

# The Tall Timbers' Times



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November 2010

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

### "SNIPPETS"

As we celebrate our 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year of Tall Timbers at Box Hill we have so much to be proud of, the riders achievements; the volunteers achievements and generosity; the memories that our special horses over the years have created for our riders and the commitments our coaches, committee and staff, past and present have made. It has all made our centre what it is today and has been a great addition to the previous 28 years that Tall Timbers had at Kellyville and West Pennant Hills.

Our riders have been enjoying our Semester 2 program with opportunities to compete in our Regional Mounted Games and Dressage Competitions well received. Our Carriage Drivers have also been busy preparing video entries for the RDANSW State Carriage Driving Competition. Good Luck to our competitors.



Our horses were honoured at our 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Horses Birthday Lunch at Springfield House; with an increase in numbers attending we hope it will continue to be a permanent fixture on our calendar.

Our Spring Celebration event was again a success with fantastic weather and the addition of 2<sup>nd</sup> hand books was a hit. Thank you to Joan Edwards for hosting this event once again. We are looking forward to next year as the event continues to grow.

Thank you to the Cake Decorators Guild of NSW who hosted the Cake Art Challenge 2010 at Rosehill with all proceeds donated to RDA Tall Timbers. Those that attended commented on the amazing cakes on show and would have taken hours to complete with all shapes, sizes and concepts.

Thanks to Paul, Charlie, Barry, Bruce and Karen there was a working bee in the holidays, Paul even braved the monstrous task of fertilising our outdoor arena, Thank you! There are a lot of people commenting on how great our grounds are looking more and more each week.

OLMC Parramatta held their annual Walk-a-thon to raise money for our centre in August. The day was a success and overall the students from OLMC raised over \$6,560 for our centre. Thank you to all the families and friends that supported the OLMC students to make this possible.

Thank you once again to the Rotary Club of Holroyd for hosting The Doll & Bear Show at Merrylands RSL in October. Castle Hill RSL held a promotion on Melbourne Cup day to raise money for Tall Timbers. Thank you, the proceeds from both of these fundraisers will support students participating in our program.

Caste Hill Country Club has supported us through their Community Grants program with a donation of a saddle for Anchor. We also attended their Charity Golf Day dinner to raise awareness of RDA, thank you to the club and members for this opportunity.

We are continuing to sell tickets in the Community Chest Treasure Trove Raffle; all tickets sold or unsold must be returned by 4<sup>th</sup> December to ensure they make it back in time for the draw in January 2011. Good Luck to everyone who has purchased tickets.

Over the last few months we have attended a Community Services Expo at Rouse Hill Town Centre which was organised by The Soroptimists of the Hills. We have had a couple more Bunnings BBQ's and had an opportunity to man the gate at Windsor Polo. Thank you to these organisations for supporting us.

To culminate our successful year we were named as winner of the Community Service / Not-for-Profit section of the Rouse Hill Times 2010 Business Achiever Awards. Congratulations to our entire team of volunteers, committee and staff and thank you to everyone who voted for us in the initial stages, we feel very honoured that the rigorous judging process has



recognised our efforts in comparison with other businesses in our local area and that we have everyone's support.

Kerry Souter, our Office Administrator extraordinaire, was nominated for Administrator of the Year in the inaugural FABO (Finance, Administration and Back Office) Awards for the non profit sector. Although not the winner she was one of 6 finalists her category. A group of us attended the awards dinner to celebrate her achievements and to acknowledge Kerry's dedication and commitment to her role at Tall Timbers. Thank you Kerry, you are our No.1 Administrator and we are grateful for all that you do.

Tall Timbers was represented at the RDANSW State Dressage Championships held last weekend. Congratulations to Ishmar & Natalie and Pippa & Erin. They achieved personal bests competing in a higher grade than last year. Thank you to everyone who helped at the event. Full story next issue.

Our Annual Volunteers Lunch will be held at the centre on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> December to thank all of our volunteers for their time and efforts in 2010. This is a great day for our volunteers to socialise and celebrate their achievements throughout the year. We also look forward to presenting Service Badges and Annual Awards to our volunteers on the day.

I'd like to thank our volunteer coaches for their passion, dedication & commitment through the years. They are a small bunch with huge hearts and through the ups and downs of their own lives continue to be a constant part of our program and dedicated to their riders. You are all inspirational.

