



Brumby Bridges

The quarterly newsletter of the ABA

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Saving the Kosi Brumbies

The Draft Wild Horse Management Plan recommends reducing numbers by 90%. Find out more and what you can do to save the Snowy Brumbies in this issue of BB!

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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 in 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

The Draft Wild Horse Management Plan (WHMP) for Kosciuszko National Park (KNP) was released 1st May 2016 with a respond-by date of July 8th. Strong objections were immediately sent to NSW Governing bodies about how unreasonable it was to expect the public to read, digest and respond to 600 pages of draft plan plus attachments (which NPWS took 2 years to produce) by 6 weeks. As a result, the closing date is now **19-Aug-2016**.

It is vital we each explain why and how the draft plan must change to ensure a unique, living part of early settlement heritage is not lost forever. Because, unless we retain a sufficiently robust Snowy Brumby population, to survive fire, drought, injury and political swings, future Australians will never see Brumbies living wild in KNP. Neither will future generations be able to appreciate why and how, ancestors of the Snowy Brumby played such a critical, defining role, in early settlement history. See [page 3](#) for ways to make a personal response to the draft plan.

During my recent trip to England I again spent two days with Charlotte Faulkner (Dartmoor Hill Pony Society) and an hour with a Dartmoor National Park Ranger discussing how Dartmoor ponies help conserve the moor's ecological environment. When I said our Park Rangers still claim that grazing does not reduce wild fire fuel risks, he quickly responded "that's just a no-brainer".

I have also been reading about overseas re-thinking from spending millions of dollars to kill what is currently

labelled pest, invasive or non-indigenous, to living with and harness their impacts within the landscape. Furthermore, there is a growing recognition of why it is important to accept that a healthy and balanced predator cascade will help increase bio-diversity (see March BB 2016 for more details).

The Natural resources Commission (NRC) which reports directly to the NSW Premier, has developed, at the NSW Premier's request, recommendations on all pest animals to guide the NSW Premier on management and funding across NSW into the future. The NRC recommendations include NSW Wild Horse management.

The ABA and members HVBA, STB and VBA submitted responses to the NRC draft. I also attended a NRC discussion forum and enjoyed the NRC's more rational atmosphere. Go to <http://www.nrc.nsw.gov.au/pest-animal-management> and click on submissions to the draft report (half way down the page).

In conclusion, the next six weeks needs to see plenty of individual and group submissions to KNP about ways to manage Brumby populations to ensure that healthy Brumbies continue living in healthy KNP environments.

Jill Pickering

Our rich and diverse cultures must be equally valued in Australian national parks

On 25-June-2016 the NSW Government signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Monaro Ngarigo people to solidify the local Indigenous community's role in preserving their cultural values in Kosciuszko's national park, see link:

<http://mobile.abc.net.au/news/2016-06-26/ngarigo-people-to-be-formally-involved-in-managing-kosciuszko/7543734>

The NSW Government and NPWS MOU signing sets an important precedent, that is, to recognise how the Monaro Ngarigo people's indigenous cultural values and historic

management practices add value to park management. However, the park MOU fails to acknowledge the pride non-Aboriginal communities have in their early Australian history and their desire to ensure settlement social values and cultural practices are included by NPWS national park management.

There are two very strong reasons why NSW government and NPWS need to work alongside both aboriginal and settler Australian communities; the Burra Charter and the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974.

The Burra Charter: which is the Australia ICOMOS Charter for Places of Cultural Significance, 2013, link: <http://australia.icomos.org/publications/charters/stresses> that places of cultural significance enrich our lives and give a deep and inspirational connection to community and their landscape and to past and lived experiences. In particular, the charter states that *the co-existence of cultural values should always be recognised, respected and encouraged* and that this is especially important in cases where they conflict. It is not one culture above another; both have equal value and need to be in balance.

The NSW National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 refers to *conserving both Aboriginal and the people of NSW's cultural values*. Part 2 (s7) states (c) the *desirability of protecting cultural heritage* and (e) the *opportunities for promoting the integration of the management of natural and cultural*.

