



*Coach, Barbara Hinds, assisting Katie to hold the reins correctly at a recent workshop at Pegasus*

Here we are in Term 2 already. But what a term it will be!

Riders need to get busy finding sponsors for our Obstacle-a-thon - a very unique Pegasus fundraising event (more details on page 2). We will also be holding Family Days in the last week of term (3 - 8 July), so keep your eyes peeled for invitations for family and friends to come and watch lessons and join in the fun at Pegasus. Now that all our riders are settled into their classes and have got to know their horses and helpers, our coaches are busy preparing goals for the riders. These will be shared with families at the Family Days. Please make sure you find some time to discuss your/your child's goals and progress with your coach on the day.

This edition of HoofPrint also reports on a recent workshop held at Pegasus by Victorian Level 2 Riding for the Disabled Coach - Sally Francis. Sally's enthusiasm and expertise has rubbed off on all our coaches and volunteers who participated, so look out for the new ideas from our coaches in classes!

Of course we also have our regular Herd Happenings to keep you up to date with what's going

on in the paddocks, and we also have some great news about Pegasus rider, Rob Oakley who was recently selected in the RDAA National Team to compete in England in July and was also announced as a member of the Paralympic Preparation Squad. Rob has the 2008 Paralympics square in his sights and we congratulate him on his selection.

*Becky Layton, Executive Officer*

## Dates for your diary

- **Term 2:** Mon 1 May - Sat 8 July
- **Term 3:** Mon 7 Aug - Sat 30 Sept
- **Term 4:** Mon 16 Oct - Sat 9 Dec
- **Pegasus Obstacle-a-thon (fundraiser):** during normal class times in 22 - 27 May
- **Family Days:** during normal class times in the weeks of 3 - 8 July and 4 - 9 Dec

## Inside this issue

Editorial	1
Pegasus Events	2
Coaches Corner	4
Fundraising Update	4
Herd Happenings	5
Volunteer Update	5
Thanks to our Supporters	6



## Pegasus Events

### Pegasus gears up for Obstacle-a-thon

Riders and schools will now be aware that one of our fundraising activities for this term is an Obstacle-a-thon. Riders will negotiate 20 obstacles during their normal class time in the week of 22 - 27 May. Parents and friends are welcome to come and watch the fun.

All riders should have received information and sponsorship forms so that they can seek sponsors for the event. If you have somehow missed out, please contact Pegasus on 6254 9190 so we can get one to you.

### Fabulous fact....

If each Pegasus rider managed to get just \$50 in sponsorships, that would raise \$5,000 to help pay for new equipment and ponies!



*Volunteer, Sheila, with one of her fantastic creations that will form part of the obstacle-a-thon*

### Victorian Coach inspires Pegasus team

Level 2 Victorian Riding for the Disabled Coach, Sally Francis, recently visited Pegasus to run a training workshop for our coaches. Anyone who has met Sally will remember her boundless enthusiasm, great sense of humour and incredible knowledge of horses and coaching techniques. All of these were certainly infectious at the workshop with participants getting involved and learning in a fun and active way.

The two day workshop began with a practical session about teaching riding skills. Our coaches learnt some fantastic new techniques to help them introduce rising trot. The afternoon session focussed on using special equipment and how to best introduce it to our horses.



*Sally introducing Kashmir to flags*

Saturday's sessions began with a fun lesson on teaching mounted games. Our riders had great fun learning the basic skills required and enjoyed the opportunity to pretend that they were medieval knights lancing objects with their sticks.



*A knight in shining armour (William) on his trusty steed (Clancy)!*

After lunch, Radish - our new pony, got the nod of approval from Sally as he was used in the session on introducing a new horse to RDA programs. Radish was not phased by the 'tunnel of arms', and Sally worked with Deb and Jo (as side walkers) on techniques to improve his relaxation and outline while working.



*Radish and Sally were the centre of attention*

The final session focussed on special equipment for some of our Pegasus riders. Sally provided some excellent suggestions for equipment modifications for them.

All in all it was a fantastic workshop with many of our coaches asking, "when can we get her back - we want to learn more!". Hopefully, if we are able to secure funding again next year from the Department of Education, we will be able to have her back for workshop number two. In the meantime, our riders should keep their eyes open for the 'invisible poles' that Sally left behind, and check with their coach whether their horse learnt to bow!



*Fenella learning to bow*

### **Paralympic Squad set to return to Pegasus on 20 - 21 May**

You may remember that at Easter time last year the Riding for the Disabled Paralympic squad came to Pegasus for a training camp. We were delighted to host the event and show off our facilities and the newly installed gallery.

The 2006 Paralympic squad (including Pegasus rider Rob Oakley) and the National Dressage Team will be returning to Canberra on the weekend of 20 - 21 May for a training camp at the AIS. National Coach, Mary Longden, has arranged a practical session to be conducted at Pegasus on the afternoon of the 20th. This will involve Mary working with an advanced able bodied rider to demonstrate the finer points of techniques to squad members. Observers are welcome from the viewing gallery.

### **Smiley wins second place in mascot race**

Our trusty mascot, Smiley had a special outing in April as an entrant in the Charny Carnival Mascot race. We knew that it was going to be a tough event as it was a short sprint on an out and back course. Smiley took off with lightning speed, reached the half way turn in front, but unfortunately collided with the Safety House at the turn and despite a valiant effort crossed the finishing line second. His efforts were rewarded with a \$150 second prize for Pegasus and some extra carrots in his feed that night. The race rounded out a busy month for our furry mascot. He had also made appearances at the Multicultural Festival and had already put in a big day amongst the crowds at the Charny Carnival before entering the race.



