



Brumby Bridges

The quarterly newsletter of the ABA

SUMMER 2021, ISSUE 21-1

The Australian

Brumby Alliance

President- Jill Pickering

Vice President - Sandy Robertson

Secretary - Pat Hoelmer

Treasurer - David O'Brien

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*Dedicated to the
recognition,
management,
preservation and welfare*

A WORD FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to the Summer edition of the ABA newsletter! And a big welcome to our new member group HOOFS2020!

Brumbies are very special. We see these beautiful horses because the professional photographers share their photos with us all. So many Brumbies are captured in their natural environment along with other animals around them. I feel so lucky to be part of a network of Brumby support groups, ReHoming groups, photographers, trainers, families and individuals. We are a team and we must hang in there to keep being a voice for our innocent Brumbies. We can all only do the best we can and each person has something to offer... keep up the fantastic work everyone!

Patricia Hoelmer, ABA Secretary

**Merry
Christmas
and Happy
Holidays
from the
Australian
Brumby
Alliance**

Photo
credit:
Donna
Crebbin



www.australianbrumbyalliance.org.au

Picture credit: Donna Crebbin



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PRESIDENT'S CHAT

Happy New Year from the ABA for 2021, we hope that despite Covid issues you had some quality time with family and friends over the Christmas break.

The University of Southern Queensland (USQ) and ABA East Alpine Brumby impacts (positive and negative) research continue to be delayed by ongoing Covid restrictions, however, we are hopeful the research can conclude as autumn approaches. Visit <https://australianbrumbyalliance.org.au/aba-sponsored-research/> for more details on this innovative work.

The ABA urgently need \$54,000 to pay the final instalment of the USQ-ABA wild horse research being to assess BOTH **positive** & negative Brumby impacts. To donate to pay for the study costs, please visit: https://chuffed.org/project/join-our-fight-to-save-victorias-alpine-brumbies?fbclid=IwAR3A75Hx5fJbxhrNJAQ8Shk-frX4cFVUzqQPvqu0sOt5Tu0_dza3XrU8c04

The ABA raffle of amazing Aboriginal paintings will be drawn on Saturday, 23 January 2021 at 1:00 pm. Money raised from this raffle will also go towards the USQ-ABA study. To buy tickets, please visit: <https://www.raffletix.com.au/?ref=h493k> and see more information in this newsletter.

Our new look ABA website www.australianbrumbyalliance.org.au was launched early December 2020. Check out the wealth of information and easy access to a range of diverse subjects.

The NSW Environment Minister, Matt Kean has just announced the recent count result which records a Brumby population drop of 25% from the 2019 count. The new Kosciuszko wild horse management plan developed with input from the Community and Scientific Advisory Panels must surely be release now that nothing else is needed.

Let's hope the new plan maximises the number of Brumbies that can be rehomed



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PRESIDENT'S CHAT cont'd..

by spacing the trapping, applying fertility control as used for the past 40 years in America and for 5 years in England EFFECTIVELY. Lack of government funding will make it impossible for over stretched, volunteer rehomingers to retain the recent 94% rehoming rate.

Across Victoria the situation is dire, with Parks Victoria intent on exterminating **all** Bogong High Plains Brumbies, **all** Barmah Brumbies and as many as possible from the EastAlps before the current plan ends mid 2021.

It is infuriating to see PV continue to rely on the flawed Bogong High Plains study, despite having to admit in court that data stating deer only impacts was written up as horse only impacts. We need to call government and authorities to account. Such brazen and arrogant actions show just how far scientific environmental studies have lost the desire for accuracy.

Having long suspected the integrity of wild horse environmental studies and having exposed PV's claims of using 'reliable' studies as wrong, we see PV

persistence in supporting studies that manipulate deer damage to be counted as horse only damage.

Using false evidence to destroy a living part of Australian social history is indefensible. Especially as we have steadily worked for so long to advise PV on effective management strategies so that wild horse heritage populations in Victoria can co-exist with native flora and fauna in sustainable levels.



At a protest in Melbourne

Jill Pickering, ABA President



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UPDATE FROM SAVE THE BRUMBIES

Our Armidale Sanctuary, NEBS, has never looked better, good rain, full water tanks and lush growth in the paddocks. Our new volunteer, Jess Symons, is a valuable help to Lucy in preparing the horses for Adoption. Jess is an experienced horse handler and enjoys working with the Brumbies. Managing the horses so that they are ready for new homes is a demanding task; having an extra pair of hands to help with gelding, microchipping, worming, training etc. is a bonus; thanks Jess, we really appreciate your help.



