

PROJECT HOPE
HORSE
WELFARE VICTORIA



PHHWV RENNI

SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2022



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 - thank you.



VALE—BRUCE NICHOLLS

The Project Hope Horse Welfare family was saddened to hear of the death of member Bruce Nicholls on October 16th. Bruce was LTC to Chester and Midnight on his property in Kilmore. Some of you may remember the article about Bruce in the Summer edition last year. We extend our condolences to Bruce's wife Annie and family at this difficult time.

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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

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President's Report

Despite the arrival of summer, the weather appears set to continue its unpredictable and unseasonal trend of late. As we gallop toward the end of 2022, I am pleased to report that Project Hope has achieved much in the past three months. As part of our advocacy work, submissions were made to various bodies regarding improved equine welfare laws and standards. We provided feedback on the Plan for Victoria's new animal care and protection laws, which will replace the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1986 (POCTA). The proposed legislation recognises animal sentience and sets minimum care requirements for animals. We also responded to a request for feedback on the impacts and benefits of the options identified by the Animal Welfare Task Group for changes to national Animal Welfare Standards and Guideline for the Land Transport of Livestock for horses. We commented on the policy options identified, noting the impacts and benefits of each.

The recent floods have had a devastating impact on many people around the country. Project Hope has been able to provide financial assistance to horse owners who have been affected through the provision of feed, payment of veterinary treatment and transport costs, as well as assistance with repairing damage to fencing.

There has been a changing of the guard with our industrious Membership Secretary, Wendy Herbert, hanging up her boots and handing over to Silvija Footner. Thank you, Wendy, for all of your hard work and commitment over the past years. Acknowledgment must also go to Mandy Macartney, who has retired from being our Newsletter designer and publisher. Luckily, we have the creative talents of Tricia Hartshorn to thank for this edition. We also welcome Karen Davies to the position of Secretary and Mandi Herauville to the role of Merchandise Coordinator. On the subject of merchandise, Mandi has already launched a new range of goodies including lip balm, USB sticks, umbrellas, pens and tote bags. We also have our popular items such as beanies, buffs, hoodies, t-shirts and vests. The online shop accessed via the PHHWV website will be updated

over the Christmas break and ready for you to place your orders for merchandise in the new year.

Earlier this year, we submitted an application for Round 2 of the Equine Government Funding Grant and we are pleased to announce that our application for the "Hope for Horses – improved equine welfare services and education" was successful. Project Hope will kick off 2023 with the launch of the Hope for Horses Activities, which will include horse welfare days incorporating dental workshops, behavioural assessments and saddle fitting, as well as webinars with the infamous Dr Lesley Hawson.

Last of all, but certainly not least, a huge thank you to all of our volunteers who assisted with Equitana. It was a thoroughly enjoyable and successful event and we could not have done it without the help of our members. It was wonderful to meet with old and new members and spend time together in person. Having a presence in both the Epsom Pavilion and Breed Village, as well as being able to prominently display our signs and logo, resulted in increased community awareness about our organisation and equine welfare issues in general. We gained approximately 20 new members, sold a lot of merchandise and received many generous donations. I do not like to single people out; however, I do feel the need to make special mention of Rhonda Petschel for her efforts. Not only was she part of the 'bump in' and 'bump out' team, she brought PHHWV Ava on Thursday to be our equine ambassador, presented two education sessions about Project Hope and generally made herself available to assist when and where needed. As Project Hope goes from strength to strength, on behalf of the Committee, I thank you, our members, for your dedication and support.



Kathryn Wren
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P HHWV—New Faces

Karen Davies—Secretary

Hi Everyone, My name is Karen and I'm new to Project Hope. After reading all about what Project Hope does and stands for on their website, I was keen to be involved. I have a strong administrative background and am happy to assist where needed using those skills. Due to a shift in team member roles I've now taken on the responsibility of Secretary.

I have a long time love of horses and have owned my own horses in the past for pleasure riding. Having spent a few years out of the saddle, I invested in some riding lessons to get back in touch with those skills and just to be around horses again. Thankfully, not all was lost during my absence and I'm loving riding again.

