



# Brumby Bridges

The quarterly newsletter of the ABA

WINTER 2021, ISSUE 21-3

## 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  
of Australian wild horses*

## A WORD FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to the winter edition of **Brumby Bridges!**

As usual, there has been lots of activity happening in the background and we hope to share some information with you.

ABA is developing a campaign to **#SupportBrumbyRehoming** and we hope to have more to share in the next newsletter.

We hope you enjoy this newsletter and the stories within it.

And finally, to all our members and supporters, two legged and four legged, please stay safe during this difficult time.

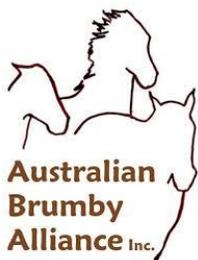
**Brumby Bridges Editor**

### Photo credit:

Marlo and  
Beyond -  
Images of  
Australia by  
Helmut  
Kummer

June 2021





# Brumby Bridges

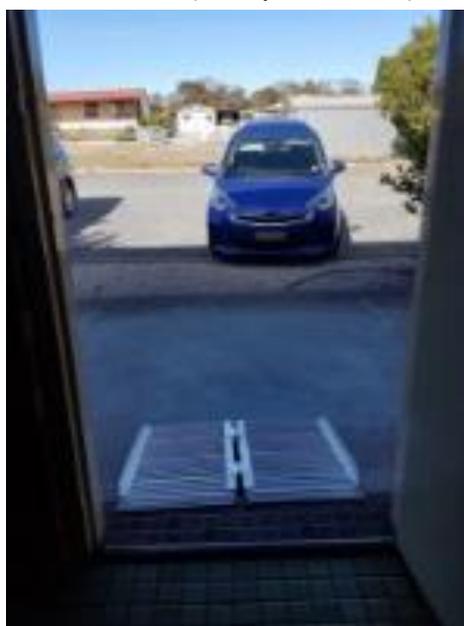
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## PRESIDENT'S CHAT

Covid-19 lockdowns, vaccination delays, alerts; reminds me of the film "Ground Hog Day." However, with Brumbies to manage, find new homes and advocate for, every day brings new challenges, living in this decade of unpredictable travel restrictions.

I did find a "window of opportunity" to visit **Coffin Bay Brumby Preservation Society** (CBBPS) early 2021 (page 9) after a 2 year gap. With it the chance to give my **new zippy 2<sup>nd</sup> hand small wheelchair accessible car** and a set of portable ramps for building access a workout. (See pic below)



The ABA social media platforms have plenty of interesting posts and alerts. Our policy is to not discredit others, but to encourage. We're here for Brumbies; their heritage, positive impacts and the uniqueness seen in each mob.

We celebrate today's Brumby's amazing ability to have gone from domestic to wild and so re-create the values their pre-domestic ancestors used to live by.

We welcome the **Blue Water Brumbies inc** to the ABA, great to have a second rehoming group in Queensland. Bluewater are still preparing for their first local Brumbies, if you can help or would like more information please email: [bluewaterbrumbies@gmail.com](mailto:bluewaterbrumbies@gmail.com)

The steep increase in Brumbies being removed by park authorities has increased the number of people stepping up to take Brumbies. The challenges and burnout of rehoming is even more important to support now.



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## PRESIDENT'S CHAT cont'd...

So we designed and circulated a Rehoming Survey to generate ideas to improve the system.

By discussing our survey findings with the relevant authorities we hope to develop a framework that can expand rehoming capacity and standards.

The **ABA submitted its recommendations to the Wildlife act (Vic) 1975 Independent Panel** review last month. Our message supported the panel's hope to reflect today's values and expectations for wildlife and to recognise that animals have intrinsic value which, even if unique to one part of the Australian community, still warranted protection and conservation.

The panel also highlighted Australia's moral obligations to protect animals, which for the ABA and Brumby community equate to protecting sustainable Brumby numbers living wild.

