



Brumby Bridges

The quarterly newsletter of the ABA

SPRING 2018

ISSUE 18-3

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*ABA Celebrates 10 Years of
dedication to the recognition,
management, preservation and welfare
of Australian Wild Horses*

The first AGM of the Australian Brumby Alliance was held at Equitana in Melbourne on November 2008.

If you are going to Equitana, join us at the Brumby Challenge.

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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 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

Wow, it is amazing to realise we have been in existence as a force to improve Wild Horse/Brumby management for over 10 years.

The Australian Brumby Alliance was brought into being by eight foundation member groups:

- The Outback Heritage Horse WA,
- Coffin Bay Brumby Preservation Society,
- Victorian Brumby Association,
- Save the Brumbies,
- Snowy Mountains Bush Users Group
- Oxley Heritage Horse Association,
- Australian Brumby Horse Register

The ABA gained new member groups soon after commencing in 2008; South East Queensland Brumby Association, the Hunter Valley Brumby Association, and the Kaimanawa Heritage Horses (NZ). However, two foundation rehoming groups have suffered from burnout to the degree they have reluctantly had to take a break.

While Rehoming groups make up most of ABA membership, member groups also lobby to keep sustainable Wild Horse numbers retained in their wild homelands now managed by National Parks.

Rehoming work while essential and rewarding, also takes a heavy toll on the volunteers who provide the skills, time, land, infrastructure, and ongoing feed and vet bills etc. The pressure is always there to plan around collecting Wild Horses trapped by Park staff, transport them home, feed, geld and gentle these wonderful horses and prepare them for a productive, valued life as a domestic horse.

One of the benefits of being an ABA member is that each ABA member group is only a phone call away to share concerns and pick up new tips and techniques via regular network interactions. We have also learnt much as a group over the past 10 years about lobbying governments, senior park management, providing evidence-based submissions and now even looking at our legal options to have Parks Victoria retain the Bogong High Plains Brumby Heritage population and not increase removal from the already reasonable level of 2,350 in the East Victorian Alpine regions.

Thanks to our Newsletter (Brumby Bridges) first editor, Greg Kidd, and now Sandy Radke, we have produced quarterly newsletters since 2010 which provide our readers with a steady run of recent trends, new concepts and updates on our rehoming and lobby activities for all to read.

Sandy Radke also manages our website www.australianbrumbyalliance.org.au and over the years we have filled it with a broad range of information to show what Brumbies give to the Australian public. The website is constantly being updated with events, issues and science-based evidence of how Wild Horses can bring positive impacts to their environment when managed in sustainable numbers.

Current pressures have not allowed us the chance to relax over a few days to celebrate our 10 plus years, however for those able to make the trip to Melbourne's Equitana (Thu 15-Nov-18 to Sun18-Nov-18) to see The Victorian Brumby Associations Australian Brumby Challenge, please diary Friday night to meet for dinner to celebrate our 10-year anniversary. All welcome – more details to be announced soon.

My thanks to all member groups past and present, and the long-term dedicated commitment they give to our Brumby Wild Horses. We have achieved much, though there is still much to be achieved.

Jill Pickering,
President, ABA

The Good, Bad and the Ugly

The polarised views for NSW Brumby management vs Victoria continues, as do our sustained efforts to progress the Brumby Act and roll back the Victorian Brumby extermination programs.

The Good: We have a sensible, balanced NSW Brumby Act which advocates for sustainable Brumby populations in sustainable park locations and to conduct robust, peer-reviewed studies on positive *and* negative impacts that come from a Wild Horse presence.

The Bad: We have hysteria from anti Brumby environmentalists and Victorian Park managers who instead of reading the Brumby Act spread false claims that the Act will allow Brumby numbers to spiral out of control.

So convinced are the anti-Brumby folk that they have organised a walk from Sydney to Mount Kosciuszko and a Kosciuszko Science conference (Canberra) 8-Nov-18 to project their fears, using non-peer reviewed studies, that the Brumby Act clearly shows *will never happen*.

The Ugly: Such wasted effort. Instead, working together with National Parks and Wild Life services (NPWS) and the new community advisory panel to develop Brumby management plans that reflect the Brumby Act's intent to manage sustainable Wild Horse numbers in sustainable Park Locations would be the most sensible, constructive and productive way for us all to spend our time.

