



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

PHHWV PURPOSES

- To provide assistance to horse owners through education, advice and support to rehabilitate their own horses.
- To rescue and rehabilitate any horse found abandoned, sick, injured, mistreated or neglected or likely to become in such condition in the imminent future.
- To provide emergency care, treatment and assistance to horses.
- To educate the community on the plight of neglected horses; and
- To contribute to the development of improved government legislation and policy relating to the welfare of horses.

A very big thank you to all our volunteers who make this possible.

Committee

Executive


Rhonda Petschel, President
Renee Neubauer, Vice President
Karen Davies, Secretary
Shirley McPherson, Treasurer


Ordinary


Silvija Footner
Toni Harris
Angela Smith
Mandi Herauville
Noelle Vine
Vaso Elefsiniotis
Tessa Reimers


Contact us


Stay in touch

 1300 881 606

 0419 515 931

 info@phhvw.org.au

 GPO Box 1991
Melbourne VIC 3001

 phhvw.org.au

Follow us



REG: A0027152D
ABN: 96 820 500 367

President's report



I do not know about your place, but things are already dry here. PH Ava, PH Harmony and PH Snip are already telling me the hay is more interesting than the pasture. Project Hope continues to be busy with our committee settling into their roles, plus members running projects. We continue to move forward.

Daily operations continue to be busy and our data shows that since October 2022 we have had 69 horses move through short term care with 18 listed at the moment. From these efforts come inspiring stories with horses becoming healthy in body, mind and behaviour. I know that everybody involved is touched with the joy of helping to make a difference. We must thank everyone right through the process of helping these horses: the community who care enough to contact us, Angela Smith on the 1300 number, Karen Davies on the info@ email through our website, our Horse Reports Coordinator Noelle Vine and her amazing Horse Representative team along with the Horse Welfare Working Group. Thank you to our short term and long term carers and their supporters. The horse's behaviour tells you they say thank you.

Mandi Herauville brought together a great team and presentation for the Elmore Field Days, although she could not control the weather, Renee and her soldiered on and proudly represented us. It was not just wet, it was torrential. Thank you everyone who volunteered and I do hope you enjoyed catching up.

The Hope for Horses Project that was funded by Animal Welfare Victoria is now finished and we are very proud of our efforts. Since the last newsletter we hosted an Equine Dental Day with Peter Borgdorff at the Portarlington Pony Club and Bellarine Riding Club. Thank you to the Department of Agriculture and the Animal Welfare Grants Program for the support.

Those of you on social media will be noticing our upbeat and busy FB pages and website. Renee and Angela, I am in awe of your social media skills and thank those supporting you in the background.

Operation Reconnect has been a project in the wings for a couple of years now. Our aim is to touch base with all our horses across the state and in doing so strengthen our local membership engagement. Kathryn Wren and Gina Harris who are both previous committee members, are leading this project. It is wonderful to see their commitment as members. Great work is being done so keep an eye out.

Finally, indications are that we will experience a hot summer, so let's keep our eyes open to safeguarding horses against the hot and dry weather to come.

Rhonda Petschel
President
Project Hope Horse Welfare Victoria Inc.

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MEET OUR MEMBERS



Photos Raelene with her horses, Tom and Mickey

Raelene Wilson

My story about Project Hope

I have been a member of Project Hope for many years now. I love being a part of this organisation because I love what they do. I really enjoy the Newsletter and reading the stories of the rescues.

I had ponies when I was younger (some time ago!) and they bring so much fun, joy and companionship to your life -I definitely reminisce about the great rides I had with friends. I loved my ponies. While I don't have a horse now, I still have the "bug" and kept all my gear! I have wonderful memories.

Keep up the great work Project Hope!

 *A present that just keeps giving!*



MEMBERSHIP FORM

UNLOCK THE MAGIC OF OUR MEMBERSHIP FOR A WHOLE YEAR.. AT JUST \$50!



MEET OUR MEMBERS



Lisa

Project Hope and Aurora

My husband and I live in the Yarra Valley with our dogs, chickens, my 6yo Appaloosa mare, Dream, and PHHWV Aurora. Aurora came to live with us in April 2023. She is a Welsh Cob X Thoroughbred mare who recently turned 10 years old.

We moved to our property at Christmas last year. Dream was previously kept at an agistment farm where she had friends very close by, so I wanted her to have a companion here.

I became a member of PHHWV and expressed interest in being a long term carer. I let PHHWV know the kind of horse I was looking for - a companion for my mare that didn't require too much additional training (with a busy full-time job and new property, I didn't want to overcommit!). Not long after, I was contacted about a horse that may be suitable.

