



# Brigadoon Bulletin



Riding for the Disabled Association Brigadoon Centre Newsletter

April 2009

## In this Issue

Welcome to a New Year

Centre Committee

Connor's Back on Track

Trainee Coaches

New Wet Weather Policy

Movies by Burswood

Bunnings Sausage Sizzle

Dates for your Diary

Facilities Update

Extra Classes

Horse Welfare

Introducing 'Basil' our Mascot

New Centre Uniform Available

RDA Collie

Help us promote our wonderful centre

Fuel "Vouchers for Volunteers"

## Welcome to a New Year

On behalf of the RDA Brigadoon Committee I would like to welcome all our new and existing members to another fantastic year at our centre. We hope you have enjoyed the first term and are looking forward to starting back after the Easter Break.

**A little bit of history for those that don't know:** our centre commenced operation in 2007 in the beautiful Swan Valley at the State Equestrian Centre. The centres mission is:

*"to enable people with disabilities and volunteers to experience enjoyment, challenge and a sense of achievement through participation in therapeutic and recreational horse activities, resulting in the development of abilities, life skills, improved quality of life and attainment of*

Classes this year have settled into a good pattern, with the 3.30pm and 4.30pm sessions on Mondays and Wednesdays going well and nice numbers enrolled. Riders are making good progress. The number of new volunteers has increased steadily, and we are continuing settling in the new horses and ones from last year who we didn't get to use much, all horses have been ridden and are being used more regularly now.

We have been fortunate to have the help of Julie Nicholson and Diane Bennit in coaching our Monday and Wednesday classes. This gives our trainee coaches Christine O'Neill and Laura Grubb the opportunity of coaching under their supervision. Our thanks to both Julie and Diane, for allocating so much of their busy schedules to help us.

## Centre Committee

Working for you to ensure that our centre keeps running is a Voluntary Committee which has been very active in spite of some turnover. As you are probably aware, our previous coach Tao Jordan resigned in December to set up her own business in specializing in 'Equine Touch'. Over the last two years Tao put in an enormous amount of work to help establish our centre, including all coaching duties. We owe her a huge thank you for getting us to such a sound level of operation!!!

Another founding member who has recently resigned is Wendy Penegar. Wendy was our Client Coordinator, and likewise we owe Wendy a great big thank you for all her efforts over the years.

Our secretary Kelly Mansfield is currently taken on the client coordinator and volunteer coordinator role for us until such time as new coordinators are identified, so if you have an questions about riding or volunteering with RDA please feel free to give her a call, with over 5 years experience as our State Executive Officer she will be more than happy to help. Our previous horse welfare officer Glenys Wicks has taken on the position of treasurer, and Kay Grubb has been appointed our Horse Welfare Officer, with a lot of support in this role from her husband and daughter Charlie and Laura. Our Volunteer Coordinator, Margaret Tucker, has recently relocated to Esperance, and we thank Margaret likewise for the effort she has put in over the last year.

Christine O'Neill is currently filling 2 roles, one as our Monday Coach under the supervision of Julie Nicholson, and also as our President. Christine will soon be fully accredited as a Level 1 coach, and would like in future to concentrate on coaching, so we will be looking for someone prepared to stand as our new President at our AGM in October.

On Wednesday we are fortunate to have Diane Bennit as our coach. Diane is well known and highly regarded in WA's equestrian community, and we are very happy that she can be with us this year to help our other trainee coaches come through their training program.

We are pleased to also introduce a new member to our committee this term. Marnie Butler, the mother of one of our riders has accepted the position of Client Coordinator and can be contacted on 0418 932 913 or [riding@rdabrigadoon.com.au](mailto:riding@rdabrigadoon.com.au)

### Current Vacancies on the Committee:

- Vice President
- Volunteer Coordinator
- Risk Management Officer
- Grievance Officer

*There are also opportunities for people to become involved in the committee as assistants or juniors to various committee members.*

To become involved in the committee the only requirement is an interest in RDA and helping our centre to be the best it can be in continuing to provide services to people in the community. If you are interested in any of the vacancies or you know of a family member, friend or colleague who might be able to help please feel free to visit our virtual centre at [www.rdabrigadoon.com.au](http://www.rdabrigadoon.com.au) where you can download job descriptions and more information about the centre.

**User name:** [rdabrigadoon](http://www.rdabrigadoon.com.au) **Password:** Brumbies.

Our centre needs a committee in order to continue functioning and ensure that our riders and volunteers continue to benefit from the unique services that RDA offer people living with disabilities and special needs, so please consider how you or someone you know can help our centre to continue developing the abilities and enriching the lives of people in our community.

