

PROJECT HOPE

HORSE  
WELFARE VICTORIA

# SPRING NEWSLETTER 2021

Project Hope Horse Welfare Victoria Inc (PHHWV) is a non-profit organisation committed to providing hope for Victorian equines through education, rehabilitation and advocacy





# president's report

As the bulbs and blossoms bloom, we welcome the longer days and warmer weather. Once again, the past three months have proved to be busy for PHHWV despite the ongoing restrictions and lockdowns regarding COVID.

On 25 June 2021, the 48th Annual General Meeting was held and was the first one to be conducted entirely by Zoom. This proved to be successful, with 30 members attending. Detailed reports from the President, Secretary and Treasurer, together with many stories and photographs of our members and horses over the past year, can be found in the 2021 Annual Report which is now available both on the website and Facebook. I would like to acknowledge Mandy Macartney, who with help from Julia Murray, put together this magnificent report showcasing our organisation.

I would like to welcome our new (or rather returning) Committee Members Mark Dean, Courtney Brockwell and Trish Hartshorn. I would also like to extend my thanks to outgoing Committee Members Julia Murray and Miriam Orwin for their contributions over the past year.

Following the official business, Dr Melanie Quick kindly made herself available to answer a variety of questions posed by members ranging from equine nutrition to laminitis to rugging. We are incredibly grateful to Dr Quick for imparting her wisdom in such an open and engaging manner.

In an effort to increase income following a record loss, a \$5.00 membership fee increase was proposed and a vote conducted at the AGM saw this motion carried. The membership fee is now \$50.00 per year, with renewals falling due in either March or September. Members will receive an email advising that payment is due. There were a few issues with renewing via the website, however this has now been resolved and we thank you for your patience.

In order to continue with our educational activities despite lockdown, we will be hosting Webinars on a quarterly basis. Our first Webinar will be held on Sunday, 4 October 2021 with Trainer Annie Kesterton. Annie has not only generously offered her time, but she has invited members to nominate topics that they would like addressed. We will shortly be releasing a questionnaire for members to provide their input. We have a range of other speakers lined up for future events and again, I welcome any suggestions of topics or speakers to address horse welfare issues.

As most of you are aware, due primarily to the hard work of Rhonda Petschel, PHHWV was the successful recipient of a grant from the Victorian Government. Minister for Agriculture, Mary-Anne Thomas, met with Project Hope Horse Welfare Victoria in Smythesdale on 16 August 2021 to announce a \$55,000 Equine Rehabilitation Grant for education and training programs and to rehabilitate horses. Please see page 4 for more details.

Sadly, Equitana has yet again been cancelled this year and organisers have rescheduled the event for November 2022. We still look forward to being involved and in the meantime, will focus our attention on the numerous other activities we have planned.

On behalf of the Committee, I thank you for your continued support of Project Hope.

Kathryn Wren  
*President*

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## Committee

### *President*

Kathryn Wren

### *Vice-President*

Mark Dean

### *Secretary*

Courtney Brockwell

### *Treasurer*

Shirley McPherson

### *Horse Reports Coordinator*

Noelle Vine

### *Horse Database*

### *Coordinator*

Anita Romleigh

### *Newsletter Coordinator*

Tricia Hartshorn

### *Additional Committee*

Toni Harris

Angela Smith

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MELBOURNE 3001

## UPCOMING ONLINE EVENT FREE WEBINAR TO PHHWV MEMBERS

**Date:** Sunday 4 October 2021  
**Time:** 11.00am-12.00pm  
**Speaker:** Annie Kesterton, Horse Trainer

Members are invited to pick topics for Annie to speak about and the following questions are posed as a starting point to stimulate ideas:-

What are the obstacles you face in helping horses?

What little behaviours do you wish to improve?

What are the 'issues' your horse is dealing with?

Is there any personal/self talk/ emotions that get in the way of effectiveness?

We look forward to hearing from you.

Details about Annie can be found at:  
[www.twoviewsequine.com.au](http://www.twoviewsequine.com.au)  
[www.anniekesterton.com.au](http://www.anniekesterton.com.au)

Please register your interest or send topic/speaker suggestions to: [members@phhvv.org.au](mailto:members@phhvv.org.au)

## HAS YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS, PHONE NUMBER OR STREET ADDRESS CHANGED?

Please remember to let us know; it reduces our admin workload and means we all get to spend more time caring for horses in need.

