

Riding for the Disabled Association of Western
Australia Incorporated - Carine Group

2023 - 2024 Annual Report

... developing
abilities and
enriching lives ...



Overview

We are proud to present our Annual Report to you, our valued contributors, supporters and beneficiaries to and of our program.

This report is unique as we are reporting on an 18-month period spanning 1st July 2023 to 30th December 2024. This was to accommodate a change of financial year from fiscal to calendar. This change will streamline reporting and align fee structures to the school terms calendar we operate within.

Reflecting on the past 18 months, we are filled with profound appreciation for the unwavering support from our dedicated volunteers, generous donors, committed partners, and the wider community. Your collective contributions have empowered us to continue our mission of making a difference in the lives of individuals with disabilities.

Riding for the Disabled Carine is a compassionate and inclusive non-profit organisation, nestled in the heart of the Carine Open Space. For over 45 years, we have been passionately committed to enriching the lives of children and adults living with disability and mental health challenges through our programmed activities.

The social, recreational and capacity building experiences provided support and foster the physical, cognitive and emotional wellbeing of both our riders and volunteers.

This has been a period of change, learning, growth and diversity which every person associated with us should be proud to be apart of. Thank you to each of you for being a part of our community.

WHAT WE DO AT RDA CARINE



Riding

Our riding program operates 6 days a week during school terms, with 160 places in 32 sessions each week - that's 1,824 sessions and 9,120 hours over the 18 months.

With too many medals to list, the 15 vaulters during the 18 months have practiced every fortnight to sharpen their skills - congratulations team.

Vaulting



Camps

With a new 'Advanced Show Camp' trialled we provided more than usual with 14 camps successfully provided to riders of all abilities during the school holidays.

Working with Andersons Neurological and Development there were 26 riders who benefitted from Hippotherapy sessions on Monday and Wednesdays each week

Hippotherapy



Corporate Partnerships

The invaluable support of over 15 different businesses, schools, sponsors and corporate volunteer groups ensures we deliver our program consistently for riders to benefit.

Volunteers are the heart of the service we provide, one way we give back is the provision of upskilling with internal and external facilitators each term.

Training



Events

Aside from riding we celebrated regularly during our Family Fun Day, National Volunteer Week events, Picnic in the Paddock, Telethon Family Fun Days and other events.

New in 2024 - increasing inclusivity by supporting volunteers with a disability or mental health condition to carve a role to their abilities and build their capacity.

Customised Volunteering



Simulator

As the first Racewood Simulator to be used by an RDA centre we were excited to trial sessions and develop session plans for an inaugural 11 riders in 2024.

In October 2023 this conference brought together 49 individuals from equine and therapeutic backgrounds across Australia to further develop their knowledge and skills.

Hippotherapy Conference



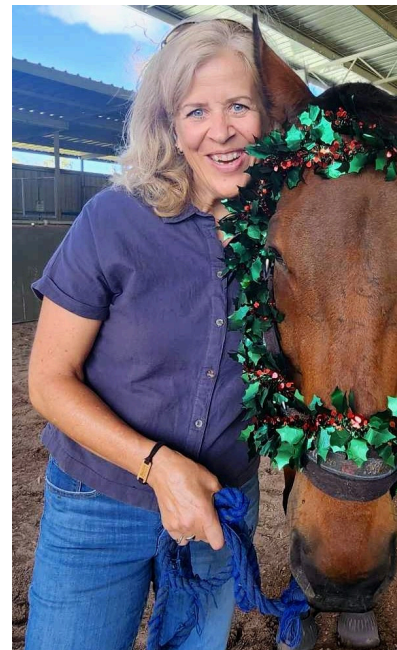
From the President ...

