



Brumby Bridges

The quarterly newsletter of the ABA

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE.....

- 2....[President's Chat](#)
- 3....[Further to John Barilaro's statements](#)
- 4....[ABA Brumby Research Project](#)
- 5....[New Membership Category](#)
- 5....[Facebook Page](#)
- 6....[Member News](#)
- 9....[Films – The Mustang and Equus](#)
- 9....[Gonacon update](#)
- 10..[KNP annual visitor numbers](#)
- 11..[Editor's Tail](#)



Brumbies in Kosi National Park

Photo by Michelle Brown and posted on [Snowy Brumby Heritage Group Facebook Page](#)

The ABA

The *Australian Brumby Alliance Inc. (ABA)* was established in 2008 to help facilitate the efforts of like-minded wild horse interest groups throughout Australia. We do this by sharing information and expertise as well as providing a collective voice with regard to the humane management, welfare, preservation and promotion of what we consider to be a National Treasure - *The Australian Brumby*.

ABA News

President's Chat

Life has been in the fast lane since the Australian Brumby Alliance ABA's 14 December 2018 Press release explaining Parks Victoria will undertake "to remove no more than" the specific mob of 15 Brumbies that have moved into the adjacent Mt Nelse area of the Bogong High Plains, and "no more than 200" Brumbies from the Eastern Alps.

Singleton Army Brumby massacre by Hon. C. Pyne.

Christopher Pyne has much to answer for after rushing through the massacre of Singleton's army base heritage Brumbies instead of listening to the voices of experienced Singleton horse handlers.

Many Singleton locals have vivid childhood memories of watching their historic Singleton Brumbies running free in their homeland before it was invaded by the Singleton's army barracks. But despite a rush of letters and phone calls to relevant ministers and authorities, from Singleton's experienced local horse handlers, setting out a humane, workable rescue plan - not one reply was received.

The ABA was approached to assist the Singleton locals rescue plan. With little time to stop Mr. Pyne's blind determination to massacre these Brumbies, we engaged Marilyn Nuske, pro-bono lawyer, who within the hour fired off formal inquiries to Department of Defence (DoD) senior ministers and was soon contacted by DoD lawyers.

Via our lawyer, we fired off more letters in support of the local Singleton rescue plan and eventually received a reply 18 December 2018 pm stating our proposal "is being considered by the Minister. Minister Fawcett will provide a response by 5pm tomorrow, Wednesday 19 December 2018" but by 5pm on 19 December the massacre of heritage Singleton Brumbies was completed – and Department of Defence's commitment to consider and respond to our proposal by that time was never met.

ABA vs Parks Victoria (PV) court case is proceeding

We are finalising expert and lay witness statements under a schedule mapped out during a half day court hearing for both sides to prepare and exchange documents relevant to the Court hearing.

We are attending a Mediation Court hearing Tues 9 April 2019 with Parks Victoria to see if we can agree to a satisfactory resolution, and so avoid the need for further court costs. If no result is achieved at the mediation hearing we will be in court for 3 days sometime in May/June/July on a date yet to be finalised.

We are working closely with the Victorian Brumby Association to identify how best we can retain sustainable East Alpine and Bogong High Plain's Brumby populations in sustainable Alpine areas.

ABA Facebook launched

To further help put an alternative view to anti-Brumby groups, it is now vital the ABA joins the many Facebook communities. We are fortunate that Hannah Szczypka, Colleen O'Brien and Sandy Radke are steering this challenge for us. See [page 5](#) For more info and check out <https://www.facebook.com/BrumbyHorses/> and flood the page with factual information.

Fledgling rehoming group near Townsville

Brad Hastewell contacted the ABA some months ago about ways to respond to another push by Townsville (Qld) to shoot more Brumbies, this time in the Alligator Creek area just south of Townsville. We chatted for some time and I emailed Brad some ABA rehoming and gentling information for a start.

Over time Brad has gathered a small core of supporters, formed a Brumby group and rescued 5 Brumbies. Brad's group is not rushing into this, and is slowly building up their Brumby gentling skills, which as we all know is not as easy as some assume.

