



THE RDA TIMES

IN THIS ISSUE:

- RDA at the Races 2017
- RDA Charity Movie Night
- New Therapy Horses & Ponies
- What's New @ RDA
- RDA Programme Update

ISSUE 3 – Q2 2017

THE E-NEWSLETTER OF RIDING FOR THE DISABLED ASSOCIATION OF SINGAPORE

RDA AT THE RACES 2017 GALLOPING FOR A GOOD CAUSE

RDA AT THE RACES was held on 15 January 2017 at Singapore Turf Club.

2017 marked the 35th Anniversary of RDA Singapore. This charity fund-raiser was the opening event for RDA Singapore 35th anniversary celebrations. It was also the tenth "RDA at the Races" held at the Singapore Turf Club.

"Singapore Turf Club is pleased to once again partner RDA to help raise funds through this annual event. A key reason why our two organizations have been working together is our common equine-centric focus. We are very glad to play our part in this noble cause as venue sponsor," said Mr Simon Leong, Senior Vice President (Corporate Services), Singapore Turf Club.

Besides the RDA Cup 2017, which is an annual event, there were three other named races to honour our sponsors and partners: *Mitsubishi Electric Gallop*, *Obayashi Sprint* and *ANZA Action HCP*. The event raised \$84,000.



RDA Cup 2017 prize presentation (from left): Singapore Turf Club Committee member Mr Fong Heng Boo, Guest-of-Honour, Senior Minister of State (MCCY & MTI) Ms Sim Ann, Winning Trainer Desmond Koh, Winning Jockey Wong Chin Chuen, RDA Committee Member Ms Wanda Wang and Honorary Chairman Mr Eugene Yong.

RDA CHARITY MOVIE NIGHT @ THE CATHAY

RDA CHARITY MOVIE NIGHT was a roaring success! Two movie halls with a total of 728 seats were fully sold out!

The event, which was held on 9 March 2017 at The Cathay, saw hundreds of RDA supporters and donors came to watch the exclusive movie screening of the highly anticipated movie: **KONG – SKULL ISLAND**, an action adventure story centred on King Kong's origin.

A big **THANK YOU** to all our donors for the overwhelming support. The event raised \$68,000.





THE RDA TIMES

WELCOME TO RDA

Our horses & ponies play a huge role in providing our unique horse-riding therapy to RDA's disabled beneficiaries – let's welcome our new "therapists" to the RDA family:



Cactus Jack

Meet Cactus Jack!

Cactus Jack is a retired thoroughbred race horse. Although a "retiree", he's actually the youngest of the herd, his birthday is on 03/10/2011.

A gentle giant, he the tallest in the barn at 16.5 hh.



Jimmy

Meet Jimmy! An RDA therapy pony in training, he arrived at RDA Singapore in March 2017 with his two friends Morgan and Tony.

He's got a fancy long official name: Murraydale Park Jimmy Joe. Jimmy is 12.2 hh and was previously a children's competition pony.



Morgan

Meet Morgan! An RDA therapy pony in training, he arrived at RDA Singapore in March 2017 with his two friends Jimmy and Tony.

Full name: Glendee Morgan. He is a Welsh Pony, born 17/09/2005 in Australia and is 12.2 hh.



Tony

Meet Tony! An RDA therapy pony in training, he arrived at RDA Singapore in March 2017 with his two friends Jimmy and Morgan.

Officially known as Tony the Pony, he used to live on a farm - this mere 13.3 hh little guy is comfortable with big hulking cows.

WE RIDE ON YOUR SUPPORT!

Yearly, it costs RDA an average of \$1.2 million to run our therapeutic and rehabilitative horse-riding programme, operate our facilities, and maintain our therapy horses. Sponsoring a horse or pony costs \$12,000 per annum. You may be pleased to know that Horse Sponsorship is entitled to 2.5 times tax-deduction!

If you are interested, please contact us at 6250 0176 or mail@rdasingapore.org.sg

GOOD BYE



Charmer

Famous Charmer - Happy Retirement!

After years of service at RDA, Famous Charmer has gone for her well deserved retirement at Cameron Highlands in April 2017.

Special thanks to the Goh Family for sponsoring her retirement.



Lukas

Lukas passed away on 15/02/2017.

