

PROJECT HOPE

# HORSE

WELFARE VICTORIA

# WINTER 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



*THEN: Axel when rescued*

*NOW: Happy, healthy Axel*



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

# president's report

Winter is here and out come the warm clothes and rugs, gumboots to tackle the mud and the mission to collect firewood to keep warm. The past few months have been very busy with the presentation of our Grassroots Open Day in Benalla followed by a Horse Representative Training Day several weeks later, as well as an attendance at the Seymour Alternative Farming Expo. It was wonderful to be out and about and catch up with our Members. I was reminded yet again of the generosity and incredibly varied skill sets of our membership base. This is one of the most valuable assets that Project Hope can boast.

Rhonda Petschel deserves special mention as she put in an extraordinary effort, not only organising the Benalla days together with Wendy Herbert, but also presenting to the Animal Welfare Law Committee of the Law Institute of Victoria. Through this presentation, Rhonda provided an insight into the welfare issues facing the equine community and how Project Hope can render assistance. Given the limitations of current animal welfare laws, we now have a platform to influence in advocating for legislative and policy change.

Looking forward, we are pleased to announce that Project Hope has entered into an exclusive Community Partner Agreement with Equitana. This opportunity will see Project Hope having a presence at Equitana in July, both in the Breed Village and Exhibitors Pavilion, enabling us to promote the association and the work we do at ground level, encourage new memberships and focus on the all-important effort to raise funds to support horses in need. Additionally, Lucy Clyde has kindly offered to facilitate two education sessions, focussing on how to investigate and action reports of sick, injured, abused or neglected horses.

If you are interested in helping to organise or attend Equitana, please get in touch care of [members@phhvw.org.au](mailto:members@phhvw.org.au). We hope to see you there!

Kathryn Wren  
*President*

## phhvw AGM

For those of us interested in horse health, our guest speaker at this year's AGM will be equine vet Dr Melanie Quick, a lameness specialist. Dr Quick has invited our members to choose the subject to talk about from the array of topics listed on her website, *The Problem Horse*: [www.theproblemhorse.com.au](http://www.theproblemhorse.com.au) RSVP if you can join us on Sunday, 25 July to cast your vote!

The screenshot shows a website for 'The Problem Horse' featuring Dr Melanie Quick. The header includes the phone number 'PH: 0417 010 519' and contact information: 'info@theproblemhorse.com' and 'PO Box 234, Malmsbury, VIC 3446'. The main heading is 'Equine Lameness Veterinarian' with subtext 'Animal Chiropractor & Acupuncturist, Farrier, Saddle Fitter, Horse Trainer & Breaker'. Below this is a photo of two horses in a field. A section titled 'About Dr Melanie Quick' describes her 40 years of experience as a competitor and trainer in State Events and Dressage Championships, and her qualifications as an equine lameness veterinarian, animal chiropractor and acupuncturist, farrier, saddle fitter, horse trainer and breaker. A 'Read more...' button is visible at the bottom right of the text block.

*Dr Quick will be giving two presentations at Equitana - both of which sound terrific.*

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## Committee

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Angela Smith

*Secretary*

Julia Murray

*Treasurer*

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phhww  
@equitana



**Alas, COVID has pushed  
Equitana into the future:  
Equitana will now be held  
11-14 November 2021**

We are very excited to be the 'charity of choice' at Equitana this year!

We will have members presenting our displays in two locations, both indoors and outdoors. In the Breeders Pavilion, a different one of our dear horses will be on show on each of the four days of the event, accompanied by their Long Term Carers. Tilly, Casper, Echo and Popcorn will be there, decked out in their purple Project Hope rugs.

We are grateful to their dedicated Carers for being willing to bring them to Melbourne and spend all day fielding inquiries - and managing lots of patting.

We are also thrilled that 'local champion' Lucy Clyde will be presenting sessions on Horse Representative training in the auditorium on both the Saturday and Sunday.

If you are going to Equitana next month (8-11 July), come and meet fellow members, and if you haven't already become a Horse Rep., trot along to Lucy's presentation and join the Horse Rep. force!



**At Project Hope,  
horses are our world.  
Help us help them**

Donate today at [www.phhww.org.au](http://www.phhww.org.au)

PROJECT HOPE  
**HORSE**  
WELFARE VICTORIA

**EQUITANA**  
MELBOURNE  
8-11 JULY 2021

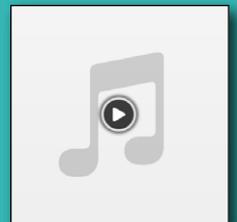
Project Hope Horse Welfare Victoria Inc. (is an incorporated non-profit organisation), committed to providing hope for Victorian equines through rehabilitation, education and advocacy.