The ABA wrote to Minister Upton to congratulate her and her government for making this balanced decision to recognise our National Icon, the Brumby, by designing an Act that balances both heritage and environmental values. The reply we received included the following key extracts;

- The NSW Government recognises the outstanding natural and cultural features that make Kosciuszko National Park one of Australia's great national parks, including its wild horse heritage.
- While finding a balance between protecting the heritage values of the wild horses and the environmental values of the national park is challenging, *it is possible*. The Kosciuszko Wild Horse Heritage Act 2018 recognises and protects wild horse heritage values in the national park, while enabling active management to reduce their impact on its fragile alpine environment.
- The legislation requires that a wild horse heritage management plan be prepared. The plan will identify the heritage value of sustainable wild horse populations and set out how those values

will be protected while maintaining environmental values. In locations where the population needs to be reduced, rehoming will be the priority and fertility control methods will be investigated.

- A community advisory panel will be appointed to ensure all stakeholders have a say and a scientific advisory panel will give expert advice. Rigorous monitoring will also be undertaken by OEH to help inform future decisions.

It is vital we all work together to ensure the NSW Brumby Act can in reality demonstrate to both pro and anti-viewpoints that we *can* have sustainable Heritage Wild Horses population's living alongside appropriate Australian Alpine National Park environments.

Jill Pickering
ABA President

Celebrations During Equitana

Ten years ago, at Equitana Melbourne, ABA was officially launched. This year we will celebrate at the finals of the 3rd Australian Brumby Challenge and hope that some of you will be there. Please get in touch with us!

ABA will be going out for a casual celebratory dinner during Equitana in Melbourne. If you will be in Melbourne on Friday November 16 and would like to join us, contact Sandy Radke (sandyradke@bigpond.com or 0458105221).



2008-2018

*dedication to the recognition, management, preservation and welfare of
Australian Wild Horses*

Ten Years of the Australian Brumby Alliance

It is impossible to present everything that ABA has been involved with since 2008 but presented in this issue is a range of things that happened over the last 10 years that demonstrate what ABA is about.

NATIONAL WILD HORSE MANAGEMENT SEMINAR

APRIL 12-13, 2008

Armidale Bowling Club, Armidale, NSW

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Attendance: Sandy Radke (Chair), Christina Urso-Cale (AEWA), Milton Stevens (CBPPS), Jodie Hare (CBPPS), Wies Roberts (CBPPS), Dr Sheila Greenwell (OHHAWA), Kevin Waddington (OHHAWA), Arleen Packer (OHHA), Lisa Burgess (STB), Jan Carter (STB), Jill Erby (STB), Clive Edwards (SMBUG), Jill Pickering (Vic), Colleen O'Brien (VBA), Daryl Olney (VBA), Timothy O'Gorman (VBA), Julia Davis (VBA), Matthew Wills (STB),

Nick Jacomas¹ (AHA), Andrew Kelly (RSPCA NSW), Michael Beattie (RSPCA Qld), Shayne Towers-Hammond (RSPCA Qld)

Apologies: Anne and Steve Warmbrunn (Qld), Michelle and Michael Shaw (Qld), Max Brennan (OHHA), Ray Lord (RSPCA Vic), Kelvin Mattsson (CBPPS).

The meeting opened: 9.12am.

1. Welcome & Introduction – Chair

The Chair welcomed the participants and gave a brief overview on the day's proceedings. She expressed her appreciation of the dedication of the participants and was struck by both the commonalities and the differences in the operating environments for each group, and the diverse strengths participants brought to the meeting. *The aim of the day was to build on commonalities whilst respecting the differences in the groups.*

2008

ABA is born

National Wild Horse Management Seminar

Born from ideas tossed about between Jan Carter (STB) and Arleen Packer (Oxley Heritage Horse Association), Brumby groups from around Australia gathered in Armidale, NSW to share information, ideas and network. Joining them were representatives from RSPCA Queensland and NSW, the Australian Horse Association, and the Australian Equine Welfare Association.

Seminar members supported the OHHAWA concept of :

'the formation of a National Wild Horse Management group to advocate common causes to National & State governments, Councils, the general public etc., with membership to consist of Committee representatives from state wild horse rescue groups and other qualified stakeholders. (e.g. RSPCA). It is assumed the National management group will have no control or authority over individual state associations/charities/organizations, etc. but may provide support, suggestions and recommendations on certain issues if required or requested'.