We met Aurora at the property of her short-term carer. She was so calm and easy to handle, even my non-horsey husband felt confident to lead her. I quickly knew that she was perfect for our needs.

Aurora arrived and easily settled in. It was interesting to watch Dream and Aurora interact and get to know one another. Dream is a dominant mare, and fortunately Aurora is willing to follow her lead. I noticed a change in Dream as she became much more settled with a companion in the paddock.

Although Dream can be bossy sometimes, particularly when a patch of juicy grass is involved, the two of them are together everywhere they go. There's also two ponies over the neighbour's fence who they love to stand with.

Aurora loves people, snacks and a good scratch. While Dream is a bit more opinionated about things, Aurora is happy to stand, eat from her haynet and be pampered. In the past I've only ever owned Appaloosas with very little mane and tail. I call Aurora my 'barbie pony' - the pony I would have wanted as a little girl, with her luscious mane and tail that I could brush and plait all day!

My plan for the start of 2024 is to put together some basic obstacles and games in my arena and try them with the horses. I'll let you know how we go!





VALE JULEE HOSKING

PHHWV was saddened to learn of the death of member Julee Hosking on 1 November 2023.

Julee was an active member who took on the role of Horse Representative and supported Project Hope in many activities.

Our thoughts are with her husband, Mike, and family.

MEMBER NOTICES

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

As a member-driven organisation, there are many people involved in projects and teams without the responsibility of being on the committee. Volunteering has great benefits and truly makes a difference to horse welfare. We are currently looking for more people to help support the following activities:

- Newsletter co-ordination
- Fundraising
- Social Media
- Bookkeeping
- Membership engagement
- Horse Reports co-ordination
- Events co-ordination
- Horse Representative Trainer

If you feel that you have some relevant skills that could assist us and you have a few hours per week to commit to some activity, please call us on 1300 881 606 or email info@phhwv.org.au and let's chat about what is possible. We look forward to hearing from you!



PHHWV YOUTUBE CHANNEL

Did you know that PHHWV has a Youtube Channel?

For members as well as the broader community, find out more about Project Hope and some of our horses, watch a four-part webinar series on horse health and well-being, by Dr Lesley Hawson, and more.

Check it out here, share and subscribe:

<https://www.youtube.com/@phhwvinformation6247/feature>

FACEBOOK AND INSTAGRAM

Over the past few months, we have increased our activity on our sites in an attempt to become more visible in the community. As financial members of PHHWV we invite you to join our Private Members Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/groups/386122952118831>

On this page, you can share your stories, get advice and have first insights into which of our PHHWV horses will be available for Long Term Care. Please make sure that you answer the questions when joining.

Our public Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/Projecthopevic> has just over 7300 followers. We would like to increase that significantly, but we need your help! We would really appreciate you sharing posts, inviting friends to the page and also sending us requests for what else you would like to see covered in terms of how to improve equine welfare.

Please hit the share button and spread the good work of PHHWV.



OPERATION RECONNECT

By Kathryn Wren

PHHWV operates on a unique model whereby all horses surrendered to it are leased to financial members of the organisation. The horses are not sold, adopted or given away. The reason for this is to promote the ongoing welfare of the horses and support their long-term carers.

Operation Reconnect is a project to reconnect with PHHWV members who have PHHWV horses in care. Being a state-based organisation, PHHWV has members spread all across Victoria and even some interstate. There are currently just under 200 horses in long term care and we would like to reconnect with each and every horse and their carer. In order to get all of these visits done, we are asking our members to get involved.

We will shortly be requesting volunteers to go out to meet with a member caring for a PHHWV horse. As PHHWV approaches its 50th anniversary, we are keen to obtain current photographs of PHHWV horses and members. We also want to ensure that our records are up to date and accurate.

This project also provides an opportunity to gain feedback from our membership about what they would like to see happen in the equine welfare space and in PHHWV more particularly. It is hoped that by putting members in touch with each other, networks may be created and local communities of PHHWV members may evolve.

Without the assistance of members caring for horses, PHHWV could not operate as it does and members caring for PHHWV horses are to be thanked for making this possible.

If you are interested in assisting with Operation Reconnect or have any questions, please contact Kathryn Wren at kathryn@phhwv.org.au or 0421 337 432.

Public feedback is sought on the draft Animal Care and Protection Bill and its supporting regulations.