I'm looking forward to being a helpful member of the Project Hope team and also to learn from them and this community how to assist in the continual improvement of equine welfare. Let's have more healthy, happy horses!



Getting acquainted with Project Hope Ava

Mandi Herauville—Merchandise Coordinator

Hello everyone my name is Mandi and over the years I have been a vet nurse, nurse and holistic health provider among other things. I have run charities for many years also, but as I am now retired, I have more time to expand my work in animal advocacy with dogs to include horses. Both of which are passions of mine. I am a long term dog owner and run a dog welfare and education charity specialising in working dogs, primarily Border Collies, mostly for help with new puppies but also to assist in rehabilitation and behavioural issues in older dogs. I would like to expand this work into helping horses in any way I can.



I have always loved horses and felt a strong connection to them. I have helped out in horse welfare for a few years, beginning my journey with Project Hope in 2014 as a donor. In January 2020 I did the rep training and started visiting horses to report on their welfare. My skills at this point are probably more useful to administration due to my limited hands on experience but I look forward to expanding that role further in the future after taking on my new role as Merchandise Coordinator, as well as maintaining my role as a rep. I feel strongly that all members of the team working together will improve the lives of many horses in the future.

Equitana 2022



Reflections of Equitana by Tricia Hartshorn, Mandi Herauville and Mel Archer

To be selected as the Official Community Partner and Charity for this year's Equitana was an enormous honour for PHHWV. As it comes to a close, I can report that not a moment was wasted in getting the name PHHWV out there to both the Victorian horse world but also interstate visitors who were really impressed with our work.

'Bump in' was a massive exercise for all involved and the weather didn't help as it was 31 degrees with 100% humidity. PHHWV had been allotted two sites; the Epsom Pavilion and the Breed Village. An enthusiastic band of volunteers were rostered to cover both sites for the whole event. Our special guests Project Hope Ava, Samson and Sapphire camped out in the Breed Village in between strutting their stuff to the paying public. How proud are we of these amazing horses and their equally amazing LTCs (Rhonda, Jiyah and Mel).

From the moment we arrived there was a buzz in the air. This was my first Equitana and one of the most incredible things about the whole show was the sense of purpose that was evident in everybody there. A passion. And it was obvious from the start that anyone who took part in this event was truly into horses with all their heart! Many of the exhibits were spectacular and were very well thought out professionally. Everything from specialty feeds to other nutritional products, saddles and riding gear, apparel, western gear, equestrian gear, art, jewellery plus of course all the breed displays, education and displays going on. The size and variety of stalls and activities was truly mind-boggling. Thursday was an early start and we were

busy from the get go. This day was mainly people from interstate visiting who were unfamiliar with Project Hope so it was a good opportunity to spread the word Australia-wide about who we are and what we are doing here in Victoria. We were also able to spread the word that we do have interstate members who support us and many were interested in getting on board. Friday was a lot of out-of-towners too and they were very interested in talking to us about donating hay and acquiring some of our horses as well as buying merchandise and making donations—which was fantastic. The horse displays at the Breed Village were spectacular. It was truly an honour and a privilege to work with this bunch of fantastic people. I've been involved in many charities before but never had quite the respect that I do for Project Hope. They work so well together as a team. I love being part of this organisation and can't wait for the next event.

PHHWV Sapphire was the equine ambassador for Project Hope on the Saturday. She has never been to a horse show (and hasn't had a bath in the almost three years I've had her), so it was a bit of a mystery what would happen. But this solid gold girl did us proud. She enjoyed being washed, whitened and combed. We ended up in a show ring in the morning and she was a pro. Then she met her adoring public and made me her hand bag. She explored people's belongings, and their donuts and ice creams. Cash going into her donation tin also piqued her interest and she tried repeatedly to get it off the wall (I think we've all been tempted just to feed money directly to our horses and cut out the middle man). I had many enquires about whether she was for sale or adoption, but I'm keeping the lease on this fabulous horse!

