



Brumby Bridges

The quarterly newsletter of the ABA

SUMMER 2023, ISSUE 23-1

The Australian Brumby Alliance

President- Jill Pickering

Vice President – Sue Rivers

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



Two besties enjoying a nap

Photo credit: Michelle Brown

Wow – what a big year 2022 was!
There were moments of triumph and joy for the Brumbies and ground-breaking exposure through Equitana, which unfortunately were tempered with heartbreaking moments of brutal (and unnecessary) killings of Brumbies as a result of our Governments.

As we head into the new year, we are inspired by the growing organisation and mobilisation of the Brumby support movement.

United we are a force to be reckoned with and together we can achieve real change for the Brumbies.

If you would like to support our legal action, you can donate here <https://gofund.me/2a4f0580>

Brumby Bridges Editor

#StopShootingBrumbies There is a Better Way



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PRESIDENT'S CHAT

Welcome to our Brumby Bridges Christmas edition which includes an item on the ABA -v- Parks Victoria (PV) case against PV's cruel shooting of Brumbies and one on European Wasps that now nest in the many carcasses strewn around the Australian Alpine national park by Park authorities mass shooting programs.

It was great to have 20-31 people listen all the time to our Victorian Supreme Court case early this month. With the flood of calls we had when the link crashed we knew virtually all were Brumby supporters. The Judge's decision will be handed down within 3 months.

The Brumby killing has sadly gathered pace in both NSW & Victoria, inflaming community frustration, anger and despair, leading unsurprisingly to another harm threat to NPWS. The ABA strongly condemns threats of violence because they are counterproductive, DO NOT help Brumbies and risk all Brumby advocates being wrongly viewed as radical. Threats also hinder delicate Park and Rehoming efforts to give Brumbies a second chance in life such as rehoming.

The ABA ran a multi platform advertising campaign to coincide with our case against PV and the VIC election; with 2 ABA Billboards on the Tullamarine Fwy, advertisements and advertorials in the Geelong advertiser and Herald sun, social media advertising outlets and ABA pamphlets.

www.australianbrumbyalliance.org.au

Our GOFUNDME <https://gofund.me/2a4f0580> raised nearly \$8,000 by 12-Dec-22, however we're still well short of target, so the fund will stay open until the case is finalised.

The Victorian Brumby Association (VBA) held it's Australian Brumby Challenge (ABC) at Yarra Junction this year with many attending on November Sat 26 & Sun 27. Well done VBA for yet another successful, intense but rewarding event to showcase Brumby values and skills.

This year has seen another increase in ABA member numbers which help us provide a broad support base for Rehoming and Advocacy works. We meet fortnightly via Zoom for 40mins to plan and promote Brumby welfare, share rehoming techniques and develop coordinated advocacy activities.

There is always room for more to join us, share the workload and bolster our collective work to showcase how valuable Brumbies can be (in managed numbers) for co-habitating native species, our living social heritage and the healing spiritual influence Brumbies provide.

We wish everyone a Merry Christmas and New Year festive season and a chance to recharge our energies, rehoming and advocacy work in 2023.

Jill Pickering

Australian Brumby Alliance President



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ABA LEGAL PROCEEDINGS AGAINST PARKS VICTORIA

The ABA alleges that Parks Victoria (PV)'s inhumane killing of Brumbies by gunshot is unlawful and does not comply with the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act. We consistently had 20 to 31 people on line via Zoom on December 1st & 2nd of the Victorian Supreme Court hearing.

During the hearing, Parks Victoria argued that they were not in breach of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act for shooting Brumbies as they were shot under the Hunting Code!

The ABA legal team highlighted key inconsistencies in PV's argument, such as the absence of reference to the Hunting Code in PV's horse management documents. PV's witness later explained the lack of reference to the Hunting code (that PV now rely on) was an 'oversight'.

PV's witness confirmed ground shooting of Brumbies in the VicAlps over **8-12 Aug 2022**, **22-26 Aug 2022** & **10-14 Oct 2022** had occurred. However, PV's witness was unsure how many Brumbies had been killed, despite each post shoot debrief to PV recording how many horses were shot.

