



# PEGASUS

# HoofPrint

Riding for the Disabled of ACT(Inc.)

Term 4 October 2006



*Pegasus President Fred von Reibnitz (far left) with (left to right) Foundation Patron Niki van Buuren, Penni Lewer, Pegasus Patron Michael Milton and Foundation Patron Ray Silburn.*

Here we are in term four already. I can't believe that we are already starting to plan our Christmas party and our annual Volunteer Awards, which will both be held on Sat 9 December. Make sure you complete the Volunteer of the Year nomination form included with this edition. Remember, your votes will determine the winners of this prestigious award!

We are also planning to run a Dressage Day on Sunday 26 November, so make sure you speak with your coach about whether you are ready to participate in this event. Unfortunately we will only have limited places as riders will need to

share the horses throughout the day. If you are interested in volunteering on the day, please let Jo know.

Term three was yet another action packed term, the highlight of which was our Pegasus Games day. Although we had a small turn out this year, all the riders and volunteers had an absolute ball. Check out the report and photos inside on page 2.

Also in this edition is an update on the progress of Pegasus rider Rob Oakley in his quest to get to the 2008 Paralympics; a look at the recent launch of the Pegasus Foundation; a farewell to one of our much loved horses - Clancy, and a report on the recent strategic planning workshop.

As we know, this summer is set to be a scorcher. We are preparing for a bad season and in addition to our fire season preparations, we are about to fill the hay shed to see us through the summer season. We anticipate a rise in feed costs and expect that we will need to pay around \$15 per bale. A full shed will total around \$15,000, so as you do your Christmas shopping this year, why not consider making a tax deductible donation to Pegasus to help us with the cost of feeding your/your child's horse.

*Becky Layton, Executive Officer*

## Dates for your diary

- **Term 4:** Mon 16 Oct - Sat 9 Dec
- **Melbourne Cup Hat Parade:** during normal lesson times in the week of 6 - 11 Nov
- **Pegasus Dessage Day:** Sun 26 Nov
- **Volunteer's Lunch:** Tues 28 Nov at 12 pm
- **Pegasus Christmas Party and Volunteer Awards:** Sat 9 Dec at 6pm
- **Pegasus Working Bee:** Sun 10 Dec

## Inside this issue

Editorial	1
Pegasus Events	2
Coaches Corner	4
Herd Happenings	4
Volunteer Update	5
Committee News	5
Thanks to our Supporters	6
Volunteer of the Year Nomination Form	6



## Be Prepared!

We have already had a total fire ban day in Canberra this year - a sure warning that it is going to be another bad fire season. In addition to a number of fire safety improvements to our facilities, we have also revised our Emergency Plan, to ensure that we have in place policies and procedures to minimise the risk of injury in the case of a fire or other emergency on the property. A full copy of the Emergency Plan is available at Pegasus, but all riders, teachers and volunteers should be aware of the following important information

- you have a responsibility to ensure that we have **up to date contact information** for you and the person you have nominated as your emergency contact.
- on days of total fire ban, all people on the property (including riders, parents, teachers and visitors) will be required to **sign in and out**, so we have a record of attendance in case of a need to evacuate.
- on total fire ban days, riders who have mobility limitations **MUST** have their **transport remain at Pegasus** whilst they are here, to ensure that they have a means to be evacuated. This includes riders who come with a school group and riders who come with their parents/carer.
- our **emergency assembly point** is the outdoor sand arena, which is adjacent to the car park. Coaches will assemble people here prior to **evacuation**. Should evacuation be necessary, people will be evacuated to the oval at the Higgins Primary School in Fullager Crescent.

Needless to say, we hope that we will never have to put the emergency plan into action!



140,000litre water tank being poured

## Pegasus Events

### Games Day a success

A handful of riders and their faithful volunteers made the effort to return their entry forms and be a part of this year's games day - and wasn't it worth the effort! They had a ball as they mounted their trusty steed and participated in a morning of fun and frivolity. To be totally truthful, I'm not sure who won the events, but that was certainly not the point of the day, with everyone participating with great fervour and excitement. I only wish that someone had managed to get a picture of one of our volunteers, Sheila, as she stumbled over the finish line in the egg and spoon race. Thank goodness they were only wooden eggs!

All riders received a cop (donated by Foundation Patron - Ray Silburn) and a certificate of participation.

Thanks to all the wonderful volunteers who made a special effort to be available on the day, to the riders and their parents for coming along and to our fantastic coaches for making the event a success.

### Fabulous fact....

Did you know that it costs around \$200 per month to keep one of our Pegasus ponies? They need feeding, shoeing, veterinary attention, rugs to keep them warm in winter and a saddle and bridle that are specially fitted for them.

If you are interested in helping to meet these costs for your pony, you can make a tax deductible donation by:

- sending a cheque to Pegasus, or
- making a secure credit card donation online at <http://www.ourcommunity.com.au/pegasusrda>.

