

PROJECT HOPE  
**HORSE**  
WELFARE VICTORIA



PHHWV BENSON

PHHWV SABRINA

AUTUMN NEWSLETTER 2023



## PHHWV OVERVIEW

Since 1976 we have:

- provided advice, assistance and support to horse owners
- investigated reports of horse neglect and abuse
- rescued and rehabilitated horses in need
- offered education regarding horse welfare
- raised community awareness about the plight of neglected horses
- advocated for improved legislation and policy regarding equine welfare
- existed because of volunteers -

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## Executive Committee

Kathryn Wren—President  
 Rhonda Petschel—Vice President  
 Karen Davies—Secretary  
 Shirley McPherson—Treasurer

## Ordinary Committee

Silvija Footner  
 Toni Harris  
 Tricia Hartshorn  
 Renee Neubauer  
 Angela Smith  
 Noelle Vine

## Contact PHHWV

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PHHWV COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Front Row—Rhonda (Vice President), Kathryn (President), Tricia (Newsletter), Anita (Database) Renee (Ordinary Committee), Angela (Horse Coordinator)

Back Row—Noelle (Horse Reports), Toni (Ordinary Committee), Shirley (Treasurer), Karen (Secretary), Mandi (Merchandise), Rose (Volunteer)

# President's Report

I trust that everyone had a relaxing and enjoyable break over the holiday period. We are already about to welcome the Autumn months and there is much activity at Project Hope on all fronts.

Emergency flood relief assistance has been provided to residents of Darrweit Guim. Project Hope was able to assist with the purchase of fencing materials, but the current labour shortage resulted in Rhonda Petschel, Rob Shelley and Leigh Wren rolling up their sleeves and applying their fence building skills. Feed and financial support has also been given to horse owners in need.

There has been an increase in the number of Horse Reports received and number of horses surrendered to Project Hope, which has taken up many volunteer hours to manage. We thank all of our Horse Representatives who have been involved in the various cases. It is not only time consuming, but can be emotionally difficult and we recognise the efforts put in.

The RSPCA conducted an Animal Welfare Seminar titled "Quit Horsing Around", which was run over two days last week. The first day focused on Horse Welfare generally, while the second day looked at Horses in Sport and Society. For those who could not participate, I understand that the links to the sessions will be available on the RSPCA website.

In an effort to raise awareness about our organisation as well as raising funds to support our work, we conducted a Trivia Night in Woodend on 24 February. The event was a sell out and all those who attended reported having a fabulous time.

Renee Neubauer has thought up a wonderful idea for a competition to promote horse welfare and have a chance to win \$100 voucher from EQ – see page 8 for more details.

We welcome Lucy Fairs to the role of Project Coordinator and look forward to hearing more about the Training Days scheduled across the state

later in the year as part of the Hope for Horses Grant funding.

There are many upcoming events that we encourage our members to participate in. These include the free Webinars conducted by Dr Lesley Hawson, the Seymour Alternative Farming Expo where Project Hope will again have a stall that needs staffing and our Annual General Meeting which has been set down for 21 May 2023 at Lancefield Guesthouse, as well as on Zoom.

With the AGM looming, I ask you all to consider what you may be able to do to help Project Hope Horse Welfare Victoria grow and develop. Currently the largest equine welfare organisation in Victoria, the past few years have seen some new innovations and activity and we are keen to have this continue in the lead up to the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2026. Please see page 15 for more information.

This will be my final Newsletter Report as your President and I wish to thank each and every one of you for your commitment and support to Project Hope Horse Welfare Victoria Inc.

**Kathryn Wren**  
**President**  
**Project Hope Horse Welfare Victoria Inc.**  
**M: 0421 337 432**  
**E: [kathryn@phhvv.org.au](mailto:kathryn@phhvv.org.au)**





# P HHWV— Emergency Rescue Education

Thursday, February 23rd and we are anxiously watching developments with the Flowerdale Grass Fire that has now been burning for two days. We have PPHWV members in the area and we have been in contact with them ready to offer assistance if needed.

This is a timely reminder that PPHWV Purpose of Association 2.3 states that we will *provide emergency care, treatment and assistance to the horse*. The Animal Emergency Management Network Australia and New Zealand (AEIM ANZ) is working towards developing expertise in large animal rescue training in our region. Rescuing horses from flood, fire, motor vehicle incidents and getting “stuck” in strange places happens more often than we think. If emergency services do not respond to an animal in trouble the public will, often at high risk to themselves.

Our Vice-President, Rhonda Petschel, attended three AEIM ANZ meetings last year and their AGM.

Within Victoria, Arthurs Creek and Macclesfield CFA volunteers are trained in large animal rescue and have been travelling across the state to attend incidents for many years. Rhonda volunteers in this capacity.

Although we do not have the expertise or equipment to rescue horses, our organisational purposes and working model mean we have a role to play.