Later the court heard the number shot was "in the tens", which PV later revised to be "up to 100" shot.

The Judge is expected to hand down his decision within three months. However, while our Barristers effectively stated our case and exposed significant memory lapses in PV's witness, that is NO guarantee of a positive result for Brumbies. What matters now is how the Judge weights up all the facts provided, during the case, in relation to technical legal parameters.

If ABA is successful in the case, PV will have to stop the inhumane shooting of Brumbies and manage the Horse population by, for example, expanding its rehoming partnerships.

Such tragic slaughter is not needed when more humane ways to effectively manage sentient Brumby family mobs, such rehoming and fertility control which we first advocated in 2009.

PV's current plan to "prioritise Rehoming" was torn up. Even Rehomers told by PV to expect arrivals were abruptly told that instead of rehoming, Brumbies would now be ground shot.



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Visit the ABA website

www.australianbrumbyalliance.org.au

to read how Brumby Rehoming is carried out by skilled volunteers able to gentle and prepare wild horses for a new life.

IF you would like a copy of the transcript of the hearings, the please contact the Supreme Court directly:

<https://www.supremecourt.vic.gov.au/sites/default/files/2018-12/scv-auscript-transcript-order-form.pdf>

Case number: S ECI 2022 03414

Support our legal action fund – donate here

<https://gofund.me/2a4f0580>



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ABA MEDIA CAMPAIGN DURING VICTORIAN ELECTION

The ABA's response to the Victorian state election in November, was to embark on a multi-platform advertising campaign. The ABA sponsored two large billboards on the Tullamarine Freeway for the month of November leading up to the election. The timing coincided perfectly with the Spring Racing Carnival and afterwards Equitana, where both events saw large numbers of horse friendly people driving up the Tullamarine Freeway and sent ABA messages commenting positively on the billboards they just saw!

The final image used for the billboards (right)



 **Australian Brumby Alliance**
australianbrumbyalliance.org.au
Authorised by Australian Brumby Alliance of 132 Kent St, Richmond VIC 3121

The ABA also used sponsored ads on multiple days in the Herald Sun and the Geelong Advertiser. This is the final image used for the advertising in the newspapers.





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The ABA also had sponsored ads on social media which attracted new people to the ABA social media pages and significantly increased the reach for the period of November and meant we could spread our message well into new crowds.

Finally the ABA sponsored an advertising feature (see below) which went into the Herald Sun and The Geelong Advertiser.

port to local communities based on genuine need." a HERALDSUN.COM.AU jade.gallagher@news.com.au

ADVERTISING FEATURE

Stop cruelty, choose empathy

The sentient, intelligent wild Brumbies roaming the Victorian plains deserve a chance at a new life.



There's a tragedy occurring at this very moment. In the rugged, alpine wilderness of Victoria, majestic Brumby horses are being killed by inhumane methods – and the Labor Government is condoning it by allowing Parks Victoria contractors to shoot these sentient horses in cruel ways.

According to the Australian Brumby Alliance (ABA), Parks Victoria is killing Brumbies by gunshot. The ABA alleges this is unlawful, does not comply with the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act and is running a case in the Supreme Court of Victoria asking the Court to decide.

Management of a non-native species does not justify inhumane practices for population control, there are many skilled volunteer rehoming groups available to collect and retrain the horses for domestic use. In fact, Parks Victoria has been trapping Brumbies for rehoming for over 10 years until recently when the Labor Government permitted Parks Victoria to abruptly cancel Brumby rehoming.

Understandably, the volunteers who had worked tirelessly to raise money for feed and other related costs for the Brumbies were angry and frustrated that Parks Victoria had suddenly reneged on their delivery – and extremely saddened to learn that Parks Victoria would instead begin shooting them. It is a tragic waste of these highly intelligent, versatile, and easily trained animals.

With kinder, more humane alternatives available to the Victorian Government to control wild Brumby populations, the ABA urges Victorians to give Brumbies the chance of new life as a valued domestic horse, instead of wasting the lives of so many intelligent, versatile horses with cruel bullets.

Stop the callous action that inflicts unnecessary pain on our sentient Brumbies by voting for parties and Independents who have a NO Brumby shooting policy.