While we wait for the Kosciuszko and Victorian latest management plans, we remain firm in our conviction that; Brumbies are unique to Australia's social history, must be allowed to live wild in sustainable numbers, for future generations to see, value and learn from.

**Jill Pickering**  
**ABA President**

**W:** [australianbrumbyalliance.org.au](http://australianbrumbyalliance.org.au)

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## THE MARES – Carol Hancock Photography

### **Taken from Australian Brumby Photography by Caro Hancock social media**

The stallions definitely get more coverage than the mares simply because of the drama they create. The mares are the backbone of each mob, 99% of the time they make the big decisions and the stallion follow suit as the protector. This sweet old mare still holds the position of matriarch and though she is showing her age hopefully her wisdom is passed on for many years to come.

Photo Copyright to Carol Hancock currently exhibiting at the gallery in Sutton NSW.





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## ABA RAFFLE 2021: Donna Crebbin Artworks

Congratulations to the winners of the **DONNA CREBBIN** art work raffle!



**Raven Beauty**

**FIRST PRIZE  
WINNER**

Joan N



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## ABA RAFFLE 2021: Donna Crebbin Artworks



**Curious Youth**

**SECOND PRIZE  
WINNER**

Simon N

## Special Moments

**THIRD PRIZE  
WINNER**

Kathryn T





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## SUPPORT BRUMBY REHOMING

The ABA advocate for support from Government agencies to increase rehoming capacity of Brumby rehoming organisations.

The ABA encourage Government agencies to use funds to support rehoming instead of using funds on cruel and inhumane shooting.

## AUSTRALIAN BRUMBY ALLIANCE WANTS YOUR SUGGESTIONS + THOUGHTS TO IMPROVE BRUMBY REHOMING CAPACITY IN VIC

*Did you want to rehome a Brumby through Parks Victoria?*

*OR have you already rehomed a Brumby through PV?*

*How was your experience? What could be improved to increase the capacity to rehome more Brumbies? What worked for you / What didn't work?*

*What could help you to rehome more Brumbies?*

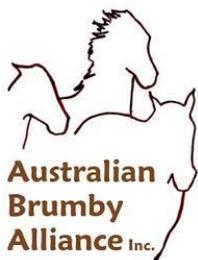
Photo credit: Ian and Michelle Brown



**We are looking for feedback about what you need to increase your rehoming capacity,**

**please contact [pickjill@hotmail.com](mailto:pickjill@hotmail.com) to give your feedback. Or via the website:**

**<https://australianbrumbyalliance.org.au/brumby-rehomer-survey/> and follow the prompts.**



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UPDATE FROM HOOFS2010 Inc.

## MEGA MAD AUCTION

*We have a new Auction starting tonight , The funds raised are to go toward the Training fund and our Vet day.*

*Items are Donated by our Wonderful supporters and each item has a Start price . To bid place your offer in the comments below the item picture you are interested in. Invoices will be sent at close of Auction and we ask you to please message your email address at the end of the Auction.*

*If you do not intend to complete the purchase Please don't Bid !! The work done is all on volunteer bases and its quite tedious having to chase items up.*

*We thankyou whole heartedly for the amazing support and hope you enjoy helping us help the Brumbies whilst gaining some lovely items.*

*Our AUCTION will end \*8PM 18th July*

*Happy Bidding*

**For more information:**

contact HOOFS2010

Ph 0401 527 991

FB /Hoofs2010IncBrumbyRescue

W [hoofs2010incorporated.com/](http://hoofs2010incorporated.com/)





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## UPDATE FROM COFFIN BAY BRUMBY PRESERVATION SOCIETY

COVID finally let me visit recently and our SA member the "Coffin Bay Brumby Preservation Society (CBBPS)". The variations I see in each ABA group, evolved from individuals attracted and their skills. With such variety under one umbrella group enables rapid experience exchange to enrich us all.

CBBPS is unique as ALL their Brumbies were to be shot almost the next day in **2003**. Hard lobbying, land to find, skills to build infra-structure for long term Brumbies, handling and ways to finance this swung into action, and they are still going strong.