## LISTEN TO RADIO?



We need to get the word out there, and have made a short radio promo to send around to local community radio stations and 'your' ABC Victoria - and anywhere else you can think of. It is attached to this newsletter: *Project Hope.wav*

It is a way to interest radio producers to start a conversation about horse welfare, and what we do.



If you are inspired to get your favourite radio station talking about horse welfare and the work we do, get in touch with our Secretary Julia and we can plan our PR approach together.

Please contact Julia Murray  
Email: [julia@phhww.org.au](mailto:julia@phhww.org.au)

# grassroots project open day @ Benalla



Fred & Ginger and family, from left: Imogen, Monty, Gavan and Sally



Putting on a little show: Ava and Rhonda doing their thing



Ex-Secretary Rhonda with Ava, and new Secretary Julia, left



Grassroots Project team, from left: Noelle, Rhonda, Wendy, Monty, Imogen, Shirley, Julia, Angela

## **BENALLA OPEN DAY Saturday 17 April, 2021**

Our 'local champion' and Membership Secretary Wendy organised the great venue of the Equestrian Centre for us. The Grassroots Project has been the 'brainchild' of our outgoing Secretary, Rhonda Petschel, with the aim being to focus on a particular region to create new connections between local horse people, of all stripes, and to promote the education of horse welfare more broadly.

We were delighted to have the whole family attend with their star Project Hope Shetland ponies, Fred and Ginger, and Rhonda brought her lovely arab Ava, who demonstrated how clever a rehabilitated rescue horse can be by counting, 'smiling' on cue and high stepping, as requested.

Visitors got to talk to our Committee members about what we do and how they could become involved, and we were thrilled to have a member from the 1970s visit, having recently moved to the area. She offered her A-level dressage services to the local Adult Riders Club, who were most appreciative. Good connections were made.

The pleasure of meeting fellow horse lovers and welcoming them into the Project Hope 'herd' more than compensated for the long drive there and home for this Committee member.

Julia Murray,  
Secretary

# seymour alternative farming expo



## SEYMOUR ALTERNATIVE FARMING EXPO 16-18 April 2021

With the Sun Gods shining down on us and the help of local (and some not so local) Project Hope members, we had a wonderful three days.

Many thanks to:

Toni Harris, Trish Hartshorn, Peta Langbehn, Wendy Vellere, Renee Neubauer, Kathryn Wren, Angela Smith, Mark Dean, Nadine Harber, Susie Kosa, Tanya Christie, Miriam Orwin, Anna Gear, Sue Kirkegard, Noelle Vine, Rose Caunt, Anita Romleigh, and yours truly...

We met and chatted to a lot of people and 'got the word out there', as well as helping some people with their individual horse problems. We increased our membership, had great fun 'rattling the tins' and selling raffle tickets. All in all, it was a very pleasant and very worthwhile three days.

Shirley McPherson,  
*Treasurer*



*Stall wranglers from left: Wendy Vellere, Kathryn Wren, Angela Smith, Peta Langbehn and Renée Neubauer*

# horse rep training



Following on from our Open Day at Benalla, we held a Horse Rep. training day at Benalla Equestrian Centre on 1st May. All 8 trainee Horse Rep.s agreed it was a very enjoyable and informative day run by Rhonda, our outgoing Secretary, with a lot of laughs and a lovely afternoon tea provided by one of our members who lives close by. As well as providing afternoon tea, she allowed the attendees to body score her 2 beautiful horses and to assess her property.

We also received some wonderful offers of assistance for our organisation. Thank you to Louise and our Horse Reps for their attendance.

Please keep your eyes open for future training days, or let us know if you would be interested by emailing us at [info@phhw.org.au](mailto:info@phhw.org.au)  
Noelle Vine, Horse Reports Coordinator



Horse Rep. trainer Rhonda Petschel, at left, with trainees and President Kathryn, at right.

# PHHWV horse reports

## CRANBOURNE AREA

A chestnut T/Bred was reported to us as non weight-bearing on the offside hind leg. When first moved to the property it had had a bandage on the injury. Several months later, still not weight-bearing. A Horse Rep. visited the property, spoke with the owner and discovered that the injury was very old and possibly not treated properly in the first place and it could be months before it is weight-bearing again. Case closed.

## EAST GIPPSLAND

Phone call from a neighbour regarding a pony with severe rain scald not being treated. The neighbour resolved this herself after talking to the owner and advising her to get a vet, which she eventually did. Case closed

## CARDINIA SHIRE

A phone call from a neighbour about a pony left unattended on the property. Neighbour was unable to contact the owner over a matter concerning the fencing. I advised them to try to contact them through the local council. Ongoing.

