



Set to go for Melbourne Cup

Welcome to the last edition of HoofPrint for 2006. At this time of the year there is plenty of action at Pegasus so we thought that we'd better send out a last update for the year. This edition is mainly full of reminders of events coming up, but also has a few brief reports on recent activities.

It's also the time of year to thank all our amazing riders for the effort that they have put in this year and the great work they have done to develop their riding skills and their confidence with the horses. Our coaches are currently busy writing end of year reports that will go home with riders in the last week of term. It's great to see the progress that every rider has made.

I'd also like to thank our fantastic volunteers. Pegasus is totally dependant on this amazing team of people – we simply could not operate without the 100 or so volunteers who come to Pegasus each week to help riders in lessons and assist with other organisational tasks, like banking, fundraising, farm work etc. Make sure that you nominate your favourite volunteer in our Volunteer of the Year Awards that will be presented at our Christmas Party. We are also taking nominations for the Horse of the Year and would love to hear who is your favourite and why. Finally, I'd like to wish everyone a wonderful and safe Christmas and we'll look forward to seeing many of you at Pegasus again next year.

*Becky Layton, Executive Officer*

## 2007 Christmas Party set to be HUGE!

Plans are underway for a bigger and better Pegasus Christmas Party this year with a live band booked, Becky's face painting brushes set to come out of the closet, Santa is scheduled to make a visit and of course we will announce the winners of the Volunteer of the Year Awards and the Horse of the Year Award. Put it in your diary - Saturday 9 December at 6pm. We will throw some sausages on the BBQ, but please bring a plate or some drinks to share.



### Dates for your diary

- **Term 4:** Mon 16 Oct - Sat 9 Dec
- **Pegasus Dessage Day:** Sun 26 Nov
- **Volunteer's Lunch:** Tues 28 Nov at 12 pm at the Ainslie Football Club Bistro.
- **Pegasus Christmas Party and Volunteer Awards:** Sat 9 Dec at 6pm
- **Pegasus Working Bee:** Sun 10 Dec

### Inside this issue

Editorial	1
Fire Bans in Force	2
Pegasus Events	2
Coaches Corner	3
Volunteer News	3
Committee News	3
New T-Shirts Available	4



## Fire bans in force

Don't forget our new fire safety measures that are now in place at Pegasus.

- 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/carers.
- 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.
- 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.

## Pegasus Events

### Volunteer and Horse of the Year Awards

Nominations for the Volunteer and Horse of the Year Awards will be closing in a few weeks. Make sure that you grab an entry form from the common room and let us know who your favourites are. We are enjoying the many great pictures that riders are including with their nominations – keep them coming! The Awards will be presented at the Pegasus Christmas Party on Sat 9 December.

### Pegasus gets a make over

If you've visited Pegasus in the last few weeks, hopefully you will have noticed that the place is looking a bit tidier. EDS – an international computer company with a local office in Canberra, approached us about the possibility of a corporate working bee as part of their company's Global Volunteer Day. After drawing up a rather long list of jobs for them to do and showing them around on a site visit, Pegasus was lucky enough to be chosen as their project for 2006.

110 volunteers turned up throughout the day on Sat 28 October. Volunteers transformed the entrance to Pegasus – clearing logs, making picnic seating, re-planting garden beds, installing an irrigation system,

painting the verandah and installing a fantastic fernery in the 'void' next to the gallery in the main arena. Other jobs undertaken on the day included mowing and whipper-snipping, rehanging all of the stable doors, installing two new automatic waterers in some of the outer paddocks and planting 300 trees in our erosion gully and the vineyard treelot. Needless to say we were delighted with the day and the end result!

A working bee such as this lets us undertake huge amounts of work that are just insurmountable with our small number of staff. The Lions Club also pitched in, lending EDS their BBQ's to cook breakfast and lunch for the hungry team of volunteers.

EDS were also delighted with the day and are in the running to win the award for the biggest turn out for their international Global Volunteer Day. We'd also like to thank EDS for their financial contribution to the day. They allocated a \$6,000 budget for the project, so Pegasus did not have to pay for any materials. Oh... and don't forget to check out the make over they did on Cream Puff – she looks simply stunning!

### Family Days

Invitations are soon to go out inviting friends and families into Pegasus during our last week of lessons, to watch our riders in action. Riders who come with their school group always get a kick out of showing off their pony and their riding skills, so please do try to find the time to come and watch your child ride. Our coaches will also be handing out rider reports on the day and would be happy to talk to you about your child's progress and achievements this year. We look forward to seeing you on the day and don't forget to bring your camera and some carrots!