The NEBS volunteers, from left to right: Isaiah, Lucy, Jess and shy baby Belle with Brumbies

We have several quiet, well handled horses looking for their forever homes. Our website will have updates on the Adoption page early in the N.Y. Do note: All horse lovers: We are currently waiting for a new load of horses to arrive from the Oxley Rivers N.P. Some lovely colored Brumbies among them. So for all of you looking for that new best friend do keep in touch. When the new arrivals are ready for inspection we will hold an Open Day at NEBS in the N.Y. Date to be advised.

Jan Carter, President STB Inc.



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ABA RAFFLE 2020

Celebrate Australian Indigenous artwork and the iconic Heritage Brumby by purchasing a ticket for the ABA Raffle 2020 and your chance to win one of EIGHT amazing prizes!

To purchase tickets, go to: <https://www.raffletix.com.au/?ref=h493k>

Tickets are \$10 each Prize drawn 23rd January 2021

Support the Australian Brumby Alliance and our work to advocate for the Australian Heritage Brumby.

Australian Brumby Alliance Raffle 2020

FIRST PRIZE

Yedabila Yakapna Nuratj
(Animal Family Dream)

Artist: Liss Cowan Size: 36cm x 71cm Value: \$400 AUD



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| | | |
|---------------------|---|---|
| SECOND PRIZE | <p>Australian Brumby Alliance Raffle 2020</p> <p>Amaroo Dreaming</p> <p>Artist: Christine Evans-Manzoli Size: 80cm x 40cm Value: \$270 AUD</p> |  |
| THIRD PRIZE | <p>Australian Brumby Alliance Raffle 2020</p>  | <p>Canoe Shaped Bowl with Brumby</p> <p>Artist: Lil Aud @Lil Aud Aboriginal Art Size: 30cm x 70cm Value: \$250 AUD</p> |



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Australian Brumby Alliance Raffle 2020

FOURTH PRIZE

Brumby Red



Artist: Scott Moore @Lilly Pilly Inspirations
Size: 40cm x 50cm Value: \$100 AUD

Australian Brumby Alliance Raffle 2020

FIFTH PRIZE

Brumby White



Artist: Scott Moore @Lilly Pilly Inspirations
Size: 40cm x 50cm Value: \$100 AUD



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Australian Brumby Alliance Raffle 2020

SIXTH PRIZE

Oblong Cheese Board with Brumby



Artist: Kerrie Hough
@Huff Creations
Size: 55cm x 18cm
Value: \$70 AUD

Australian Brumby Alliance Raffle 2020

SEVENTH PRIZE

Round Cheese Board Snowflake




Artist: Kerrie Hough
@Huff Creations
Size: 30cm Value \$50 AUD

Australian Brumby Alliance Raffle 2020

EIGHTH PRIZE

Oblong Cheese Board Hearts



Artist: Kerrie Hough
@Huff Creations
Size: 55cm x 18cm
Value: \$50 AUD



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A BRUMBY SHOOT

The only way to shoot a Brumby is with a camera!

Thank-you to Ian and Michelle Brown for this amazing image.





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UPDATE FROM HOOFS2010 Inc.

HELPING OUR OLD FRIENDS SURVIVE

HOOFS2010 has worked for the last 10 years to save, promote and find wonderful homes for Australian Brumbies who otherwise would be slaughtered or euthanized.

Our Berrigan Sanctuary currently sits on 10 acres, we have rescued over 150 Brumbies from all over Australia. HOOFS2010 is a registered Australian charity, our work is completely funded by donations generously given by people and businesses from all over the world.



HOOFS2010 -Mumma KAMBALLA & Little KOEN born October 2020

The primary mission of HOOFS2010 is to rescue Australian Brumbies. We work to Advocate, Rescue and preserve Australia's wild Heritage horses.

We aim to find an environmentally responsible solution, that includes Brumby populations managed for future generations to enjoy in their natural Home.

We strive to save Brumbies removed from the wild and ensure a sound sustainable future in the Equine world by recording and following each rescue for life.

We value the very asset many would see destroyed "The Brumby."

To contact HOOFS2010

Ph 0401 527 991

W hoofs2010incorporated.com/





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THE TALE OF TWO VIEWPOINTS AND OBUSCATING LOGIC

Australian literature generally concludes that Brumbies cause damage to the environment but these studies are based on correlative data and weak inferences that actually contain evidence supporting the belief that horses can have positive environmental impact.

