

Brumby Bridges



The quarterly newsletter of the ABA
Issue 009, July 2012

Charity/ABN No: 90784718191

News flash from Save the Brumbies

Exciting news for STB! After lengthy negotiations last year with Ms Sally Barnes, NPWS, and much urging for funding for continued removal of horses in Guy Fawkes, including funding for indigenous training programs, we have been informed that the Federal Government has allocated a substantial amount towards our proposals.

Seeing there are still approximately 800 horses in Guy Fawkes, trapping must continue before we are back to the same situation we faced in 2000. We look forward to rescuing many new horses this summer. A great outcome for all, not in the least, the horses.

Some rewarding news: STB Ayla travelled all the way to Western Australia to her new home. This filly is proving her worth in the show ring; her new owner, Cheryl Hedges is so happy with her and says Ayla is much loved by her granddaughter, Brianna.

Some sad news: Our resident NEBS manager, Bob Bartlett, passed away on 21

April this year after a long battle with cancer. Bob was a brilliant horseman and he is sadly missed. His long-time partner, Megan Hyde, is staying on to manage NEBS with assistance from professionals as we can afford it. Finding the right personnel to volunteer with the handling and training of the horses is very difficult, especially because of the isolation of our main sanctuary. STB places many horses in caring homes, but achieving this is not always easy without experienced helpers.



Brianna and Avla competing

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A National Body for the Recognition, Management, Preservation and Welfare of Australian Wild Horses (Brumbies)

Newsletter Contributions

Contact Greg on

words@bigfoot.com.au

Phone: (03) 9428 4709

Events calendar

23 September – Victorian Brumby Association Daylesford Pub Ride – Starts at Boomerang Ranch, Daylesford. Victoria. Cost: \$60 with own horse, extra without own horse. Own or hired helmet required. Lunch: choice of 3 menus. Meet at 9.30am for a 10.00am departure. Ride through State Forest, which includes amazing old growth forest and a variety of wildlife. info@victorianbrumbyassociation.org

18-21 October – Royal Geelong Show – Geelong Showgrounds. Breakwater Road, East Geelong. Victoria. <http://royalgeelongshow.org.au/>

15-18 November – Equitana Melbourne – Melbourne Showgrounds. Epsom Road, Ascot Vale. Victoria. <http://www.equitana.com.au>

11-13 November – Ballarat Agricultural Show – Ballarat Showgrounds. Creswick Road, Ballarat. Victoria. <http://www.ballaratshow.org.au>

9 December – Victorian Brumby Association Fifth Anniversary Open Day – Brumbys Run, 213 Lexton Road, Beaufort. Victoria. info@victorianbrumbyassociation.org

No news is bad news!

Remember the notice in the April Brumby Bridges about Bozo, the pony stolen from the RDA centre at Officer in Victoria? Although the ABA hoped this edition would bring the good news that he had been returned, this sadly is not the case.

Bozo's description again: a liver chestnut Australian Riding Pony [gelding] with a flaxen mane and tail. He is in his late teens or early twenties.

Should any readers have any suspicions about the ownership of a pony matching this description, they are encouraged to contact **Senior Detective Colin Beard of the Pakenham Police on (03) 5945 2559** or the nearest police station.

Editor's note

Welcome to the second last edition of Brumby Bridges for 2012. We are now over halfway through another year of extraordinary commitment by the hard-working people who give so very much of themselves on behalf of the amazing Brumbies of Australia - and, of course, wild horse populations throughout the world. I take my winter beanie off to you all!

My contribution to the cause is but a minute one by comparison—just a few intense weeks per quarter of arranging your words and photos in order to spread the protection and welfare messages far and wide.

The deadline for the remaining edition of 2012 is: **1 October**

Greg Kidd

President's chat

I am delighted to advise that there are several encouraging Brumby advocacy news items in this edition of Brumby Bridges including Government actions, research and overseas activities.

Positive Government actions

NSW – Federal Government has allocated a substantial amount towards STB proposals for funding for continued removal of horses in Guy Fawkes and indigenous training programs. A great result for our heritage horses considering a few months ago the option of shooting was again being raised.