If you have any questions about your membership, please contact Wendy on [members@phhvv.org.au](mailto:members@phhvv.org.au) and she will be happy to help! Here's PH Mimi reminding her human to ensure her contact details are up to date.



## COME SOCIALISE WITH PHHWV

As some of you will be aware, we have a Project Hope Horse Welfare Facebook page, where we announce the latest news to the public.

We also have a private Facebook group for members only. it is called "Project Hope Horse Welfare Members Group".

We have set up this private member page in order for our horse loving members to share and support each other in a safe online environment. PHHWV carers often post updates on horses in our care, plus there are valuable horse health and training insights. Please join the PHHWV members group on Facebook and enjoy the company of fellow equine loving members.

## quiz corner



Unscramble the letters in the sentence below to find the name of a famous historical person. Send the answer to me via email ([trish@phhvv.org.au](mailto:trish@phhvv.org.au)) together with the name of this famous person's horse. First correct entry will win a \$50 gift voucher, kindly donated by a member.

Noted well of the UK gin

**CAN YOU REMEMBER** in 2019 we wrote  
“somewhere near you”?

Which outlined a plan to visit regions; a grassroots approach to raise our profile, expand our membership and support horses in need around the state. We had a number of areas on the list with local heroes ready to make this happen...

**WELL,** as volunteers we can only do so much in any one year **BUT** we have not forgotten this vision...

THEN along comes:

## “HOPE HORSE WELFARE PROJECT”

On the 16th August our President and members from Smythesdale and Ballarat went to the Woody Yaloak equestrian centre for a very special presentation. The Minister for Agriculture The Hon Mary – Anne Thomas MP and Member for Buninyong Ms Michaela Settle MP announced our success in the Animal Welfare Grants program- equine rehabilitation. We will receive the sum of \$55,500. Only \$49,000 received to current date

To honour this grant we will be:

- Visiting Yarragon and Warrigal in the Shire of Baw Baw and Smythesdale in the Golden Plains Shire to raise the profile of Project Hope by providing;
- An Open Day and educational session;
- A Horse Representatives training day;
- A training day for horses who have experienced trauma;
- Providing rehabilitation to 12 horses through out the year; and
- **Developing 3 educational articles to be presented to communities and shared on our website:**
  - Recognising a horse in trouble
  - The overweight horse
  - Basic Safety around horses

We have received a lot of media interest with airplay on regional TV and newspapers in both areas reporting on our success. There was a great flurry of excitement when members across the state saw Kathryn our President on the news.... Although the biggest star of all was PH Daisy- how cute is she! Thanks to Long term Carer Claire Kent for presenting PH Daisy to the Minister.

This grant is giving great opportunity for us to advance our purposes by expanding our reach and empowering local communities to address horse welfare. The success of our application and the events once again show the calibre of our members as we pull together to make this happen.



*PHHWV member Clare Kent, PHHWV Daisy with Minister for Agriculture Mary-Anne Thomas*

Any member who would like to be involved please contact project manager Rhonda Petschel on : [rhonda@phhvv.org.au](mailto:rhonda@phhvv.org.au)

This support will enhance the activities of our volunteer members over the next 12 months. PHHWV will be visiting Smythesdale and the Shire of Baw Baw, working on supporting horse owners with scientific based education and expanding our network to provide support for horses in need. Stay tuned!

