



**The Federation of Riding for the Disabled International  
La Federation Internationale d'Equitation Therapeutique**

**N e w s**  
**L E T T E R**

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Miss Norma Pearce

# From the Office

Greetings to everyone ...we wish all our members a happy and safe New Year. The year 2003 is an important one for FRDI – our triennial Congress and the International Council Meeting will be held in Budapest in June. We hope to see many of you there – at least a representative sample of our member countries. This is the major opportunity we have to meet together – to learn from each other, and to discuss matters of common interest. The Council Meeting is open to delegates only, but the General Meeting is open to everyone and is a very useful forum for discussion. Be sure you are there to hear the latest developments and to participate in discussions.

Reminder: To All Full Members: All Full Members are reminded that in order to be eligible to vote at the International Council Meeting membership fees for 2003 must be paid prior to the Council Meeting. Notices have been sent out with the last Newsletter and an additional reminder will accompany this edition of the newsletter.

Communication: as has been mentioned previously – **PLEASE** notify the Office if you change your address. When mail is returned (i.e. Newsletter or Journal) – you miss out on the latest information and FRDI pays unnecessary postage. We want to keep in touch with you, but need to know the best way to do that!

Credit Card Payment: An increasing number of our members are choosing the option of payment of their fees by annual deduction from their credit card. Thank you to those who have chosen that option. Again, please notify the Office of any changes to your credit card details – e.g. Expiry date. Incorrect details mean the bank will not accept the payment.

Newsletter items: I am always looking for information for inclusion in our Newsletter. Please send any advertisements or news items about your group's activities to me at the Office – P.O. Box 416 Ascot Vale, Vic. 3032 Australia Fax: 61 3 9376 5944 E-mail: frdi@rda.org.au

**Norma Pearce**  
*Executive Director*

**ONLY A FEW WEEKS TO GO...  
REGISTER NOW to participate in HUNGARY**

**11 – 14 June, 2003**

**11th International Therapeutic Riding Congress**

E-mail: edvi@gyermekmento.hu Website: www.lovasterapia.hu

*Come and meet the many people who practise  
Therapeutic Riding internationally.*

# News from Around the World

**AUSTRALASIA:** In September last year 33 members of Yokohama RDA, Japan had an exciting adventure as they undertook a trip to **Ballina RDA – in New South Wales, Australia.**



The visiting group consisted of 10 young riders accompanied by parents, a grandmother, a blind adult rider and 9 helpers with 2 instructors. Ballina Coach, Kerry Johnston had visited Yokohama in 2001 and suggested the visit. After many months of planning which entailed arranging

suitable accommodation, transport, meals, riding program, extra helpers, sightseeing, shopping activities and itinerary, the dream became a reality.

On arrival at Brisbane airport, September 8, the visitors hired 5 Tarago vans to drive themselves down to Ballina. Accommodation was at The Headlands Resort at Lennox Head. The resort was chosen as the most suitable venue with large units, some specifically designed for people with disabilities, great views of the Pacific Ocean with a spa on the patio of each unit. The Manager and staff of the Headland Resort were very helpful and gracious hosts.



The visitors breakfasted in their units. On some days lunches were provided by the President of Ballina District RDA and her band of helpers. At other times lunches were purchased from local cafes. Dinners were organised by the visitors.

Daily activities included visits to the Mitchell Centre for riding activities and a walk around their new cross country course. Riding sessions included a revision of basic riding skills involving a mounted games competition with 3 different challenges. Each rider completed all the challenges and the time taken was recorded for each rider. After these activities everyone assisted with packing away and the feeding of horses.



A visit to Ballina would not be complete without a trip to the beach...the beautiful sand and the Pacific Ocean. Two beach wheelchairs – owned by the Ballina Shire Council were obtained, and a happy morning was spent playing in the sand and enjoying the surf. An opportunity was also taken to

go to Lismore, a local town where a visit was made to 2 saddlery shops – Saddeworld and Horseland.

Some of the group enjoyed a beach ride at Seven Mile Beach – even though there was some heavy rain.

Riding activities were not restricted to the young people! Parents were given basic riding instruction and all riders competed in a fun jumping contest. Two local journalists and a photographer arrived to record the event.