Thank you to all of our supporters, donors and volunteers & committee for being part of Tall Timbers in 2010. We hope the centre has done you proud, have a happy and safe Christmas break with your families and we look forward to your support again next year.

*Nicole King, Staff Coach*

## **PRESIDENT'S NOTE**

Here we are already at the end of the 10th year of Tall Timbers at Box Hill. It is now hard to imagine how the property was when we first arrived, so much has happened and changed in the 10 years to improve the facilities for RDA use. Over the years many small steps have been taken and some giant ones too! Thank you to everyone that has been involved with Tall Timbers, in whatever way, to bring us the facilities and RDA horse activities we enjoy today.

As you can see from the articles and "snippets" in this edition of Tall Timbers Times, the end of the year has been exciting and busy. We have not had to worry about water supply this year – all the tanks and dam are full. Looking around I think we could give the Melbourne Cup fashion parade a new twist and have our own "Gum boot parade", the summer heat will come soon enough and all of us and the horses will be ready to enjoy the holiday break.

Congratulations to all our riders and carriage drivers for their personal bests achieved through the year, whether

at the centre or at competitions. We all cheer with you. Thank you to everyone that volunteers their time and effort towards helping the riders and carriage drivers and sharing with them their achievements.

Thank you to our wonderful and dedicated coaches, staff and Committee members who have made the RDA experience for our riders enjoyable, beneficial and exciting. The feedback from many of our groups and families emphasises how much the riders look forward to their time at Tall Timbers.

Thank you to everyone that has supported and helped with fundraising and donations during the year, whether as an individual or with a group, service club, organisation, school group, supporters and sponsors. Also to the many horse owners that give or loan their horse or pony (whether short or long term) to be used at RDA for the programs. All this combined assistance is greatly appreciated and essential for us to continue bringing smiles to our rider's faces.

Special mention thanks to the property, gardening and maintenance team who work behind the scenes to keep the place looking great and functional.

Of course extra pats and carrots to our equine partners, their unique contribution gives so much pleasure and benefit. All of us have come together as a team to provide a wonderful opportunity for others.

On behalf of the committee and staff of Tall Timbers, we wish you a relaxing, safe and happy Christmas/summer break and look forward to seeing you in 2011.

*Karen O'Neill, Hon. President*

## **WINNER 2010 ROUSE HILL TIMES BUSINESS ACHIEVER AWARDS**

RDA Tall Timbers Centre was announced winner in the Community Service/Non Profit Section of the Rouse Hill Times Business Achiever Awards. The Business Achiever Awards honour excellence and acknowledge the significant contribution of small businesses to our local community.

The judging process involved becoming a finalist from supporters' votes, then the completion of a comprehensive business questionnaire and a mystery shopper audit - so to win is a great achievement and will increase awareness of our organisation. Thank you to everyone who voted for us.



## KINGSDENE SCHOOL FAREWELL

By Kerrye Katz (Kingsdene PE Teacher)



It was a very sad Wednesday in July when the Kingsdene children and staff said their goodbyes to RDA at Box Hill. Unfortunately due to the closure of Kingsdene School at the end of 2010 we would not be attending the fantastic facilities at RDA in the future.

The Kingsdene horse riding adventures began in the 1980's. Our records are a bit sketchy but the few photos of our earlier students show the elation and enjoyment that they experienced with RDA. They show a different venue with basic facilities that over time have now become world class. At Kingsdene we have had several staff that were responsible for the horse riding program who have shared their highlights over time. My time with horse riding began approximately 7-8 years ago at the present venue that has seen many changes. I remember my first day - it was raining. We parked in the top car park and tried to get the children (including a wheelchair) to the shed in a dry state. Some friendly volunteers greeted us and I was introduced to our wonderful coach. It was a fantastic experience for all. To see the joy and exhilaration on the students faces, the tension leaving their bodies and the emotion as they experience their weekly activity. The picture was priceless and it remained on the faces of children for the following years and as an imprint on my brain till this day.