This may include:

- ◆ receiving reports and redirecting them asap
- ◆ keeping the horse/s and bystanders safe whilst waiting for the rescue crew
- ◆ supporting owners and providing advice once the horse is rescued
- ◆ contributing to improved service and legislation regarding emergency rescue
- ◆ providing practical and financial support in larger emergencies such as fire or flood

During the floods of 2022 although we were not on the frontline we have, and are still, providing financial support to horse owners for feed, veterinary care, farriers and transport.

We have learnt a lot from attending AEIM ANZ presentations and meetings and have become a member to continue our partnership with these emergency services, particularly the Arthurs Creek and Macclesfield CFA volunteers who are currently the leaders in Victoria.

# P HHWV—Upcoming Events



HORSE WELLBEING WEBINAR SERIES PRESENTED BY

## DR LESLEY HAWSON

Project Hope for Horse Welfare Victoria and Animal Welfare Victoria's Animal Welfare Fund Grants Program proudly brings to you, four FREE 60-minute online webinars to gain access to insights and lessons on how to have a healthy and happy horse.



Presented by Dr Lesley Hawson, an internationally recognised leader in equitation science. She is also a teacher, a horse owner and a horse lover.

**8 MAR**

**Webinar #1 How is Your Horse?** A guide on monitoring your horse's health and wellbeing

**22 MAR**

**Webinar #2 Here for a Good time and a Long Time.** Strategies to prolong your horses health and wellbeing

**3 MAY**

**Webinar #3 Elder Care.** Managing the older horse in sickness and health

**7 JUN**

**Webinar #4 Learning to Learn.** Understanding how horses learn is vital to keep you and your horse safe and injury free

Grab your friends, fluffy ones welcome and join us for an hour of interactive learning. These webinar series are open to the public, email [lucy@phhvw.org.au](mailto:lucy@phhvw.org.au) to receive the calendar invite and link.

Proudly brought to you by



# P HHWV—Upcoming Events

## **SEYMOUR ALTERNATIVE FARMING EXPO**

Friday 31st March, Saturday 1st April, Sunday 2nd April 2023

Kings Park, 55 Tallyrook Street, Seymour 3660

*Volunteers needed to .....*

sell merchandise, raffle tickets, seek donation, sign up new members  
and raise awareness about PHHWV and equine welfare issues

*contact [Info@phhwv.org.au](mailto:Info@phhwv.org.au) if you are able to help*

## **PHHWV ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Sunday May 21 2023

11.00 am Lancefield Guesthouse

71 Main Road, Lancefield 3435

Attendance either in person or via Zoom (light lunch will be served)

## **HORSE REPRESENTAVE TRAINING 2023**

Project Hope Horse Welfare Victoria Horse Representatives ('Horse Reps') investigate when we receive a report about a horse. They attend properties to talk to the owners about potential welfare issues regarding the horse(s) on the property. Each Horse Rep has undergone training to equip them to undertake this very important role. As PHHWV does not have any legislative power, we are reliant on the skill and diplomacy of our Horse Reps to assist horse owners. Sometimes these situations resolve quickly with advice or assistance provided by the Horse Rep and other times it can result in surrender of the horse to PHHWV or referral to the RSPCA.

We will be running two Horse Rep Training Sessions this year (dates to be advised) in the north/north west of Victoria and Gippsland. Without Horse Reps, PHHWV could not investigate reports of horses and secure the surrender of horses that need our help.

If you are interested in attending a Horse Rep Training Session, please contact Rhonda Petschel at [rhonda@phhwv.org.au](mailto:rhonda@phhwv.org.au)





# P HHWV—Fundraising

## Trivia Night February 24th 2023

By Tricia Hartshorn

Late last year, the possibility of holding a trivia night to raise funds for PHHWV, was discussed. I don't think any of the organising committee expected it to be the great success it turned out to be. Held at the Victoria Hotel in Woodend (home to many trivia nights) the local community rallied behind the cause and we were supported by Woodend Rotary, local choir the Woodend Warblers, Gisborne Adult Riding Club and PHHWV members and families. We acknowledge the generosity of Emily Blades, Publican at The Victoria Hotel, who allowed us to use the upstairs bar gratis. The quiz master Sean, runs trivia nights regularly at the Hotel, so we knew we would be in good hands. Sean had a great selection of questions relevant to the age group. Rather than team names,



Quiz Master Sean

each table was named after a PHHWV horse and it was cute boy Jack's table (the Woodend Warblers) who won by a close margin. Of course we could not pass up an opportunity to show off our merchandise, so the Warblers went home with PHHWV tote bags, umbrellas, mugs, lip balm, pens etc. So many people have commented on what a fantastic event it was and how much fun they had, so I feel sure there will be another one in the future. In the meantime, PHHWV members in other parts of Victoria might like to arrange a trivia night for their local communities.