### Pegasus Foundation takes flight

The Pegasus Foundation was officially launched at an event at Pegasus late in August. About 60 supporters came to the event, including many local politicians, to learn about the Foundation and its aims.



Spot the politicians amongst the crowd at the launch of the Pegasus Foundation

Pegasus Patron, Michael Milton, did a great job MC'ing the event and the newly appointed Patrons of the Foundation, Ray Silburn and Niki van Burren, also spoke on the day.

Guests enjoyed a sumptuous morning tea and many stayed on afterwards to watch a lesson from the viewing gallery and make a bid on one of Niki's wonderful photos in the silent auction that was held on the day.

The Foundation has been established to help secure a sound financial future for Pegasus. We are currently very heavily dependant on government grants to meet the costs of operating our service. The Foundation aims to attract donations that will be invested wisely by the newly appointed Foundation Board. Money earned from the investments will then be used to assist with the costs of service delivery. Donors may choose to nominate how they would like their funds used, or they may prefer to make an unfettered donation.

Policies that will govern investment and use of Foundation funds are currently being developed by the Board.

Since the launch of the Foundation we have already received many generous donations. If you are interested in making a one-off or more regular donation, or perhaps would like to consider including Pegasus in your will, please feel free to contact our Executive Officer, Becky Layton, for more information - ph (02) 6254 9190 or alternatively you can visit the donations page on our website - [www.pegasusact.com.au](http://www.pegasusact.com.au) .



*Pegasus Founder, Bid Williams (left) proudly holding one of Pegasus Foundation Patron Niki van Buuren's (right) photos that she won at the Launch*

## Rob Oakley continues his campaign towards the 2008 Paralympics

Pegasus rider, Rob Oakley, has recently returned from a second successful international competition - this time in Belgium - and has done Pegasus proud with his efforts.

Along with six other Australian riders, Rob competed at the CPDI\*\*\*\* event in Moorseele in Belgium. The team achieved some outstanding results with all seven riders now having met the benchmark for qualification for the 2008 Paralympics. With Australia allocated a maximum of five spots at the games, the pressure is now on all of these riders to continue to perform well.

Rob was very pleased with his 8th position in the freestyle to music, which he contested on borrowed horse, Irdina. Having only had a matter of days to train and get to know his horse he was delighted with the result.

He is now heading to Melbourne where he will be Pegasus's only representative at the RDAA National Championships to be held at Werribee. We wish him well at the Championships and are looking forward to meeting the new horse that he purchased whilst overseas.



*Pegasus rider, Rob Oakley competing on borrowed horse, Irdina, in Belgium this month*

## Pegasus Working Bee Coming Soon!

Dust off your mower, empty out your trailer and mark Sunday 10 December in your diary, as **we need your help** at the Annual Pegasus Working Bee.

With 100 acres to look after and prepare for the bushfire season, we need help to clear tree lots, mow around buildings and do a general tidy up at Pegasus. Please let our staff know if you will be coming and what equipment you are able to bring.

## Coaches Corner

### They're racing....

In case you hadn't realised the Melbourne Cup is just around the corner. We thought that we'd get in the mood this year with our own hat parade at Pegasus. All volunteers, riders, teachers, parents and of course the staff (and horses???) are invited to design their own remarkable hat to wear on parade during normal lesson times in the week of 6 - 11 November.

Prizes will be on offer, so get designing!



*Mandy modelling her hat for the Melbourne Cup Hat Parade to be held at Pegasus this year*

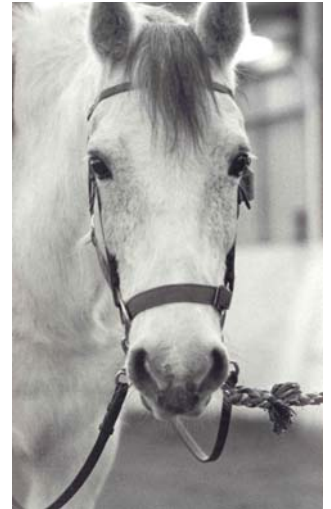


*Spinner is obviously more of a party girl!!!*

## Herd Happenings

### Farewell Clancy

I am sure anyone who has been involved in Pegasus lessons would have met Clancy. He is a 14hh grey Conemarra pony who we have been lucky enough to have had on a long term loan from his owner (and breeder) Sue Moore and her family. Clancy has worked in a huge variety of lessons at Pegasus - from independent riders learning to canter to carefully carrying riders with high support needs around the arena



surrounded by helpers. Clancy has gone home to retire with his family who live in the Tinderry Mountain area. The Moore's also have Kiltie (another ex Pegasus pony) retired at their property too. She and Clancy have not seen each other for a while, so I am sure they will have a lot to catch up on!

Clancy has been an incredibly useful pony at Pegasus and has given great pleasure to many riders. Thankyou Clancy, and happy retirement. We will miss you!