Each year we have been able to take up to 6 students for terms 1 and 2 of the school year. Over the years we have had countless numbers pass through this wonderful program that has enriched their lives. This program has had countless volunteers that have given up their time and provided our students with memorable experiences and opportunities. Many of our children have been non-verbal but a smile, a laugh or a high five has been their way of saying thankyou for the wonderful times. There are too many volunteers to name but they are all remembered for their generosity in giving of their time to make this program succeed – for without volunteers this program would not function. We have wonderful memories with the staff and the administration of the program is a great credit to the organisation. At the core of Kingsdene's horse riding success have been the tireless efforts of Nicole and her band of staff and volunteers. The Kingsdene group always appreciated the innovative program that always met the needs of our students and the variation. We have many memories. The birds dropping their business on you just as a student was mounting a horse, the birth of the kittens, the long open air walks and trail rides, Bob the builder music, rolling the dice, stop and go games, troop lines, rider of the week and the list goes on.

Although Kingsdene will close and our students will move on there will always be the fondest memories in our hearts of our wonderful time at RDA. We know that many more children will experience the fantastic opportunities and we sincerely thank everyone at RDA for our time there. As one door closes another door opens - for a new school to be able to take advantage of the opportunities that RDA have to offer. They too will be touched like we were. THANKYOU RDA

## CARRIAGE DRIVING

Janet Muspratt (Coordinator and CD Whip)

We have completed all the requirements for the State Carriage Driving Competition with our dressage tests videoed, cones and bending races timed and photographs taken. Once all the entries from other groups are in, they will be sent off to the judges.

On our driving day in September we did the last task for the State competition - having photos taken for the best turnout class. It was a hive of industry with a few funny moments, getting dressed in our finest, and then making sure that the horses were standing correctly with ears pricked, the harness was sitting correctly and the vehicle occupants were smiling. Thank goodness for digital cameras and the ability to take lots of shots. What a relief it was to change back into ordinary clothes and go for a nice relaxing drive afterwards!

We have two more driving days before the end of the year and will be doing some sporting type activities as well as a bit of dressage from time to time to round off the year. Many thanks to the whole crew here at Rossmore for another very good year of driving – our drivers Michelle Harris, Linda Ongley and Lynne Buckingham, our regular ground helpers Joy Harris, John Moore, Alan Ongley, Debbie Lyshak, Tiffany Cornall, Lynne Sclanders and Felicity Rowntree and fellow Whip Margaret Moore. Of course many pats too to our faithful ponies – Sonny Boy and Nicholas.

The photo included in this issue goes back to 1997 and was taken at the ACDS Australian CDE Championships at Parkes. It shows Michelle Harris driving Harlequin, with me as Whip. We had just gone through the start for the marathon (cross country) section of the event (about 12km) and Harlequin was very keen to get on with the job. Harlequin very sadly passed away in 2000 but she left a great legacy in her son Nicholas who has been on the job for RDA TT carriage driving for the last 10 years, continuing on from her 8 years of service.





## HORSES' BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION LUNCH

By Lee Harrison, Friday Crew

This year our RDA Horses Birthday lunch fundraiser was held at Springfield House in Dural. Over 70 attended and we all had a fun time catching up with old friends and making new ones over good food and wine.

I was seated with a lady from Ryde RDA, who was telling me they are hopeful Ryde will be up and running again soon. Heartening news.

Coaches Nicole and Karen presented our new Tall Timbers promotional video (which brought tears to my eyes) and our local member Ray Williams attended and spoke. He seemed touched by what we do.

Richard Findlay, CEO of Sunbeam Foods (my boss), kindly donated two gift hampers chock full of goodies as first prize for our Guessing Competition, with two bottles of wine donated by Mark Harrison Carpentry (hubby) for the runners up.

The happy winners are pictured with Lee Harrison from Sunbeam Foods/Friday Crew (me)! The Guessing competition raised \$93. There were many other prizes donated from generous supporters for lucky door prizes. All very much appreciated.



The whole day raised nearly \$1,000 - which was a great result! A big THANK YOU to everyone, who came along and supported this event.

I would like to take this opportunity to say how very proud I am to be in my 5<sup>th</sup> year of volunteering and supporting Tall Timbers. I never get tired of it...ever.

Hope to see you at the Volunteers Christmas lunch on 3<sup>rd</sup> December.



## HORSES' BIRTHDAY GIFT FUNDRAISER

Thank you to everyone who sent along a donation for the Horses' Birthday Gift Fundraiser. \$1920 was raised.



## HORSES' BIRTHDAY QUILT AUCTION

Congratulations to Holly Bennett who was the lucky winner of the Horses' Birthday Quilt Fundraiser. The winning bid was \$400. Thank you once again to Judy Uren who made and donated the beautiful quilt.