Rhonda Petschel,  
Grassroots Co-ordinator



# fundraising update

## Raising funds for Project Hope has never been easier!

### Ritchies Community Benefit Card

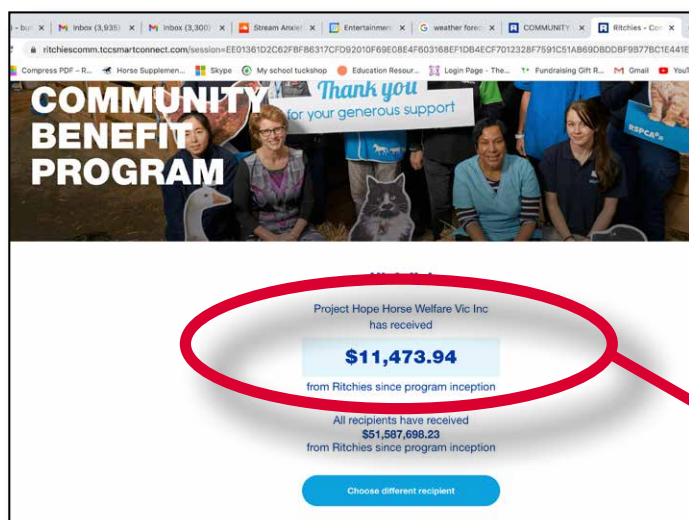
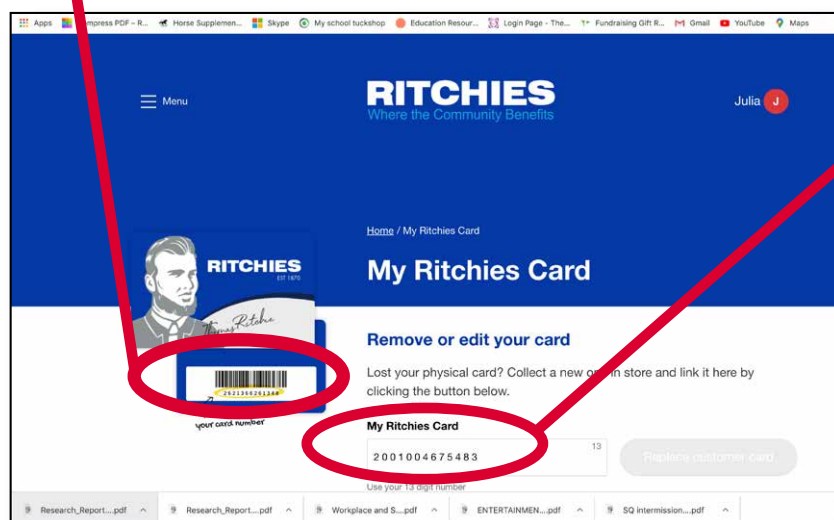
With 50 stores across the state of Victoria, RITCHIE'S IGA stores have been quietly donating funds to Project Hope. So far, more than \$11,000 has been raised.

You can help us grow this contribution simply by shopping in a Ritchies IGA from time to time at a store near you.

**Get your community benefit card by asking for one in-store or simply download the app on your smartphone.**

To ensure your shopping points count you'll need to register your card online following these easy steps:

- 1) Go to Ritchies IGA website <https://www.ritchies.com.au/#/signup>
- 2) Register your card number to your email address
- 3) You can select the community tab in your account and select your nominated charity.



**RITCHIES**  
Where the Community Benefits

You can proudly know that every point your earn will go on to earn much-needed funds to help support the work of Project Hope Horse Welfare Victoria.

<https://loyalty.ritchies.com.au/#/news/T:41ID:3RES:->

# newsletter coordinator

Three years ago I fractured my sacrum falling off a horse. Nine months prior I fractured my wrist falling off a horse! At a medical check up I was detailing all my falls to an incredulous doctor who looked at me with amazement (or was it pity) and asked the obvious question about my riding skills (or lack thereof). I reassured him that it was not the case that every time I rode a horse I fell off, though he could be forgiven for thinking so!

It has taken me 60 years to realise that despite boasting to whoever cared to listen about my prowess on a horse, I actually didn't have any riding skills. What I did have was confidence by the bucket load, fearlessness (or foolishness) and very good balance, for in those days I mostly rode bareback. My lack of riding skills was finally brought home to me when I decided to take proper riding lessons at the age of 64. I knew I was in trouble as soon as the instructor mentioned the diagonal. It got really embarrassing when she spoke of the two-beat gait. What!

In my warm up I'd been trotting around with great confidence but now I was reduced to a bouncing, bumbling beginner.



Fortunately Rumpole (the horse) was very long suffering and was not too perturbed by all this confusion happening on his back. No doubt he had a good laugh with his paddock mates later.

Following the rather serious back injury, I totally lost my nerve and it took me ages to summon the resolve to get back on a horse. But I did.

Now I know you're all thinking what a courageous person I am to conquer my fear but I must be honest – Project Hope Mimi (who had only recently gone under saddle) doesn't move during these sessions. We both enjoy the experience 'rester immobile'!