### Horses hooves to be well looked after

We are delighted to announce that the shiny new shoes that you may have noticed on the Pegasus horses are donated by Michael King of JC Milton and Company. Michael's company provides shoes to the Pegasus farrier - Harvey Excell and on a recent visit to Canberra Harvey arranged for Michael to come and see Pegasus in action. Of course, once he learned more about what we do (and how tight our budget is!), Michael very generously offered to donate all the shoes for our horses. We are obviously very grateful to Michael for his fantastic support.

### Did you know...

That horses hooves grow just like our fingernails and they need trimming every 6 - 8 weeks? Many of the Pegasus horses also wear shoes to reduce the stress on their hooves and legs - just like when you wear a pair of joggers when you are running or exercising.

## Volunteer Update

### Monthly training proves to be a success

Pegasus provides all our volunteers with both induction and ongoing training for the roles that they undertake at Pegasus.

In a recent review of our training practices, we began to offer monthly induction training for new volunteers and this more regular training program seems to be a success. People enquiring about volunteering can now sign up straight away for a training session and we can be confident that all new volunteers entering classes have received the basic training that they need to assist our riders in a safe and effective manner.

The more regular induction training also means that the groups are relatively small so participants get plenty of attention and time to ask questions.

These sessions are also open to existing volunteers, so if you are not confident of your skills in any area, you can always join in one of these sessions and do some brushing up!

### Volunteer program to get a much needed boost

The recent strategic planning workshop that was held to help set our course for the coming years reinforced the important role that volunteers play in the operation of our service and highlighted the need for us to boost the resources that we invest in our volunteers.

The staff have also recently done a review of our volunteer management systems and compared them to the recently released Volunteer Standards for Not-for-Profit Organisations. We were delighted to discover that our systems and policies stack up pretty well against these national benchmarks, but there are still some areas that could be improved upon. So keep your eyes open over the coming months as we continue to build on our volunteering program.

### Can you join us for an end of year Volunteer's Lunch?

Several of our groups of volunteers have planned an end of year celebratory lunch to be held at the Ainslie Football Club on Tues 28 November at 12 pm. If you are interested in coming along, either with your class group or individually, please feel free to join us - the more the merrier! No RSVP necessary, just meet us in the bistro on the 28th.

## Committee News

### Strategic planning workshop helps to set directions

The last edition of HoofPrint outlined the process that the Management Committee had decided to take to revise our strategic plan. Part of this process was to hold a half day workshop where a cross section of stakeholders in the organisation could come together and brainstorm the future that we would like to build for Pegasus.

Henny Oldenhove facilitated the session and did a great job drawing out the participant's visions for the future. A full report is available from Pegasus, but some of the key issues that both the consultations to date and the workshop have highlighted are:

- a need to better manage the flow of participants at Pegasus, both addressing the lengthy waiting list and developing pathways for existing riders to further their riding experience.
- a need to broaden the range and quality of programs available to participants.
- a need to enhance the recruitment, training, retention and management of volunteers.
- strategies to manage the "business", staff roles, responsibilities and workloads.
- strategies to more effectively manage the horses and the property.
- strategies to manage our financial viability
- strategies to build our community profile and partnerships
- ensuring that the organisation is effectively governed.

The next step in the process is to develop a draft plan that will be broadly circulated for comment. We are particularly keen to get comment from a range of people, including riders, parents, schools and volunteers, so if you have an interest in the future of Pegasus, make sure you get hold of a copy of the draft plan once it's available and give us your feedback. Copies will be available at Pegasus, or give Becky a call in the office and we'll make sure you get a copy.

## Thanks to our Supporters

Thank you to the following supporters for their generosity over the last few months:

- Mark Patterson of Patterson's Rural Contracting
- Jack Laing of Bungendore Vet Surgery
- Ken, Rebecca and Mark at the Canberra Vet Hospital
- Ian Nielson of Ian Neilson and Associates Vet Centre
- Harvey Excell
- the van Buuren family
- Myer's Civic Store
- Barbara Gibbs
- ACTEW AGL
- Penny Durick
- Michael King of JC Milton and Company
- Di Jenkins Equine Care
- Disability ACT
- The ACT and Commonwealth Departments of Education
- Manteena
- The volunteer Pegasus Management Committee
- The many, many volunteers who help to keep Pegasus operating!

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## Volunteer of the Year Nomination Form 2006

I would like to nominate the following **AMAZING** Pegasus volunteer for the 2006 Volunteer of the Year Awards. Awards will be presented in three categories - Male, Female and Junior Volunteer of the Year.

**My name is:**

**I would like to nominate** \_\_\_\_\_ **as the Volunteer of the Year.**

Please draw a picture of your nominee or tell us in words why you think they deserve to win!

**Note:** All nomination forms will be put into a hat and one lucky nominator will be drawn out to win a prize!