There were a lot of exciting changes that happened at RDA Carine during 2023/2024, here are some highlights:

- Our Racewood Simulator (“Licorice”) has been integrated into our program, with plans to utilise it to a greater capacity in the coming year. Providing a weather proof alternative and supporting people unable or not wanting to ride our horses has added a new dimension to the program.
- The change of Executive Officer in January 2024 meant wishing Di well on her European retirement and welcoming Sian whose knowledge and experience was well utilised throughout the year.
- The coaching team have consistently run our programs over the 18 months with new initiatives such as Advanced Rider Show Camps being well received by riders.
- Providing a safe and enjoyable workplace for our staff and volunteers is important, re-fitting the office, updating our IT equipment and programs, moving to Xero from MYOB and embracing electronic forms has improved our efficiency, with more upgrades to come.
- The Operational Risk sub committee has been busy reviewing operations to keep in line with legislation, RDA Australia guidance and industry best practice. This ensures we provide increased safety from all angles including physical, insurance, mental health, inclusivity, etc.
- Our collaborative networks have strengthened and we have maintained the invaluable support from our major sponsors such as Telethon, City of Stirling, Karrinyup Rotary, Volunteering WA, Healthway, Act/Belong/Commit and incredibly supportive local politicians like Paul Lilburne, MLA and Councillor Karlo Perkov (City of Stirling).

The last 18 months have involved intentional investment into our organisation including the Simulator, fit-outs to accommodate this, acquiring two additions to our herd as well as maintaining our commitment to staff under the SCHADS awards. Although they impact our cash flow result, we believe these investments put us in a strong position.

RDA Australia released their national strategic plan in the first half of 2024 to which we will be aligning our updated plan for the coming 3 years. We are appreciating increased collaborations between various RDA's around WA and across the country. Our Head Coach Sarah's overlapping role as RDAA Assessor also adds great value to the strengthening of these relationships and strategic developments.



Anina Findling

...continued

Our Committee has changed substantially since I joined at the Nov 2023 AGM. I would like to say a special thank you to my predecessor, Ian Stuart, for his many contributions to this organisation over previous years. We also wish to heartily thank Kellie Harris-Doolan, Phil Hedgcock, Jill Tanner, Karla Illingworth, Karla Murphy, Claire Van de Wildecamp, Jody Karran and Russell Lamb for their time and contributions over the previous 18 months and to Jody Karran as Chair of the Operational Risk Sub Committee.

I believe that many non profit organisations are realising that the need for increased governance is requiring significant upskilling and greater demands of our time. We are grateful to have highly qualified new Committee members joining us as well as fantastic nominations recently from individuals adding significant value with accounting, professional secretarial skills, and decades of various leadership roles as well as disability, volunteer and equestrian experience.

On a personal note, I have been able to experience first-hand why so many volunteers enjoy spending their time at RDA Carine. Not just with my involvements with the Committee, but also while helping out with Wednesday morning feeds and attending various events like our beautiful and inclusive Picnic in the Paddock last December. Networking with various supporters and stakeholders such as local politicians and attending events like the Telethon breakfast on behalf of our small but mighty organisation is a joy.

When I see the radiant smiles on our riders' faces as they enjoy their sessions with us, it often brings tears to my eyes as I realise that what we provide is incredibly unique and meaningful. We greatly value the contributions of our staff, Committee, countless volunteers and beloved 4-legged team members in adding value to their wellbeing in so many ways.

There have been significant changes and improvements throughout the last 18 months that now position us for much greater efficiencies and successes in the year ahead. As always, I welcome any feedback and all suggestions for improvement as we work together to create a community at RDA Carine where all of us can contribute in so many unique ways while also feeling enriched by our involvement in return.