PHHWV Committee  
(plus photo-bomber)



Winners are Grinner! The Woodend Warblers



Team Ava



Team Billie



# P HHWV—Competition



**A FABULOUS OPPORTUNITY TO WIN ONE OF THREE  
\$100 GIFT VOUCHERS  
DONATED BY EQ SADDLERY**

*In 25 words or less tell us:*

**‘As a horse person, what can you do to safeguard horses  
against risk in your community?’**

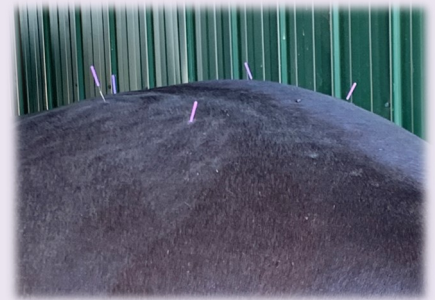
*Rules of the Competition:*

1. Entry is open to any person **other than** current members of the PHHWV Committee.
2. The competition opens on March 6th 2020 and close on April 6th 2023. (Entries to be submitted via PHHWV Members Facebook page.)
3. The entries will be judged by three past PHHWV Committee members and all decisions will be final.
4. One entry per person.
5. Winners will be announced via the PHHWV website and Facebook page by April 20th 2023.
6. All entries will remain the property of PHHWV and may be used in media releases for educational and welfare aims.
7. Prizes are not redeemable for cash.
8. Gift vouchers are under the Terms and Conditions of EQ Saddlery and can be used in-store or online.
9. Expiry date of EQ Saddlery gift vouchers is October 8th 2025.





# Horse Gossip



Mimi: Jack, Jack you might want to get out of here while you can. They're sticking needles in me.

Jack: Oh Mimi why does everything have to be such a drama with you. He looks like a perfectly nice young man and he's just patting you on the bottom to say hello.

Mimi: Jack, no he's not. I'm telling you he's putting needles in me. He may very well be patting me on the bottom but there is something very odd going on. Mum keeps telling me to be a good girl and blowing up my nostrils. That is always a sign that something's about to happen that I won't like.

Jack: Yeah – now you come to mention it every time you and me are in a stable together it's bad news. Oh my God what's happening, what's he doing, stop stop stop. Mimi how could I have ever doubted you? They are sticking needles in us. Hey get out of there, I'm warning you. Nice man you may be but don't get any closer with that needle or.....bloody hell. Who put that stable door there. Gave myself a hell of a fright. Yowee. How long **IS** that needle?

Mimi: Hey Jack, its ok, the pain's wearing off. I'm starting to feel quite relaxed. I'm trying to hear what they're saying. I think it's called applepuncture! So I guess at some point there'll be apples coming our way.

\*\*\*\*\*

*Love is in the air!! Overheard in the where PHHWV Dock was recently on sojourn.*

Dock: Missy stop following me. I'm not interested. OK? Just stop it!!! Do you know how thoroughly exhausting it is walking round in circles on a hot day? Look, I'm very flattered that you are showing such an interest in me. You are, after all, a very beautiful mare. But let's face it, neither of us is in the first flush of youth and if I may point out the obvious – I'm no longer equipped – if you get my drift. I can try until the cows come home – in fact I think they ARE coming home, I can hear them. Now please back off or I will be forced to take a less accommodating attitude towards your constant attentions. Missy don't, my back leg is lifting I don't want to do this but.....!!!! Crikey Missy you didn't have to use both legs. I gave you plenty of warning. That was really uncalled for. Molly you stay out of it – you'll get hurt. You're not Missy's chaperone and besides which I would have thought it was quite obvious by now – even to a mule – that I am not interested in Missy's attentions.

Praise be, they've gone. Now I can get down to some serious eating. Oh for pity's sake she's back. Missy, Missy get off my backside – **G E T O F F M Y B A C K S I D E.....**

Boss Lady help—when am I going to my new home where there's only boys.

For more on PHHWV Dock see page 9.

**Whilst PHHWV Mimi always has some drama to tell us about, this segment is open to ALL PHHWV horses who want a rant.**



# Horse News

A lot has been happening at member Samone’s property in Newham. Following the very sudden death of PHHWV Ella, Samone wanted to fill the void quickly as her Standardbred Monty was missing his paddock mate.....along came Scampy.

## PHHWV Scampy and PHHWV Dock by Samone Hoskings and Tricia Hartshorn

Scampy arrived to a large welcoming party. He took it all in his stride, getting stuck into the grass after a quick look around. Scampy enjoys having his glorious mane plaited and is happiest when he sees you coming with the feed bucket! (A regular theme with our PH horses!).

Dock has settled in really well and all three were out in the big paddock yesterday and you would have thought the two oldies were three year olds!

Thank you Samone for helping two more PHHWV horses so soon after Ella’s untimely passing.



