



Annual Report 2017



PHHWV is a non-profit volunteer organisation committed to providing hope for Victorian equines through education, rehabilitation & advocacy

www.phhvw.org.au

President's Report

I remember this time last year helping Kathryn and Chase bring in PHHWV Peggy with near-numb toes to her stall in the icy venue where last year's AGM was held. And discussing with Kathryn our lack of a President-Elect. So (sometimes I think I'm mad for doing this) I said that if no one else was going to put their hand up, I would - in a temporary capacity ... Needless to say, 12 months later, I am still here!

And WOW, what a year it has been! With a record number of horses (around 80 at one stage) in Short Term Care, the AMAZING Committee has been working overtime on top of our normal lives, jobs and families, to ensure that as many of the horses and ponies were set up for the best future possible.

We, the committee, have learned how we can improve things; have held a strategic planning day which gives us great hope for the future; seen committee members come and go; and - albeit from a computer screen - seen some of the most scared and terrified horses turn into beautiful, relaxed creatures; seen cracked overgrown hooves be shaped into solid, healthy hooves - and it is exactly this that makes it all worth it. We have taken part in the start of the reform process for the rewriting of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act ... That's very exciting!

Huge, heartfelt thanks go out to all of our Short Term Carers for the immense and sometimes heartbreaking effort that has gone into the rehabilitation of the horses. I remember the day my partner and I picked up PHHWV Hercules with his 0.5 Body Condition Score and his lung infection, wondering if we would be able to pull him through, with 2 hourly checks day and night for colic as we started weaning him and his companions PHHWV Miss Mary, PHHWV Sir Fuzzy Bear (blame my 8 year old daughter for that name, though she will vehemently deny it !) and PHHWV Romeo onto food. They all pulled through! PHHWV Miss Mary is now under saddle in a loving forever home! However, PHHWV Romeo sadly later broke his leg.

A huge, heartfelt thank you to the Representatives who visit for the horse reports, our supporters, our volunteers, but most of all I would like to extend my personal thanks to the committee that has kept things moving!

I am very proud to have been a part of this wonderful organisation, and I will continue to for as long as I can but for the moment I need a chance to recharge my batteries - so it is with great pleasure I will hand over the reins to the very capable Minda ...

Cheers

Katie Wettstein



Vice-President's Report

Communication - are you on that phone again?

We are constantly communicating in so many ways both old (by talking) and new (Facebook) because that is how we find out about horses and ponies that need our help. The number of horse reports has been constantly increasing each year and this year has been no exception. I like to think that it is not just that people are becoming more senseless or cruel, but rather we have more ways of easily communicating with each other and that many more people now know of Project Hope and can get in touch with us very quickly and easily. Therefore, we can help to improve the lives of more equines than ever before.



Emails continue to flow steadily requiring sorting and directing to the various committee member or members that can best help with the enquiry. Our 1300 number is often busy with enquiries through the day but will rarely ring after 10.00pm, however Facebook messages are not uncommon through the night 24/7 – 356 per year! We now have 4,000 people following our Facebook page an amazingly useful tool, we continue to advertise and update our horse stories with more members than ever sending through wonderful photos of PHHVW horses that they have in their care. Please keep sending the photos and updates as we really do “like” the pictures sharing the good work that we are all undertaking on behalf of the horses!!

Keep up the conversation, the horses really need us to “spread the word” about horse welfare by whatever means you may choose.

Angela Smith

Secretary's Report

I didn't reckon on Bonnie

Project Hope currently has 443 members. The number of new memberships for the period March 2016 - February 2017 was 67, compared with 65 the previous year. I am one of those 67 new members who came on board last year ... which came about over coffee, when I met up with Lil, an old Melbourne Uni. colleague. We share a love of horses and it was she who told me about Project Hope.

I went home and googled the Project Hope website, signed up as a member, and then noticed the 'Can you Help' tab. Having had a long career in administration, it seemed like a great opportunity to get involved. This was on a Tuesday; by Friday the same week I was the new Project Hope Secretary! It proved to be a very steep learning curve. Admin is a breeze until it goes



hand in hand with horse husbandry – of which I knew not a thing. For the first three months I didn't even see a Project Hope horse until our Past President, Sue Kirkegard took pity on me and drove me around the countryside on a meet & greet.

As 2016 was coming to a close, the girth of the then Membership Secretary, Courtney, was rapidly expanding and I was asked if I could also take on memberships and Reckon, an accounting program. "Of course", said I. And took it on I did, but at 64 years of age the old grey matter is not what it was and the Secretary's role together with memberships almost 'did my 'ead in'.

Sadly, something had to go.

Reckon has proved somewhat of a challenge. Particularly mail merging – a very handy tool in the right hands. Unfortunately, mine were not the right hands and I ended up sending sales receipts to everyone rather than membership renewal reminders. Oh lordy.

Fortunately, our Treasurer Mark took over the reins - to use the horsey vernacular - and not too much damage was done.

Whilst battling with Reckon, Sue K. once again arranged for me to meet Project Hope members - this time in Romsey. After a lovely lunch, we set off to a property in Newham, where I met Toni Harris, and horses Missy, Sihr and Project Hope Horse Bonnie (the Beautiful).