## Connor's Back on Track

Towards the end of last year I noticed that Connor had lost interest in horse riding altogether and I was feeling very disappointed. Connor was more interested in the swing set at horse riding and was devastated that there was no longer a regular timetable for the diesel trains that used to go by. It wasn't until we bought a block of land near an equestrian centre that his interest was piqued and I thought maybe he might change his mind. However, I wasn't that confident that it would last and so for the first week back I made poor Connor fit his size 3 feet into his size 1 boots.

I like to think that Connor's renewed enthusiasm for riding is due to our fantastic new coaching staff, the lessons this year have been challenging and have made the children think and participate. We also have some fantastic new volunteers who are not only handy with horses but in Connor's case were pretty quick to pick up on his tricks.

For me it is lovely to meet the new families and of course to see the familiar faces return.

Last week I finally got Connor a new pair of size 3 boots. I figure with the new style lessons and at least 3 freight trains per lesson that Connor is back on track!

Look forward to seeing you all in Term 2.

*Jenny Taplin, Connor's Mum*



## Trainee Coaches

We would just like to thank those who have signed up to train as RDA coaches. Without people like them we would not be able to run our programs.

### Level 1 Trainee

- Christine O'Neill

### Orientation to Coaching (OTC)

- Laura Grubb
- Dennis Adam
- Barbara Buchanan
- Sue Barton
- Pauline Dawson
- Julia Loubser
- Jenny Sandford

*We wish you all luck in the training and if you have any questions about RDA please feel free to contact our secretary Kelly.*

## New Wet Weather Policy

After a very wet winter last year the centre has introduced a new policy which will result in riding sessions not being cancelled unless absolutely necessary. In the case of cancellation due to severe weather warnings we will endeavour to advise you by midday at the latest.

In return we ask that if you are unable to attend a session that you let us know by midday, so that we can adjust our program appropriately and not prepare a horse/pony for you.

In the case of wet weather we plan to ride or organise alternative indoors activities for our riders. We have endeavoured to advise all riders, parents and volunteers of our plans so please make sure that you come prepared if it looks like rain.

## Facilities Update

Late last year we were delighted to hear from Lotterywest and from the Department of Local Government and Regional Development that our application for funds to purchase a new admin building had been granted. The \$43,000 granted will provide us with a brand new demountable building 9 meters long and 3 meters wide, housing a fully accessible toilet, an office, and a meeting room/kitchenette. It will be fully serviced with water, electricity, sewer, air-conditioned etc, with a full length paved front verandah 3 meters wide. The new building will be located just south of the Clubhouse, facing onto the arenas. We are hoping we will have all Planning Applications approved soon and the building installed by September!

The seatainer was delivered and installed late last year to provide us with a secure feed shed. Then Laura, Charlie and Kay moved the feed into it, and this meant our small garden shed was able to be cleaned out and reorganised into an orderly tack room, with no rodents to chew our saddles. Since then Chris Wicks has put a protective roof over it to keep the feed dry, and to reduce the heat inside in the summer months. Chris did a lovely job, and our thanks go to Chris for his amazing effort. Soon we have a group of volunteers from a local Rotary Club who are coming out to our centre one weekend to rust treat and paint the outside, so it matches the standard green colour we are aiming for with all our buildings. And at some stage we hope to put an extra door into the front of it so we can get better access to the hay etc inside.

### PLANNED FOR THE FUTURE:

Once all of this work has been undertaken we are planning to do the following:

#### Horse Paddock Development

Install some more fencing for our horse paddocks, so we will have a "safety lane" to bring horses in and out of the paddocks, and a division of the very big back paddock so we have more flexibility with managing the grazing of the horses.

#### Arena Development

Install a pump and sprinkler system to reduce dust coming off the arenas while we are holding classes in there, this with the addition of more woodchips should help with the management of dust from our arenas.

#### Landscaping

We will then do some grading and landscaping in front of both the new building and the current Clubhouse, so we get some nice lawns and smooth ground around the buildings. And maybe some shrubs at the back, as sunshade for the hot summer days.

*If you know of anyone who can help with these developments either in-kind, voluntary labour or financially (donations/sponsors/grants) then please let us know.*



## Extra Classes

We have tentatively planned extra classes for later in the year; we have some schools interested in classes with us for special education students, and maybe even classes on Saturday mornings.

