



Brumby Bridges

The quarterly newsletter of the ABA

AUTUMN 2021, ISSUE 21-2

The Australian

Brumby Alliance

President- Jill Pickering

Vice President - Sandy
Robertson

Secretary - Pat Hoelmer

Treasurer - David O'Brien

Contact:
hoelmerp@hotmail.com

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

A WORD FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to the jam-packed Autumn edition of the ABA newsletter.

The community consultation phase of the Parks Victoria Feral Horse Management Plan 2021 – 2031 has opened. The ABA has submitted a response and made public key themes which we hope will provide guidance for others with their submissions.

The newsletter also includes details of the ABA's submission to the Victorian Parliament Inquiry into Eco-System decline.

We are running a raffle with three amazing artworks from local award-winning photographer, Donna Crebbin.

And much much more!

Brumby Bridges Editor

Photo
credit:
Michelle
Brown





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PRESIDENT'S CHAT

Sadly, the NSW Kosciuszko Wild Horse heritage act management plan DRAFT has NOT been released yet for community feedback. The delays continue to fuel environmentalists calls for shooting, all this would be avoided had the draft plan been released for public comment in February as indicated by the NSW Minister for the Environment, the Hon. Matt Kean.

In Victoria, plans to continue to shoot/trap Brumbies in the East Victorian Alps and exterminate ALL Bogong High Plains (and ALL Barmah) Brumbies as urged by Parks Victoria (PV), the Victorian Government and sadly in Barmah, shooting and trapping to extinction is fully supported by the Yorta Yorta Corporation.

Australia is losing a vital part of its living social Heritage as the Barmah and Bogong Brumbies are annihilated, all in the name of seriously flawed environmental studies that Parks Victoria reply upon.

PV released their 2021-2031 Horse plan on 26th March with a 4 week consultation period, closing on 23rd April. See the ENGAGE site for information on this draft plan feedback process on web link:

<https://engage.vic.gov.au/alpine-feral-horse-action-plan>

Last year the ABA made a submission to the Vic parliamentary Inquiry into the decline of ecosystems. The ABA was invited back to present further information to the inquiry on 24th February and answer questions.

There is so much PV could be doing to recognise and retain sustainable Victorian Brumby living heritage populations.

Tragically, PV instead choose to destroy our heritage Brumby populations, using flawed studies to justify their actions, all with the full support of the Victorian government.

We are currently running a raffle which three first edition artworks by local photographer Donna Crebbin as prizes.

Please support our fundraising efforts as we receive no government funding for the crucial work we do.

Jill Pickering, ABA President

April 2021



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ABA Response to PV Horse Management Plan 2021

ENGAGE VICTORIA

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Parks Victoria

Protection of the Alpine National Park - Feral Horse Action Plan 2021

Parks Victoria are updating their action plan for feral horse management in the Alpine National Park. You can review the draft action plan and provide feedback.

ABA response

Close date 23rd April

Timeline

Consultation opens 26 March 2021

Parks Victoria (PV) released their 2021-2031 Brumby plan on 26th March with a 4 week turnaround closing on 23rd April. See the ENGAGE site for information on this draft plan feedback process <https://engage.vic.gov.au/alpine-feral-horse-action-plan>

It is important to read this draft plan and respond via the ENGAGE survey link above about the harsh plan to exterminate all Bogong High Plains Brumbies and the East Vic Alps population. Below the ABA puts forward three highly questionable statements PV make in their Brumby plan 2021:

Parks Victoria (PV) state in their plan:

“Even low densities of horses can cause substantial damage in a short time, as demonstrated by the substantial damage caused by feral horses during their presence in

the Mount Nelse area (Tolsma and Shannon 2018).”

ABA observations:

- During the ABA-v-PV legal case 2020 PV’s expert evidence was shown to be false in that several (3-4 at least) sites in the researcher’s field notes which stated damage was from ONLY DEER, were reported as HORSE ONLY damage in the final Tolsma & Shannon 2018 report. As a result the only conclusion PV came to was that horses, even in small numbers cause the damage. It is a pity the PV scientists never investigated what else, apart from horses, could be causing the damage, and instead took their default position of blaming horses, and



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ABA Response to PV Horse Management Plan 2021 cont'd..