Well done Save the Brumbies Inc.! The ABA is so excited about this breakthrough that we made it front page news!

QLD – After nine months of deliberation, Department of Environment and Heritage Protection (Qld) released their Trap for Rehoming trial program Invitation to Offer (ITO) for Clemant State Forest, Qld 18 June 2012.

Mark Hoffman, long-time supporter of Brumby rehoming activities, has submitted an offer and is now entering further negotiations to finalise his offer. (See article Page 5)

Research

The Invasive Animals-CRC has held the first of its working groups to progress the next

five-year phase of a new fertility control for wild horses, with Colleen attending the meeting as ABA representative.

Frances Dinn is progressing well with her project on rehoming Brumbies as a method of controlling the wild horse populations in Australia. (See items on Page 6)

Events

Have a look at the member events calendar on the opposite page; even in the cold winter weather we managed to list a few events!

Websites

I would appreciate readers emailing website information on overseas wild horse populations they know about; it is amazing how many locations exist, so please send any information to pickjill@hotmail.com

This is to assist the Australian Brumby Alliance develop links with Wild horse websites with common interests to ours in a world perspective, as well as providing information to wild horse groups outside Australia and New Zealand about our Heritage Brumbies.

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My thanks to Greg Kidd, our editor, for his good work on this edition.

Jill Pickering

Bias on the Great Divide

In the three-part ABC TV documentary Two on the Great Divide, environmentalist Tim Flannery and actor/writer John Doyle investigated not only the spectacular scenery on either side of the Great Dividing Range but some of Australia's 'Great [attitudinal] Divides'.

The pair's objectivity was in reasonable shape until they met Peter Cochran in their Snowy Mountains segment. Here, the pleasant mood of a bushland walk vanished when their, to Peter, "predetermined ABC view" disregarded 200 years of local bushmen's knowledge and experience by summarily advocating a stringent Brumby cull quota.

Kosciuszko National Park Brumby update

The Kosciuszko Wild Horse Management group, which meets every two or three months, is comprised of representatives from NPWS, RSPCA, the Victorian Brumby Association (VBA), and SMBUG, the latter two groups being part of the Australian Brumby Alliance.

The Management Group considers such issues as Brumby numbers caught (by passive trapping), where caught, the humaneness of

capture, rehoming destinations and transport.

The Kosciuszko trapping season is between the June long weekend and early September. In the first eight weeks of the 2012 trapping season, NPWS removed 181 Brumbies from the Cooleman and Kiandra Plains, and is now trapping in the Tantangara Dam area.

(Information supplied by Colleen O'Brien, President of VBA per the Association's July newsletter)

Good news from SMBUG — excerpts from media release

President of the Snowy Mountains Bush Users Group (SMBUG) Peter Cochran has announced new initiatives for horse riders access to National Parks following 12 months of negotiations with horse riding representatives from across the State and senior bureaucrats....

"Maps have been drawn with the help of local NPWS Officer Steve Horsley and local rider members of SMBUG which include trails in National Park and Wilderness areas. Our organisation is extremely grateful to Steve for the time and effort he has committed to the task."

Hunter Valley Brumby Association

The Hunter Valley Brumby Association has a new member in our team, Madison Young. Madison has a Bachelor Of Science, majoring in Zoology and works as an Environmental Research Scientist. Her qualifications and skills make her a very valuable asset.

Madison, who has been volunteering with us since summer, is wonderful with the Brumbies and handling enquiries from members of the public during our promotional work.

Madison is very excited about working with our next intake of Kosciuszko Brumbies in the coming weeks and being able to handle and train Brumbies that are straight out of the wild.

The HVBA team has been busy getting more yards and crush organised over winter, and generally making sure our facilities are in order for our new arrivals on 10 August – weather permitting!



Madison training Mack, a Kosi Brumby

I have just finished reading a wonderful book, *Brumby's Run*, by Jennifer Scouller. This well-researched novel, which highlights many issues affecting Brumbies, is definitely worth curling up

with by the fire this winter.