'Hi Dock, nice to meet you old fella. I hear you were staying at that mad house in Newham with Missy the Mad Mare! Me too for a spell. I'm 40 kg lighter from trying to escape her advances. So good to be home among the boys'

Monty and Dock—mirror image!!

# Horse News

## Gina Hanover Update

(by Gina Hanover with a little help from Helen!)

Hi, I'm PHHWV Gina Hanover and I'm doing really well. Life with Helen and my new tribe at Rosewood Park is bliss. I love my paddock mates; Harry the very handsome and loveable Stockhorse gelding and Milla, my 12 year old Warmblood 'sista' from another mother and father. She can be rather contrary but on the whole we are good mates and we both love Harry.



I must also mention the two beautiful Labradors – Nala and Simba – who also call Rosewood Park home. They swan around the place, in and out of the stables, cleaning up any pallets or grain we've dropped from our dinner.

I fell blessed to have crossed paths with Helen all those months ago and will be forever grateful she chose me as her new Project Hope companion. I had heard on the grapevine what an amazing carer she had been to Scotty and could not have asked for a better home.

I moved to Rosewood Park in August. Helen has allowed me to take my time to adjust to my surround and friends. Prior to moving to Helen's property I had several carers, all of whom did their best for me but it was unsettling, so it's great to finally have the security and stability of a forever home.

Helen loves me. I can tell. She has finally found my 'G' spot.....finally. Boy I love those scratches. She takes time to talk to me, strokes me gently because I am a big gentle soul, brushes me. She's patient with me. Picking up my feet, getting accustomed to her float, taking me for walks at home, bathing me.

I have my own stables next to Milla and Harry. I'm happy to have dinner in there but I really prefer being out in the paddock with my mates.

I know Helen has a grand plan for me. She wants to ride me, for us to explore the bush together, show me off at her riding club, perhaps even compete or show a little. I'm up for it and I won't disappoint her. I've already had a saddle on. Easy peasy! I've nailed the lunge in walk and trot. Just a bit unco in the canter but that will come. Helen's done her research and found some really good people to help her get me started. I think the plan is around April/May to get me backed and in the meantime we're doing ground work lessons, reconfirming the basics, because I know this stuff but I'm a bit rusty. She is taking me out and about to different environments to build my confidence and I'm learning to trust her more and more each time.

I've heard her talk about me to her friends. She speaks about me in such an affectionate and loving way. She understands me so well already. For example, I struggle to cope with pressure. It's a fine balance. Not enough encouragement and I may not respond, too much and I stress terribly. She's got me!

I hope I make her proud on this journey we have ahead. I just want to thank PHHWV for saving me and bring Helen and me together. I want to help show the world the bond that love, patience, compassion and understanding can create between horse and human and hope that my story inspires others to support PHHWV in their mission to help others like me.



# Horse News

## PHHWV Snag (by Lisa McColl)



Snag was surrendered to PHHWV as his owner was aging and very unwell and needed to be convinced that Snag was in chronic pain and needed to have his damaged and blind left eye removed. We picked Snag up on Friday 28th October 2022. He is approximately 20 years old and an Appaloosa X. When I was told that his name was Snag, I initially thought that will have to change but as I have got to know him over the three months that we have been caring for him, it has grown on me and is fitting for him if you think of it as the acronym Sensitive New Age Guy. Which he truly is. When I met him, his blind left eye was obviously very painful. He had long slipper feet. His coat was course and he was very flat and depressed. Snag was initially unsure about being caught but a bucket of food quickly changed his mind. He happily followed the food into the float without any hesitation. We had a 1-hour trip home. We were able to monitor his trip with our in-float camera showing he travelled well. Once home, we set him up in our stock yard which has good natural shelter from a row of pine trees and no obstacles or dangers. I had arranged to have our Vet check his eye and his general health. So within an our of being home our Vet was able to tell us that he was completely blind in the left eye. There was a lot of scar tissue within the eye and it was shrunken. Snag's third eyelid was partly over the eye. It was swollen, thickened and dry from attempting to protect the eye, possibly for years. Due to his body condition and general poor health the decision was made to delay the surgery to remove the eye until he was better able to withstand the anaesthetic and surgery. He was started on Bute for pain relief, drenched and slowly introduced to hard food and as much hay as he wanted to eat. We have had ongoing issues with his gut health and that will take time. A month after he arrived on 28th November was the big day for his surgery. It was the perfect day—not too warm or windy. As he was given the induction drugs he slowly went down in the perfect position for surgery. The sun came out and lit him up like a surgical light. The surgery went well with no complications and he was able to wake slowly and stayed down quite happily until fully awake. He then stood with minimal wobble and within minutes was grazing. Our Vet was so pleased with him and commented that it would have been the perfect horse surgery to have a Vet student observing. Post-surgery the wound healed well and we removed his stitches. Things were going well until he started to develop an abscess in his left fore foot that developed into Laminitis. So poor Snag was back in the stock yard, his hay was soaked to remove sugar and he was started on Equisure and Bute. He continued to develop multiple abscesses in all four feet at different times. Finally he was started on a course of IMI antibiotics and this appears to have cleaned up all his feet issues. After his eye was removed we were able to get our Dentist out to see how much of a mess his teeth were in, as his front teeth were in very bad shape and I was worried that the rest of his mouth would be the same. Fortunately it was reasonably okay. He had one molar that had been knocked sideways but it is still firm in its socket, so will only need to be kept an eye on. His worn down front teeth caused by over-grazing on course ground do not appear to give him too much trouble when grazing.