## MURRINDINDI SHIRE

A report about a riding school where the reporter felt the horses were not being cared for. One of our members knows the owners and advised that, whilst conditions are not ideal, the horses are well fed, have plenty of access to hay while not working, as well as a nosebag of feed while tied up. Case closed.

## SUNBURY AREA

While out walking one day a person noticed a thin chestnut mare in a paddock on its own. Our Horse Rep. went to inspect the horse and spoke with the owners about the horse. They were very accommodating and showed her the horse, which was aged and had a good supply of feed, water and a shelter. Case closed.

## HEATHCOTE REGION

A woman rang about 2 horses that had been left on her father's property. Both horses are aged and one is quite thin. The owner occasionally buys hay after phone calls to say the horses need it, but does not attend them. Phone calls to the owner have not been returned and I have advised the owners of the property to seek a Lien.

## SUNBURY AREA

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## EXTRA ENQUIRIES

Two different people have rung for advice on trying to catch their horses that are basically wild. They are both well fed but will not be handled and the owners have decided that it is time to try to handle them for hoof and veterinary attention. I have advised them on the appropriate steps to take and will offer assistance when the horses are a little quieter.

A case from last year has come up again with the owner asking for our assistance with caring for her ponies. We have been in touch with the council and RSPCA and are working with the owner.

### In Memoriam

The Committee wish to belatedly acknowledge the quiet passing of Project Hope Gizmo, who died at the ripe old age of 33. Our gratitude to his wonderful Long Term Carers.

**RIP Gizmo**





*Spirit, at left, with Rain in horsey heaven with their two paddock pals*

## PHHWV SPIRIT & RAIN

*Their new Long Term Carer Ella wrote to us recently:*

Both Rain and Spirit are doing really well.

We are still keeping them as a herd of four, which they all seem to enjoy the best. Thankfully they have settled into their places in the herd, so we can manage their different nutritional needs going into winter without too much fuss. Spirit is surprisingly not number one, with my (somewhat cranky) thoroughbred holding that spot.

Rain has kept her condition so far, with us starting rugging on cold nights earlier this year and introducing the gumnuts in her feed.

Spirit has proven that he will push through mild electric fences to get to round bales of hay, so we've adjusted. This is our first year with round bales, so we are experimenting with how we best distribute.

Both of their feet are doing well. And the dentist is booked in for the start of July.

They've not had any health issues.

I'm quite happy to continue to just spend time with them for the time being, and ensure they have a safe happy life.

Thanks again for the opportunity to have them both in our lives.



Spirit with Ella.

Photo: Alexander Naughton





**PHHWV BANJO**

*Long Term Carer Sandra writes:*

These photos are from his 3 and a half years here. Banjo has his own 3 pony paddocks, plus we built him a stable with a shelter and second stable attached. He does go out in the paddock with our other horse for 2 hours of a morning with his muzzle on. Banjo's favourite thing is to swim in the dam - he loves it.

Banjo also has his own very extensive wardrobe to cater for all his needs.

The damage to Banjo's hooves is extensive so his trim cycle is every 3 weeks. He is under constant vet care with Bendigo Equine. He will be getting more repeat X-rays done later in the year to see how his hooves are going. We have had him tested for Cushings, EMS and insulin resistance; happily, he is negative to all. We have slimmed him way down. The vets and farrier much happier with his weight now. He was wider than he was high when he arrived.

We absolutely adore this cheeky gorgeous little man.



**PHHWV JUNIOR**

*Little Junior experiencing his first hoof trim. His Long Term Carer, Nicky kindly shared this 'first' for Junior.*

On ANZAC day this year, Lynne again rode Raf in the Lighthorse parade in Gippsland. These photos are from The Shrine of Remembrance in Melbourne from 2017, where Raf withstood the extreme noise of jets flying low overhead. We wanted to share Lynne's story - a great Project Hope love story.

**RAFIQ (RAF):** Rafiq is an Arabian boy's name, meaning friend. It suits Raf perfectly!

A friend supports you in what you do – and in everything I have tried with Raf, he has done well: trail riding in the bush, riding and camping in the high country, and joining the 13th Gippsland Lighthorse group. I expected Raf to be a bit of a handful when we went in our first parade, but he behaved like a seasoned professional.

Raf came into my life in January 2012, after being rescued as an orphaned foal from the notorious Kyneton incident, and being cared for by PHHWV.

When he was old enough and ready for training as a riding horse, he was advertised for Long Term Lease. I took him on as a very green 14.2 hh horse and he and I have grown in our relationship as we have worked together and developed a partnership. I am convinced that Raf and I were “meant to be”.