Jenny has dedicated the book to all who work so hard to rescue, rehome and promote Brumbies. At the back of the book she has mentioned every Brumby group including their contact details.

Brumby's Run is in the top best sellers list at the moment.

See this link for a full review:

<http://bookgirl.beautyandlace.net/brumbys-run>

Kath Massey
President

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South East Queensland Brumby Association

Anne Wilson, Secretary/Treasurer of SEQ Brumby Association has advised that it has a 'new look' website (www.seqbrumby.com) with a lot of photos of Brumbies from Toolara State Forest. The photos include:

- Brumbies when they first arrive compared with a photo of the same Brumby at a later date;
- Brumbies being trained;
- Brumbies that have been rehomed

There is also a short video of Brumbies being passively trapped. Made by SEQ Brumby in conjunction with Forestry Planning Queensland, the video titled Forest Brumby Muster provides an enlightening view of the process by which wild horses that pose a danger to themselves and the humans around them by living in environmentally sensitive places such as forests and busy highway roadside terrain, can be non-traumatically rescued, transported, and trained for rehoming.

Trap for Rehoming trial: Clemant State Forest (Qld)

The Australian Brumby Alliance held an inaugural meeting with Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) with Senior officers Clive Cook and Mark Weaver last September, in Brisbane, to explore alternative options to aerial shooting as a management tool for North Queensland's wild horse populations.

The Trap for Rehoming trial project that resulted from the Brisbane meeting has also survived a change of State Government, restructuring and a transfer from Queensland's Department of Environment and Resource Management to National Parks, Recreation, Sport & Racing, an amazing achievement.

Finally, on Monday, 18 June 2012, QPWS released their Invitation to Offer (ITO) for Clemant State Forest and Bowling Green Bay National Park Trap for Rehoming wild horse project, both near Townsville, Qld.

The ABA is aware that Mark Hoffman, a contractor who has actively supported the ABA's approach to rehoming activities, and lives near Townsville, has submitted an ITO for assessment.

The ITO, which closed 6 July 2012, has now entered a further stage of negotiations with the relevant contractors. It is anticipated that the successful applicant/s will be notified by early August 2012.

The Trap for Rehoming program will be evaluated by the QPWS during the contract period and at its conclusion to increase awareness of the potential for Trap for Rehoming programs.

Jill Pickering

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Invasive Animals — CRC update

The Australian Brumby Alliance (ABA) was invited by the Invasive Animals-CRC to join their working group to progress fertility control for Brumbies and kangaroos over the next three to five years. Colleen O'Brien, as ABA representative, joined five key scientists, including Dr Lyn Hinds (CSIRO), speaker at the ABA 2009 Fertility Control seminar, for the initial 'next phase' working group with IA-CRC; this a group was commissioned to undertake research into developing a practical fertility control method for both Brumbies and kangaroos.

The IA-CRC's meeting in June 2012 in Sydney provided Colleen with valuable insight into the ongoing work on fertility control in Tamar wallabies and procedures needed to develop a safe and humane fertility control product that can be practically applied to Brumbies in Australia's varied climate.

Initial tests (**non-lethal** at our insistence) on standardbreds will be conducted at Gatton University, Queensland Equine Research Centre as soon as the products can be developed by researchers at the University of Newcastle (ARC Centre of Excellence in Bio-

technology and Development). This opportunity allows the ABA to have direct involvement and discussions with highly skilled scientists that will ultimately enhance the outcomes of the project for Australia's wild horses and demonstrates a positive partnership bridging science and Brumby advocates.

A summary of the meeting will be circulated to members once it is received from the project leader, Dr Simon Humphrys. Colleen was impressed by both the working group's ability to see issues from an outside approach and their ability to focus on practical issues.

It is great to see our Government recognising the level of positive support the Australian Community has for balanced, humane management options, as opposed to the 'shoot and shoot again' approach. This time we hope to hear non-lethal shots.

It is vital that the ABA continue to develop its involvement in this positive working partnership with the IA-CRC, Dr Simon Humphrys in order to provide a key advocacy role for the future of Australian Heritage Brumbies.