This positive ecological impact is rarely if ever acknowledged because of the strong belief of Australian environmentalists; that since horses are introduced, heavy hard hoofed animals they must only cause damage in Australia.

One day a moderator who had been taught that impacts can be positive or negative and even a mix of both, approached an Australian environmental wild horse scientist.

The moderator asked the scientist, why you say horse impact is bad, without hesitation the scientist replied that “feral” horse impact is bad because the horse is not native to Australia.

Really, so presumable the non-native rule applies to the early settlers who came with

the horse to Australia in 1788, mused the moderator?

The scientist took a breath; no, you’ve missed a vital point, scientists write the studies, set the rules. The clue is the term “feral” which we use to identify bad species. Feral separates the introduced horses (and their offspring) from introduced settlers (and their offspring).

The moderator, who considered moderate wild horse numbers could be positive said, what exactly is a wild horse impact. The scientist thought a bit, not used to being queried on what is widely taught as fact, then said, because horses make foot prints as they move along.

But don’t all species make footprints as they move along the moderator observed?

The scientist, shocked the succinct reply was even questioned, then added, it’s widely known that horse impacts in national parks are bad.

THE TALE OF TWO VIEWPOINTS AND OBUSCATING LOGIC

Don't you realise, any impact from non-native/ introduced species is bad because Australian soils did not have horses in earlier times.



Photo1 Track formation and trampling of vegetation caused by horses in the Rams Head area of Kosciuszko National Park Ken Green NPWS

Oh, said the moderator trying to see the logic, so while horses and humans make impacts, only the horse, called feral, is bad.

Human impacts are descriptive, but not bad, such as:

- ✚ If a wild horse called feral moves along forming a track on the land, that track is called bad impact, but if a human moves along forming a track on the land, that track is called a footpath; not bad impact. Yes said the scientist.
- ✚ Applying the same logic then if a human moves along on a bicycle forming a track, that is called a cycle path; not bad impact, or if a human moves along on a motor bike forming a track, that is called a dirt track; not bad impact. Yes said the scientist.
- ✚ Similarly then said the moderator, if a Fire truck moves along forming a track on the land that track is called a fire track; not bad impact, and where many vehicles move along forming a rock hard track, that is called a road; not bad impact.



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THE TALE OF TWO VIEWPOINTS AND OBUSCATING LOGIC



Photo2 Walking track googled for comparison.

The moderator later reflected on the confidence the scientist had developed to uphold such illogical concepts and the ability to resist what others call common sense logic, in order to become an Australian wild horse scientist.

Jill Pickering

Yes said the scientist, glad you understand my logic. The moderator looked in disbelief at the scientist, then decided there was no point in pursuing this line of questioning such as asking why large areas of concrete on parkland was not impact, or why the scientist had never talked of impact from introduced animals such as deer, pigs, cats, goats, rabbits.





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UPDATE FROM HERITAGE BRUMBY ADV AUST INC.

In reality, the battle to save the Brumby is much bigger than just humane methods of population management, it is instead a battle against organized misinformation funded by institutions which have a vested interest in maintaining this narrative.

BEWARE
of misinformation...

“Two of the horses had their snouts inside its gaping abdominal cavity, nibbling at what little remained of its digestive tract. As far as we are aware, this behaviour has never been documented before.

The noble brumbies of the silver screen have been reduced to starving cannibals in Kosciuszko National Park..”

Don Driscoll + Sam Banks

Published on the Australian National University website

FACT:
horses are herbivores

Heritage Brumby Advocates Australia inc.

The funding criteria by government is directed towards ‘feral’ animals, therefore, in order to attract that funding, the same group of scientists who routinely peer review each other’s articles have a vested interest in this deliberate misinformation campaign.

The battle therefore is ongoing, its significant, and it is about much more than just the physical Brumby, it is about institutionalized misinformation to control government funding.

But we endure, our passion and integrity to the cause is stronger than their addiction to ego and false narratives.

Justine Curatolo

HBAAinc President



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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
- ❖ Heritage Brumby Advocates Australia inc.
- ❖ HOOFS2010!

To find out more, or to join, please contact Jill Pickering on pickjill@hotmail.com

NEWSLETTER

To contribute to the ABA newsletter, please contact Pat on hoelmerp@hotmail.com

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ABA Inc. Charity/ABN No: 9-784718191

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www.australianbrumbyalliance.org.au

All donations over \$2 are tax deductible

END NEWSLETTER