she was frantically preparing food) and the Lions for their ongoing support – your generosity is amazing and we all truly appreciate it. John presented the Lions Encouragement Award to Georgia Goss who commenced riding with TT in 2010 – she has made super progress and I expect her to come on in leaps and bounds when she joins Kaye's 11.15 class – weeks 1 and 3 due to timetable clashes, as those riders are quite advanced. I will miss you Georgia and thoroughly enjoyed having you in my class.



The recipient of the Bill Harvey Memorial Award for the most improved Saturday Rider was another Georgia – Georgia Groom! Karen O'Neill presented this award - reminding us all of the contribution made over so many years by Bill and Joyce Harvey, outstanding supporters of Tall Timbers. Congratulations to all!

As always, it was a great opportunity for the two Saturday groups to share a few stories and stories. It remains for me to thank all those that make Saturdays at TT possible – Kerry, Nicole and Chanida – you all do so much and I can't sing your praises enough!

Jan Moran – you have been a stalwart for so long at TT – thanks for your amazing help – I know you will be stepping back a bit – but I really look forward to the days when I'll be seeing you at TT!



Volunteers – we can't do this without you! Thank you – keep coming – even if you can only manage the odd day or event – it all helps!

Horses – I love you all – we are nothing without you – ever grateful, here's to a great 2011!

## **BILL HARVEY MEMORIAL TROPHY FOR THE MOST IMPROVED RIDER OF THE YEAR GEORGIA GROOM**

**By Kim Sindel, Georgia's Mum**



Our family attended the Riding for the Disabled Tall Timbers' Christmas Party in December at Box Hill. This was an exciting time for us, especially for our daughter Georgia as this was her first Christmas Party at RDA. During the presentation of the awards, our daughter was presented with the Bill Harvey Memorial Shield for the Most Improved Saturday Rider. This was a complete surprise to us and we were not expecting this excitement. We were happy enough to share in the festive activities of the day, but the pride I experienced in watching my daughter receive this award was unbelievable.

This is the first time Georgia has been officially recognised for her hard work in an activity outside of school. We are very thankful for the opportunity Georgia has to be involved with horses and riding at the RDA. The presentation of this award has given Georgia so much confidence and pride, this is something that we, as her parents are unable to give her and the benefits of this are immeasurable. We would like to express our sincere thanks to the RDA and the Saturday Volunteers for their endless efforts with Georgia and the other children in the program and for the donation of this wonderful shield.

Love Horses – like teaching?  
Want to help others achieve their goals?  
Want a fun, challenging and rewarding  
experience?

Become a Coach or Assistant Coach with  
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On the job training, horse knowledge  
preferable.

Contact 9679 1246  
[talltimbers@rdansw.org.au](mailto:talltimbers@rdansw.org.au)

## **TOTS ON HORSEBACK - HOLLY**

**By Georgie Bennett, Holly's Mum**

Holly is going into her 3<sup>rd</sup> year with Tall Timbers. She began in the Tots on Horseback Program.

Holly loves her riding. I think that it gives her a sense of freedom that she can't get from just being pushed around in her wheelchair; with riding it has helped Holly's balance improve. She loves to sing & giggle when she's riding, she's formed a real bond with Kim, Linda & Charlie who take holly for her weekly ride, and she gets very upset if one of them is away. I love that Holly was lucky enough to part of Tots on Horseback - it's nice to know that at least one of the therapies that Holly has to have, puts a big smile on her face. Thanks to all of the staff & volunteers for making it all possible.



## **RODEOS AT HORSEWORLD**

**Proceeds of the raffle will benefit RDA TALL TIMBERS CENTRE so please support them.**

**28<sup>th</sup> May, 13<sup>th</sup> August and 29<sup>th</sup> October**  
Cnr Maguires & Janpieter Rds, Maraylya

Featuring some of Australia's best cowboys and cowgirls doing battle with some of the most awesome bucking stock Australia has to offer, the rodeos will be a real hit with the family.

Also Live Country Music, the famous comedy clown 'Al Wilson' and kids will love the Jumping Castle .Canteen & bar facilities will be open.

## THE KERRI-ANNE SHOW FILMS AT RDA TALL TIMBERS

By Kerry Souter, Administrator

Our Centre is always keen to increase awareness for Riding for the Disabled so when the producers of The Kerri-Anne Show contacted us we jumped at the chance for some exposure.

It was an exciting day at RDA Tall Timbers when Jamie, Stephanie, Ben and Steve came to film an episode at Box Hill. The volunteers and staff were all looking splendid in their jade RDA TT polo shirts and best jeans and some excited riders (and teachers) arrived to make their Television debut.

There were close-ups, interviews and action shots taken in the indoor arena, grass arena and around the dam with Jamie Malcolm joining in the fun.