While progress is slow, but steady, plans were recently complicated by heavy rain falls disrupting everyone's life and fencing. The ABA and Brad's group have also corresponded with Townsville council to encourage their support and work with, not against, Brad's new group.

AGM and Group Members

The following ABA office bearers were re-elected at the last AGM:

- President: Jill Pickering
- Secretary: Julia Davis
- Treasurer: Dave O'Brien

The valuable contributions from ABA committee members have enabled the ABA to step up to the increasing opposition to the battle to retain sustainable Brumby numbers in their park homelands.

My thanks also to Madison Young, departing Vice President, for her constructive advice and wish her well after leaving the role to focus on her young family and future environmental work.

The Hunter Valley Brumby Association (HVBA) resigned in December 2018 to pursue their rehoming and Brumby lobby work independent of the ABA's policy framework. We wish the HVBA well in their future endeavours and look forward to welcoming new rehoming/lobby groups in the near future.

Chuffed Crowdfunding progress

After exhausting all options to halt Parks Victoria's determination to eradicate BHP's total Brumby population, decimate the East Alps population, ignore the value of

retaining moderate Heritage Brumby population, legal action was the only option left.

Our legal costs are high, but so is the very real risk of losing our iconic Victorian Alpine Brumby Heritage. These costs would be better spent on robust scientific Brumby research, but instead Parks Victoria just continues to base management decisions on flawed and misleading studies.

Setting up the Chuffed funding page has been complicated, but is now almost ready to go live thanks to significant help from Hannah and Colleen. The Chuffed link will be advised soon for all to spread and support. If the ABA legal fight is lost, we lose forever our Vic Alps Brumby Heritage. All contributions will be used on this critical cause to retain our Brumby Heritage— even small amounts will help!

Apart from all the above, the usual run of letter, phone calls and inquiries have continued.

Jill Pickering

Further to John Barilaro's support for Kosciuszko Brumby Heritage...

The ABA supports the *Kosciuszko Wild Horse Heritage Act 2018* as a positive step forward in providing a framework for Parks, scientists *and wild horse advocates* to work together to identify **sustainable** levels and areas for the wild horses to be protected and managed, as well as undertake research and monitoring programs. See full Act information :

<https://legislation.nsw.gov.au/#/view/act/2018/24/full>

For unknown reasons, National Parks and Wildlife Services (NPWS) have not trapped for around 18 months, despite claiming that trapping under the 2008 management plan *will* continue. Lack of action by NPWS, long before the Brumby Act was introduced, just fuels anti-Brumby claims that the new Act will enable their numbers to expand and cause havoc.

Anti-Brumby lobbyists repeatedly claim that this heritage act will:

- allow numbers to keep increasing,
- threaten a range of native species, and
- pose risks to drinking water catchment areas.

These claims are designed to spread fear amongst voters and to encourage them to reject this practical, balanced Act whose object is to recognise the heritage value of *sustainable* wild horse populations *within parts* of Kosciuszko National Park (KNP) and to protect that heritage through a wild horse heritage management plan that will:

- identify sustainable levels,

- identify areas for Wild Horses to be protected, and
- managed those areas to that protected level.

The Act stresses the need to protect sustainable heritage populations; it does not say that all Brumbies are to remain in the park, as critics claim. The Act both sets out how heritage Brumbies identified under the Act will be protected whilst *ensuring other environmental values of the park are also maintained*; it is not about one value versus other, but balance.

Nominations for the Act's *community and scientific* advisory groups closed before Christmas 2018. Recommendations have been made, but not yet confirmed. These advisory groups will inform the Kosciuszko Brumby plan of sustainable population levels, areas where they can live and be protected and areas from where they are to be excluded.

The draft Heritage Wild Horse Plan released for public feedback will provide clarity about, for example, population levels, nominated protected areas and removal methods. While pro-Brumby lobby groups have talked of retaining 3,000 – 4,000 Brumbies, akin to the 50% drop over the first part of the NPWS draft plan, it is too early to anticipate details.