It was further felt that such a national body would take on roles such as administrative support, accessing state and federal funding sources, keeping current on legislation changes and how changes effect or influence wild horse management by Government authorities, providing resource material to new re-homing groups and supporting State approaches. Some general principles that were put forward for the national group include:

- Keep to broad statements on what the National body can do
- Keep objectives of the National body to a minimum
- Keep to realistic core values

- Be seen to work with opposing parties to increase positive ways of horse management
- Funding opportunities increase when being applied for from a national body
- Need to raise the Brumby profile/understanding in main cities & urban communities.
- Have a united voice when representing National body issues in public.
- It was agreed that the National Body should seek incorporation.

First AGM, November 2008, Equitana Melbourne



Arising from the meeting in Armidale, the first AGM of the newly formed Australian Brumby Alliance was held during Equitana in Melbourne.

Equitana provided a great opportunity for Brumby groups from South Australia (Coffin Bay Brumby Preservation Society), WA (Outback Heritage Horse Association of WA) as well as Vic (Victorian Brumby Association) to hold information stalls and showcase Brumbies. VBA also held demonstration/information talks at Equitana to promote



brumbies to the public.

The AGM and general meeting elected officers and discussed operational matters, such as membership, guidelines, aims and objectives. Officers elected were: Jill Pickering (President), Weis Roberts (Vice President), Dave O'Brien (Treasurer) and Katherine Waddington (OHHAWA). Member Groups were Save the Brumbies, Oxley Heritage Horse Association, the Australian Brumby Horse Register¹, Victorian Brumby Association, Snowy Mountain Bush Users Group, Coffin Bay Brumby Association, Outback Heritage Horse Association of WA.



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Fertility Control for Wild Horses Moving Forward with Population Control A Forum for Discussion

DATE: Tuesday 24 November 2009

Venue: The Boardroom, St. Leo's College, College Road, St. Lucia, QLD 4067
(Within the grounds of University of Queensland, St Lucia, St Lucia, Brisbane CBD).
Free parking for up to 185 vehicles

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|-------|--|
| 09:30 | Registration, Morning Tea |
| 10:00 | Introduction to ABA Activities |
| 10:20 | Overview of fertility control in wild horses – Samly Radke, ABA |
| 11:00 | GoRH vaccine for fertility control of wallabies – implications for trials on horse populations – Dr Lynn Hinds, CSIRO |
| 11:45 | Animal welfare ramifications of population interventions – dosing, distressing, deadly or deleterious? – Animals Australia |
| 12:05 | Brumbies, camels and kangaroos: aiming for a consistent and humane approach to population control – Dr Bidda Jones, Chief Scientist RSPCA |
| 12:25 | Lunch |
| 13:10 | The management of feral horses on parks and forests in QLD – Mark Weaver, Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service |
| 13:30 | Government Perspective in Managing Wild Horse Populations: Dr Frank Keenan, Invasive Pest and Animals Section, Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation |
| 13:50 | Estimating horse populations as a basis for conducting a control program – Dave Bertman |
| 14:05 | Afternoon Tea |
| 14:20 | Panel Discussion Session |
| 15:45 | Where to from here? Summary and Next Steps |
| 16:15 | Conclusion |

The aim of the 'Fertility Control for Wild Horses' Seminar from ABA's viewpoint is to enable key players to explain their position on Wild Horse issues, and gain a detailed understanding of how fertility control for wild horses might be applied under various scientific protocols. FGR is used by the Bureau of Land Management on American Mustang/Wild Horses, and has improved since first use. It, and other vaccine developments have potential to provide non-lethal control options for smaller, Security populations and as delivery techniques advance, could become viable for larger populations. – Jill Pickering, President - Australian Brumby Alliance Inc.

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

2009

Fertility Control for Wild Horses Seminar

In November 2009 about 40 people from New Zealand, Western Australia, Victoria, NSW as well as Queensland participated in a seminar hosted by the Australian Brumby Alliance on fertility control and its potential to deliver a non-lethal method to manage wild horse numbers. Speakers and participants represented a wide range of interests, including fertility control, animal welfare, government, veterinarians, academics, Parks and Wildlife ground staff, Brumby re-homing groups and other interested parties. It was an opportunity to network on these issues and meet the new **SEQ Brumby Association** (www.seqbrumby.com) who received their first Brumbies early November. Representative of the **Kaimanawa Heritage Horses** of New Zealand also attended the meeting and soon after joined the ABA

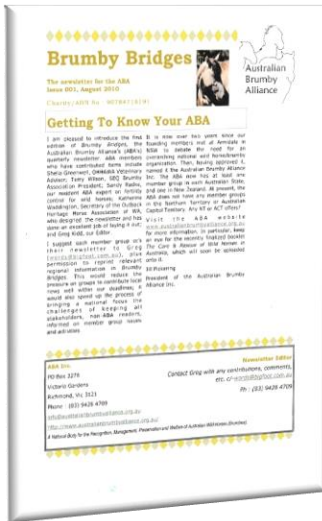
ABA remains in contact with many participants and since then, has continued to push for fertility control to be one of the humane methods of wild horse population control.