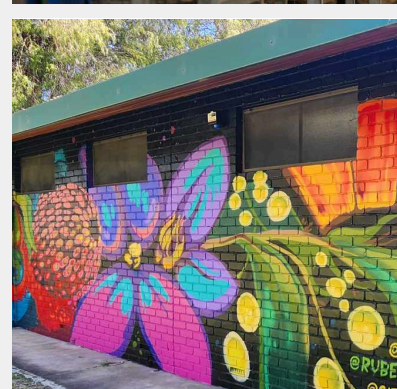
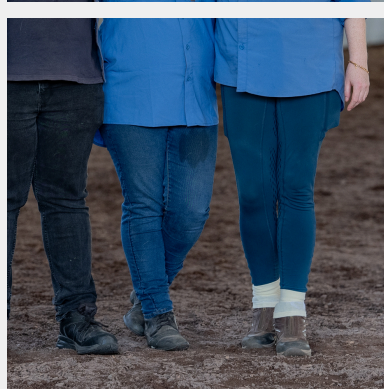
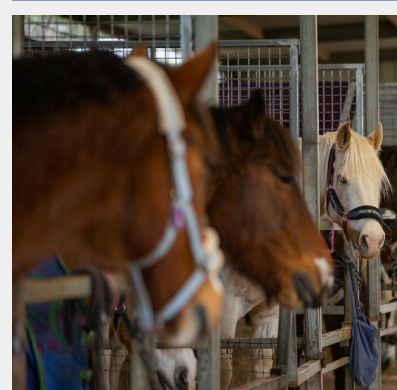
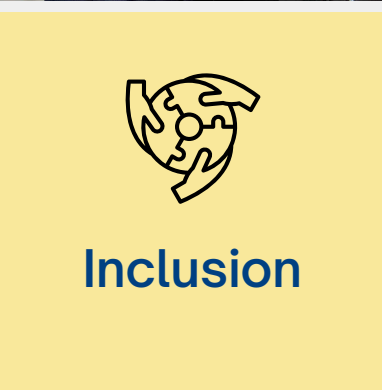
Warm Regards,



Anina Findling

Our Mission and Values

RDA Carine aims to enable people with disabilities to experience enjoyment, challenge and a sense of achievement through participation in equestrian activities to improve their quality of life, attain personal goals and develop life skills.



Program and Activities

Report from Head Coach, Sarah Lamb
and Executive Officer, Sian Layton

The Herd

In the last 18 months we have shifted approach from taking in older experienced horses to younger horses, as such there is increased focus on education amongst the herd and with our staff and volunteers.

We are extremely grateful to Off the Track for the donation of 'Lets Havacrack' (Crackle) who is 9 years old and the opportunity to purchase 'Belafonte Boy' (Red) who is 8years old.

Each RDA horse is assessed against RDA Australia criteria before they enter a program. Detailed training documentation, exercise, enrichment and schooling records and health plans are recorded to ensure quality, safety and the wellbeing of the herd. This excellent care meant Dust and Monty both lived healthily and productively into their 30's before becoming ill.

All herd members are being used in the program apart from Flash who is being rehabilitated for a ligamentous injury to rebuild the muscle tone and strength around his right hind leg. We are very fortunate to have excellent support for our herd's well-being.

The Simulator

Carine is the only RDA centre in Australia to have a Racewood Interactive Simulator, it is used on an almost daily basis. Most recently to perform position and movement analysis on 85% of our riders to benchmark and set goals. Some riders can only access the simulator due to the need for a hoist, their medical or disability requirements, or we do not have the right fit with horse and volunteer supports. The simulators potential is growing for RDA Carine.

Coaching Team

① Level 2, national assessor Coach

① Trainee Level 2 Coach

② Level 1 Coaches

② Level 1 vaulting Coach

⑥ Orientation to Coaching (OTC) Coaches

① Trainee OTC Coach



Herd of Horses

Average age of Herd has been lowered

Acquired Crackle and Red from Off the Track

10 horses and 6 ponies

Focus is on schooling young horses

Peaceful wishes and rest to Monty and Dust

A herd of 16 is a constant challenge in our space



Horses

16

13 owned and
3 leased

Hours of riding

9,120

THANK YOU

Perth Equine Hospital, Horseland Perth, Celia from Virbac (worming) our Farrier Alex and Dentist Martin



RDA Australia (RDAA)

As an RDA affiliated organisation, the guidance and direction of the national body (RDA Australia) assists us to set our standard of service to ensure a safe, fun and quality experience for those who participate as riders, volunteers and staff.