## REGIONAL MOUNTED GAMES

By Nicole King, Staff Coach

This year was the biggest Mounted Games Day Tall Timbers had held in a long time with 37 entrants from Tall Timbers, Blue Mountains and Nepean Centres. The hills beside the arenas provided great viewing platforms for the bending and flag races in the indoor arena and Barrels and Keyhole setup on the outdoor arena. Jim's famous BBQ and cakes donated from our families kept everyone well fed.

The day was an opportunity for riders to qualify for the State Mounted Games championships and also for some of the riders new to RDA or riding on the lead to compete in an open and friendly environment.

The weather was warm with a short burst of stormy weather which halted the competition for a short time. We know all the riders had a great time and were excited to receive their ribbons.

Thank you to all the coaches and volunteers who helped to give all the riders an opportunity to participate in the day and of course their faithful mounts who missed out on a lazy Sunday in their paddocks.



## SEMESTER TWO RIDE-A-THON

Thank you to all the riders who participated in the Semester Two Ride-a-thon raising \$727.45 for the Centre.

## CAKE ART CHALLENGE 2010

By Kerry Souter, Administrator

Thank you to the Cake Decorators Guild of NSW who chose RDA Tall Timbers as the beneficiary of the proceeds of their Cake Art Challenge 2010. Our Centre received \$728.25, the result of gold coin donations at the door. I took my Mum along to the Cake Art Challenge which was held at the Mercure Hotel in Rosehill and we enjoyed seeing the lovely cake art and admired the incredible detail which goes into this beautiful hobby.





## SPRING CELEBRATION & DEVONSHIRE TEAS IN THE GARDEN

Joan Edwards, Senior Coach

Once again we were blessed with perfect weather for my planned Open garden weekend.

This year we set up our collection of preloved books and old horse gear in a section of my large shed, after all my mowers and bit and pieces were removed or covered up, this was a success and did bring some outside visitors.

Saturday saw a good number of visitors who after inspecting the garden, containing some different features as well as the old faithful ones, which after earlier rain did look good, relaxed under the trees enjoying a Devonshire Tea, with scones. Thank you to our superb scone maker, Lynn.

Then those who wished came on a Bush Walk to see the Wild Flowers that grow in the bush at Kenthurst, this is always interesting as there are different plants in bloom all the time these changing from week to week. Safely back along a shorter but much steeper track or an easier return along the road, a cool drink was welcome or a light lunch was available, and of course books to be purchased.

Sunday was much the same, but unfortunately not as many visitors, all those there had a relaxing morning and good food and company was enjoyed.

A Big Thank You to all those who attended especially to those who helped and cooked, you all contributed to raising \$ 876.20 for RDA TT. We hope you will all return next year and bring your friends, to see what has changed in the garden and enjoy good food in a most pleasant way to raise funds for our Centre.



## DOLL & BEAR SHOW

By Kristina Beeby, Volunteer

I went to the Doll and Bear Show at the Merrylands RSL both last year and this year. Both times I've noticed that it has been well-attended, both with stall-holders and attendees. There's a good mix of old and new dolls and bears to buy or just look at as well as doll/bear making kits and accessories and other nik-naks. The Rotary ladies do a great job on the door and selling raffle tickets. It's also great to see the RDA Tall Timbers display showing the kids from the Holroyd School in their riding classes. Everyone who goes to the doll show has to walk past the RDA display so they can see what the funds are going towards. This is a wonderful event for RDA Tall Timbers and I would encourage people to have a look next year even if you're not into dolls or bears!

*Thank you to the Rotary Club of Holroyd for their continued support of RDA Tall Timbers.*



## TALL TIMBERS WISH LIST

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

- 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 horses
- 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)
- New computer for the office to upgrade our outdated one
- More horse shelters
- Outdoor settings for our riders and volunteers

**REGIONAL DRESSAGE DAY 30<sup>TH</sup>  
SEPTEMBER, 2010**  
By Wendy Moreland, Coach



The weather was very kind to us on the 30<sup>th</sup>, the sun shone and thankfully the wind took a break! This year, for various reasons, only a small number of riders entered this competition. The day ran smoothly and I am sure all enjoyed the relaxed atmosphere.

