

## Reunited

In 2008 a chestnut yearling (Pumpkin) arrived in poor health to a Brumby sanctuary and despite care will never be really sound again and remains supported by the sanctuaries Sponsorship program.

Three weeks later (Molly) with foal arrived with her mob stallion and mares. Molly was gentled and rehomed, but years later was rescued from a Qld abattoir. This time Molly went into sponsorship as she was too traumatised and frightened to place on.

In time, Molly joined the sanctuary's main mob which included Pumpkin. The two horses instantly bonded and the usually greedy, pushy Pumpkin, readily shared her hay with Molly.

Checking their files, similarities noticed. Both came from the same area in Guy Fawkes ... Pumpkin's N.P. file stated that she was on her own, having lost her mob.

As the two horses bonded quickly and strongly and are never apart, acting as if they knew each other, is it possible, that Pumpkin is Molly's previous foal, or one of Molly's mob?

## The 'Mid-Wife' Brumby

Having just dropped some hay near two unhandled wild Brumby mares in the bush of a large property, Meg sat down to watch them for a while. Suddenly one mare name 'Jade' stopped feeding and lay down looking like she was getting ready to foal. Not far away was another mare 'Myra' who was enjoying the hay and relaxing with her one day old foal.

Meg thought it better to just sit still and leave Jade to get along with foaling in peace. Jade was taking longer than average in her efforts to push the foal out, but eventually succeeded.

Out came Jade's foal with the berth sac still around the foal. Jade began looking from side to side and seeming to not have the energy to reach the foal and break the berth sac open for her foal to breath.

As Jade's kept struggling, her anxiety and concern increased. Meg was in a quandary - should she approach Jade and break the sac, risking frightening the mare or trust Jade to handle this herself.

The next moment, Meg saw Myra and her one day old foal walk over to Jade, then so gently touch her nose, then walk round to Jade's foal still in its birth sac. Myra then broke the birth sac to release the foal to take its first breath.

Myra then quietly walked back to Jade's head and blew gently into her nostrils, as if to say, it's OK Jade, I've freed your foal, so just relax, rest and get your strength back, and be the great Mum I know you will be.

Valued qualities in sentient beings (human/animal) include the ability to care for another above itself, ability to enjoy the experiencing of running down a challenging slope, exuberance of a sunny day and partners affection. I have seen all these in Australian horses living in wild family mobs. A brumbies survival depends on sentient family bonds to overcome external threats. **Anonymous**