Congratulations to our raffle prize winners:

- L. Murray—Yarra Valley B&B
- R. Langmead—Scoot Boots
- J. Thompson—Boneo Park Voucher
- R. Langmead—Bunnings Gift Card
- C. Williams—Coles Gift Card
- J. Calvert—'Pud' Traditional Plum Pudding

Horse Gossip



Overheard in the float after PHHWV Mimi and her mate Jack the Standie had gastric scopes recently.

MIMI:

I think you must have that wrong Jack.

JACK:

No Mimi, I haven't got it wrong. You're a girl, you couldn't possibly understand.

MIMI:

But we went for ulcer scoping Jack—you know the routine, needle in the neck, twitch on the lip then 100 foot hose up your nose.

JACK:

I'm telling you Mimi that is not my recollection at all. Don't forget I had to have two doses of knock out drops. All I remember is some young girl attempting to clean my—well I hardly like to say it—it's very personal. Mind you, I wasn't going to give in easily I can tell you. That water was not very warm. I lifted my legs a few times, then oh boy did they apply the pressure. What's a lad to do—I tried the old 'now you see it, now you don't trick, but still they persisted.

MIMI:

Now you understand why I don't go into that float without a fight. There's always something unpleasant at the other end. They lure you in with goodies, then slam the door on you and who knows what manner of torture awaits.

JACK:

Oh Mimi, you're such a princess.

MIMI:

No I'm not—I'm just of a delicate disposition, it's the thoroughbred in me. We can't all be big and butch like you standies. Anyway—you're a fine one to talk. All that fuss over having your boy's bits cleaned. I heard your Mum say you've been very niggly recently, maybe you'll feel better now you've had a clean and polish.*

JACK:

Well I wont tell you what I've heard said about you Mimi!

**see article on Sheath Cleaning—page 12*

PS for the folk who love Molly's ponderings - I'm afraid she's been muzzled-and I MEAN muzzled. She has spent a bit too much time munching on the spring grass and if I didn't know otherwise, would think she was about to drop a foal. She'll be back in autumn.

Horse News



By Jiyah Burgess

Little Samson was less than 12 months old when surrendered into Project Hope's care. His poor paddock mate had to be euthanised, while Samson was so emaciated, he was barely able to lower his head to drink or eat. His Short Term Carer Heidi spent long hours nursing him, with support in the paddock from another PHHWV member, Jiyah.

Jiyah saw something special about Samson, even when he was in such terrible condition, and they fell in love, with Samson resting his chin on her shoulder while she was working in his paddock. Jiyah took Samson into Long Term Care when he was a strong, healthy 2 year old. When he reached 4 years old, he would be ready to be trained under saddle.

While he was away being trained, Jiyah had a bad fall from a horse and lost her confidence, wanting to give up on riding and horses altogether. When Samson returned, she was struck by the trainer's praise for how quiet and friendly he was to ride – and she decided to give it one more try. Happily, Samson became the horse of her childhood dreams!

Jiyah says "He gave me the confidence to trust again. His lovely nature is infectious and when we worked as a team, I was hooked. He gives anything a go - and does it well! He is highly competitive and loves the competition scene, successful in all disciplines, with jumping being his forte. (However, the dressage judges sometimes don't appreciate the extra moves Samson likes to add to the test for his amusement.)"

"Samson has taught young riders to love horse riding. He entertained us through COVID lockdowns with feats of bareback riding, balancing toilet rolls at various speeds – which became a competition for friends and family in the 5km radius. He loves to win whether you are going for a gallop with a friend or cantering around a long cross-country course. He is famous on Instagram (search 'Warburton Trail'), is the mascot of Seville Station, will interrupt picnics, be involved in weddings by taking a nibble on the bride's dress ... thoroughly enjoying being the centre of attention, his kind, loving nature charms anyone who meets him".

"Most recently Samson and I have taken on new adventures in the Victorian High Country where he will take on any river or steep incline and is also quite a handy packhorse, carrying all our food and supplies, enabling a ride unassisted by a vehicle."