### Pen Pals

Riders should have recently received a note regarding Pen Pals in RDA (Riding for the Disabled Association). The WA state office of RDA has invited centres throughout Australia to submit rider profiles in the hopes of establishing Pen Pals in RDA. In 2009, WA will be hosting the National RDA Dressage Championships and Games Day and they are keen to establish some links between local Perth RDA centres and other centres throughout the country. The aim is to work towards a 'sister centre' concept, perhaps even with riders from an eastern state centre visiting a Perth centre for a few days around the 2009 Championships. This would be a great opportunity to learn more about RDA throughout Australia and about riders in other states. If you are interested in getting involved, make sure you give us a profile of yourself by the end of November, so we can get it to the WA office and find you a pen pal.

## Dressage Competitions set to return

Many of our long time supporters may remember the Dressage Competitions that we used to hold at Pegasus. Janet Schmidt ran these events for us as a fundraiser and each year they would raise between \$4000-\$6000. Unfortunately due to other commitments, Janet is no longer available to run the events, but the good news is that we think we have finally found her successor! Jenny Campbell (from Pine Ridge) has offered to help us get the Dressage Competitions up and running again, so we are now busy planning the first, which is scheduled for early Feb 2007. Needless to say we will need a team of volunteers to make these events a success, so if you are interested in helping out in any way, either in the lead up or on the day, please let us know.

## Good Luck

Some Pegasus riders will be participating this weekend in our 2006 Pegasus Dressage Day. We wish them all well as they ride their tests in front of Bid Williams, who has agreed to be the judge for the day.

## Coaches Corner

### Congratulations to Jo and Sheila

Pegasus recently invited RDAA Assessor Sue Harris to Pegasus to assist us with the development of our volunteer program and to assess volunteer Sheila King as an Assistant Coach and Jo Skimin as an Assessor. We are delighted to announce that both passed with flying colours! This now means that Sheila is qualified to assist our staff and volunteer coaches to run lessons and Jo is now qualified to assess candidates for qualifications. As we plan to focus on training up some new coaches next year, it is great that we will now have a staff member who will be able to train and assess candidates. Thanks to Sheila and Jo for all the work that they put in in the lead up to their assessments.

## Volunteer update

### Volunteer program to get a boost

The new strategic plan that is being developed for Pegasus highlights the importance of our volunteers in our service delivery. The plan recommends a number of measures to re-vitalise our volunteer program and increase the resources that we invest in our volunteers. As the first step in this process Sue Harris from RDAA recently visited to meet with staff and help us revise the training that we provide to volunteers. As a result of the visit, staff are now busy re-developing our induction training and we envisage that this work will also serve as a pilot for a new national volunteer training program. Our thanks go to Sue for her assistance, as well as to our staff who are keen to ensure that our volunteers

receive quality training for the tasks that they undertake whilst at Pegasus.

## Committee News

### Strategic Plan being finalised

At the November meeting of the Pegasus Management Committee some important decisions were made regarding the implementation of our new strategic plan. The new plan is quite ambitious in the goals that it sets for the organisation, which is quite exciting, but at the same time a little scary given our current resources. In recognition of this 'scary' element, the Management Committee have developed and approved an organisational structure and staffing model that we believe will allow us to implement the ambitious plan. While some elements of the new structure are still dependant on us accessing some funding for new positions, we believe that this new model will allow us to grow and develop our services even further. One of the key messages that has come out of the strategic planning process however, is a great desire for Pegasus to maintain its small community organisation feel and not to lose our focus on why we exist and who we are here to help. The plan certainly highlights our community focus as a strength that we want to build upon.

If you are interested in the future of Pegasus, we would love to hear your thoughts on the new plan (which is currently in final draft form). Copies are available at Pegasus, or we would be happy to send you a copy. Comments need to be returned to Pegasus by 30 November so we can make any changes and present the final plan to the December meeting of the Management Committee for approval.

### Department of Education Continues to Support Pegasus

We are absolutely ecstatic to announce that we have been successful again in securing a grant from the Department of Education. This year's grant will allow us to continue to employ one of our staff coaches, continue our contract with Therapy ACT to have a physio work with our coaches and riders for one lesson per week and also to run a Hippotherapy workshop at Pegasus. Hippotherapy literally means therapy on horseback. Therapists can broaden their skills to become RDA qualified hippotherapists, which is our aim in running the workshop. We hope to broaden the interest of local speech, physio and occupational therapists, by offering this course. The long term aim of course is to further improve the quality and range of programs that we offer to riders at Pegasus.

# NEW Kids T-Shirts For Sale



- Available in sizes 6 - 14
- 100% cotton T-shirts with screen printed Pegasus logo
- 50+ sun protection rating

**A bargain at \$15 each**

**Get in quick!  
See staff to purchase your shirt.**

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