ABA Australian Brumby Alliance

To help save our wild Brumbies and find out more, visit australianbrumbyalliance.org.au.

Authorised by Australian Brumby Alliance of 132 Kent St, Richmond VIC 3121

Overall, we are very happy with the result of this inaugural multi-platform advertising campaign.



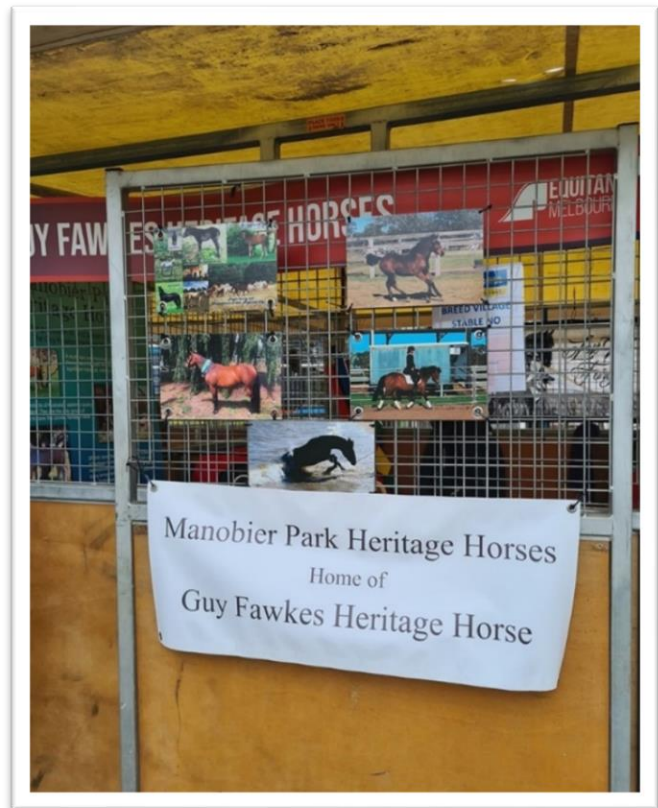
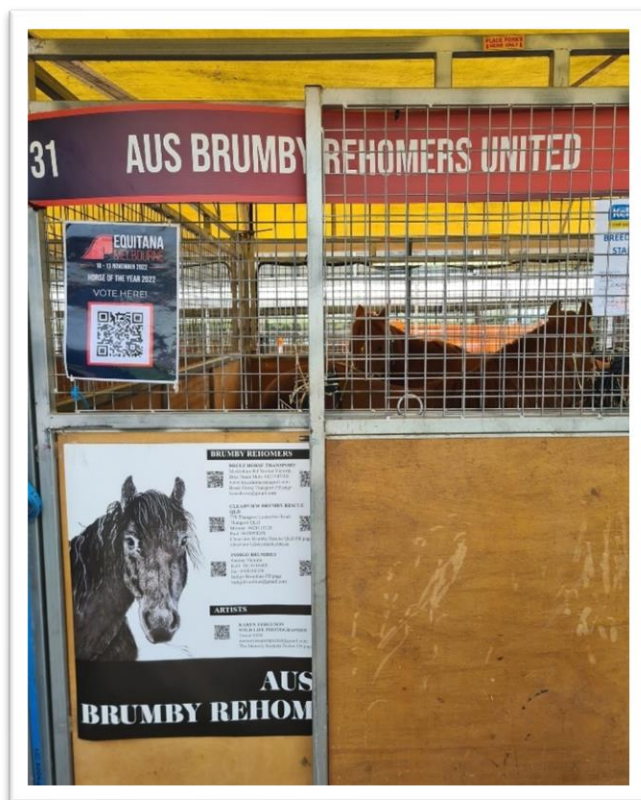
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EQUITANA

Equitana Melbourne was held at the Flemington Race Course from 10th to the 13th of November 2022. The ABA did not have a formal presence there (although we did visit!), but fortunately the Brumby movement is strong and was well represented by some amazing organisations.