If the draft Bill is passed by the Victorian Parliament to become an Act, the new Animal Care and Protection Act would replace the current Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1986 (the POCTA Act).

A new Act would not come into force for at least 2 years to enable the development of supporting regulations. The regulations would set more detailed requirements for specific species and activities involving animals (where needed).

This is the last opportunity to provide feedback before the Animal Care and Protection Bill is finalised for consideration. This is the first consultation on the regulations and seeks feedback to inform the priorities and the approach to developing the regulations.

How to participate

To read the draft Bill and make a submission and to complete the regulations survey, click on the following link. You can just make a submission on the draft Bill, or just complete the regulations survey – or you can do both:

<https://engage.vic.gov.au/new-animal-welfare-act-victoria>

This public consultation closes at 11.59 pm Friday 8 March 2024.



Events

ELMORE FIELD DAYS 3-5 OCT 2023

By Mandi Herauville, Events Coordinator

It was a rainy and windy few days in early October, when some wonderful volunteers attended the PH stall at the Elmore Field Days. This was our first time at the event which has been going since 1964 and an opportunity to meet the local community. The Elmore Field Days have gained recognition as one of Australia's premier agricultural Field Days and it is enormous! We headed up Monday with hopes of fine weather but Renee & Mandi shivered through night one. Toni and Tricia towed the float full of gear to Elmore a day early, so we could get set up before the gales and downpours arrived. On Tuesday the show was very quiet due to the terrible weather and as we battled to stay dry, we enjoyed our interactions with the local community who ventured out to the event. It got pretty muddy, but despite that, the crowds gradually increased each day and we met some incredible equine representatives, competitors, trainers and new members.

We sold some merchandise, signed up some new members and also conducted a raffle each day which was kindly sponsored by CEN Nutrition. Despite the very damp weather, it was a fun event.

Thank you again to all of our wonderful volunteers: Julia Murray, Karen Davies, Kathryn Wren, Katrina Campbell, Lauren & Duncan Woods, Mandi Herauville, Noelle Vine, Renee Neubauer, Rhonda Petschel, Susie Kosa, Tricia Hartshorn and Toni Harris.



Events

BAIRNSDALE SHOW

11 NOV 2023

By Mandi Herauville, Events Coordinator

PHHWV member Lynne Brehaut who runs the Animal Expo section of the Bairnsdale Show each year was on the front foot, contacting us to get some updated flyers and information to help promote the great work of Project Hope. As previous years events had been cancelled due to COVID, it was good to be able to get out and about amongst the public again.

Lynne and her daughter Kristen did a fabulous job promoting Project Hope to all of the passers-by. They also had their two Project Hope ponies (Scooby and Lux) on display which everyone enjoyed patting. Our Secretary, Karen, attended the show in support of their efforts and left some updated brochures for future promotional use.

A big cheer to Lynne and Kristen for sharing the Project Hope work.

★ THE ★ BAIRNSDALE ★ SHOW ★



Events

HORSE REP TRAINING DAY

By Alan Salter, Ballarat Social Trail Horse Riders Club

On Sunday, 19 Nov 2023 the BSTHRC hosted a Project Hope Horse Representative Training Day at Magpie. Project Hope President, Rhonda Petschel, had attendees actively involved with her interactive presentation. The aim of the day was to provide an overview of Project Hope's objectives and to equip prospective "Horse Representatives" within the Club, with the knowledge and skills required in the role. Issues discussed included welfare of horses, legal issues, codes of practice, insurance, the role of Horse Representatives, assessment of horses (including a practical session after lunch with three of Alan's horses), managing case outcomes, support and self-care.

Many of our Club members are extremely aware of our obligations regarding the welfare of our horses, and the horse generally. Today's session was a practical and pro-active way of providing members with the ability to also pass on valuable information to others involved with horses.

The Club provided a sumptuous lunch laid out and presented by our host Carole. Steve and Alan have already indicated that they intend volunteering as "Horse Representatives", and it is hoped that others in the group will give this serious consideration.

Thank you to Project Hope and all attendees for your active participation. Special thanks to Carole who set up our learning room, lunch and other refreshments. Thanks to those who brought along treats, cakes, etc for the group.

Become a Horse Representative

Horse Reports

Project Hope Representatives visit paddocks or properties when we receive a report of horse cruelty. We train members who would like to help with this important outreach.






We run at least two training days a year and following the training, you decide if you wish to become a Project Hope representative. Training involves learning about Project Hope's role, what equine neglect and abuse is and looks like, and best ways to speak with owners.