The ABA's first major Brumby research project

I met with researchers from the Institute for Life Sciences and Environment at the University of Southern Queensland (USQ) in Toowoomba in January 2019 to discuss possible Brumby research on Victoria's Alpine Bogong High Plains (BHP) and, in time, Eastern Alps areas. Three potential research projects were discussed:

- Bogong Brumby environmental (land/water) positive/negative impacts and the proportion of impacts from Brumbies as separate from impacts from deer, pigs, humans etc. and the positive or negative impacts directly attributed to BHP's Brumby population.
- Bogong Brumby social behaviour, movement patterns/grazing area covered and patterns of grazing and what they actually eat, and whether they lower Biodiversity.

The Act does not support, the NPWS end goal of just 600 Brumbies, which was akin to extinction from increasingly extensive wild fires (64% died the 2003 fires). Instead, the new Act will identify viable Brumby numbers using *robust* science to identify sustainable levels that meet the needs of both KNP Brumby Heritage values and it's highly sensitive areas.

Secondly, the Brumby Act, will preclude aerial/ground shooting management options and put focus on passive trapping/fertility control and rehoming Brumbies removed where possible.

Finding a balance between protecting wild horse heritage values and environmental values of the park is *challenging*, but it is *possible*. The *Kosciuszko Wild Horse Heritage Act 2018* will both protect identified heritage Brumby populations living in specified park areas *and* enable active management to reduce their impact on its fragile alpine environment – *surely a win-win*.

Jill Pickering

- Genetic studies on Bogong Brumbies to identify any difference to domestic horses.

Two USQ researchers spent 12 days walking parts of BHP to assess how feasible this research package could be. A report on their findings/recommendations is due in late March. The next step, if supported by the University, is to plan a scoping study which will require gaining a permit from Parks Victoria.

This Brumby research will work best if Parks Victoria joins with the ABA as an "Australian First" to minimise conflict and promote future actions based on PV-ABA combined studies.

This is an ambitious plan, but directly arises out of the discussions we have had over the years to gain properly designed, robust science upon which to make sound management decisions on Wild Horse populations. The isolated BHP population is a good starting point.

New Membership Category for ABA

When the ABA commenced, the membership base was limited to incorporated membership groups whose objective were consistent with ABA objectives. However, over the years, we have had members of the public ask if they can join or help in some way; equally, ABA is always in need of helping hands.

To address this situation, the ABA voted in November 2018 to trial an Associate Member category for 12 months. The position will be reviewed in November 2019 to make further trial changes or to formalise the new category of Associate Member.

Currently, Associate Membership is at the discretion of the ABA Executive Committee and requires the Associate Member to agree to abide by the ABA constitution, but

does not require the associate member to pay a membership fee.

An Associate Member is not eligible to vote but will be eligible to hold (by a general meeting vote):

- a position on the ABA executive committee or
- to fill a specific role, such as 'minutes secretary', or 'expert consultant' as needed to contribute to the overall working of the ABA.

If you are interested in becoming an Associate Member or want more information, please contact Jill Pickering via the website or info@australianbrumbyalliance.org.au.

ABA Facebook Page



It seems that people do much of their communicating and information gathering through social media these days. While Facebook is not everyone's "cup of tea", it actually is a very useful and widespread way to get information out to many people, not only friends and family but to the public all world-wide. This is why the ABA asked me, Hannah Szczyпка, to help create the ABA Facebook page. In this way we hope to provide information and debate to a larger audience and help fight to save Australian Brumbies. Some people do not realise Brumbies are in great danger from being inhumanely decimated from our National Parks by Governments' persistence in blaming them as the main threat to environment. Some people don't even know we have wild horses in Australia!

With our Facebook page we will help to educate the world about our Brumbies, participate in discussions on current Brumby related topics, share true facts and show the beauty and potential of Brumbies, whether that be in domestication or in the wild. We can stay easily connected with Brumby advocates and rescuers, so we can all work together and share information which is very important as we all work towards a better future Brumbies.