The Act *does not promote* one Australian community at the expense of another, but rather focuses on protecting the diverse interests of *all* Australian communities and the recognition of the many and varied crucial links between all past and present communities.

To ensure government agencies do not discriminate against the cultural values of post 1788 arrivals (referred to by the Act s2A(1)(b) as *the people of NSW*), a **2nd MOU** is required to ensure NPWS also include sustaining our iconic Snowy Brumbies at robust levels (i.e. instead of a 90% population reduction, culling must now go below a 34% reduction to 4,000) to ensure the Brumbies ongoing survival within the healthy Kosciuszko environment they have live in for 200 years.

Jill Pickering

How and where to Send Kosciuszko Wild Horse Plan Submissions

We are down to “people power” now – so it is vital that as many people as possible reply to the draft plan **by 19-Aug-16**. The draft plan has recognised the Heritage Status of the Snowy Brumby, but then advised actions that will inevitably lead to their extinction from the next wild fire.

A major inconsistency with granting Snowy Brumby heritage status is that the next major wild fire will shrink Brumby numbers to below a genetically viable level, leaving in-breeding to complete their extinction (in 2003 fire killed 64% of all Brumbies and many other flora and fauna). To ensure a viable, sustainable population that will not compromise KNP ecology, we need 4,000 Brumbies to continue living in areas they have inhabited for 200 years.

Read the [Kosciuszko National Park Draft Wild Horse Management Plan 2016](#)

Focus thoughts on how you want to respond to KNP.

Review as many facts as possible,

Check ABA Information papers on

<http://australianbrumbyalliance.org.au/more-info/aba-brumby-resource-information-paper-1-1/> Such as;

2.1 [The Origin of Australia's Wild Horses](#)

3.1 [The Brumby, the Environment and the Management Debate](#)

3.5 [Brumby Manure Concerns](#)

3.6 [Brumby Bio-Diversity Values](#)

3.7 [Brumby Weed Concerns](#)

3.8 [Brumby Water Quality and Erosion Concerns](#)

4.3 [Dartmoor National Park England](#)

5.1 [Humaneness of Current Brumby Management Options](#)

5.2 [Overview of Wild Horse Fertility Control](#)

6.1 [Principles of Rehoming Brumbies](#)

Write your response, anything from one paragraph to several pages.

Reply using the Online form :

<http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/protectsnowies/>

and/or

Email your comments/submission to:

kosciuszko.wildhorseplan@environment.nsw.gov.au

and/or

Post your comments/submission to:

The Project Officer, Kosciuszko National Park Wild Horse Management Plan Review
National Parks and Wildlife Service, PO Box 2228,
Jindabyne NSW 2627.

and

Write to Mike Baird, Mark Speakman (*and your local member*) & the NPWS Director below;

- **The Hon Mike Baird**, NSW Premier

Fill in form: <https://www.nsw.gov.au/your-government/contact-premier-new-south-wales>

Ministerial Office Address: Level 40, Governor Macquarie Tower, 1 Farrer Place, Sydney NSW 2000

- **Mark Speakman**, NSW Environment Minister - to NPWS

Fill I form: <http://nsw.liberal.org.au/contact-2/>

Post: Locked Bag 2, Kings Cross NSW 1340

Member News

Hunter Valley Brumby Association (HVBA)

Curracabundi Draft Plan

Kellie and Kath recently spent a weekend in Curracabundi National Park in order to prepare our submission of their draft plan of the National Park in general. The draft plan does include a section to eventually develop a wild horse management plan.

The Ranger for the area, Sean Thompson, warned us that it had been quite dry recently, where the Brumbies are located, so we were very keen to check on their condition.

But even we were shocked at what we found. Thankfully the river was still flowing, but there was not much feed on the ground and the bush is regenerating at an astounding rate, of what is former farming land and only reserved in 2004.