Horse News

By Helen Ward

I feel blessed to have found Gina Hanover. Following the loss of three horses in the last 18 months Gina has taken resident and is settling in well after just eight weeks. Her arrival at Rosewood Park was timely, I had just lost my beloved 29 year old mare, Georgie, the day before. I was struggling to work out what to do with my other mare, Milla, who was paddock mate to Georgie. Confident Gina would float load and travel well, I wasn't disappointed. It was a short ride, some 30 minutes. She unloaded quietly and she walked with me calmly amongst new surrounding to her paddock. Aware that Gina needed company, I made sure there were horses all around her. I intended to have both my mares cohabitate. Having learnt from experience, this process can take weeks, as it did with Scotty. By day four I decided to try the mares together. Gina is such a gentle soul I felt it was worth a try. And it worked. They have been paddock mates ever since. Gina had been on my radar for some time before I decided to meet her at her short-term carer's home. I followed her story and progress through the Project Hope channels—Newsletter, Facebook etc. I had numerous conversations with committee members who knew Gina's story and my first meeting with her left me feeling that a strong and meaningful connection with this mare was possible. Subsequent visits to another carer's property sealed the decision for me. Gina is an absolute sweetheart; a big gentle soul who is kind and willing. She is a horse that will increasingly welcome and respond to TLC, a routine and consistent, careful handling. In our short time together I feel the beginning of a strong bond developing between us. She is a trusting soul who responds to the slightest pressure, so I must always be mindful and be gentle with her. At the tender age of six, she has her whole life ahead. I plan to take Gina slowly by establishing her groundwork over the next six months. I will get her out and about, visiting different locations and environments and attending some clinics. Then mid next year I plan to find a breaker who works with Standardbreds and get her backed. In the meantime she will be refamiliarised with a bridle, I will start with a saddle pad on her back whilst lunging and continue taking her for walks in-hand down the road, building her confidence with cars, dogs and other scary monsters.



Until the next chapter.

Horse News—PHHWV Therapy Horses

by Dr Traci Coventry

In 2009 I set up the first Equine Assisted Clinical Psychology practice in Australia. My vision was to help children and horses grow together. I was a Doctor of Clinical Psychology of 20 years and had recently trained with Equine Psychotherapy Victoria. This therapy was new and I contacted PHHWV seeking potential therapy ponies. Dr Dakota, a Shetland gelding, came to me from that contact. My dream pony; cheeky, sensitive and intuitive. Dakota has touched the hearts of children and adults and is able to pick up on PTSD, anxiety and depression and react in ways that support the clients that he and I work with. The herd expanded when PHHWV Opal found her LTC home with us. An 18 month old filly, she came to us as a companion for my young colt. My husband had recently lost his father and had shut down. Opal went up to him on Day 1, put her head on his chest and breathed with him to calm him – he came back to us. Opal has a place here forever and is now an amazing therapy mare. PHHWV Abby was rescued in a large-scale operation in Victoria. An eccentric little mare with a touch of anxiety and an instinct for connecting with children with trauma and ADHD. I have found these horses with a history of trauma to be forgiving, genuinely open to human contact and provide great support to my clients. I thank PHHWV every day for these wonderful horses.



Dr Dakota and young friend

M members Page

A new initiative inviting members to share their experiences happy, sad or traumatic as in Shelley's case.