- Parks Victoria failed to factor in the high ratio of around 300 DEER to ONE Brumby, nor why over 100 deer were hot in the same area as Tolsma & Shannon 2018 conducted this study.

Parks Victoria (PV) state in their plan:

“Ultimately, **complete removal** of feral horses from across the Bogong-Cobungra area would **achieve permanent protection** of environmental values across this area.”

ABA observations:

- This statement beggars belief; it is typical of all aspects of PV’s approach to achieving permanent environmental protection. It seems so obvious that removing 5,000 Brumbies but hardly denting the 1 million deer population (increasing 55% annually) living in the Victorian Alps, cannot ever “achieve permanent protection of environmental values”, unless
- PV really does believe that neither deer nor pigs live in the VicAlps, or that if deer and pigs are present that they don’t cause negative impact.
- PV actually believe having 1 million plus deer/pigs in the VicAlps is not an issue, or that if deer/pig numbers are high, any resulting negative impact is insignificant.

Parks Victoria state in their plan:

“On 8 May 2020, the Federal Court of Australia delivered its judgement (FCA 2020) on whether the removal of horses by Parks Victoria compromised cultural heritage values associated with horses in the Alpine National Park, as defined by the Australian Alps National

Parks National Heritage Listing. The judgement accepted that feral horses had severe impacts on the biodiversity values of the Victorian Alps and decided that the removal of feral horses would not have a significant impact on the national heritage values of the Australian Alps.”

ABA observation:

- Parks Victoria has regularly published incorrect information on the ABA-v-PV Judges findings. ABA took Parks Victoria to Court to stop entire Brumby populations being eradicated (we are not against sustainable management). The case was lost, however, the Judge:
 - Accepted the continuing presence of brumbies in the Australian Alps contributes to National Heritage Values relating to high country pioneering history, but that
 - Culling ALL of the Bogong High Plains horses (100), while leaving around 1,200 in East VicAlps is not significant enough (under the EPBC Act) to detract from **their overall heritage values.**

Jill Pickering



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ABA RAFFLE 2021: Donna Crebbin Artworks

Donna Crebbin is an award-winning photographer whose work captures the essence of Australia's Heritage Brumby.

Buy a raffle ticket to support the Australian Brumby Alliance's important work and go in the draw to win one of three amazing works by Donna Crebbin.

Link to raffle: <https://www.raffletix.com.au/?ref=x43y7&sref=r7puefft>

ABA Raffle 2021
Donna Crebbin artwork

FIRST PRIZE



RAVEN BEAUTY
By Donna Crebbin

SECOND PRIZE



CURIOUS YOUTH

THIRD PRIZE



SPECIAL MOMENTS
By Donna Crebbin

\$5 a ticket

Drawn on 29th
May 2021

Click on link to
purchase a
ticket...

GOOD LUCK!





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VIC PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY SUMMARY

VICTORIAN PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY INTO ECOSYSTEMS DECLINE

Last year the Australian Brumby Alliance (ABA) made a submission to the Parliamentary Inquiry into the decline of ecosystems in Victoria. The ABA was invited back to present more information to the inquiry on 24th February 2021 and answer questions. Plenty of information was provided to the Inquiry.

See the report which is available on the ABA website under the **LATEST NEWS** tab.

ABA presentation slides include:

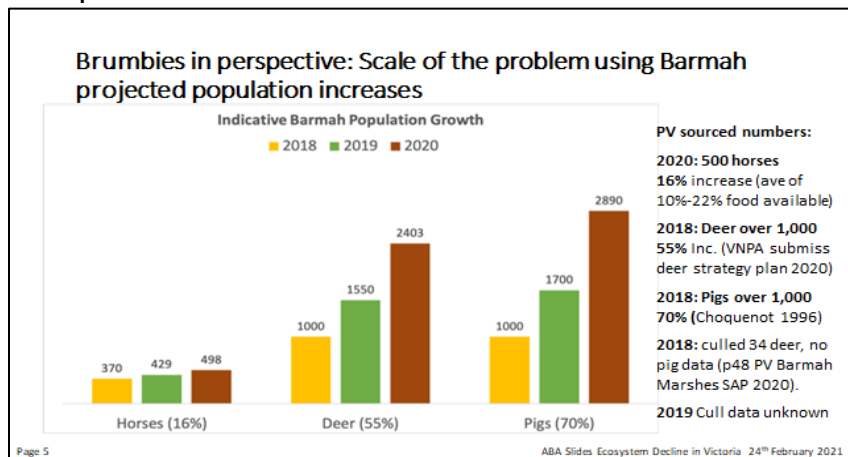


Table shows hoe PV focus on visible Brumbies (16% yearly increase), but NOT hard to see deer (55% yearly inc.) & pigs (70% yearly increase.)

