



**PROJECT HOPE HORSE
WELFARE VICTORIA
ANNUAL REPORT
2019/20**

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OUR MISSION

Throughout Victoria, whenever and wherever possible:

- To assist owners through education, assistance and advice to rehabilitate their own horses
- To provide emergency care, treatment and assistance to horses
- To rescue and rehabilitate any horse found abandoned, sick, injured or mistreated
- To find suitable homes for rehabilitated horses surrendered to the Association that, as far as possible, assures the horses' future wellbeing
- To educate the community on the plight of neglected horses
- To contribute to the development of improved government legislation and policy

Strategic Objectives 2020 / 2021

The following Strategic Objectives have been identified for PHHWV as we move forward into the next year, they include:

- To review the Rules of our organisation in order to strengthen the governance of PHHWV
- To streamline our processes and procedures to ensure consistency and ease of use for our volunteers
- To continue to enhance, provide and deliver Horse Representative training to members via Zoom, increasing the number of volunteers to be trained throughout the year
- To continue to plan for the 50th Anniversary of PHHWV.



THE STORY OF CREATURE



PHHWV has rescued hundreds of horses and ponies over the past 48 years, but there's some that stand out a little more than others.

Rescued in July 1997 as a two year old Welsh pony colt he was found 'down' in a paddock unable to stand up and resembled nothing more than a skeleton with hair – this is how he became known as 'Creature'. Where some would have given up on him, Nicola saw hope.

After being transported to Nicola's he picked at a hay net for a couple of days. He still needed help to stand after laying down and was helped to his feet three to five times a day for three weeks before he graduated to a small paddock during the day, continuing to be stabled at night.

His progress continued and he blossomed into an energetic loving pony once he realised he was safe, secure and that his legs could be used to run.



At the age of four he was broken to saddle and harness and has won numerous ribbons in both disciplines as well as being successful in dressage. His career as a Project Hope pony has included being a favourite mascot for PHHWV at Pet Expos, Events, Agricultural shows in addition to visiting Nursing Homes and Community Centres putting smiles on the faces of the elderly.

Project Hope will forever be grateful to Nicola and all of our volunteers that commit their time, homes, love and compassion to rescuing and rehabilitating horses and ponies, every now and again we find a diamond in the rough like 'Creature'.

Thank you



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The time since the last AGM can be divided into pre Covid and post, despite the separation, pain and loss during Covid, the lengthy drought and horrific fires the work of protecting and rescuing horses continues.

Like every year before I must acknowledge the efforts of every volunteer that has made a difference to an equines life over the year all the members of **PHHWV** horses in Short and Long term care, all those going out checking, floating and working with the horses -thank you. To all those doing admin, keeping the books, checking, ringing, fundraising and many other behind the scenes jobs that go often unseen - thank you. **PHHWV** relies on a workforce made up completely of unpaid volunteers and all are of vital importance in horses' lives.

PHHWV continues to be an important player in the horse welfare arena of Victoria. Once again our activities have met our charter: working with stakeholders to improve policy and horse industry behaviours, liaising with equine welfare groups, supporting the community with education and persisting with horse reports until there are satisfactory outcomes, this year with an added dimension of the economic fallout of Covid for horse owners.

At the end of 2019 we had a total of 190 horses in caring homes with our members

In the policy and political arena we have had a particularly successful year. We had a seat at the Australian Horse Industry Council meetings and were the only welfare group represented by Renee Neubauer who was our representative able to bring a unique perspective to the discussions.

We had the opportunity to meet and introduce our organisation to Andy Meddick MP and his advisors. This resulted in his endorsing a funding application for communication and marketing over the next five years which we submitted to the State Government for their consideration. He stood up both in Parliament and on his social media describing our organisational model and praising our volunteer efforts.

59 Horse Reports resulted in the surrender of 10 horses to PHHWV

We have also sat with the Welfare department of Racing Victoria and had wonderful discussions describing our model and presenting recommendations we have for advancing horse welfare.

Horse reports in 2019 and first half of 2020 have provided opportunities to work with other rescue organisations including the Donkey Rescue and Farm Animal Rescue. It is particularly important we link closely with these organisations as it provides a united front when we work on improving welfare standards and to be able to work quickly when an equine is in need.

The Committee have been proactive in maintaining our social media presence with a new website and increased activity on Facebook and Instagram.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT CONT...

The previous work of Swinburne student projects has been a wonderful asset with the videos describing who we are and raising our search engine options. The e-world changes quickly and I do believe we are keeping up.