And from here on my life changed. It was love at first sight. Bonnie had served her time in Short Term Care with Toni and was ready for a long term home. It was obvious she was very

at home with Toni's horses and a sudden madness came over me. Could my life-long dream be about to be fulfilled? Could I be Bonnie's Long Term Carer if she stayed with Toni? And this is exactly what happened. I am Bonnie's sponsor and proud Mum, whilst Toni does the hard work (!) But the story does not end there. So enamoured was I with Bonnie, I sold my house in Melbourne and moved to Woodend to be closer to her so I can spend more time gazing at her beauty whilst making pathetic efforts to train her and picking up her poo. Dear Bonnie (and Toni) are very patient and humour me. Bonnie is quite happy to see me so long as I have a pocketful of apples. Toni – well, Toni is just quite happy to see me – I think!

So, as you see, I sure didn't reckon on Bonnie! Reckon is still very much a mystery to me but, like horse training, I am learning.

Patricia Hartshorn

Treasurer's Report for the financial year 1st March 2016 to 28th February 2017

Attached you will find the formal Financial Tax Review conducted by the accounting firm Krammers Accountants. This Profit & Loss statement and Balance Sheet outline in detail the financial position of the association.

I have also attached a comparison between the 2016 / 2017 financial year and the previous 2015 / 2016 financial year.

In summary:

- Total Income was \$81,830.97.
 - o An increase of \$26,665 on the previous financial year.
- Total expenditure was \$72,409.93.
 - o A decrease of \$3,487.68 on the financial year.
- Administrative expenses were \$17,227.74
 - o A decrease of \$15,332.03 on the previous financial year.
- Horse expenses were \$55,182.19.
 - o An increase of \$11,844.15 on the previous financial year.
- Total profit was \$9,421.04.
 - o A turnaround of \$30,216.03 on the previous financial year.

Project Hope continues to maintain a strong financial position. As always, this is 100% due to the generosity of our members who provide short term and long term care for our horses utilising their own resources at no cost to the association.

The challenge, from a financial viewpoint, for the coming years is the training and development of the horses taken in from the RSPCA Warak seizure. These horses have challenging needs that in many cases need professional training to bring them to the point where they can be placed into long term care. The cost of this professional training may adversely impact on our cash reserves in the coming years.

Mark Dean - Treasurer

Home sweet Homefinder

All of us on Committee have an additional role called a 'Homefinder' which was, until recently for me, something of a mystery. New to our Committee, and not a horse owner (yet), how could I possibly find someone to adopt one of our horses waiting for a home? I didn't have the connections with fellow horse owners so it seemed impossible.

When horses are surrendered to Project Hope, they are initially taken into Short Term Care, where one of our wonderful Project Hope members looks after them until they find their Long Term home. We Homefinders are the bridge between the Short Term Carer, who can report on the horse's immediate needs and its progress, and whoever out there may be looking to adopt one of our horses. We liaise with the Short Term Carer, prising pretty pictures from them so we can show the horses off in an advantageous light (ideally) on our website, in our newsletters, and on facebook.

Putting the 'home' into the Homefinder role, I recently realised it could also be called a Matchmaking service (we could rename 'Horses for Lease' as 'RSVPH') when - after a sneaky process of persuasion - I managed to pair up a 10yo well trained riding horse with a dear friend who lives nearby with multiple animals in her care, including two horses who she loves dearly but cannot ride ... Now she has three horses, who are all getting on very well, and I am so looking forward to joining her on a ride around our home in the bush - once I get my Cupid act together, for my own match made in heaven (or thereabouts).

Julia Murray

Horseless Committee member

Newsletter producer



PROJECT HOPE STRATEGIC PLANNING DAY

Our highly anticipated Strategy day was held on Saturday 27 May 2017 with the committee and key personnel attending to plan the future path for Project Hope. Our generous, brave and talented facilitators Tamsin and James motivated and inspired the group through a SWOT to identify our Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats, and by lunchtime the room was full of great ideas to start planning our future strategy for sustainable success.

In order to continue our mission of providing education, welfare and advocacy to support our equines in need, Project Hope requires effective communications, creative marketing and fundraising, information technology to support our processes and better access to professional services. How could we possibly achieve this with a volunteer base, you ask? With the advice from our fabulous four strategic professionals, Tamsin, James, Sue and Julia, the group consensus is to restructure the committee, allowing for more resources and recruitment of specialist skills to oversee our mission and further develop our role as a leader in the equine welfare community.

Our upcoming AGM will be a great opportunity for you to be part of the future in Project Hope, so please consider joining our new committee to help out.

A big thank you to Susan Smith for organising our strategy day with Tamsin, James and Julia. And thanks to our Treasurer Mark Dean for providing the endless array of sandwiches and cookies to keep us all going.

Minda Blake

Strategic Planning workshop facilitators James and Tamsin, with their tokens of our appreciation, and organisers and Project Hope members Susan Smith, left and Julia Edwards, seated



