

Media Release

11th September 2017

-FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE-

Cootamundra Riding for Disabled- Plaque Presentation.

Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council's administrator Mr Stephen Sykes, today presented a plaque to the Cootamundra Riding for Disabled (NSW) organisation in recognition of their \$27,451 grant from the Stronger Communities Fund.

The grant has enabled the local branch of RDA (NSW), to install concrete in their saddling yards at the centre in Pinkerton Road. A concrete pathway was also included in the project, which allows for safer access to the yards, storage area shed and grooming areas.

The refurbishment project has provided wheel chair access that assists with mobility independence for the Centre's students. Made the area a cleaner and safer place for volunteers and students and will also double as a space to conduct lessons in wet weather.

The new area will now also open opportunities for the Cootamundra RDA to add to their programs for students. The Groom My Horse session allows for the warmth of the horse to be felt and may result in an increased awareness of the students own grooming needs. Horse care, saddlery care and learning about the anatomy of animal provides an extra sensory activity to the curriculum of services. These courses can now be undertaken in the all-weather facility, allowing access for wheel chairs and mobility aids.

Cootamundra RDA (NSW) Centre Secretary Olwen Smith said "our volunteers can now hose out the saddling area at end of each session keeping it clean. The new slab eliminates the need to cancel sessions during inclement weather, its added so many new dimensions to our facility."

CGRC administrator Stephen Sykes said the Stronger Communities Fund grants have enabled organisations such as Cootamundra's RDA to undertake many worthwhile projects.

"This refurbishment has so many benefits for those who use this facility, it's great that the Stronger Communities Fund has been able to assist with this project," Stephen said.

Photo and caption:

CGRC administrator Stephen Sykes, is pictured with Cootamundra RDA (NSW) representatives, (left to right) Buddy, Cootamundra Branch President Trish Taylor, RDA stalwart Doreen O'Connor, and Olwen Smith Director RDA (NSW) Olwen Smith after inspecting the completed refurbishment project.



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