Anyway, I'm Tricia the PH Newsletter compiler and I hope this monologue encourages other to share their embarrassing horsey stories in upcoming editions.

Trish Hartshorn  
Newsletter Coordinator

# PHHWV horse reports

Compiled by our *Horse Reports Coordinator*, Noelle Vine

## MORWELL

An on going case with multiple ponies and a T/Bred on a small property where the stallions and mares are running together. We are working with the RSPCA on this long running case where just recently the RSPCA ordered that the elderly T/Bred mare be put down. The owner is being closely monitored.

## MERTON

We had a call from a man asking for help to catch a horse on his property that is almost completely wild, to have her feet trimmed. After a number of phone calls to various people and vets, I think we finally have this sorted. See next page for her story.

## INGLEWOOD

A call from the carer of a woman who is in hospital regarding surrendering the horses that she is no longer able to care for. The horses have been in a yard for a considerable time with feed and water but little handling. We have a home ready for these 2 horses and they will be moved asap.

## CLYDE

We had a call from a woman who has had a Standardbred mare left on her property with no contact from the owner for many months. The horse owner would not respond to phone calls so we advised the property owner to take out a lien on the horse which has now been surrendered to Project Hope and is settling into her new short term care home where a leg injury will be treated and she can learn to trust people again.

## BALLIANG

A report from someone who bought a young horse from a breeder, and was disgusted with the state of the horses up for sale. They were thin and had lice. The RSPCA was involved and a letter from the vet stated that the horses were improving in condition. RSPCA monitoring.

## KILMORE CASE 1

A report from a member who saw a pony with a chain attached to its halter out grazing by the road. A visit the next day showed the pony inside the property happily grazing around the house. Regular drive-by's have not seen the pony out by the road again

## KILMORE CASE 2

A report about an elderly horse with several others that were unrugged in horrible weather on a property beside the Kilmore cemetery. A visit decided there was no cause for concern as the horses were all in quite good condition, the paddock was clean and there were a few trees for shelter.

## KYNETON

A Project Hope member raised concerns about two horses near his property. These have now been surrendered to PH and are in STC with Toni Harris for rehabilitation.

PROJECT HOPE  
The logo features the word 'HORSE' in large, bold, purple capital letters. A teal circle is superimposed over the letter 'O', containing a white silhouette of a horse's head facing right. Below 'HORSE' is the word 'WELFARE' in teal, and below that is 'VICTORIA' in teal.  
 WELFARE VICTORIA



# PHHWV horse reports

JULY - SEPT 2021

## MERTON - UPDATE

Some time ago, we received a report from a new member about a horse on his cousin's property in Merton which he visited at weekends and holidays.

On one visit he noticed a horse had been placed on the property. He knew nothing about horses but quite liked having her there. He started feeding her and noticed her hooves were really long and in bad condition. He couldn't catch or touch the horse and was concerned she might stumble and break a leg. Attempts were made to see if anyone could help but to no avail.