Originally from the UK, I've spent a long-time volunteering at the Victorian Brumby Sanctuary run by Colleen O'Brien. More recently, I have started helping out the ABA. Being a passionate horse-woman I thoroughly enjoy living and working with these amazing Brumbies and I feel privileged being educated by Colleen; she's an amazing teacher when it comes to Brumbies! Jill Pickering, president of the ABA thought I'd be great to run the FB page as being 27 years old, I've grown up around social media and have a huge love for horses and animal advocacy. I already have the passion to spread the word.

The ABA Facebook page is managed by myself, Sandy Radke and Jill Pickering. Sandy Radke is the ABA website manager and editor of this newsletter. Sandy will support

me technically, with admin and will also post information to the page.

Some of you will know that there is also a [‘Victorian Alpine Heritage Brumbies’](#) Facebook group that was set up by Jill Pickering and Ginny Imhoff. This site was



set up specifically to provide a forum for sharing info and thoughts on the plight of Brumbies in the Bogong High

Plains and the Eastern Victorian Alps. This group is now a sub-group of the ABA Facebook site. While we will continue the VAHB group for the present, we encourage you to follow us on the ABA page where we cover Brumby issues across Australia.

So please head over to our [Australian Brumby Alliance Facebook](#) page to keep up to date with Brumby news, interesting articles and some feel-good Brumby posts! The more people we can reach out to the better for the Brumbies.

- *Hannah Szczyпка*

Member News

Save the Brumbies Inc (STB)

Our Christmas social at our Bellingen Sanctuary was enjoyed by all, and our NEBS Manager, horsewoman Lucy Hicks put STB Jock through his paces to an admiring audience. He strutted his stuff in fine style and certainly showed the quality and trainability of the Heritage Brumby Horse. Our Mascot STB Adam was in his element, performing lots of eager trick bows for treats to everyone's amusement. We all enjoyed a sumptuous feast and thanks to everyone who brought lots of goodies to add to the BBQ.

Guy Fawkes National Park news

There is a long overdue Horse Reference Committee meeting shortly. GFNP has now been combined with Glen Innes NP. With double the area, double the number of horses and funding cuts to NPWS there are now less personnel to manage the horses. Trapping continues but the future of the horses is debatable. More news on the outcome of the meeting will be placed on our website in 2019.

Shelly Cowan our Far North Queensland Rep reports

that all is quiet since the last concerns over the Alligator Creek Brumbies near Townsville back in June. She has spoken to the head ranger and he states that he is looking for someone to organise re-homing for them; Shelly will be in contact with him early in 2019, hopefully a favourable outcome will result. Anyone interested in being involved please contact us for more information. Shelly has a new addition to her mob; STB Shadow joined her Brumbies recently and is in love with her thoroughbred Washington, a very fortunate little Brumby to have such a wonderful forever home.

Our New England Brumby Sanctuary is at long last, green again. Good rain has finally fallen on the Tablelands, tanks are full and the horses look round and sleek with their new summer coats. Our new manager, Lucy Hicks has several horses in preparation for adoption and can also offer a full saddle starting program. Lucy is also a barefoot trimmer and specialises in natural

horsemanship training, so important for our Brumbies. Her partner, Isiah, is very handy at fixing fences, pumps that break down and any odd jobs around the Sanctuary. Under Lucy's instruction he is currently learning to ride and his official title is 'Professional Horse Holder' ... we are delighted to have them at NEBS and they are very happy to be there. Most of our available horses have now been placed however more will be ready to meet you in 2019.

Prime 7 North West News recently visited NEBS. Lucy was interviewed and the coverage and

photos of the horses was great publicity for STB. We had a lot of emails following this and the link can be found on Prime 7 North West website <https://www.prime7.com.au/news/5075-adopt-a-brumby> for those of you who may be interested.

Australian Brumby Horse Register News:

Hot news is that the Register now has in excess of 600 authentic Brumbies. Many of Save The Brumbies Inc horses are registered with the ABHR and are being promoted in various ways.