¹ Arleen Packer of the OHHAWA was also the Registrar of the ABHR

2010

First ABA Newsletter, *Brumby Bridges* published

With editor Greg Kidd in the saddle, the ABA Newsletter *Brumby Bridges* started presenting news on ABA and Member Groups on a quarterly basis in 2010. The name *Brumby Bridges* was chosen to promote the ABA concept of building bridges between Brumby Groups and to cross the divide between those for, and against our Heritage Wild Horses living wild in areas that have now become national parks. Newsletters are available via the ABA website and are sent out to ABA Members and Subscribers.



LAKE GREGORY MUSTER – “The proposal in June 2010 to muster and transport thousands of brumbies thousands of miles from Lake Gregory WA to Peterborough SA for slaughter for the export meat market was a spectacular example of inhumane mismanagement and waste of taxpayers’ money. The WA Department of Regional Development and Lands are forcing the Tjurabalin Pastoral Company, owners of the lease, to remove all horses from the land, arguing that the horses are degrading the land and exceeding the stock limit on the lease, thus reducing its productivity.” - *ABA Brumby Bridges August 2010*

Gundagai Forum on Kosi Horses

On August 28, 2010 over 50 people attended VBA’s *Brumby Information and Re-Homing Forum* in Gundagai, NSW. Speakers from ABA, SMBUG and the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service spoke on a range of wild horse management issues. The aim was to provide information to Brumby supporters and generate interest in establishing more re-homing groups. One person who attended, Geoff Court, took up the challenge and since that time has been re-homing Brumbies passively trapped in northern Kosciuszko National Park as Rivergums Brumby Horses (<https://rivergumsbrumbyhorses.vpweb.com.au/>).

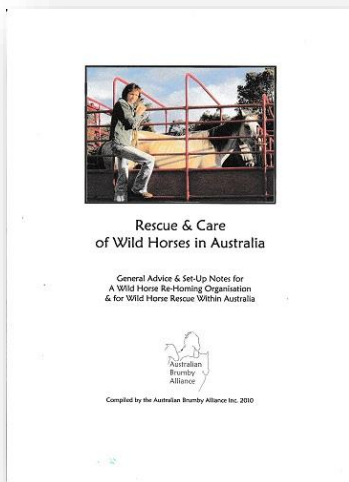
Publication of Rescue & Care of Wild Horses in Australia - General Advice & Set Up Notes for A Wild Horse Re-Homing Organisation & for Wild Horse Rescue Within Australia

“This comprehensive 21-page booklet has taken over 12 months to produce, and features input from three re-homing groups: Save the Brumbies, the Outback Heritage Horse Association of WA and the Victorian Brumby Association. It will soon be available via the ABA website.

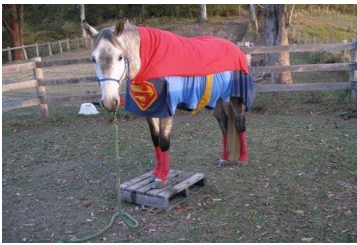
The first section contains information on ‘Setting-up a Wild Horse Re-homing Organization’. The second section offers suggestions on ‘Undertaking a Rescue’; whilst the final section comprises Help Notes on such vital matters as ‘Trapping/Trucking’; ‘Handling Wild Horses’; ‘Care of Your Adopted Brumby’; and ‘Grant funding sources. The booklet addresses a wide range of re-homing issues, however, readers are encouraged to remember that the suggestions we make are based on our experience to date. Every organization and trainer may do things

differently depending on their experience, individual horse needs, available techniques etc. Further, we recommend that you choose the methods that best suit your organization, and/or your horses and your situation, and exchange issues or ideas with other re-homing groups if needed. “ - *ABA Brumby Bridges August 2010*

The Re-homing Booklet is available on the ABA website : [Rescue & Care of Wild Horses in Australia](#)



Australian Brumby Horse Register (ABHR) online show, Utility Class at Bello Show, Royal Geelong Show and more.....