From the horse who came to us with his head hung down, flat and depressed, he now stands at the paddock gate and yells if we are not quick enough with his dinner. If he hears us outside, he quickly turns his good eye to see and whinnies loudly. He brings a smile to my face when I think of what he has been through.

A potential Long Term carer who had been following Snag's story on Facebook contacted PHHWV. They had a number of visits to see if they would be a match for him, which they were. He is now in his wonderful long term home. We will miss the little man very much but know that for the rest of his life he will be loved and cared for.

# P HHWV in Action

## CRISIS/EMERGENCY SUPPORT FOR THE COMMUNITY

by Rhonda Petschel

PHHWV is indebted to the Albert & Barbara Tucker Foundation for providing us with a grant to be used in time of crisis. So when the floods hit Victoria in September/October last year PHHWV was ready and waiting to offer assistance to owners affected by the deluge. With the help of members, vets, councils and produce stores we started to gather a register of people offering help and those in need of help. People from Bairnsdale to the Dandenongs to Bendigo offered properties, transport and produce if needed. People from Darraweit Guim, Lara, Wangaratta, Shepparton to Cohuna were in need of help. As we watched the floods spread across the State, and spoke to those impacted, it became apparent that travel was extremely restricted and owners wanted to keep their horses as close as possible. Transport, feed, farriers and finance were needed immediately once the water levels dropped. Fencing was a high priority. We have been and still are providing feed, volunteer labour and financial support. Floods—oh dear me—what a mess they make. Clean up will take a very long time. Let us hope we have helped to make a difference. Every little bit helps.



Photos are of a property at Darraweit Guim which was inundated in the flood. PHHWV has been working with the owner to source fencing and has offered assistance with labour.



# P HHWV —Member's Page

## HORSES GIVEN A SECOND CHANCE AT LIFE

*Original article written by Nikki Fisher and published in Mornington Peninsula Magazine*

PHHWV Member Miriam Heatherich's love of horses began in childhood and has continued into her adult life, where she is making a difference to vulnerable horses and children at her Wilindi Estate property on the Mornington Peninsula.

"When I was 13 years old, I first heard of Project Hope," Miriam says. "It's one of the oldest horse rescue organisations in Australia. Rescuing animals has always been a childhood dream."

Just as the pandemic hit, Miriam left city life in Sydney behind her to pursue her dream. She set up Herd Harmony, a not-for-profit horse rescue and rehabilitation organisation. "I've always been captivated by how majestic horses are, and I think there's something very noble, even spiritual about them. They're such tolerant animals; it's sad that they're 'thrown away' when they're of no commercial use in some industries. People would be horrified if they knew how many horses are neglected and how many are slaughtered. I can't save them all but I'm doing what I can and, importantly, educating the next generation about respectfully communicating with all animals."

Miriam has recently completed studies to become an equine assisted teacher. "Ultimately, my job as an equine assisted teacher is to facilitate a conversation between the horse and the person, then I allow them to have self-discovery without me telling them what I see. Nothing is wrong and nothing is right; they get to have their own experience and notice how they react."

Bailey, Amber, Old Lady Bella, Vader and mini-horses Bunny and Valentine are just some of the lucky horses to have found themselves in the care of Farmer Mim, as Miriam calls herself. A team of equine vets, dentists and farriers work with Miriam to nurture each horse back to full health. Once well, the horses are behaviourally assessed, trained, and eventually re-homed.

"The reason I find horse neglect and slaughter so emotive is because in nearly all cases those horses have had a trusting relationship with a human being, and then they're put on a truck and sent off to slaughter trusting the same humans," Miriam says. "It's heartbreaking."

The story of how Herd Harmony was created has provided inspiration for Farmer Mim to the Rescue, a children's book written and illustrated by Lynne Groovy Edwards. It tells the inspiring and amusing rhyming story of animal-lover Mim and how rescuing a pony changes her life.



Miriam (centre) with PHHWV Shirley McPherson (Treasurer) and Kathryn Wren (President)





## Can you help?

PHHWV is a volunteer-run organisation. Our volunteers have other responsibilities such as paid work, family, animals and properties. We do our best, but we need help.