For more information you can go to the EQUITANA website (Breeds Village)

<https://www.equitana.com.au/breed-village/>



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THE AUSTRALIAN BRUMBY CHALLENGE



Taken from the ABC website:

We are delighted to bring the Australian Brumby Challenge and as always, are working hard to make this special event completely horse centered and a place where kind training methods can be showcased.

In the Australian Brumby Challenge, Trainers are allocated a Brumby through a ballot system. These Brumbies have been caught from the wild by passive trapping, from either Bogong High Plains in Victoria or Kosciuszko National Park or Bago State Forest in New South Wales. All Brumbies are brought back to our Brumby Junction sanctuary where they have lived in wild herds since their capture. The stallions have all been gelded, mares allowed time to foal down and raise their foals and all Brumbies have been microchipped, wormed, vaccinated etc.

For more information go to the ABC website:

<https://victorianbrumbyassociation.org/aus-brumby-challenge>



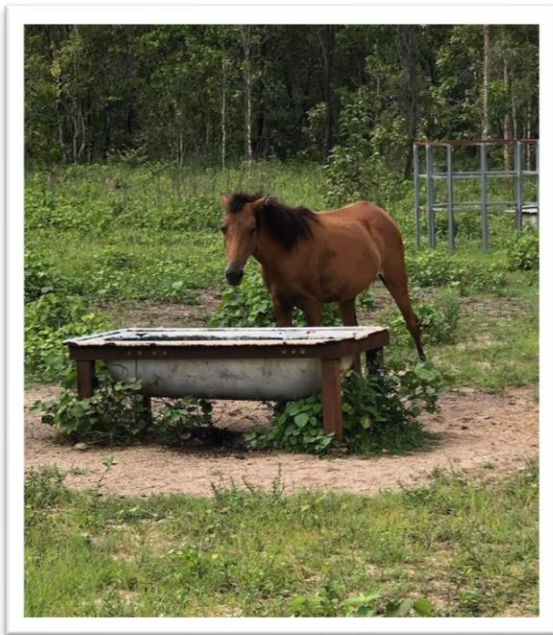
VICTORIAN BRUMBY ASSOCIATION

BRUMBY JUNCTION SANCTUARY, GLENLOGIE, VICTORIA AU

UPDATE FROM BLUEWATER BRUMBIES

TAMMY'S STORY ❤️

Over the past 20+ months, we've been watching and caring for a small mare out in the bush. We named her Tammy.



Tammy's left hind leg has obviously been seriously injured at some point in her life, and has healed very awkwardly. But she showed us every day that she is strong and she's a survivor!

We asked for advice at different times, and the responses usually came back - put her down. But Tammy was pregnant and we wanted to give her every chance.

In November last year, Tammy birthed a stillborn foal. We had no idea how many times this had happened to her over the years and were devastated for her.

One of our beautiful stallions, Blacky took her under his protection and she was soon pregnant again. For the past year, we've been making sure she gets fed regularly and she and Blacky have been regulars at our feeding station.





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We've been watching her belly grow, and knew her very best chance was going to be trying to break the cycle, and to get her somewhere safe, with good nutrition and help if and when she needed it. The longer she was out there the more vulnerable she was becoming.



Taken from Bluewater Brumbies FB Page.



P: 0402 703 951 E: bluewaterbrumbies@gmail.com

W: www.bluewaterbrumbies.com.au

FB: @BluewaterBrumbiesinc



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UPDATE FROM HOOFS2010

The primary mission of HOOFS2010 is to rescue Australian Brumbies. We work to advocate, rescue and preserve Australia's wild Heritage horses, otherwise known as the Brumby.

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"



Photo of Calypso and baby Bounty.