CBBPS organised an enjoyable and relaxing BBQ welcome. Usually women do the organizing and men on the BBQ. CBBPS is different, with the men organised everything and women able to relax and enjoy the occasion.



Photo credit: CBBPS

Coffin Bay's brumbies have a rich history dating back to 1839 when the " ABEONA " brought the Hawson Family and 60 Timor ponies, to the Eyre peninsular. These Timor ponies became the key founding stock for todays Coffin Bay Brumbies, later moving to Coffin Bay Run in **1847**.



Photo credit: CBBPS

The Coffin Bay pony market dropped as machinery replaced horse power. However later, during the depression and post WW11 shortage of petrol that left machinery to rust, once again Coffin Bay ponies were highly sought after to work the land.

In **1972**, Geoff Morgan ceded Coffin Bay Run to the S.A. Government to use as a national park, on condition the ponies continued living there. 80 years later, the ponies of Coffin Bay, were evicted by authorities from the only home they had known.



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## UPDATE FROM COFFIN BAY BRUMBY PRESERVATION SOCIETY

Concerned locals formed the Coffin Bay Pony Society (CBS), a volunteer group dedicated to ensure the brumbies survived, even working with authorities to managed numbers within the park.

In **1991**, the CBPS entered an agreement with the S.A. National Parks and Wildlife (NPWS) to allow the ponies to stay because of their historical significance to the area.

But in **2003**, with no consultation, Minister John Hill signed their execution, a major public outcry erupted, intensive CPD lobbying and urgent fundraising enabled CPS to acquire land.

If you're local and can actively help, or looking for your "forever Coffin Bay Brumby" please email [coffinbaybrumby@yahoo.com.au](mailto:coffinbaybrumby@yahoo.com.au) , ring Jody Scharfe, President 0429-413-263

FB: <https://www.facebook.com/COFFIN-BAY-BRUMBY-PRESERVATION-SOCIETY-105742282786968>

Website; <http://www.coffinbaybrumby.org/>

In **2008**, CPS became a founding member of "The Australian Brumby Alliance", a national body advocating for sustainable Brumby numbers to honor their contribution to Australia's social history. CPS also became known as Coffin Bay **Brumby Preservation Society (CBBPS)**.

To secure Brumbies Run permanently, public donations to CBBPS has raised \$100,000 and been paid to the S.A. Government, but a further \$200,000 is needed to gain freehold title.



View to Coffin Bay Peninsula



"Brumbies Run" nearby their homeland





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HERITAGE BRUMBY ADVOCATES AUSTRALIA inc



Photo Credit: Michelle Brown

## Environmental Damage. Compare the Pair.



Heritage Brumby Advocates Australia Inc.

When people refer to the environmental damage caused by the Brumby, they never compare it to the damage caused by industry. Critics conflate the population numbers, use manipulated photos and refuse to engage in open debate. We ask the critics to honestly [#CompareThePair](#) before criticising Brumbies for environmental damage.

Justine Curatolo, **Heritage Brumby Advocates Australia Inc**



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## UPDATE FROM KAIMANAWA HERITAGE HORSES (NZ)

Save the date for our annual Kaimanawa Ranges Bus Tours. Our annual daily tours into the Kaimamawa Ranges to see the horses in the wild will be held on Friday 19th, Saturday 20th & Sunday 21st November.

Tickets will go on sale soon and will be offered to our members, donors and horse sponsors first before being made available to our subscribers, followers and the general public.