There is a saying – many hands make light work. You may be wondering what you could contribute or how you can help. Below is a list of some of the roles we need help with:

- Committee Member – attend meetings by Zoom once per month for 1-2 hours
- Sub-Committee Member – there are currently two sub-committees, Governance and Horse Welfare. Meetings are held by Zoom once per month and generally go for 1-2 hours
- Horse Representative – see page 6 for more details on this role
- Fundraising
- Website updating
- Instagram management
- Advertising PHHWV events externally
- Short Term Carer of horses surrendered
- Long Term Carer of horses once rehabilitated
- Grant applications
- Membership engagement and promotion
- Data entry and recording
- Events organisation and attendance

If you would like to know more, please contact Kathryn Wren on [kathryn@phhvw.org.au](mailto:kathryn@phhvw.org.au).

Horses are measured in hands and so is Project Hope Horse Welfare Victoria Inc.

The more hands we have, the more we can achieve!

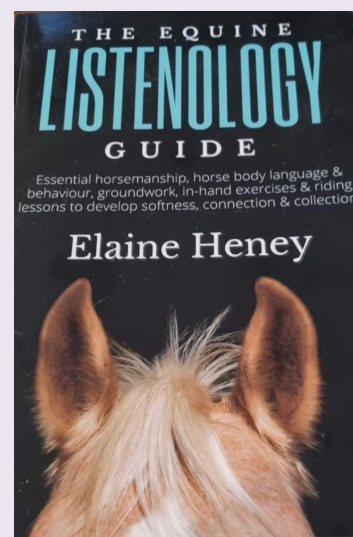
# Horse Education

The following is an excerpt from Elaine Heney's book—

## **LISTENOLOGY GUIDE**

Elaine's mission is to help horse owners around the world by listening to the horse, building great partnerships together, and making the world a better place for the horse. She lives in Ireland with her horses *Ozzie & Matilda*.

1. Our greatest judge is our horse. So we put our horse's physical and mental health first, regardless of what anyone else might say.
2. We take as long as it takes and we appreciate the power of time and patience.
3. We aim to be open minded, curious, consistent, patient and kind.
4. We understand improving our horsemanship is a lifelong journey.
5. We recognise the try, no matter how slight.
6. We don't use shortcuts, quick fixes, gadgets, draw reins, tie our horse's heads down or tie their mouths shut.
7. We do not place competition goals above our horse's health.
8. We don't pull on our horses.
9. We understand collection is not a head position.
10. We understand that for collection to happen there needs to be a shift of weight from the forequarters to the hindquarters.
11. We know that self-carriage means that the horse does it by itself.
12. We believe that groundwork builds relaxation, partnership and connection.
13. We are proud to walk on foot with our horses and we know that every mile counts.
14. We know that true horsemanship begins with relaxation and confidence.
15. We understand the importance of riding and training our horses in a way that will improve their long term physical health.
16. We believe that true horsemanship is an art form that develops softness, lightness and true connection and we follow the traditions that honour this.
17. We live in the present and stay emotionally neutral, with an open mind and a desire to understand.
18. We allow our horses time to evolve at their own pace.
19. We appreciate there are often differences between what the rider wants and the horse needs.
20. We accept the fact that the horse has more to teach us than we will ever teach them.
21. We acknowledge that a horse's body is only physically mature at a minimum of 5.5 years of age and the back is the last part to develop.
22. We understand that older horses are not disposable and it's our duty to care for them in their final years.
23. We are prepared to quieten our minds in order to hear our horses, however softly they are speaking.
24. We understand that horsemanship is a never-ending journey and we always must put the horse first.



## PROUD FLESH

Proud flesh is an overgrowth of granulation tissue in the primary stages of healing. Of thick, bulging, cauliflower-type appearance, proud flesh is most common in distal limbs and may significantly delay wounds from healing.

### ◆ Causes

- Unbandaged or untreated wounds
- Failure or inability to suture lacerations
- Poor blood supply to affected limbs
- Excessive movement
- Infection
- Quickly developing granulation tissue left unchecked

### ◆ Signs to watch for

- Tissue protruding from wound, usually bright in colour and a thick granular texture
- Delay in wound healing



### ◆ If your horse has proud flesh

- Restrict movement of horse (box or yard)
- Clean and bandage wound
- Administer tetanus booster
- Seek veterinary consultation if necessary



# Horse Reports Dec-Feb

By Rhonda Petschel  
Horse Report Coordinator

**City of Greater Bendigo:** Late in 2022 two Horse Reps were visiting the area and noticed a horse underweight with no signs of supplementary feed in a bare paddock. The horses were not owned by the residents of the property. We were able to explain to the land owner that when on their land they are responsible for the welfare of the horses. We were able to speak to the owners of the horses who advised they are attending regularly and feeding and that the horse is thin due to age. Assistance declined.