*Smiley gets a special hug from Becky at the Multicultural Festival*

Our thanks go to Gordon Butt and Jamie Layton for their special help with Smiley. Also to the many other volunteers who have helped man the "Smiley Tent" at these community events and Healthpact for providing funding for our new marquee and display stands for the tent.



*Smiley at the Multicultural Festival in February*



*Trying out one of the Smiley Tent activities at the Charny Carnival*

## Coaches Corner

### Dylis back on deck

In our last newsletter we mentioned that volunteer coach Dylis Mc Connell Hunt had been out of action following some surgery. We are delighted to announce that she is now well and truly recovered and will be back at Pegasus this term. We are very glad to have her back!

### Rob Oakley makes Paralympic Squad

Pegasus rider and volunteer, Rob Oakley was recently announced in the Riding for the Disabled Association of Australia's Paralympic Preparation Squad. Rob met the criteria for selection and is now part of an elite squad of riders striving for selection for the 2008 Paralympics.

His campaign is well underway with regular competition both in Canberra and surrounds, but will now also be boosted by a trip to England to compete in the English National Championships at Hartpury in July.

Congratulations Rob and best of luck from everyone at Pegasus.

## Fundraising Update

### Pegasus Foundation on the way

The Pegasus Management Committee is currently reviewing the Pegasus constitution with a view to amending it to include provisions for the formation of a Pegasus Foundation. The Foundation is being established to provide an attractive tax deductible fund for donors. By establishing the Foundation, Pegasus is aiming to develop a secure, long term financial base.

Two local Canberra identities recently agreed to become co-patrons for the Foundation. Ray Silburn is a local Canberra jockey who suffered a neck injury during a race fall 18 months ago. Ray became a quadriplegic as a result of the accident, but by no means lost his enthusiasm for horses. Ray is keen to get involved with Pegasus and help to promote the Foundation and the benefits of riding for people with a disability. Niki van Buuren is the other patron for the Foundation. Niki is a local horse woman who suffered severe burns during the 2003 bushfires, but like Ray is still passionate about horses and riding. Niki began riding at Pegasus several years ago and is now excited at the opportunity to promote what we do in the broader community. Her strong links with local Pony Clubs will also be advantageous to Pegasus and the Foundation.

*Pegasus Foundation Patron Niki van Buuren riding Spinner at the 2005 Dressage Day*



## Entertainment books now available at Pegasus

Pegasus regulars will be familiar with the Entertainment Books that we have sold in previous years. For new-comers, these books contain discount and 2 for 1 vouchers for hundreds of local cafes, restaurants, takeaways, entertainment venues and retail outlets. It also has discounts for interstate and overseas travel, accommodation and hire cars etc.

The books are available at Pegasus for \$50, with \$10 from every book coming directly back to Pegasus. The books are excellent value, as you are able to make back your \$50 purchase price even if you only use a few of the vouchers that are valid through to June 2007.

There is a sample book available for viewing in the Pegasus common room. Please see staff to purchase a book or obtain a copy to show to your friends. Remember - the more books we sell, they more funding for our programs!

## Herd Happenings

### Emma (Emerald Kildare)

Emma is a new Irish sport horse on loan to Pegasus for 3 years while her owner is on a posting overseas. She is 17 years old, and a big 15.3hh. You'll know it's Emma if you see a clover leaf branded on her rump. In her younger years Emma was a hunter and also did a lot of showjumping. In more recent years she has evented and been learning to do some dressage. She is a lovely, soft, gentle and sensible mare who has already worked in some school holiday lessons and this term will have riders on Wed morning, Friday afternoon, and Sat morning.

### Radish

Our last newsletter introduced you to Radish. Whilst Radish has now joined in classes, he still needs to be taken a little carefully so at this stage he will continue to be led by coaches or very well trained leaders only. Radish worked in some classes in the school holidays, and this term will have a regular rider on a Tues afternoon.

### Minnie

Unfortunately this pony did not work out for us (she was too timid and anxious for our type of work). Minnie has now returned to her owners.

## Wizard

Wizard has been here at Pegasus on trial for a number of weeks. He is a 13hh chestnut pony with a flaxen mane and tail and white star. He is 17 years old, been a pony club pony, but is also broken to harness. So far he seems unflappable and we are keen to have him vet checked and then hopefully purchase him.



*Trial pony, Wizard, during the recent School Holiday Program*

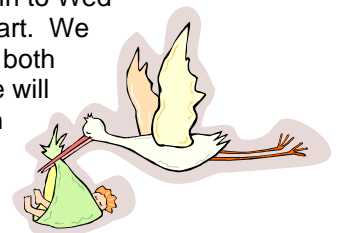
## New fences working well

Our Pegasus ponies are feeling much safer with the recent installation of fire retardant yards in the dam paddock at Pegasus. A grant from Disability ACT to improve fire protection at Pegasus has allowed us to install a new water tank dedicated to fire fighting, new fire exits and emergency lighting in our arenas and fire safe holding yards for horses. Our very sincere thanks go to Disability ACT, Rod Mitton at Manteena and Mark Patterson from Patterson's Rural Contracting, for undertaking this work for us.

## Volunteer Update

### Congratulations Kim!

We are very pleased to announce the news of the safe arrival of a little baby girl to Wed morning volunteer, Kim Stuart. We hear that mum and bub are both doing well and hope that we will see Kim back at Pegasus in the not too distant future.



## 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
- Harvey Excell
- Di Jenkins Equine Care
- Lions Club of Belconnen
- 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!

## Our riders in action....

We thought you might enjoy some more photos of our riders and coaches in action at the recent Sally Francis workshop.