Outback Heritage Horse Association of WA inaugural Equine Art Exhibition

The Outback Heritage Horse Association of WA Inc, with the support of the Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes, Talison, Agiltech, Hillbille Winery and the Bridgetown Hotel hosted an Equine Art Exhibit at the Bridgetown Pottery and Tea Rooms. The exhibit commenced with an official opening on the afternoon of Sunday 24 October 2010 and ran to 16 November 2010. A number of well-known WA artists exhibited including Brian Aylward, Linden Pirie, Lauren Wilhelm, Janet Winter, Leonie Waddington and Cassie-Jo Fiorenza.

FIRST ABA WEBSITE DESIGNED BY JULIA DAVIS (VBA)

2011

ATHRA NATIONAL TRAIL RIDE - On Saturday, 04 June 2011, the Australian Trail Horse Riders Association (ATHRA) conducted a trail ride to raise awareness to the plight of Brumbies. Thirty-two ATHRA clubs across Australia raised \$6394 for ABA. On 16 July, at the Victorian Brumby Association's *Brumby's Run* at Beaufort, Paul Moulden, the Access Director of ATHRA presented Jill Pickering, ABA President, a cheque for \$6,394.00. Funds were distributed to member groups to fund gelding of colts, portable yard panels, second-hand crush and other things to help in re-homing Brumbies.

Representation on Government committees and other groups

Over the years, ABA and its Member Groups have participated in many government committees and advisory groups. Through sharing information and expertise, we collectively contribute a united view on Brumby Management ,for example to:

- Wild Horse Management Plan for Kosciuszko National Park
- Guy Fawkes National Park Horse Reference Committee
- Alpine National Park - Feral Horse Strategic Action Plan 2018-2021
- Barmah National Park Roundtable Group
- and more....

CARNARVON NATIONAL PARK BRUMBY CULL announced by Qld Government

NATIONAL BRUMBY WEEK – Our first National Brumby week was celebrated in March by several events across Australia. SEQBA ran a successful Brumby Spotting Tour; OHHAWA held a Brumby poetry competition; VBA had an open day; and STB held a Brumby Friends gathering. While everyone was keen to support the week, several rescue demands were a preoccupying factor.

2012

ABA PARTICIPATES IN A RESEARCH STUDY by Franziska Pilger, a student at Charles Sturt University in Wagga Wagga. The study investigated the validity of faecal progesterone and testosterone assay as a predictor of pregnancy in brumby populations when compared with domestic horses. Faecal samples were collected from domestic

horses as well as semi-captive and free-ranging brumbies. All samples were analysed, after chemical extraction of steroids, for progesterone and testosterone by means of enzyme-immunoassay. As faecal collection is non-invasive and does not require capture of animals, these results show that faecal progesterone assays are possibly the most suitable method for future studies in which pregnancy diagnosis and estimation of reproductive status in feral horse populations is sought.

Representation at the first Wild Equid Conference in Vienna Colleen O'Brien from VBA represented ABA and presented a talk on Australian Brumbies at The International Wild Equid Conference which was hosted by the Vienna Veterinary University to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the reintroduction to the wild of the Mongolian Wild Horse, or Przewalski Horse.



Three other Aussies also presented at the conference: Magdalena Zabek from Queensland on population density of Brumbies of South Eastern Queensland; Frances Dinn from New South Wales on initial conclusions drawn from her research into training and settling methods used by Brumby groups in Australia; and Dave Berman from Queensland on Brumby management programs he has been involved with. Colleen O'Brien far left.

ABA Website re-designed in WordPress for greater flexibility by Sandy Radke

2013

Due to ill health, BB editor Gregg Kidd retired in 2013 and passed the reins to Sandy Radke, the current BB Newsletter editor. As such there was a hiatus in newsletter publication, but, as President Jill Pickering notes in a recap of the year:

"The ABA has not been idle during the last 12 months. We held a Face-to-Face meeting near Ballarat in Victoria, made progress with National Park staff in several states, been part of a new Fertility Control development, had international exposure with Colleen speaking to participants from across the world at the First Wild Equid Conference, in Vienna and now the Victorian Brumby Association is part way through the first ever Brumby 100-day Challenge in Australia." - **ABA Brumby Bridges December 2013**

BALARAT FACE-TO-FACE GENERAL MEETING –

Because of the spread of geographic location of Member Groups, most AGM's and General Meetings are eMeetings through emails. In March 2013 a General Meeting was held to review progress so far, brainstorm ideas and network with people new to ABA since the first meeting in Armidale. New groups included the Hunter Valley Brumby Association (HVBA) and the South East Queensland Brumby Association.