Before Covid we were rolling out our Grassroots Project which is showing great promise. The project includes contacting stakeholders in a specific area and putting on an Open Day to showcase our organisation and our horses, then following up with a Horse Report training day. This year we started in the Wallan area in the north and Upper Beaconsfield in the East. Through these days we have recruited new members, found horses long term homes and gained some new horse representatives which is what we want to see right across the state. We also received an invite to Smythesdale Pony Club to receive a donation which was a heartwarming day. The interest in this Project across the state has been strong and as such we have local people planning a grassroots session in a number of areas but this currently sits in pause as a result of current restrictions.

***PHHWV Grassroots Project
is showing great promise***

We recognise the unique challenges that this year has presented, as a result, we have embarked upon a program to reach out to members. This includes touching base with members and encouraging them to reach out to other members in an effort to support each other as well as asking **PHHWV** for assistance should the need arise, whether it be for advice, financial help or just keeping in contact to share good news, troubles, great ideas or ways to help horses and each other.

Sadly, we lost members from our Committee that we started the year with but I am heartened by the fact they are all still working for the horses in their own ways and we have gained other hard working Committee members. The Committee is busy changing the way we do things, so that **PHHWV**'s work can continue. We have been using Skype or Zoom every 2nd committee meeting for some time but now all Committee meetings are held by Zoom because of Covid-19. Born of necessity the big advantage is it is much easier to hold meetings and catch up in between with committee members not having to travel and we will look at continuing this past lockdown, opening up the possibility of Committee members being from anywhere around Victoria.



Before I finish off I must once again praise the calibre of our members, we punch above our weight. Many have stayed involved for the long haul and carry great knowledge and wisdom regarding horse welfare, their resolve is strong and standards high. There are many new members who have stepped up and are making a difference too. I am particularly proud of having the opportunity to be President of this wonderful organisation.

Angela Smith
President PHHWV

SECRETARY'S REPORT

This reporting period has been another with plenty of activity. Our organisation encompasses the animal welfare, volunteers and charities sector and each of these carries its own knowledge base and responsibilities.

We have our important role of monitoring and caring for our horses, we need to recognise and nurture all our members as volunteers and also maintain our governance standards required and supported by the Australian Charities & Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC).

During this year, the Committee have completed a Governance Health Check which has been beneficial in drawing our responsibilities together and further tidying up our procedures. We certainly acknowledge the hard work done by previous committees and thank those that have shared their experience and knowledge for us to build on this. This is an ongoing project that will see committees of the future strengthened.

There are always people doing a great amount in the background, in particular I would like to shout out a huge thank you to Linda Menzies for managing the horse data base, Wendy Herbert for managing the membership database and Gina Harris for updating our website and bringing our administrative framework onto G Suite which has certainly streamlined our administration. I also thank and acknowledge the current and previous Committee members for their dedication and sharing that has assisted the administration. We continue our major focus on the horses, recording and updating details of their lives and finding long term homes.

On a personal note I have enjoyed delving deeper into the three sectors, it has been a life enriching experience. Before Covid-19 hit our shores we were out and about putting on Open Days , Horse Representative training days and visiting pony clubs. Although cut short I feel like I have new friends across the state and look forward to this in the future.

To everyone in Project Hope I thank you for your support and for caring enough about horses to step up as you do, for giving so much of your time and energy in making Project Hope not just work, but get better all the time.

Rhonda Petschel.



PHHWV SHAWNEE & CAMPASPE

Shawnee



Found wandering the streets as suburbia rose up around her. PHHWV received a call about an old chestnut mare that looked like she had been fending for herself for quite some time. No-one is sure just how old she is or how long she had been wandering the streets, but concern grew as people moved into their homes.

Shawnee was taken into Short Term Care (STC) in November 2019 and has found herself with a new herd of horses and humans that have taken her under their wing.

She has slowly gained weight and spends her days grazing in the paddock in her new home (as shown below) and has bonded with her paddock mates. Despite what she's been through (we'll never know) she is a sweet natured mare and thanks to PHHWV will now live out her days as every horse should, grazing with her herd.



Campaspe

Found as an unhandled five year stallion who was living amongst rubbish earlier this year, Campaspe was rescued by PHHWV and went into STC. After a vet check, some TLC a few months of rehabilitation an impressive gelding started to emerge. It was decided that he should be sent for training and that's all it took.

His trainer fell in love and Campaspe has recently gone into Long Term Care with Sue. Thank you to all that helped him transform from a scrawny unhandled horse to one that has a very bright future ahead of him now.



PROJECT HOPE HORSES

Some of PHHWV's Social Media Stars



ATTACHMENT A

Treasurer's and Auditor's Reports

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