We should be on the Kerri-Anne show in March so keep an eye out for it but if you miss it there will be a link to the video on our website and the Kerri-Anne Show website. [www.kerri-anne.com.au](http://www.kerri-anne.com.au)



## RIDER SURVEY RESULTS

*He really loves animals and seems to have always had a special fondness for horses; it has been so thrilling to hear how happy he's been.*

*The opportunity to ride horses, pat them, be outside – all makes for such a beautiful experience for the kids.*

*Apart from his obvious happiness his confidence has improved.*

*I'm so happy you have this program because my daughter enjoys every bit of each lesson.*

*Just that I am so very thankful that my son has had the opportunity to take part in the program he has loved it!*

*Opportunity for my child would never otherwise experience and the contact with animals*

*Giving the children a new interest with a lot of support so everyone succeeds.*

*He smiles when I tell him its horse riding day, I think he enjoys sitting on the horse and the movement it makes.*

*He likes handling and being close to the horse and the feeling of being independent and in control.*

*He likes the feeling of Independence – sitting on a horse without help, feeling of control and the rhythm of walking. Also the activities on the horse, the flags and balls and the sensation of riding and being up high.*

## RAFFLE RESULTS

### ROTARY COMMUNITY CHEST TREASURE TROVE RAFFLE

Result of the draw of the Rotary Community Chest Treasure Trove 2010 drawn At the Burwood RSL at 6PM on Wednesday the 19th January 2011.

- 1st - Toyota Yaris Car - J. Pascoe- Murrumbateman
- 2nd - Netbook Computer - J. Brackman
- 3rd - \$1,000 worth of jewellery - G. Mitchell – Winmalee

*Thank you to everyone who supported the raffle. The raffle raised \$3800 for our Centre. A special thank you to Sandra and John Wright who organised a stand at Windsor Shopping Centre to sell tickets and to those volunteers who helped to man it. Also thank you to Lynne Booth who was also a major ticket seller.*

### ROUSE HILL TOWN CENTRE RECRUITMENT STAND RAFFLE

drawn at RHTC 4<sup>th</sup> February  
1<sup>st</sup> – Aquarium – Kellie Farnell  
2<sup>nd</sup> – Tempus Two wine pack – Tilina M  
3<sup>rd</sup> – Elizabeth Arden Gift Pack - Carol Russell

*Thank you to all the volunteers who coped with a hot week to man this stand. The raffle raised \$279. Thank you to McDonalds Rouse Hill Town Centre for kindly providing free tea and coffee and discount food for our volunteers during the week.*

### HORSEWORLD RODEO RAFFLE

Drawn at Horseworld 19<sup>th</sup> February  
1<sup>st</sup> – Horseland \$50 gift voucher kindly donated by Horseland Richmond – blue ticket 0052  
2<sup>nd</sup> – Family Pass kindly donated by Featherdale Wildlife Park – Red ticket 4724  
3<sup>rd</sup> – Bottle of Wine – Green ticket 5689

*Thank you to John and Sandra Wright who organised this raffle and manned the stand at the event raising \$467 for our Centre.*

## NRMA MARKETING DEPARTMENT WORKING BEE

By Mariana Cidade, NRMA

On December 10<sup>th</sup> the Marketing department of NRMA Insurance had an Away Day to give back to the community and support a very worthy cause. We visited the Riding for the Disabled "Tall Timbers" Centre. We were all really excited to hear from the RDA team, who explained to us how the organisation supports disabled children of all ages. When we were told we'd be doing a 'backyard blitz- style' makeover of the centre we were all pumped. It was a great chance to give back to the community and to a particularly wonderful organisation.

Everyone was divided into three teams to tackle different parts of the complex – gardeners, builders and painters. Those of us with a green thumb made up the gardening squad, tasked with mowing the lawns and tidying up the grounds. The handyman (and women) among us were tasked with putting up shelves in a store room. The painters in the group, keen to stay out of the sun, were given Linseed Oil and Turpentine for the indoor arena while those keen on the outdoors were given Sump Oil for all outside fences and wood.

What came next was a flurry of activity as we all got busy with our tasks. The centre has fantastic facilities and it was good to get stuck in do our bit. The ride-on mower and whipper-snipper got a workout while the wooden beams for the fences, horse yards, paddocks and arena walls were all given a fresh coat of oil, protecting them from the weather over the coming months.

It was a fantastic day for all of us. We all felt really privileged to be there and lend a hand to such a good cause through our small contribution. We had a lot of fun along the way, and most importantly we were happy to be able to help the RDA team. We are really supportive of the work the Tall Timbers Centre does, and hope to come back again with some more elbow grease. Though our contribution is really small, we hope it goes a long way to help the Centre and the team that do such valuable work every day.

A huge thanks to the team at the Riding for the Disabled "Tall Timbers" Centre for giving us such a great opportunity to help out and for all they do.



## UP COMING EVENTS

*Please support our fundraising efforts – mark these dates in your diary and let Kerry know if you can assist.*

### MODEL RAILWAYS EXHIBITION

**5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> MARCH**

**Helpers and Baked Goods needed**

**Forestville Memorial Hall cnr Starkey St and**

**Warringah Rd**

Thank you to the North Shore Railway Modellers Association and the Lions Club of Kuringai for their continued support for our Centre. Helpers are needed to assist in the canteen and we also need cakes to sell.