**Cardinia Shire Council:** Another case that has been reopened from November 2022. When our Horse Rep attended there were no horses on the property but they were able to speak to a family member who advised the horses had been moved to agistment. Horse Rep will continue to look out if the horses return.

**Mitchell Shire:** Thin black mare with three day old foal reported by community member. When a letter was left the owner called back and advised a vet is involved in the care of the horse. Further assistance was declined.

## **Macedon Ranges Shire:**

1. Community member reported a horse in poor condition. Horse Rep visited and arranged for a Vet to visit. The horse was examined and given pain relief, worming and vaccinations. Advice was provided by the Vet to the owner about appropriate feed and feet and teeth care. We have subsequently been advised by the owner that the horse was euthanised due to colic.

2. Report from community regarding a thin horse. Horse Rep attended and left letter as family not home. Owner called back advising horse is receiving veterinary care.

**Yarra Ranges Shire:** A number of horses on a property which has been of concern to a community member for some time. As the property is locked and owner did not respond to a PHHWV letter left, we have encouraged the community member to report to the RSPCA and also consider reporting to local police. We are continuing to support the reporter.

**Swan Hill Shire:** Received a call from an owner of 2 horses asking for assistance with care. As we do not have Horse Reps in this area we encouraged owner to seek local assistance.

**City of Casey:** Received a report of a horse in poor condition. Two Horse Reps visited, although the owner declined education and any help our Reps assisted with information regarding the local vet. We plan to follow up.

**Mornington Peninsula Shire:** Received a report regarding a single horse on a property, very thin and lame. On attending the, the Horse Rep organised emergency veterinary and farrier care. The Rep continued to attend to the horse over the following week. Although the owners were unable to care for the horse PH was unable to secure surrender so this case was referred to the RSPCA.

**City of Ballarat:** Received a report from community member that an elderly gentleman was not managing with the care of two Standardbred mares. Two Horse Reps met with the owner and visited the horses. One horse severely lame and an elderly mare completely blind relying on the other horse to move about the paddock. The owner surrendered the horses to PH. The Horse Reps and a PH member assisted in taking the horses directly to a veterinary clinic. Xrays confirmed the lame horse had extreme pedal bone rotation of all four hooves too advanced to rehabilitate. On veterinary advise the two horses were euthanised.

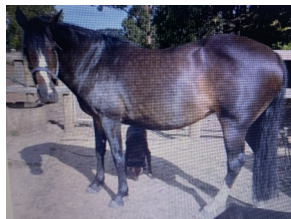
**Golden Plains Shire Council:** Two Shetlands and a Thoroughbred gelding were surrendered to the local council who called PH asking for assistance. All three were surrendered to PH. The two Shetlands are receiving veterinary care with an expected 12 month rehabilitation period. The Thoroughbred gelding is in short term care receiving rehabilitation.

**City of Geelong:** Received a call from a community member concerned regarding a very thin horse. As there was no house on the property a letter was left. The owner called our 1300 number explaining the horse is under veterinary care and has been for some time. We were able to call the reporter and reassure her everything possible is being done for the horse and it is believed it is a very responsible owner.

# Horses ready for LTC



**April** is an 8 year old 8hh chestnut mare with a very sweet nature. She tries really hard once she understands what you want. A perfect companion who loves to be fussed over. Easy to catch and confident going onto the float.



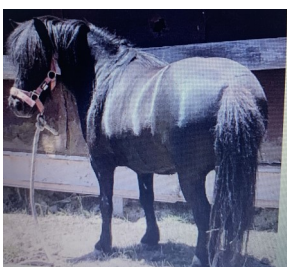
**Aurora** is a 9 year old 15hh brown Thoroughbred x Welsh Pony mare. She had foundered, but this has been successfully treated. She is good to handle and is currently being assessed to ascertain her level of training under saddle.



**Bellebutton** is an 8 year old, 16.1hh bay Thoroughbred mare. She has never raced and has little emotional baggage. With kind horsemanship training she could be moulded into the horse you've always dreamed of. She is sensible, intelligent and is currently being trained under saddle.



**Bessie**, a 16 year old Standardbred mare. She has not been handled for a long time and can be a bit nervous but with patience she is quick to pick up skills and confidence. An experienced horse owner who needs a companion horse, please consider giving Bessie a loving home. Due to neglect of her feet, she is not suitable to be ridden.



**Black Swan** is a 7 year old 9 hh black shetland mare. She's had limited handling and is a little tricky to catch. Owing to the poor state of her hooves she required foot rehabilitation. With further handling, she will be a lovely companion.



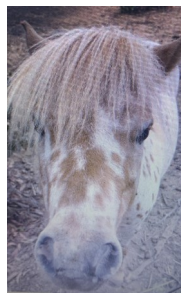
**Chancey** is a 13.2hh, 9 year old bay pony - recently gelded. He is wary when handling his back feet, possibly due to an old injury. He has trust issues but has come a long way and has a bright future ahead.



