

# Riding for the Disabled Volunteer of the Year

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COOTAMUNDRA Riding for the Disabled Association (RDA) volunteer Trish Taylor has won the state-wide Pearl Batchelor Volunteer of the Year Award.

Trish became involved with RDA when a doctor suggested horse riding may be good for her daughter's balance.

At the time Trish's daughter, Tamara, was two and a half years old.

Tamara, now 11 years old, suffers from Cerebral Palsy.

Trish has been a tireless volunteer for the past nine years.

She puts her hand up, whatever the occasion, just recently clocking up more than 30 hours volunteering to man the canteen at the Cootamundra dog show, the profits of which went to support RDA.

Trish can often be seen on the main street selling raffle tickets or helping out with market stalls.

She also acts as secretary when RDA Cootamundra Secretary Olwen Smith is away.

Olwen nominated Trish and said that she was not surprised when Trish won.

"I think she really deserved it, she has been keeping this place afloat for years," Olwen said.

Trish was presented with the award at the recent RDA annual general meeting in Box Hill.

She was declared the winner out of 38 centres across the state.

Trish has now been entered into the 2008 National Disability Awards.

She said RDA has been a great experience, not only for Tamara, but also for herself.

"I have met so many different people, it is a good social outing for me every Monday," Trish said.

She said through RDA Tamara's balance and confidence has improved incredibly, to the point where she can

operate a horse and cart on her own.

Tamara won the 2008 Rider of the Year award for the region, a terrific testament to progress she has made over the years.

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VERY PROUD: pictured is Cootamundra Riding for the Disabled Volunteer Trish Taylor (standing) with her Pearl Batchelor Volunteer of the Year Award and daughter Tamara Taylor with her regional Rider of the Year certificate.

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