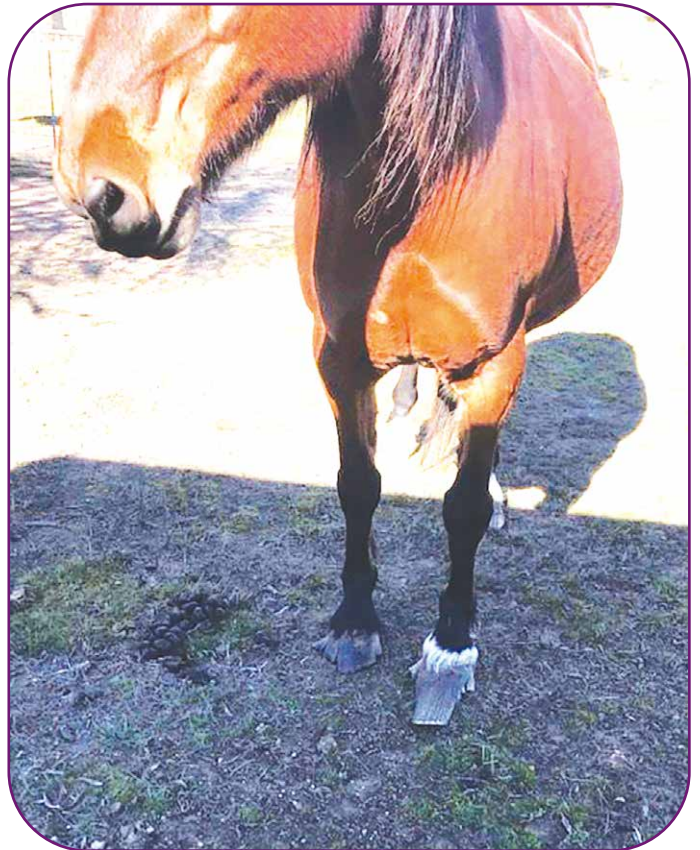


Fortunately, Vets for Compassion came to the rescue. They are a team of skilled vet darters and vet nurses that are often called upon (at all hours of the day) to tranquillise, assess and treat native animals who may be injured or displaced.

Adam from Wangaratta Vets went out to Merton.

He tranquillised the unhandled mare and attended to her feet – she is a big girl and it took four darts! Whilst on the ground she was assessed by Adam and pronounced to be in very good health.

The owner cares about her but is not in permanent residence at the property and has allowed her to become semi-wild. Whilst this is not an ideal situation for the mare, apart from her feet, she was otherwise in good condition. Well done all concerned.



Compiled by our Horse Reports Coordinator, Noelle Vine





*PHHWV Redmond , fourth from left, with his new herd*

## PHHWV REDMOND

Redmond came to me about a month ago. He is a gentle giant and joined my group of four horses.

At the beginning he was definitely bottom of the pecking order. My T/B mare is the matriarch and he respects that... A month later and he has risen to third, out of four, in the pecking order and his confidence and personality is evolving every day.

I am developing an Equine Assisted Learning business, EAL is an innovative form of experiential learning where clients develop new insights and learn new skills via relational experiences with horses.

Redmond having had a traumatic background will be a good teacher in this sphere. Horse and Client work together and are partners in the experience and learn to grow and trust together.

Redmond is a kind soul and still finding himself. I look forward helping him to do this. I cannot commend Project Hope enough for the work they tirelessly do.

Annie Hamer  
Long Term Carer





# PHHWV horses updates

## PHHWV ABELLA (known as Sally)

Sally is such a sweet mare and quite the affectionate one now. Not so much when we first got her. She would hang back half way down the paddock and watch Wicker get the carrots and cuddles. Now she comes to me when I call her and she is sniffing my pockets when we have carrots. She suffered a bad leg injury around Christmas 2019/2020 (the vet thought it was from the fence) and it took months to heal. It became clear during this period that she is more relaxed with females than males. She reacted strongly to male vets! It was a very stressful time for her and us as we weren't sure she would recover. But she is a fighter and a sweetie and she is still my favourite girl (but we don't tell Wicker).

It is great to be a member of a wonderful organisation like PHHWV you do fabulous work.

Sharon Henderson  
*Long Term Carer*



## PHHWV LULU & PHHWV CAVIAR

PH Lulu and PH Caviar arrived at their new home today. They had to think about what the green stuff on the ground was but it didn't take them long to start munching.

They both decided to approach me on their own accord, so that's a good start. Time to just let them chill out and me too.