Property Inspections

Before our horses go to a new home, be it for short or long term care, we need representatives to make sure the property is suitable for the horse. In this role, reps check for items such as well maintained fencing, access to water, what shelter is available, and whether the horse has a horse companion.

We'll train you on the key features that make the perfect home for our beloved horses.

If this sounds like you contact us
<https://www.phhww.org.au/contact/>

0 Very poor		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Very sunken rump• Deep cavity under tail• Skin tight over bones• Very prominent backbone and pelvis• Marked ewe neck
1 Poor		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sunken rump• Cavity under tail• Ribs easily visible• Prominent backbone and croup• Ewe neck - narrow and slack
2 Moderate		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Flat rump either side of backbone• Ribs just visible• Narrow but firm neck• Backbone well covered
3 Good		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rounded rump• Ribs just covered but easily felt• No crest, firm neck
4 Fat		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rump well rounded• Gutter along back• Ribs and pelvis hard to feel• Slight crest





EVENTS

UPCOMING EVENTS



Berwick Show

In its 175th year, the Berwick Show is a fun-filled weekend for families, animal lovers and equine enthusiasts. Tickets can be purchased online and at the gates.

Dates 24-25 February, 2024

Location Akoonah Park, Princes Hwy, Berwick

2024 Leader Equine Farm World Equestrian Festival

The Leader Equine Farm World Equestrian Festival runs in conjunction with Farm World and has done for 4 years now. With equestrian events on every day, it's a must see event for horse lovers.

Dates 22-24 March, 2024

Location Lardner Park, 155 Burnt Store Rd, Lardner



PHHWV Merchandise

It's nearly Christmas, so please consider visiting our online shop for a few gift ideas to go under your Christmas tree for family and friends. For a truly meaningful gift this Christmas, please consider a Project Hope membership which will continue to keep on giving for a whole year.

Every membership helps us to continue with our work to educate, rehabilitate and advocate for horses in need. Thank you!

<https://www.phhwv.org.au/products/categories/>



horse education

Applying the Five Domains Model to the Welfare Assessment of Horses

By Renee Neubauer

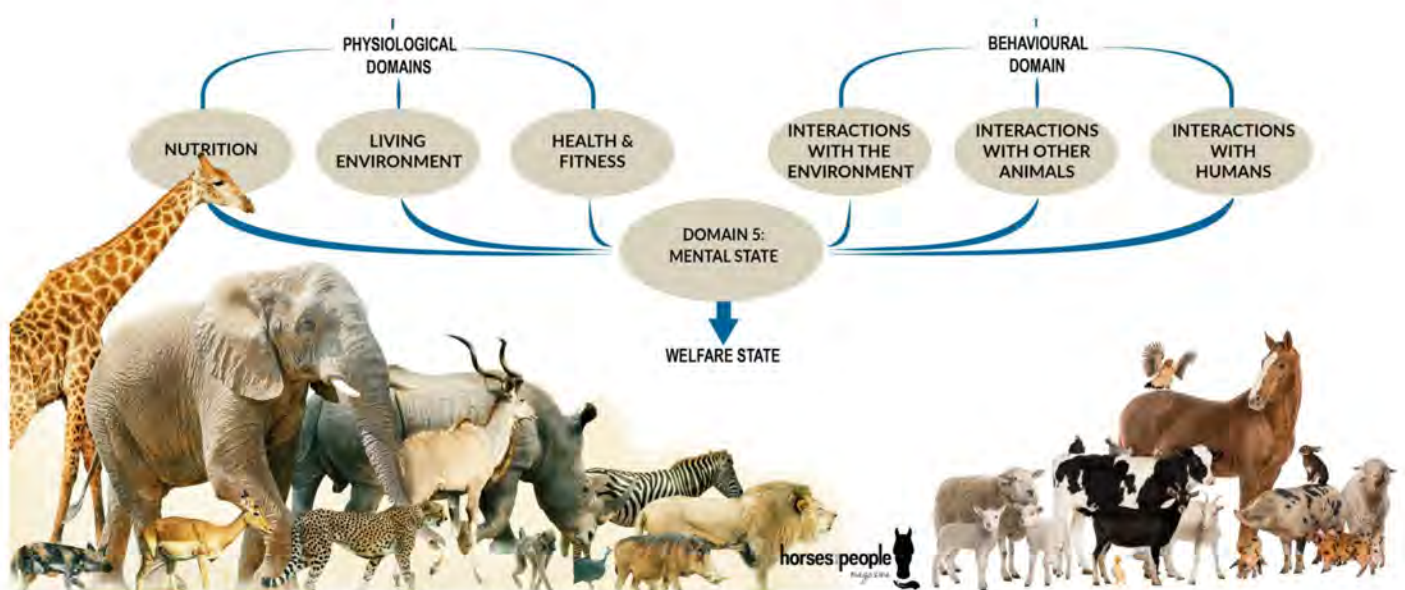
Some members of the Project Hope Horse Welfare Victoria committee are undertaking an online course “Applying the Five Domains Model to the Welfare Assessment of Horses”.