Under the auspice of a new RDAA Executive Officer, Justin Dent, an aspirational strategic plan was devised by the RDAA Board, defining the role and boundaries of RDAA in local center operations. This vision for 2024 - 2027 involves significant improvements, updates and changes including the:

- Review and release of new Safe Work Practices
- Shift to electronic forms for coaches, riders and volunteers
- Access to training via the Australian Sports Commission
- New incident reporting and hazard management platform
- Improved reporting and broker experience for insurances
- Collaborative network with Equestrian AU and Pony Club AU
- Engage national partnerships to further the aims of RDAA and affiliated centres nationally
- Improve the centralised data capture and reporting of centre activities, risks, outcomes and deliverables

Partnerships and Grant Opportunities

It is only with the support of grants and partnerships with other organisations, businesses and government that we are able to deliver an affordable and consistent program year after year. Some of the outcomes achieved in this period were:

- Purchase, building works and installation of the riding simulator
- Upgrade of some saddles, tack, helmets and other consumables
- Review and re-design of the volunteer onboarding and learning and development process, systems and documents
- Completion of the buildings mural (on page 7)
- Update to signage around the centre to attract volunteers
- Continued provision of free Police Checks for our volunteers
- Upgrades to office equipment to record and use footage for training
- Awareness and improvement activities for volunteer mental health

Day to day management of a large, community accessible and dynamic organisation needs many hands and eyes. A special thank you to the City of Stirling teams who assist us including but not limited to Parks and Gardens, Security, Facility Maintenance and their subcontractors.



RDA
Centres
Nationally
90+

RDA Carine
Riders
177

Event Highlights

Supporting the work of the organisation requires many hands to attend events, celebrate partnerships, coordinate functions and provide unique opportunities to bring people together in meaningful ways. Highlights from the past 18 months include:

- Hippotherapy Conference - 3rd - 7th October 2023 hosted at our centre, included horse handling and treatment principles delivered by local and international guest presenters. Attended by over 50 delegates and a wonderful opportunity for our coaches to upskill alongside peers with a common interest in improving outcomes for clients.
- Telethon Family Fun Days - aligned with the Telethon Weekend we hosted a pop up in both 2023 and 2024 to raise awareness of the work of RDA, celebrate our ongoing relationship with Telethon and to contribute to the festivities of the weekend.
- Games Day - wrapping up 2024 with some fun competition for our riders in mounted and unmounted events with many taking multiple medallions home.
- National Volunteer Week and Thank a Volunteer Day - cupcakes, certificates, a picnic, open house, morning tea and gifts of appreciation all to share our gratitude for our amazingly diverse and capable volunteer team.
- RDA Australia AGM and Conferences - attended by both Sarah and Sian to network, present and learn from others while building a collaborative appreciation of how we are united in our challenges

Final Words

As the operational Leaders of the organisation we would like to thank every single person from within and external to the centre who has collaborated, supported, challenged and inspired us. We are only as strong as our team. The challenges, laughter, solutions and sharing of ideas reinforces our commitment daily to the provision of quality and capacity building supports so riders can achieve their goals. Thank you.