Victorian Brumby Association (VBA)

Writing our update article for the Brumby Bridges is a great way for us to reflect on what we have been up to! Looking back over past updates is sometimes great, others not so much. It seems only a few weeks ago but it was June 2018 when we were writing with excitement about the Brumby Bill being passed in NSW parliament. Nearly twelve months later, The Office of the Environment and Heritage have dragged their feet so thoroughly that absolutely nothing has been accomplished! Almost one year and NPWS have yet to announce that they have decided on their Community Advisory Board and not one step forward has been made to develop a humane, sustainable management plan for the Brumbies of the Kosciusko National Park. The Brumbies are in just as much danger as ever.

Although there were no Brumbies caught in Kosciusko last winter, we took in Brumbies from Bago State Forest and Bogong High Plains. All our new arrival mares have now foaled safely in the wild herds and the foals are thriving alongside their Mums.

As well as working directly with the government and taking Brumbies directly from the National Parks and state forest, we also occasionally take in rescue cases. One of these was a group of ten Brumbies who had originally come from the Kosciusko program. They had been used as cattle, eating down long grass in paddocks in NSW, but when the drought bit in, their situation became critical, so with the support of our Brumby family, we were able to

offer them a sanctuary to recover from the drought and be safe. Another Brumby, VBA Valentino who originated from Long Plain in Kosciusko, found himself out of luck and in a local impound facility after his owner died. This sweet, but completely unsocialised stallion was brought back to our sanctuary where he has been gelded and will start to be socialised in the coming weeks.

In Victoria, we were alerted by a concerned citizen, to the plight of a Brumby in the state forest surrounding the Alpine National Park. We stepped in immediately, to attempt to help this critically injured 5



year old stallion. As we learnt more, we discovered that he had been roped as a yearling and had got away as soon as he was haltered. As this poor little stallion grew, of course, the halter didn't. By the time we were alerted to him, the halter had grown deep into his head, he was flyblown and desperately sick, but still surviving somehow. We met a wonderful person who agreed to help us catch him and raced him home to our sanctuary for surgery. Named Bungarra, for the Goannas that inhabit his home range, Barney has thrived since his halter was removed. He will

be scarred for life and we are working to continue his healing through good veterinary care, chiropractic care and a lot of love and TLC. Rescues like this are expensive, but so very rewarding and every day, we are thankful that we had the opportunity to save Barney. We are incredibly



thankful for the support and assistance of all who have been involved in Barneys journey to date!

We have just finished running one of our 5 day *Brumby Gentling Clinics* – sharing our amazing



Brumbies with others and watching them develop lifelong bonds with their own special Brumby is both touching and inspiring and we wish our new Brumby

owners all the happiness in the world going forwards.



We were thrilled to deliver two of our beautiful Brumbies to their new home at the [Great Ocean Road Wildlife Park](#) recently.

VBA Eureka and VBA Amity will be part of the Wildlife Parks plan to engage with their visitors regarding ALL Australian wildlife and are very loved already!

Two of our committee members who are accredited in the use of the *fertility control* product PZP are heading off to the USA in August to attend a conference covering the use and implementation of fertility control programs. We are really excited to be able to have this opportunity and will also be catching up with friends who are actively running fertility control programs with great success!

A team from *National Geographic* came out to our



sanctuary to film a short piece on Brumbies. As always, we try to give a fair and balanced view. We support our Brumbies remaining wild, but also their

humane and sustainable management. Sadly, they met with the Reclaim Kosi group the next day. We can only hope that they were able to see through this extremists groups rhetoric and will present a fair piece on the issues our Kosi Brumbies face.

There is always something happening here at the Victorian Brumby Association – and we are always happy to welcome new members and volunteers!

Hoof Prints..... Other items of note

Film Reviews

The Mustang



A new film is about to be released in the USA that is based on a story from the wild horse prison programs in Nevada. Robert Redford is an Executive Producer and French writer/director Laure de Clermont-Tonnerre won the 2015 Sundance NHK award for this film while it was in production.