Most of the Brumbies were in good condition, but sadly we found another 6 skeletons. This makes 9 deaths that we know of, of varying ages, in only two years – or 29% of the population.

This is of incredible concern and the reasons for the deaths are not known. It is very difficult to determine the cause of



bones.

It was great to see some familiar faces, but unfortunately we have also lost those we have come to know so well over the years.

It was wonderful to see these two boys (left) safe and well. The last time we saw them they were just tiny babies.

We have now put our submission forward and have asked to be



the death, when only the skeleton remains and this is due to the wild dogs and pigs that strip the body and scatter the

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involved in any drafting of a management plan for the Brumbies in Curracabundi NP.

The HVBA Team will be making a trip back to the area to check on the Brumbies again as soon as winter passes, and fingers crossed we will have not lost any more of these very beautiful horses.



then please vote for the Animal Justice Party. It is highly unlikely that they will end up in the top job, but the more votes that they get; the more our Government will take note that Australians take animal welfare seriously.

But our day continued.... as soon as Mark and Josh left, we hosted 12 students from the Dungog Community Centre and their teachers for a tour and to discuss all things Brumby

Australian Brumby Challenge

The HVBA now has another reason to be incredibly excited to attend the final of the Australian Brumby Challenge at Equitana in November – one of our Brumbies is competing!

The ABC committee contacted the HVBA to ask if one of our baby Brumby boys could compete, and of course we jumped at the chance.

This is due to a trainer, Samantha McCallum, being located in the northern Sydney area that is competing in the yearly challenge. The distance is just too great for an unhandled yearling Brumby to travel from Victoria, so it made sense for a HVBA Brumby to travel only a couple of hours down the highway.

The Brumbies for the Challenge are drawn using a ballot system, so it was between our two boys. Both were born in October and will therefore be a yearling during the 150 days of training.

And They Lived Happily Ever After...

A few weeks ago we were contacted by Michela and Bob near Macksville. They own 130 acres of rolling green hills and were enquiring about the possibility of a couple of Brumbies to help keep the grass down.

We discussed about the plight of the Singleton Brumbies that we had in care, unable to be rehomed and needing a quiet, peaceful place to live out their days.

It has always been our hope that someday we may find someone for them, not only with suitable land, but people who understand their needs – to just live in peace.

Only a few days after meeting the Brumbies, Kath and Kellie loaded them in to our trailer for the journey to start their new life.

All In A Day's Work...

The 26th of May saw an incredibly busy day here at the HVBA Sanctuary!

We started early in the morning preparing for our vet, Steven to arrive to geld our colts, Loki and Thor.

While the boys were fast asleep and having their operation, it was all observed by **MP Mark Pearson and Josh from the Animal Justice Party** during their visit and tour.



Mark meeting Mack during his visit – photo courtesy AJP website.

Mark and the Animal Justice Party have come on board in the fight for the many problems that Brumbies face, particularly the draft management plan for Kosciuszko NP and they have called for a legislative review.

For more updates

please see the AJP website

<http://markpearson.org.au/brumby-update-mark-to-call-for-a-legislative-review-of-the-draft-plan-of-management/>

And of course the election is looming and most of us will be glad when it is over! There are many people out there that feel that neither of the major parties is capable of running the country. With this in mind, if you feel this way,

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It was agreed by everyone that the Singleton Brumbies would be on a foster agreement, rather than adoption, as essentially they are mostly paddock ornaments. They are still owned by the HVBA and we will be responsible for any veterinary fees etc. and of course we will be there for



The Singleton Brumbies – Madison Young

support either on site or over the phone. This also means that if Michela and Bob would like for them to come back to our Sanctuary then we will pick them up.

Save the Brumbies (STB)

Due to the overwhelming response by the public, here and internationally regarding the predicted black future of the

Alpine Brumbies STB has spent much time dealing with media and hundreds of emails. Our newsletter Newsneighbor has been sent out early to encourage supporters to comment on the draft Kosi Horse Management Plan.