Natalie Fulton rode Anchor in the walk only test and they looked very smart together. As it was Anchor's debut for Tall Timbers, it was decided to ride the test on the outdoor grass arena, away from the distractions of the indoor arena. Danielle Weymark and her pony Burrowa Michadot have formed a great partnership over the past year. Danielle rode 2 tests and a Freestyle, with excellent results and I am sure she is very proud of her results. Natalie Gross on Ishmar has stepped up to quite difficult walk/trot tests and as her Coach I am very pleased with how she is progressing. Erin Christie on Pippa are continuing their partnership and have also moved up to the more difficult trot tests, she competently piloted Pippa through her Tests with great results. Harrison Luke rode Kruger in the Grade 2 Novice Test. Harrison rode well and Kruger looked relaxed as he performed the movements required in the Test.

We enjoyed watching Hannah Dodd on her horse Lucifer's Dream ride two very polished Grade 4 Tests and a Freestyle with great music. Hannah is on the Para Equestrian Squad and has her sights set on London 2012.

Congratulations to all our riders and a big thank you to all who helped on the day, it was a great team effort.



**RESULTS:**

Name	Horse	Test	Score	
Hannah Dodd	Lucifer's Dream	Grade 4 Team	65.93	1 <sup>st</sup>
Natalie Fulton	Anchor	Grade 1a Novice	56.31	1 <sup>st</sup>
Danielle Weymark	Burrowa Michadot	Grade 3 Team	65.55	1 <sup>st</sup>
Natalie Gross	Ishmar	Test 22	61.57	1 <sup>st</sup>
Erin Christie	Pippa	Test 22	61.57	2 <sup>nd</sup>
Lucy Doel	Jimmy	Test 32	61.36	1 <sup>st</sup>
Danielle Weymark	Burrowa Michadot	Grade 3 Championship	65.33	1 <sup>st</sup>
Samantha Hawes	Lord Baxter	Grade 2 Novice	66.66	1 <sup>st</sup>
Erin Christie	Pippa	Grade 2 Novice	64.28	=2 <sup>nd</sup>
Natalie Gross	Ishmar	Grade 2 Novice	64.28	=2 <sup>nd</sup>
Harrison Luke	Kruger	Grade 2 Novice	63.80	4 <sup>th</sup>
Lucy Doel	Jimmy	Grade 3 Novice	64.54	1 <sup>st</sup>
Danielle Weymark	Burrowa Michadot	Grade 3 Freestyle	60.00	1 <sup>st</sup>
Hannah Dodd	Lucifer's Dream	Grade 4 Championship	68.70	1 <sup>st</sup>
Hannah Dodd	Lucifer's Dream	Grade 4 Freestyle	60.25	1 <sup>st</sup>



**OLMC WALKATHON**

By Pip Lovely, Hon Vice President & Volunteer

Quite a few months ago I was asked to represent RDA Tall Timbers and speak at OLMC (Our Lady of Mercy College) in Parramatta. This was a very enjoyable morning as I spoke to Year 7 students about the work and benefits of Riding for the Disabled as they were participating in a Walkathon around Parramatta Park to raise money to donate to us.

During the talk they listened well and after asked some very relevant questions about our aims etc. Joan Edwards and I did the walk with the girls (all year 7 and 8) and we were pleased that the day was fine, the girls were a huge amount of fun to talk to and that they showed a good commitment in raising money with sponsorships for RDA.

I was privileged to be presented with a large cheque at the school assembly two weeks ago and was able to thank the girls for their donation and continued support.

## **FABO AWARD NIGHT – KERRY SOUTER FINALIST, ADMINISTRATOR OF THE YEAR**

By Karen O'Neill, Hon. President, Volunteer Coach



Finally an opportunity to nominate one of our dedicated staff members for an award. It was with great pleasure that Tall Timbers Administrator, Kerry was nominated. Two categories could be “ticked” for the submission: staff member and volunteer.

For those of you that are new to the centre, part of the nomination highlighted that Kerry has been employed as Administrator at RDA Tall Timbers since 1994. During this time she has willingly become part of the inner wheel of this centre. She does so much more than answer the phone, pay the bills, submit grants, liaise with our sponsors, supporters and tradespeople, organise promotional articles for the newspapers, chase up quotes, organise fund raising events, publish the Tall Timbers Times, answer all the questions that people ask, have contact with RDANSW state office and other centres, collect funds and balance the books and much more.