There were exchanges of Yokohama and Ballina T Shirts, badges and certificates for the Mounted Games Competition for riders, and more Yokohama T shirts given to helpers. There were some beautiful cards and Tshirts from Yokohama to be presented to the Ballina riders and other helpers.

A farewell dinner was held on Thursday evening with much good humour and exchanges of gifts. On Friday morning a large group photo was taken at The Headland Resort before the Yokohama group left to spend the day at Currumbin Bird Sanctuary on their way back to Brisbane airport. This was a most enjoyable visit for all those involved and all take very happy memories of the adventure.

Sayonara to Yokohama RDA.

(Compiled from a report by Kerry Johnston, Ballina – and photos from Yokohama)

Ed. - We encourage other FRDI members to arrange such visits – international co-operation at work.

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**KOREA:** Samsung RDA Seminar – 2002 held November 5-9 was simply a great success!

Sr. Chiara Hatton Hall (FRDI Secretary General) and Elspeth O'Donnell, physiotherapist from the U.K. were the stars of the Seminar. They put their maximum efforts to teach and give the best possible lessons on diagnosis of disability, treatment procedures, mounting, dismounting essentials, organizing riding classes, training leaders and helpers and so many other important factors in RDA.

The sessions took place at RDA Samsung stable in An-Yang located in the south of Seoul. It was a 5 day program composed of introductory lectures on RDA from different perspectives, and practical workshops with young riders with cerebral palsy.

Since the concept of RDA is very new to Korean society, the main purpose of the program this time was to introduce and arouse general interest, especially in the world of rehabilitation. Sr. Chiara and Ms O'Donnell led a lecture and Question and Answer time on RDA for Samsung Medical Center which provides one of the largest and finest medical service in Korea, and that was one of the major fruits we bore through our pro-active approach. We believe that involvement of medical personnel would help us greatly as we hope the Korean national medical insurance program would cover RDA as a regular rehabilitation treatment in the future.

Devoted RDA Samsung staff, volunteers, and other supporters are all grateful for Sr. Chiara and Ms O'Donnell's visitation to the center for they helped us to have a clearer picture for our short term and long term goals. Now RDA Samsung is looking forward to seek even more support and tighter co-operation with FRDI and hopefully RDA Samsung can assist FRDI in various ways in the future.

(Report received from RDA Samsung – Korea)



## New Full Members

We continue to be encouraged by applications for Full Membership. At its recent meeting the FRDI Executive Board was pleased to accept 2 new Full Members.

1. SWITZERLAND – **SV-HPR** (Schweizerische Vereinigung für Heilpädagogisches Reiten). They are based in the German speaking part of Switzerland.  
SV-HPR supports and co-ordinates 300 members who work with horses and disabled people. They organise courses for their continuation.  
They have a school where interested people can become teachers (Reitpädagoge SV-HPR)  
SV-HPR is in charge so that young, not so gifted people can learn going round with horses. They help these people to find a working place and control their school.
2. SOUTH AFRICA – **SARDA** (South African Riding for the Disabled Association)  
SARDA has been an Associate Member of FRDI since 1994 and is well organised nationally in South Africa. FRDI members will have read accounts of visits made by our Secretary General – Sr Chiara Hatton Hall. Sr Chiara has conducted training courses there and we have met various SARDA members at International Congresses.

We welcome our new members and look forward to meeting you – perhaps in Hungary, and certainly to hearing more of your activities.

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## IAHAIO Recognised as a WHO (World Health Organisation) Partner NGO

FRDI has for some years been a member of IAHAIO (International Association of Human-Animal Interaction Organizations). We have just received notification that IAHAIO has entered into official working relations with the World Health Organization and been recognized as a WHO partner NGO. This is good news for the international organization.

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## Pet Night... Apologies

I apologise to those FRDI members whom I omitted to mention in the article in the last edition of the Newsletter – an oversight on my part. Dominique Darques (representing FENTAC – France) and Genevieve Preat (Belgium) were also part of the FRDI contingent and feature in the photograph. My apologies to them and anyone else I may have inadvertently overlooked. Thanks again to all those who participated and took the opportunity to promote FRDI.

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## 2006 & 2009 International Congresses

Countries interested in hosting either of the coming Congresses please contact the Office to indicate an Expression of Interest. Any formal proposals should be forwarded to the Office so that we can advise members prior to the Council Meeting and give adequate time for delegates to consider all proposals.