We are currently experiencing the driest season on record. At NEBS we are buying in water every two weeks. Paddocks are bare and horses are being fed twice daily. Megan reports that Chockie and Barney cunningly managed to get into the new hayshed and helped themselves; they demolished a bale of hay and were sent back to their paddock. However, all the horses are well, foals are kicking up their heels and all have thick winter coats. No doubt about Brumbies, they certainly are tough survivors in cold weather. Bellingen still has grass cover but water supply is very low.

Not that we think the Singleton Brumbies will be returning any day soon ! The Brumbies have settled in very well to their new home and were only in the yards for a couple of days before exploring the larger paddock, happily splashing in the dam and calling out to Michela and Bob every afternoon to remind them it is dinner time!



The fertility control program progresses well and although a few foals have arrived overall results are promising at this stage. Foals born are healthy and strong and they will be offered for Adoption at the end of the year once weaned.

Despite being treated STB Nelson is proving one very virile stallion. Other stallions are envious, no new foals sired by them. And this is what the research is all about, how effective it is and what we can expect in the future.

The Bellingen show was again well represented by registered Brumbies. They coped with the noise of the amusement rides and impressed all with their calm and steady temperaments.

A WILDEST DREAM COMES TRUE – STB Reports: Three years ago Brenda Liemandt from Alice Springs took in a group of orphan foals as a result of shooting of local Brumbies. With little knowledge about horses she has successfully raised them and we have done our best to support her and find homes for her babies. Without

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Brenda's love and care these foals would not have survived but died of starvation in the desert. The outback situation is heartbreaking.



God was smiling when Bekky Trilsbach came along. The youngsters are now safe with Bekky on the mid north coast and she plans to train and ride several on the Bi Centennial Trail next year to raise awareness to the Brumby issue. Transporting the horses from Alice Springs to NSW would not have been possible for Bekky without some financial assistance. We thank our supporters, your kind donations helped us to contribute towards the costs and

we thank also, East Coast Transport for their expert handling of the horses on their long journey. Our work is always hands on and we do our best to save as many horses as we possibly can regardless of where they come from. The kudos however, must go to Brenda and Bekky for their dedication and love for a group of Brumby orphans.



Upcoming events

August: Wed. 17th and Fri. 26th ... TAFE Students visit Bellingen Sanctuary. All welcome to join us if in the area.

September: AGM STB Inc. at NEBS Fleetwood Road, Armidale. Sunday 17th 11 a.m. All welcome to attend.

Snowy Mountains Bush Users Group (SMBUG)

Calling All Snowy Brumby Supporters

The Draft Wild Horse Plan of Management 2016 for the Kosciuszko National Park, an area of 689,600 ha, has been released and if implemented will result in the brumby population being reduced by 90%.

The 'options' to get the numbers down to only 600 horses, contained in three areas only, are:

- Ground shooting
- Trap and kill onsite
- Trap and remove to abattoir or for rehoming
- Aerial/ground muster to yards and kill on site
- Aerial/ground muster to yards then remove to abattoir or for rehoming
- Fertility control (in the longer term when populations are reduced)

- Fence around 'fragile' areas

A rally in response to this plan is being held in Sydney on **Tuesday August 2nd** to coincide with the Horse's Birthday and the first sitting day of the NSW Parliament after the winter recess and Federal election. We need you to be there to make it known we oppose the possible shooting/removal of a large number of the Snowy Brumbies.

We will assemble at the Domain on Hospital Road at 9.30am and from there walk to State Parliament House, Macquarie Street.

Speakers are being organised, so far John Barilaro MP and The Premier are invited.

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Allow plenty of time to find public carparks in the area (No parking available in Hospital Rd.). Toilets are available in Parliament House through front entrance. Food is available across the road at Black Rose Cafe.

Three brumbies will accompany the walkers carrying a letter on behalf of all Snowy Brumbies that will be presented to the Premier requesting a “stay of execution and clemency”

The Snowy Mountains Bush Users Group have chartered coaches to leave from Tumut 3am, Wagga 3.30am, Cooma 4am and Young 4am with pickups in Gundagai, Yass and Goulburn. Depart Sydney 1pm. Cost \$25 return.