by PHHWV Member—Shelley King

On Friday October 15th my husband called from work and told me that we were going to get three days worth of water coming through as they just opened up the Eildon Weir Gates to save the infrastructure of Eildon. Basically at our expense because it was travelling down our creek on our property Pranjip Creek. The Murray was already flooding and pushing up the Goulburn River which was pushing up our direction so the water coming from Eildon met at Seymour. We are 38km from Seymour. We kept checking our emergency app but no real info for us and also if we lost internet and power, which we did later, we had no mobile phone. Nothing on TV apart from Maribyrnong—like regional is not important! That evening we had water flowing out of the top of our creek. We had fence posts we bought floating away. My husband in a wetsuit in the water waist deep putting posts into the bucket on the tractor to save them. We could not save all the posts as many were covered in large ants and they were biting. We gave up. We moved horses to high ground ready for the rising water. We settled for the night then up at 2.00 a.m. to check the rising water as we believed it would not get to our house as it was a fair way away through the paddock. We went back to bed thinking it will slow down. My elderly father lives in his caravan on the property. I answered my phone at 4.00 a.m. he said the water is half way up the caravan tyres. The water was at our house yard back gate and rising. By 7.00 a.m. our lovely next door neighbours came to help us move stuff and also helped my Dad move his van to the only piece of high ground but Dad refused to leave. The horses all had a chunk of dry land in their paddock but not much. Water kept rising. It was approaching the house doors. We had been out early with the tractor to try and get a few sand bags but there were not many to be found. We had lost the use of the toilet as the septic tank was the first thing to go underwater with its lid floating. Up comes the sewerage through the shower drains! Then we lost water as our fresh water pump was submerged in the flood waters. We had a call from neighbours at Alderbaren Park who told us we needed to get our horses out and they would come and up. We headed down through the water to get the harness training jogger behind the tractor. We had to cut one horse's fence, she walked straight through the flood water to me and stood with me waiting for me to put her halter on—she knew I was helping her. We walked through the floods behind the tractor. Settled the horses at neighbours and headed back for our five dogs consisting of four mini dachys, two poodles and three pups one week old in my jumper. We dropped them off then returned by tractor and get a bag of clothes each and headed off to help other neighbours as Alderbaren Park was rising and to get at least 40 horses off we took a truck to evacuate. The truck fits seven horses and we dropped horses off at Longwood a convoy of floats helped. This was our nightmare 24 hours in a nutshell. We even featured on the Today Show on Channel 9. But there was some happy news to follow—after a week of ripping up carpet and cleaning sewerage from our house, my mare delivered the smallest foal the vet had ever seen. Lots of tears and emotion and it made my day with a lovely call from Rhonda at Project Hope—I cried I was so overwhelmed. I'd only joined this amazing charity a month earlier and it came to my rescue and helped me with my horses. I am so grateful I will never forget.

HELP!!

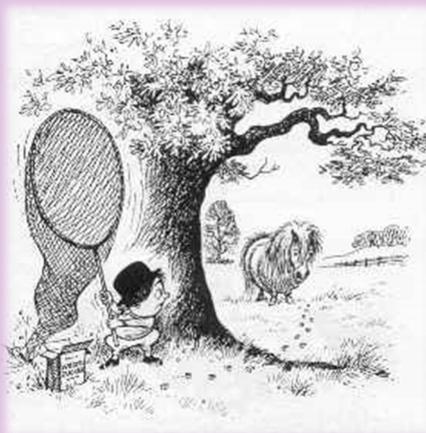
SHORT TERM CARERS NEEDED

We are in urgent need of short term carers. Do you think you can help?

Surrendered horses are assessed and rehabilitated largely at the property of the Project Hope member who has volunteered to care for them - called short term care. When the horse has recovered and been assessed, we seek to find them a semi/permanent home under a long term lease. Some Project Hope members develop, or further develop, skills in caring for a neglected horse or pony. This is achieved with assistance and support from other PHHWV members and the committee.

Initial care varies from case to case, and in the first few weeks, a horse is monitored closely. They are likely to need feeding at least twice a day – sometimes more. They will be seen by a farrier and a dentist, and if needed a vet. Groundwork is conducted to assess how much handling a horse or pony has had. We then build on their ground education. If they seem to have a future as a ridden horse, a riding assessment or education for riding is sought. Short Term Care varies from six weeks to six months, and it can be longer depending on the horse. Project Hope supports the rehabilitation and provides financial support to cover expenses such as veterinary care, training, farrier, vaccinations, feed etc.

Please call or text 0419 515 931 or email info@phhvv.org.au if you would like further information.



Cleaning the Sheath

by Portia DeLoache Key DVM

An important routine in caring for your boys, whether stallions or geldings, is regular sheath cleaning. The sheath includes not just the inside of the prepuce (the external sheath) but the head, shaft and the inner folds of skins as well. (See image.) Over time normal horses have build-up from shedding skin cells, dust and sweat that needs to be periodically removed. Some horse owners are able to perform sheath cleaning themselves, while others prefer having their vet clean the sheath under sedation. Horses can develop tumours or sores in this region and regular thorough examination allows for early diagnosis and treatment of potentially harmful conditions. Although many horse owners already incorporate sheath cleaning as a routine part of their horse's care, here are some common mistakes made in sheath care:

- * Do not kneel or stand behind your horse whilst his sheath is being cleaned.
- * Do not pick smegma off with your bare hands.
- * Be sure to inspect for beans—just because you can't see it doesn't mean it isn't there. They can cause obstruction and make it difficult to urinate.
- * Don't be too aggressive when cleaning the sheath.
- * Don't over clean—a couple of times a year should be sufficient. Over cleaning can cause irritation and remove some of the natural bacteria making your horse susceptible to infection.

