

MEDIA RELEASE

MELBOURNE RALLY “STOP THE BULLETS”

Treasury Gardens Melbourne 5 May 2021 at 11am

Speakers from 10 National Brumby Groups and Spoken messages from 3 International Brumby Support Groups from The United States and Ireland,
Song led by **Graeme Padgett** of Barmah who is told to shut down his horse trail riding after 30 years, that provides support to disadvantaged children and reintroduces indigenous children to country. **Charlie Lovick** who will join us from the High Country 4th generation cattleman, his horse ridden in the film *“The Man From Snowy River”*.
Chanting. Banners. Song

At 1pm the Attendees, led by a ridden Brumby will file in chanting to the steps of Parliament House where we have sought a meeting with Lily D’Ambrosio the Minister for Environment to present a Petition with about 200,000 signatures opposing the shooting of our Heritage Brumbies.

MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT WILL SPEAK FROM THE STEPS OF PARLIAMENT

In Support of the end of the regime of threats to shoot Victorian Brumbies

Bev McArthur MP

WENDY LOVELL MP

Peter Walsh MP

The current agenda of the Andrews Government and Parks Victoria at the behest of unelected extremist elements. is to remove all Brumbies from Victorian National Parks, the Alpine Park including Bogong High Plains and Barmah National Park. We oppose the slaughter of Brumbies either by cruel ground or aerial shooting, as both are proven to be exceptionally inhumane and are in fact unnecessary. Aerial Culling was banned in New South Wales after 2000 following the brutal slaying of Brumbies in the Guy Fawkes National Park, when the NSW Government banned shooting wild horses from moving helicopters because of the base cruelty. **Some of those pushing for aerial shooting of Victorian Brumbies played a role in the Guy Fawkes massacre.**

Brumbies hold Heritage value, they are part of our cultural and social history. Brumbies have lived in our Heritage National Parks for two centuries; are descendants of remounts that were sent to War with our soldiers. Very recently, a sculpture to honour those horses was unveiled in Ararat, yet the Andrews Government think they deserve a bullet!

WE DISAGREE.

Brumbies were immortalised by Banjo Patterson, feature in paintings by Sydney Nolan and written about in the Silvery Brumby novels by Ellyne Mitchell. Brumbies are part of the fabric of our Australian society. It is undeniable that extremist elements must not be allowed to dictate on cultural and social values. It is abominable that the Andrews Government have put forward a proposal to shoot 620 Brumbies this year in what can only be a mass slaughter, a Brumby bloodbath. We can no longer trust any stand-alone management plans for Brumbies.

We seek enactment of Legislation, that will acknowledge (a) the Heritage value of Brumbies in the Parks; (b) protect and manage, to a genetically viable and sustainable level, populations of Brumbies; (c) identify the specific areas in the Park where Brumbies should be allowed to roam based on their historic presence.

The Legislation should appoint a community advisory panel: (1) The panel is to consist of at least 6 but no more than 9 members appointed by the Minister.(2) The members of the panel are to include the following persons: (a) at least one Aboriginal person; (b) one representative of each one of the three communities of the Alpine National Park Victoria, Bogong High Plains and Barmah National Park, who will have one vote each for the purpose of voting on any matter before the panel; (a) one representative of the Minister, (b) other persons who, in the opinion of the Minister have expertise and experience in any one or more of the following: (i) equine recreational planning and management, (ii) horse or other animal welfare management,

(iii) tourism planning and management, (iv) community involvement in the sustainable management of Brumbies and conservation.

We invite you to attend the Rally to hear speakers tell the truth about the Heritage value of Brumbies, the positive presence of Brumbies in National Parks, population numbers, the contribution Brumbies make to the biodiversity, their role as reducers of fuel for fires, and how Brumbies are being scapegoated by irresponsible Management and other forces, and Barmah Brumbies blamed for damaging moira grasses that have never before seen such healthy crops according to Keith Ward! To be updated on all future rolling Rallies. Yes, there are more to come

We invite you to join facebook groups Brumby Action Group
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/281286786262689>

and Barmah Brumby Hay Angels
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/barmah.hayangels>

Media Contact: Marilyn Nuske Telephone 0400 784 754