We strongly believe that following world’s best practice in horse welfare is important. Increasing our knowledge in this area will help us to form better policies and procedures to continue our long-standing work for this organisation and grow our next generation of advocates.

We are very thankful for the assistance provided by Cristina Wilkins, founder of Australia's equine resource Horses and People online publication.

To find out more about this course, enquire via this link below:

<https://www.openlearning.com/une/courses/une-equine-course/homepage/?cl=1>



HORSES AND BUSHFIRES A GUIDE FOR HORSE OWNERS - CFA FACT SHEET

With the Summer months ahead of us and forecasts of very hot and dry conditions, it's time to consider what to do to minimise fire risks and danger to ourselves and our horses.

Do you have a plan?

You and your animals are at risk of fire if you live near, visit or agist in areas that are:

- heavily forested
- have thick bush or long, dry grass
- coastal areas.

Whether your horses are located at home or on an agistment property, you need to plan and prepare for their safety.

Prepare a safe place for your horse

Horses are quite good at avoiding bushfire if two conditions are met:

- they are given enough room to move freely in a large open space
- there is minimal vegetation in the space.

A large, well-grazed paddock or a series of smaller paddocks with the internal gates left open would be suitable. Ideally it should have a dam where the horse can seek relief from the heat.

A large sand ménage can also be suitable if there are no buildings or vegetation that could catch fire.

On Extreme or Catastrophic fire danger days move your horses to your designated safer area. Do not lock your horses in a stable, holding yard or similar environment as your horses may panic and hurt themselves if confined. Do not let your horses out on roads, as they will be in more danger from traffic and fire.

A horse's natural instinct is to run from danger including bushfire and they will quickly move to burnt ground to survive.

If your property isn't safe for your horse

You may wish to consider:

- agisting horses out of the area during summer
- making arrangements to temporarily move horses on Extreme or Catastrophic fire danger days.
- Safer places for horses may be:
 - a neighbour or friend's property
 - local showgrounds
 - saleyards
 - racetracks
 - pony club grounds.

You could get together with friends, other agistees or club members and arrange a group strategy. If you do agist your horse in a high fire-risk area, it's important to find out the property's bushfire plan.

Before a fire threatens

If your plan is to move your horses/s to a safe location on hot, dry, windy days, you will need to move them well in advance of a fire starting. Once a fire starts, you won't be able to move them safely.

If you do wait until a fire has started before you leave, you risk the serious danger of driving through thick smoke, fallen trees and powerlines, and face the threat of collisions, being trapped or worse. Protect yourself and your animals by leaving early.



Other Considerations

On Extreme or Catastrophic fire danger days you should remove all gear from your horse as it could get caught on fences, melt or become very hot and cause serious burns. Don't leave rugs on your horse.

Permanently identify your horse. This could include branding but microchipping is preferred.

If your horse is difficult to catch you may consider leaving a leather halter on with identification tags.

Ensure your property has a property identification code (PIC) registered with Agriculture Victoria that indicates horses are on the property.



Further info, warnings and advice:

- Visit agriculture.vic.gov.au and search for horses and bushfires for more detailed advice.
- Visit Rural Aid ruralaid.org.au for help after a fire.
- Bushfire safety and property preparation – CFA website cfa.vic.gov.au
- Check the VicEmergency App for up-to date Fire Danger Rating and locations of current fires.
- Social Media: [facebook.com/cfavic](https://www.facebook.com/cfavic)
- [twitter @CFA_Updates](https://twitter.com/CFA_Updates)
- VicEmergency Hotline: 1800 226 226.

Personal safety during bushfire

Always put your own safety before the safety of your horses. While horses have a high chance of survival, you are at risk of death from exposure to radiant heat. Ensure you wear protective clothing and drink water. Develop a fire plan that will ensure your safety. The safest option is for you to be well away from high risk bushfire areas on Extreme or Catastrophic fire danger days.