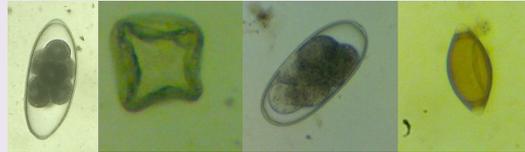
WARNING: Japanese Encephalitis

Japanese encephalitis virus is spread primarily by mosquitoes. With the incessant rain throughout autumn, winter and spring, it is worth taking precautions to reduce the opportunities for breeding. The following fact sheets are available from the Department of Agriculture website;

Information for horse owners fact sheet (FAQs)(PDF—205.4 KB)

Protecting your horses from mosquito bites fact sheet (PDF—89.2 KB)

Horse Health—Guide to FEC Testing



A VERY basic guide of a yearly parasite management regime for horse owners:

EPG = worm eggs per gram of manure

FEC = faecal egg count

FECRT = faecal egg count reduction test

200 EPG is generally the cut off for recommending worming

| Season | FEC/Worming | Paddock Management |
|--------|--|--------------------------------|
| Autumn | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. FEC on all horses: record EPG 2. Worm all horses 3. FECRT | Collect manure NO HARROWING |
| Winter | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. FEC on horses with EPG >200 EPG or under three years old 2. Worm only if >200 EPG | Collect manure NO HARROWING |
| Spring | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. FEC on all horses 2. Worm horses with >200 EPG | Collect manure NO HARROWING |
| Summer | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. FEC on horses with spring EPG >200 EPG or under three years old 2. Avoid worming adult horses | Harrow—hot dry days only |

Horse Reports Sept-Nov

By Noelle Vine
Horse Report Coordinator

◆ KYNETON

A Welsh pony mare surrendered. She was collected by a PHHWV Rep who has indicated she may take the mare on LTC.

◆ CARDINIA

A report was received from a Ranger at Cardinia Council regarding an abandoned, emaciated gelding. The owner had been located but as the horse was so badly neglected the Ranger hoped to get him to sign over the horse to the Council for surrender to PHHWV. Unfortunately the owner refused.

◆ YAN YEAN

A report received of four minis in danger of founder; three mares and a stallion. The mares had been bought as 'lawn mowers' five years ago. The owner has no horse knowledge. One mare was lying in water and unable to get up. Owner was asked to contact the vet immediately. The ponies have been kept in a small area being fed hay and appear to be moving around better. STC home has been arranged.

◆ REDESDALE 1

A call was received from an owner needing to rehome her horse as she suffers from PTSD and believes she is transferring her anxieties to the horse. The horse has been ridden and trained but has become difficult to catch and handle. Owner looking to rehome the horse.

◆ REDESDALE 2

Whilst at property regarding above situation, attention was drawn to two horses on a nearby property that had no feed and often no water. One was in reasonable condition but the other, an older horse, was quite underweight. A letter was left. The horses were moved to the front of the property for a couple of weeks but then moved to the back again. The owner did not contact PHHWV. A visit was made to the owner who told us that the horses were not hers. We advised that as the horses were on her property she was responsible. We received a call after we left to say the owners were on their way to feed the horses.

◆ MERRICKS

A PHHWV member noticed a horse that appeared to be unable to weight bear on a foreleg and a skinny horse in a rug on the other side of the driveway. She did not approach. She was advised to contact the RSPCA as she had serious concerns for the welfare of the horses. She received notification that the incident had been reported.

◆ PYRAMID HILL

An enquiry was received about two aged horses that were being attended to by friends of an elderly gentleman who was unlikely to return home. The horses are approximately 30 years of age. Advised that the kindest and least stressful solution was to euthanise the horses on the property.