From the Focus Features website:

Roman (Matthias Schoenaerts), a convict in a prison in rural Nevada, participates in a rehabilitation program in which he trains wild mustangs. He struggles to connect with the horses and his fellow inmates alike. But in time, working alongside young convict Henry (Jason Mitchell) and an old trainer Myles (Bruce Dern), Roman soothes an especially feisty horse and confronts his own violent past. Official Selection of the Sundance Film Festival. In Theaters March 2019.

You can view the official trailer at <http://focusfeatures.com/the-mustang>



Equus – the Story of the Horse

This docu series has some wonderful footage of horses in the Altai region of Mongolia as well as in Kazakstan. In Kazakstan, they have recreated a [Botai](#) village to re-enact what the earliest known domestication of horses might have been like. The series aims to show the importance of horses to human civilization. Hopefully we will be able to see it in Australia at some stage! From the webpage:

The Horse Changed Everything.

From the moment humans mounted these magnificent animals, we shaped our world with horsepower. Join anthropologist Niobe Thompson on a global journey to explore the evolution of horsepower, discover the mysterious origins of our incredible partnership, and witness our enduring love of horses in the present day. - <https://equustheseries.ca/>

Gonacon Fertility Control Update

For more than eight years, Colorado State University researchers have studied a vaccine called GonaCon as a safe and humane solution for the overpopulation of wild horses.

"This is not just an issue in the western United States, it's a worldwide problem," said Dan Baker, co-principal investigator on the project and an affiliate faculty member in the Department of Biomedical Sciences. "And what we've learned is very encouraging and could provide a useful management tool for suppressing population growth rates in free-ranging horses and possibly other wild ungulate species."

In fall 2013, the team administered booster immunocontraceptive vaccines of GonaCon to a group of mares in Theodore Roosevelt National Park, marking the first time revaccination with GonaCon had ever been studied in free-roaming horses.

Their work shows that GonaCon, which temporarily interrupts ovulation and can be delivered using a remote syringe dart delivery technique, is a safe and effective vaccine without significant side effects. While the initial vaccine was only about 50 percent effective in suppressing fertility, administering the booster vaccine resulted in 85 to 100 percent sustained infertility for four years in treated mares.

Read more at: <https://phys.org/news/2018-10-wild-horse-populations.html#iCp>

And for the hard-hitting science: [Reimmunization increases contraceptive effectiveness of gonadotropin-releasing hormone vaccine \(GonaCon-Equine\) in free-ranging horses \(Equus caballus\): Limitations and side effects](#)

Annual Visits to NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service Managed Parks & Reserves 2016 State Report May 2017

<https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/-/media/OEH/Corporate-Site/Documents/Parks-reserves-and-protected-areas/Commercial-activities/annual-visits-to-nsw-national-parks-and-wildlife-service-managed-parks-2016-state-report.pdf?la=en&hash=90D35A793AD49666B94D293A13BF5099C324E89B>

An interesting bit of info... the above report states that:

The 2016 NSW NPWS park visit estimate is the highest so far recorded (51.77 million visits).

The media release below is upbeat about these numbers visiting the park and perhaps some would argue that these visitors want to see a pristine park and getting the horses out of the park is best for tourism. But despite reports that the park is significantly trampled by 3-6K horses, human visitation is seemingly on the increase. Curiouser and curiouser.... And a pity that some of the \$427M spent by visitors was not used to humanely manage over abundant species....

Tourism Research Australia (TRA) has just released its March quarter figures that reveal overnight visitation to the Snowy Mountains region has grown by a further 12.2% or an additional 81,000 visitors.

The average for regional NSW saw a healthy growth of 5.5% in overnight visitors for the same period, so the Snowy Mountains, for two quarters now, has substantially bettered the state average (after a 15.3% increase for the December 2015 quarter).

In total 2,554,000 bed nights were recorded in the Snowy Mountains for the year-end March 2016; that is up by 14.27% (the regional NSW average was 4.5%). It is also estimated by TRA that \$427 million was spent by visitors in the region during this period.