Raf had one little ‘avoidance technique’: backing up when he didn’t want to do something. Once, when riding with a friend along a dirt road, Raf saw a school bus sign about 40 metres up ahead. He thought it looked dangerous and was getting my friend’s horse agitated with his attempts to reverse away from the ‘danger’. So I tried reverse psychology: I turned him around and backed him all the way past the sign – it worked! (he backs beautifully) and now if he even thinks about ‘reverse gear’, I just have to remind him of that time and he goes forward!

My friend and I were able to talk face to face as we rode along the road towards the dreaded sign, with her horse facing in the right direction! A farmer in his front paddock had a rather puzzled expression as we both waved and said good morning to him!

Raf and I have had some great times and I look forward to many more with my beautiful friend, who is now 14.



Lynne Brehaut riding her beloved Project Hope horse Raf in the Lighthorse celebration of the charge of Beersheba at The Shrine in Melbourne city 2017.

# horses for lease



## PHHWV FRODO (aka CHESTER)

FRODO, aka Chester, is a spritely 19 years young Standardbred gelding looking for a new long term home. Very friendly and manageable, he would make a great companion horse for your equine family.

Originally imported from NZ, he was a high stakes winner sold to someone in Queensland. Unfortunately, through no fault of his own, he found himself in a starvation paddock in Melton many years ago. Happily, however, thanks to the expert care of Project Hope member Terry, he has since not wanted for anything.



## PHHWV MIDNIGHT

Midnight is a sweet 14yo, 16hh Thoroughbred looking for a long term home.

He has thrived in rehab, after coming from a very poor paddock with only weed to eat which consequently meant a bad case of stringhalt – but, with 18 months of good pasture and wonderful care with PHHWV member Gina, he is ready to start the next chapter in his life.



## PHHWV PARIS

Offered as a Companion horse, 16yo 16hh Standardbred Paris has not been ridden.

Her Short Term Carer Caitlin describes her as very calm and settled, she enjoys the company of other horses and humans and loves children's cuddles and feeding her tit-bits.

She comes when called and is easy to handle with feeding, brushing, rugging and handling feet. She puts her head down for the halter, leads and ties up without any issues. She is a pleasure to have around.



**At Project Hope Horse Welfare Victoria, horses are our world. Please help us to help them.**



Dear horse lover,

For nearly 50 years, we have been rescuing neglected and abandoned horses. Yet right now, rehabilitating and rehoming our equine friends has never been harder.

The economic chaos created by Covid-19 has also caused a significant financial crisis here at Project Hope Horse Welfare Victoria Inc. We are challenged by increased demand for horse supplies and daily care at the same time as reduced donations from the community suffering the financial strain of the Pandemic 2020 year.

**We have never needed your help more, please help us if you can. We need you to donate today. Any donation over \$2 is tax-deductible.**

Our costs to support the 190 horses in care has increased dramatically, whilst the essential work of assessing neglected horses and rehoming has only increased in recent times, so your financial support is vital.

As a horse lover, you can help Project Hope rescue and re-home horses and see that our equine friends are treated with care and respect. Please help us to help them.

**We need your help more than ever before.** Right now, there are hundreds of horses that deserve to be cared for and given a better quality of life.



PHHWV Oaky  
Safe since 2002

**Please donate now, our work never stops!**

**Donate now**

**Where your money goes...**

-  \$25 will cover a worming treatment
-  \$50 will cover farrier treatment
-  \$150 will pay for transport and relocation
-  \$120 will pay for a warm winter rug
-  \$500 will fund the initial vet care and urgent medical provisions for a rescued horse
-  \$800 will fund a three month rehabilitation program for a rescued horse
-  \$1,000 will fund ongoing support to transition a horse to long term care

***They need your help so please donate now!***

To donate or become a Project Hope member go to [www.phhwv.org.au](http://www.phhwv.org.au)  
*Thank you for your support*



VISIT OUR "GIVE NOW" WINTER TAX APPEAL AT [WWW.GIVENOW.COM.AU](http://WWW.GIVENOW.COM.AU) OR DONATE VIA OUR WEBSITE: [WWW.PHHWV.ORG.AU](http://WWW.PHHWV.ORG.AU)

PROJECT HOPE

# HORSE

WELFARE VICTORIA



Project Hope Horse Welfare Victoria Inc.

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[www.scootboots.com](http://www.scootboots.com)



**Thank you**

Thank you to Mark Dean, long time member and Long Term Carer, for offering to be our Assistant Treasurer

**Thank you**

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



## can you help?

Are you a graphic artist or designer who could lay out our quarterly newsletter?

Our Committee can gather the written material, but we need someone to put it all together and make it look great. We have several other graphic design projects, so your skills and expertise would be put to good use!

Get in touch with us at [julia@phwv.org.au](mailto:julia@phwv.org.au)