If you cannot leave the area consider shelter options close by that may protect you, including:

- a well-prepared home (yours or a neighbour's) that you can actively defend
- a private bunker (that meets current regulations)
- a designated Community Fire Refuge. Last resort options could include:
 - a Bushfire Place of Last Resort (Neighbourhood Safer Place)
 - a stationary car in a cleared area
 - a ploughed paddock or reserve
 - a body of water (such as the beach, pool, dam or river). This does not include a water tank. Dams may not be reliable as their water levels fluctuate and they may be empty in summer.

Note that last resort options carry a high risk of trauma, injury or death.

After the fire

Horses tend to recover well after a fire. Appropriate treatment will soon restore them to full health. They may suffer facial burns and their eyelids can be very swollen to the extent where they cannot open them. A horse suffering from burns requires prompt veterinary attention but there are some ways to make them more comfortable until the vet arrives. Sponge affected areas with cold water. If legs are affected try standing your horse in a bucket of clean water to reduce pain and swelling.

This article has been adapted from a CFA fact sheet, available here: [https://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/ArticleDocuments/534/CFA%20Factsheet%20-%20Horses%20and%20bushfires%20\(Versio%202\).pdf](https://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/ArticleDocuments/534/CFA%20Factsheet%20-%20Horses%20and%20bushfires%20(Versio%202).pdf)



horse reports

By Noelle Vine, Horse Reports Coordinator

The following is a summary of welfare concerns received from members of the community about a horse or horses that PHHWV has then investigated

Albury area

A T/Bred and a Shetland were reported to PHHWV. A Horse Rep followed up and found the horse was in poor condition and the pony was struggling to walk. Contact was made with the owner who is aware of the health issues and is following the advice of a farrier and a vet.

Avalon

We received an anonymous call from a farrier about a grey pony with slipper feet. A letter was placed in the letterbox with a follow up call a couple of days later. The owner has been unsuccessfully trying to get a farrier out. A post was placed on our Facebook page to assist.

Campaspe

A request was received for assistance with four horses that were purchased. The horses were scared of everything and seemed extremely traumatised. Our Horse Rep could not even approach the enclosures without them running to the far corner and shaking. The owners do not have enough experience to handle these animals. Due to the extreme fear held by the horses and their inability to be handled, euthanasia was recommended.

Casey

A call for help to rehome two nice but aged T/Breds. He was advised about the difficulty in rehoming aged T/Breds. Due to their age, it was suggested that euthanasia on the property would be the most appropriate option.

Geelong area

Contact was made with PHHWV to help move two horses. A Horse Rep rang several times and left messages, but there was no reply.

Gippsland 1

A call for assistance about an unhandled pony bought to try and save it. The owner has realised that she does not have enough experience. After several conversations, the owner is making some progress and is keen to persevere.

Gippsland 2

A report was put in about a horse on a property with no water. Several calls were placed with no reply.

Hidden Valley

A PHHWV member saw an emaciated horse on a property in her area, for which there had been previous concerns. Following discussions with the owners who were unable to provide care, the horse was surrendered to Project Hope.

Macedon 1

PHHWV was contacted by Legal Aid for Animals about a woman not picking up two pony colts left on a property of a former friend. A lot of misinformation resulted in the owner picking up the two ponies.

Macedon 2

A young woman with severe mental health issues has asked us to take her 12yo Arabian mare as she is struggling to care for and agist the horse. The horse has chronic laminitis. A Horse Rep visited the mare who appears to be very nice and sociable. The horse will be euthanised if she cannot be rehomed.



horse reports

Mitchell

PHHWV was contacted about two horses that have been in the same paddock for a number of years with no feed and fed bread scraps once a week. Reps went out to inspect the horses and found them to be in reasonable condition for this time of the year.

Murrindindi

PHHWV was contacted about two horses left on a soon-to-be-sold property of a friend of the owner. The owner is no longer interested in them. A Horse Rep visited the property and met with the property owner and the horse and pony. The pony is quite old and the mare is unbroken and relatively unhandled. The property owner will see if the new owners are happy to keep the horses.

Officer

2 horses reported as having no water. The reporter called the RSPCA which identified a dam on the property. A PHHWV member walked the property perimeter, checked for water, found there was no dam and called the RSPCA. The RSPCA have now amended their records and logged a report.

Peninsula 1

A T/Bred was reported by neighbours of the owners. The horse had been a racer and when it retired was taken on by the current owners. With little horse knowledge they have realised how much time and effort is involved and no longer want the horse. The owners have been put in touch with Racing Victoria for further assistance. We have not had any follow up.