S. Bryant *SS Lamb*



Triangle of Success



07

Volunteer
Hours

19,906

Volunteer
Contribution

\$975,624



The Value of Volunteers

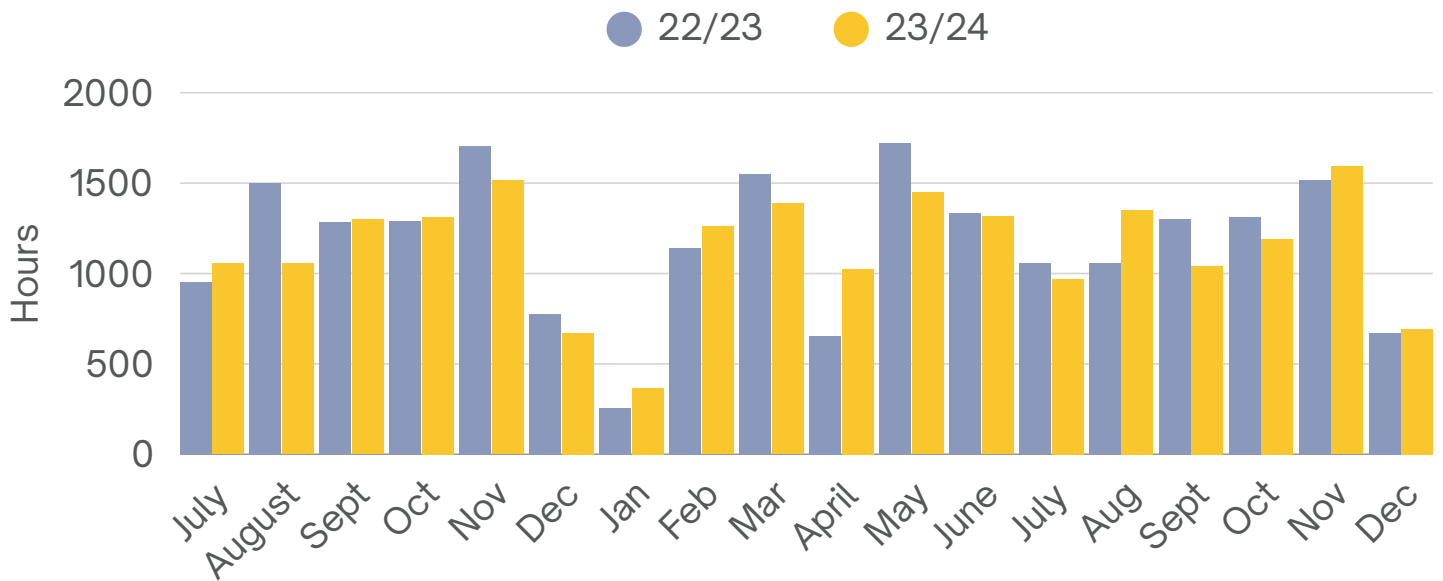


Figure 1. Program and Maintenance Volunteer hours comparison for 18 months

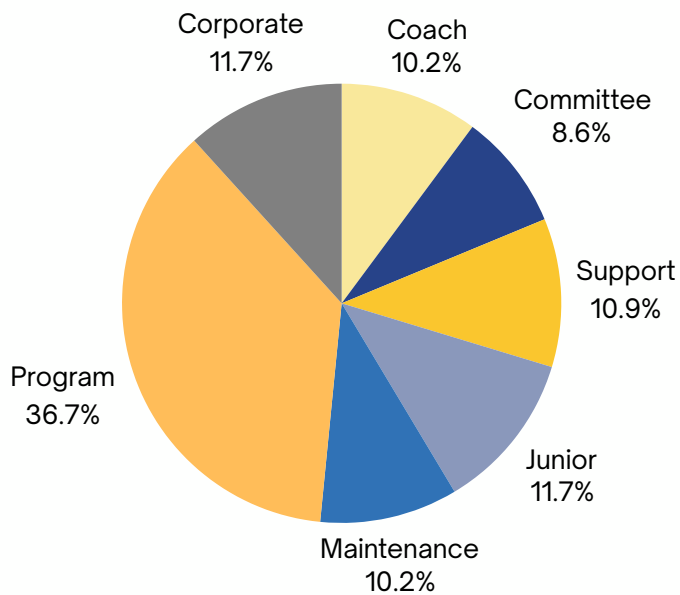
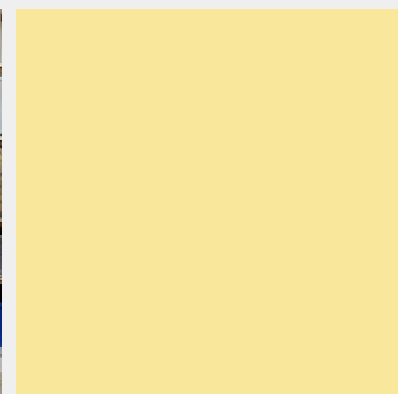