Photo credit
Shalisse Davenport

Contact HOOFS2010

W <https://www.hoofs2010.org.au/>

E hoofs2010@live.com.au

P 0401 527 991

FB /Hoofs2010





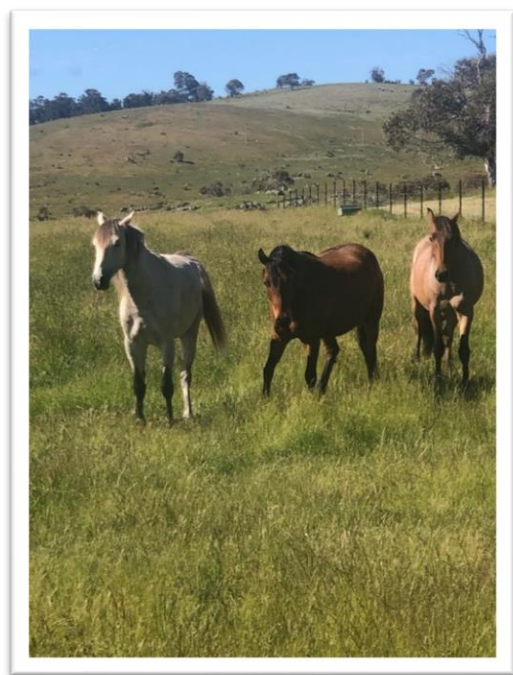
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UPDATE FROM WHITE ALPINE EQUINE

Darcy is now integrating into his new herd 😊 WAE Captain (Blue Waterholes 2019), WAE Phoenix (Long Plain 2021) and WAE Darcy (Carols Creek 2022). A new forever family for the 3 of them.



Contact White Alpine Equine:

P: 0434 493 090

E: whitealpineequine@gmail.com

FB/ WhiteAlpineEquine



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UPDATE FROM AUSTRALIAN BRUMBY REGISTER

The ABHR currently has 674 Brumbies registered. If you know of anyone who owns a Brumby, please remind them that they don't have to be in the showring to register their horse. Registration is about strength in numbers, establishing our breed and authenticity that their horse is a genuine Brumby.

The ABHR recently took up the opportunity to become a founding member of the newly formed Australasian Horse Breeders Federation. Their mission is to unite and globally position Australia's breed societies – small and large.

The ABHR Showcase Brumby of the Year awards those Brumbies in each State that have competed the most in both agricultural and breed shows – you do not have to win at the shows to enter, just competed, to encourage our members to get out there and give it a go.

The Showcase Brumby of The Year cards can be found on our website - <http://www.abhr.com.au/showingyour-brumby.html> Just fill in these cards for each event you attend and send them in to the ABHR throughout the year from the 1st July to the 30th of June.

The winner is awarded for each State by either a trophy or embroidered rug of a colour of your choice. We would love to see our members in other State's compete for the award in the new year!

**AUSTRALIAN
BRUMBY
HORSE REGISTER**



www.abhr.com.au

<http://www.abhr.com.au/>



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2023 ABHR Brumby Class Calendar

If you would like to see Brumby classes at your local show, please just get in touch with the ABHR team and we will contact the show society and make enquiries



Lucy's little boy Neo getting in early!

January 2023

Armidale Riding Club Hack Show NSW - 14th

February 2023

Maitland NSW 17 to 19th
Rochester-Great Northern VIC 24th
Cessnock NSW - 24th and 25th

March 2023

Newcastle NSW 3rd to 5th
Warragul VIC 3rd
Armidale NSW 3rd to 4th
Goulburn NSW 3rd to 5th
Tarago NSW 5th
Adelong NSW - 11th
Cooma NSW - 11th
Nabiac/Wallamba NSW - 11th
Upper Hunter NSW - 17 to 19th
Holbrook NSW - 19th
Gloucester NSW - 24th to 25th
Batlow NSW - 25th
Tumbarumba NSW - 28th
Baroque and Distinctive Breeds QLD TBA

April 2023

Wauchope NSW - 14th to 15th
Kempsey NSW - 18th to 19th
Stroud NSW - 21st to 23rd
Macksville NSW - 21st to 22nd
Grafton NSW - 28th to 29th

May 2023

Coffs Harbour NSW - 5th to 7th
Bellingen NSW - 11th

September 2023

Woodenbong NSW - 2nd
Murrumbateman-Harden NSW - 8th

October 2023

Taree NSW - 7th
Camden Haven NSW - 14th
Morisset- Lake Macquarie NSW - 21st
Bungendore NSW - 29th
Swan Hill VIC TBA
Royal Geelong VIC TBA

November 2023

Dungog NSW - 10th
Queanbeyan NSW - 10th
Dorrigo NSW - 25th
Echuca-Moama VIC TBA
Clunes VIC TBA
Royal Ballarat VIC TBA

We would like to wish all of our ABHR Members and families a wonderful and safe Christmas.



