

## Newsletter March 2024

### *From the President*

With the new term half way through and some glorious weather we are all delighted to be enjoying RDA again this year. As always, we welcome new volunteers to our group and offer full training/guidance for those interested. We provide a decent morning tea with like-minded friends, a purposeful goal-based riding programme for our riders – celebrating achievements and successes, and a worthwhile way to spend a morning or two each week whilst keeping fit and having fun. Whether you have horse experience, enjoy working with young people, can bake scones, have an interest in admin, PR, fundraising, donating, we have a spot for you. Please share with your friends and contact [megan.crenfeldt@rdagroup.nz](mailto:megan.crenfeldt@rdagroup.nz) to enquire further.

Elizabeth Roberts, President

### *Recent happenings at TPRDA*

**Training day** – To start the year on a positive note we invited Sharon Aldersley from NZRDA (and from Tauranga RDA) to present a workshop at TP. 42 Volunteers spent a very informative extended morning gaining both basic and in-depth knowledge and skills. Amongst other topics we discussed autism, cerebral palsy, enjoyed a practical demo of leading, sidewalking, even an emergency dismount. A great way to begin 2024.



**New yards** – If you have been up to TPRDA you may have seen our new outdoor yards! These replace the old and quite rickety outdoor yards and include thick rubber matting (funded by our own RDA group). Thanks to Totara Park Equestrian Centre for sourcing the funding for the yards themselves - a great resource for the safety and comfort of our horses for years to come.

**Petstock** recently visited us to donate a huge \$59,000 cheque to NZRDA, which will be divided amongst RDA groups nationwide, along with a donation of pet and horse equipment. Donna (CEO of

NZRDA) Linley, Fiona and Elizabeth along with our team of TPRDA horses welcomed Petstock to TP and were thrilled to receive this extremely generous donation on behalf of NZRDA. Please support your local Petstock Shops for all your pet needs.



We farewelled Rae Lawn this month, our extremely talented and well liked, longstanding volunteer and friend, who has decided the time is right to retire from TPRDA. Rae has filled a multitude of roles at TP including serving on the Committee, Sidewalking, Leading, morning teas and many other tasks. She will be sadly missed and we wish her well. Rae's comment was: "Thank you all so much. Almost 17 years since Shirley took me to Totara Park "to see how you like it" ... I like it a lot... a fantastic organization doing extraordinary work."

## **Meet the Management Team...**

*Our next TPRDA Committee meeting is in the clubrooms on **Wednesday 10 April 2024 at 7pm**. If you are interested in seeing what we do you are welcome come along! Any items for discussion can be sent to our Secretary – [kathrynganter@rdagroup.nz](mailto:kathrynganter@rdagroup.nz)*

President – Elizabeth Roberts

Vice President and Rider Rep – Joanne Bishop-sime

Treasurer and Funding/Grants Co-ordinator – Megan Sharplin

Secretary – Kathryn Ganter

Coach Co-ordinator – Cilla Bell

Coaches – Bianca Dick, Fiona Arlington

Health and Safety Co-ordinator – Jill Burroughs

Pony Team Co-ordinator – Linley Talbot

Rider Co-ordinator – Cliff Dawson

Volunteer Co-ordinator – Megan Crenfeldt

Committee Member and Funding/Grants – Diana Knight

*To contact these Committee Members and Coaches, emails are “first name” dot “surname” @rdagroup.nz, eg [elizabeth.roberts@rdagroup.nz](mailto:elizabeth.roberts@rdagroup.nz)*

## **Featured Team Members this month, both two and four footed!**

### **Joanne Bishop-Sime**



*"My name is Joanne Bishop-Sime and I am the Riders' Representative on the TPRDA Committee. Our daughter Jemma rides on a Thursday in the third ride. As a parent of a rider and a Committee Member, I represent all our current riders and can be contacted on [joanne.bishop-sime@rdagroup.nz](mailto:joanne.bishop-sime@rdagroup.nz)"*

### **Megan Crenfeldt:**

*"My daughters first pony was "trialled as an RDA pony" she wasn't suitable but they thought I was, so here I am some years later, no longer a filly but still a suitable old Nag! I am a "horsey mum" (meaning my grown-up daughter has left her little herd in our paddock for me to look after) I became the volunteer coordinator a few years into my RDA journey with very few credentials, proving that anyone can do it!!"*