In addition she is regularly going above the call of duty as she dedicates a large amount of her free time towards the running of the centre for the benefit of our riders, their families and our volunteers. She is always on the look out for suitable opportunities for the centre. Kerry is hands on at working bees and fundraising events: organising, assisting with setting up, running of and packing up. She is also the resident photographer, coming to events making sure she captures “the moment” for our riders and volunteers and so we can remember it in our fantastic end of year DVD production which she organises in her spare time. Also she happily attends after hour’s functions representing the centre. Kerry has a fantastic ability to get along with everyone and has a great rapport not only with our volunteers, coaches, committee and other staff members but with the many people she deals with outside our centre. Kerry is a very special person, she has been through ups and downs at RDA and she does all of this with a smile on her face. She is a 1 in a million and without her Tall Timbers would be lost.

The winners of the 2010 inaugural FABO (Finance, Administration and Back Office) Awards were announced at a Gala Dinner at Watersedge Restaurant by the Rocks at Sydney Harbour. Kerry, her husband Malcolm and a group of us attended and thoroughly enjoyed the fabulous evening. The FABO organisers

made sure all the Finalists and their guests were well looked after and had put together a very entertaining evening. We had spectacular views of the Harbour Bridge, Luna Park and the harbour. It was very interesting to hear about the other finalists and the organisations that they represented and were passionate about.

There are so many worthy organisations that do great things in our community and these awards are a wonderful way to recognise the people behind the scenes in the non profit sector.

Unfortunately Kerry did not win her category but we know she is a star to us at RDA Tall Timbers.

## **GREYSTANES HIGH PARTICIPATION IN THE NSW PREMIER’S STUDENT VOLUNTEERING AWARDS PROGRAM**



Every Friday we (Tim Massard, Max Clark and Nathan Pevey) go to Tall Timbers at Box Hill to assist in RDA programs that cater for people with intellectual disabilities, physical disabilities, injuries resulting from accidents, cerebral palsy, spina bifida, muscular dystrophy, multiple sclerosis, Down syndrome, visual and hearing impairments, autism and amputees.

A typical day at RDA is as follows. We arrive at 9:30am, where we are met by Paul the groundskeeper who has the duty of looking after the property. We then go down to the main building and sign in. We help Paul tend to the gardens of Tall Timbers for about 45 minutes before we are greeted by Nicole who welcomes us and asks us to retrieve the saddles and bridles for the horses riding in the first class. Our next task is to set up the activities for the day’s arena lessons with the disabled children. At 11:00 the children arrive. As the disabled children get ready, we are briefed by the lead horse trainer on how the class is going to run. We then go to our stations where Max is the gatekeeper, Nathan is the ball giver and Tim is the Toy Supplier. After the kids’ class finishes we pack away the unneeded horse utensils. Then we sign off and come back to school.

We volunteer our time to gain memorable experiences with horses and disabled children. We thoroughly enjoy this experience as it gives us opportunity to work with elegant animals and help support disabled children and provide them with opportunities they normally would not have. We would like to thank Mr Brown, Mr Parnis and the Tall Timbers staff for giving us this valuable opportunity.

## HANNIBAL'S DIARY ENTRY (As told to Chanida)

Hi Everyone! I'm fairly new around here so I thought the best way to meet everyone was to introduce myself. My name is Hannibal, I am an Arabian Riding Pony, 14.3hh, 17yrs young, if I could I'd spend all day, everyday eating and I absolutely love a good face rub. That's pretty much me in a nutshell!



I've only been here for a few months and so much has happened already. Not long after I arrived I had my birthday. Even though the people around here hardly knew me they still made me a birthday cake. It was delicious with lots of carrots, yum! There was a big celebration here just recently to celebrate Tall Timbers 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary at Box Hill. I'm not sure if they had cake but they threw a big party and it was so much fun. I got to show off what I've learned since I came here to all the guests when they watched Hannah ride me in a class. Everyone said I was so gorgeous and complimented Hannah on her riding and I spent the whole day with a smile on my face 😊



There have been a couple of competitions too, I didn't compete in either of them but hopefully I'll get to next time. One was a mounted games day which looked like so much fun. Lots of ups and downs and turns, all as fast as they could go so that they would hopefully qualify to compete at the Easter Show. How cool would that be? There was also a dressage day. This one was to qualify for the State Dressage competition. The riders looked very smart all dressed up in their jackets and they all rode so well. From Tall Timbers two riders qualified. I'm guessing that since Pippa's all rugged up and Ishmar keeps getting his tail washed (good luck getting that thing white again!) that the comp must be coming up

soon. Good Luck to Erin and Natalie, the best advice I can give you is to have fun and don't forget to smile!