Join us for a great day out learning about the Kaimanawa horses, their management and experience the place they call home. Visit our website [www.kaimanawaheritagehorses.org](http://www.kaimanawaheritagehorses.org) for information on how you can become a member or sponsor to secure your place on our tours

*Join us for an unforgettable day*

## Kaimanawa Ranges Tours

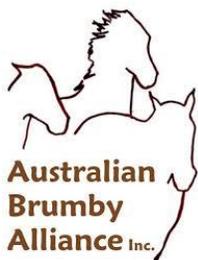
Friday 19th, Saturday 20th & Sunday 21st November



TICKETS ON SALE SOON



KAIMANAWA  
HERITAGE  
HORSES



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## WILD HORSE ENERGY VIBRATIONS

### **Editorial from Jill Pickering.**

I recently read Kelly Wilson's amazing new experiences of feeling vibrations from her Kaimanawa horse in "training". Kelly Wilson is internationally recognised by wild horse advocates for her wild horsemanship skills and her view that "that every horse entrusted in me to tame had an important lesson to teach me."



*Photo credit: Kelly Wilson NZ*

On vibrations, Kelly writes; "These vibrations essentially work like a protective, and invisible, force field." Kelly has felt them close in (anywhere from 5cm off the horse's skin, and up to 10 metres away).

Kelly writes "Normally I wait for a horse's body language to determine when to ask the horse a question, using the subtlest signs of tension (such as a flick of an ear, a quiver of a muscle, a hardening of the eye, or a wrinkle forming on the lips) and relaxation (slow blinking, rubbing a

foreleg, shaking the neck, licking and chewing their lips, or a softening of the eye) to guide me".

Imperial however rarely used these forms of communication, making it hard to differentiate 'relaxed and thinking' expressions and 'tense and closed' expression. Kelly felt Imperial's 'tense and closed' expression looked like most wild horses 'unworried and accepting' expression.

Although Imperial was the most advanced of the 17 wild horses Kelly tamed from the 2021 Kaimanawa Horse Muster, she had a strong freeze instinct, and became grumpy if misread. Thinking back Kelly writes "In hindsight I realised Imperial had not given me permission to touch her, despite seeming relaxed."

Then everything changed when Kelly began to feel vibrations coming off Imperial's body into her hands as she reached out to Imperial.

Were these vibrations a way of communicating? Kelly began pausing every time she felt her hands hum (even before visual signs of tension) and retreat. In minutes, Imperial's demeanour changed and she let Kelly rub her.



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## WILD HORSE ENERGY VIBRATIONS cont'd...

Unable to deny these vibrations were a way of communicate, Kelly soon found research by the HeartMath institute which explained that these vibrations comes from the magnetic field around the horses heart, which encodes their emotional state and communicated throughout the body into the external environment.” And “for 30 years scientists have shown these vibrations are a critical way animals communicate with each other and believe it to be an ancient sensory mode — one that is still widely used throughout the animal kingdom”.

This knowledge has had led Kelly to recognise that the voice of many domestic horses has been sadly muted. She believes too many have dissociated and become shadows of themselves, losing many forms of communication still present in their wild ancestors.



Photo credit: Kelly Wilson NZ

Too often humans, disregard their horses’ remarkable ability to communicate through body language and energy. Ignoring a horse trying say ‘no’ because of fear, boredom, or pain, even if they “scream” by biting, bucking, kicking, bolting and rearing trying to express discomfort, fear or pain. Instead, humans interpret-ate these actions as “misbehaving” and so are “punished”, shutting their voice down even further.

The largest benefit Kelly has found is that by asking a horse for permission and waiting until its emotional ready for each stage of its training, time is not lost seeking forgiveness for progressing faster than the horse was ready for.

Learning to “listen” to your horse will cultivate positive horse-human interaction, not suppress your wild horse’s desire to communicate through vibrations. Jill Pickering, thanks to Kelly Wilson

Visit [Kelly Wilson](https://www.facebook.com/KellyWilsonAuthor) - <https://www.facebook.com/KellyWilsonAuthor> For more information



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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](mailto:pickjill@hotmail.com)

## NEWSLETTER

To contribute to the ABA newsletter, please contact Pat on [hoelmerp@hotmail.com](mailto:hoelmerp@hotmail.com)

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All donations over \$2 are tax deductible

**END NEWSLETTER**