Shows how illogical PV are to call Brumby tracks a negative impact, but when humans make tracks PV do not call their impact negative (source: PV Community feedback forum).

Brumbies in perspective: Impact vs Amenity

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.

Horsetrack=impact Footpath Mountain-bike path Motorsport amenity

If a horse walks along forming a track, that track = impact = bad, but if humans walk on a track, that track is called a footpath (not impact). Logic?

Photo credits: Horse tract National Parks & Wildlife Services | Human activities [Googled]

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VIC PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY SUMMARY

Alternative paradigms cont... Work together to harness positive horse impact to slow environmental decline



Skinks by Brumby Dung (2018 VicAlps)



Frogs spawning in hoof prints 2020 in VicAlps
[Photo credit: Renee Neubauer 2020]

Save energy slashing grass for the Sun Moth - horses will do it for free

[Photo credit: ABA sign 2012? and Skink 2018]

Dung Insects feed skinks - pug holes shelter frog spawn - Investigate before their horses benefactors are culled

Shows how Brumby grazing can; save PV the need to mechanically slash grass for i.e. Sun Moths, provide food for skinks who eat insects found in horse dung and give shelter to frogs spawning in hoof prints.

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ABA Slides Ecosystem Decline in Victoria 24th February 2021

We urge readers to continue lobbying key government departments to:

- **Not** scapegoat easily seen Brumbies while 1 million deer in the VicAlps and 1 thousand plus deer **and** pig in Barmah, considered 'cryptic' (hard to see) and so hard for PV to manage;
- **Stop** labelling photos of deer and pig damage as horse damage;
- **Start** quantifying endangered native species for any impact Brumby removal has had;
- **Start to track key endangered** population numbers in PV's 'conservation value sites';
- **Promote** the need to retain sustainable wild horse populations in the VicAlps;
- **Trial** the successful NZ Kaimanawa Heritage Horse (KHH) plan coordinated by NZ Park staff and KHH volunteers who cooperate to retain sustainable numbers and rehoming the excess;
- **Start** to provide financial support to rehomers to increase rehoming capacity;
- **Promote** the values that Victoria's Wild Horse Heritage provides, such as
 - Aesthetics and tourist values,
 - Arts, poetry, children books, paintings, etc,
 - Demonstrates how early settlers worked to develop wild horse founding stock;
- **Grasp** how sustainable Brumbies numbers help to reduce fuel loads/mechanical slashing for species needing fresh green grass, provide feed for skinks and protect frog's spawning.

Please complete PV's VicAlps Brumby plan Feedback by 23-April-2021.



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UPDATE FROM HOOFS2010 Inc.

9th April 2021 - Rally for the Brumbies



“The 5 Amigos at the Rally and all the amazing supporters. We had a great day. Being a voice for the voiceless.”

“Hope to see many of you at the next one. It was just wonderful to have a hug with many who support the Sanctuary.”

Photo credits Paul McIver.

To contact HOOFS2010

Ph 0401 527 991

W hoofs2010incorporated.com/





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UPDATE FROM SAVE THE BRUMBIES

Save the Brumbies has recently taken 29 Brumbies from KNP to rehome. Most of these Brumbies we have fortunately been able to find homes for them.



These photos are the Brumbies on arrival at the sanctuary, they were very tired after such a long journey.

The boys are all gelded at the sanctuary before being rehomed.



www.savethebrumbies.org



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UPCOMING RALLY

Rally of Support for the Brumbies.