In the short time I have been here there have been quite a few horses come and go. It was really sad to say goodbye to Floss, I only met her a few times but she was like a grandmother to everyone on the property, she was always prepared to give advice and hugs when needed, everyone loved her. Savanna seemed really keen to be moving on to her next adventure. She was talking about it from the time she found out where she was going to the time she walked straight onto the float. She loves kids so she was delighted to be going to a family with young children to teach them how to ride. She writes every now and again and tells us how spoiled she is, getting lots of brushing and pats and treats. She sounds really happy.

The newest additions (besides me of course) are Kahlua, Daphne and Charlie. Kahlua's little with lots of attitude, but in a good way. She likes to speak her mind and I pity anyone that tries to steal her food but she's actually quite sweet. Daphne gets lots of attention because she's so pretty. I heard today that she and I could almost make pigeon pair. I'm not entirely sure whether to take that as a compliment or not, comparing me to a girl, but I certainly wouldn't mind spending more time with her! And lastly, Charlie is the newest of the new. He's only been here a couple of weeks so I haven't met him properly yet but I'm sure I'll get to know him soon.

Everything I have mentioned makes me love this place. There's always something going on to keep us all busy so I know I'll never get bored and I can't wait to get to know everyone. I spend most of my days when I'm not working in yard number 15 so please don't hesitate to drop by and say Hi, I'd love to see you!

*Hannibal*

## BUNNINGS DURAL BBQ By Charlie Aquilina, Thursday Volunteer and Committee Member



The Bunnings BBQ at Dural on Sunday the 29<sup>th</sup> August was again a successful fundraiser for Tall Timbers. Thanks to the organisational skills of Dinah Moore and Carmel and John Norris all went along smoothly and \$766 was raised on the day. It was a busy and fun day and I was happy to do my bit for the dedicated trio named above – I'll be back for the next Bunnings BBQ in 2011. A big thanks to all who helped on the day and to Bunnings Dural for their continued support.

# TEN YEARS OF TALL TIMBERS AT BOX HILL/SUPPORTERS DAY

By Ray Williams MP

Saturday the 30th October marked the tenth anniversary of Riding for the Disabled moving to its current address at Box Hill. I had the great pleasure of attending the community morning tea with my wife Wendy, as we toured the grounds and watched this operation first hand, marking this memorable occasion.

The 'Tall Timbers' facility as it affectionately known is a vastly different place to that of ten years ago. The centre now boasts wonderful new buildings, a kitchen, storage rooms and concrete paths for safe access, plus a host of other attractions that add to this remarkable facility. Another new addition is the outside arena where participants benefit from a range of activities including horse and buggy displays. The special interaction between a horse and rider can also be achieved with participants sitting in the buggy while the horse pulls them around an obstacle course. The therapeutic benefits of this personal connection between humans and horses has long been recognised and dates back to Roman times when the simple task of riding horses for pleasure was used by convalescing soldiers. The broad smiles across the faces of children with disabilities as they learn to ride are truly remarkable to witness. However the facility could not operate without the thousands of hours spent by enthusiastic volunteers who dedicate their time on behalf of those who derive great benefit through their partnership with our four legged friends.

To everyone at Tall Timbers RDA, thank you for the special care, dedication and commitment you provide on behalf of people who continue to prove its ability, rather than disability that really matters.



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

## CONDOLENCE

*It is with great sadness that we acknowledge the passing of Colleen Percival following her battle with Leukaemia. Colleen is the owner of Hannibal and has been part of the RDA State Dressage circle for many years. Through her battle Colleen was focused on making sure Hannibal had a home and her dream of owning and riding a Grand Prix horse. She will be missed and Hannibal has certainly found a home at Tall Timbers.*

## UP COMING EVENTS

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

### ROTARY CHRISTMAS TREASURE TROVE RAFFLE – LAST CHANCE

Proceeds will assist our Centre to fund the program. If you can sell some tickets it would be most appreciated. Tickets are \$2 each

1st Prize Toyota Yaris Automatic on road

2nd Prize Netbook

3rd Prize \$1000 worth of jewellery from “Kurt Seinfert Jewellers”

Tickets are available from the Centre and will be sold until the end of Semester 2 and must be returned (sold or unsold) to the office by 4th December. Raffle drawn January 21st 2011 at Burwood RSL

### VOLUNTEER LUNCHEON

**Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> December (note change of date) 11.30am**

Once again our volunteers are invited to a luncheon to thank them for their hard work throughout the year. Put this date in your diary for a friendly get together. Please let us know if you can bring a salad or dessert to share.