Also a coach will leave Bega at a time to be advised and will pick up Cobargo, Narooma, Moruya and Batemans Bay. Depart Sydney 1pm. Cost \$50 return.

To book and for further information phone Deanne Kennedy 0427 403 603

Also, please google the draft document and lodge a submission/letter registering your concerns with its contents. Closing date Friday August 19, 2016.

Write to Mark Speakman, Minister for Environment, PO Box 125, Cronulla, 2230 expressing your concern at the possibility of any shooting and the loss of 90% of the horse population.

Keep up to date with plans for the rally on SMBUG's Facebook page:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/84756880685/>

Please note that this is a peaceful demonstration to show our sincere, informed and committed support for sustainable Snowy Brumby populations to continue living wild in KNP.

The Brumbies need numbers to support their case for survival. To do nothing will surely condemn them to death by gunfire. Help us help them.

Snowy Mountains Bush Users Group Inc.

South East Queensland Brumby Association (SEQBA)

The SEQ Brumby Association is firing up again. Although funds are tight and hard to come by, we have big hopes and plans for the future. We will be holding a promotional and fundraising stand at the “Snowflakes” event in Stanthorpe on the 2 July and a “Bringin’ in the Brumbies” concert in October.

We have also formed a sub-committee called “High Country Rescue”. High Country Rescue will be helping to boost the capacity of the SEQ Brumby Association as well as making moves to bring some Kosciusko Brumbies to Queensland for training and rehoming.

At the moment we still have a number of Toolara brumbies for rehoming. Due to feed shortage, they have been moved to the Secretary, Sandy's place, on the Eastern Darling Downs where they will have access to grassy paddocks as they are gradually trained in the coming months.

We will also be holding our AGM in July and have some new, enthusiastic members lined up to be on the committee and help take the Association forward.

This lovely Toolara mare has been named Black Majick by her new owner Hayley-Chambers Holt from Outback Equines. Hayley is an accomplished horse and dog trainer/handler. In Hayley's description of Majick she states...



“Although Majick is extremely untrusting, 'bolty', and nervous of humans, I've found her to be quite trainable and

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I'm really looking forward to the challenge that a brumby will face me with.

All of Majick's training sessions will be filmed and documented for a future DVD series and e-learning online video series.

My plan is take her from wild and unhandled, to a ridden,

quiet and trustworthy horse that is capable of trail riding, horse archery, bareback/bridleless riding, liberty and trick horse training".

We look forward to following Black Majicks progress and development

The SEQ Brumby website is also live again see www.seqbrumby.org

Victorian Brumby Association (VBA)

The Australian Brumby Challenge commenced on Sunday the 19th of June, with 27 Brumbies heading off with their trainers for 150 days of training. We have just received our first week of updates and it is so exciting reading how many of the trainers have fallen in love with the Brumby they are training! The trainers will bring the Brumbies along to our finals event at EQUITANA in Melbourne in November and we are already excited to see how they'll go! You can follow the trainers and their weekly updates on the website and we hope to see you at EQUITANA in November!

A few of the ABC trainers have been staying here with us for a couple of weeks, which has given us a chance to get lots of work done! We now have seven youngsters in training and looking for their forever homes, geldings and fillies, from both Kosciuszko and the Alpine National Parks. These guys have had a great start in life and just need their new best friends!



VBA Capper

Our Wild to Domestic fundraiser was a terrific success, with all tickets sold! We developed a great Powerpoint



VBA Ruby

presentation which gave us the opportunity to engage with people through some amazing photos, showing them what we do and why. It was a great chance to revisit our original three aims: **Rescue, advocate and educate.**

With winter upon us, this is the time of year that the Kosciuszko Brumbies are caught, so we are preparing for our annual intakes and developing new programs that will enable us to home even more Brumbies. One is our Brumby Gentling workshop. We've run one and two day clinic previously, but this year will run a five day school, where people can come along, learn and train a Brumby and they will then take that Brumby home at the end of the workshop! This gives us the chance to take in extra Brumbies, knowing that we can home them through this program.

www.australianbrumbychallenge.com.au

Hoof Prints – Other items of note....