### **Linley Talbot:**

*"I've volunteered since 2016. It's a great fit for me with my love of horses & working with a team of people passionate about making a difference for others. I am fortunate to exercise Zoe one of our RDA horses on non RDA days, this keeps me on track for my role in chairing the Pony Committee. I especially enjoy the outdoors, travel and challenging walks are on my agenda this year starting by walking the Kepler track in April."*



### **Jill Burroughs:**

*"This is my third year being involved in RDA and on the committee. I really enjoy being part of a team of riders, their families / support people, volunteers and horses who together make RDA a wonderful place to be. I have 40 years' experience supporting adults with intellectual and physical disability within a residential setting and I am involved with Health, Safety and Wellness at TPRDA. Each of us is responsible for our own, and each other's safety so please point out anything you may see that could be or could become a hazard and cause harm - then we can look into it before it does!"*

## **Jubilee:**

*Jubilee has been owned by us since purchasing her from a Hunua riding establishment in 2018. She is a Palouse mare with those interesting spots over her rump. At 13.2HH and aged 15 years she is a popular pony and great size for children, young teen riders and their side-walkers. Jubilee grazes with Zoe and Bobby. She is most possessive of Bobby often chasing Zoe away. She sees herself as top mare and is always aware of what is going on around her herd.*

*While Jubilee performs her RDA duties diligently and obediently she is known to be quite the flirt with other male horses when ridden in the farm park on non RDA days. Fiona our horse manager ensures she never gets away with mischief and keeps her well schooled.*

*Jubilee is pictured with her sponsor Jocelyn Martin. Horse sponsorship is a great way of supporting RDA. Jubilee & TPRDA are grateful for Jocelyn's generous donation towards her care.*



**Howick New World** - TPRDA was one of three nominated community heroes in the Howick Heroes initiative. New World are our heroes too! This generous donation of \$914.50 will be used to upgrade our riding saddle pads. Thank you so much Howick New World.

**Give A Little** - Thank you to all our supporters who donated to our Christmas Give a Little Campaign during the month of December. We raised \$1010.00!!

## ***Our Wonderful Sponsors .... Thank you so much***

### **Platinum Sponsors \$5,000 plus**

*Belle* - Jill Stevenson Legacy Pony

sponsored by private trust



*Shimmer* – Van den Brink Family



## Gold Sponsors \$2,000 plus

*Belle* – Ken Stevenson



*Bobby* – Gemscott



*Puni* – Jean Lewis



*Sam* – Anna Glass



Chris Wilcox – Gold Sponsor



## Silver Sponsors \$1,000 plus

*Zoe* – Whitford Dental, Rick Parfitt



*Jane* – Anna Glass



## Bronze Sponsors \$600 plus

*Zoe* – Heather Renwick

## COMMUNITY TRUST FUNDERS



## **FRIENDS OF TŌTARA PARK RIDING FOR THE DISABLED**

We would not be able to continue without the generous support of these individuals and companies:

NZRDA, Totara Park Equestrian Centre, Clevedon & Howick Lions, Crann, Cranwell, Gallagher and McKenzie families, David Pike, Peter Bailey, Pride of Howick Service Club, Rachel Thorogood, Brian Hedge, The Auckland Orange Hall Society, Angela Rudling (Bayleys Real Estate) Bev & Mark Benny, John Boscawen



## **SUPPORTERS OF OUR HORSE AND PONY TEAM**

Murray Gilmore – Karaka Veterinary Services  
Warwick Behrns - Equine Dentistry  
Pat McLean – Con Tact C.A.R.E Therapist  
Warfield Family Chrissy van den Brink Fiona Arlington



**Totara Park**  
New Zealand Riding for the Disabled



We aim to increase ability through participation in goal based horse riding activities. As a charity a nominal amount is charged to riders, the balance of operational costs is made up from the support of Donors, Fundraising, Grants and Funders.

Donations over \$5 are tax deductible.

Contact:  
Website:  
[GiveALittle.com](http://GiveALittle.com)  
Bank Account:

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12 3653 0003499 00



**THANK YOU**

  
Totara Park  
NZRDA

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MANUKAU  
Ph: Clubhouse: 09 262 0426

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Manukau  
AUCKLAND 2019

Charities Commission: CC38934

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