Geoff Cheah  
*Long Term Carer*





# PHHWV horses updates

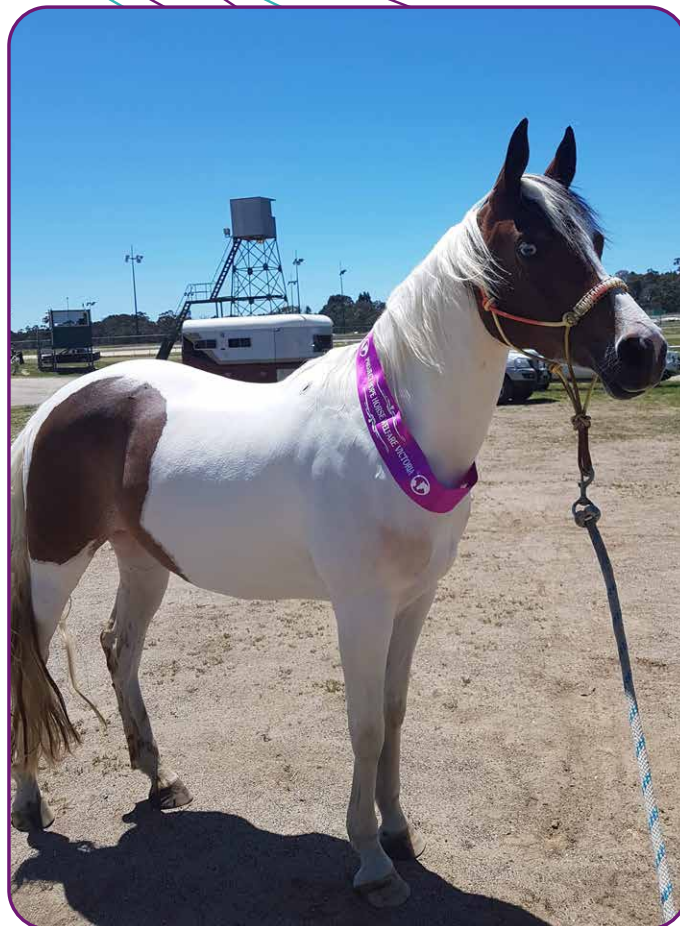
## PHHWV SAFFI

PH Saf (aka Saffi, Sapphire or the one blue eyed princess) is an absolute little girl magnet! She's such a Barbie dream pony that if there is ever a little girl on the property here in Lysterfield, they're completely transfixed by her.

Just yesterday I was riding her in the arena and there they were, her fan club, hanging on the arena rails the whole time and 'stalked' us back to the stables.

She was wearing her pink boots, which undoubtedly helps the appeal factor. She is also the main obsession of the little niece of one of the agistees. She's like a pop princess and when they see the one blue eye, that's it, they're besotted. She actually does look a bit like a character out of a My Little Pony cartoon – until she chucks a wobbly!!

Mel Archer  
*Long Term Carer*



## AVAILABLE FOR LEASE - PHHWV PARIS II

It's becoming clear that Paris is a bit of a special horse.

Paris recently went into Short Term Care with our member Helen in the Macedon Ranges. Upon arrival it became quite clear that Paris much preferred the company of humans over her fellow equines. As a result Paris has been moved to the closest yard to the house so she can interact with people on a regular basis. Helen's young granddaughter rides her trike along the road near Paris's yard and Paris follows her as she travels up and down the roadway. Paris is very calm around people and dogs and seeks out human company.

Paris is a very attractive 16 YO 15.2HH brown Standardbred mare. It is obvious that Paris was once very loved and has spent a lot of time in human company. Paris has not been trained under saddle and is therefore offered as a companion only but she just may be the perfect companion for someone looking to spend a lot of time with her. Whoever is lucky enough to have Paris will have a true equine companion.

**PHHWV LeRoy***RIP Project Hope LeRoy*

Recently another Project Hope Horse Welfare Victoria horse passed over the rainbow bridge.

LeRoy came into our care with his friend Chrissy through a very disturbing situation. The family had fallen apart through drug use and other issues.

Noelle Vine and I picked LeRoy and Chrissy up and I was surprised LeRoy actually made it to the float he was so emaciated. Chrissy had a severe ulcerated eye which had to be removed. LeRoy needed measured feeding and all the basic goings over – teeth, hooves etc. Both spent about eight months with me in what I describe as intensive care. Both horses had a bit of age but LeRoy was in his mid 30's. LeRoy was Chrissy's eyes and bestie. They had to stay together after being paddock pals for some 15 years.

Then along came Bev Anthony. A beautiful lady who only wanted older horses and was smitten by these two. Sadly Bev passed away but another loving home was found for LeRoy and Chrissy with Carole and Jeremy.