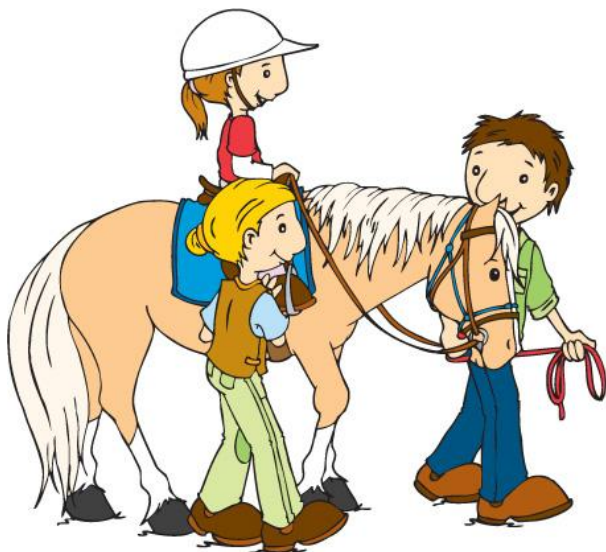
Before we commence with these expansion plans our committee wants our coaches and horses, and volunteers to be a bit more settled before we take on more riders. In the meantime, if you know of people who would like to ride with us, please get them to contact Marnie and she will put them on our waiting list, and send them our Information Pack in preparation.

## Introducing 'Basil' our centre mascot

Our mascot the Brigadoon Brumby has finally found a name.

Basil is here to help us promote our centre and assist us in having some fun along the way.

Basil features on our new centre uniform that is now available.



## Horse Welfare

The welfare of our horses/ponies is very important to our centre and is managed by our dedicated Horse Welfare Committee. These people give up their time every day to make sure that our four legged friends are well cared for including feeding, watering, and general health care (farrier, vet, and dentist).

It costs approx \$2,000 a year to make sure that our horses/ponies are in good condition and able to be part of our valued team. If you would like to be more involved in the welfare and care of our four legged friends or you have any questions or concerns about any of our horses/ponies please feel free to contact our horse welfare office Kaye Grubb or myself.

## New Centre Uniform Available

The new centre uniform is finally available.

**Baseball Caps \$20    Shirts \$30**

A range of sizes are available from the centre clubhouse, however please bear in mind that the sizes we have available are limited and if we do not have your size in stock please complete the enclosed order form and return it to Kelly for inclusion in our next order at the end of term 2.



## Movies by Burswood



The Movies by Burswood season is finally over and a huge thank you to everyone who helped. For the people who don't know, last year we worked on a fortnightly basis at Movies by Burswood and earned approx \$2500. This year we hope to have doubled that amount having provided staff every week of the 17 week season.

Not only is Movies by Burswood a really great fundraiser for our riding centres and RDAWA as a whole it is also a great way of raising awareness too. I think that everybody who worked (all staff are volunteers) on a Tuesday night are now aware of RDA Brigadoon, how many horses we have and all the ins and outs of the running of our centre.

Those who volunteer their time to work at Movies by Burswood also acquire valuable life skills which could come in handy down the track, one example that comes to mind is how to use a popcorn machine.

We would like to thank the Movies By Burswood organising committee and their sponsors especially Ken Gibbons for running such a fantastic fundraising activity that helps puts smiles on so many people's faces.

It truly is an enjoyable experience and a great way to meet new people. The season runs from December through to the start of April so please pencil in some dates for the next movie season and we hope to see you there.

For more information about Movies By Burswood please visit [www.moviesbyburswood.com.au](http://www.moviesbyburswood.com.au)

## RDA Collie



This year we are lucky to have a new Buddy centre in RDA Collie. RDA Collie is located at Blackbrook Farm on the outskirts of the WA mining town Collie.

RDA Collie have a beautiful setting next to the Bristol Forrest and frequently go on treks through the Forrest spotting interesting flora, fauna and trees.

RDA Collie has just had some interesting news in that Lotterywest have recently approved funding to help them build a new covered arena so they can continue classes in inclement weather.

Throughout the year RDA Collie run a variety of camps which are lots of fun for both riders and volunteers and we hope to be able to offer our riders and volunteers the opportunity to visit our buddy centre and have some fun in a new exciting setting.



## Bunnings Sausage Sizzle

Another successful fundraiser for our centre!! With the generous support of AMP matching us dollar for dollar we managed to earn close to \$3500 in 1 day.

The sausage sizzle took a lot of organizing and I want to make special mention of some people who always go above and beyond to help out. I'm sure that everyone at our riding centre would also like to say thanks.

Thank you to Christine (our President) for purchasing and collecting all the food and drinks, bringing esky's, and for the frilly aprons to dress the boys in. To Kelly (our Secretary) for all the work that went into designing our price lists, our information / display stands and for driving all the way from near Fremantle to get to Bunning's in Midland by 8am. Thank you to the Grubb Family (horse checkers, coach in training, horse committee, etc etc) for lending us Charlie to do all the heavy lifting first thing in the morning, for lending us your fridge and esky's to keep drinks cold and for Kaye and Laura helping to clean up at the end of the day. Thank you to Glenys and Chris (Treasurer & Handy Man) for always helping me out when there is an vacancy on a roster that I cannot fill. To Anthony and Craig (Parents) who has helped out a number of times when we have been in need.