Kath Massey and the HVBS team enjoyed a wonderful day in August signing many copies of the **NEWLY PUBLISHED BRUMBY BOOK** for people that had driven from all over to get their copy.

THE SUNFLOWER PONY SERIES OF BOOKS written by Jan Carter (STB) for young readers is now featured on the STB website and people, young and old love the stories and antics of the horses. Proceeds of sales help fund STB costs.

SOPRANO CATHRYN BURGESS WOWED THE AUDIENCE with her glorious voice to the evocative strains of Jan's harp at an STB Musical Fund Raiser in Armidale in late November. All enjoyed the concert and the intimate interaction with the performers and the concert raised both awareness and funds to help save wild horses.

FIRST AUSTRALIAN BRUMBY CHALLENGE COMMENCES *(see also 2014)*



2014

Finals of the first Australian Brumby Challenge

Inspired by the American Mustang Challenge, the Australian Brumby Challenge aims to showcase the abilities and value of our own Australian Brumbies.

Approved professional and non-professional horse trainers are given 150 days to take a recently captured and unhandled Brumby to the finals of the ABC. There are two sections, a ridden section and an in-hand section for yearlings. Following the finals, an auction is held, and approved participants can bid for the

Brumbies of their choice.

The ABC was initiated by ABA member group, the [Victorian Brumby Association](#) in 2013 and the first finals of the Challenge were held in 2014. The finals of the second Australian Brumby Challenge were held at Equitana in Melbourne from November 17-22, 2016. The third Australian Brumby Challenge is underway, and the finals will be held at Equitana in November 2018.

BARMAH FOREST BRUMBIES UNDER THREAT !

Parks Victoria ignores their Barmah Horse Advisory Committee (BHAC), formed to provide specialist advice on horse management, and have now commenced plans to remove the remaining 140 Brumbies from Barmah Park.

The Barmah Brumby Preservation Group Inc. is formed by several Barmah community groups with Murray Willaton (member Barmah Forest Cattleman's Association), as President. The Victorian Brumby Association, the ABA and HOOFS2010 Inc. are also involved so we can present a significant, unified community voice to Parks Victoria on why it is essential that Brumbies remain living wild in Barmah Park.

Kosciuszko NPWS staff hosted several Brumby groups, including the ABA, HVBA, SMBUG and VBA for two-day long visits to a variety of Brumby sites. The scenery and information gained from other groups and NPWS staff was invaluable and we came away determined that we need to study relevant Park Acts.

Education, Promotion and Information

Education, promotion and dissemination of information on wild horse matters is a key part of ABA activities. Apart from information on our website and newsletter, ABA and its member groups

- Have information stalls and hold workshops and demonstrations at agricultural events or their own Brumby Sanctuaries
- Show horses at Australian Brumby Horse Register and other show classes
- Host and/or participate in seminars
- Host tertiary students for work experience
- Participate in research projects

Brumby Information Sheets. ABA started preparing information sheets to counter arguments that wild horse are always damaging the environment. The Info Sheets are available on the ABA Website.

The Kosciuszko National Park conversation chat website runs for 4 months to help inform the next NPWS Wild Horse management Plan . ABA and its members participated and many incites were gained.

Jan Carter, STB announces that they now have a *voice in North Queensland: Shelly Cowan* is our representative in that area and this will help us to keep in touch with Qld Parks wild horse management first hand.

PUBLIC MEETING WITH NPWS REGARDING KOSCIUSKO BRUMBIES 29 NOV 2014,

QUEANBEYAN NSW - Around 100 members of the general public attended the meeting which was aimed at providing the public

with information - mostly slanted against Brumbies. For example: "aerial culling is humane"; a multiple-choice question that did not include a co-exist in sustainable numbers option; factually incorrect statements, such as fertility control application is not possible unless horses are yarded, when in fact it has been applied by dart gun on free roaming USA Mustangs for over thirty years. Colleen O'Brien was able to persuade NPWS to correct the audience on this point. The reason whether fertility control requires trapping (or not) is important as NPWS say it costs just over \$1,000 on average to trap one Brumby, so adding trap costs to the price of a \$35 dart applied vaccine is a major cost/time drawback.

After five years of negotiation with Defense Environmental Officers, HVBA RECEIVES ITS FIRST SINGLETON ARMY BASE BRUMBIES

*The ABA is sad to see the closure of one of its member groups, the **Outback Heritage Horse Association of WA**. One of the OHHAWA's last recues was the Cape le Grande horses south of Esperance.*

2015

ABA President Jill Pickering visits

- Kaimanawa Heritage Horses in New Zealand
- Dartmoor Hill Pony Association, commencing a valuable international connection in wild horse management, including fertility control.