Figure 2. Volunteer numbers by role in 23/24

For over 45 years RDA Carine has been a volunteer based organisation, currently with 3.6 FTE of staff in coaching and 7 operational roles the importance of our volunteer team continued to shine through 2023/2024. Over the past 18 months \$975,624 of volunteer 'labour' has been provided by over 110 individuals in program and maintenance roles. There were 38 new people who joined the RDA Community and we welcomed several Corporate Volunteer groups whose smiles say it all in the pictures below.



Generous Supporters



We couldn't do it without you - whether you are a grant provider, sponsor, donor, supporter, collector of cans and purchaser of manure you are all a part of the RDA Carine Community. The pride we have in the service we deliver for the WA Community is your pride too.

Over the past 18 months there have been so many wonderful people, groups and businesses that have supported us - both with financial support and in kind donations, discounts, products and services.

Despite Covid, cost of living pressures, interest rates and the pace of life revolves around us it is heartening to see community values and corporate citizenship is thriving. We are a small, but mighty team at RDA Carine, with your ongoing support and new opportunities planned for the coming year we look forward to seeing what we can achieve together.

- \$3,605 donations
- \$3,018 group donors
- \$415 manure sales
- \$4,400 sponsorship
- \$402 merchandise
- \$3,127 cash for cans

**AMAZING
OUTCOMES
TOGETHER**

**\$14,967 HAS BEEN
RAISED FROM YOUR
DONATIONS AND
FUNDRAISING**

THANK YOU!!



Proud Sponsor



Big Rock Toyota



Paul Lilburne MLA
Member for Carine



From the Treasurer . . .

Introduction

I am pleased to present the financial report for the period 1 July 2023 – 31 December 2024. This 18-month report is compared to the previous 12-month period from 1 July 2022 – 30 June 2023.

Change in Financial Year-End

During this financial year, the committee decided to change the financial year-end from 1 July – 30 June to 1 January – 31 December for the following reasons:

- Budgeting simplification - rider fees remain consistent for the entire year.
- Grant acquittal alignment - more accurately reflects the organisation's actual spending over a calendar year.
- RDA Australia - better alignment with the annual rider registration fee and process.

Financial Position & Investments

RDA Carine remains in a strong financial position. This year, we have made significant capital investments to strengthen our balance sheet and provide top-class facilities for our riders, staff, and volunteers. Although these investments resulted in a cash deficit, this is not a concern, as our cash balance at 31 December 2024 was \$437,494.76.

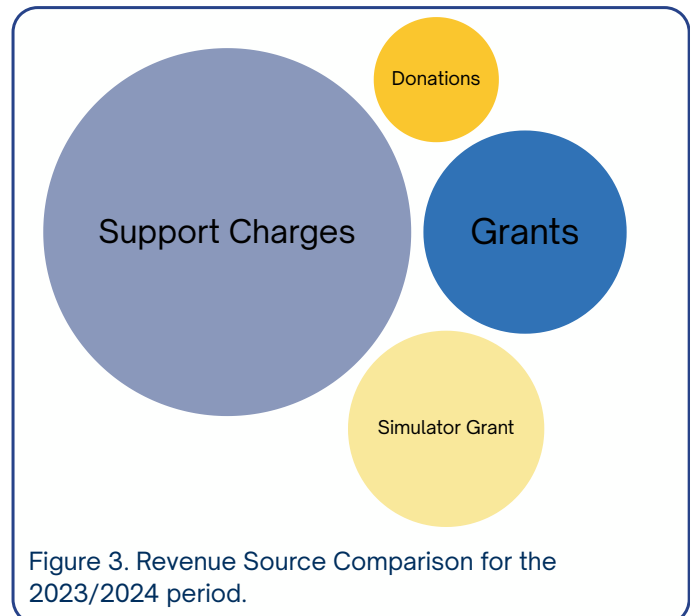
Our ability to make these improvements was largely due to generous grants from Telethon, Healthway, Act Belong Commit, Volunteering WA and City of Stirling along with sponsors and community donations. Of special mention is a sizable once off donation of \$22,724 from the wind up of the Association for Advancement of Brain Injured Children.