ABA Brumby research update July 2012

A survey of techniques for the rehoming of brumbies as a method of controlling the feral population

Frances Dinn, a student at Charles Sturt University in Wagga Wagga, who is completing her Honours in Equine Science, has invited ABA members to participate in her research project to investigate the methods used by different organisations to capture, train and rehome Brumbies, and try to gauge the 'success' of this process. Frances aims to develop a document that adds to information available at present in this area.

The last few months has involved constructing and distributing two surveys, one for the organisations who train the Brumbies, and one for owners who have bought these horses. The time is coming close to compiling all the data for analysis, but the more participants that take part, the more meaningful the analysis that can be produced.

In order to achieve this, a last call for participants is being made. If you have ever purchased a Brumby, no matter how long ago, it asked that you consider participating in this survey. There is

little personal information required, and any details you choose to include are completely confidential.

For more information or to receive a copy of the survey, please contact Frances Dinn via Frances_1406@hotmail.com

Alternatively, the survey may be completed online at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/MJSBZS6>.

All surveys need to be completed and returned by **Wednesday, 15 August.**

National Brumby Week 2013 planning update

Colleen O'Brien of the Victorian Brumby Association has taken on the task of co-ordinating the National Brumby Week (NBW) in 2013.

The dates we nominate are:

18-24 March

25 March-3 April

4-10 April

These dates are before the NSW show season and after the Victorian one, hopefully, a time of year when our Brumbies are in summer coats and looking great, without the weather being too extreme one way or the other.

The aim of NBW is to promote our Heritage Brumbies and the work to save and protect them. To do this, we need money, so the following ideas may suit your groups:

- ◆ Bunnings BBQ/promotional stand
- ◆ Photo competition (it would be great if the ABHR could run one again as it would work nationally.)
- ◆ Join with local ATHRA group to hold a trail ride
- ◆ Hold a raffle/information stand in the main street of your town or at your local market
- ◆ Take a Brumby down to your local adult riding club and/or pony club. Do a talk.
- ◆ Contact your local RDA group and ask if you can take a Brumby there to allow their riders to meet and interact with a Brumby

- ◆ Hold an information/open day at your property featuring Brumbies
- ◆ Send an email to your members with a Brumby topic that needs attention, giving an address to which they could write to voice their concerns
- ◆ Design and put up informative flyers about Brumbies in your region (you could hold a competition to assist with designing them)
- ◆ Plan a Brumby spotting tour
- ◆ Have a 'Name the Brumby' competition to get the general public involved

The sky is the limit. You don't have to do something that requires a huge amount of money or planning, we would just love it if every group could get involved in some way. The other benefit of this week is that it allows both government and the general public to see that there is support for brumbies across Australia. We can all help give our Brumbies a voice!

National Brumby week will be promoted on the ABA and member group websites and mailing lists. ABA will also do some media releases and encourages local groups to do the same.

It would be great to hear from you all, and giving any ideas or suggestions that you're happy to share. Please mail Colleen straight away at:

info@victorianbrumbyassociation.org

Australian Brumby Alliance Member Groups

Save The Brumbies Inc. (NSW) - www.savethebrumbies.org

**Oxley Heritage Horse Association (NSW) -
<http://oxleyheritagehorses.com.au/>**

**Coffin Bay Brumby Preservation Society Inc. (SA) -
www.coffinbaybrumby.org.au**

**Victorian Brumby Association Inc. -
www.victorianbrumbyassociation.org**

**Outback Heritage Horse Association of Western Australia Inc. -
<http://ohhawa.com.au/>**

The Australian Brumby Horse Register - www.abhr.com.au

Snowy Mountains Bush Users Group Inc. (NSW) - www.smbug.com

SEQ Brumby Association Inc. (QLD) - www.seqbrumby.com

**Kaimanawa Wild Horse Welfare Trust Inc. (NZ) -
<http://kaimanawa.homestead.com>**

The Hunter Valley Brumby Association Inc. (NSW) - www.hvba.com.au



**Reminder that the next Brumby Bridges deadline for items to print is:
1 October 2012.**