Member Group Kaimanawa Heritage Horses holds the *Inaugural Kaimanawa Heritage Horses Stallion Makeover Challenge*

2016



Sydney Rally for the Kosi Brumbies – Peter Cochran from the SMBUG was the mover and shaker behind an impressive rally in Sydney to protect the Kosi Brumbies. ABA, VBA and the HVBA were there, and ABA President Jill Pickering gave one of the key speeches at the event.

This was an important step leading to the Kosciuszko Wild Horse Heritage Bill (the Brumby Bill) being introduced to Parliament in 2018.



Finals of the second Australian Brumby Challenge held at Equitana in Melbourne!

A major boost to the profile of the Australian Brumby Challenge, the event was very popular at Equitana Melbourne and gave a wider audience to what these great horses can do. Some, who only found out about the Challenge at Equitana said that had they known, they would have registered to bid at the auction! Next time!

The Australian Brumby Alliance (ABA) fully endorses the NATIONAL PARKS AND WILDLIFE SERVICES (NPWS) HERITAGE VALUES REPORT BY CONTEXT which determined that “the wild horse population is an attribute associated with the cultural heritage significance of Kosciuszko National Park (KNP) in relation to five criteria”. However, the ABA was shocked to see that despite the Context finding on the Brumby's cultural heritage significance that the

KNP Wild Horse management plan (WHMP) proposal to lower Brumby populations by 90% to 600 fails to fully reflect the Heritage significance of Alpine Brumbies found in their own commissioned report by Context.

2017



ABA Website selected for preservation by the National Library of Australia via the Pandora Web Archive and is archived once a year in March.

ABA AND REPS FROM VBA AND HVBA ATTEND THE 3RD INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON COMPASSIONATE CONSERVATION in Leura NSW and discovered exciting insights



into a new model for environmental study which melds conservation and animal welfare. Hearing new ideas about novel ecosystems, trophic cascades and biodiversity hot spots for species threatened in their indigenous environment gave strength and hope to us all for the preservation of Australian wild horses.

Pictured are Sandy Radke and Jill Pickering (ABA), Kath Massey (HVBA), Kim Frank and Kayla Grams (The Science Conservation Centre, Billings Montana) and Colleen O'Brien (VBA). Colleen

also arranged for Kim and Kayla to visit Kosciuszko National Park to see Brumbies and speak to National Park staff in regard to fertility control programs.

2018

NSW Kosi Brumbies given legislative protection

This landmark in Australian Brumby history could not have been achieved without John Barilaro, MP and Peter Cochran of the SMBUG. But neither could they do it alone. To change political will there needs to be significant support from the community and that is achieved by everyone who has voiced their views. ABA and its Member Groups as well as other groups and individuals who have pushed the message hard over the years have been instrumental in getting to this point.



While legislation may come, change and go, this Act of the NSW Parliament is a testament to the hard work of everyone who has contributed their voice in support of Australian Brumbies.

ABA Submissions to Governments

Over the years, ABA has prepared many submissions to governments on wild horse management

VICTORIAN BOGONG HIGH PLAINS BRUMBIES UNDER THREAT

And there is still more to do.....

Finals of the third Australian Brumby Challenge held at Equitana in Melbourne! November 14-18, Royal Melbourne Showground. More in the next issue of Brumby Bridges and at <https://www.equitana.com.au/>.

ABA Remembers...

Wies Roberts, -2015 (CBPPS, ABA Vice-President 2009-2013)

Clive Edwards, -2016 (SMBUG ABA Rep 2009-2015)

The question is not, "Can they reason?"
nor, "Can they talk?" but rather,
"Can they suffer?"
- Jeremy Bentham, 1789



BOGONG HIGH PLAINS



GUY FAWKES






KOSCIUSZKO

Member News

Australian Brumby Horse Register (ABHR)

ABHR Showcase Brumby of the Year

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| <p style="text-align: center;"><i>ACT</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Wirraway Park Eureka Owner: Meaghan Lewer</p>  | <p style="text-align: center;"><i>NSW</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Tonelle Storm Owner: Sam Chapman</p>  | <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Victoria</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Guy Fawkes Dashka Owner: Tanya Perry</p>  |
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Hunter Valley Brumby Association (HVBA)

The Brumby 250 Tournament was developed to showcase the talents of trainers in New South Wales as well as our Brumbies.