Contact: Norma Pearce at FRDI Office, P.O. Box 416, Ascot Vale, Vic. 3032 Australia Tel: 61 3 9376 5355 Fax: 61 3 9376 5944  
E-mail: frdi@rda.org.au

## ANNOUNCEMENT:

### THE AMERICAN HIPPO THERAPY ASSOCIATION Is proud to announce the formation of the AHA INTERNATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

The fund will provide scholarships in 2 distinct categories:

- Individual – designed for the person wishing to gain further education in the field of hippotherapy who is unable to access educational opportunities in or close to their own country .
- Country – for countries without any formal educational opportunities in the field of hippotherapy, the AHA fund will provide an American Hippotherapy Association Course tailored to the needs of the host country.

Details and Application Forms are available from the President of the American Hippotherapy Association – Bonnie Cunningham. E-mail address: BDC1M@aol.com

## STOP PRESS!

### LATEST INFORMATION FROM CONGRESS ORGANISERS:

This message was received from Dr Peter Edvi, Hungarian organising committee - at time of going to press – and should answer some of the queries received regarding presentation of papers.

### XI International Congress, Budapest – June 11-14, 2003

I would like to inform everybody that the list of the arrived presentation can be found on our website [www.lovasterapia.hu](http://www.lovasterapia.hu) from 10th March. From that day you can see the decision of the Academic Committee – whether an abstract is accepted or the Academic Committee asked for more information (in this case the Committee will make a decision later.)

The exact ranging into sessions and the program (who is in which session, and the time of the presentation) will be found on the website presumably from the first part of May. The first version could be seen from the middle of April.

I would like to call everyone's attention to the deadline of sending the application for the video session – 15th March. I ask everyone who wishes to participate in the video session to send their registration and papers in time.

We have been surprised that the information seems to have been slow in reaching many places. Almost every day we get a phone call from people, who have just heard about the Conference in June. Because of this I would like to ask everybody to pass on the date of the Conference and our website details to their colleagues, and acquaintances dealing with therapeutic riding.

We are looking forward to meeting everyone in Budapest from 10th June.

**Peter Edvi**, President

# Coming Events 2003...

## **MARCH:**

15 March, 2003: Meeting: SV-HPR-im Pferdezentrum Bern-General Guisan-Platz –commence 14.00

## **APRIL:**

1 April, 2003: Application Deadline for Western Michigan University's Distance Learning Program in Hippotherapy.

Earn graduate-level credit and learn about hippotherapy from the convenience of your home! Courses are offered via original instructional video and web-based interaction and are supplemented with a two week, hands on lab session held in beautiful Kalamazoo, Michigan, USA

This is a complete hippotherapy education and covers such topics as equine skills, patient treatment, research techniques and business management.

Contact: Tel: 1 616 387 7273

E-mail: [hippotherapy@wmich.edu](mailto:hippotherapy@wmich.edu)

Website: [www.wmich.edu/hhs/ot/hippo/index.html](http://www.wmich.edu/hhs/ot/hippo/index.html)

## **MAY:**

8-9 May, 2003: Symposium :Communication between Horse-Man - organized by Goteborgs Handikappridklubb – Sweden and sanctioned by I.R.T. Subjects included will be: Body Language; Sign Language; Tactile Communication; How the Movement of the Horse Stimulates Sound.

Contact: Charlotte von Arbin,

Prastgardsangen 16, S-41271 Goteborg

Tel: 46 3140 6047

E-mail: [von.arbin.charlotte@telia.com](mailto:von.arbin.charlotte@telia.com)

## **JUNE:**

11-14 June, 2003:

**11th International Therapeutic Riding Congress – Budapest, Hungary**

Theme: *"The Complex Influence of Therapeutic Horse Riding"*

Topics will include: Hippotherapy; Therapeutic Riding and Vaulting; Psychology; Equestrian Sport; Competition and Leisure Activities; Historical Background; International and National Standards.