◆ BALLAN

Five horses surrendered from a deceased estate. One has been placed in STC due to age and rain scald. He is progressing well. The other four are not in imminent danger but access is difficult due to the weather conditions. Possible STC has been found for two once the horses can be removed.

◆ CLARKEFIELD

A call was received from the Ranger in Macedon asking for assistance with two horses on a property where the owner had died with no one to care for them. Once again, due to the weather the horses have not been able to be removed. One old Standardbred gelding has a possible home, while the younger mare has not. She has severe foot issues.

◆ WHITTLESEA

A large number of horses and ponies on a small property with insufficient feed and care were reported to us and the RSPCA. There are also a number of deceased horses. After much negotiation we finally managed the surrender of a pony (see page 15 for full story).

◆ MT ELIZA

A number of mares and foals in poor condition reported to us and the RSPCA. A repeat offender. A Ranger from Hume Council made contact with us about rehoming one horse and a pony that has been in their pound for a considerable time. A possible home has been found for the pony.

◆ KILMORE

We are helping an owner with a horse that has facial injuries and is likely to need surgery.

◆ CARDINIA AND KOO WEE RUP

Two cases reported involving mares and foals in poor condition partly due to the rain and partly insufficient care. RSPCA inspector contacted to follow up. Both are being attended to.

◆ DINGEE

Two ponies had been abandoned on a property and were in danger of drowning. The new owner moved them to higher ground but lived too far away to be able to care for them properly. A kind friend of a member was also isolated due to flooding and provided feed until we could arrange for them to be removed. They have gone into STC but unfortunately one was very traumatised and with a lot of issues so it was decided the kindest outcome was to have her euthanised. The other pony is unhandled.

◆ BANGHOLME

An elderly man contacted us for assistance following an order from the RSPCA to attend to the health issues of one of his horses. After lengthy negotiation he surrendered the horse to us. The horse has since had surgery and is recovering well. We are continuing to work with the owner in order to keep the other horses safe until he decides whether to surrender them to us. The RSPCA is also working with us.

◆ MYSIA

Received a call from a young man who had bought a horse to ride that had not proved suitable for his purpose. The horse had an injured leg from becoming tangled in fencing. The owner could not afford the Vet bill and surrendered the horse to us. It has been seen by a vet and is recovering well.

◆ DANDENONG

Another case of a family member dying and leaving behind an aged Thoroughbred that could not be cared for as they had no horse knowledge. I put him in contact with the horse welfare officer from Racing Victoria to assist with euthanasia.

Horse Reports

Renee Neubauer

October 2022



Many reports had been received about a property containing some 14 horses/ponies plus a further six that were already dead. Local community members were outraged at the continual failure to care for these sentient creatures over a prolonged period of time. PHHWV was notified and immediately sent out a Horse Representative to investigate. What we found would churn the steeliest of people. The poorest of the poor was a mini who was not far from being another carcass who would be thrown into the same pit of death. If he was



not removed immediately his fate would be dire. The PHHWV Representative made contact with the owner and offered help. We ended up have the mini surrendered and picked him up the next day. His name is Ollie, an 18 year old bay gelding, approximately 8hh covered in lice, riddled with worms, the most chronic case of rain scald that almost had his spine coming through his skin and his back legs were failing him due to complete muscle wastage

and emaciated from long term neglect. His respiration was noted to be at least 3 1/2 times normal which suggested lung or heart issues. We had the vet attend as soon as we got him home and her shock at his condition was evident. She body scored him a 1 with zero fat coverage—he was just bones with skin over them. His heart was struggling, his lungs were struggling and blood test confirmed the results of long-term neglect and a prolonged inflammatory condition. Red and white blood cell counts were alarming—either indication of heavy parasitic worm burdens and/or tumours. Ollie is currently in acute care with many medications and a rigid treatment plan to hopefully pull him through. Next week he will have his teeth done as he presents as having several issues when chewing. Ollie is going to be given every chance to regain his strength and have a pain free life with PHHWV. We will be continuing communication with the owners of the other 14 horses. PHHWV do the work that makes a difference.