And last but not least the ECU Cycling Team – not only do the boys look good in lycra but they can pull off a frilly apron too! The ECU race team provided us with 6 volunteers for the entire afternoon and their time and effort was and still is greatly appreciated.

It was great to see some of our riders and their families come and buy a sausage and show their support also.

As for me – I need a break and won't be doing anymore fundraising until after the school holidays. But I will take this opportunity to let you know that we will have jars of honey for sale coming soon!

*Jenny Taplin, Fundraising Officer and Parent of rider (Connor)*

*On behalf of our centre and the committee I would just like to say a huge **THANK YOU** to our fundraising Officer **Jenny Taplin** for her organisation and help in making sure we have enough money to feed our horses and maintain the centres facilities.*

## THANKS TO BUNNINGS MIDLAND AND THE AMP FOUNDATION FOR THEIR SUPPORT IN HELPING US RAISE OVER \$3,500

### Help us promote our wonderful centre

We are always looking for new ways to promote our centre within the general community and your assistance in this would be greatly appreciated. There are many ways you can help support our centre:

**Word of Mouth:** If you know of anyone who would benefit from being involved either as a riding or voluntary member then please encourage them to get in contact or come along and have a look at what we do or even have a "one off" ride. They can even visit us online at [www.rdabrigadoon.com.au](http://www.rdabrigadoon.com.au) and watch the RDA promotional DVD that gives people a general idea of just how much can be achieved while having some fun outdoors with friends. Please also be aware that when our riding sessions are full we will add interested people to our waiting list and endeavour to have them in the saddle as soon as possible.

## Help us promote our wonderful centre Cont...

**Distribution of Information Leaflets:** Our centre has a stock of information leaflets that can be collected from the club house and distributed to local businesses or schools. If you know somewhere we can put our leaflets please feel free to take some from the clubhouse.

**Grants & Sponsors:** We are always in need of funds to help improve our centre for all our members. If you know of any grants or potential sponsors please contact our fundraising officer Jenny Taplin or Kelly Mansfield with the details. Remember "You have to be in it to win it".

**Events:** Throughout the year we will have a variety of centre and State run activities for both riders and volunteers so please keep an eye on our website and our centre newsletter for information. Also if you have an idea for an event or perhaps your school our business would like to run an event on behalf of our centre please feel free to contact our fundraising officer Jenny or Kelly.

**Donations:** Our centre is an incorporated charitable organisation and as such has Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status. If you know of anyone who would like to contribute financially to the centre please contact our fundraising officer Jenny or Kelly. Every little helps.

### Dates for your Diary

**29<sup>th</sup> April**      **RDA Brigadoon Volunteer Workshop**  
RDA Brigadoon Centre 4pm – 7pm  
*This workshop is a great opportunity for volunteers to learn new skills and be accessed for exercising and training our horses.*

**4<sup>th</sup> May**            **Term 2 Commences**

**23<sup>rd</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup>**      **BE Active RDAWA Effective**

**May**                **Mentoring Forum**  
Barbara Rowley Centre,  
Fairbridge Village, Pinjarra  
*This is a great weekend for volunteers, trainee coaches and qualified coaches. The weekend is lots of fun and is a great way to share ideas and inspirations. If you can only make one workshop this year then this would be it. If you would like to go please contact Kelly with your details. Free accommodation and entertainment is provided on the Saturday night for those that wish to make a weekend of it.*

**1<sup>st</sup> July**            **Term 2 Finishes**

**19<sup>th</sup> July**          **Be Active RDA Brigadoon Volunteer Training Day**  
RDA Brigadoon Centre 10am – 3pm



### Fuel "Vouchers of Volunteers"

RDA Brigadoon would like to make all our volunteers aware of a great initiative by BP Australia, "Vouchers for Volunteers" - which will open on Monday, April 27. Through this scheme BP will be providing \$250,000 in fuel vouchers to volunteers assisting not-for-profit organisations.

For further information on this offer, please go to [www.talkstoppedlongago.com.au/v4v\\_home.html](http://www.talkstoppedlongago.com.au/v4v_home.html)

### Centre Contact Details

**Please send all mail to:**

Kelly Mansfield  
Centre Secretary  
RDA Brigadoon  
19 Somerset Crescent  
Mosman Park WA 6012  
Mob: 0488 412 680  
[info@rdabrigadoon.com.au](mailto:info@rdabrigadoon.com.au)

*If you have any stories for the newsletter or if you no longer wish to receive the Brigadoon Bulletin Please email [info@rdabrigadoon.com.au](mailto:info@rdabrigadoon.com.au) or contact Kelly.*