Contact: Dr Peter Edvi; Csilla Barna

Hungarian Riding for the Disabled Federation,

1066, Budapest Terezt krt 24, Hungary

Tel: 36 1 475 7000

Fax: 36 1 475 7018

E-mail: [edvi@gyermekmento.hu](mailto:edvi@gyermekmento.hu) OR

[barna@gyermekmento.hu](mailto:barna@gyermekmento.hu)

Website: [www.lovasterapia.hu](http://www.lovasterapia.hu)

Check the website for current information. Contact Hungary or the FRDI Office if you require more information or a registration form.

## **JULY – AUGUST:**

30 July-6 August, 2003: International Riding Holiday for Adult Riders at Clwyd Special Riding Centre, Llanfynydd, Wrexham, North Wales, U.K. A holiday for adult riders with a disability from the UK and abroad. It will provide an opportunity for like-minded adults from various countries to meet together in a relaxed atmosphere.

Contact: Please apply to holiday organisers:

Liz Potter, RDASI, BHSI and

Rosamund Gladstone

[info@csrc.btinternet.F9.co.uk](mailto:info@csrc.btinternet.F9.co.uk)

Clwyd Special Riding Centre,

Llanfynydd, Wrexham, UK LL11 5HN

Tel: 44 1352 770446

Fax: 44 1352 771693

Website: [www.csrc.btinternet.co.uk/splash.htm](http://www.csrc.btinternet.co.uk/splash.htm)

## **SEPTEMBER:**

12-14 September, 2003: 3rd Conference on Therapeutic Horse Back Riding -Ciz 2003 at Iodine Spa Ciz, Slovakia, Europe

The Congress is hosted by SHA (Slovak Assoc. of Horseback Riding for the Disabled); the Society to Physiatrics, Balneology & Rehabilitation of Slovak Med. Society-Horseback Riding section; & Pro Homine in Natura Conference Topics: Therapeutic Horseback Riding in the Process of Rehabilitation for Disabled & The Progress in Therapeutic Horseback Riding for Disabled. Conference Languages: Slovak, Czech, English, German – without simultaneous translation. Slovakia is pleased to invite members to participate in this conference – in a beautiful part of the country. Registration prior to May 15, 2003 will ensure the bonus registration fee.

Contact: Conference Secretariat, Rudolf Zak MD,

Natural Iodine Spa JSC 980 43 Slovakia (NIS)

Tel: 421 (0) 47 559 3133/34/35

Priv. Mobile 421 (0) 903 962 920

Fax: 421 (0) 47 559 1121

E-mail: [PJKCIZ@mail.eurotel.sk](mailto:PJKCIZ@mail.eurotel.sk)

Private E-mail: [zak.boris@stonline.sk](mailto:zak.boris@stonline.sk)

## **NOVEMBER:**

17-22 November, 2003: NARHA Conference – U.S.A.

The 2003 North American Riding for the Handicapped Association Conference and Annual Meeting will take place at Sheraton Wild Horse Pass Resort & Spa in Phoenix, Arizona USA.

Many exciting activities are being planned including informative pre-conference workshops in Equine Facilitated Mental Health, Center Administration, Hippotherapy and Therapeutic Riding instruction. An extensive program of educational sessions on Friday and Saturday of the conference week, regional caucuses, forums, annual meetings and other exciting events are also anticipated. The NARHA "Horsefair" with live equestrian demonstrations will be held directly at the host hotel, since the Sheraton has a brand new equestrian center on site. As always, the NARHA awards banquet will be the highlight of the conference. NARHA hopes that this year (like every year) many international guests will join us in the US for this educational opportunity.

Contact NARHA at: [www.narha.org](http://www.narha.org)

## Research Enquiries

From time to time I receive enquiries from people wishing to undertake research into various aspects of therapeutic riding. Such people are keen to know whether there are others pursuing the same area of research. Recently I received an enquiry from Ontario in Canada.

The enquirer, Charity is setting up a therapeutic riding program in Ontario and is having trouble finding the proof they need that riding therapy works. They are starting a therapeutic riding program for children with life-threatening medical conditions to boost both their mental outlook and their physical stamina. Charity asks whether they could be a part of a medical or other research project to prove therapeutic riding is of value to these kinds of children. They are also looking for any existing medical or other research proving that this kind of therapy is valuable in helping children to cope.

Anyone with information which may assist the program in Canada can contact the Office – or Charity directly on : [diamond@lefca.com](mailto:diamond@lefca.com)