Major Capital Expenditures

During the reporting period, a new opportunity has been invested in, we received:

- \$104,567 from Telethon for the purchase of a horse simulator, Liquorice
- \$24,482 from Telethon for the room fit-out for Liquorice

The total investment of \$185,060 has been capitalised and allocated to the balance sheet, with depreciation planned over multiple years. During the year 11 new riders as well as many of our existing riders benefited from sessions on Liquorice, we are very excited about the potential revenue opportunities this program will bring in 2025 and the ability to diversify our income streams while adding value to our program of supports.



JD Conradie

...continued

Thanks to the ongoing support of our many contributors large and small, RDA Carine achieved a modest profit of \$11,566, despite absorbing the costs associated with including annual leave and Time Off In Lieu (TOIL) entitlements. The committee has reported these provisions to accurately reflect the organisation's financial position, given the large TOIL and annual leave liabilities paid out during this period.

Other Key Capital Investments

Asset (Balance Sheet items)

- Security Camera System - \$8,114
- Fencing - \$13,817
- Office fit out and IT upgrade - \$18,701

Looking Ahead to 2025

We anticipate a small profit of \$8,112 in the next financial year, with income primarily from:

- Total Rider Support Charge (\$413,161)
- Program grant from Telethon (\$100,000)
- Support from State and Local government for a fencing upgrade (\$29,988)
- Total projected income = \$560,645

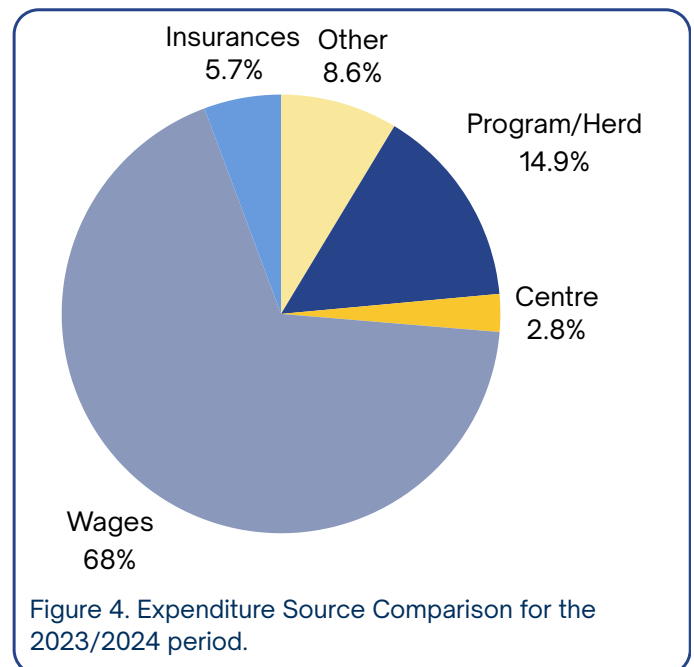
Our major expenses will include wages and program expenses such as veterinary services and feed.

Planned Investments for 2025

- Purchase of two horses – Some of our current herd are approaching retirement.
- Accounting system transition from MYOB to Xero – This switch provides more useful reports for financial tracking on a monthly basis.
- Implementation of a CRM program - to better capture, manage and report on rider, volunteer and herd information.

We look forward to the benefits of our recent capital improvements, as well as the new financial year structure and software transition.

JD Conradie



Thank You

Our Vision - To be acknowledged in West Australia as a leader in equine – assisted therapeutic, educational, recreational and sporting activities that expand the horizons of those with disabilities leading to the enrichment of their lives.



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www.rdacarine.org.au