Date Saturday 24th April 2021

Time 9.30 - 2pm

Place - Jack Edwards Park Barmah

opposite the Barmah Hotel between the Barmah Punt & amenities

Bring your banners and signs



Wendy Lovell MP
will address at
10.30am

Contact Renee Neubauer via
Barmah Brumbies Hay Angels

Upcoming protests organized by
Brumby Support Group – Barmah
Brumbies Hay Angels

24th April : Barmah Brumby protest

Upcoming protest organized by Brumby Support
Group – Barmah Brumbies Hay Angels

5th May : Bogong Brumby protest

GATHERING TO SUPPORT VICTORIAN BRUMBIES

MELBOURNE CBD 5 MAY 11AM

MEETING TREASURY GARDENS
NEAR SPRING STREET

At 1pm we walk to the steps of Parliament
House where we hope to meet with the
Minister for Environment Ms Lily D'Ambrosio.

TO PRESENT A PETITION WITH OVER 166,000 SIGNATURES

Wendy Lovell MP To speak

Peaceful
Gathering ALL
Welcome
SIGNS
WELCOME
Covid Compliant



STOP THE BULLETS
BE THEIR VOICE



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UPDATE FROM KAIMANAWA HERITAGE HORSES (NZ)

2021 Kaimanawa Horse Muster



With the cancellation of the 2020 muster due to COVID, we anticipate the 2021 muster will see around 200 horses needing homes. Given the pressure we experienced with the double muster of 2018 and needing to home such a large number of horses in one go, we know the next muster will not be easy.

<https://kaimanawaheritagehorses.org/>



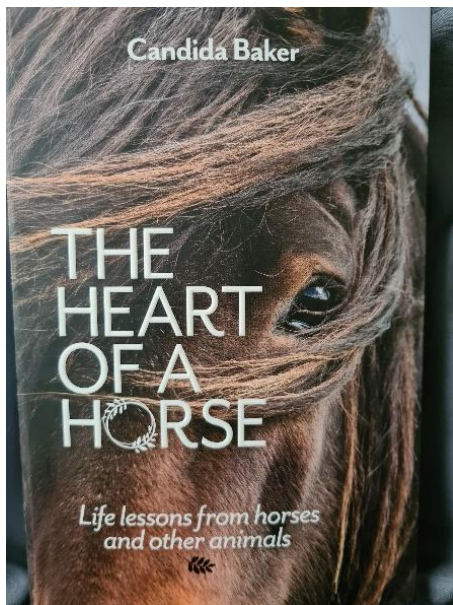


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BRUMBY BOOKS!



THE HEART OF A HORSE

Learning to 'listen' with all our senses and the magic that happens when we keep an open mind about the idea of communication from the animal world.

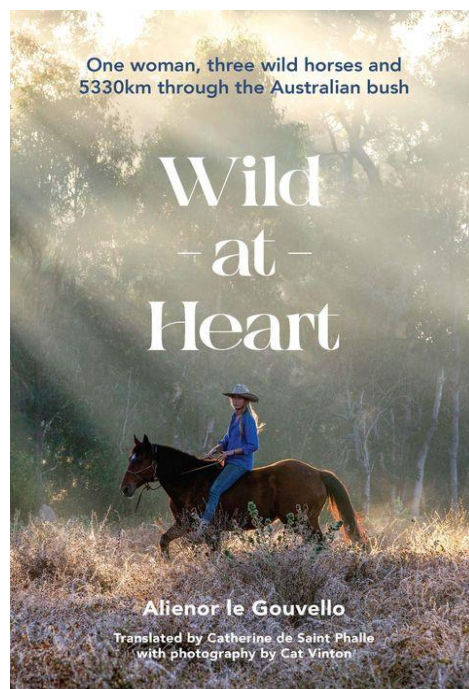
Includes a great chapter on Brumbies.

Available to purchase via booktopia

WILD AT HEART

"The story of my 13 months trek on the National Trail from Melbourne to Cooktown with three Guy Fawkes Heritage brumbies..."

Available to purchase via booktopia





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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!
- ❖ BlueWater Brumbies (QLD)

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

Australian Brumby Alliance Inc.

PO Box 3276,

Victoria Gardens, Richmond, Vic 3121

Phone: (03) 9428 4709

ABA Inc. Charity/ABN No: 9-784718191

info@australianbrumbyalliance.org.au

www.australianbrumbyalliance.org.au

All donations over \$2 are tax deductible

END NEWSLETTER