Peninsula 2

An elderly horse owner with health issues was looking to rehome his two 20yo+ mares. He was referred to Racing Victoria by PHHWV for further assistance.

Warrnambool area

We received a report about a horse that had been abused and left on a property. After several conversations, a Horse Rep visited the property and with further investigation has found the situation too dangerous to proceed. There have been reports of violence.

Werribee area

We had a call from a carer who was looking after a filly that had been caught in a fence and left unattended for two days. The filly was removed from a property with four other horses in poor condition. On advice from the RSPCA, they were returned to their home-property several weeks later.

Update on a case from the Strathbogie area

This case has been monitored by a PHHWV Rep via phone calls with the owner and reported to RSPCA. Unfortunately, one horse in this case has died, while the other three horses have been moved to a better paddock and are doing ok.

I would like to thank all of our Reps for attending to cases and a big thank you to our other members who help when members of the public need some short-term help and have nowhere else to go. This is what we are all about. Helping and educating the public and working towards the best outcome for our four-legged friends.

To find out more about becoming a PHHWV Horse Representative and the training we provide see <https://www.phhvw.org.au/get-involved/become-a-representative/>



PHHWV horse updates

PHHWV Cedric

New Beginnings, by Jodie Blythman

When a horse leaves their foster carer to begin their new life, there is always a mix of emotions. A sense of pride that partly because of you, they have the opportunity to begin a new chapter, but also a huge sense of sadness and heartbreak that they won't be that constant part of your life any more. And then there are the tears...

For my family, we experienced all of this. Although most of you following Project Hope would know, we took the beautiful Cedric into temporary care as an emaciated shell of a horse. Along with his sidekick Petal, both were rescued barely in the nick of time. Cedric, the worst of the two, is a fifteen year old, 16 hand grey Standardbred who should have been in the prime of his life. However, when found, he couldn't get himself off the ground and had to be winched into the float by many PH members. Although no doubt traumatic, Cedric remained his calm old self, and in some weird way, I truly believe the universe let him know that that day truly was the first day of the rest of his life.

Cedric had been in care with PH three weeks before he arrived at my property. He had apparently put on quite a bit of condition, but how on earth he could have been skinnier astounded me. Every bone protruded out of his body. I think I cried for a couple of hours when he arrived, I honestly couldn't believe he was still alive in that condition. But his eyes told another story, a story of a fighter, a story of a horse that wasn't ready to give up. He loved humans. He loved touch and being pampered. It was at that moment I stopped feeling sorry for him and we looked forward together. Together, we were going to do this. He wasn't leaving my property without being the shiny, fat and healthy horse he was meant to be.

So we began our journey, starting with five or so feeds a day, we refed him, bit by bit. Everyday he would look at me with his big button eyes and thank me. I knew what he was saying...



Photo Cedric's rescue and day 1



Cedric and Amity

He was the kindest, oldest soul of a horse. He had definitely been around before. Week after week, photo after photo, he transformed before our eyes. The bones started to cover, the long, shaggy hair started to fall out, the shine in his coat started to show. I honestly couldn't have been more proud of him. I was the proudest foster mama. After four months, his muscles started to strengthen, his eyes were bright and the whinnies he would give me put tears in my eyes.

And then came the call that Project Hope had found him the perfect home. Although a piece of my heart broke that day, I was so happy for him. To get the opportunity to live the life he always deserved, getting pampered and loved the way he deserved made me so happy. This was his moment. This is what we had both fought so hard for. The universe was definitely paving his way, with big plans for him.

So now my dear Cedric lives close by with a beautiful family and is a therapy horse. Cedric was born for this new role. The updates I receive fill my heart with pride and love.

Mr Cedric, Mr C, you were my first foster horse who will forever take the place of number one in my heart. You showed us how grit and determination to succeed will get you everywhere. You showed us that despite people not treating you well, you still treat others in the best way you know how, with love. You are one in a million and I know you will make Project Hope nothing but proud being an advocate for the amazing group who saved your life.

Always be 'my goodest boy'. Love you big fella x



Photo Cedric in his new home with new friends



HORSES FOR LEASE

These PHHWV horses have completed their rehabilitation with their Short Term Carer and are now ready to find their Long Term home.



Ally

Ally is a 13 yo, 13.3hh bay pony mare. She is known to have a gentle and quiet nature. She leads well, is easy for the hoof trimmer and to rug. She maintains condition well.

Ally is not able to be ridden and needs to be with another horse.