In his lifetime, he had touched many hearts, particularly - Malcolm, a 13-year old ASD rider, who started writing letter for the first time when he heard about Lukas' hospitalisation. Read more about their beautiful friendship:

<http://bit.ly/LukasMalcolm>



THE RDA TIMES

WHAT'S NEW @ RDA



Date: 23rd July 2017 (Sunday)

Time: 10.00am – 3.00pm

Venue: RDA Centre, 5 Jalan Mashhor S299174

Tickets: \$10 (can be used for purchase during event)

Highlights: Pony rides, carnival stalls, "Say hi to RDA horses & ponies" stable tour, fringe activities & market place, handicraft & horseshoe decoration, photo booth, lucky draw & MANY MORE...



In celebration of RDA's 35th Anniversary, RDA has partnered with renowned local artist, Ernest Goh, to produce a special photographic art book. The RDA Ball is also the official launch of this new book; after which, it will be available for sale with all proceeds going into the running of RDA.

Book available for sale at RDA Centre

Price: \$50 100% of the proceeds will go towards RDA



"The Book of Walks" project was initiated by Sandra Delters (RDA Volunteer) and Pleun Brevet. The Book contains 15 walking routes through all areas of Singapore, and will have point by point instructions on how to walk and what to look out for.

Book available for sale at RDA Centre

Price: \$15 100% of the proceeds will go towards RDA

For enquiry, please email: mail@rdasingapore.org.sg

THANK YOU LEE LEE



Surprise farewell lunch by volunteers in honour of Lee Lee.

(From left): New Volunteer Coordinator Chai Hwee and Lee Lee

After five years of service, we sadly bid farewell to our much beloved Volunteer Coordinator, Ms Goh Lee Lee. Lee Lee had been a mummy to all of us at RDA, which comprised of volunteers of all ages and all walks of life. We thank you for your years of service and wish you all the best in your future endeavors.

Our new Volunteer Coordinator, Ms Lim Chai Hwee joined RDA on 23/05/2017. Please give her your full support.

If you are interested in volunteering in the RDA therapy sessions, the RDA barn, or helping out at our fund-raising events, please contact our Volunteer Coordinator at: volunteer@rdasingapore.org.sg



THE RDA TIMES

RDA THERAPEUTIC RIDING PROGRAMME

RDA Singapore is the only charity in Singapore that provides Equine-Assisted Therapy free-of-charge to disabled adults and children. The range of disabilities that can benefit from equine-assisted therapy include:

Physical disabilities such as Cerebral Palsy, Muscular Dystrophy, Visual & Hearing Impairment, CVA (Stroke), Cognitive & Intellectual disabilities such as Down's Syndrome and Autism Spectrum Disorder.

Horses provide a tool for physical therapy and cognitive improvement in a unique format that is fun and exhilarating. There is also a centuries-old belief that horses have the power to change a person's perspective on life. Besides the physical benefits derived from equine-assisted therapy, the contact with the animal is a powerful experience, and the strong bond that can be formed often has a profound and uplifting effect.

During the reporting period from 1 April 2016 to 31 March 2017, a total of 480 persons with various disabilities were assisted under RDA Singapore's Therapeutic Riding Programme, exceeding the NCSS target of 380 by 27%!

	NCSS Target	FY2016/2017
No. of clients served in the reporting period	380	480
No. of sessions conducted in the reporting period	800	801
% of clients achieved basic improvement in psycho-social functioning	93%	97.7%
% of clients achieved advance improvement in psycho-social functioning	82%	84%
% of clients achieved basic improvement in physical motor functioning	95%	96%
% of clients achieved advance improvement in physical motor functioning	82%	84%
% of parents/caregivers who have found the programme useful	90%	95%
% of teachers/therapists who have found the programme useful	90%	97%

SPONSOR RDA THERAPY RIDES

Every year, more than 20 batches of riders from various SPED and VWOs ride with us. Each term consists of 10 weekly therapy sessions for each batch of 12 riders, and RDA runs sessions six days a week.

We provide this therapy absolutely Free-of-Charge to these SPED and VWOs riders. RDA does not receive any direct funding from any government ministry – so we need your help to keep providing this therapy to the disabled community!

Sponsoring a batch of 12 riders cost \$12,000. You may be pleased to know that Riders Sponsorship is entitled to 2.5 times tax-deduction! If you are interested, please contact us at 6250 0176 or mail@rdasingapore.org.sg