Horses ready for LTC

Bellebutton: is an 8 year old, 16.2hh bay Thoroughbred mare. She is a 'clean canvas', having never raced and with 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.

Frodo: is a 15.2hh bay 20 year old Standardbred gelding that is unable to be ridden due to a bad back injury from racing. He has a quirky personality and can be a little unpredictable at times. Frodo has been paddock mates with PHHWV Midnight and whilst not essential, it would be ideal if they could be re-homed as companion horses together.

Midnight: is a 16.3hh, 15 year old black Thoroughbred who is looking for a home as a companion only. He is very sweet and easy to handle. Sadly, his long term carer recently passed. Midnight has been paddock mates with PHHWV Frodo and whilst not essential, it would be ideal if they could be re-homed as companion horses together.

Mia: is a 15hh, 7 year old, brown Thoroughbred mare. She is still quite green, but very friendly, good natured and quiet around ride-on mowers and dogs. She will benefit greatly from who can spend the time with her.

PHHWV Midnight



PHHWV Frodo



PHHWV Mia



PHHWV Bellebutton



Horse News —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 Ernie (by Linda Menzies)

I cared for Ernie since his rescue by PHHWV in September 2016. We shared a very special bond due to the high level of care and time required to bring Ernie back from a shockingly poor condition. Everyone loved Ernie—he had such a caring and loving nature, welcoming everyone he met, be it animal or person. In early September Ernie developed complications from chronic hind hoof abscesses that, on x-ray, had eaten large chunks of tissue within both hind hooves. Tissue damage extended through his hoof walls and up above his coronet bands. I was advised treatment would require radical resection surgery with long recovery periods and no guarantee that surgery would be successful. Euthanasia was the kindest option for him and he was peacefully put to sleep on September 20th 2022. May you RIP wonder boy.



PHHWV Easy (by Katherine Evans)

A big gentle boy was our Easy. He made himself quite comfortable in the new paddock with the young Mare and Jacky boy.

These young horses gave him a new lease on life. When the stropky mare would run the fence because she heard her girls down the road, Easy would get so excited and trot behind her getting in on the action. We'd get so excited he was working those stiff old hind legs. He didn't seem like an old horse when he was with his herd. He was handsome, shiny and so happy! No one dared to go near Easy when he was eating. For a boy who wasn't overly handled he loved being scratched and brushed. We would groom him for up to 30mins sometimes, he would lower his head right down, close his eyes and enjoy the

attention, then he loved to finish off with a big roll in the sun. Easy was a sweet boy and his paddock pals loved him as did we. Easy will be remembered and missed.

Horse News —In Memoriam (continued)



PHHWV Moon (by Tricia Hartshorn)

Moon had ongoing health issues, particularly a leg wound that would not heal despite the best attentions of her STC. Moon was a complex mare who also had challenging behavioural issues. Finding her a long term home was proving very difficult. It was a hard decision but given her circumstances it was agreed that Moon should be put to sleep. RIP dear Moon.



PHHWV Dillon (by Robyn Seidler)

Dillion was a treasured member of the Seidler family since his arrival in 2017. Despite Cushings he had been in very good health until early August 22. He was eating well, bright and great company for his good mate Tommie. He developed abdominal pain which was treated and he seemed to improve. Unfortunately the pain returned and scans revealed a mass and infection in his abdomen. Despite treating the infection effectively, the mass was growing and Dillon's breathing rate and discomfort increased. The decision was made to have him put down. Dillon had a great character and is very much missed by the family.



PHHWV Harry (by Peta Langbehn)

It is with a sad heart I advise that Harry suffered a catastrophic injury to his hind leg which was not salvageable and he was euthanised. Harry came to PHHWV in dire need of care and understanding which, I believe, I was able to offer for these past years. He never really recovered his trust of people and was always hyper reactive to new situations, however he was content with his new equine family and enjoyed his current life as much as he was able.

Project Hope Horse Welfare acknowledges the care and dedication given to all these recently departed horses by their carers. Whatever had gone before in their lives, each of them died with dignity knowing they were loved.

A nd straight from the horse's mouth



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