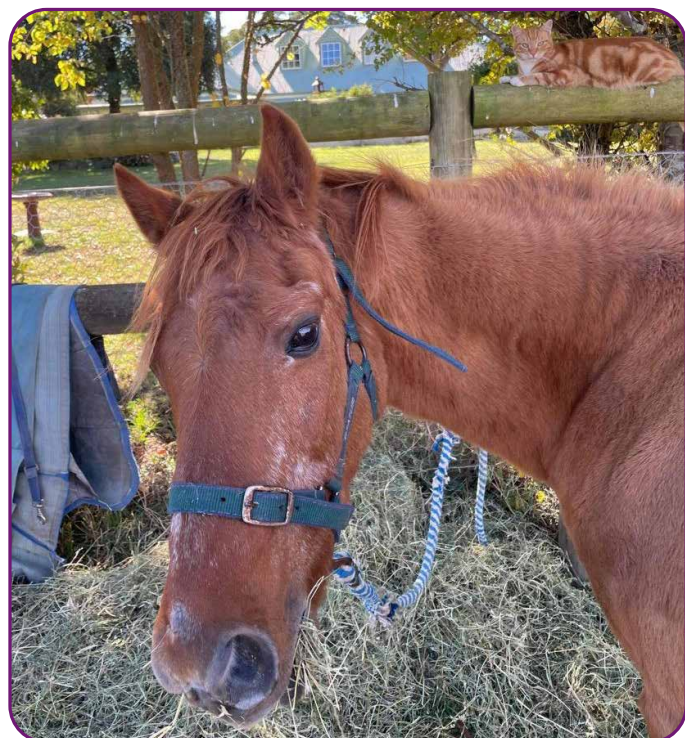
Chrissy passed away after a few years and LeRoy became severely depressed until PH Skye came along and slowly they became buddies. Despite years of neglect Chrissy and LeRoy had three incredible journeys with those that loved them. Carole said 'between us all, we gave LeRoy and Chrissy a great life – they knew what it was to be loved and they gave a lot of love back'.

We believe LeRoy was in his forties when he was PTS (put to sleep) by a kind vet that patted and talked to him through his last breath.

In closing, of all the PHHWV rescues I've had over 17 years, these two were my heart rescue horses. Chrissy and LeRoy are now back together. A sad day for Carole and Jeremy who gave them nothing but kindness. Thank you.

Many have donated in the past and I thank you. All the work we do relies on the generous donations and those than can house and care for these magnificent creatures through their rehab.

Renee Neubauer  
 Long Term Carer





# crib biting

## HORSE HEALTH & EDUCATION INFORMATION FOR MEMBERS

By Vikki Fowler – Veterinary Equine Dental Technician (UK)  
(Republished with kind permission of the author)

Oral stereotypic behaviour is the scientific term for cribbing/windsucking/crib biting\*. There is paleontological evidence suggesting that horses have done this whilst tethered since their domestication 15-30,000 years ago.

'Cribbers' show increased stress sensitivity and decreased behaviour flexibility – basically they struggle to cope with stress and cribbing has been shown to reduce their stress levels, ie, it is a coping mechanism.

Preventing the behaviour (collars, bars, foul tasting pastes etc) without addressing the underlying cause is of great concern. The horse needs to crib and rather than finding ways to prevent it, try to reduce their desire to do so. *References available upon request*



### How can you help your horse?

1. Increase the time the horse spends eating, ensure they always have forage in front of them. Always.
  2. Diets suitable for laminitics or ulcer-prone horses are also suitable for cribbers. This means no cereals and no molasses (this counts out many mixes and cubes unless specified cereal and molasses free).
  3. Alfalfa (lucerne) and unmolassed sugarbeet (e.g., Speedibeet) are very good at neutralising stomach acid and reducing the horses desire to crib after their feed.
  4. Antacid supplementation may be beneficial to prevent ulcers.
  5. Consider selenium or another antioxidant supplementation. But take care as selenium is toxic if given in excess (ideally discuss your horses diet with a nutritionist or your vet).
  6. Avoid all sugary treats as these increase the desire to crib.
  7. Provide social contact, neighbouring horses the horse can see and touch, windows, mirrors will all reduce the horses desire to crib.
  8. Daily turnout. As well as the mental enrichment this provides, the movement decreases the chances of colic significantly. This is true for every horse but particularly cribbers that suffer from gas build up. Tethering and stalling are not suitable for cribbers.
  9. Mental enrichment, toys, boredom breakers, clicker training, ridden work, liberty work – anything to keep the horses mind active and provide reward-based learning.
  10. Give the horses something soft to crib on to prevent excessive tooth wear. For example, old carpet, rubber matting over the door, soft rope. It will need replacing regularly – but a horse's teeth cannot be replaced.
- Cribbers can live a long and healthy life; they are often wonderfully talented ridden horses with the right rider/owner.