For our inaugural event we invited trainers to train an unhandled Brumby in 250 days and present them in mandatory final events. The Brumbies are still owned by the HVBA, but their care and costs are the responsibility of their trainer's, but they are all encouraged to seek sponsorship to help with these costs.

We have put in place a humane treatment policy and all trainers must provide weekly updates and they are subject

to random welfare checks in person – the first of which occurred over the last fortnight by our committee.

The Brumbies chosen for the tournament are all mares that have been with us for a minimum of two years, and although unhandled, we know them quite well. The girls were paired with their trainers based on experience, height and weight - all for animal welfare reasons.

To make our first tournament easy to manage, we invited trainers who had demonstrated previous experience and showed compassion towards Brumbies. Four very enthusiastic trainers have come on board, for what we hope will be the first of many tournaments in the future.

All of the trainers attended a compulsory 3-day clinic here at the HVBA Sanctuary to introduce them to their Brumbies, to ensure we made a good match and to provide instruction for lead training and the signs and symptoms to be aware of if too much pressure is applied on a wild horse during training before taking them home.

It was also a great opportunity for all of the trainers to get to know each other and have yarn each night around the camp fire.

After 250 days of training all of the Brumbies and their trainers will be competing in three compulsory final events next April, here in Stroud.

The first will be competing at the Nationals for Working Equitation – yes, the Nationals! Working Equitation comprises of 4 phases – dressage, obstacles, speed and

cattle. Our Brumbies will be competing in their own classes but will be judged by national and international judges, so everyone will need to bring their A game!

The second part of the final events will be two weeks later to compete in both the led and ridden classes at Stroud Show and the following day will be the finale of the freestyle event. The freestyle will be timed to music and can be any routine and comprising of props and costumes.

After the final events, the trainer may have first option to purchase their Brumby or after the finals the Brumbies will be returned to the HVBA for us to find them their forever home.

Victorian Brumby Association (VBA)

VBA is flat out getting ready for the finals of the 3rd Australian Brumby Challenge at Equitana Melbourne, 15-18 November. www.australianbrumbychallenge.com.au

Hoof Prints..... Other items of note

A Preview of Mongolia

Just a hoof print of what will come in the next Brumby Bridges....



The Editor's Tail

On the rollercoaster ride of wild horse advocacy, one can often lose sight of the forest for the trees. Sometimes it seems like you get somewhere, only to tumble backwards into the mud.

So, from time to time, it is good to take a reflective look at what has happened over the last 10 years. After compiling this edition of Brumby Bridges, I can say this:

Australian Brumby Alliance. Inc.

- There *has* been progress
- No one person or group can make it so
- Maintaining a unified voice, while acknowledging difference is critical
- ABA has made a considerable impact

As I write, news is coming of Brumbies being illegally shot in Kosi NP. This is disturbing, and one might wonder what all the effort we make has achieves. *But what if we were not here for the last 10 years?* Rest assured that many more horses would have been slaughtered.

Major achievements, such as the Kosciuszko Wild Horse Heritage Act 2018, could not have happened if ABA, other wild horse advocate and animal welfare groups, as well as the groundswell of individuals who care about Brumbies did not, over the years, voice their views and work tirelessly to shift public and political opinion.

It is important that whatever our differences in viewpoints, we respect each other and resist backstabbing and bitchiness. And this happens. I see it on Facebook, through the grapevine of the brumby world and in the press. Some people do not agree with the Australian Brumby Challenge, or fertility control, for example. Fine, but why rubbish it or post information that is blatantly

wrong because you haven't checked the facts? It may not be your thing, and maybe you feel you have a better way of doing things. Well go out and do your thing – but be positive not negative. Everything is helping and leaving the ego behind, supporting each other or at least not undermining each other is vital for the horses.

ABA has made a difference. While some Member Groups would still continue without ABA, the networking and sharing of information has strengthened them.

By and large, many people, even within ABA do not see what happens behind the scenes.

We team up to work on Government committees and preparing submissions, sharing the load; the level of Government lobbying that we have now would just not happen.

ABA has supported groups in getting started and through hard times. It has forged relationships with key players, whether on our side or not, so that dialogue can be as productive as possible. And when necessary, ABA is not afraid of standing head to toe with adversaries.

So, three cheers from me to the ABA! May it continue another 10 years, or as long as it is necessary.

Australian Brumby Alliance Inc.

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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