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UPDATE FROM VICTORIAN BRUMBY ASSOCIATION

One of the only paddocks here at Brumby Junction Sanctuary that didn't lose fences in the recent flooding! Our river crossing to access this paddock was destroyed but luckily, they have heaps of feed up there so they don't need feed.

This crew consists of VBA Artex and VBA Mary from Bago state forest in NSW, VBA Felicity from Toolara in Qld and VBA Ace and VBA Sparky from Kosciuszko in NSW. They are all untrained at this point but generally happily approach for hay or to check us out - today though, they felt WILD! All except Artex, who is about 18 years old, will be looking for homes once they are trained. We just love seeing them so happy, healthy and safe!



Contact Victorian Brumby Association

W: www.Victorianbrumbyassociation.org

FB/ VictorianBrumbyAssociation

P: 0408 201 107



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INVASIVE WASPS SET UP HOME IN KOSCIUSZKO NATIONAL PARK CARCASSES

Since 2009 the Australian Brumby Alliance (ABA) has urged park authorities to deliver fertility control (via dart gun) on wild horses as a more humane way to manage wild Horse populations. Fertility control has been delivered by dart in gun in the USA for 40 years and in England for 10 years. This method eliminates the need to remove carcasses and when applied using correct modelling enables Australia's Snowy Mountain heritage horse populations to be retained in sustainable numbers.

Now there is a new reason for Park authorities to revise their entrenched "Kill and Kill again" policy default position. Olivana Smith Lathouris wrote in 2020 about a study revealing "*Australia is being occupied by an insect that swarms decaying corpses*" see ['Ruthless' European wasps behead Aussie blowflies and take on dingos \(9news.com.au\)](#)

I find the European wasps (*Vespula germanica*) have a nasty sting that can soon ruin a pleasant day in the bush. Now I learn that Park authorities increasingly supply carcasses for wasps to nest will expand European Wasp numbers across all of the Snowy Mountains.



European wasps attack a carcass. (article)

Emma Spencer, a PhD student in the School of Life & Environmental Sciences [Global Ecology Lab](#), explains; "*When they see a carcass, it becomes a feeding frenzy for a colony and the wasps will stop at nothing to defend their food*".



European wasps attack a dingo. (Supplied)

The Kosciuszko National Park study, findings include;

- “Wasps congregated in large numbers around every carcass attacked any blowflies that attempted to approach” ... “saw fly after fly taken to the ground by wasps”,
- *"To our surprise, some were even missing their heads," Ms Spencer said. "In an effort to protect 'their' carcass, the European wasps were decapitating flies",*
- *"Wasps were bothering animals much larger in size. Our camera trap images showed dingoes snapping at wasps. Many of these animals retreated without feeding on the carcasses, presumably because the wasps were stinging them."*

The study has *"implications for the use of culling techniques to control pest populations"* as European Wasps increasingly invade carcasses across our Snowy Mountains.

The ABA urges park Authorities to partner with key Brumby advocates to deliver alternative strategies for managing Brumbies - such as Fertility Control and Rehoming.

Jill Pickering



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ABA MEMBER GROUPS

Incorporated ABA member groups:

- Coffin Bay Brumby Preservation Society (SA)
- Heritage Brumby Advocates Australia (Vic)
- Victorian Brumby Association (Vic)
- HOOFS2010 Brumby Rescue (NSW)
- Save The Brumbies (NSW)
- Australian Brumby Horse Register (National)
- National Brumby Rescue (National)
- Bluewater Brumbies (Qld)
- SEQ Brumby Association (Qld)
- Kaimanawa Heritage Horses (NZ)

Non-Incorporated ABA member groups:

- Friends of Wild Horses (SA)
- White Alpine Equine (NSW)
- Indigo Brumbies (VIC)
- Heritage Horse and Environment Protection Alliance (VIC)

For any queries, please contact us on info@australianbrumbyalliance.org.au

CONTACT US

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END NEWSLETTER