### CASTLE HILL SHOW

**1<sup>ST</sup>, 2<sup>ND</sup> & 3<sup>RD</sup> APRIL**

We will once again need your assistance with catering (kitchen duty) at the Castle Hill Show. We provide meals for the judges and stewards over the three days. Come along and help for a few hours or more. Tickets for the show are issued to helpers. Please let Kerry know when you can help.

### RIDE A THON / WALK A THON

**19<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> MARCH DURING CLASS TIMES**

Our Semester 1 Ride-a-thon and Walk-a-thon will be held during regular classes, if you can support the riders and volunteers in this fundraiser it would be appreciated.

### TALL TIMBERS AGM & OPEN MEETING

**WEDNESDAY 23rd MARCH**

**7.15pm for 7.30 start**

All members are encouraged to attend. New members please phone the office for an application. \$11 membership is due now. **Let us know if you'd like to know more about joining the Tall Timbers Committee.**

### WINDSOR POLO

**SUNDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> MARCH**

Helpers are needed to assist at the gate to raise funds for our Centre. If you can spare a few hours of your time it would be greatly appreciated. International Test Match Australia v New Zealand

### RDA NSW STATE MOUNTED GAMES AND

**HORSE OF THE YEAR COMPETITION**

**SYDNEY ROYAL EASTER SHOW**

**EASTER MONDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> APRIL**

Keep this date free to support our riders and horses. It is held in the Schmidt arena from 8.30.

### RDA NSW ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**30<sup>TH</sup> APRIL AT 5.00PM**

The Ken Brown Room, Sports House, Figtree Drive, Homebush Bay (Sydney Olympic Park).

### BINGO NIGHT

**FRIDAY 6TH MAY 7.30**

This will be our first Bingo Night (Pending Permit). We will need prizes and also cakes for supper.

### DRESSAGE PROTOCOL DAY

**SATURDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> MAY**

This is an opportunity for dressage riders to have a test judged and receive tips for improvement.

### BUNNINGS BBQs

Let us know if you can help at these BBQs

**BUNNINGS - DURAL STORE**

**SATURDAYS 14th MAY AND SATURDAY 24<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER. ALSO FRIDAYS 24<sup>TH</sup> JUNE, 12<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 21<sup>ST</sup> OCTOBER AND 11<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER**

**BUNNINGS - MCGRATHS HILL STORE**

**SATURDAYS 28<sup>TH</sup> MAY AND 10<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER**

### REGIONAL WORKSHOP

**28<sup>TH</sup> AND 29<sup>TH</sup> MAY - RDA WAGGA CENTRE**

### HORSEWORLD RODEO

**28<sup>TH</sup> MAY, 13<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST & 29<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER**

The Organisers are allowing our Centre to hold a raffle at each of these events so we will need some prizes.

### REGIONAL DRESSAGE DAY

**26<sup>th</sup> JUNE** Date to be confirmed

It is anticipated that the Regional Dressage Day will be held at Tall Timbers Centre.

### HORSES' BIRTHDAY LUNCH FUNDRAISER

**FRIDAY 29<sup>TH</sup> JULY**

Keep it free – venue to be confirmed

### STATE DRESSAGE CHAMPIONSHIPS

**26<sup>TH</sup> – 28<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST**

The RDANSW State Dressage Championships will be held at Sydney International Equestrian Centre at Horsley Park.

The generosity of your time is the most valuable gift you can give

### HELP US SAVE PAPER AND POSTAGE

Please tell us if your details have changed. We are happy to send a hard copy of the newsletter if you prefer but we can email it to you instead. The email version is in colour! Just let us know.

### GENERAL INFORMATION

Our policies and procedures manual is available at the office for your perusal and input. At any time suggestions can be placed in our suggestion box.

### RIDING FOR THE DISABLED ASSOCIATION (NSW)

**"TALL TIMBERS" CENTRE**

**125 OLD PITT TOWN ROAD,**

**BOX HILL. NSW. 2765**

**PHONE (02) 9679 1246**

**FAX (02) 9679 0638**

**EMAIL: [talltimbers@rdansw.org.au](mailto:talltimbers@rdansw.org.au)**

**Website: <http://talltimbers.rdansw.org.au>**



### **RDA TALL TIMBERS MEMBERSHIP**

We would love our volunteers and supporters to become Members of our RDA Centre. Membership is only \$11.00 including GST and helps pay for our newsletter, tea & coffee, and promoting our Centre. You are also eligible to vote at Annual General Meeting held each March and at Special Meetings.

Please be a part of your Centre. Ask Kerry for an application form.

**Expressions of Interest also welcome to become part of the Tall Timbers Committee**

### **BINGO NIGHT**

**FRIDAY 6TH MAY 7.30**

In the amenities room of RDA Tall Timbers

Lots of prizes including shopping vouchers/food vouchers/hair and beauty vouchers/activities vouchers and more!  
(no cash prizes)

\$5 entry includes light refreshments  
Tickets \$5 per book for 20 games

Bring your friends; buy as many books as you want. Please support this new event.



"Tall Timbers" Centre  
125 Old Pitt Town Road  
BOX HILL NSW 2765