Bessie

Bessie is a 16 yo, 16hh Standardbred mare. She has been difficult to catch, however recent training has seen an improvement here and she leads, ties up and stands quietly once caught. Bessie responds well to signals; her reactions are calm and considered.

She is happy either in a paddock on her own or with other horses. She is confident to wait quietly until other horses return and will nicker in greeting.

Due to the long-term neglect of her feet, she is not suitable to be ridden.



HORSES FOR LEASE



Star

Star is a 10 yo, 11hh bay mare who is bright and inquisitive. She is easy to catch, brush and trim and shows affection. However, she can frighten easily with sudden movements around her, hence she is not safe to be around children and should be supervised with people unfamiliar with horses.



Jazz

Jazz, above, is a 25 yo, grey Arab mare standing at approximately 14.2hh. Due to dental neglect, she will require 6-9 monthly checks. Catching and leading is now a comfortable action for her, however she remains wary with rugging. Jazz is great with the farrier and to worm. Due to her age, she is not suitable for riding.

Captain Carrot

Captain Carrot is a 9hh, 25 yo, Strawberry Roan gelding who enjoys interacting with people (and carrots!). He is easy to catch, lead, trim and handle. He is used to dogs and not fazed by loud vehicles or machinery.



HORSES FOR LEASE



Scout

Scout is a 12 yo, 13hh chestnut mixed pony gelding. Scout's short-term carer has been making some positive advancements in his ability to be handled with his legs being touched and a brief introduction to some lunging. Scout is now becoming more accepting of being brushed. He adores children and actually nudges other horses away to get the attention. He leads and learns well with consistent kind and calm training.

Netty

Netty (right) is a 15 yo, 15hh bay Clydesdale X mare. She is good to handle on the ground and responds to voice commands. Her work under saddle needs consolidating and it appears that she was not mouthed correctly, which is being addressed by the trainer.



Paris

Paris is a 15hh, 17 yo, brown Standardbred mare. Paris is not a ridden horse and seeks to be part of a mob that will always have horse/s with her to keep her company. Paris has a gentle disposition and enjoys being groomed. She is well-behaved for the farrier, is good to catch, tie up and worm. Paris is not fazed by cars, tractors and dogs.



PHHWV horses farewelled

It is never easy. This season we farewell PHHWV Darnum, Peg and Molly and send our heartfelt wishes to their rescuers and carers. RIP.



PHHWV Bulletin Board

CEN AMBASSADORSHIP UPDATE

As Project Hope Horse Welfare Victoria members, you are eligible for a **10% discount and free delivery** (on any two supplements or more) by simply going to their shop on their website: <https://cennutrition.com.au/horses/shop/>. At checkout, enter **HOPE10** to claim your discounts. PHHWV is then given a 10% commission on all sales from those who enter the **HOPE10** coupon code. CEN has also generously matched all commissions dollar for dollar, so PHHWV gets a double donation.

CEN now also support all our horses coming into Short Term Care by providing a Starter Pack which is dispatched directly from CEN head office to the Short Term Carer. The Starter Pack contains CEN Oil, CEN CF50 and Cen XtraBalance and lasts approximately two weeks.

We send a huge thank you to those who are using this all Australian-owned and made supplement and feed, and also to Bryan and Peter from CEN Nutrition for your wonderful support.

PROJECT HOPE HORSE WELFARE VICTORIA

ADVOCACY

The horse's advocate

19% of horses reported to PHHWV in 2022-2023 were from a deceased estate.

Have you given thought to what you wish to happen to your horse in the event of your passing?

Speak to family and friends about your wishes.

Record your wishes in writing, however, only a Will can provide legal assurance that your wishes will be followed.

A Will that considers your horse can mean the difference between your horse being cared for or being neglected.

Please note that Project Hope Horse Welfare Victoria does not offer a legacy programme and therefore is unable to accept any horse gifted in a Will.

Contact us for more information:
Email: info@phhwv.org.au
Tel: 1300 881 606
www.phhwv.org.au
REG: A00271520 ABR: 95 820 500 367

The above information does not constitute legal advice and PHHWV recommends that you consult a solicitor for specific estate planning advice.



FOOTNER WREN LEGAL

Injury Compensation, Wills & Probate, Conveyancing

Discounted services offered to PHHWV Members.

Contact Kathryn Footner
(03) 9602 5761, 0421 337 432
kathryn@fwlegal.com.au
www.fwlegal.com.au



Wishing all our
members a Merry
Christmas and a
Happy New Year