"Tourism Snowy Mountains is delighted with these new figures," said Neil Thew, Executive Officer for TSM. "They show that our visitor economy is again in a growth phase, which hasn't been seen for a while. I believe there are a number of factors that have combined to this achieve this growth (such as consumer confidence, the Australia Dollar and others), but I'm confident that TSM's two year spring, summer and autumn marketing campaign has certainly contributed."

After a period of decline or at best stagnant visitor numbers, the Snowy Mountains is now exhibiting strong growth backed by various indicators such as the TRA figures, regional traffic counts and Kosciuszko National Parks entry data, all revealing similar percentage increases in recent times.

“Over the past two years TSM has been working very hard on creating more consumer awareness that the Snowy Mountains region is a year-round place to visit, not just a winter destination. Our campaign: ‘The Snowy Mountains, there’s more to it than you think’ I feel is now starting to resonate with consumers. This type of activity takes time to permeate in the market, but the recent growth figures are evidence that it’s working.” Concluded Mr Thew

The Editor’s Tail

The Silly Season is well and truly upon us folks. On 23 March NSW goes to the poles and while the vast majority of voters will be focused on tearing down and building football stadiums in Sydney or on proposed new coal mine projects or the fate of the Murray-Darling river system, there is a smaller but concerted effort to raise fear among the electorate that wild horses are going to trample Kosciuszko National Park and its 50 million+ visitors per year to death.

First, there are the damning photos:



Certainly, these photos show damage – and this needs to be considered and looked at. However, there is very little info on the total scale of this damage to the whole ecosystem, whether these features come and go with seasonal changes, whether they are truly getting larger in proportion to the ecosystem, whether the horses are solely to blame and many more questions that good scientific investigation should explore and uncover.

In contrast, there are others who visit the same areas and present these images:



And yet, recent media reports make it sound like the horses have totally trampled the park.

Hysteria reigns (no pun intended) the closer we get to the elections as the anti-Brumby lobby ramps up the insane accusations that wild horses are killing the environment (seemingly deliberately) and are even aggressively threatening human beings at Blue Waterholes as they gallop through the campground, kicking, rearing and trampling everything and everyone in their path.

If ever Australians think they are immune to American-style Fake News or media frenzy – think again! Certainly, none of us wants to see anyone hurt or property damaged but, if you know anything about horses, it is inconceivable that they would do what is reported without some form of harassment and provocation that would incite a fear response in a horse. Whether someone acted out of ignorance or deliberately, I would bet good money that we are not getting the full story here.

It recalls an even more bizarre report in 2014 that horses were cannibalising another dead horse at Dead Horse Gap in KNP.

Time to get on the Xanax people! Some common sense please! The *Kosciuszko Wild Horse Heritage Act 2018* does not end the need to manage wild horses in the park. It just gives them a right to be in certain areas of the park and be managed humanely.

After all, at least *some* of the 50 million + visitors a year actually do want to see them.



(photos for the Editors Tail from online images published by [Visit NSW](#), [Reclaim Kosci](#), [The Canberra Times](#), [Snowy Brumby Heritage Group](#))

Witch Hunt

Cambridge Dictionary: an attempt to find and punish people whose opinions are unpopular and who are said to be a danger to society

Collins English Dictionary: A rigorous campaign to round up or expose dissenters on the pretext of safeguarding the welfare of the public

Webster's New World College Dictionary : An investigation carried out ostensibly to uncover disloyalty, subversive political activity, etc., usually conducted with much publicity and often relying upon inconclusive evidence and capitalizing on public fear of unpopular opinions

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ABA Member Groups

- 🐾 Australian Brumby Horse Register
- 🐾 Coffin Bay Brumby Preservation Society Inc. (SA)
- 🐾 Kaimanawa Heritage Horses (NZ)
- 🐾 Save the Brumbies Inc. (NSW)
- 🐾 South East Queensland Brumby Association
- 🐾 Victorian Brumby Association