Do Brumbies support Australia's ancient (pre-settlement) environment?

Jill Pickering, President ABA

My recent reading has lead me to hypothesise that that Brumbies not only replace benefits previously provided by Australian Megafauna up to 7,000 yrs. ago, but also complement Aboriginal land management traditions that ceased around 100 years after Europeans arrived.

Mega fauna

90% of our large terrestrial species disappeared around 40,000 years ago which deprived Australia's continent of seeing giant short-faced kangaroos, marsupial 'lions', giant horned tortoises and herds of Diprotodons meandering through the outback [Dr. Gavin Ref-2]. Dr Gavin used dataset from a sediment-filled crater in north-eastern Australia to show a significant drop-off in the abundance of a herbivore dung fungus, which corresponds to a substantial drop in local herbivore biomass around 40,000 years ago.



Predominantly browsing Megafauna retreated to a narrow band in eastern Australia, where there was permanent water and better vegetation. The diprotodon, one of Australia's megafauna, may have survived on the Liverpool Plains of New South Wales until about 7,000 years ago. [Ref-3]

Another article concluded that the large animals' absence was to be ignored at great peril. Forests, grasslands, and savannahs had evolved in step with the Pleistocene megafauna. The article suggested the answer was *proxies* - use close relatives and ecological equivalents that would serve as megafauna stand-ins, to rekindle what mass extinction extinguished. [Ref4]

In drier systems, or where human activity has increased fire ignition frequency, the loss of grazers can increase grass fuel loads and lead to a shift to a fire-dominated ecosystem. Also, large animals are most *important* for accelerating ecosystem biogeochemical cycling, such as in nutrient-poor soils, and low-productivity dry/cold climates, by their faeces and urine. [Ref-5]

The wider environmental impacts of megafauna's abundance and loss are only just making their way into mainstream environmental/conservation thinking. [Ref-5]

Horses

Domestic horses arrived in Australia in 1788 with the First Fleet of Europeans and the within 20 years domestic horse began escaping into the NSW bush and Alpine regions to become the ancestors of modern day Brumby, or Wild Horse populations.



Aboriginal land management

Aboriginal people used fire for hunting and gathering. Aboriginals also lived in the alpine region and used all parts of it at various times. Surveyor Townsend (1846) saw Aboriginal people in the Snowy Mountains "light large fires, and the consequence was, the country throughout the whole area surveyed was burnt" (Clarke 1860).

Costin (1954) considered that these Aboriginal fires were mild and did little damage. Aboriginal people in NSW recognise the cultural values of

biodiversity and the environment. Plants, animals and ecosystems are at the core of their attachment to the land and the sea. The continued use of low intensity fire stimulated re-growth to increase their supply of wild foods and medicines - the health of waterways and land is central to Aboriginal heritage. [Ref-6]

Indigenous Australians systematically burnt grasslands to reduce fuel and stop fires raging out of control.
<http://theconversation.com/the-biggest-estate-on-earth-how-aborigines-made-australia-3787>

Post-Settlement Land Management

Blair (circa 1950) referred specifically to the high country, noting in the 1880's cattle grazed the foothills in *parklike country with large trees*, and *about every 3 years fires crept about for weeks burning the grass and leaves. Disastrous fires were unknown*. Of particular interest is the report that "There was no evidence that the fire regime in the high country changed with the arrival of (European) graziers." [Ref-1]

The fire restrictions imposed by the Forests Commission on burning favoured dense timber, scrub, blackberries and severe fires. Concerns about erosion in the early 1900's prompted authorities to ban grazing by sheep and restrict numbers of cattle on the Bogong High Plains.