The full article is available via Facebook – search for Vikki Fowler – Veterinary Equine Dental Technician

*\*Please note, this article is for interest only and the views expressed do not necessarily represent the views of PHHWV.*

# phhvv merchandise

As we will not be carrying stock on all clothing items, please allow 2 – 3 weeks for delivery. Email your order to [info@phhvv.org.au](mailto:info@phhvv.org.au)



Acrylic Beanies in either Black or Grey  
\$18 each  
Postage & Packing \$9.50



Badge \$10  
each, plus  
P & P \$10

## LADIES FULL ZIP HOODIE

65% Polyester  
for durability and  
35% cotton for  
comfort, 280gm.  
Front kangaroo  
pocket, hood  
& drawcord.  
Double rib  
sleeve cuffs,  
bottom hem with  
elastane. Set-in  
Sleeves.

Sizes 8 – 24  
Black only \$55  
each plus P & P  
\$10



Don't forget our existing Polos with  
grey or purple trim. Sizes 10 – 24  
Unisex fit \$40 each, plus P & P \$10

## NEW Head Skinz



Wind, Sun, Dirt or sport, our new Neck/buff/head band designed for Project Hope has you covered. Buffs are 25cm x 50cm (standard size as Buffs), and made from a premium blend of polyester microfiber (totally seamless, super comfortable and premium blend - 140gsm, 35gm). \$15 each P & P \$3.00 for 1 or 2 or \$9.50 larger qty's







# SUSTAINABLE EQUINE LANDSCAPES

Understand how a thoughtfully designed property that is attractive, functional and sustainable will provide the best life for your horses, via an online course.

## Introduction to Equine Property Design

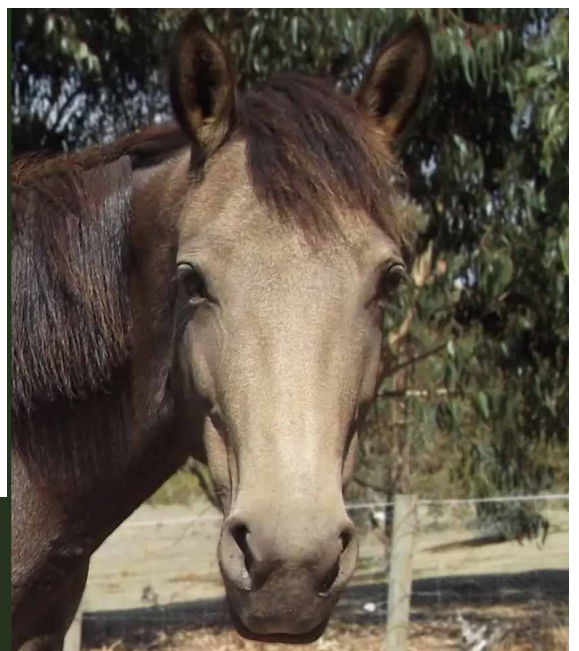
Understand how a thoughtfully designed property that is attractive, functional and sustainable will provide the best life for your horses

Enroll for free

### Equine Property Design Course Benefits

When you have completed this course you will understand:

- How a well-designed layout of your paddocks and facilities can make your farm more efficient to manage
- How planned grazing can develop strong healthy diverse pastures that improve the health of your horses
- How your farm can contribute to local biodiversity and healthy waterways
- How to start - FREE enrolment!



For more information please visit:

[www.sustainableequinelandscapes.com.au](http://www.sustainableequinelandscapes.com.au) or email

Justine Image: [admin@sustainableequinelandscapes.com.au](mailto:admin@sustainableequinelandscapes.com.au)

PROJECT HOPE



WELFARE VICTORIA

Project Hope Horse Welfare Victoria Inc.

[www.phhvv.org.au](http://www.phhvv.org.au)

#### PHHWV Social Media

Members, don't forget to follow us on social media, we are on Facebook, Instagram and YouTube.



#### Thank you to Scoot Boots for their support.

Scoot Boots are experts in hoof boots for riding, jumping, dressage, rehabilitation & barefoot transitioning. Easy on & easy off. Suitable for all terrains.



#### Thank you

Newsletter printing kindly donated by Mary-Anne Thomas MP, Member for Macedon and Minister for Agriculture, State Government of Victoria