### SATURDAY RIDERS' CHRISTMAS PARTY/PRESENTATION

**Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> December**

This presentation of awards and party is for all Saturday morning riders this year. It is supported by the Lions Club of Kuringai.

### RDA AWARENESS AND VOLUNTEER RECRUITMENT ROUSE HILL TOWN CENTRE

Monday 31<sup>st</sup> January – Friday 4<sup>th</sup> February 9am-5pm

Please let us know if you can help man the stand.

Morning and afternoon shifts available. Please email your availability [talltimbers@rdansw.org.au](mailto:talltimbers@rdansw.org.au). Validated free parking available.

### SATURDAY ORIENTATION DAY FOR ALL SATURDAY MORNING RIDERS

Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> February

### WEEKDAY CLASSES ORIENTATION DAYS

Monday 7<sup>th</sup> – Friday 11<sup>th</sup> February

### WEEKDAY RIDING RECOMMENCES

Monday 14<sup>th</sup> February

### MODEL RAILWAYS EXHIBITION Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> March and Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> March Forestville Memorial Hall

This is a very important fundraiser for RDA Tall Timbers. We need helpers for the canteen and also cakes. The cakes can be delivered to RDA during the previous week. Thank you to the North Shore Railway Modellers and Kuringai Lions for their support.

### TALL TIMBERS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2011 7.30PM

The Annual General Meeting of Tall Timbers will be held at Tall Timbers Centre on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> March at 7.30pm. New Members please phone the office for an application form. Membership is \$11 per annum. Everyone welcome.

### CASTLE HILL SHOW CATERING AND DEVONSHIRE TEA

**Friday, Saturday and Sunday 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> April**

We will once again need your help with setting up and assisting with the catering and Devonshire Teas at Castle Hill Show and packing up. Please let us know if you can help and mark this weekend in your diaries. Entry tickets to the Show will be provided for helpers.

### RDA NSW STATE MOUNTED GAMES AND HORSE OF THE YEAR COMPETITION

**Monday 18<sup>th</sup> April**

**SYDNEY ROYAL SHOW – HOMEBUSH**

Schmidt Arena

If you're at the Show on this day go along to the Schmidt arena and support our riders

### BUNNINGS BBQ

**Dates to be announced**

Please let us know if you are able to assist at the Bunnings BBQs in 2011.

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 RDA.

On the job training, horse knowledge preferable.

Contact 9679 1246

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

### 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

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





## A BIG THANK YOU TO OUR CURRENT HORSE SPONSORS

Anchor – EAC Charity Club  
Angel – Anonymous  
Apex – Anthea Hendy  
Boomerang – Soroptimist of the Hills  
Bowie – Lions Club of Crestwood  
Hannibal (pictured) – Rotary Club of Granville  
Indi – The Gallur Family  
Ishmar - Bendigo Bank Galston Community Bank  
Kruger – Marc Hardman & Associates  
Ozzy - Value Plus Animal Health Care Products  
Pippa – Box Hill and Nelson Progress Assoc  
Polly - Mrs Margaret Greig

## THANK YOU FOR VOLUNTEERING AT RDA TALL TIMBERS CENTRE

*Thank you to all the volunteers who assisted our Centre over the past year in so many ways. Without your assistance our Centre would not be able to operate.*

Here's just a few of the goals that volunteering can help you achieve:

- A means of building self-esteem or confidence.
- A great way to learn or develop skills.
- A pathway to enhancing work experience.
- To gain improved health and be active.
- A way to meet new people or broaden your social set.
- To make a difference in someone's life.
- A way of expressing gratitude for help you may have received in the past or 'giving back'.
- An opportunity to support a cause you feel strongly about.
- Feeling needed and valued is satisfying in itself.
- To make a difference within one's own community.



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