**Friday** (left) is a 9hh 8 year old chestnut Shetland mare. She has had extra TLC to gain weight, a course of Panacur and access to ad lib hay. Her cushings test was as negative, but was high at 27.7 (29+ is considered a Cushings diagnosis). She is ready to go to an experienced home to build her trust



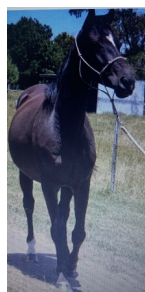
**Frodo** is a 15.2hh bay 20 year old Standardbred gelding that is unable to be ridden due to a back injury from racing. He has a quirky personality and a little unpredictable at times but is very affectionate and enjoys interaction with humans. His long term carer recently passed and he needs a new Long Term Home.



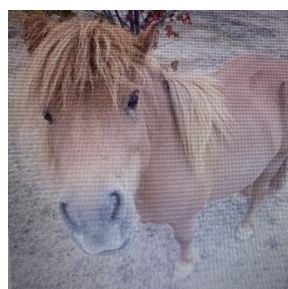
**Lux** is a Miniature Palouse Pony Gelding, 9hh and rising 5 years old. He will require a paddock mate as he is very social. He will make a great pony for someone wanting to do obstacles or just to fuss over. He loves to be part of everything. He needs more confidence with leading, but is doing really well. He is well handled but ongoing handling is needed to increase his confidence.



**Ollie** is an 18 year old Miniature gelding who was suffering bad rain scald and lice, as well as numerous other health ailments. Thanks to the diligent and dedicated care from his Short Term Carer, Ollie has now completed his rehabilitation and is ready to move to his Long Term Home.



**Phoenix** is an almost black 7 year old stock horse thoroughbred X gelding, of 15hh. He needs a confident quiet rider to help further his education. He can be unsure and needs some help to get through different situations. He ties, is good to trim and lead, but needs more float training. His trainer says he is smart, but lacking confidence due to poor earlier training. Phoenix is located in Kilmore and we would like the prospective long term carer to have a couple of rides with his trainer present.



**Yani** is a 9hh 8 year old shetland mare and super sweet. She has come on really well over the past month and enjoys interacting with people. She is easily caught and leads well and is confident going into a float. She needs more confidence and training in picking up her feet, but is constantly improving.



## In Memoriam

*Somewhere... in time's own space, there must be some sweet, pastured place  
Where creeks sing on – and tall trees grow, some paradise where horses go, For  
by the love that guides my pen, I know great horses live again.*

### PHHWV Ella

(by Samone Hoskings)

Ella, Elles, Ellabella, Ellybelly—Her time with us was short but boy, was it sweet. Ella was a pleasure to spend time with. She loved a good rub on the wither, a brush, a lead around the farm. She was a perfect friend to our old Monty. They were a great match—both in their senior years and happy to mooch around the paddock. Until dinner time, that is, when there was a prick of the ears and a spring in the step. We will miss Ella greatly.



We also remember:

### PHHWV Artois & Pebbles

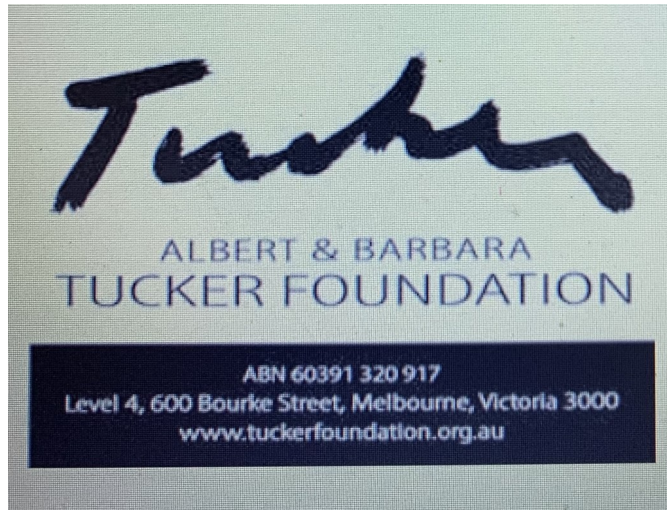
Standardbred mares Artois and Pebbles (mum and daughter mentioned in Horse Reports). With PHHWV for a very short time but cared for with compassion before their passing. Be at peace together in the horse spirit world, free of pain.



### PHHWV Sailor

31 year old Standardbred gelding Sailor, was euthanised quietly and calmly in December owing to significant underlying pain issues.

# Acknowledgements



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**PHHWV Social Media**  
 Don't forget to follow us on social media, we are on Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn and YouTube.



Thank you: Newsletter printing kindly donated by Mary-Anne Thomas MP Member for Macedon and Victorian State Minister for Health



# A nd Finally.....

The beautiful PHHWV Silver. Found peace and contentment with member Sandra Strongman and is now enjoying life to the full.