However, although it was claimed that burning caused erosion and triggered dense cypress scrubs, *this interpretation was inconsistent* with the earlier, direct observations and with the general pattern that has been observed in Australian woodlands.

Within 100 years of European settlement, Aboriginal populations dramatically declined. After Aboriginal fire management stopped, summer fires became the major cause of soil erosion and loss of timber in the region. Autumn and spring burning as well as grazing, the best protection for its natural resources, were lost. [Ref-1]

By the 1940's old trees were in decline, stressed by drought, insect plagues and competition from the under-storey. Severe fires affected most of the (Alpine) region in 1926 and 1939, and destroyed nearly all ash forests in the Victorian Alps. Some areas that had been illegally burnt by graziers escaped serious damage (Blair circa 1950).

The Royal Commission inquiring into these fires reported that the principal cause was the dense shrubby condition of the forests, and that the amount of controlled burning done was "ridiculously inadequate" (Stretton 1939).

However prescribed burning was progressively reduced from the mid 1970's and the severe wildfires in 1978, 1983 and 1988 caused substantial soil erosion. [Ref-1]

The 2003 fires caused loss of human life, unprecedented erosion and siltation of water supply catchments, killed many rare and endangered plants and animals, destroyed hundreds of houses, thousands of stock, thousands of kilometres of fencing and tens of millions of dollars in public infrastructure. [Ref-1]

Brumbies can help replace Megafauna and complement Aboriginal land management

Brumbies should be left do what they do best, graze (in managed numbers) to act as "proxies" for Megafauna and to work as *smokeless* burners. Brumby grazing removes much of the tall dry grasses that catastrophic wild fires feed on, hydrate the soil with their dung (increasing flora and fauna bi-diversity) and help maintain open grass plains as did the ancient Aboriginal fire regimes that keep open country from being overgrown.

References

1. *Fire Management in the Alpine Region* (presented by Vic Jurskis and Paul de Mar; Forests NSW, and Barry Aitchison; NSW Rural Fire Service, at the 2006 Bushfire Conference - Life In A Fire-Prone Environment: Translating Science Into Practice.
2. **Dr Gavin Prideaux is a lecturer in vertebrate palaeontology in the School of Biological Sciences at Flinders University, South Australia**
3. <http://australianmuseum.net.au/megafauna-extinction-theories-patterns-of-extinction>

4. <http://conservationmagazine.org/2008/07/where-the-wild-things-were/>
5. <http://www.pnas.org/content/113/4/838.full>
6. <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/licences/achregulation.htm>

For more info like this visit: <http://australianbrumbyalliance.org.au/more-info/aba-brumby-resource-information-paper-1-1/>

The Editor's Tail

It has come to my attention that both *Save the Brumbies* and the *Guy Fawkes Heritage Horse Association* (Letters to the Editor, *Bellingen Courier Sun* 15 June 2016) are very concerned that the trapping program in the Guy Fawkes River National Park seems to have come to a halt. No trapping has been done since last year and there has not been a Horse Reference Committee Meeting since early 2015. STB reports that NSWNPW are awaiting the outcome of the Kosi Wild Horse Management Plan. If this is true, it makes no sense to me. GFRNP has a wild horse management plan and a funded program which is working. Both rehoming groups could take horses and by stopping, it undermines the passive trapping program. Before you



know it there will be cries that wild horse numbers are rising and the trapping program is not working. We will all be monitoring this situation

carefully – WATCH THIS SPACE!

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Newsletter Contributions

Contact Sandy

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ABA Member Groups

- ☞ Australian Brumby Horse Register
- ☞ Coffin Bay Brumby Preservation Society Inc. (SA)
- ☞ Hunter Valley Brumby Association (NSW)
- ☞ Kaimanawa Heritage Horses (NZ)
- ☞ Save the Brumbies Inc. (NSW)
- ☞ Snowy Mountains Bush Users Group (NSW)
- ☞ South East Queensland Brumby Association
- ☞ Victorian Brumby Association